



the Scottish Banner



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A' Bhratach Albannach

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Discovering Scotland's Distilleries

» Pg 12

Paisley Museum's 150th anniversary

» Pg 10

Glasgow's Battlefield

» Pg 11

South of Scotland's biggest community buyout completes

» Pg 5



First look at faces of centuries-old Edinburgh-dwellers..... » Pg 3
Legendary author Sir Walter Scott celebrated » Pg 8
Castle Cluggy rescue mission begins..... » Pg 15

the Scottish Banner

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The Banner Says...

The water of life



by Sean Cairney

It is said Mark Twain once made the famous comment "Too much of anything is bad, but too much good whisky is barely enough." May in Scotland is traditionally Whisky Month, with events taking place across the five whisky regions (Highland, Lowland, Speyside, Islay and Campbeltown) of the country.

This year of course things may not be back to normal with the slow and measured opening of Scotland, however virtual events will ensure whisky aficionados are certain to still find ways to celebrate Uisge beatha, the Scottish Gaelic term for water of life. As we hit mid-month a global celebration also takes place with World Whisky Day on May 15th.

Each bottle of whisky produced tells a story

Each bottle of whisky made in Scotland certainly tells a story of the local region in which it was produced. From smokey and peaty Islay malts to the light bodied varieties from the Lowland's. With over 130 distilleries to be discovered across Scotland you can be just about anywhere and find some liquid gold being produced. This year alone Scotland is expected to open new distilleries in Loch Lomond, John O'Groats and Falkirk to name a few, with work being planned on future locations such as Edinburgh, Speyside, Islay and the Scottish Borders.

Some may also be surprised to learn of the reported health benefits which come with consuming whisky, at moderation of course.

Whisky is said to help with some surprising ailments so raising a dram just may be good for you! Whisky can lower your risk of heart disease, promote weight loss, help fight cancer, reduce blood clots, aid digestion and of course help with a common cold by having a Hot Toddy.

In this issue

To help celebrate Whisky Month we have featured just some of the great distilleries you can visit when it is safe to next travel to Scotland. Apart from sampling a dram many distilleries also tell a great story and have strong historical links to the local community. Scotland's distilleries come in all shapes and sizes, from large ones with innovative displays and interactive exhibits explaining the process, to small ones which have preserved their distilling techniques and secrets since the 18th century.

Today whisky is one of Scotland's top exports with hundreds of countries around the world wanting and consuming the dram of Scotland.

The town of Paisley can be missed from people's itineraries when visiting Scotland. It however is the largest town in Scotland and is only a short trip by train or car from Glasgow and has much to boast about. Paisley's growth in the early 19th century was mainly through textile production and the name Paisley was given to the Kashmiri pattern of curving shapes found on silk and cotton fabric. Paisley Museum is being transformed into a world-class destination which will retell the town's story to the world and is looking for the world to share their paisley history with them.

The most significant battle to take place within Glasgow was fought in the southside of the city on May 13, 1568 and was the Battle of Langside. The Catholic Mary, Queen of Scots was overwhelmingly defeated by Protestant forces after which she fled to England where she was incarcerated by her royal rival and distant cousin Elizabeth I and eventually executed.

The dram of Scotland

The first recorded evidence of whisky production in Scotland dates back to 1494 when monks made Aqua Vitae, as whisky was then known, in Fife. It is suspected however the tradition of whisky making pre-dates this, but one thing that is certain is that whisky production is very much a part of Scotland's culture, industry and psyche. As whisky began to be known across the country Scottish farmers would distil their surplus grain at the end of the harvest season to make the ever-popular drink. This led to the government imposing a whisky tax in 1644, which caused many a distiller to go underground and an illicit distilling and whisky smuggling boom was born. For well over 100 years canny Scots mixed farming and distilling with great skill, creating a network of stills and distribution to evade customs.

Today whisky is one of Scotland's top exports with hundreds of countries around the world wanting and consuming the dram of Scotland. It is now an industry that is worth over billion's to Scotland and has fans across the globe.

I hope you are able to sit back and enjoy your May and if that involves having a wee dram, here is to your good health! Cheers/Slàinte Mhath! 🍷

Have you visited one of Scotland's great distilleries? Do you have a favourite dram? 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.



Making the 'water of life'. Photo: VisitScotland.

Gracing our front cover: The ancient art of coopering at The Speyside Cooperage. Photo: VisitScotland/North East 250/Damian Shields.

First look at faces of centuries-old Edinburgh-dwellers



Facial reconstruction of a woman by Viviana Conti.

A first glimpse has been revealed of what people living in Leith up to 700 years ago might have looked like. Forensic artists have used hi-tech software to reconstruct the faces of remains uncovered during the excavation of the medieval graveyard in Leith, dating back to between the 14th and 17th century, as part of the Trams to Newhaven project. Masters graduate students from the University of Dundee, working closely with project sub-contractors GUARD Archaeology and as part of an ongoing internship with the Council Archaeologist, used special 3D scanners to build up digital versions of skulls discovered during excavations outside South Leith Parish Church. These were the basis for lifelike representations created of the former residents, the first step in the aging analysis of bodies.

The first two pictures feature a man and woman both aged between 35 and 50. Early forensic analysis indicates that the woman may have suffered from nutritional deficiencies. Councillor Karen Doran, Transport and Environment Vice Convener, said: "It's so interesting to see these images. It really makes you think about what life could have been like in Leith all those years ago and I look forward to finding out more from the experts analysing the remains found."

Medieval Leith

Council Archaeologist John Lawson added: "These fantastic reconstructions help us connect directly with our forebearers. Often, we as archaeologists just see the physical remains but the work undertaken by Dundee University's forensic artists helps put the flesh, so to speak, back onto these remains and by doing so I feel brings them closer to us today."

Excavations were carried out in summer 2020 outside South Leith Parish Church, Constitution Street, where previous investigations showed that in the medieval period the church's graveyard extended across the road with graves surviving beneath the current road surface. The team of archaeologists, who were working to remove any human remains that could be affected by the tram works, exhumed more than 360 bodies, dating from between 1300 and 1650, as well as finding the apparent remnants of the original medieval graveyard wall.

The remains are now subject to examination and analysis that will reveal information on the origins, health, diseases and diet of the people of medieval Leith. This has involved partnership work with the University of Dundee and Forensic Art MSc graduate students Viviana Conti and Elysia Greenway, who have created facial reconstructions and have recorded vlogs for the Trams to Newhaven YouTube account, explaining their process.

The main construction works on Leith Walk from Elm Row to Crown Place are currently underway, with traffic management involving Leith Walk being reduced to one citybound lane between London Road and Crown Place for the duration of the works.



Facial reconstruction of a man by Elysia Greenway.

The 28th Chief of Clan Macpherson, James Brodie Macpherson of Cluny



James Brodie Macpherson of Cluny is the 28th hereditary chief of the Clan Macpherson of

Cluny (Cluny-Macpherson). Born on 5th June 1972, he was educated at Summer Fields, Oxford; before going to Fettes College, Edinburgh; and then on to Guilford College, in Greensboro, North Carolina where he obtained a BSc in Sports Management and Business. On his return to Scotland, after working with Whitbread plc in London, he joined Ben Sayers Golf Company as a Commercial Manager before going into property and thereafter he set up his own property business in Melrose, aptly named Macpherson Property. In 2002 Jamie married Annie Alexandra Macpherson, a company director and a daughter of The Lord and Lady Macpherson of Drumochter, who was co-incidentally the son of one of the co-founders of the Clan Macpherson Association in 1947. Jamie and Annie have three children: William Thomas (younger of Cluny), Lucy Catherine, and Angus James. Hugely passionate about all things Scottish, Jamie also has a great interest in the outdoors which include golf, rugby and fishing. The family home is Newton Castle, Blairgowrie, Perthshire, which has been the home of the Macphersons since 1787. Currently, Jamie and Annie live in Melrose in the Scottish Borders, the home of Rugby 7's.

The 27th Chief, Sir William Macpherson of Cluny and Blairgowrie, passed away in February and served as Chief of Clan MacPherson for fifty years.

Information: www.clan-macpherson.org



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

- 1) What in Scottish schools was a tawse?
- 2) Which American President is commemorated with a statue on Edinburgh's Calton Hill?
- 3) A caber is made from which kind of wood?
- 4) What in Scotland is often referred to as Avern jelly?
- 5) Who led the English army at the Battle of Bannockburn? a) Edward I, b) Edward II or c) Edward III?
- 6) Do reindeer live in the wild in Scotland?
- 7) What are "thampit neeps"?
- 8) In which year did Scot Sir Alexander Fleming discover penicillin? a) 1928, b) 1930 or c) 1932?

- 9) In old Scots, what does the name Souter mean?
- 10) How old was Mary, Queen of Scots when she became Queen? a) 6 days old, b) 6 years old or c) 16 years old?

Answers

- 1) Though no longer in use, it was a leather strap used by the teacher to punish unruly pupils.
- 2) Abraham Lincoln.
- 3) Fir.
- 4) Wild strawberry jam.
- 5) b) Edward II.
- 6) Yes, in the Cairngorms in the Highlands.
- 7) Mashed turnips.
- 8) a) 1928.
- 9) A shoemaker or cobbler.
- 10) a) 6 days old.



Mathieson Carlisle



MacLeod Gandy

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Best Kilpatrick

SCOT POURRI

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

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

Prose and the Edge



This is the poem which was written for the challenge between myself and the artist John Trevorrow. We had agreed to write and paint on the theme of the two "Heroes" of our nation, Wallace and Burns. John Trevorrow's image is astoundingly beautiful I hope my poem does it justice.

Prose and the Edge

Edge of the sword, sharpest and keen.
For victory & history so it would seem.
Wallace, with his countrymen raised,
who won victory on history's page?

A quill stroked pages among
Scotland's elite, sought equality,
fraternity at poetic retreats.

Where sits the victor when Quill
crossed the sword? Was it blood
when it ran or the sharpest word?
Both now inhabit the coldest of
soil, but which of these heroes
still make the blood boil?

Wallace whose body was broken and
spread, or Burns whose words
are now World read?

Kit Duddy
Kitspoems
<https://www.facebook.com/kitspoems>
Artwork by Scottish artist John Trevorrow
Trevorrow Art
[Facebook.com/TrevorrowArt](https://www.facebook.com/TrevorrowArt)
Scotland

Men in Kilts

Thank you for making my heart skip a beat with the *Men in Kilts* write up (*the Scottish Banner*, March, 2021). I love watching these two men banter off each other. I have learned a bit of my ancestral homeland too. Please stay safe and healthy, and again thank you for all your work.



