the Scottish Banner

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A' Bhratach Albannach

Volume 44 Number 10 The world's largest international Scottish newspaper April 2021

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Volume 44 - Number 10

the Scottish Banner

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The Banner Says...

A celebration of mythical Scotland

by Sean Cairney

Scotland is a country rich with fascinating stories of myths, folklore and legends, sometimes just believing a story *may* be true is half the fun and also strengthens someone's connection to the land.

Legends are abundant in Scotland from the world-famous Loch Ness Monster who became an international superstar for many, the mythical water horse the kelpie which is said to have travelled Scotland's lochs and rivers, or legend has it that the Irish giant Finn McCool built the Giant's Causeway between County Antrim and Scotland, so that he could cross the ocean without getting his feet wet and landed at Staffa in the Inner Hebrides.

A powerful animal that never did exist

Whilst these tales do not make up Scotland's actual history, they weave a part of its story, and no doubt has been discussed, argued, believed, and unbelieved over the decades. However, one mythological facet of Scotland's story that is very much still not only part of today's society but can also be seen across the land is Scotland's national animal-the unicorn. Whilst England may have the lion, Canada the beaver, Australia the kangaroo, New Zealand the kiwi or the USA the eagle, Scotland has a powerful animal that never did exist but at the same time is across its history and visible at locations across the country.

Unicorns were first used on a Scottish coat of arms in the 12th century by William I (William the Lion) and are thought to represent strength, purity, innocence, power, chivalry and even magical powers. Since then, several monarchs of Scotland used the unicorn in their coat of arms as it represented their power, the unicorn was also found on coins and royal seals, including that of Mary Queen of Scots. Over time, this led to the unicorn becoming officially recognised as Scotland's national animal.

Finding a unicorn today

Today the Royal Coat of Arms of the United Kingdom still consists of the lion of England on the left and the unicorn of Scotland on the right, whilst The Royal Coat of Arms for Scotland has them the other way round. Adding to the mystic on both versions of the coat of arms shows the unicorn wrapped in chains, some say as it needs to be chained due to its power and danger, while others say it is a symbol of Scotland being oppressed.

Have you ever seen a unicorn? Unlikely just has those in the 12th century never really saw one, but clearly revered them and held them in incredibly high regard. You can however see over 100 unicorns in different locations across Scotland today. A variety of the nation's historical sites have remnants of unicorns literally carved into their amazing stories. Just some of the incredible sites you can have a unicorn visit include Stirling Castle, the Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh Castle, St Giles' Cathedral and the Royal Mile in Edinburgh, St Andrews University, Linlithgow Palace, on one of the world's oldest ships the *HMS Unicorn* in Dundee, and not to forget at the several mercat cross, or market cross, squares where community markets and events took place across Scotland.

In this issue

On 16 April 1746, the final Jacobite Rising came to a brutal head in one of the most harrowing battles in British history. The last pitched battle on British soil lasted less than an hour, but it has continued to hold significance in Scottish history. Culloden took place 275 years ago this month and we look back on this event and how it changed Scotland. I have stood on the battleground as winds swept across my back and thought about what being part of that day would have been like, it is both an eerie and spiritual place and one that should be visited and remembered.

Anyone lucky enough to visit Scotland's islands will well know of the extraordinary beauty and tranquility they hold. From Iona to Orkney to Skye, the isles of Scotland each hold their own unique appeal and tradition. However, as islands, especially during the summer, can be bursting with transient tourists they continue to struggle to keep long term residents on their shores as property prices skyrocket and employment opportunities fall. Whether you are a visitor or a born and bred islander there is real sense of being a castaway amongst paradise.

It is not just unicorns that tell a story across Scotland. Carved in historical sites across the country are scenes of Scotland's past. From castles to cathedrals hidden meanings can be found at a variety of historic sites and each wall really can tell a tale of the past. Uncovering the meanings of Scotland's architecture can be fascinating to learn and reminds us all to look closely at these historic sites as there are hidden tales to be told.

National symbol for Scots

April 9th happens to be National Unicorn Day across the globe, which celebrates the mythological animal. However, in Scotland the unicorn is more than that, it has been an important national symbol for Scots for hundreds of years. You will find the unicorn in statues, stonework, flags and tapestries across Caledonia.

The fact Scotland has a powerful mythical unicorn as its national animal, is a great source of pride for many Scots. Today that mythical horned creature continues to be a symbol of resilience, independence and strength and I know on my next visit to Scotland I will certainly be looking out for a unicorn on my travels with admiration and respect.

Have you found any unicorn symbols in your Scottish travels? Have you visited Culloden Moor? Do you have any comments from the content in this month's edition? Share your story with us by email, post, social media or at:www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us #ScottishBanner, #TheBanner

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We appreciate your support and hope you enjoy this edition.

HM Frigate Unicorn in Dundee. Photo: VisitScotland.

Gracing our front cover: Culloden's 275th Commemoration. Photo: The National Trust for Scotland.

Edinburgh landmark clock restored

One of Edinburgh's best-known landmarks, which for decades has been a meeting place for people in Scotland's capital, has been restored by Johnnie Walker. The beautiful cantilever clock is located on the corner of Princes Street and Hope Street at the heart of the city, making it the ideal rendezvous point for people meeting before an evening out. It is known locally as the 'Binns Clock' after the former department store that first installed it in 1960.

Meticulously restored

Sadly, the classic timepiece had fallen into a sad state of neglect and disrepair over recent years. But it has now been meticulously restored to its former glory as part of the Johnnie Walker Princes Street development and unveiled as a symbol of hope for future generations who will meet again under the clock, at the whisky visitor experience, in the future. The clock has been restored over the past year by The Cumbria Clock Company, one of the UK's leading specialist restores, which has worked on some of the UK's most famous timepieces, including The Great Clock (Big Ben) and the Royal Liver Building, led the restoration.

They dismantled the timepiece to study its original mechanics and colours, including the hand painted Highland figures that march out of the clock to mark the hour and half hour, before meticulously rebuilding it. They have also repaired the musical mechanism which plays the traditional Scottish tunes *Caller Herrin* and *Scotland the Brave* every half an hour as the kilted figures march out of the clock. In keeping with tradition, the Highland figures will emerge to the musical accompaniment every seven and 37 minutes past the hour.

Heritage and connection

Barbara Smith, Managing Director of Diageo's Scottish Brand Homes, said: "The restoration of the clock has been a lovely part of our work at Johnnie Walker Princes Street. Its heritage and connection with the local community is so poignant, particularly now when people are desperately missing being able to meet and socialise together. We wanted to unveil the restored clock this year as a symbol of hope for the future, and we can't wait to see future generations meeting under the clock at Johnnie Walker Princes Street, before enjoying a wonderful day or night out in Scotland's capital city."

Mark Crangle from the Cumbria Clock Company said: "It has been a meticulous process restoring the clock to its original condition. We had to delicately strip back worn paintwork to source and match the clock's original colours and gold trimmings, and we spent a great amount of time on the speed and timings of the bells, tunes and pipers to ensure it all matched perfectly. Working on this restoration project has been such a privilege and I've really enjoyed hearing the stories of what the clock means to locals and how it's played a role in so many special memories. These stories really consolidate why we do what we do, and we can't wait for Edinburgh residents to now be able to enjoy the clock again in all its grandeur."

Whisky experience

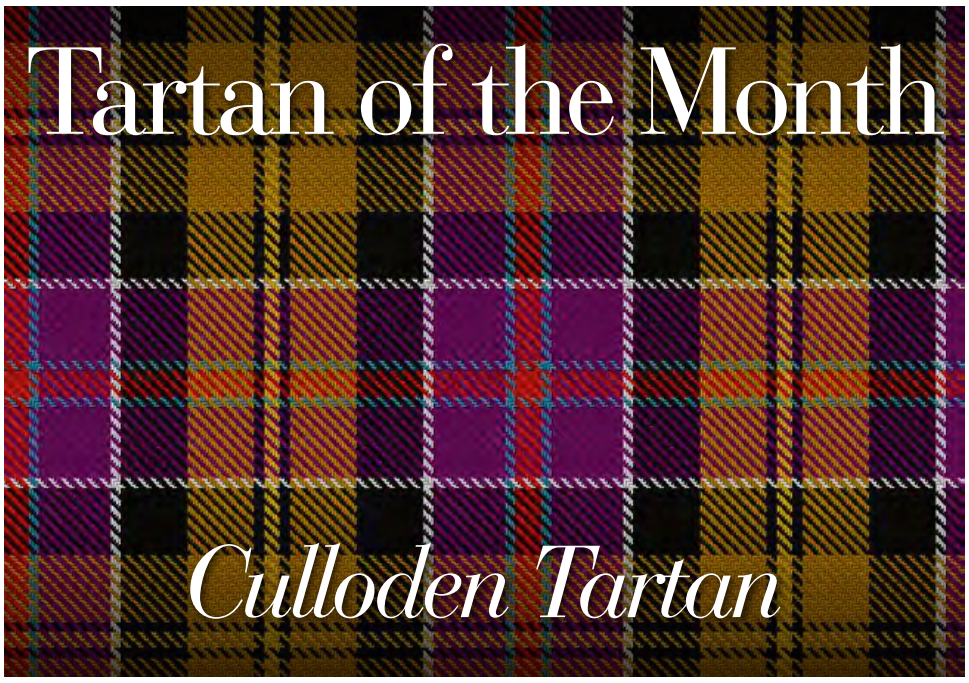
Johnnie Walker Princes Street will tell the 200-year-old story of the world's best scotch whisky across an eight-floor multisensory visitor attraction. Due to open in summer 2021, the whisky experience will feature rooftop bars, private dining areas, modern sensory tasting rooms, personalised tour and tasting experiences, and live performance areas. The opening of the state-of-the-art visitor centre is part of Diageo's £185m investment into the transformation of its Scotch whisky experiences, which will also see investment into 12 of Diageo's Scotch whisky brand homes and the revival of lost distilleries Port Ellen and Brora.

Flowers of the Forest
Vale-Jeffrey R Moore

It is with sadness we announce the passing of Jeffrey R Moore. Jeff was a past Chairman of the Clan Morrison Society of North America, he also worked for many years at *the Scottish Banner* and was the husband of Valerie Cairney, the late publisher, editor and founder of *the Banner*. Jeff attended Cornell University and lived in California for many years before moving to Florida in 2003. Jeff was a true gentleman and had a life-long love of Scotland and the international Scottish community, he was also incredibly passionate about Clan Morrison and proudly represented the Clan and conducted a great deal of research on the Clan's history. Jeff attended Scottish events around the world, both as a representative of Clan Morrison and *the Scottish Banner,* and his passion for Scotland never ceased.

An honest man here lies at rest,
As e'er God with His image blest:
The friend of man, the friend of truth;
The friend of age, and guide of youth:
Few hearts like his, with virtue warm'd,
Few heads with knowledge so inform'd:
If there's another world, he lives in bliss;
If there is none, he made the best of this.
Robert Burns

Tartan of the Month



Culloden 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).

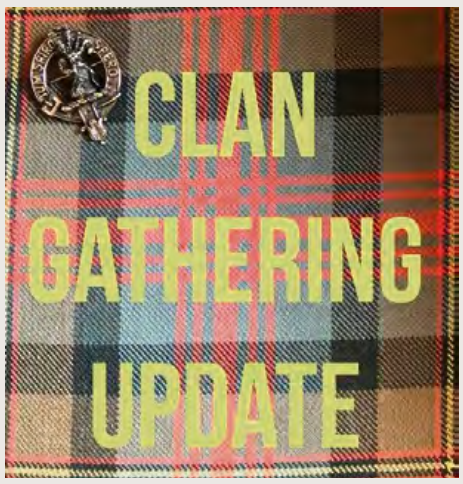
This month marks the 275th anniversary of the Battle of Culloden, the most famous and possibly the most important battle on Scottish soil. This tartan (Ref: 1328) seems to be the sett which spawned a series of similar tartans with their design variously ascribed to Hugh Macpherson, Laird-Portch and Thomas Gordon of Glasgow. Worn by a member of Prince Charles' staff during the battle but it is not known with which family or district it was first connected. It was first illustrated in *Old & Rare* in 1893 by D.W. Stewart whose son D.C.

Stewart was a founder member of the Scottish Tartans Society. According to Dr Gordon Teall (District Tartans) it is now firmly established as a district tartan and 'use and wont' would appear to confirm that - this is the sett woven by Lochcarron & House of Edgar.

SCOTPOURRI

Send us your inquiries on life's little question marks.
Ever wanted to know what happened to your old pal from home, how to make your favourite Scottish meal, or wondered about a certain bit of Scottish history?

Clan MacLennan Gathering update



I hosted a meeting with the International Associations towards the end of 2020 to reflect on where things had got to with planning for the Gathering. Hosting the Gathering is something we very much enjoy when we welcome the extended MacLennan 'family' to Scotland and we always look forward to it.

However, having reflected on the implications of the pandemic, we have taken the difficult decision to postpone the Gathering until at least 2023. This was not an easy decision, but we feel that even if our lives get back to some sort of normality there are elements of the event we have to think about booking now and the way things are we just cannot make firm commitments at this time. I am grateful to the other committees for supporting this decision, one which we will revisit later in the year to take stock and agree when we can pick up the organising work.

Meantime, I'll leave you with our motto which seems particularly appropriate at the present time. Dum Spiro Spero!

Neil MacLennan
Chair of Clan MacLennan Scotland
Chairman's report,
Clan MacLennan Worldwide Newsletter

Kings, Castles & "Durty" Wee Rascals

While perusing the December edition of *the Scottish Banner*, came across Jim Stoddart's wee poem about Nellie McSwiggen (*Kings, Castles & "Durty" Wee Rascals, The Milk Boy*, December, 2020). Both my wife and self immediately exclaimed "That's no right!"

For Jim, here is our version (from the Linlithgow area):

All of a sudden, a big mealy pudden,
came fleein' through the air.

It hit Mrs. Kelly a stot in the belly,
and knocked her doon the stairs.

Being in the same age group as Jim, but an entirely different upbringing from the Glasgow tenements, we thoroughly enjoy his column.

All the best,
Flora & Tom Blackwood

Naomi Begg

I am writing in the hope *the Scottish Banner* can help me to locate a lassie who came to Townsville in North Queensland, Australia for her gap year in the late 1990s. Her name was Naomi Begg of 1/1, 7 Blackness Ave, Dundee, DD2 1ET. My wide Alison and I corresponded with her for a year or two thereafter, and then lost contact with her. The last letter we received from her was about a medical mission trip she had made to Africa. Naomi is still on my Christmas card list, and this year I am motivated to try and to locate her, thus this letter.

Phil Peachey
PO Box 1325
Walkamin, Queensland
4872, Australia

Ed note: Good luck with this search Phil and hope you can find Naomi.

2021 Kingsville Highland Games

Continuing concerns surrounding COVID-19 have prompted the Town of Kingsville and the Kingsville Highland Games Committee to regretfully announce the cancellation of the Kingsville Highland Games scheduled for June 26th, 2021. The current circumstances are unique and unquestionably challenging, and the work that is being done by so many to carry us all beyond the pandemic is inspiring. The Town of Kingsville and the Committee of Council look forward to welcoming everyone to the Kingsville Highland Games on June 25th, 2022.

Doug Plumb
Chairman, Kingsville Highland Games Committee
Kingsville, Ontario
Canada

Ed note: We send our best wishes to the committee for all the effort that they do to keep events like this going, even when they are unable to during this pandemic.

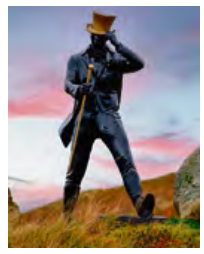
Tom MacKinnon

Regarding Lady MacGregor's Scotland (*Scottish Banner*, January, 2021) and the fox of Glencoe, Dr Hamish MacInnes, passing way. I was born in Mingavie, Scotland in 1937 and a few streets away was another mountaineer, the late Tom MacKinnon. He did a lot of climbs all over Scotland and he also went to the Himalaya's in 1950. He brought one of his Sherpa to our home. When he passed away in 1970 his ashes were taken to Glencoe.

My father had the Esso Garage in Strathblane Road, Milngavie.

Albert E Foote
Golden Grove, South Australia

The Walker family



The article in the February edition, *Johnnie Walker launches vision to plant one million trees in Scotland*, caught my eye as my Maternal Grandfather Joseph Flynn worked as the Head Gardener for the Walkers.

My late Mother said she remembered Mrs Walker dressing up as "The Walking Man" and opening a local fair!

Robert Bradshaw

Laird

Hi my name is Jamey Scott Laird. I am not sure if you can help but I need to know my family tartan? I traced my family surname to Scotland in 1782 but I heard that there was no clans with the surname of Laird.

Can anyone help me shed some light on a dark path?