Mary Lopez de Morales
(decendent daughter of Col. William Maule, Surveyor General Colony of North Carolina)
USA

Scottish Council Area song

My name's Dec Browne, I'm in Year 11 at school, and though I've spent my whole life in Australia, Scotland has been a land I've had a strong connection to ever since I first learnt about my Scottish ancestry as a toddler. Though I have never been given the chance to visit, Scottish culture has always given the impression of many good values to me, such as loyalty, faithfulness, purity, and belief in oneself.

Over the past year, I have been devoting more and more of my own time to learning about Scotland, its language and its culture. Recently, I wrote a song about the 32 council areas, to help make memorising them easier for me and anyone else who wanted to, whether young or old.

And for all the effort people from places like Australia and the US put into teaching and memorising their jurisdictions, I couldn't find too many memory aids online for Scotland's council areas, so I thought that you might be interested in using it to promote a love across Scotland for people's council areas and what makes each one special and unique. The lyrics are:

There's City of Glasgow, a place that's built ships by the ton
City of Edinburgh, where all the government work is done
Fife with the castle and cathedral, both of St. Andrew
North Lanarkshire, where making Mackintosh coats is what they do

South Lanarkshire, with East Kilbride's museum of Rural Life
Aberdeenshire's cut from Aberdeen, just like a knife
Highland's got Loch Ness, you'd know it well from every book
So be sure the monster doesn't steal your fishing hook

Aberdeen City's got butteries and walls of granite
West Lothian's where Mary Queen of Scots first saw the planet
If you've got any paisley clothes, there's Renfrewshire to thank
Falkirk's got the Falkirk Wheel, it lifts boats, in full crank

Perth and Kinross is where Beatrix Potter's Gardens are
Dumfries and Galloway's Big Burns Supper makes Robbie Burns the star
Dundee City's where they wrote the Beano Comics first
North Ayrshire was where Nicola Sturgeon had her birth

East Ayrshire was where Duncan from the Thomas show was built
Angus has the Aberlemno Stones beneath its kilt
Scottish Borders has a house Sir Walter Scott once had
South Ayrshire's got Ailsa Craig, an island up for grabs

East Dunbartonshire's Antonine Wall's got pieces left
East Lothian's the golf coast, its golf courses are the best
Come see Moray's Bow Fiddle Rock or you'll say 'Fiddlesticks!'
The Electric Glen's just one box East Renfrewshire ticks

Stirling's National Wallace Monument pays Will respect
The National Mining Museum's Midlothian's best aspect
Loch Lomond in West Dunbartonshire's quite a famous loch
Argyll and Bute is well-linked with the Argyle-patterned sock

James Watt of Inverclyde helped revolutionise steam power
See Clackmannanshire's trail of sculptures and Alloa Tower
Na h-Eileanan Siar, or the Western Isles, are green and lush
The Shetland Islands, home of ponies cuter than a plush
The Orkney Islands are surrounded by the ocean blue
And now you've learnt the Scottish councils, all the 32.

Dec Browne
Australia

Ed note: Thanks so much Dec for sending this to us, and allowing us to share this with Scots across the world.

Tenement Tales

Like Jim Stoddart's Glasgow stories (*Kings, Castles & "Durty" Wee Rascals*), Brian Diamond's also made me laugh. The first twelve years of my life were spent in a tenement in Partick, Glasgow. We lived one up and had a 'Mrs G' on the ground floor. There were only four children in the close-me and my sister and two sisters also one up. I dare say we made noise running up and down the stairs, but we were oblivious to that. Our 'Mrs G', whose name I cannot recall, would open her door and yell at us to be quiet and stop running around before we even got up the outside steps, or when she heard our front door open. My mother would tell her we were only kids playing. I remember one time my father telling her to go inside and put some cotton wool in her ears, much to the delight of my sister and me. We very rarely saw or heard her after that.

My sister and I always went to the Kelvin Hall with the Brownies to see the circus. Sometimes mum would come and we got to go on the rides. Thank you Brian for the green paint story (*the Scottish Banner, Tenement Tales*, February, 2021). I could hear your mother screaming "Oh no, not the green paint!" The visual picture that conjured up had me laughing for ages. As a child in the 1950s myself, the shock your mother got is familiar to me.
Carol Mitchell
Auckland, New Zealand

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

Send us your photos or letters via social media



Eilean Donan Castle



Most definitely the blue hour at Eilean Donan Castle.
A View From My Camera
Scotland

Highland Coo



Well I suppose it's winter but it's still #coosday isn't it? A perfectly positioned scratching branch too!
Gary Chittick
Paisley, Renfrewshire
Scotland

Stirling



Stirling Castle and Stuc a'Chroin - A fairy-tale scene at the beginning of the "you couldn't make it up" year! Stirling Castle with a snow covered Stuc a'Chroin in the background. Although there's approximately 17 miles between the Castle and the mountain, a long zoom lens gives the impression they are closer.
Raymond Dormer
Scotland

Ross Fountain



The Fountain of Youth-Ross Fountain, Edinburgh.
Aye Spy Photography
<http://ayespyphotography.co.uk>
Scotland

South of Scotland's biggest community buyout completes



Langholm Moor. Photo: Tom Hutton.

The South of Scotland's largest community buyout has been legally completed following one of the most ambitious community fundraising campaigns ever seen and paving the way for the creation of a vast new nature reserve in Dumfries and Galloway. The landmark agreement of £3.8 million for 5,200 acres of land and six residential properties was reached between The Langholm Initiative charity and Buccleuch last October, after the community of Langholm's six-month fundraising drive reached its target in the final two days.

Tarras Valley Nature Reserve

With the transfer of ownership finalised, the community now owns the land for the first time in its history. Work is to begin immediately on creating the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve to help tackle climate breakdown, restore nature, and support community regeneration.

Margaret Pool, Chair of The Langholm Initiative, said: "Together we've achieved something which once seemed impossible, and today we can celebrate as a new era begins for this special land with which our community has such a deep and long-standing connection. Our sincere, heartfelt thanks go to so many people for making this historic moment for Langholm happen – including the generous donors and tireless volunteers, and to Buccleuch for being so supportive and positive in their approach."

Benny Higgins, Executive Chairman of Buccleuch, said: "To have concluded the sale to the community is a fantastic achievement, and a great example of what can be achieved when communities and businesses like Buccleuch engage openly with one another and work to a common goal. This was achieved by goodwill and working together, following voluntarily all the relevant guidance and protocols. We look forward to seeing the plans for the area coming to life over the coming months, and wish The Langholm Initiative all the very best with this. Buccleuch has been reducing the footprint of its landholdings in the last decade and, having sold approximately 30,000 acres of land in this period to farmers and community organisations, we will continue to

reinvest revenue from land sales into a variety of business projects across the farming, forestry, renewable energy, and leisure and hospitality sectors."

The Langholm Initiative has set up Tarras Valley Nature Reserve for the day-to-day running of the ambitious new venture, and is currently recruiting two new members of staff who will oversee the landscape-scale nature-restoration project.

The environment at its heart

Globally important peatlands and ancient woods will be restored, native woodlands established, and a haven ensured for wildlife including rare hen harriers, the UK's most persecuted bird of prey. Plans for community regeneration include new nature-based tourism opportunities. Discussions are continuing between The Langholm Initiative and Buccleuch over another 5,300 acres of land the community wishes to buy, and which could double the size of the new nature reserve.

After the launch of the community's fundraising drive last May, The Langholm Initiative had until 31 October to raise the funds for the deal, to avoid the withdrawal of a £1m offer from the Scottish Land Fund. At times the project appeared to be seriously at risk. The Langholm Initiative now aims to show how community ownership can be a catalyst for regeneration with the environment at its heart, and hopes its success will inspire other communities in Scotland and across the UK.

The Langholm Initiative, formed in 1994 as one of south Scotland's first development trusts, facilitates projects making a lasting difference to the local area and people. See: www.langholminitiative.org.uk



Male hen harrier. Photo: John Wright.

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SCOTSPEAK

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

"I loved the job and meeting people. It kept me occupied and it stopped me moaning to me husband that I was bored. I have lovely customers and they have helped me to keep going in the role, even though my eyesight is getting worse, by reading the scales. I have now decided that it is time to retire."

Postmaster Winifred Ryan said as she announced her retirement at the Achahoish Post Office in Argyll. Mrs Ryan has run the post office since 1963 and had it not been for her failing eyesight would have continued in the role beyond her 58 years of service.



"The Pineapple is one of the most significant buildings in Scotland and its unique ambience is dependent on its setting within Dunmore Park with its woodland and abundant wildlife. It is clear to us that this development scheme would have a hugely adverse impact on the site, which is designated within the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland. As we have seen all too often, inappropriately-scaled and sited developments have

impaired or overwhelmed many important historic and natural landscapes and it's our obligation to ensure that this does not happen to The Pineapple."

The National Trust for Scotland's Chief Executive, Phil Long said as the conservation charity lodged a formal objection to a planning application lodged by George Russell Construction for a housing development at Mains Farm, Airth, directly adjacent to The Pineapple and the historic Dunmore Estate. Dating to 1761, The A-Listed Pineapple is one of Scotland's most exotic and celebrated buildings and was constructed by the Earl of Dunmore amid a purpose-designed landscape. The overall development plans for 82 houses causes the Trust great concern for the integrity and setting of the landscape around the Pineapple, as well as the threat to wildlife. The property has been in the Trust's care since 1973.

"This 16th century millstone is one of the few remnants of water-powered mill that once stood in the castle grounds next to the Dour Burn, and an important piece of the story of the site. Grain was ground into flour between this stone and a larger flat one underneath. A wooden spindle, powered by a waterwheel, turned the top stone. The loss of such an artefact is a heritage crime which robs us of a priceless piece of our past, and we would urge anyone with information regarding this incident to contact Police Scotland on 101."

A Historic Environment Scotland spokesperson said as a priceless 500-year-old stone object has been stolen from Aberdour Castle in Fife. The medieval Aberdour is one of the oldest masonry castles still standing in Scotland and has been made famous as a location on the TV series *Outlander*.



"It's become clear that the cultural and heritage sectors want to know more about where people look online for information about their exhibits; what they search for; where they come from and how long they spend looking. We will be looking at 12 months of the digital footprints of the National Galleries and National Museums Scotland, to analyse and understand the actions and cultural interests of users, whether they are repeat users or whether they have become involved during the pandemic. Many people have had no option other than to go online to view collections during the pandemic. We will look across platforms to see whether there has been growth of traffic or different patterns coming from certain groups of users, such as different sectors, school pupils or researchers, working on specific themes in art. We will also examine whether emerging interests or social events have had an influence. We will aim to develop our findings for a standardised approach and common framework so that cultural institutions can continue to have an accessible presence during the pandemic and any future events."