Jamey Scott Laird

The Spirit of Scotland

I have just been reading *the Scottish Banner,* February 2021 edition and wanted to share a memory with you that for me, epitomises the Spirit of Scotland. My husband came to Australia from Fife in 1963, aged 14 years old. We have travelled back to Scotland together, on four occasions and have many happy memories of impressive trips around Scotland. But my outstanding and emotional trip was in 2008, when we travelled through Balquhidder Glen - home of the McLaren Clan (my husband's ancestors). The beautiful countryside was green and filled with Heather and black faced sheep. My husband's Uncle, then aged 67 years, was with us and became the first McLaren in his family to walk the Rob Roy walking trail then up the hill to Creac An Turic (meeting place of the McLaren Clan). The Cairn at the top overlooked Loch Voil and it was quite emotional sitting there together taking in the 'Spirit' of the location on a magnificent sunny and still day. I hope to do this climb once again.

Di Clark
Melbourne, Victoria
Australia

Ed note: Thanks Di for sharing your Spirit of Scotland with us.

The Gordon Highlanders

If there is anyone who is reading who happen to have ancestors that served in the Gordon Highlanders, go to the Gordon Highlanders Museum Facebook page (www.facebook.com/thegordonhighlandersmuseum) where you might find information about your ancestor as the museum also has genealogical information you can check out.

Jon Evans
USA

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

Send us your photos or letters via social media

Eilean Donan Castle

The Kilted Photographer
@TheKiltedPhoto
Scotland

Dysart Harbour

Sunrise yesterday morning over Dysart Harbour in Fife, Scotland.
John Pow Photography
Scotland

Stirling

The beauty of Stirling.
Robert Gibb
Scotland

Plockton

Picture perfect Plockton, the Jewel of the Highlands.
Debbie Neilson

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By: Lady Fiona MacGregor

Lady MacGregor's Scotland

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.

Snowdrops out in force.

Greetings from Scotland where the snowdrops are out, with the daffodils are not far behind. This month sees a real taste of spring. It brings hope with bushes starting to bud and bulbs bursting forth. I love it when everything begins to wake from its winter slumber and the garden welcomes a touch of colour. Seeds are being sown in hot houses. The last of the pruning can be undertaken. Why, as I write, a hint of purple peeps from the rhododendrons below the library window…

The Glasgow Highland Club

Yet if attention is focussed on the great outdoors, the MacGregor has had another matter on his mind. We are talking whisky here and whilst we may still be in lockdown, we have still been able to celebrate an 'At Home' with one of Scotland's most prestigious tartan groups. The Glasgow Highland Club was formed in Glasgow in 1882 by a local insurance agent. Its aim was the 'preservation of the Highland garb' and back in the Victorian day they queued up to join. Today, nearly 140 years on, the society is flourishing, though the club's aims are much wider. Members study Highland language, music and literature. They hold kilted dinners, organise trips to clan lands, promote Scottish dancing and put on historical lectures. Importantly, they encourage the playing of the pipes.

It is uplifting to know that the Scottish spirit remains strong – and not just the one that comes in a bottle.

The MacGregor has the great honour of being Chief of the Glasgow Highland Club and the last time we all met was at a gathering in a Perthshire hotel. What a wonderful night of airs and reels that was! It was a plaided party and a chance to catch up on Scottish news. This time the contact is rather different. On this occasion we greet each other online, courtesy of zoom. It is an interesting way to do things, but it seems to work, and it starts with the club piper playing *The Glendaruel Highlanders*. Glendaruel sits in Argyll, giving this jaunty tune Campbell connections. Or perhaps not so jolly. I am told that the name translates to the 'Glen of Red Blood' - which, as far as the Campbells are concerned, is probably about right!

Anyhow, the march certainly gets us in the mood, as does the video that follows with teams of graceful dancers making expert work of old favourites like the Duke of Perth and Brown's Reel. Then the night really takes off. Because members have all been sent have a selection of different malts. Which we are to taste and judge. So, by now the evening is becoming a little louder - especially at our end, as I do not drink whisky my husband is drinking my share…

It is uplifting to know that the Scottish spirit remains strong – and not just the one that comes in a bottle. How many hundreds of Celtic clubs round the world are keeping in touch virtually during this time of trial? Highland Games may be cancelled, travel is postponed, but we can still smile at each other across oceans.

Much-travelled cannons

Up in the Highlands, meanwhile, lockdown may be the order of the day, but they are going great guns in Perthshire. Two much-travelled cannons are in the process of being transported to their new home - and it is some operation.
The weapons originally sat outside a small 'castle' in the Balquhidder glen. When the owner, John MacGregor-Bain died, they were gifted to the Clan Gregor Society. They were then taken to the Rob Roy experience centre in Callander. When that closed, they were transported to the nearby village of Killin, to sit outside a local hotel.

And now they are on the move again. This time, to Castle Menzies near Aberfeldy where Clan Menzies have kindly allowed the MacGregors to open up a small museum. Now, bear in mind that each of these weapons weighs in at around 50 kilos. Which is the size of a slim person. You can understand the sensible decision to place them in the ground floor armoury, rather than try to hoist them up the stairs…

The cannon may be fired next year. Because 2022 is a big anniversary for the Clan Gregor Society(CGS). Yes, in 1822, the CGS was formed by my husband's ancestors, Sir John and Sir Evan MacGregor of MacGregor.

1822 was also the year that the British king, George 1V, visited Edinburgh, the first reigning monarch to cross the border from England in nearly two centuries. And again, the MacGregors played a leading role in that event. It should be a fascinating time to come to Scotland. Let's just hope we can travel normally, whatever that is these days. In the meantime, please stay safe and sane…

Ken your country

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.

1) Which town is farthest east on the Scottish mainland?
2) What in Scotland is Grime's Dyke?
3) In which sport is a caman used?
4) What nickname did Donald Caskie acquire during World War II?
5) What is the southernmost point on the Scottish mainland?
6) Ben Nevis is the highest mountain in Scotland, what is the second highest?
7) Which river marks the border between Scotland and England at Coldstream?
8) Souter Johnnie was immortalised in which Robert Burns poem?
9) Where in Scotland would you find California?
10) What, apart from whisky, is the key ingredient in a Whisky Mac?

Answers

1) Peterhead in Aberdeenshire.
2) It's another name for the Roman Antonine Wall between the Forth and Clyde.
3) Shinty, it's the stick the player uses to strike the ball.
4) The Tartan Pimpernel.
5) The Mull of Galloway.
6) Ben MacDhui in the Cairngorms.
7) The River Tweed.
8) Tam O'Shanter.
9) It's the name of a wee village near Falkirk.
10) Green ginger.

SCOTSPEAK

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

"It is especially gratifying to achieve this recognition at a time of great challenge to the arts in a global pandemic. It is a tribute to the entire RCS community of students and staff who continue to show such creativity and determination to keep the arts flourishing and developing.
This exciting news demonstrates that our wider community places faith and trust in our conservatoire to be a place where the arts will continue to tell our shared stories and help rebuild our bonds of society."

Professor Jeffrey Sharkey, Principal of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (RCS), said as the RCS was ranked one of the world's top three destinations to study the performing arts. Scotland's national conservatoire is ranked at number three in the 2021 QS World University Rankings for Performing Arts and sits in the top three alongside New York's Juilliard School and the Royal College of Music in London. Established in 1847 and based in Glasgow, the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland offers specialist tuition across music, drama, dance, production, film and education at undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD levels – one of the only institutions in Europe to teach such a wide variety of performing arts on one campus.

"These animated concept designs offer an exciting glimpse into what George Street and the surrounding area could look like in 2025 – a welcoming, relaxing and unique space, where people will want to spend time, to visit local shops, cafes and restaurants and to travel to and through the city centre. This vision has been years in the making and follows significant engagement with the public and a range of groups representing different interests. It's essential that its design works for everyone, which is why we've spent time ensuring it meets people's access needs, that it allows residents to go about their daily lives and that it will encourage local businesses to flourish, particularly as we look to make a strong, green recovery from the COVID crisis."

Edinburgh Councillor Lesley Macinnes, Transport and Environment Convener, said as detailed artist's impressions and a 3D fly-through illustrate how the city's George Street and surrounding area, within the UNESCO World Heritage Site, could look under the George Street and First New Town Public Realm Improvements Project. Significantly widened pavements, landscaped spaces for play and relaxation and a cycling thoroughfare, where motor traffic is largely removed, will create a people-friendly setting. By retaining symmetry and removing street clutter alongside 'urban greening' through shrubs and hedging, the designs both protect the area's heritage and enhance the environment. If approved, it is intended to begin construction work on the scheme in 2023, with an anticipated completion in 2025 and expected to cost £32m.

"This is fabulous news, and our industry is delighted. The tariff on Single Malt Scotch Whisky exports to the US has been doing real damage to Scotch Whisky in the sixteen months it has been in place, with exports to the US falling by 35%, costing companies over half a billion pounds. So today, everyone in our industry – from small companies to large – is breathing a sigh of relief. Suspending these tariffs – stemming from a transatlantic trade dispute that had nothing to do with us – and a return to tariff-free trade with the US means livelihoods and communities across Scotland will be protected. It means that companies can now really focus on recovery – on building back the American market as well as on building back global exports hit by the coronavirus pandemic."

Chief Executive of the Scotch Whisky Association Karen Betts said after the March announcement that US tariffs on Scotch Whisky and other products will be suspended. Scotch whisky and other products had been subject to a 25% tariff, the tariffs will now be suspended for at least four months.

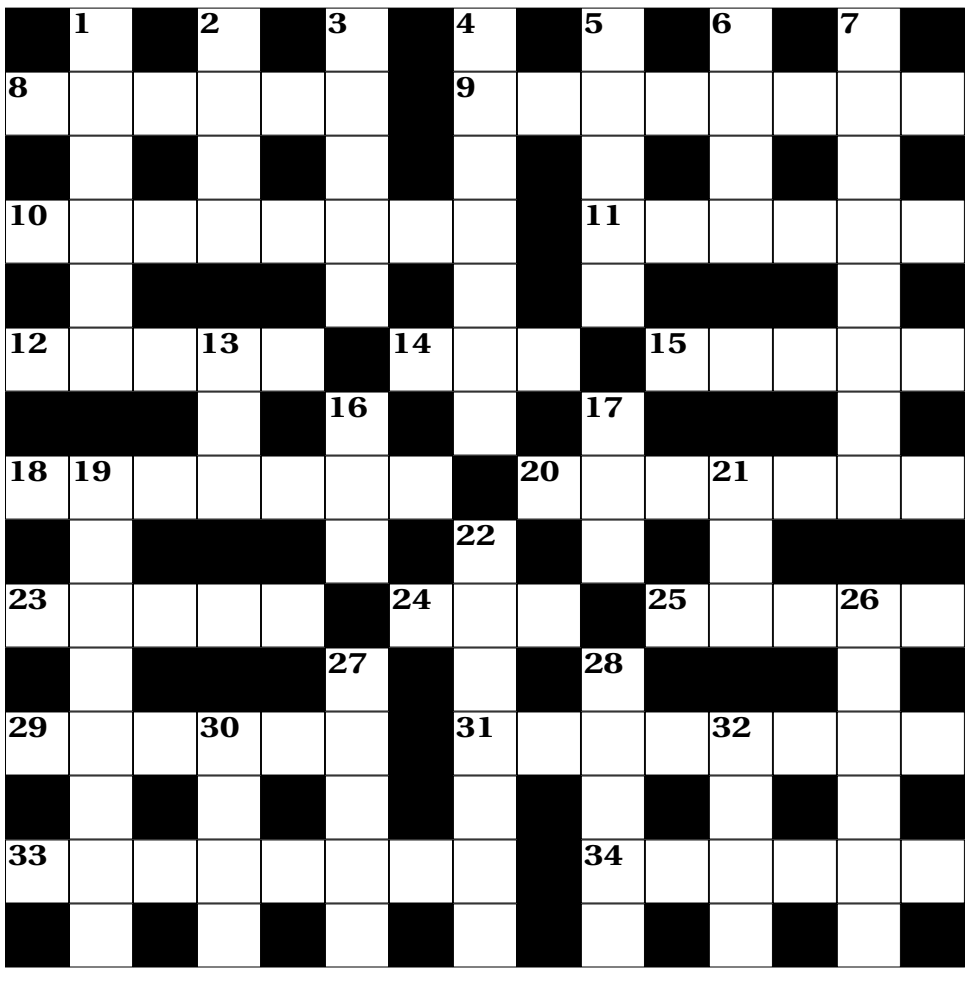
"I am thrilled that the rose window will feature in the transformed Inverness Castle. This beautiful window is over 100 years old and has been in safekeeping until we could find an appropriate site for it within the city. With this prime site in the transformed Castle building, it will be seen by thousands of visitors from near and far for years to come. The Inverness Castle project is vital to the regeneration of our city centre and the wider tourism economy of the Highland region, creating a 'must-see' attraction that will draw visitors to the Highlands in future years."

Provost of Inverness and Area, Cllr Helen Carmichael, said that the transformation of Inverness Castle will see the historic 'rose window', saved from a former Methodist church in the city, will be incorporated into interior design for the building. The 'rose window' has been held in storage by The Highland Council since it was removed from its original site in a former church on Inglis Street at the time of the Eastgate Centre construction. The rose window was originally created for the Methodist Church in Inverness built in 1867.

"The City of Perth already has an abundance of wildlife on its doorstep and we're excited to hear about the beavers in Perth. It can lay claim to being the first city in the UK to have its own resident beaver families."

Denise Reed, NatureScot's Tayside & Grampian Area Manager, said as beavers in Scotland are establishing a strong presence in Perth, according to researchers conducting the most comprehensive ever survey of the animal in Scotland. The survey has already found plenty of evidence of beaver activity on the River Tay, including right in the centre of the City of Perth, providing a wonderful wildlife watching experience for Perth residents. Perth is the first city in UK to have resident urban beavers. Around the world, beavers have established territories in many urban areas with suitable habitat, including a number of cities across Europe such as Bratislava, Trondhiem, Berne, Munich and Vienna, so this behaviour is not unusual.

SCOTWORD



Here is a fun crossword for you to try with a few of the answers to be found in Scotland! If you are in doubt, you may need a wee peek at a Scots dictionary or a map. Or, if you are really stuck, the answers can be found on page 10!

CLUES ACROSS:

8) Scots kids (6).
9) Eternally (8).
10) Jimmy Shand's polka (8).
11) The ------o' the Isles (6).
12) A northerly flow! (5).
14) Row of kirk seats (3).
15) Old Scots garment (5).
18) A capital street (7).
20) Village on Arran's east coast (7).
23) A Scot gone awry (5).
24) A Grampian flower (3).
25) Border river (5).
29) Arbroath delicacy (6).
31) Resort near Burntisland (8).
33) Like a stag! (8).
34) How dancers should be (6).

CLUES DOWN:

1) The true Scots tongue (6).
2) A Scots hillside (4).
3) They're surrounded by water (5).
4) Scots gumboots (7).
5) Town south-east of Elgin (5).
6) The last word (4).
7) Rain protectors (8).
13) Barrie's Peter! (3).
16) A Scot who knows! (3).
17) A Scots roll (3).
19) Military division (8).
21) An isolated Scots hill (3).
22) Jacobite emblem (7).
26) Eagles nests (6).
27) River dams (5).
28) Miss Laurie (5).
30) Narrow arm of the sea (4).
32) Part of the Highland dress (4).

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www.scottishbanner.com

Behind the scenes at Culloden Battlefield

Culloden Battlefield's new Estate Manager, Catriona McIntosh.

Brush cutting by hand at the entrance to Culloden Battlefield.

Team members Lorne and Lynsey doing essential fence maintenance.

By: Catriona McIntosh, Culloden Battlefield Estate Manager

Having taken on the exciting and challenging role of managing the Culloden Battlefield estate, I'll be ensuring that its special 'sense of place' is maintained sensitively and effectively – and with a lot of TLC! From the age of 7, when I stood at a finds table in the pouring rain cleaning a ceramic sherd with an old toothbrush, I wanted to be an archaeologist. As an enthusiastic member of the Young Naturalists' Club at Culzean Castle, I became very aware of history and environment and the need to look after our special places.

I commenced my studies in 2009 at the University of Aberdeen, where I gained an undergraduate degree in Archaeology and History, then on to the University of Glasgow for an MLitt in Material Culture and Artefact studies, with a strong leaning towards conflict studies. After completing my Masters, I was very fortunate to join the National Trust for Scotland at Robert Burns Birthplace Museum (RBBM) as a Learning Intern. I thoroughly enjoyed engaging with schools and local interest groups to share the amazing legacy of Robert Burns, but I also learned much that is now valuable in my new role at Culloden. Chris Waddell, the Learning Manager at RBBM, had been a ranger and really knows his stuff about the flora and fauna of Scotland – and he shared his knowledge with the RBBM team. It's amazing what sticks in your head 6 years on.