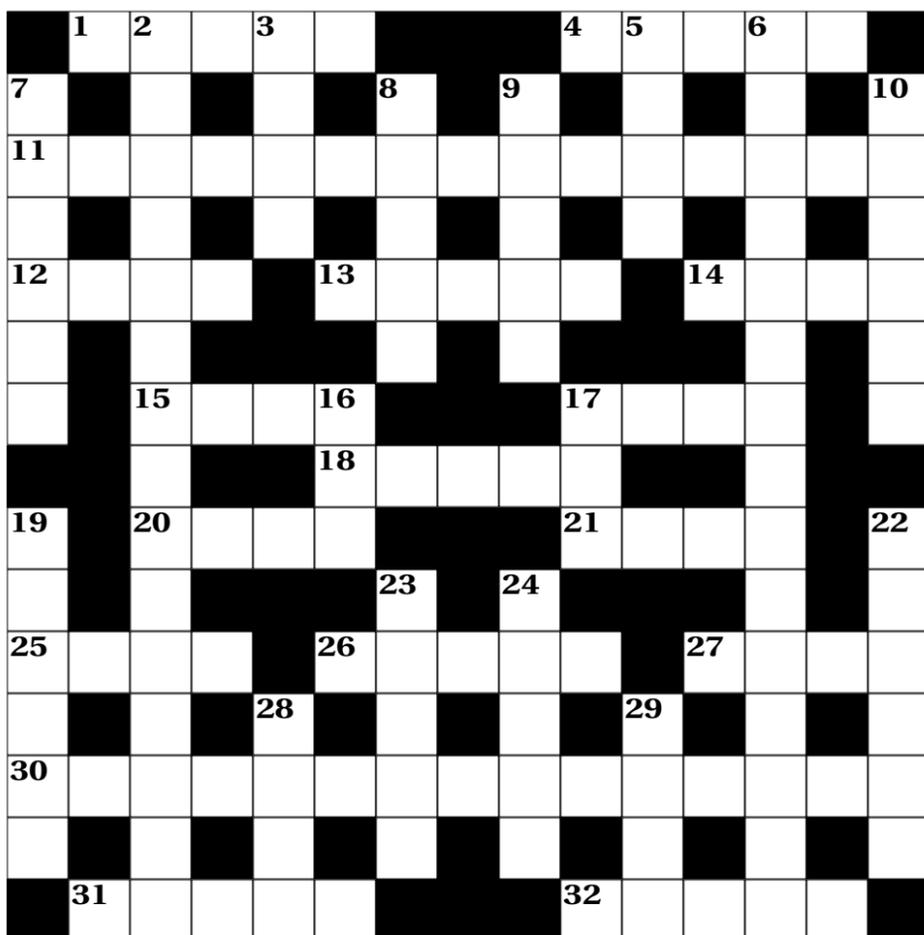
Professor Gobinda Chowdhury, of the University of Strathclyde's Department of Computer and Information Sciences said the transfer of museum and gallery collections online during the COVID-19 pandemic is being investigated in research led at the university. Strathclyde is working

with National Museums Scotland, National Galleries of Scotland and the University of Edinburgh to analyse the digital pathways of visitors to the gallery and museum websites during lockdown. The study will aim to establish what attracts visitors, which pathways, such as search engines and arts platforms, lead to their engagement and how different stages of the pandemic have affected interaction.

"We studied the Declaration of Arbroath and how it functioned at the time of 1320 - background factors that influenced how it was written and who sent it, who it was for and how it was received. That led us into thinking about how to write a new declaration, in the context of where we are now. The role of technology is always a factor, and clearly influences how we communicate now. Digital platforms and online spaces offer useful and exciting possibilities, while at the same time throwing up parallel concerns around ownership and control, freedom of expression, hate speech, censorship, self-censorship and identity."

Rebecca Sharp of the New Declarations project said as young people have been invited to examine the historic Declaration of Arbroath on modern platforms such as Instagram and Tik Tok. Participants will be exploring ideas and issues around freedom of expression. Starting with a look at the Declaration of Arbroath (1320), its historical and cultural significance – before looking at how we communicate today; the role of technology, how it shapes the issues we face around free speech. The Declaration of Arbroath is one of the most famous documents ever produced in Scotland. It was a statement written to make the case for a nation's claim to freedom. Dated 6 April 1320, it turned 701 years old in April 2021.

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 21!

CLUES ACROSS

- 1) Scotland's only venomous snake (5).
- 4) It goes wi' tatties (5).
- 11) Famous Scottish song (6, 1, 3, 5).
- 12) Related by blood (4).
- 13) Whisky measures (5).
- 14) Advantage on the border (4).
- 15) Mr Breck! (4).
- 17) Useful at St Andrews! (4).
- 18) Cathedral city on River Lossie (5).
- 20) Montrose is on what coast? (4).
- 21) Variable star (4).
- 25) Mormon territory (4).
- 26) They talk Scots! (5).
- 27) Get infected by a Scot (4).
- 30) Ghostly container! (6, 2, 7).
- 31) Scots kids (5).
- 32) A passageway to a tenement (5)

CLUES DOWN

- 2) MacBeth's fortress (9, 6).
- 3) Old measures (4).
- 5) She's a flower (4).
- 6) Scottish lassies (10, 5).
- 7) A broad Scottish valley (6).
- 8) Dull to a Scot (5).
- 9) Suffer in Scots (5).
- 10) Wee islands (6).
- 16) It's the aim in soccer (3).
- 17) Small hotel (3).
- 19) Hallowe'en bangers (6).
- 22) Skilled worker (6).
- 23) Part of the Highland dress (5).
- 24) A hip one is handy! (5).
- 28) Highland family (4).
- 29) Spin round in Scots (4).

The National Piping Centre to launch crowdfunding campaign



the difficult decision to cease publication of the two magazines, *Piping Times* and *Piping Today*. Both titles hold a special place in the hearts of pipers across the world. Sadly, publication of the magazines could no longer be justified on the grounds of the associated costs. Dwindling circulation numbers - a common trend in publishing in recent years - meant that, despite their long histories, the savings made had a significant impact on the organisation's ability to weather the pandemic."

Great value to the international piping community

The National Piping Centre began publishing its own in-house magazine, *Notes*, shortly after opening in 1996. As the focus of the publication shifted to the broader world of piping its title changed to *Piping Today*. The bi-monthly magazine, under the editorship of The National Piping Centre's then Director of Piping, Roddy MacLeod MBE, maintained a distinctive voice in the piping community for almost 25 years. Head of Piping Studies at The National Piping Centre, John Mulhearn, said: "The history recorded in both magazines' archives is of great value to the international piping community. The unmatched resource it represents for students and scholars of the bagpipe cannot be overstated. In making this resource more accessible, future research will benefit profoundly."

The money raised from the crowdfunding campaign will be used to professionally digitise the magazine archive. It will then be hosted on The National Piping Centre's website and be free for the public to access and search. Donations to the campaign will also support the design and production of a new physical annual publication under the *Piping Times* banner. It is planned that the annual will be added to the digital archive each year. Finlay MacDonald continued: "Creating a physical record of the year's piping news is still a priority for us. By publishing a *Piping Times Annual* we hope to create a new archive for the future. This first volume, covering the period from Spring 2020 to Autumn 2021, will be of enormous historical importance."



While, on the one hand, far less piping activity has taken place due to the pandemic, the innovations that have taken place - most notably the explosion in online competitions - may be seen as a pivotal moment in the development of piping performance. It is essential that this is documented appropriately for researchers of the future."

On Tuesday 4th May 2021, The National Piping Centre will launch a crowdfunding campaign to raise funds to protect the legacy of its *Piping Times* and *Piping Today* periodicals. The two-strand project involves digitisation of the magazine archive, a resource that will be free to access online, and the production of a new annual publication that carries the *Piping Times* title. With the *Piping Times* and *Piping Today* together recording over 90 years of piping history, and recognised internationally as the most significant source of piping information, opinion and news, both were forced to cease publication in 2020 due to the unprecedented financial challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Influential in fostering an international piping community

The National Piping Centre's Director of Piping, Finlay MacDonald, said: "It was with the deepest regret that we have made

The College of Piping began publishing *Piping Times* in October 1948. As well as printing competition results, reviewing events and reporting general news in the piping world, it provided a platform for the exchange of opinions and ideas. It was also influential in fostering an international piping community.

Until his death in 1996, the magazine was edited by Seumas MacNeill, a co-founder of the College. In nearly 50 years as editor - a position he took no payment for - MacNeill never missed a single issue. An acerbic style of writing made him a controversial personality but his commitment to the publication bequeathed the piping community a substantial and valuable historical record. Subsequent editors were Robert Wallace, Colin MacLellan and Stuart Letford. In 2018, when the College was incorporated into The National Piping Centre, the magazine archive and its continued publication became part of the Centre's legacy commitment.



Roddy MacLeod MBE.



Seumas MacNeill.



The Crowdfunder will be live from Tuesday 4th May, 2021 and will be available to donate to via: <http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/pipingtimes>



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Legendary author Sir Walter Scott celebrated



An international celebration for the 250th anniversary of the life and works of Sir Walter Scott got underway recently with an online broadcast of a spectacular light show from the Scottish Borders. Scott fans around the globe were treated to a stunning display at Smailholm Tower, which was broadcast online.

Smailholm Tower

The broadcast featured well-known Scott enthusiasts, including *Outlander* author Diana Gabaldon who shared how Scott inspired her and what her writing has in common with the 19th century author. This was followed by the world premiere of a brand-new short film of the Young Scott, created by artist and director, Andy McGregor, which was projected onto the 15th century tower. Smailholm Tower, which is owned by Historic Environment Scotland, was chosen as the location to start the celebrations because of its influence on Scott as a child. The tower is next door to the farm where Scott lived as a boy, and his early experiences here continued to inspire him throughout his life.

One of the world's greatest storytellers

Giles Ingram, Chief Executive of Abbotsford, Scott's home near Melrose in the Scottish Borders, said: "Abbotsford is delighted to be leading a partnership of over 50 organisations who will be celebrating the

250th anniversary of Scott's birth from now until August 2022. World Storytelling Day seemed the appropriate time to launch the celebrations, as Scott is renowned as one of the world's greatest storytellers, and his global impact is reflected in the range and diversity of our partners."