Special place

From RBBM I moved to Culloden and joined the engagement team, where I've shared the stories of this special place – from the archaeology to the material culture – through education programmes and events, and engaged with over 20,000 young people. I've also had the opportunity to promote the Trust and Culloden through filming work on various television programmes, including meeting Sam Heughan and Graham McTavish for *Men in Kilts*, and Elaine C Smith and Susan Calman. While I have really enjoyed sharing Culloden's stories with visitors and interest groups, when the opportunity arose to apply for the role of Estate Manager I jumped at the chance. I care passionately about the battlefield, its past, present and future, and this role is pivotal in ensuring we manage the site for future generations.

At the time of the battle the landscape would have looked quite different – a boggy Highland moor – but today the site we look after is surrounded by trees which self-seed and become invasive. One of our biggest challenges is managing that growth. We could do this with chemicals and machines, but our commitment is to manage our properties in a sustainable way. So, we're using conservation grazing and manual non-chemical clearance.

The estate team includes our two Highland cattle, Vanilla and Primrose, and award-winning Shetland cattle – they are the real grafters, munching the scrub on the moor. We also have two horses in the team – Rosie and Glen. This year they're going to be taking a more active role on the battlefield. The long-term plan is to use our younger bay mare Rosie to pull the brush of the moor and for Glen to enjoy his retirement conservation grazing. Rosie and Glen came to us from busy lives at another of our places – Mar Lodge Estate.

The human team have built up good relationships with the livestock and we're able to move the small herd around the moor to tackle the scrub in key areas.

A local Highland cow.

The restored 18th century Leanach Cottage.

We also have the hit squad! Our British primitive goats have grazed on the moor for over 5 years and are very effective at decimating the invasive trees. The impact of all this conservation grazing, assisted by the human team, is working well and is without doubt the best, most sustainable and appropriate method to manage the battlefield.

A major tourist destination

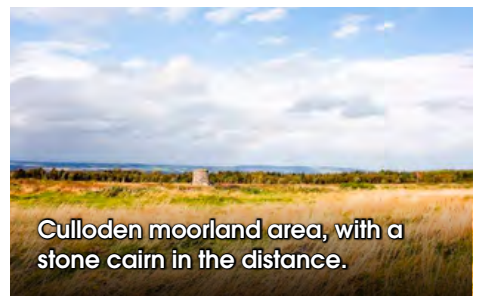
Culloden is a major tourist destination and this has an impact on the landscape, particularly our footpaths. While the pandemic has been incredibly challenging in terms of income for the property, the effect on staff and volunteers, and restrictions in the numbers of people who can visit, it has given our footpaths a chance to recover. However, essential tasks still need to be carried out to take care of the battlefield, visitor centre and facilities, and our livestock, to ensure Culloden is ready to receive visitors, hopefully in the near future. We have retained a small but incredibly flexible team on site, who all muck in – to muck out, feed and care for our livestock, and maintain safe access to the battlefield and visitor centre. Working outside has so many health benefits, both mental and physical, and over the next 18 months I hope to develop the volunteer programme to allow people to help care for this amazing place and enjoy the Highland weather!

As one of the most iconic places in Scotland, Culloden is culturally significant to people from across the world. The Culloden 300 report highlighted that our communities agree we have that special sense of place and it is key that as a team we maintain that.

There are so many different elements to the moor, from the archaeology and the monuments to the wildlife that call this place home. For me, it's important we protect the battlefield and surroundings, ensure wildlife has a home and that we're sustainable and environmentally friendly in our practices. I'd like to promote our green credentials and ensure the Trust and Culloden lead the way through our conservation grazing, how we manage the visitor facilities with biomass boilers, and hopefully introduce electric vehicles for on-site transport and provide charging points for visitors.

By preserving and protecting this amazing property for future generations in a sustainable way to encourage the natural flora and fauna to flourish, we can do our little bit to help the planet.

Text and images are courtesy of the National Trust for Scotland. For more information on the Trust or to help them protect Scotland's heritage see: www.nts.org.uk


Culloden moorland area, with a stone cairn in the distance.

The Allure of Islands

Barra beach.

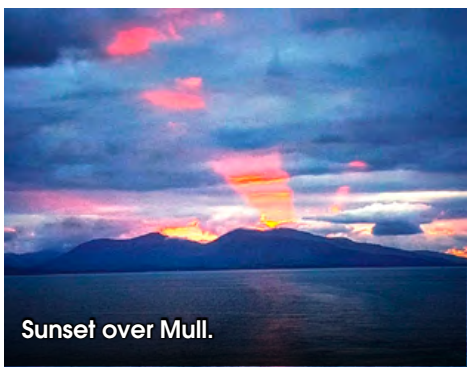
By: David C Weinczok

It should come as no surprise that in a year spent in unprecedented confinement, many are turning to Scotland's islands as beacons of promise and escape. It is nothing new. The notion of islands as bastions of timeless wonder has long been embedded in popular culture. Scotland's history contains numerous examples of its islands serving as places to turn to in times of crisis. Recall how Robert the Bruce fled to their embrace when at his lowest point and found salvation in a cave with a spider, or how Bonnie Prince Charlie went 'over the sea to Skye' after the catastrophe of Culloden and was saved by the valiant Flora MacDonald.

In the writings of 18th century diarist James Boswell we see the seeds of the paradigms that would, for the next two centuries, dominate the rhetoric of outsiders towards the islands - that they sustain a "system of antiquated life," where ones thoughts can be "amplified . . . with new scenes of nature" in the absence of the distractions of the modern world. For Boswell and his companion Samuel Johnson, the Hebrides represented the uttermost wilds of Britain, an exotic and locale frozen in time and sheltered from the complexities of the present.

Unrivalled beauty

Beyond dispute, Scotland's islands are places that can possess unrivalled beauty. In a decade of travelling across Scotland, they are the grand stage on which many of the foremost memories that come to mind when I think of moments of pure wonder and bliss are set. I will never forget my first encounter with the white sandy beaches of Barra, a place whose name I had known since childhood thanks to the Nova Scotia folk band The Barra MacNeils; or sailing across the Firth of Lorn as a great red sunbeam shot across the dusky sky as though the mountains of Mull themselves had become a great elemental lighthouse; or, in a period of depression, making a silent vow to myself upon the standing stones of Orkney's Ring of Brodgar. Ask any who have spent time on Scotland's islands, and they will share similar tales.

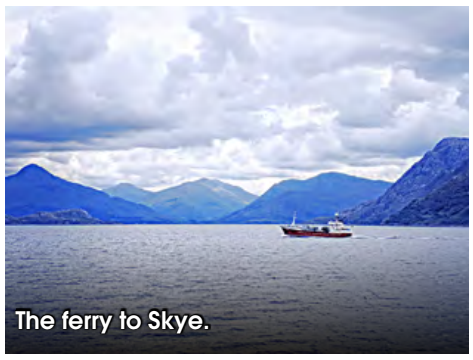


Sunset over Mull.

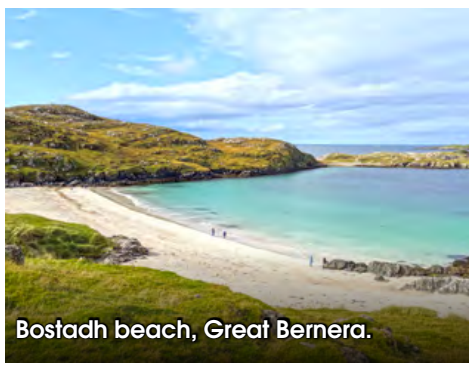
There is also a deep comfort in the idea of a place whose physical limits are broad yet tangible. I, for one, have long found that the most satisfying islands are the ones that offer both endless opportunities for 'discoveries' but can be traversed on foot or by bicycle in a single day. On some level, many of us yearn to be kings or queens of our own realm, to know a place so well as to have an emotional connection with each and every stone but to have enough variety that such familiarity does not breed contempt or boredom. On such islands, this seems possible. There is a reason that so many tales of castaways and lost souls take place either on tiny, deserted islands or in vast, withering expanses; the extremes evoke the anxiety of overfamiliarity and the unknowable, respectively, while the middle ground strikes the ideal balance between comfort and curiosity.

Being of a place

Yet, it is precisely the transience of visitors' experience with islands that allow us, like Boswell, to indulge in the romantic perception of them. To visit a place, even regularly, is altogether different from being of a place. The visitor has the privilege of knowing the islands as a collection of moments, each with a point of arrival, immersion, and departure, and then, like the tides, to return from whence they came, oblivious to the longer-term ebb and flow of the forces that define life upon them.



The ferry to Skye.



Bostadh beach, Great Bernera.

The reality facing many residents of Scotland's islands is in stark contrast to the state of harmony we assume they exist in. In 2019, a coalition of community figures from Uist, Skye, Mull and Argyll wrote an open letter "To whom sustaining Highland and Island communities is a concern," detailing the housing crisis that continues to force so many islanders, the youth especially, to leave. Amongst other statistics, the letter cited the more than 100% rise in the price of residential properties in the Western Isles between 2004 and 2018, a trend that continues at startling pace. A 2019 study showed that there was a greater proportion of Airbnb's on the Isle of Skye than in central Edinburgh, equating to more than one in ten residential properties on the island.

Haven and home

In March 2020 when the Covid-19 outbreak was rippling across the world, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon told all accommodation providers in the Highlands and Islands to cease accepting bookings from the countless people from high density areas hoping to "outrun" Covid by retreating to them - a compulsion driven by the widespread and deeply mistaken perception of the Highlands and Islands as an empty playground of escapism and self-discovery. The cumulative effect has been devastating, with some residents describing the current crisis, which is catapulting property prices to even higher levels, as an "economic clearance". The open letter described above has been updated to reflect the world shaped by Covid, noting that in a time when many young people wish to return home to the islands they are unable to do so.

There really is magic to be found on the shores of Scotland's islands for those who yearn to find some. However, we must resist the temptation to see them only in this way. As much as many desire an exodus to the islands, there is already a greater exodus underway with troubling and potentially irreversible implications. It is possible for the islands to be both haven and home. I sincerely believe that they cannot be one without the other.

Balmoral Summer 2021

Four World Class Guest Instructors

Balmoral's online Piping & Drumming Summer School brings you four of the world's most highly regarded pipers to serve as guest instructors: Roddy MacLeod MBE, Bruce Gandy, Robert Mathieson & Andrew Carlisle. An all-new Drumming Program is in the works, with 2021 guest drumming instructors to be announced shortly.

Pipe Major Robert Mathieson (Scotland) has been at the forefront of piping for over 30 years. Having been a young piper in Shotts and Dykehead Caledonia Pipe Band, he took over as Pipe Major from 1987-2010, leading the band to win over 30 major grade one championship titles, including 5 world titles, as well as 9 champion of champions titles. He is the only Pipe Major to have won the worlds 5 times, playing his own compositions and arrangements, opening each winning medley with one of his own tunes.

Bruce Gandy (Halifax, Nova Scotia) was a member of the 78th Fraser Highlanders Pipe Band when they were the first non-Scottish pipe band to win the World Pipe Band Championships in 1987. His solo awards include the Canadian Gold Medal, Gold Medal at the Northern Meeting, Gold Medal at Oban, and Bratach Gorm. He is a 3-time winner of the MacCrimmon Memorial Cairn for Piobaireachd and is a Vancouver Indoor 6-Time Metro Cup Winner.

Andrew Carlisle (Northern Ireland/ Pittsburgh) has won the A Grade Strathspey & Reel at Oban, the A Grade Piobaireachd & Overall at The Cowal Highland Gathering, US Gold Medals for both Light Music & Piobaireachd, and three All-Ireland titles at Senior level. He's 3-time winner of the Macallan Trophy at Lorient, Brittany, France. Andrew holds the prestigious positions of Professor of Music and Director of Piping at Carnegie Mellon University.

Roddy MacLeod MBE (Scotland) served as Principal of The National Piping Centre in Scotland from 1996 -2020. In 2003, he was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire by the Queen in recognition of his services to piping. In 2004, was awarded the Glenfiddich Spirit of Scotland Award for Music. Inducted into the Scottish Traditional Music Awards Hall of Fame in 2012, he is a 10-time winner of the Piobaireachd at the Glenfiddich and has won the overall title five times. He led the Scottish Power Pipe Band to over 45 Grade 1 Championship prizes.

The fee for the weeklong session is $375.00 USD. So, save the dates - July 18-23, 2021. For details see: www.Bagpiping.org

Tenement Tales - *A Fur Stole*

By: Brian Diamond

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

Now as much as traumatising my brother in an earlier swimming story was an accident and not really my fault, I also managed to do a pretty good job to traumatise my sister in an equally bizarre accident, which this time was clearly my fault, "How come bad things happen to good wee boys?"

One evening, I was playing games with my brother in the bedroom while the rest of the family were in the kitchen, we had pretty well exhausted our imaginations and boredom was setting in. There was a huge double wardrobe in our bedroom and it was generally locked as this was the only place in the house with a lock and key and our parents hid our Christmas gifts there. Sitting on the floor, I look up to find that the key was left in the lock and my curiosity gets the better of me, so I opened the door and started to explore the wonders inside. Handbags with old family pictures, shoe boxes of forgotten no longer required items stored away, and a large brown paper bag lying at the bottom of the wardrobe. If I tell you that curiosity killed the cat, it pretty well done the same for me.

Impressive large fox fur stole

Upon opening the big brown paper bag, I was surprised to find that it contained a rather impressive large fox fur stole. My family had to be holding out on me, we can't be poor, surly we had to be rich to have one of these. My brother and both intrigued examine this fox fur in detail, it has very realistic large beady eyes, a huge bushy tail, and four legs with the original real claws imbedded in its legs, this is quite a toy. I am holding it by the back of the neck and just above the tail which makes the claws dangle on the linoleum to produce a little clicking sound, that's when I get the idea to give my sister a wee fright, a brilliant idea, or so I thought at the time.

We switch out all of the lights, laughing secretly to ourselves about the fright that our sister will get and call her into the darkened bedroom. When she stepped through the door, I launched the stuffed moggy at her from across the room in the dark to give her a wee fright, then we can all laugh about it, fat chance of that!! The fox fur lands on her chest and the front legs swing round her neck causing the front claws to lock together behind her neck. This of course brings the foxes face with it's big beady eyes right up against her chin looking into her to her face. A wee fright might perhaps be an understatement, our sister goes into an absolute ballistic screaming fit, falls on the floor trying to detach this horrible furry thing which she has never seen before from her neck. She is lying on the floor screaming and thrashing about, and the fur is rapidly coming off the fox in clumps.

Childish mishap

I am trying desperately to stop her and calm her down as I can read the tea leaves and I know that trouble is brewing for me. Hearing the commotion, my mother comes rushing in, switches on the light and there is my sister thrashing on the floor with a stranglehold on the now half bald fox fur. I knew that this was trouble, but how bad could it be, I look around, and my brother, the one that I had saved from drowning, was standing as far away from me as possible in a corner with his finger pointing directly at me. He was a perfect remake of the last scene in the old film of *The Body Snatchers* the Donald Sutherland one, his mouth a perfect O, eyes wide open, and silently pointing at me. Needless to say I was in deep trouble for opening the wardrobe, and had compounded my stupidity by playing a wee trick on my sister, I can still see the stars today.

As a result of this childish mishap, my sister has a strong aversion to cats, and to this day, she blames me whenever I bring it up to her, which I do often when I come home on holiday. I really was a good wee boy, though sometimes a little misguided. The roadway to hell is really paved with good intentions, a wee lesson thatit took me some time to learn.

Handwritten Robert Burns song to be auctioned

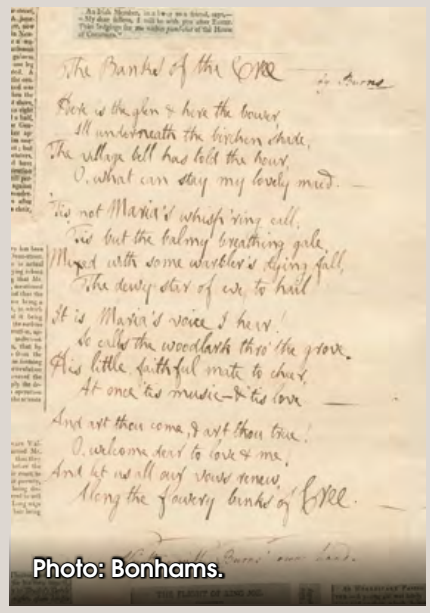


Photo: Bonhams.