Alex Paterson, CEO of Historic Environment Scotland (HES), said: "Walter Scott remains an iconic and important figure in Scotland's story, both historically and culturally and HES is looking forward to playing our part in celebrating the 250th anniversary of his life and works. Smailholm Tower is a wonderful site and given Scott's well-known connection to it, it makes for the perfect location to launch the programme commemorating one of our country's best known cultural icons."

For more information on the 250th celebration for Sir Walter Scott see: www.WalterScott250.com



Five reasons Scott matters today



Belonging

Scott was deeply receptive to the stories and experiences of other cultures and times, so much so that he collected artefacts and studied materials from across the world. He was able to appreciate the bigger picture of the human story in unique and refreshing ways. And yet, he would always consider himself a Scottish Borderer, wedded to the land that was part of his creed and home to his reiver ancestors.

His baronial set celebrated his own roots and those of others descended from the people of the Borders, with Abbotsford as the metaphorical heart of the region. Throughout his writing career he endeavoured to show that a sense of place creates distinctive cultural identities, and that regional character and traditions can co-exist alongside one another to create a rich national tapestry.

Storytelling

Scott's greatest gift was his talent for storytelling. He was able to animate the past by blending history and fiction together, knitting the real and the imaginary with such mastery that sometimes his inventions have become accepted as historical truth. In his private life and social engagements, he was recognised for the same craft, and it was the dramatic tone of his voice, the animation of his face and the sparkle in his eye that enraptured his audiences.

To quote a contemporary, to hear Scott speak was like drinking champagne. His home is a three-dimensional example of his vast storytelling capabilities, where the antique, modern and imitation co-exist in unlikely harmony and decisions in design, decoration and craftsmanship are all intended to stimulate conversations, raise eyebrows and communicate messages on a number of levels.

Legacy

Sir Walter Scott is undoubtedly one of the most influential and relevant cultural figures of the last 200 years. His legacy still looms large in the spheres of architecture, international literature, tourism, lexicography, sustainability, biodiversity and landscape management. Right around the globe, there are places named after or connected with the man or his literary output. Scott's impact in architecture and the decorative arts was the catalyst for Medieval Revivalism and the Arts and Crafts movement.

His poems and novels put Scotland's landscapes and her people on the map. But his legacy is far greater than the sum of its parts. For a voice from the past, Scott speaks to us intelligently about a whole host of contemporary issues, from national identity and internationalism to gender equality, industrialisation and revolution. Scott was a historical writer who looked toward the future with his eyes wide open, embracing progress whilst fiercely protective of the social values he felt were under threat. In an uncertain world, his perspective and insight has never had so much to offer us.

Living History

Sir Walter Scott believed that the material culture of the past could bring history to life. Ready access to things created, used and lost by the people of the past was essential to Scott's inspiration and success as a writer of historical fiction. He was a passionate advocate of experiential learning: encouraging people to visit battlefields, landmarks and ruins; to explore the features of their landscapes, and to imagine their many histories playing out there in full cinematic colour.

He was interested in hearing the lost voices and songs of the past, preserving languages and folk customs; in reimagining its buildings and in collecting and wearing historical clothing, arms and armour. All of this underlines his commitment to sensory engagement with the past, the most critical aspect of living history as we understand it today. Scott also had the foresight to appreciate that the present is merely history in the making, and he encouraged his friends to draw parallels between contemporary events and those in times past, using his home and collection as a springboard. Ultimately, through the costumed splendour of the Waverley Balls and King George IV's visit to re-enactments of his novels on the stage, Scott gave birth to the version of living history we might recognise today.

Wellbeing

'Wood, water and wilderness have an inexpressible charm for me.' This is more than just the romantic sentiment of a poet: Scott knew that to live well, and to safeguard mental and physical wellbeing, a person should always be able to access and enjoy the natural world.

The benefits of physical activity and open air, and the opportunities for conversation and creativity that such activities offered to those taking part, were all championed by Scott two hundred years before they found their way into the health and social policy so topical today. Scott lived his life with a visible disability, but he and his social circle placed the emphasis on what he could do rather than what he couldn't, and it was never permitted to define him. His life at times was far from easy, and he weathered the stings of bereavement, financial hardship, depression and ill health with an indomitable spirit sustained by walking his woodlands and caring for his trees. Scott is one of very few nineteenth-century figures to talk candidly about their mental health issues and coping mechanisms.

KINGS CASTLES AND "DURTY" WEE RASCALS

Australian Jim Stoddart was born in a Glasgow Tenement and raised in a Glasgow Housing Scheme 1943-1965. Jim will be taking readers on a trip down memory lane, of a time and place that will never be the same again, and hopes even if only a few people in the Scot's Diaspora have a dormant folk memory awakened, then he shall be more than delighted.



Cornalee Road

*Mickey moose cam' tae
ma hoose,'*

*I asked him whit he wanted,
A piece an' jam,
and a hurl in ma pram,
That is whit he wanted.*

A rhyme for counting out things.



I always liked the sound of the name of the place where I lived in Pollok. 'Cornalee Road' I thought, had an elegance that was lost from the connotations raised by 'Blackburn Street' in Plantation. I was playing there as usual with my lead soldiers in my bedroom at number 39 when suddenly a man's big face loomed up and stared in at me. My heart skipped a beat as I looked back in fear and horror. I lived on the top floor of a one-storey building so this was not an everyday occurrence. The face disappeared just as quickly as it had come. I was totally unprepared for this. My mum and dad had warned me about what would now be called 'stranger danger' although the streets were so safe at that time that I enjoyed a freedom of movement unheard of by modern day children. We had sniggered in the playground about 'willie-watchers' and worse. We were on the lookout for these dangerous predators whenever we had to go to the public toilet in Househillwood Park but I was not ready for this situation at my own house. I was about to shout, scream, run or do whatever people do when a murderer or a sex maniac is about to get them.

Hughie

"Hullo there, son", boomed out a loud voice, "would ye mind gettin' me some clean watter fur ma pail, son? After I finish this windae will do - and could ye rinse out this 'shammy' for me? I'll meet ye doonstairs." It was wee Hughie, the window cleaner. In the years to come I would get a warning.

I would hear the scraping of his ladder on the roughcast and pebble dash as the ladder is pushed up to reach the window ledge or I would hear him talking to a neighbour for Hughie was stone deaf and conversations in the months and years to come could go something like this.

"'Hullo', Mrs. Stoddart, how are you the day then?" shouts Hughie having moved along to the living room with his replenished bucket of water. "Not so bad, Hughie." replies my mum, raising her voice a little. "Naw, I won't have a cup of tea this time, if ye don't mind Mrs. Stoddart. I'm a bit behind in my work the day."

"Okay then, suit yourself. It looks like rain coming," says my mum with a quiet smile. "Aye the pain's no' so bad now but it fair gives me gyp in the wet weather." "Have you seen a chiropractor about your back since it's been bothering you, Hughie?" "Naw, no' noo, I used to back Partick Thistle, when I was a boy, that is, but I hav'nae been to a fitba match at Firhill for years noo."

As Hughie's sponge and chamois leather glided swiftly over the panes of glass on our windows, he and my mother continued this strange conversation for the next twenty minutes or so. Much to my shame, I taught myself in the future to make sure I disappeared into a room on the opposite side of the house from where he was working and whenever I heard the scrape of his ladder on the wall. That way I could avoid answering his questions that always seem to raise more questions than ever got answered. He was a really nice wee man and my mother carried on lengthy conversations with him every month with the patience of a saint, for well over a decade.

And if we didn't know about what was happening in the lives of our neighbours, we could always listen in to Hughie's loud conversations with them. It broadcasted the news to all and sundry but it never did make a lot of sense.

Interesting people

My father also suffered badly from industrial deafness acquired from years of working in the shipyards but his was not half as bad as Hughie's affliction. My dad's was, nevertheless, debilitating socially yet he never wore a hearing aid until his 'old age'. By that time, it was next to useless. I think he was too vain to wear one when he might have got some benefit. He was always at work when Hughie came and we were spared a possible mind-blowing conversation between the two of them. Now that I was living in Pollok, I was presented with a whole new set of interesting people and neighbourhood experiences. There were so few shops that families largely depended upon mobile shops. As well as the fishmonger, the fruiterer and the City Bakery van, there was a very large Co-op grocery van that regularly visited our streets. We walked into the back of this van to select the produce stocked on the racks each side of the aisle, much in the same way as we would for selecting books in our mobile library. Mobile libraries also plied the streets.

I mistakenly thought that the rag and bone man who came up Cornalee Road with his horse and cart was the same one who came to Blackburn Street when I was younger. What seemed like the same old horse took a well-earned rest to swat some flies with its tail at the top of our hill whilst his master exchanged the same balloons and

toys for rags as the earlier rag man in Govan. The old horse, covered in flies, and the old well-worn cart, looked exactly the same. Now that I was older I joined the other weans in pestering my mother for some old clothes to make the swap. We would have taken off our shirts and jerseys and traded them in, there and then, if our mothers had not found something for us. So strong was the call of 'toys for any old rags'.

There was also a handsome Spanish onion man with a suave Breton black beret and an interesting accent. He had his brown shiny onions strung all along the front and back of his bicycle. It was a wonder that he could ever ride his bike at all, never mind all the way from Madrid and up our hill with such a load. We really did believe that he had taken off with these onions from sunny Spain or Brittany and travelled all the way to us in Glasgow on his bike. My mother always bought her onions from him. Even more impressive was the knife-sharpener. In the blink of an eye, he turned his three-wheeled bicycle into a scissor-sharpening, knife-sharpening, and garden shear-sharpening wonder machine. He first turned the bicycle on its end and used the pedals and gears to turn gritty sandstone sharpening stone, instead of the wheels. Adding dabs of water and spit he skillfully moved the scissors and knives along the rotating wheel, until they were as sharp as new. My mother always had work for him. Then there were the tinkers. They occasionally came to our door with wooden clothes pegs to sell or with a strange straw figure for a talisman to give you luck. We had to buy from them. For if we didn't my mother said that they might put a curse on our house and on all of us living there as well.



Piping Times

Needs you this May!

The National Piping Centre, Glasgow, Scotland had to stop publication of it's 2 piping magazines because of the pandemic.

Between 4th - 31st May, please donate to the crowdfunding campaign to enable free online access to 70 years of piping history, and help print the first Piping Times annual.

Please contribute to help save this huge archive for future generations of pipers.

Find out more & donate at:

www.crowdfunder.co.uk/pipingtimes



Paisley Museum's 150th anniversary



Objects from Paisley Museum's collection. Photo: Elaine Livingstone.

Designer Dr Pam Hogg leads the call to #ShowUsYourPaisley for Paisley Museum's 150th anniversary

Fashion designer Pam Hogg is leading a call-out for Paisley-patterned items the public have at home - from clothing to cookware - to mark the 150th anniversary of Paisley Museum. The #ShowUsYourPaisley call-out will encourage the public to share any objects they have incorporating

the famous pattern, with the museum considering the most intriguing and unusual submissions for inclusion in a new display being created as part of the museum's £42million redevelopment. Items can be historic or contemporary, high-fashion or functional, but all need to feature the iconic teardrop motif.



#ETROBYYOU Campaign. Photo: ETRO.

Pam Hogg, Paisley-born designer and Patron of Paisley Museum, said: "The Paisley pattern has had a lasting impact on the world and has been endlessly reinterpreted and reinvented. There are examples of Paisley pattern all around us and I'd like to encourage the public to share their items and the stories of how they were acquired, used, loved and passed down. The most interesting will be considered for display alongside a piece from my 2020 couture show, where I created the Paisley Poodle print incorporating my life-long love of the iconic Paisley design. As a child I was fascinated with the museum's collection and can't wait for its expansion."

The iconic teardrop motif

Paisley's Free Public Library and Museum opened on 11 April 1871, aiming to provide local people with the means of self-improvement inspired by the ideals of the Scottish Enlightenment.

The Paisley pattern has had a lasting impact on the world and has been endlessly reinterpreted and reinvented.

It was open to all, although it had strict by-laws for entry which excluded anyone "in an intoxicated or unclean condition" or those "in whose house infectious diseases exist". In 1905, the museum held its first exhibition of Paisley shawls in recognition of the impact the textiles had had on the town's fortunes. Many gifted these shawls to the museum permanently when the exhibition concluded, and over 115 years later the museum is asking the public to continue this tradition. Kashmir shawls began to arrive in Europe in the 18th and 19th centuries, brought back by travellers and via trade routes, including with the East India Company and the Mughal Empire. Many featured the 'boteh', a motif in the shape of a curved droplet. By the 1800s they had become extremely fashionable and European textile centres began producing 'imitation Indian' shawls. Manufacturers in Paisley quickly adopted new weaving techniques and technologies including jacquard looms, allowing them to mass produce these items and become the market leaders by the 1830s.

This sparked the start of the trend for referring to these shawls as 'Paisleys'. Kirsty Devine, Paisley Museum Project Director, said: "The iconic teardrop motif has long been associated with Paisley's history and heritage and is an integral part of the museum's collection. We will tell the story of this design, so synonymous with the town, from its Kashmir origins all the way through to its modern-day use by major fashion labels. The pattern has been seen on different types of objects globally throughout history. What better way to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Paisley Museum than paying homage to the town's most famous export? We're very excited to see what hidden gems the public are able to uncover and share with us through the #ShowUsYourPaisley call-out."



Pam Hogg's 2020 Best In Show catwalk. Photo: Mariana Caffoir.

Paisley pattern

Although the fashion for the shawls that made the town's fortune dwindled by the 1870s, the 'Paisley pattern' continued to appear in garments and in the 1960s had a dramatic revival with the likes of rock legends The Beatles and Jimi Hendrix wearing the designs. The pattern has continued to be a source of inspiration for leading fashion designers, including the Italian fashion house ETRO. Jacopo Etro, Creative Director of ETRO Home & Accessories, said: "Paisley has appeared on every imaginable fabric, bridging East and West, masculine and feminine, elegance and eccentricity. The symbol has evolved and morphed as new techniques and colours have been applied to it, carrying the design from clothing into the worlds of accessories, fragrances and homewares." Away from the world of fashion, the pattern also began to appear on mass-produced objects from the 1960s onwards. The public have sporadically gifted these objects to the museum - from a frying pan to a roll of toilet paper donated for people's "amusement, edification and enjoyment". It continues to appear on everyday objects, most recently on face masks during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Paisley Museum is being transformed into a world-class destination which will retell the town's story to the world and help bring huge volumes of new visitors and footfall to the town. The work is the flagship project within Renfrewshire Council's wider investment in venues and the town centre aimed at using Paisley's unique and internationally-significant cultural and heritage story to transform the area's future.

The public has until Sunday 30 May 2021 to submit their Paisley pattern item suggestions for consideration. They should be emailed to paisleymuseum@renfrewshire.gov.uk, or shared on social media using #ShowUsYourPaisley and tagging @paisleymuseum and include a photograph, description and story behind the object.



By: David McVey

A view from Queen's Park.

Glasgow's Battlefield

It's May 2, 1568, and one of the most cinematic scenes in Scottish regal history is unfolding; a former queen is sprung from her prison on an island castle and rowed to freedom by night in a small boat. The keys to the castle are thrown away, they glint briefly in the moonlight, and then slip into the dark depths of the loch. Distantly, those locked in the island castle escape and discover that all the other boats have been disabled and pursuit is impossible.

Whether Mary Stuart's escape from Lochleven Castle happened according to the romantic legend or not (a bunch of keys was retrieved from the loch centuries later, but it isn't thought that they belonged to the castle) the escape achieved little, for her forces suffered defeat 11 days later at the Battle of Langside. It's a battle that isn't well-known beyond Glasgow and hardly at all outside Scotland.

In 1568, Langside, a couple of miles south of Glasgow, was a small village surrounded by farmland and tracts of wilder countryside spread over a number of prominent low hills. Today, almost everything has changed; but not quite everything. Mary had abdicated, unwillingly, in 1567 in favour of her infant son, who was later crowned James VI in Stirling's Holy Rude Kirk. She had become hugely unpopular after marrying her third husband, the Earl of Bothwell, an unattractive character who, apart from anything else, had probably been involved in the murder of Lord Darnley, her second husband. Mary gathered her forces and the two sides confronted each other at Carberry Hill near Musselburgh. Mary's side surrendered without bloodshed (Bothwell having slunk away) and she ended up captive on that Loch Leven island.

The site of the Battle of Langside is now at the heart of Glasgow's Southside, the part of the city south of the River Clyde. It's an area of prosperous suburbs, with many sturdy Victorian villas. Roads carry heavy traffic - a Victorian memorial to the battle is stranded on a traffic island - and railway cuttings slice through hills that were of tactical importance on the day of battle. Yet the clues remain; a district of Glasgow is actually called Battlefield, traversed by Battlefield Road. Other names, as we'll see, also provide important clues. Even in a densely populated city, there are reminders and remains and, remarkably, part of the battle site has never been built on at all.

Queen's Park

Those opposing Mary (the 'King's Men') were led by the Earl of Moray, who ruled as Regent for the infant king, while Mary's army (the 'Queen's Men') was commanded by Archibald Campbell, the Earl of Argyll; Bothwell had fled abroad. The battle itself was a minor affair; Mary's army of perhaps 6000 was marching from Hamilton Palace to Dumbarton Castle, hoping to add to their muster there, but the way was blocked by Moray at Langside. The two sides formed into their battle arrays.

The subsequent encounter lasted barely 45 minutes but even though the Queen's Men were decisively defeated, it's unlikely they lost more than 400 men; Moray's losses were minimal. Much of the fighting took place in what is now Queen's Park, one of the city's celebrated open spaces. There were stories that many of Mary's dead were buried in a mass grave towards the north end of the park near the famous boating pond. Even their ghosts were said to have been seen in the 19th century, but, like most reports of 'mass graves' in early battles, nothing has ever been found.

Queen's Park rises to a prominent summit with a breath-taking view over the city to the north and great hills beyond. Nearby is an ancient earthwork, Camphill, which has been excavated several times. Evidence of ancient occupation was found but it has proved impossible to date the structure; it was there at the time of the battle but did not play any part in it.

To the east is more high ground in the form of Clincart Hill and Prospecthill, both now heavily built up; the Langside Campus of Glasgow Clyde College today squats on Clincart Hill and Prospecthill is mostly residential and overlooks the national football stadium, Hampden Park. The two hills are now further split by the railway cutting that holds Mount Florida Station. Mary's forces were drawn up on Clincart Hill and it's tempting to draw significance from the name 'Prospecthill'; did Mary watch the battle from there? It has been suggested but seems unlikely. Another site, marked by a monument on the hill of Court Knowe, a mile to the south-east, is also suggested as Mary's viewpoint. Court Knowe is now in Linn Park, near the low ruins of the former Cathcart Castle. This seems an even more unlikely vantage point; it's a long way from the battlefield and would have been a terrible viewpoint.

The occupants of the castle at the time, the Semples, opposed Mary so it would have been a hazardous place from which to watch a battle. Another tradition, that Mary slept in the castle the night before the battle, seems unlikely for the same reason. The monument at Court Knowe was erected in 1799 by Sir George Cathcart. The original is now in Kelvingrove Museum; its Victorian replacement at Court Knowe was restored in 2010.

A battlefield in a great city

After the battle Mary was taken south, spending her last night in Scotland at Dundrennan Abbey. After that, she sought refuge with her cousin, Elizabeth I of England, but instead was kept as a prisoner for nearly two decades and executed at Fotheringhay Castle in 1587.

The monument to the battle is an impressive structure, topped by a lion with its paw on a cannonball. It combines a traditional Scots Mercat Cross with a classical, intricately carved victory column. It was unveiled in 1888 (the 300th anniversary of the battle) and, despite the traffic roaring round it, is in good condition, having been restored by the Cathcart Society for the 400th anniversary. Just south of the monument is Algie Street; apart from a Tyre Centre on one side, it is a short street full of Victorian splendour, with fine tenements and the former Langside Free Church (now a restaurant, but designed by Alexander Skirving, who was also responsible for the monument). The 1568 village of Langside stood roughly where Algie Street is today.

The Glasgow districts of Langside and Battlefield recall more about the battle and its personalities in their street names. There is Battlefield Road, of course, but also Dundrennan Avenue and Lochleven Road. North-east of Queen's Park, in the district of Crosshill, is Queen Mary's Avenue (where John Buchan lived in his youth). A 1921 mural in Langside Library, painted by Glasgow School of Art students, depicts the battle.

But perhaps the greatest survivals of the battle remain to be found. It's remarkable that so much of a battlefield in a great city is still unbuilt on. Perhaps there are poignant reminders, lost on the day of battle and now buried, that will one day be unearthed in Queen's Park.



The Battle of Langside Monument.

Father's Day...

It's time for Dad to shine

Scottish
Creations
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Representing the very best designs and gifts from Scotland.
www.scottishcreations.com

Discovering Scotland's Distilleries

There are over 130 active whisky distilleries spread across Scotland, which are split into five whisky-producing regions; Campbeltown, Highland, Islay, Lowland and Speyside. Here are just some that you can visit when next able to enjoy Scotland, cheers to that!