A handwritten song by Robert Burns which was stored in a scrapbook and previously unknown is to go under the hammer. Written over 200 years ago by Burns *The Banks of the Cree* was to accompany a tune composed by his friend Lady Elizabeth Heron. Lady Elizabeth was the daughter of the 8th Earl of Dundonald and married to Patrick Heron, a banker and MP for Kirkcudbright. Heron owned an estate on the River Cree and Burns wrote several pieces for him. Written in 1794, the document was found at rediscovered in Denston Hall in Suffolk and the guide for the auction by Bonhams is between £8,000 and £12,000.

Scots support rewilding

An osprey fishing in the Cairngorms.

All images: © SCOTLAND: The Big Picture scotlandbigpicture.com

Three-quarters of Scots support rewilding says new research. Findings come as call launched for Scotland to become world's first 'Rewilding Nation'.

More than three quarters of Scots support rewilding in Scotland, according to research conducted for the Scottish Rewilding Alliance, a coalition of over 20 organisations. The findings come as the Alliance launches a campaign calling on the Scottish Government to declare Scotland the world's first Rewilding Nation, with a commitment to rewilding 30% of the country's land and sea within a decade, ahead of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) to be held in Glasgow in November. A new opinion poll shows that 76% of Scots support rewilding – the large-scale restoration of nature to the point it's allowed to take care of itself – with just 7% opposed.

Nature recovers, wildlife flourishes and people prosper

The Rewilding Nation campaign has now been launched with an inspiring new animation narrated by wildlife presenter and filmmaker Gordon Buchanan showing how rewilding can help make Scotland a place where nature recovers, wildlife flourishes and people prosper.

"The world faces overlapping nature, climate and health crises, but Scotland has the opportunity to show bold leadership by becoming the world's first Rewilding Nation. We have the space, political influence and public backing to become a world leader in saving nature and ourselves," said Steve Micklewright, Convenor of the Scottish Rewilding Alliance and Chief Executive of Trees for Life.

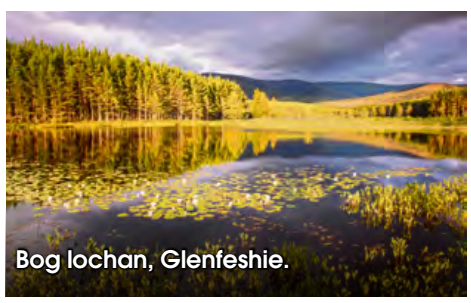
With habitats and species being eradicated rapidly worldwide, the United Nations has declared 2021-2030 the Decade of Ecosystem Restoration. The Scottish Government has committed itself to bold action to tackle the crisis facing biodiversity through its Edinburgh Declaration. Yet far from being the nature-restoration trailblazer it could be, and despite many superb conservation initiatives, Scotland is lagging behind other countries – with nature in steep decline and its landscapes among the world's most nature-depleted. Only 1.5% of Scotland's land is national nature reserves and just 4% native woodland, while 25% is severely nature depleted and does not support the nature-rich forests, peatlands and river systems it should. Rural landscapes now support fewer people than previously.

Declining or at risk species include red squirrels, wild cats, capercaillie and great yellow bumblebees. Recovery or return of species such as beavers, cranes, sea eagles and pine martens happen slowly, while elk and lynx are among the species already made extinct.

The Scottish Government has put 37% of Scotland's seas into forms of designation, but damaging activities such as scallop dredging and bottom trawling are only banned from less than 5% of coastal waters. Government assessments reveal that the extent of seabed habitats continues to decline. Wild salmon populations are at historically low levels. Seabirds are feeding their chicks plastic waste.

"It's past time to reboot our relationship with the natural world, and Scotland can lead the way. By working with nature instead of against it, rewilding can restore life to hills, glens, rivers and seas – while tackling climate breakdown and offering fresh opportunities for farming and local economies," said Rebecca Wrigley, Chief Executive of Rewilding Britain.

Loch Beinn a'Mheadhoin in Glen Affric.



Bog lochan, Glenfeshie.

Rewilding inspiration globally

The Alliance says rewilding at least 30% of Scotland's land and sea by 2030 can be achieved by restoring and expanding woodlands, moorlands, peatlands, rivers and marine habitats, and without loss of productive agricultural land.

Hugh Raven, Chair of Open Seas, said: "The new opinion poll shows people know that nature's health is our nation's wealth. Incentivising lower impact fisheries around our coastline would help degraded habitats and fish populations recover, and regenerate our harbours and coastal towns. Recovery in places like Lamlash Bay shows what can be achieved by communities, but we urgently need to rewild larger areas of our seas."

Tom Bowser, farm owner and Ranger with Argaty Red Kites, said: "Declaring ourselves a Rewilding Nation would be a powerful statement of intent that we're serious about tackling the climate and nature crises, reconnecting people with nature, and regenerating our communities."

The Alliance recommends using rewilding as a natural solution for increased absorption of atmospheric carbon, building rewilding into post-Covid green recovery plans, and establishing a native species recovery policy and a nationwide network connecting nature restoration projects.

"We're being seriously outpaced by climate breakdown and biodiversity loss, so trying to save nature piecemeal isn't enough. Scotland has the opportunity to restore the web of life that supports our health and wellbeing, while acting as a rewilding inspiration globally," said Peter Cairns, Director of SCOTLAND: The Big Picture.

For more details and to view the Scottish Rewilding Alliance's new animation, Rhythms of Life, see: www.rewild.scot

The Scottish Coalition USA and National Tartan Day Capital Committee (Washington DC) present a celebration National Tartan Day and presentation of the 2021 National Tartan Day Award

Join us as we celebrate National Tartan Day on April 6th! As one of the founding members of the Scottish Coalition USA, The American Scottish Foundation (ASF) along with our partners at the National Tartan Day Capital Committee (Washington DC) present A Celebration of National Tartan Day and the presentation of the 2021 National Tartan Day Award. The Commemoration will include readings, music and messages from various Scottish American organizations across the USA. The 2021 National Tartan Day Award will be awarded to Gus Noble, President of the Chicago Scots and Caledonia Senior Living.

Buy tickets and register for Zoom link through the ASF website in the Events section:https://americanscottishfoundation.com/events/index.html

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Across:
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10 Bluebell
11 Tangle
12 Scapa
14 Pew
15 Plaid
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20 Lamlash
23 Agley
24 Don
25 Tweed
29 Smokie
31 Kinghorn
33 Antlered
34 Instep

Down:
1 Gaelic
2 Brae
3 Isles
5 Keith
6 Amen
7 Brollies
13 Pan
16 Ken
17 Bap
19 Regiment
21 Law
22 Cockade
26 Eyries
27 Weirs
28 Annie
30 Kyle
32 Hose

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The Battle of Culloden - *The final Jacobite rising*

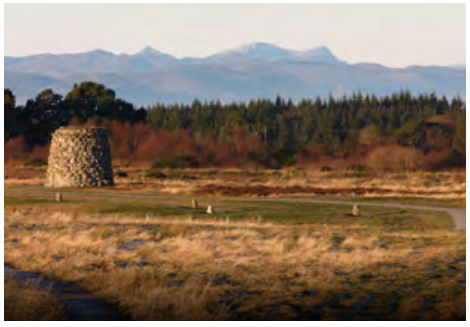
By: Nick Drainey

On April, 16, 1746 a battle took place on Drumossie Moor that would echo around the world. It was here that the Jacobites lost their final stand against Government forces, and the quest to restore the Stuarts to the thrones of England, Scotland and Ireland was effectively ended. Culloden remains the last battle to have been fought on British soil, it changed Highland life and still resonates with people across the world today as Nick Drainey explains.

On 16 April 1746 the final Jacobite rising was ended at the Battle of Culloden. Charles Edward Stuart's army was routed by the Duke of Cumberland's British Forces. Within an hour, 2,000 Jacobites were dead, alongside 300 Government troops. There followed a brutal suppression of Highland culture, and Scotland's union with England was secured. Even today, 275 years later, the Battle of Culloden affects the way the world is shaped.

The last pitched battle fought on British soil

Raoul Curtis-Machin, the National Trust for Scotland's Operations Manager at Culloden, is preparing to mark this year's anniversary with a series of online events which can be accessed across the world. He says: "It is a battle that resonates around the world today. It was the last pitched battle fought on British soil, but it represented the whole future of Britain's direction in the world. It was almost Old World versus New Empire and if the Jacobites had won we would have been part of France, an old Catholic religion would be in charge and it would be a different culture. We probably wouldn't have opened up all the trade routes, you wouldn't have had the British Empire … in theory Britain would have become a vassal of France. Charles Edward Stuart wanted the Stuart dynasty to be back but they were strongly linked with the French nobility and with that old European aristocratic value."



Historians have long debated whether the Jacobites could have won. In 1745 the Army of "Bonnie Prince Charlie" had made it as far south as Derby but rather than continue to the English capital had decided to return to Scotland and regroup. Some say they were duped by a spy, Dudley Bradstreet, who wrongly told the military leaders the English Government troops had London heavily defended.

Mr Curtis-Machin's opinion on whether the campaign would have been successful if it had spread further into England is undoubted: "Absolutely! Charles Edward Stuart landed on Eriskay over on the West Coast, right out in the wilds of Scotland, with hardly any backing. He didn't turn up with a great big army, tons of money and equipment and guns. He had the bare minimum and he managed to convince some apparently cynical lairds and clan chiefs over on the west to then muster their own armies and take a phenomenal risk. The amazing thing is that they won every battle on their way down from Scotland; through Carlisle, through Manchester, and got as far as Derby, a day and a bit from London.

"If they had known, London was virtually undefended because most of the troops were fighting in Flanders. But there was a spy in the camp and they managed to convince the Jacobite leadership, and they managed to convince Charles Edward Stuart, to turn back. They didn't think they would be able to take London and stood a better chance going back to Scotland, regrouping and then trying to fight. They were hoodwinked. If he had only braved it, he could have walked right into London."

On 16 April 1746 the final Jacobite rising was ended at the Battle of Culloden.

Power and money

Having returned to Scotland the balance changed with Government troops sent north to quell the rising. Mr Curtis-Machin takes up the tale: "Things were different at Culloden. There was no chance.
The Government troops were rested and well supplied – they had a Naval fleet following them up the coast. They had everything they possibly needed.
The Jacobites, on the other hand, had been marching for days … and they were hungry."

The boggy ground of Culloden proved a disastrous site for the Jacobites to go into battle and when they began to charge they "tripped up and got bogged down immediately", according to Mr Curtis-Machin.

Some say it was a battle between Scotland and England, but this is one of many myths Mr Curtis-Machin is keen to dispel. He says: "There were a large number of Scots fighting on the Government side and you had some clans and families fighting on both sides such as in the case of the Mackintosh's. Lady Anne Mackintosh was a massive Jacobite supporter while her husband fought for the Government. They were either very cleverly hedging their bets or it really was a split down the middle."

Scotland had been in a union with England since 1707 and there was some disgruntlement, more likely to be amongst the Highland chiefs and rural Scots because they hadn't seen much benefit. But for Lowland Scots Glasgow was fast becoming the second city of the Empire and they saw a massive trading opportunity. Mr Curtis-Machin says: "To their mind it was crazy to split at this time." He adds: "Another myth is that it was Catholic v Protestant. You could argue that Charles Edward Stuart was part of a Catholic Stuart dynasty, but it wasn't about religion because you had different religions fighting on both sides. It just comes down to the age-old thing of power and money. It was trade routes and potential gazillions at stake at the end of the day."

An attempt to virtually eradicate Highland culture

But why remember it when it was so long ago? Mr Curtis-Machin: "This is a universal story of battle, trade and global politics. You can see the same patterns of human behaviour today. I look at Brexit and think it is repeating itself – people will split down the line and some will believe the grass is greener on the other side and no matter how big the risk 'let's do it'. Others are more cautious and it divides people. So, I think the lessons of Culloden are alive today."

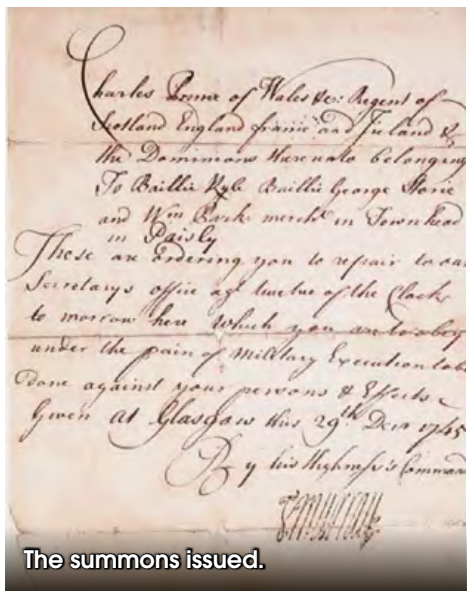
The aftermath of the battle is a key reason it is important to remember Culloden: "The Government realised it had just dragged back an army that had been fighting in Flanders to combat an attempt to invade the country from the north. As far as they were concerned they were going to quash these pesky Highlanders forever. They made an attempt to virtually eradicate Highland culture – bagpipes were banned, tartan was banned, Gaelic language was banned. The Highland Clearances accelerated massively after Culloden, the Government thought they couldn't be doing with the old Highland culture and it had to change. The Scots diaspora came on the back of that and we are still living with that today."

In recent years there have been attempts to build housing on and near the site which has caused much argument. Mr Curtis-Machin is vehemently opposed to any development and believes research they are doing will show why it is important to leave the site as it is. He says: "It (development) is sacrilege because it is a graveyard and I feel it is disgraceful that anyone has allowed development on the battlefield – it is criminal."

The National Trust for Scotland is surveying the ground using laser technology to get more knowledge about how the land was formed in 1746. As a result, they are hoping to update the story of the Battle of Culloden. Mr Curtis-Machin concluded: "We only own just over a third of the battlefield … it extends much wider. We have to put it in more effort to protect it."

To find out about online events happening to commemorate the 275th anniversary of the Battle of Culloden see: www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/culloden

275 years since the Jacobites marched to Paisley


The summons issued.

On 29 December 1745 the Jacobites led by Bonnie Prince Charlie issued a summons to the then Paisley Town Council to meet and account for raising a local militia against them. This summons, along with a receipt from the Prince's Secretary for a £500 fine paid just five days later by the people of Paisley, will go on display when Paisley Museum reopens following its £42m redevelopment. Unlike other towns, that were also fined by the Jacobites but later reimbursed, Paisley's money has never been returned. Glasgow received £10,000 for its loss in 1749, and in 1750 Dumfries was indemnified with £2,800, however every application Paisley made was refused.

Jacobite propaganda medal.

The history of the Jacobites

Archie Henderson, Social History Research Assistant for Paisley Museum said: "The history of the Jacobites is full of fascinating tales and having the opportunity to reinterpret the museum's collection, tell new stories and retell old stories in a more engaging way is all part of the museum's redevelopment. On 30th December Bonnie Prince Charlie celebrated his 300th birthday, so what better time for us to remind people of this part of our town's history."

Originally, Bonnie Prince Charlie fined Paisley £1,000 and took Bailie Matthew Kyle and former Bailie William Park hostage to ensure the fine was paid. However, this fine was later reduced to £500 providing it was paid in full by the following evening. When the time came, the town only managed to pay £300, and the payment window was extended by 12 hours. At the final hour the remaining payment was made to the Jacobites and a receipt from the Prince's Secretary John Murray of Broughton was issued.

Henderson goes on to explain: "After the Jacobites were defeated at Culloden, and money started to be repaid to other towns, Paisley Council was advised that they should take John Murray to court, which they did in 1753 and the case dragged on for seven years without success. In 1760 an appeal was launched but again there is no record of any response or positive outcome, so the debt has remained outstanding."

It is believed that £500 in today's money would be worth more than £100,000.

Culturally significant

The redevelopment of the museum will enable the number of objects on display to be increased by 100%. Significant items from the Jacobite collection that will go on display alongside the summons (dated 29 Dec 1745) and the receipt (dated 3 Jan 1746) include a Culloden sword passed down from the Carlile family; a Jacobite silver medal commissioned by Bonnie Prince Charlie; a painting by David Wilkie (1819) of The Veteran Highlander; and a headstone originally from the grounds of Paisley Abbey commemorating John Orr, one of eight Paisley volunteers killed at the Battle of Falkirk in 1746.

Paisley Museum is part of the town's radical regeneration plan, and the redesign of the campus is led by an international team including architects AL_A and exhibition designers Opera Amsterdam. When it reopens it is expected to attract over 125,000 visits each year and provide a £79 million economic boost to the area over the next 30 years.

Councillor Lisa-Marie Hughes, Chair of Renfrewshire Leisure, said: "Paisley's collections are and the museum's refurbishment is a wonderful opportunity for the town to reinterpret our objects for public display in a way that is engaging and meaningful to visitors. It is also a real tribute to our curatorial teams past and present, that our objects are still in such good condition, and are able to illustrate the area's rich culture and the people's story."