Text and photos: Scotland.org



The Cardu Distillery. Photo: Johnnie Walker.

Produced in Scotland for centuries, whisky is widely celebrated as the country's national drink. It's distinct and varied flavours are heavily influenced by the regions in which it is made, a fact that is celebrated as part of national whisky month in May. Named uisge beatha in Gaelic, which translates to 'water of life', whisky is produced at more than 120 distilleries across Scotland, with each producing unique and stimulating tastes.

These distilleries are divided up into 5 main whisky producing regions – Speyside, Islay, Campbeltown, Highland and Lowland – and a visit to any one of these represents a memorable way to enjoy Scotland on your next visit. So, pour yourself a dram and get ready to plan your next visit to Scotland, when it is safe to do so, with a stop at one of Scotland's many great distilleries.

Glenkinchie



Located just a short drive from Edinburgh, with a twice daily shuttle service running from the city centre, Glenkinchie is known as 'the capital's malt'. The distillery's origins date back to 1825 and its name actually derives from the former landowners, the De Quincys. The site closed in 1853 when its owners, the Rate brothers, were bankrupted, but re-opened in 1881 and has been in constant use since. Aside from

being one of the easiest to reach from Edinburgh Airport, Glenkinchie also offers visitors a range of options from access to their exhibitions – with a dram included – to guided tours. Glenkinchie also forms part of a tour within a tour. The malt is one of the 'four corners' used to create the world famous Johnnie Walker and one of four stops for fans tracing the roots of the blend. **Location: Pencaitland, East Lothian.**

Lagavulin



With its 16-year-old malt consistently ranking among the highest scores at international competitions and having featured in books, movies and TV shows, Lagavulin has helped build Islay's reputation as Scotland's whisky island. *The West Wing*, *Parks and Recreation* and the *Walking Dead* TV series are just some of the shows Lagavulin has featured in. Someone risked their life to get their hands on a bottle in the latter and it has a taste unique to the isle. The distillery can actually trace its roots back to one of 10 illegal distilleries on the site, which date back to 1742 and, aside from its rich, peaty flavour, the unusual pear-shaped stills are the biggest draw for visitors. The distillery is also a part of the Islay Fèis, Islay's amazing festival of music and malt, cancelled however for 2021.

Location: Port Ellen, Isle of Islay.

Caol Ila



Another Islay malt, Caol Ila, takes its name from the Islay Straight, which it overlooks from its home in Port Askaig. The distillery has been based here since 1846 although the current building opened in 1974 and it is the largest distillery on the island. You can take a range of tours here, including the Luxury Chocolate and Whisky Tasting Experience and, if you get your timing right, you could visit during the Fèis Ìle Music and Malt Festival, which includes an open day at the distillery. As one of the 'four corners' of Johnnie Walker, Caol Ila is the Islay malt that goes into Scotland's most celebrated blend.

Location: Port Askaig, Isle of Islay.

Oban



A distillery which inspired a town, Oban actually built up around the whisky site which opened in 1794. Yes, the area has been settled since Mesolithic times – a cave from this era was actually uncovered below the distillery – but the population grew dramatically when the whisky started to flow. This unique history has placed Oban at the heart of the local community ever since – the distillery is sponsoring Oban Live this year. Its location also makes it a great launch point for Islay and the isles by ferry. Originally opened by the Stevenson brothers, it wasn't until 1890 and the rebuilding overseen by J Walter Higgin following a fire, that this whisky really built its reputation for exceptional quality. That reputation saw Oban survive the fire, the whisky crash after 1900 and the risk of closure in the 1960s. And with only two stills and as one of the smallest distilleries in Scotland, it proves that the best things really do come in small packages.

Location: Oban, Argyll.

Blair Athol



The ancient source of Allt Dour, 'the burn of the otter', flows through the grounds of Blair Athol from the foothills of the Grampian Mountain range. The distillery is one of Scottish whisky's great survivors, re-emerging after closure and a period of inactivity since opening in 1798. It has been in permanent use since 1949. A rich and sweet malt, 'best enjoyed with a dash of water', its flavour makes it a very popular choice. And the town of Pitlochry is the perfect base for exploring the Highlands and continuing on the whisky trail.

Location: Pitlochry, Perthshire.

Dalwhinnie



Picked for its location, near fresh spring water and peat from the nearby bogs, the Dalwhinnie site was also a stopping point on the ancient drovers' routes through the surrounding mountains. It is also unusual in that it spent a short period of its life, which officially began in 1897, in the hands of American owners. Their tenure was brought to an end by the advent of Prohibition in 1919. Visitors today are advised to check that the roads are open and tours are running during winter. They are also advised to book in advance, with tours regularly selling out – which is not surprising given the fact that one comes with a special chocolate tasting in partnership with Iain Burnett, the Highland Chocolatier.

Location: Dalwhinnie, Highlands.



Having a dram at Blair Athol. Photo: Johnnie Walker.

Royal Lochnagar



This distillery's reputation for single malt whisky has literally been forged in fire. Opened in 1826 after whisky production was legalised, the distillery was razed to the ground not once but twice in suspicious circumstances. The finger was pointed at rivals running illicit stills in the region. Somehow, Lochnagar endured and re-opened in 1845. Three years later Queen Victoria paid a visit from nearby Balmoral Castle, issued a Royal Warrant and the current name Royal Lochnagar was born. Today it is one of the smallest distilleries in Scotland.
Location: Ballater, Aberdeenshire.

Cragganmore



Cragganmore was the brainchild and lifelong dream of Big John Smith. Big John had worked as a manager at four different distilleries but was desperate to strike out on his own. He had the knowledge and experience, picking the perfect site near the Craggan Burn and Strathspey Railway and opened the distillery in 1869. With an abundance of raw material and the business acumen to make his idea work, Cragganmore was soon the talk of whisky connoisseurs. That reputation and the distillery endures today, long after the Strathspey Railway closed, and this year Cragganmore celebrates its 150th birthday. The distillery is also a key venue in the annual and very popular Spirit of Speyside Whisky Festival (virtual this year from 29th April – 2nd May).
Location: Ballindalloch, Moray Speyside.

Cardhu



One of the jewels on the Malt Whisky Trail, Cardhu is the first distillery to officially be founded by a woman. Helen Cumming actually ran the distillery illegally between 1811 and 1824, before it was licensed. And the tradition of strong female leaders endured when her daughter-in-law Elizabeth took over in 1872. Together they defined and refined the Cardhu flavour which endures to this day. There are a range of tours running on site but aficionados are usually keen to play the whisky guessing game, Guess Dhu and enter the Cardhu Hall of Fame. Call in advance to book a spot on the tours. Cardhu also features as one of the four corners in Johnnie Walker and, like Cragganmore, is part of the Spirit of Speyside Whisky Festival.
Location: Aberlour, Moray Speyside.

Talisker



Zigzagging back across the country, the Isle of Skye is home to Talisker, one of Scotland's best loved whiskies and one of the most popular stop offs on the Hebridean Whisky Trail. Founders Hugh and Kenneth MacAskill had a few failed attempts at launching a distillery on the island but their fortunes changed dramatically when they acquired the lease to Talisker House in 1830. Proclaimed 'the king o' drinks' by Robert Louis Stevenson, it is a sweet and full-bodied single malt and the distillery and visitor centre is one of the highlights for visitors to the island.
Location: Carbost, Isle of Skye.

Glen Ord



Glen Ord is the only remaining single malt distillery on the Black Isle peninsula, which would have seemed remarkable to founder Thomas Mackenzie in 1838 with the area having an abundance of sites, both legal and otherwise, at that time. It has an enduring connection to the McKenzie Clan, with the land the distillery is built on owned by them for over 700 years. The distillery has grown over the centuries and, with people flocking to the Black Isle for tours, a visitor centre opened in 1994. Recently the distillery hosted the inaugural Highland Whisky Festival.
Location: Muir of Ord, Highlands.

Clynelish



Situated on the North Coast 500 route, Clynelish is the final stop on the Johnnie Walker 'four corners' tour and is the most northern point of the blend. The distillery overlooks the North Sea and has links to the legendary Brora distillery. In 2019 it co-hosted the inaugural Highland Whisky

Festival drawing even more visitors to the site. Tours range from the scenic to the connoisseur with the latter including a tasting of some of its rarest malts. One of Scotland's most northerly distilleries, it's well worth the visit to Brora.
Location: Brora, Highlands.

World class whisky experience



There are currently more than 120 active distilleries in Scotland, but we're not stopping there, with two classics ready to come back to life. Their names have been uttered in reverential tones for decades, their whiskies passing into legend. Brora and Port Ellen joined the ranks of Scotland's ghost distilleries when they closed in 1983 and since then their whiskies have fetched thousands at auction. In 2017 one golden age malt from Brora sold for £15,000 in Hong Kong. Now both distilleries are set to re-open in 2021. They will be among Scotland's smallest distilleries, with visitor centres on-site and their master blenders working to replicate the original tastes of the whiskies.

Plans are also at an advanced stage to transform one of Edinburgh's most well-known buildings into a 'world class whisky experience' and create yet another landmark on Princes Street. Taking over the former House of Fraser building, the Johnnie Walker Experience will occupy all floors from the ground up and literally raise the roof with a new rooftop bar. The listed building's original features, including the famous cantilevered clock will be protected. The experience will also create 180 new jobs in the capital and include an events space for performances and shows and a 'bar academy'. The project is on schedule to open in the summer of 2021.



THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

1 - England declared war on both Scotland and France. **1522**

1 - Act of Union of English and Scottish parliaments proclaimed, the Union was brought about in spite of opposition by the majority of Scots. **1707**

1 - Glasgow band Deacon Blue release their debut album *Raintown*. **1987**

2 - Edward Bruce, brother of King Robert the Bruce, crowned High King of All Ireland. **1316**

2 - King James I crowned at Scone. **1424**

2 - Mary, Queen of Scots, escaped from Loch Leven Castle and revoked her abdication. She soon gathered an army and moved towards Dumbarton castle. **1568**

2 - Loch Ness monster is sighted. Although accounts of an aquatic beast living in Scotland's Loch Ness date back 1,500 years, the modern legend of the Loch Ness Monster is born when a sighting makes local news on 2 May 1933. The newspaper *Inverness Courier* related an account of a local couple who claimed to have seen "an enormous animal rolling and plunging on the surface." **1933**

3 - John Knox began the Reformation in Scotland. **1557**



3 - Nearly 300 miners are arrested outside Ravenscraig in clashes with police as they try to stop lorries laden with coal entering. The steel works was the site of some of the most violent conflicts of the strike of 1984 and 85. Bottles, stones and missiles were thrown with both workers and police suffering many injuries. **1984**

3 - The Pan Am Flight 103 bombing trial opens at the Scottish Court in the Netherlands. Flight 103 exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland, on December 21, 1988, after a bomb was detonated. All 259 people on board were killed, and 11 people on the ground also died. **2000**

4 - Marquis of Montrose victorious at Battle of Auldearn. **1645**

5 - King Charles I surrenders to Lord Leven and was later passed to the Parliamentary forces. **1646**

5 - King George VI officially opened the Empire Exhibition in Glasgow. Glasgow's Bellahouston Park played host to over 13 million people who came to visit the Empire Exhibition, a celebration of the achievements of the British Empire. **1938**

6 - Last major bombing attack on the Clyde area by the Luftwaffe; Greenock was badly hit with 280 dead. **1941**

6 - Icelandic gunboats fired live rounds at British fishing trawlers, many of them from Scottish ports, during the Cold War over fishing rights. **1959**



The Scottish Parliament

6 - The election of the first Scottish Parliament since 1707. Elections were held for the Scottish Parliament and the 129 Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) took their seats on 12 May 1999. **1999**

7 - The Earl of Hertford invaded Scotland in an attempt to force the marriage of Edward, son of Henry VIII, and Mary, Queen of Scots. **1542**

7 - James Naysmith, engineer and inventor of steam hammer, died. **1890**

7 - First broadcast of the BBC television variety show *The White Heather Club* which airs nationally until 1968. **1958**

8 - Scottish-born pirate "Captain" William Kidd tried for piracy at London's Old Bailey. He was hanged on 23 May. **1701**

8 - V.E. (Victory in Europe) day marked the end of World War II in Europe. Over 50,000 Scottish servicemen lost their lives during the conflict. **1945**

9 - J M Barrie, author of *Peter Pan* born. **1860**

9 - The Marquis of Montrose and his Royalists camped at Auldearn near Nairn, enroute to attack Inverness. The Covenanters, reinforced by troops withdrawn from England because of the threat from Montrose, gathered at Inverness before marching overnight in an attempt to surprise Montrose at Auldearn. The Royalists won a fierce fight, killing 2000 Covenanters for the loss of 200 of their own men. **1645**

10 - Rev Henry Duncan opened the world's first savings bank in Ruthwell, near Dumfries. **1810**



10 - Donovan, Scottish pop and folk singer-songwriter, was born. Upon his emergence during the mid-'60s, Donovan was anointed "Britain's answer to Bob Dylan". **1946**

10 - Rudolf Hess crash-landed in Scotland after his bizarre solo flight from Nazi Germany. Hitler's most trusted official and friend, he crash-landed a stolen plane at Eaglesham in an inexplicable effort to negotiate an end to the war. He died in 1987 after apparently trying to hang himself with an electrical cord. He was 93. **1941**

11 - Covenanter martyrs, Margaret Lachlane, or McLachlan, and Margaret Wilson, refused to take an oath of loyalty to Charles II that acknowledged his authority on everything, including religious matters. They were tied to stakes in the Solway near Wigtown where they drowned as the tide rose. A reprieve had been sent from Edinburgh but never reached Wigtown. **1685**

12 - The Black Watch regiment was commissioned under General Wade to police the Highlands. The force was known in Gaelic as Am Freiceadan Dubh, "the dark" or "black watch". The regiment's motto is *Nemo Me Impune Lacessit* (No One Assails Me With Impunity). **1725**

12 - The Scottish Parliament reconvened with Dr Winifred M Ewing MSP as acting Presiding Officer. Her first words to the Parliament were: "The Scottish Parliament which adjourned on the 25th of March in the year 1707 is hereby reconvened." **1999**

12 - Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, daughter of the Earl of Strathmore, was crowned Queen of the United Kingdom with her husband King George VI. Queen Elizabeth was raised at Glamis Castle in Forfar. Queen Elizabeth reigned until 1952 and became known as the Queen Mother as her daughter, the current Queen Elizabeth, took the throne. **1937**

13 - The forces of Mary Queen of Scots are defeated at Battle of Langside by a confederacy of Scottish Protestants under James Stewart, the regent of her son, King James VI of Scotland. During the battle, which was fought out in the southern suburbs of Glasgow, a cavalry charge routed Mary's 6,000 Catholic troops, and they fled the field. Three days later, Mary escaped to Cumberland, England, where she sought protection from Queen Elizabeth I. **1568**

13 - James Kirk was executed near Dumfries as a Covenanter refusing to swear the oath, one of the last of the wave of deaths of the "Killing Times". **1685**



14 - St Andrews Society of Golfers constituted. In 1834 it became the Royal and Ancient Golf Club. Thus began the foremost club in both Scottish golf history and world golf in general. **1754**

15 - Mary, Queen of Scots, married Earl of Bothwell - at 4am. Mary's third marriage to James Hepburn, the Earl of Bothwell took place in the Chapel of Holyrood Palace, Edinburgh. **1567**

15 - Bobby Murdoch, Scottish footballer, died. Murdoch was a key figure in Celtic's European Cup-winning side of 1967, dubbed the Lisbon Lions. **2001**

16 - Biographer James Boswell met Samuel Johnson for the first time. **1763**



16 - The Bay City Rollers form in Edinburgh. Called the "tartan teen sensations from Edinburgh", The Bay City Rollers sold 120 million records worldwide. **1966**

17 - King James V established paid judges to sit as the Court of Session, the highest civil court in Scotland. **1532**

17 - Robert Tannahill drowned himself in a Paisley canal. A compassionate poet, he explored themes of love, friendship and empathy, and often used his surroundings as inspiration, taking long walks in the country around his home. He was prone to bouts of melancholy. **1810**

18 - Robert the Bruce invades Isle of Man. **1313**

18 - The Free Church of Scotland was founded by dissenting members of the Church of Scotland. **1843**

19 - Death in Auchinleck of James Boswell, biographer of Dr Johnstone. **1795**

20 - Battle of Dunnichen (also known as Nechtsmere), south of Forfar in Angus, as a result of which the Picts stopped the advance northwards of the Angles of Northumbria. **685**

20 - The Earl of Argyll sailed from Holland to Campbeltown with 300 men in an attempted uprising. After its failure he was executed. The rebellion was designed to place Charles II's illegitimate son, the Duke of Monmouth, on the throne. The failure of this revolt led to a close bond between the Stewart monarchy and the enemies of the Campbells in the Highlands, which was to become more apparent in the subsequent Jacobite uprisings. **1685**

21 - Clocks and watches went forward for one hour as the Daylight Savings Act brought in "British Summer Time" for the first time. **1916**

22 - Britain's worst train disaster at Quintinshill (near Gretna Green) in which three trains collided, with the loss of 227 lives. A troop train carrying the Seventh Royal Scots Regiment hit a stationary train and the night express from London then hit the wreckage. Two signalmen were later jailed. **1915**

22 - The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland voted in favour of women ministers. Soon after four women were accepted as candidates for the ministry by the Presbyteries of Edinburgh, Irvine, and Kilmarnock. **1968**

23 - Captain William Kidd, the notorious Scottish pirate, died. Born in Dundee, around the year 1645, Kidd became one of the best known pirates of his age. **1701**

23 - "The Unknown Bairn": The drowned body of a young boy is found washed up onshore at Tayport; he is never identified. **1971**

24 - King David I died at Carlisle and Malcolm IV crowned at Scone. **1153**

24 - Glasgow Rangers became the first Scottish side to win the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup, when they defeated Dynamo Moscow in Barcelona. **1972**

25 - John Stuart, Earl of Bute, Britain's first Scottish Prime Minister, born. **1713**

25 - Celtic FC become the first British football club to win the European Cup. The winning team was made up of eleven Scots, all born within a thirty mile radius of Glasgow. **1967**

25 - St. Enoch Centre shopping mall opened to the public in Glasgow city centre. The building is notable for its massive glass roof, the largest glass-covered enclosed area in Europe, and is affectionately nicknamed "The Glasgow Greenhouse". **1989**

26 - The parliament convened by King James I approved the arrest of a number of the Scottish nobility - and also banned the playing of football. **1424**

26 - Dunnottar Castle, the last Royalist stronghold in eastern Scotland, surrenders. Dunnottar Castle had been under siege for eight months by Cromwell's forces. Although the castle fell, the defenders managed to smuggle out the Crown Jewels of Scotland to nearby Kinneff Church. **1652**



27 - Maiden voyage of liner *Queen Mary* from Southampton to New York. Built by John Brown & Company in Clydebank, Scotland and was a luxury ocean liner for three years until 1939, when it was transformed into a troopship for the Second World War. She resumed passenger service in 1947, where it continued until 1967, when it docked permanently in Long Beach, California. **1936**

28 - Papal Bull signed by Pope Alexander VI confirming the marriage of King James IV and Margaret Tudor and the "Treaty of Everlasting Peace" between Scotland and England. **1503**

29 - King Charles II born. **1630**

29 - King Charles II returned to England. Royal Oak Day. **1660**

30 - Thomas Chalmers, the Presbyterian cleric, theologian and social reformer, died. Chalmers was a popular figure within the Kirk and held a keen interest in improving social welfare. **1847**



31 - The Royal Bank of Scotland was formed from a company of debenture holders. **1727**

Castle Cluggy rescue mission begins

Charity's huge task of repairing and preserving hidden gem for future generations.



Castle Cluggy today.

An ancient Strathearn castle is to be preserved if ambitious plans to prevent it collapsing further and to open it up to the public are approved by Perth and Kinross Council, but the charity which has taken on Castle Cluggy at Loch Monzievairst for the benefit of the nation admits it is a real “doer-upper”.

Situated on the northern shore of Loch Monzievairst, nestled in the heart of the private Ochertyre estate minutes from the town of Crieff, Castle Cluggy is one of Strathearn's ancient dwellings and was the ancestral seat of the Murray baronets of Ochertyre for several centuries. Now, as befits its dark, feudal past, the drawbridge is potentially being lowered again on access to the Category B-listed structure.