Text and images courtesy of: Paisley Is/www.paisley.is

Culloden sword.

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 - Jim Clark, Duns farmer, twice World Motor Racing Champion, killed in crash, Hockenheim. **1968**

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 - 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 - Scotland won the final Five Nations Rugby Championship. Scotland became champions by default when Wales beat England 32-31 at Wembley. If England had won the last game of the championship they would have been the champions. Both teams had won the same number of games, but Scotland won the title on points scored. The last time they won the championship was in 1990. The following season, Five Nations became Six when Italy joined the competition. **1999**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 - 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**

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

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

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 British soil with over 1500 Scottish fatalities. **1746**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 - Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act passed by the Scottish Parliament, the first piece of legislation in the UK to give formal recognition to the Scottish Gaelic language. It aims to secure Gaelic as an official language of Scotland, commanding "equal respect" with English, by establishing Bòrd na Gàidhlig within the framework of the government of Scotland. **2005**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**

North American Scottish cultural leaders join forces in hosting Virtual Tartan Day

Project 1320 established to be global Scottish arts celebration.

The producers of Tartan Day on Ellis Island and Tartan Day Ottawa have joined forces to launch a new global Tartan Day initiative. Dismayed over the cancellation of so many Tartan Day activities, Robert Currie, Commander of the Name and Arms of Currie and Bethany Bisaillion, Pipe Major for the Sons of Scotland Pipe Band have created a virtual concert hall on Facebook to showcase Scots talent across the Diaspora.

Commenting on the initiative, Currie remarked, "We wanted to create a platform where performers from beginners to professionals could post their work for all to enjoy. Both Bethany and I have been producing Tartan Day events for over 15 years and we were both heartsick that the global pandemic has caused the cancellation of our events and also Highland Games and gatherings. We devised this platform to permit us to celebrate our Scottish heritage in a safe and socially distanced way."

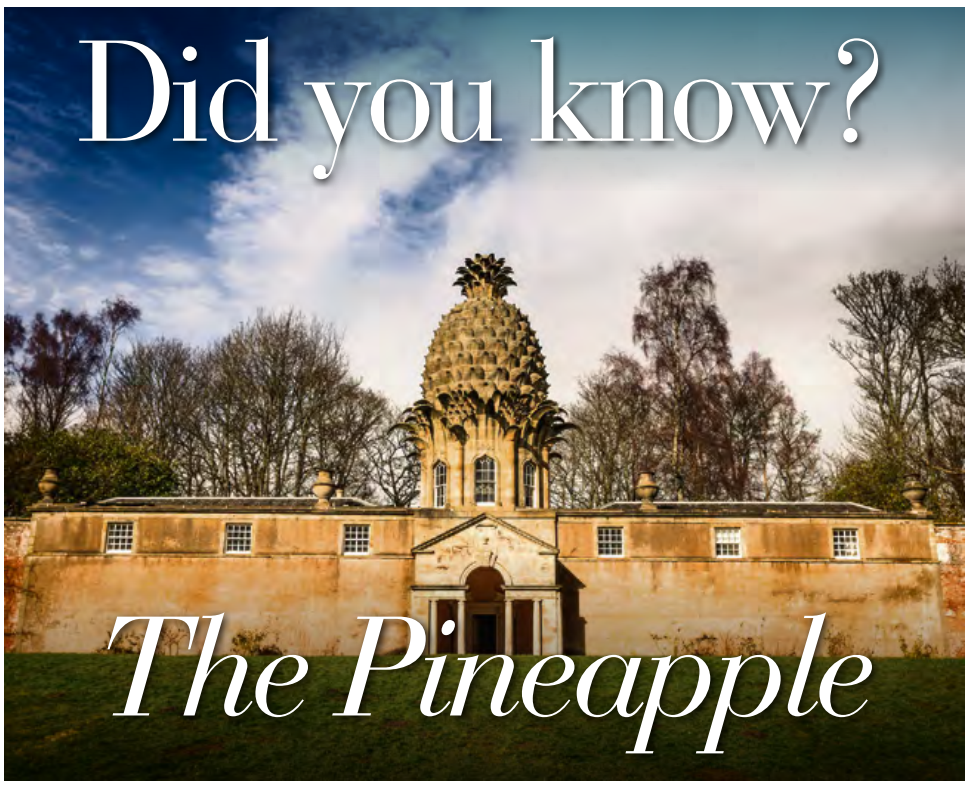
Long-time supporters of Scottish heritage

Bisaillion added, "Bob and I have been long-time supporters of Scottish heritage and culture and once we put our heads together, it didn't take long to conclude that this virtual "open mic" experience might just fit the bill."

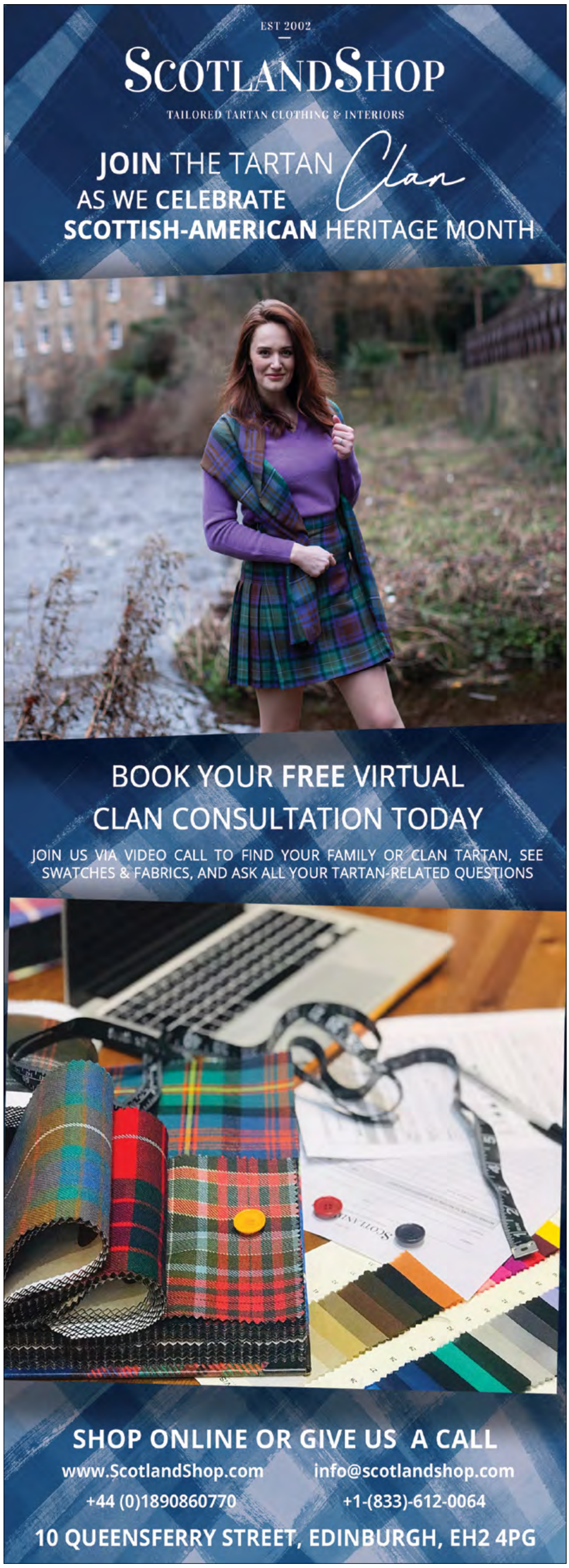
Both Bisaillion and Currie have a considerable contact base in the global Scottish arts community, so this program promises to be a success. The duo has established a lofty goal for their program - collecting 1320 performance submissions by Tartan Day on April 6. Currie added, "We know we've set a high bar with this program, but why not? Social media is flooded with musicians, singers, dancers and the like that are offering their considerable talent, all we're doing is aggregating these performances in one spot."

For details or to post your music see: www.facebook.com/Project1320

Tartan Day
PROJECT 1320



- The Pineapple was built in 1761 by the 4th Earl of Dunmore as a summerhouse where he could appreciate the views from his estate (near Airth in Stirlingshire).
- Pineapples were first grown in Scotland in 1731 and were considered a symbol of wealth and a very exotic fruit.
- It was originally built as a summer garden retreat for the Earl of Dunmore, and today is a haven for various species of wildlife.
- The structure sits on a pavilion and is 45 feet in height.
- The stone cutting is of very high standard and each of the curving stone leaves is separately drained to prevent frost damage.
- The Dunmore Pineapple is often regarded as Scotland's strangest building.
- The Pineapple presides over an immense walled garden. This, in the Scottish tradition, was built some distance from the house, to take advantage of a south-facing slope.
- The Pineapple and its surroundings are owned by the National Trust for Scotland, who took a long lease in 1973 and restored all the buildings and the walled garden.
- The Pineapple folly is not open to visitors, but the walled garden and surrounding grounds are open all year.



IN SCOTLAND TODAY

16th century seal matrix saved

An important 16th century seal matrix has been acquired by National Museums Scotland. The object belonged to James Stewart, half-brother of Mary Queen of Scots and dates to the 1540s. James Stewart was the eldest son among at least nine illegitimate children fathered by King James V.

The seal matrix indicates Stewart's position as Commendator of Melrose and Kelso Abbeys, bestowed on him by his father, the King. Dr Anna Groundwater, Principal Curator, Renaissance and Early Modern History at National Museums Scotland said: "This is an important addition to our collection and we are delighted to have saved it for the nation. It has a direct connection to the Royal Stewart dynasty and moreover shows how King James V was prepared to give status and financial security to his illegitimate offspring, whilst also protecting his regional interests. This object has not been seen in public since 1901, so we're very pleased to bring it into the National Collection where we will be able to put it on display in due course." James Stewart's position as Commendator of the Abbeys of both Kelso and Melrose in the Scottish Borders during the 1540s and 50s gave him significant status in the Borders region. As commendator, he exerted his authority not only over the lands and income of both these affluent abbeys but was also responsible for local defence. King James, in placing one of his illegitimate sons in this dual role, promoted and financed his son's life, and protected the King's interest in the areas under his son's control.

This was crucial given that at this time, the Scottish Borders were particularly vulnerable due to Anglo-Scottish hostilities in the wars of the Rough Wooing, and the minority of the young Mary, Queen of Scots. The seal matrix will be added to the Scottish History and Archaeology collections of National Museums Scotland.

Scottish singer Sydney Devine dies

Scottish entertainer Sydney Devine has died in hospital, aged 81. Devine sold more than 15 million albums during a career spanning seven decades, had been suffering from a chest complaint and died at University Hospital in Ayr in February. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said: "So sad. For Scots of a certain vintage - which definitely includes me - the name Sydney Devine was once synonymous with Scottish entertainment. A true legend. My condolences to his loved ones." Devine, who was born in the Lanarkshire village of Cleland in 1940, was best known for his version of the song *Tiny Bubbles* and went on to record 50 albums. Devine received an MBE in 2003 and also was honoured by the Scottish Music Hall Society with a lifetime achievement reward.

Forth Bridge Lego design being considered

Incredible, stunning and voted Scotland's greatest man-made wonder, the Forth Bridge is not just an icon of Scotland, but an incredible feat of civil engineering. Now Scotland's sixth World Heritage Site, the magnificent Forth Bridge is being considered to be replicated as an incredible Lego set. Glasgow based Michael Dineen has created a prototype which has seen over 10,000 people vote in support of the project and is now being considered by Danish company Lego. Currently there are no official Scottish kits from Lego. Mr Dineen said: "I built my bridge out of pride and passion. I'm incredibly proud to live in a country that is home to one of the greatest and most iconic structures around the world. I love to educate and inspire others about Civil Engineering and have built this model to do just that. With few Lego bridge sets currently available, I see this as an opportunity for Lego to add a different offering to its fans. Many people share my passion for this bridge and feel this is an incredible structure, so unique in design that it's never been replicated anywhere. Not only is it immense fun to build, but it would complement a shelf in any room in the house."

Designed by Sir John Fowler and Sir Benjamin Baker, completed in 1890 and surviving two world wars, the Forth Bridge continues to operate as a functional bridge between Edinburgh and Fife, and is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A decision from Lego is due later this year.

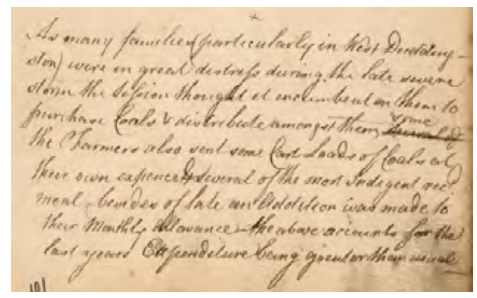
All Aboard-Scotland's floating place of worship

Social innovation charity People Know How and Polwarth Parish Church, located adjacent to the Union Canal in Edinburgh have purchased a 60ft. canal boat, named *All Aboard*, which will nurture community cohesion and wellbeing in the community. Born from a common drive to bring opportunities for wellbeing to the community, the *All Aboard* project launch in June 2019 where they first announced their aims to purchase and run a canal boat docked at the Polwarth Pontoon.

Once in the water, the canal boat will ply the Union Canal and serve as a safe space to gather, socialise and improve wellbeing. The boat will also host People Know How's projects supporting children, young people, families and adults, while providing work or volunteering experience for those who support us to maintain the boat. The boat will launch in the summer, with socially distanced plans for running the boat outside of lockdown already in place.

Richard Millar, COO of Scottish Canals said: "Scottish Canals welcome the decision of the *All Aboard* project to purchase a boat for use of the local canal side community. Scotland's canal network plays an important part in connecting communities across the country and the latest announcement from the *All Aboard* project will create a stronger bond between the local community and the Union Canal. I look forward to working with *All Aboard* in the coming months and welcoming the new boat to the canal network."

Virtual volumes of historical records released



Thousands of volumes of historical records from the collections of National Records of Scotland (NRS) are now available online for the first time. Images of more than a million pages from the kirk session and other court records of the Church of Scotland can now be viewed and downloaded on ScotlandsPeople. These records contain details of key events in communities across the country between 1559 and 1900 and are one of the most important sources for Scottish historical research.

The kirk session - the local court of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland - comprised the minister, the elders and a session clerk. The records they created offer remarkable insights into the everyday lives of ordinary Scots, capturing important moments such as births, marriages and deaths. The church court also adjudicated on the paternity of children, awarded relief to the poor and needy and provided basic education, as well as disciplining parishioners for what could be called anti-social behaviour – drunkenness, cursing and breaking the Sabbath. The most commonly known punishment was public repentance or penance.

The newly added records document how people dealt with exceptional historical events such as wars, epidemics, crop failures and extreme weather. Unlike other genealogical records on the ScotlandsPeople website, the kirk sessions are not indexed. Instead, you can browse the different volumes using the Virtual Volumes search by reference number, the name of the kirk session or other court, or by place name and view the images for free. For more information about these records, please see the guidance on church court records and kirk session records and using Virtual Volumes on www.ScotlandsPeople.

The unicorn – *Scotland's national animal*

By: James Walsh

In Scotland we're known for our love of legends, from ghosts and witches to giant water monsters. But how did the magical unicorn become our national animal?

Why is the unicorn Scotland's national animal?

If we asked you 'what's Scotland's national animal?', you might ponder between a couple of our iconic wildlife species. You probably *wouldn't* think of a magical horned creature typically seen on children's lunchboxes! But it's true: the unicorn really is the official national animal of Scotland. And our love for this famous mythological creature dates back many centuries.

Unicorns have featured in many cultures going as far back as the classical age, including the ancient Babylonians and the Indus civilization. With its white horse-like body and single spiralling horn, the unicorn is a symbol of purity, innocence and power in Celtic mythology. Legend also tells that their horns can purify poisoned water, such is the strength of their healing power.

These proud, untameable creatures are fiercely independent and famously difficult to capture or conquer, which will sound familiar to anyone who has read their Scottish history. Even though unicorns are mythological, Scots have always felt drawn to what they represent.

When did the unicorn become the national animal of Scotland?

The answer to that question lies in heraldry – the age-old practice of designing and displaying coats of arms or crests to distinguish between groups of people, armies or institutions. Using heraldry as our guide, we can see that the unicorn was first introduced to the royal coat of arms of Scotland around the mid-1500s.

Prior to the Union of the Crowns in 1603, our coat of arms was supported by two unicorns. However, when King James VI of Scotland also became James I of England, he replaced one of the unicorns with the national animal of England, the lion, as a display of unity between the two countries. Of course, folklore fans will know that lions and unicorns have always been enemies, locked in a battle for the title of 'king of beasts'.

An interesting thing to note is that Scottish unicorns in heraldry are always shown with gold chains wrapped around them. Why? Although we don't know for sure, it's believed that this was a way of showing the power of Scottish kings – that only they had the strength to tame the untameable.

Where to find unicorns in Scotland

For thousands of years, people around the world believed that unicorns did exist. However, in 1825, a prominent French naturalist called Georges Cuvier attempted to dispel the myth by stating that an animal with a split hoof could never grow a single horn from its head (he also argued against theories of evolution). Nevertheless, the spirit of the unicorn has lived on ever since – people even celebrate National Unicorn Day every year on 9 April.

So … do unicorns exist in Scotland? Of course they do! You just have to know where to look. Here are some places in Scotland where you can spot our country's national animal:

When exploring Edinburgh you'll see a number of unicorns of various shapes and sizes. There's a fine example on a heraldic shield by the gates to the Palace of Holyroodhouse, another in the Royal Apartments at Edinburgh Castle, and several hiding among the Victorian woodcarvings at St Giles' Cathedral, just down the road from Gladstone's Land.

Wherever you see a mercat cross (a Scottish market cross and an old symbol of trade and prosperity for many of our towns and cities), look for a unicorn atop the tower. There are many different examples across the country, ranging from the modest to the ornate, in towns and cities such as Edinburgh, Culross, Prestonpans, Dunfermline and Falkland.

Further north, you'll find interesting examples of Scottish unicorns at Stirling Castle, home of the 'Hunt of the Unicorn' tapestries, and Dundee, where *HMS Unicorn*, one of the oldest warships in the world, proudly displays a unicorn as its figurehead.

Unicorns in National Trust for Scotland collections

There are also lots of unicorns at Trust places, being cared for as part of our historic collections. In the wine cellar at Brodick Castle you'll find a silver gilt cup intricately chased with three oval plaques containing a lion, a bear and a unicorn. Another unicorn features as part of the royal coat of arms of the House of Hanover, which takes centre stage on a gilt military gorget (a kind of metal collar) at Castle Fraser.

Several pieces of furniture in our collections feature unicorns, including a Dutch oak cupboard in the high hall at Crathes Castle that has a grotesque portrait of a unicorn on one panel. A footman (or metal trivet) in the parlour at the Georgian House has a unicorn as part of the decoration on its top.

Finally, you'll see some interesting depictions of unicorns among the collections at Fyvie Castle, where a unicorn mid-stride is at the heart of the design on top of a brass stand. Culross Palace boasts an alms plate with a unicorn beneath a tree at its centre, and Falkland Palace has Mary, Queen of Scots' coat of arms painted in a framed panel, showing two unicorns with saltires.

The National Unicorn Day is held on the 9th of April each year.

Text and images are courtesy of the National Trust for Scotland.

For more information on the Trust or to help them protect Scotland's heritage see: www.nts.org.uk

Calling the Clans

Welcome to our "Clansified" listing of Scottish Clans, Societies and Clubs. If you would like to add your Clan please contact our office for full details. Our contacts are located on page 2. If you are contacting your Clan be sure to tell them you saw them in *the Scottish Banner* and please support these great community organisations.

Clan Baird Society Worldwide

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

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

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

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

Clan Cumming Society of the United States

Website: www.clancumming.us
Email us: info@clancumming.us
See us on Facebook

Clan Donnachaidh Society of New South Wales Inc., Australia

Duncan Robertson Reid
People who bear any of the above names or other Sept names of Clan Donnachaidh "The Children of Duncan" are invited to join in our activities by participating in the Scottish Gatherings held in NSW.

For information and membership application, contact Gordon Robertson.
Email: gord7@bigpond.com

Clan Fraser Society of Australia

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

CLAN BELL

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

Website: www.ClanBell.org
Online membership: https://clanbell.org/membership.html
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ClanBell
Email: President@clanbell.org
Clan Bell North America
4676 Emerald Willow Drive
Acworth, GA 30101

Clan Davidson Society in Australia Inc.

CHIEF: Grant Davidson of Davidston cordially invites to membership all who bear one of the Clan Names, and all who can trace their descent from an ancestor bearing one of these Names: Davidson; Davison; Dawson; Davis; Davie; Davey; Davy; Day; Dye;Dyson; Dawson; Dea; Dean; Deane; Deas; Deason; Dees; Dee; Dey; Daw; Dow; Dhai; Kay; Keay; Key; Keys; MacDade; MacDaid; MacDavid; MacDavett; MacDagnie; MacDagny; MacDhai; McKeddie. In addition we welcome into membership all who have a family association with the Clan Davidson.
Applications may be made online:**clandavidsonaus@gmail.com** or contact the Hon. Secretary Mr Dennis Hill, J.P, P.O. Box 519 Baulkham Hills NSW 1755 dhill1@bigpond.net.au 0431 527 662

CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY

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

UK: London & Southern Counties * Rannoch & Highlands
Canada: Ontario * Western Canada
Australia: New South Wales * Victoria * Queensland * Western Australia
New Zealand: New Zealand
Europe: Spain
Africa: South Africa
USA: Arizona * Carolinas * Florida * Gulf Coast * Mid-Atlantic * New Mexico * Mid-West * Northeast * Northern California * Pacific Northwest * Rocky Mountains * South * Southern California * Texas * Upper Mid-West

Visit our website to learn more about Clan Donnachaidh, our History & Traditions, the Clan Museum in Scotland, the DNA Project, the new Struan Kirk Appeal, & locate a Branch near you.
http://www.donnachaidh.com/
Facebook: The Clan Donnachaidh Society
Email: ivc@donnachaidh.com

Clan Galbraith Society

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

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

www.clangalbraith.org

Family of Bruce International, Inc.

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

Membership inquiries should be directed to:

Donald E. Bruce	Polly A. (Bruce) Tilford, Secretary
President	5561 Earl Young Road
1051 Eagle Ridge Trail	Bloomington, IN 47408
Stillwater, Minnesota 55082	www.familyofbruceinternational.org

Clan Donald Australia

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

High Commissioner	Mr A. Neil Macdonald
State Commissioners	
NSW	Mr John Currie
Qld	Mr A. Neil Macdonald
SA	Ms Therese McCutcheon
Vic	Mr Norman A Macdonald
WA	Ms Pamela McDonald

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

Edmonstone Clan Society

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

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

Clan Gregor Society

Established 1822, Edinburgh, Scotland

Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor
7th Baronet of Lanrick and Balqhidder,
24th Chief of Clan Gregor

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

www.clangregor.com

For membership contact Keith MacGregor
P.O Box 56, Redding Ridge, CT 06876
kmac1@optonline.net.

Peter Lawrie, *Secretary*
6 The Esplanade, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 2EL Scotland

Clan Cameron NSW Inc.

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

President: Alistair Cameron
Secretary: Terry Cameron
secretaryclancameronnsw@gmail.com
www.clan-cameron.org.au

Clan Donald Queensland

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

Elliot Clan Society, U.S.A.

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

Direct inquires to: Jim Dougherty
Treasurer/Membership Chair
Email: elliotcommia@gmail.com

Website: www.elliotclan-usa.com

Clan Gregor Society Australasia

All MacGregors and Septs of our clan are invited to join the Clan Gregor Society Est 1822
If you live in Australia or New Zealand, please contact our clan representative:
Frank McGregor
PO Box 14 NORTH HOBART TAS 7002
Email: clangregoraustralia@gmail.com
Web: www.clangregor.com
"Royal is our Race"

THE CLAN CAMPBELL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

All Campbells or descendants of Campbells and members of Clan Septs are welcome to join the Society.

For State Branches contact the National Secretary Margaret Vallance
Email: libertyv93@gmail.com
www.clan-campbell.org.au

Clan Donald U.S.A. Inc.

Membership is open only to persons of the blood of Macdonald, however spelled or of the blood of a recognized associate family or is related by marriage or legal adoption to either of these write for more info and a complete Sept list.

William H. McDaniel
High Commissioner, CDUSA
bill-mcdaniel@att.net

Clan Farquharson Association Australia

Clan Chief: Captain A.A.C. Farquharson, MC of Invercauld

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

The Secretary: Clan Farquharson Association Australia
PO Box 585 Springwood, NSW 2777
or by Email to: finlaysb@bigpond.com

American Clan Gregor Society

Est 1909

Membership inquiries welcomed from MacGregors of all spellings and Septs

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

Contacting our registrar, Jeanne P. Lehr
11 Ballas Crt.
St. Louis, MO 63131-3038
Phone: 314-432-2842, registrar@acgsus.org
website: www.acgsus.org

CLAN CARRUTHERS SOCIETY -INTERNATIONAL-

Clan Chief
Peter Carruthers of Holmains
(Honorary Society President)

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

www.clancarrutherssociety.org
clancarrutherssociety@gmail.com

CLAN DONALD in VICTORIA

Proudly affiliated with Clan Donald Australia, Victorian Scottish Union and Scots of Victoria Coordinating Group. Represented at all major Highland gatherings in Victoria.

CLAN DONALD VICTORIA
President: Mr Norman A. Macdonald
Contact: secretary.clandonaldvic@gmail.com
Formed in 1934, with membership from many MacDonald, McDonald and Macdonald families living in Victoria. Membership available, with dance classes for Scottish Country Dance most Friday evenings in Gardenvale.

CLAN MACDONALD YARRAVILLE
Hon Chief: Mr Thomas R. Macdonald
Contact: secretary@clanmacdonaldyarraville.com

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

FORBES

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CONTACT: MEMBERSHIP@CLAN-FORBES.ORG

Clan Hamilton Society

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

Clan Hay

April Rich
28 Oxbow Drive
Willimantic, CT 06226
clanhaymembership@hotmail.com

The American Branch of the First Family of Scotland welcomes inquires from descendants of: Hay(s); Haye(s); Hayne(s); Hey(s); Alderston; ArmIl;Ayer(s); Constable; Con(n); De La Haye; Delgatie; Delgatie; D' Ay(e); Dellah'aY; Errol(l); Garrad; Garrow; Gifford; Hawson; Haygood; Hayter; Hayward; Haywood; Haynie; Hayden; Hayfield; Hayne(s); Leask(e); Leith; Lester; MacGaradh; Peebles; Peeples; Peoples; Turriff; Tweeddale; Yester

www.clanhay.com

INTERNATIONAL CLAN MACFARLANE SOCIETY, INC

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

Loch Sloy! We welcome all descendants of Clan MacFarlane from around the world!

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

International Clan MacFarlane Society, Inc.
PO Box 398 Glendora, CA 91740 USA
info@macfarlane.org

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

MACFARLANE.ORG

Clan MacLeod
Societies of Australia

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

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

- NSW, ACT & Qld - Peter Macleod 02 4397 3161
- Victoria & Tas - David Dickie 03 9337 4384
- South Australia - Rachel Hopkins 0433 184 375
- 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.Chair@clan-macpherson.org
phone +1 519 507 4465

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Clan Henderson Society

Purposes of the Society

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

Alistair of Fordell

Virtue Alone Ennobles
SOLA VIRTUS NOBILITAT
An Cirean Ceann Cinnidh

Contact Jeff Henderson
jeffh@bigpond.com
0439 330 012

www.clanhendersonsociety.com

Clan MacInnes
Int'l Assn. of Clan MacInnes (Aonghais)

Worldwide, we welcome descendants of all spelling variations, including (Mc)Angus, (Mc)Canse, Mc)Ginnis, (Mc)Guenis, (Mc)Inch, (Mc)Innes, (Mc)Innis,(Mc)Kinnis, (Mc)Masters, (Mc)Neish, (Mc)Ninch, and more.

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

THE MACLEODS
RICH IN HIGHLAND TRADITIONS

FOR INFORMATION:
WWW.CLANMACLEODUSA.ORG

A.L. MacLeod
3923 Rockwood Way #B
West Valley City, UT
84120-6880

The Clan MacRae Society of Australia and New Zealand

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

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

Clan Hope of Craighall Society

For all of the name and lineage of Hope

INTERNATIONAL & AUSTRALIA
President & Commissioner: Stephen J. Hope
president@clanhope.org
www.clanhopeaustralia.org

UNITED STATES of AMERICA
High Commissioner: Richard Rex Hope
highcommissionerusa@clanhope.org
Membership Chair: Cynthia Hope Henderson
membership@clanhope.org
www.clanhope.org

CANADA
Commissioner: Scott Hale
commissioner@clanhope.ca
www.clanhope.ca

SCOTLAND
Commissioner: Colin Douglas Hope
commissionerscotland@clanhope.org
www.clanhope.org

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

Clan Mackenzie Society in Australia Inc.

Membership enquiries welcomed from Mackenzies of all spellings and Septs

Contact: N Dennis, 61 Alma Street,
East Malvern 3145 Ph 03 9569 5716

Visit our website
Check out your Tartan and Sept
www.clanmackenzie.org.au

Clan Macnachtan Association Worldwide

Descendants andSepts of the CLAN MACNAUGHTON are invited to join our Worldwide Association to learn and share our MacNaughton and Scottish heritage. For more info go to: **clanmacnaughton.net** or contact Mary Nivison Burton, Membership Secretary at: **membersec@clanmacnaughton.net**

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

Clan MacRae Society of North America

Granted Arms in 2008

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

www.macrae.org

Need more info? Contact:
Bruce McRae, *President*
303-670-9611
brucewaynemcrae@gmail.com

Clan Irwin Association

Clan Irwin Association Patron
Alexander Irvine of Drum
27th Baron of Drum & Chief of the Name.
Contact: Barbara Edelman, Chairman
65 Colonial Drive, Telford, PA 18969
215-721-3955 chairman@clanirwin.org
IRWIN • IRVIN • IRVINE • IRVING • ERWIN • ERVIN
Over 270 ways the name has been spelled since 325 A.D.
www.clanirwin.org

MacLaren
Clan Labhran
Clan MacLaren Society of Australia

https://clanmaclarenau.org/
clanmaclarenau@gmail.com

Clan MacNeil Association of Australia

For all enquiries about the clan and membership contact: John McNeil
21 Coopers Avenue
Leabrook, South Australia 5068
Phone: 08 833 33990 Email: kisimul@chariot.net.au

Clan Maitland Society

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

North America: Rosemary Maitland Thorn
rthomnvprdcan@aol.com www.clanmaitlandna.org

Australia: Carole Maitland carole_maitland@yahoo.com.au
4230 Colac- Lavers Hill RoadWeeaproinah. VIC. 3237

New Zealand: Judette Maitland judette@xtra.co.nz
33 Disley Street, High bury, 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**

McAlpin/e

and variant spellings

Commander: Michael T. McAlpin

DISCOVER YOUR HERITAGE!

Contact: Membership@MacAilpein.com
Website: https://macailpein.com/

Clan MacLaren

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

Mark A. McLaren, President
President@clanmaclarenna.org

Clan MacNeil Association of America

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

website: ClanMacNeilUSA.us
Find us on Facebook, Twiter, & Instagram
@ClanMacNeilUSA

Clan Munro Association, U.S.A

We are the only national organization of Munro in the U.S .A. affiliated with the Clan Munro (Association) of Scotland.

COME JOIN US!
Web site: **www.Clanmunrousa.org**
Write: Heather Munro Daniel
4600 Lloydrownn Road
Mebane, NC 27302

Clan MacDougall Society of North America, Inc.

MacDougall MacDowall

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

Email: Info@macdougall.org Home page: www.macdougall.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/clanmacdougall

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

Coul	MacCoul	Macoual
Conacher	MacConacher	
Coyle	MacCoyle	
Dole	MacDole	MacDill
Doual	MacDoual	McDougal
Dougal	MacDougall	MacDougald
Dougle	Mcdougle	McDougald
Dugal	MacDugal	MacDugle
Dowall	MacDowal	MacDowall
MacDowell	Macdowell	McDowell
Lullich	McLullich	MacCullich
MacCulloch	McCulloch	MacCullagh
MacClintock	MacLintock	McLintock
MacHale	McHoul	Mactheul
MacHowell	MacCowan	McCown
MacKichan	M'Gowall	MacNamell
MacLucas	MacLugash	MacLuke

Spelling Variations May Vary or Omit the Mac, Mc

Clan MacLellan

John B. McClellan, Jr.
Treasurer
383 Ash Brook Lane
Sunnyvale, TX
75182-3250
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 of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac

Contact Ross Nicolson
10/377 North Rocks Rd.,
Carlingford NSW 2118
www.clanmacnicol.org

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

Clan Sinclair Australia

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

For further info contact
President: WayneSinclair 0417 146 174
Secretary : Liane Sinclair 0410 045 263
E: clansinclairaustralia@hotmail.com
www.clansinclairaustralia.com

The American-Scottish Foundation, Inc.

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

The American-Scottish Foundation

The Scottish Australian Heritage Council

Membership is welcomed from all Australians of Scottish descent.

For information please contact
The Hon Secretary SAHC, Susan Cooke
Ph: 0411097724
E: info@scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au
Find us on Facebook

www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au

Clan Ross in Australia

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

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

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

The Stewart Society

Welcomes Stewarts, however spelt, by name, birth, or descent, from all over the world. Annual Gathering in historic, Stewart-related properties in Scotland. Newsletter. Annual magazine.

Please inquire: The Secretary
53 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2HT,
Tel/Fax 0131 220 4512 **www.stewartsociety.org**

Comunn Gàidhlig Astràilia

(The Scottish Gaelic Association of Australia) is a nonprofit organisation which supports the language and culture of Scottish Gaels.
Ruaraidh MacAonghais, N each Cathrach (Convenor)
Phone: 04 0482 2314 E-mail: fios@ozgaelic.org
Web: www.ozgaelic.org
Mail: PO Box A2259, SYDNEY SOUTH 1235

Scottish Gaelic Language Classes:

Wednesdays 7:00 - 8:30 pm
during school terms
420-424 William Street, West Melbourne.
Contact: Maurice Fowler 0408 223 277
Email:scottishgaelicvictoria@gmail.com

Scottish Gaelic Society of Victoria
Founded in 1905
https://www.scottishgaelicvictoria.com

Clan Ross America

Representing the great Highland Clan of Ross since 1976.

Paul D Ross, President
Virg Bumann, VP Membership
1015 Archer St, San Diego, CA, 92109
membership@clanross.org
info@clanross.org
www.clanross.org

Clan Sutherland Society in Australia Incorporated

Contact: M Hodgkinson
212 MacKenzie Street
Toowoomba 4350 (07 4632 8559)
william.hodgkinson@bigpond.com.au
http://goldenvale.wixsite.com/clansutherlandaus
Facebook: Clan Sutherland Society in Australia

Caledonian Society of WA Inc.

Promotes Scottish Culture and Traditions in Perth, Western Australia
For further details contact John: 0427 990 754
Email: caledoniansocietyofwa@gmail.com
www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com

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The Society of St. Andrew of Scotland (Queensland) Limited
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Invites membership of all people of Scottish descent or association
The Secretary, P.O. Box 3233, South Brisbane, BC,
www.standrewsociety.com

Clan Ross of The United States

David Ross of Ross, Baron Balnagowan, Chief of the Clan invites all Ross', septs and their descendants to join in preserving our heritage.

www.theclanross.com
clanrossoftheunitedstates@gmail.com
Contact L. Q. Ross
105 S. Graham Ave, Orlando, Fl 32803

Clan Sutherland Society of North America Inc.

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

Email: Secretary@ClanSutherland.org
Website: www.ClanSutherland.org

Hunter Valley Scots Club Inc

Promotes and supports all forms of Scottish culture in Newcastle, Hunter Valley and surrounding areas. Members and interested people are welcome to attend activities such as Burns Night, Caledonian Night, St Andrew's Day, and other social functions.

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

Scots of Victoria Coordinating Group

E-mail: resource_centre@scotsofaus.org.au
Website: https//scotsofaus.org.au
Facebook: facebook.com/ScotsofVictoria

Clan Scott Australia Group

Clan Chief: The Duke of Buccleuch KT, K.B.E
Commissioner: Heather de Sylva

Membership welcome from Scotts and Septs:
Balwearie, Harden, Laidlaw, Geddes & Langlands.

E: heatherdesylva@bigpond.com

Clan Young Australia

Ian J Young AM
Convenor

Membership inquiries:
Clan Young Australia
10 Cedric Street
Parkdale VIC 3195
membership@clanyoungaustralia.com.au

www.facebook.com/groups/youngsofaustralia/

The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Inc.

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

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

Victorian Scottish Union Inc

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

Balmoral Highland Dancing Society	Geelong Scottish Dance
Brunswick Scottish Society	Glenbrae Celtic Dancers
Clan Donald Victoria	Kilmore Celtic Festival
Clan Grant	Maryborough Highland Society
Clan Macdonald Yarraville Inc	Mornington Peninsula Caledonian Society
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Clan Maclean Australia	The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne
Clan Sinclair Association	Robert Burns Club of Camperdown
Warrnambool & District Caledonian Society	Warrnambool Caledonian Highland Dancing Society

Chief: Mr Barry Grant
President: Mr Norman Macdonald
Secretary: Mrs Jan Macdonald
T: 03 9360 9829 M: 0438 584 930
E: secretary@victorianscottishunion.com
www.victorianscottishunion.com

Clan Shaw Society

Invites membership or inquires from all: Shaw, Ayson, Adamson, Esson, MacAy, MacHay, Shiach, Sheach, Sheath, Seith, Seth, Skaith, Scaith and Shay.

Secretary: Mike Shaw
2403 West Cranford
Denison, TX 75020

Clan Wardlaw Association

Founded 2004

Worldwide organization for all Wardlaws or related families. We invite you to join us.
Email: clanwardlaw@yahoo.com

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Share your Clan news, photos and events with us so we can share with our readers and online.

Please contact us at:
info@scottishbanner.com,
www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us
or add your upcoming events at:
www.scottishbanner.com/events/submit-an-event

WHAT'S ON - SCOTTISH EVENTS

The international Scottish event community worldwide has been greatly impacted by event postponements and cancellations due to restrictions related to COVID-19. We are listing both events taking place and that have been cancelled/postponed. Please check direct with event contacts for the most up to date information. You can also see our latest updates or add your event at: ***www.scottishbanner.com/events***

Canada

APRIL 2021

Tartan Day Project 1320
1 – 6, Virtual event
We welcome you to submit a video to our Facebook page to help mark Tartan Day in 2021 - you can do a tune on any instrument, sing a song, do a dance, read a poem, talk about your heritage and cool kilted ensemble... anything that brings a smile and joy to your day will bring joy to ours too. For details or to post your music see: www.facebook.com/Project1320

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!

Scottish Studies Foundation Virtual Seminar
13, Virtual event
Prof. Timothy Shannon (Gettysburg College) will present The Curious Career of Peter Williamson, or How a Scottish Indentured Servant in America Became Edinburgh's King of the Indians. Info: www.scottishstudies.com

Scottish Studies Foundation Virtual Seminar
27, Virtual event
Amy Beingessner (University of Guelph) will present Highwaymen, Scandal and Haggis: Recipes from the Cleikum Inn. Amy is PhD candidate in History and Scottish Studies at the University of Guelph. Amy's current research engages with early modern interpretations of stone monuments in Scotland. Info: www.scottishstudies.com

MAY 2021

World Whisky Day
15, Nationwide
World Whisky Day is a global celebration of world whiskies. Info: www.WorldWhiskyDay.com

Saskatchewan Highland Games and Celtic Festival
21 - 23, Regina, SK
This event will return May, 2022.
Info: www.saskhighland.ca

JUNE 2021

Georgetown Highland Games
12, Georgetown, ON
Cancelled and back next year on June 11th, 2022.
Info: www.georgetownhighlandgames.com

57/58th Cobourg Scottish Festival & Highland Games
18 – 19, Cobourg, ON
Cobourg Highland Games has postponed this year's Games until September 10th/11th.
Info: www.cobourghighlandgames.ca

ScotFestBC: The British Columbia Highland Games
18 – 19, Coquitlam, BC
Pipe bands, Tartan Run, Clans, entertainment and more at Lafarge Lake Park. Info: www.scotfestbc.com

Greater Moncton Highland Games
18 – 20, Moncton, NB
Features highland dance, pipe, drum, and pipe band competitions as well as dozens of workshops & demonstrations at the Hal Betts Sportsplex.
Info: www.monctonhighlandgames.com

Caledonia Celtic Festival
25 – 26, Caledonia, ON
Cancelled and back for 2022.
Info: hwww.caledoniacelticfestival.com

Kingsville Highland Games
26, Kingsville, ON
The Town of Kingsville and the Kingsville Highland Games Committee have made the difficult decision to cancel the 2021. We are looking forward now to the promotion of our 2022 event on June 25th.
Info: www.facebook.com/kingsvillehighlandgames

Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo
26 - July 3, Halifax, NS
For over 40 years, the Tattoo has been dazzling audiences by bringing Canada's rich history and culture to life. Info: www.nstattoo.ca

USA

APRIL 2021

Tartan Day Project 1320
1 – 6, Virtual event
We welcome you to submit a video to our Facebook page to help mark Tartan Day in 2021 - you can do a tune on any instrument, sing a song, do a dance, read a poem, talk about your heritage and cool kilted ensemble... anything that brings a smile and joy to your day will bring joy to ours too. For details or to post your music see: www.facebook.com/Project1320

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!

250th Anniversary of Sir Walter Scott
7, Virtual event
Join us as we explore the life and legacy of Sir Walter Scott - 250th Anniversary - 6pm - 8pm, Zoom Event presented in association with Abbotsford Trust, with insight from Professor Caroline McCracken Flesher. Info: www.americanscottishfoundation.com or www.facebook.com/americanscottish

Sounds From Scotland
9 -10, New York, NY
Join as the American Scottish Foundation, in association with Bryant Park, on the Fountain Terrace for "Sounds from Scotland" - bringing musicians and dancers together as a part of the Celebration of New York Tartan Week - Free for the community to enjoy.
Info: www.americanscottishfoundation.com

New York City Tartan Day Parade
10, Virtual event
This event has been cancelled and back for 2022, however a virtual celebration will still take place. Info: www.nyctartanweek.org

Dressed to Kilt
10, Long Island, NY
This event has been postponed to summer 2021, please see website for more details. Info: www.dressedtokilt.com

Tartan Day Scottish Heritage Event
11, Longwood, FL
This is a local Scottish heritage celebration at Reiter Park with local dancers, pipers, entertainment presented St. Andrew's Society of Central Florida.
Info: www.facebook.com/standrewscfl

ScotWeek
16 -17, Virtual event
ScotWeek will host virtual events promoting Scottish heritage, contemporary culture and charity to provide opportunities for education and scholarship. Info: www.scotweek.org

Woodland Celtic Games & Festival
24 - 25, Woodland, CA
This event has been cancelled due to Covid, and back in 2022. Info: www.woodlandcelticgames.org

The Texas Scottish Festival
30 - May 2, Decatur, TX
The skirl of the Pipes, the cheers of encouragement for the Athletic events, and the swirling of the Highland Dancers reminds all Scots of our rich and glorious heritage at Wise County Fairgrounds. Info: www.texasscots.com

MAY 2021

Savannah Scottish Games
1, Savannah, GA
Info: www.savannahscottishgames.com

Smoky Mountain Scottish Festival & Games
15 - 16, Maryville, TN
East TN's premier celebration of Scottish culture and heritage at Maryville College.
Info: www.smokymountaingames.org

World Whisky Day
15, Nationwide
World Whisky Day is a global celebration of world whiskies. Info: www.WorldWhiskyDay.com

The Finger Lakes Celtic Festival
15, Farmington, NY
The Finger Lakes Celtic Festival has been reschedule for May 2022. For updates go to: https://www.facebook.com/Fingerlakesceltic/

Alma Highland Festival and Games
29 – 30, Alma, MI
Due to reasons involving the Covid pandemic this event has been cancelled for 2021.
Info: www.almahighlandfestival.com/ www.facebook.com/almahighlandfestival

Scottish Fest
29 -30, Costa Mesa, CA
While our traditional festival can not be held like normal this year, we are actively working on event that meets all Covid guidelines. Info: www.scottishfest.com

JUNE 2021

Virginia International Tattoo
3 – 6, Norfolk, VA
The Virginia International Tattoo scheduled for April 2021 is being rescheduled for June 3-6 2021. The Tattoo will honor the Greatest Generation in an emotional and unifying celebration of our World War II Veterans. Join us as we reignite the Virginia International Tattoo Tradition in 2021 with an unforgettable Salute to the Greatest Generation at Scope Arena. Info: 757-282-2800 or www.vafest.org/tattoo

Glasgow Highland Games
4 -6 Lucas, KY
Due to Covid-19 the Games are cancelled in 2021, and back for 2022. Info: www.glasgowhighlandgames.com

2021 Blairsville Scottish Festival and Highland Games
12 – 13, Blairsville, GA
Due to Covid restrictions we are very sad to say Festival has been canceled for 2021.
Info: www.blairsvillescottishfestival.com

IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN

Forfar Bridies

Ingredients:

1½ lbs (700g) boneless, lean rump steak. Lean minced beef can also be used.
2 oz. (2 rounded tablespoons) suet or butter or margarine
1 (or 2) onion, chopped finely
1 teaspoon dry mustard powder
Quarter cup rich beef stock
Salt and pepper to taste
1½ lbs flaky pastry (homemade or from a pastry mix packet)

Method:

Remove any fat or gristle from the meat and beat with a meat bat or rolling pin. Cut into half-inch (1cm) pieces and place in a medium bowl. Add the salt/pepper, mustard, chopped onion, suet (or butter/margarine) and stock and mix well.

Prepare the pastry and divide the pastry and meat mixture into six equal portions. Roll each pastry portion into a circle about six inches in diameter and about quarter of an inch thick and place a portion of the mixture in the centre. Leave an edge of pastry showing all round. Brush the outer edge of half the pastry circle with water and fold over. Crimp the edges together well. The crimped edges should be at the top of each bridie. Make a small slit in the top (to let out any steam). Brush a 12 inch square (or equivalent area) baking tray with oil and place the bridies in this, ensuring that they are not touching. Place in a pre-heated oven at 450F/230C/gas mark 8 for 15 minutes then reduce the temperature to 350F/180C/gas mark 4 and cook for another 45/55 minutes. They should be golden brown and if they are getting too dark, cover with greaseproof paper (vegetable parchment).

Dingwall Haggis Bon Bons

Ingredients:

1 kg quality haggis (remove from fridge)
2 large potatoes
1 swede/ Rutabaga
50 ml double cream
1 tbsp. wholegrain mustard
500 ml chicken stock
25ml malt whisky
1 egg beaten
100g fresh breadcrumbs
100g plain flour

Method:

Cut the haggis into small pieces and roll into balls. Once this has been done roll them in a little flour, followed by the beaten egg and then the breadcrumbs (this is best all done in advance).

Bake the potatoes until just about cooked through, allow to cool then peel and cut into chunky rectangles. Cook the swede in cold water, then bring to the boil until soft. Place cooked swede in a food processor or blender with a splash of double cream, and then season to taste.
To cook the potatoes, make the batter by whisking the flour and water together until smooth. Dip the potatoes in to coat them in the batter and then put them straight into an electric fryer (Temp 170c). Cook until golden brown and crisp.
Bring chicken stock to the boil and reduce down by ⅔ then add the mustard followed by the whisky. Allow to cool slightly.
Adjust electric fryer to 160c, gently lower the Bon mix into the fryer and cook for 3-4 minutes until a light golden brown.
To serve, spoon turnip purée onto plate, place potato fritter on top and arrange three Haggis Bon Bons on fritter. Drizzle some Whisky Grain Mustard Sauce over the top, and add a little extra on the side.

Beef and onion pie with cheese crust

Ingredients:

For the pastry:
225/8oz. plain flour, plus extra for dusting
75g/2¾oz. chilled butter, cut into cubes, plus extra for greasing
pinch salt
75g/2¾oz. mature cheese, or similar mature crumbly cheese, grated
4 tbsp. water
1 free-range egg yolk
For the filling:
1-2 tbsp. vegetable oil
250g/9oz. beef mince
1 onion, peeled, chopped
1 carrot, peeled, finely chopped
1 celery stalk, trimmed, finely chopped
1 tbsp. tomato purée
1 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
splash bitter ale
1 free-range egg, beaten
To serve:
mashed potatoes
brown sauce

Method:

For the pastry, blend the flour, butter cubes and salt in a food processor until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Add the cheese, water and egg yolk and continue to blend until the mixture comes together as a dough. Turn out the dough onto a lightly floured work surface and knead lightly for 3-4 minutes, or until smooth and elastic. Wrap the dough in cling film and chill in the fridge for at least one hour. Meanwhile, for the filling, heat the oil in a frying pan over a medium heat. Add the beef mince, in batches if necessary, and fry for 6-8 minutes, turning once, or until browned all over. Remove from the pan and set aside (keep warm). Repeat the process with the remaining batches of beef mince.

Add the onion, carrot and celery to the pan used to fry the mince. Fry for 3-4 minutes, stirring well, until softened.

Return the mince to the pan and stir in the tomato purée, Worcestershire sauce and bitter ale. Bring the mixture to a simmer and cook, stirring regularly, for 8-10 minutes, or until the majority of the liquid has evaporated. Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6. Grease a 20cm-25cm/8-10in pie plate with butter. When the dough has chilled, divide it in half. Roll out one half onto a lightly floured work surface until slightly larger than the pie plate. Carefully line the pie plate with the pastry, pressing it into the edges of the plate.

Spoon the filling into the pie case. Roll the remaining dough out onto a lightly floured work surface until it is slightly larger than the pie dish. Brush the rim of the pie case with a little of the egg wash. Place the pastry disc on top of the pie and press the edges together. Brush the pie lid all over with the remaining beaten egg. Prick the pastry all over several times with a fork. Bake the pie in the oven for 35-40 minutes, or until the pastry is crisp and pale golden-brown. Serve with mashed potatoes and brown sauce.

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.

Hot cross buns

Ingredients:

450g/1lb strong white bread flour
7g/½ oz. dried yeast
2 tsp ground cinnamon
1 tsp allspice
100g/3½oz raisins
1 orange, zest only
100g/3½oz sugar
50g/1¾oz butter
250ml/9fl oz. milk
1 free-range egg
For the cross:
75g/2¾oz flour
4 tsp caster sugar
4 tbsp. water
For the glaze:
1 tbsp. smooth marmalade
1 tbsp. soft dark brown sugar
2 tbsp. water
butter, to serve

Method:

For the dough, sift the flour, dried yeast, cinnamon, allspice, raisins, orange zest and sugar into a bowl.

Warm the butter and milk together in a saucepan until the butter has melted. Remove from the heat and whisk in the egg.

Fold the milk mixture into the flour mixture to form a dough.

Tip the dough onto a floured work surface and knead for 10 minutes, or until the dough is smooth and elastic.

Divide the dough into 12 pieces, shape into balls and cover with a damp cloth. Set aside for 12 hours, or until the dough has doubled in size.

Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4.

Meanwhile, for the cross, mix the flour, sugar and water together in a bowl and spoon into a piping bag with a plain nozzle.

Place the buns onto a baking tray and pipe a cross onto each bun. Bake in the oven for 20-25 minutes, or until cooked through.

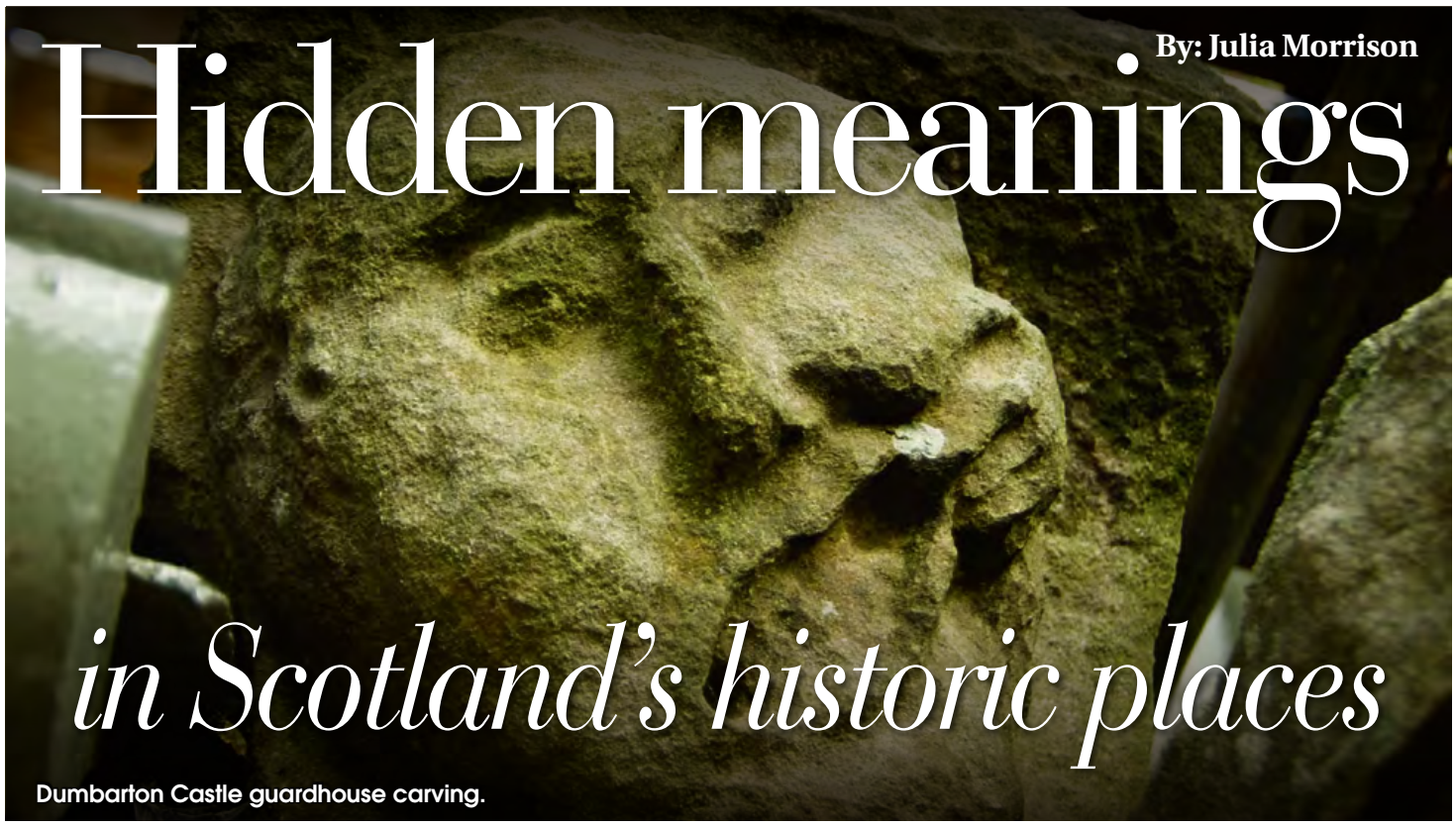
Meanwhile, for the glaze, heat the glaze ingredients in a pan until the sugar has melted and the mixture is smooth and glossy.

Remove the buns from the oven and immediately brush each bun with the glaze. Set aside to cool.

Serve the hot cross buns warm with butter.

Hidden meanings in Scotland's historic places

By: Julia Morrison



Dumbarton Castle guardhouse carving.

Images: © Crown Copyright HES.

The replica embroideries are on display in the Royal Apartments at Edinburgh Castle.

Many of Scotland's historic places contain features which may have hidden meanings. Join us as we take a look at some of the favourites from Historic Environment Scotland.

Who else enjoys the rush of excitement you get when you spot something weird or surprising in Scotland's old and ancient places? Or the sense of satisfaction when you decode hidden meanings? Some folks might disregard a historic ruin as "boring" or not much to look at. But others know that a bit of curiosity and patience can bring rewards!

Masons' marks, tell-tale signs of lost features, and peculiar details can all capture the imagination. Some are easy to explain, others might forever remain a puzzle. Today we look at some top picks for curious or hidden features at places cared for by Historic Environment Scotland.

A tortured soul?

Dumbarton Castle has one of the longest recorded histories of any stronghold in Scotland. Mentions of the castle date back to the Dark Ages. Could a twisted face set into the guardhouse wall point to an important story from the castle's long history? This little carved face peeks out from the masonry of the guardhouse. The grimacing face is said to represent Sir John Stewart of Menteith, keeper of the castle.

It's likely that Sir John's troops captured the fugitive William Wallace in 1305 and handed him over to the English authorities. Wallace was transported south to London where he was found guilty of treason and atrocities against civilians in war. In response to the charges he reportedly said, 'I could not be a traitor to Edward, for I was never his subject.' Wallace was dragged by horse to Smithfield where he was hanged, drawn and quartered.

Thanks to his part in Wallace's capture, Sir John is also known as the 'the fause (false) Menteith'. The legend also says that Wallace was held at Dumbarton Castle for a short period but, as far as we know, there's no evidence to support that. While we can't confirm that this is definitely a depiction of Mentieth, it certainly gives us an excuse to talk about one of the past guardians of Dumbarton Castle.

A host of hidden meanings

Are you ready to be overwhelmed by more hidden symbols and inferred meaning than a Dan Brown novel? Then let's take a look at the Marian Embroideries. These are a collection of 37 needlework panels created by Mary Queen of Scots during her exile in England. The original pieces are displayed at Oxburgh Hall, Norfolk, and the Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh. At Edinburgh Castle, we have exquisite replicas made by the School of Ancient Crafts Heritage Sewing Group between 2014–17. Mary sewed the embroideries while she was under house arrest. The work was done alongside the noblewoman Bess of Hardwick, the wife of the queen's jailer. There's a rich language of symbolism woven into these embroideries. You can download a guide over on the Edinburgh Castle website, but here are a couple of our favourites.

The colourful noisy jay symbolised gossip. Mary struggled to protect her reputation against scandal and slander, not least from rumours that she'd had her second husband Lord Darnley murdered and was plotting against her cousin, the English queen Elizabeth.

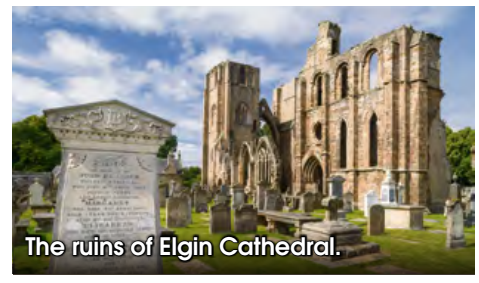
The apple tree with the surrounding Latin text pulchriori detur – let it be given to the fairer – alludes to the legendary Judgement of Paris. In the ancient Greek story, the Trojan prince Paris awarded the Golden Apple of Discord to the fairest of the goddesses. This might hint at the rivalry between Mary and her English cousin Elizabeth.

The art of stone masonry.

Festering wounds…

Could one of the ornate carved panels at Caerlaverock Castle allude to a historic grievance and persecution? The Nithsdale Lodging is an impressive mansion house, built inside the walls of the medieval fortress by Robert Maxwell in the 1630s. Its façade is covered in a set of impressive decorative carvings. In its heyday these would probably have been brightly painted. The carvings feature coats of arms and scenes from classical mythology. Among the scenes we see here are possible depictions of the stories of Patroclus and Prometheus. Why is that significant?

Well, there's a theory that it may relate to the trials and tribulations of the Maxwell family. The family were Catholic and suffered under a Protestant king. In the Greek myth of Patroclus, the hero Achilles did not allow the burial of his close friend Patroclus' body after he was killed in battle. Here the corpse of the warrior is shown being pecked by vultures. It has been suggested this could refer to a troubling episode from the Maxwell family's past. Robert's late father lay unburied for five years after his death, as a punishment for his Catholicism. In the story of Prometheus, Zeus, king of the Olympian gods, sentenced Prometheus to eternal torment for stealing fire and giving it to humanity. Robert was imprisoned for five years for his Catholicism and may have felt the story of Prometheus had parallels with his own.



The ruins of Elgin Cathedral.

The Nithsdale Lodging is one of the finest examples of Renaissance architecture in Scotland.

A cheeky chappie at Elgin Cathedral

Elgin Cathedral, known as the 'Lantern of the North', is one of Scotland's most beautiful medieval cathedrals. It was once richly carved and adorned with stained glass and painted decoration. A fine collection of architectural fragments hints at the building's lost beauty.

Hidden behind the shield of this vault boss (a decorative bit of the ceiling) is a secret sculpture. At first, it looks like a simple coat of arms – possibly those of Bishop Columba Dunbar (1422–35). However, look closely and you'll see fingers clasping the sides of the shield. Hiding behind is a crouching hooded figure. His robe is bunched up around his middle and – if you crouch down yourself – you'll see that he is naked below the waist. Be warned, though, he is anatomically correct!

The stone formed part of a vaulted ceiling, so the figure would have been high up and hard to see. Could it be a swipe at the monastic orders, living their holy lives inside abbey cloisters? Perhaps a reminder that sin can hide behind a mask of innocence? Or was this naughty nudity just an in-joke among the masons?

Historic Environment Scotland is the lead public body established to investigate, care for and promote Scotland's historic environment. For more details see: www.historicenvironment.scot

This replica embroidery was created by the Heritage Sewing Group.

The guardhouse at Dumbarton Castle.

Culloden's 275th history goes online

Images courtesy of The National Trust for Scotland.

Conservation charity the National Trust for Scotland has shared its plans to reveal some of the latest historical and archaeological research to mark the 275th anniversary of the Battle of Culloden at a series of online events on Saturday 17 April. Working with historians, archaeologists and local partners the Gaelic Society of Inverness and XPO North, the Trust has created a thought-provoking programme to share the latest research and to promote the protection of the battlefield. Events begin at 11am (GMT) with a special service to remember the events of 16 April 1746 and the many who fell.

One of the most harrowing battles in British history

On 16 April 1746, the final Jacobite Rising came to a brutal head in one of the most harrowing battles in British history. Jacobite supporters, seeking to restore the Stuart monarchy to the British thrones, gathered to fight the Duke of Cumberland's government troops. It was the last pitched battle on British soil and, in less than an hour, around 1,600 men were slain – 1,500 of them Jacobites.

Talks by historian Professor Christopher Duffy and archaeologist Derek Alexander will consider the significance of the latest map and LIDAR (light detection and ranging) analysis of the site and its impact on our understanding of the battle, art historian Count Peter Pininski will reveal insights into the real character of Charles Edward Stuart, the driving force behind the 1745 uprising which ended at Culloden. Planning for the online programme started in April last year when physical commemorative events could not take place due to the coronavirus pandemic.

National Trust for Scotland Operations Manager for Culloden, Raoul Curtis-Machin said: "We are really excited about the latest LIDAR analysis and historical research. Having a better understanding of Culloden Moor's boggy uneven terrain will help inform the physical challenges faced by the Jacobites. We look forward to welcoming people from all over the globe as we remember 16 April 1746, and consider how it continues to resonate, almost three centuries on."

Conserve and protect the moor for future generations

The battlefield is under greater threat than ever from developments, and there will be interactive debate and discussion about how it can be better protected through Culloden 300, a Trust initiative which seeks to establish how people would like the site to look in 2046, 300 years after the battle. To help the conservation charity respond to the ongoing challenge of protecting and preserving the site of the UK's last pitched battle, the charity is also launching Culloden's Fighting Fund -www.nts.org.uk/campaigns/cullodens-fighting-fund

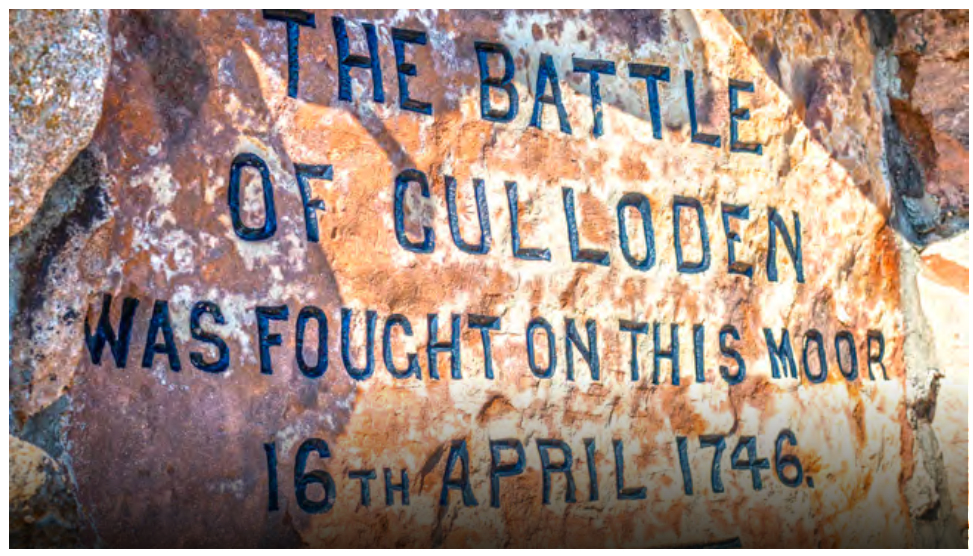
Raoul adds: "As a charity, we rely on voluntary income to do this and a donation to Culloden's Fighting Fund will help us conserve and protect the moor for future generations."

Donations will:

- Enable the Trust to continue to fight future development proposals that would encroach on the battlefield, ensuring we can protect this significant place for Scottish heritage. Culloden Battlefield is regularly threatened by residential and commercial developments and the Trust has recently objected to three residential housing plans.
- Help educate children across Scotland and beyond about the importance of the Jacobite Rising and how Culloden changed the course of European history.
- Help care for the animals who graze the battlefield to ensure the moor doesn't become overgrown. A small herd of goats, ponies and Highland and Shetland cows keep the grass short, just as they would have done years ago, ensuring that the site looks as it would have in the 18th century.

Culloden Battlefield is accessible to local visitors in line with current Scottish Government restrictions. The visitor centre is currently closed.

The full programme and booking information is available at: www.nts.org.uk/stories/culloden-275



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