One of Scotland's least-known historic castles

One of Scotland's least-known historic castles, Castle Cluggy is situated on a little peninsula called the ‘Dry Isle’, approached in former times only by a drawbridge. The nearby crannog is said to have been used in days gone by as a place of containment for any prisoners held by the castle. Despite its ruined state, this hidden gem hides an incredible history. The castle is traditionally said to have belonged to John Comyn III, known as ‘the Red Comyn’, an important figure in the Wars of Scottish Independence, and Guardian of Scotland for a time. He is probably best known for having been stabbed to death by Robert the Bruce at the high altar of Greyfriar's Kirk in Dumfries in 1306. One of the possessions of the powerful earls of Strathearn, the site was a pawn

in extended blood feuds between the Drummonds and Murrays until ownership was settled in favour of the Murrays. Fortified since at least the 14th century - the fortress was referred to as ‘ancient’ in a charter of 1467 - much of the original castle has been destroyed revealing an impressive square tower with thick walls and arrow slots.

Castle Cluggy Charitable Trust has been set up by Keith Murray-Hetherington, in whose own veins runs the blood of the Murrays. Trust chairman Keith has a deep love of Scotland, its history and heritage, especially castles - which he describes as an active passion. He has made it his mission to preserve what is left of Castle Cluggy and to make it easily accessible to all. Keith told *the Scottish Banner*: “History buffs and local residents will probably know the old tower, which is still easily discernible as a castle but somewhat spoilt by a multitude of warning signs and protective fencing advising of the dangers of falling masonry. The charitable trust's purposes are the advancement of heritage and education, in particular through the maintenance, repair, and preservation of the physical remains of the structure known as Castle Cluggy, a building of major regional importance and national significance, for the benefit of the public”.

Keith first visited the estate on holiday as a child but it was only through a chance discovery that he stumbled across the little-known castle hidden by trees, and the connection with the Murray clan sparked his interest in bringing the ancient structure back to good health. He explained: “You cannot see this property from the road and you would not even know it existed, but when you cast your eyes on it for the first time, it undoubtedly brings out the romantic in you.

The silhouetted outline of the building looks very dramatic but there are trees growing out of the walls which will cause



A castle hidden in the trees.

the castle to collapse further if not removed. We are not rebuilding or restoring the castle to its original appearance, but we are focussed on repairing, stabilising, and preserving the structure in the form it is today for future generations to enjoy. It would have been so easy to allow the castle to collapse into a picturesque ruin but the huge task of rescuing one of the oldest fortresses in Scotland has begun. It is a labour of love. I arise to this labour every morning with increasing desire to complete it.” Keith continued: “My vision is for the widest possible general public to have the fullest access to as much of Castle Cluggy as possible. Ideally, new steps and hand rails up to the castle, and a viewing platform, will be built to allow people of all ages and abilities to enjoy the ancient historical site”.

Books and cards play part in conservation

Substantial work is needed to conserve Castle Cluggy for future generations. Trustees are currently reviewing the quantity surveyor's report to get a clearer idea of costs for the preservation work, as well as discussing details of the way forward. Castle Cluggy Charitable Trust head trustee Keith Murray-Hetherington said the charity is also actively working with partners to offer young people training in heritage skills, along with residents, community groups, and schools, and it is hoped that the

pandemic situation will improve soon so that work can get underway. Those interested in saving the historic castle can also donate to the charity. Keith said: “It is hoped that people worldwide may consider helping with these efforts by making a donation, whatever the amount, to save the castle for future generations”. Products featuring Castle Cluggy are also available to buy, with the proceeds going towards the conservation work. These include a limited-edition fully-illustrated book - *The History of Castle Cluggy - ancestral seat of the Murrays of Ochertyre* - Christmas cards featuring a wintry scene of the old tower by local photographer the Strathearn Snapper, and limited edition prints of the castle painted in watercolours by Scottish artist Kimberley Smith.

For more information, contact Keith at castle-cluggy@hotmail.com or call: +44 (0)7788 111729 or go to the [Castle Cluggy website at: www.spanglefish.com/CastleCluggy](http://www.spanglefish.com/CastleCluggy)



Castle Cluggy in the 1800s.



Castle Cluggy Charitable Trust head trustee Keith Murray-Hetherington.

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IN SCOTLAND TODAY



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HRH Duke of Edinburgh

Buckingham Palace has confirmed the death of His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh, at the age of 99. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has sent a message of condolence to Her Majesty The Queen following the announcement. Flags were flown at half-mast on Scottish Government buildings and online Books of Condolence were opened. The First Minister said: "On behalf of the people of Scotland, I would like to express my deepest sympathy to Her Majesty The Queen and the rest of the Royal Family. Our thoughts are with them at this difficult time and their grief is shared by people across the country. The Duke of Edinburgh had deep and longstanding ties to Scotland, attending school here at Gordonstoun and regularly holidaying at Balmoral Castle. From his patronage of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, to his close association with the University of Edinburgh as Chancellor for over fifty years and his commitments to countless charities and organisations, Prince Philip's long contribution to public life in Scotland will leave a profound mark on its people."

Reservists from 105 Regiment, Royal Artillery carried out a 41-gun salute from Edinburgh Castle in honour of the Duke of Edinburgh, who was Queen Elizabeth II's husband of 73 years.

People make Glasgow



Scotland's largest city has recently been voted the friendliest city in the world. The poll undertaken by travel publisher *Rough Guides*, placed Glasgow at the top spot ahead of cities such as Dublin, Montreal, Tokyo, Vancouver, Melbourne, Wellington and Atlanta. *Rough Guides* describes Glasgow as: "Set on the banks of the mighty River Clyde, Glasgow, Scotland's largest city, has not traditionally enjoyed the best of reputations. This former industrial giant changed its image irrevocably in 1990, however – when it energetically embraced its status as European City of Culture – and has continued to transform itself ever since, with the most recent feather in its cap being the hosting of the Commonwealth

Games in 2014. The cityscape has been spruced up, and many visitors are knocked out by the architecture, from long rows of sandstone terraces to the fantastical spires of the Kelvingrove Museum. Glasgow is without doubt, in its own idiosyncratic way, a cultured, vibrant and irrepressibly sociable place that's well worth getting to know.' The poll was taken using *Rough Guides* social media followers and it is the second time that *Rough Guides* readers have given Glasgow the top spot, having been awarded the accolade in 2014.

Real-life stories wanted for North-East granite industry oral history project



Marischal College, Aberdeen.

Aberdeen City Heritage Trust has launched a Granite Oral History Project to capture the memories and experiences of those who worked in or were in families associated with the area's granite industry. Granite has defined the character of Aberdeen and towns and villages in Aberdeenshire since it was first used. Industrial scale quarrying started in the 18th century with the industry reaching its heyday in the 19th century when granite was used to pave streets, form harbours and embankments, build buildings and for funerary monuments.

In addition to high status buildings such as Marischal College or the Townhouse, granite was used to build much of a rapidly expanding Aberdeen in the 1800s and continued in use well into the 20th century. It was exported across the UK and the globe giving Aberdeen its world-wide reputation as the "Granite City". The main period of quarrying in the area came to an end in the early 1970s although its legacy lives on in some local businesses. Aberdeen City Heritage Trust's vision is that Aberdeen's historic environment will be better understood, conserved, used and celebrated.

Capturing some of the real-life history behind Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire's granite industry will help to create a better understanding of the human dimension behind this ubiquitous material; an industry which carries with it a fantastic reputation for hard work, skilled craftsmanship and engineering expertise.

The Trust is particularly interested in connecting with those with first-hand experience of granite quarrying, processing, tooling, carving, memorial work, business, administration and distribution of granite and its associated trades. If individuals or family members were personally involved in the industry in some way in the past and are happy to share that memory or story, the Trust would be delighted to hear from them.

The Lord Provost of Aberdeen, Barney Crockett said: "The City of Aberdeen is known around the world for a great many wonderful things, one of which is granite. It is why Aberdeen is often referred to as the Granite City or the Silver City – due to the reflective elements found in the grey granite. The oral history project is a great way to capture the experiences and stories of those who worked in the industry in their own words and I would encourage anyone who has an interesting story to tell to share it with the Trust so it can help provide a fascinating insight in industrial and social terms for us now and for future generations." For further information, please contact the Trust by emailing: info@aberdeenheritage.org.uk

Bumblebee Conservation Trust asks people to Bee the Change



The Stirling-based Bumblebee Conversation Trust is on a mission to help everyone Bee the Change in their local area, with a new campaign asking people across Scotland and the UK to take simple, quick micro-actions to make their postcode more bumblebee-friendly. Bumblebees are familiar and much-loved insects that pollinate our crops and wildflowers. But bumblebees are in trouble and need our help. Over the past century our landscape has lost millions of the flowers they rely on to survive. Through the campaign, people will pledge to Bee the Change and carry out quick and simple micro-actions like spotting nearby bumblebees, growing bee-friendly plants, creating wild bumblebee havens, and spreading the #BeeTheChange message with their friends, families and local communities. Throughout 2021, the Bumblebee Conservation Trust will supply downloadable free resources and how-to guides helping everyone to Bee the Change wherever they live. Anyone can take part, whether they live in the city or the countryside, and whether they have a garden, a flowerpot or no outdoor space at all. Gill Perkins, Chief Executive of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, said: "We know that many people want to take small, easy action ideas to help bumblebees but perhaps don't know where to start or are worried they don't have enough time. We want to make it easy for everyone to get involved. The Bee the Change resources on our website help anyone make the small changes that add up to a big difference to bumblebees. Together we can save the sound of summer, wherever we live."

HMS Queen Elizabeth visits Western Scotland for the first time



HMS Queen Elizabeth at Glen Mallan. Photo: MOD/© Crown Copyright.

The Royal Navy's Fleet Flagship, *HMS Queen Elizabeth*, arrived in Glen Mallan, Scotland, as part of final preparations before her first operational deployment. Sailing in along the Firth of Clyde, the 65,000 tonne aircraft carrier has spent two weeks at sea testing and trialling her latest equipment, before berthing at the new Northern Ammunition Jetty for a routine on-load of operational stores.

HMS Queen Elizabeth is the first of the Royal Navy's fleet to visit the new £64 million facility, built by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation. Captain Angus Essenhigh, *HMS Queen Elizabeth* Commanding Officer, said: "We are very proud of the close connection our ship has with Scotland, especially with our affiliated city of Edinburgh. *HMS Queen Elizabeth* embodies the best of British engineering and craftsmanship, including Scottish shipbuilding, and it is a privilege to return to her birthplace of Scotland."

This is the first time *HMS Queen Elizabeth* has visited Western Scotland, after she initially became a familiar sight on the River Forth where she was assembled. *HMS Queen Elizabeth* is now in Portsmouth, and will deploy to the Mediterranean, Indian Ocean and East Asia later this year, as part of the UK's Carrier Strike Group.

Edinburgh's historic Granton Station set to be restored



The Edwardian B-listed former Granton Station, set in the heart of the city's planned new sustainable Granton Waterfront district, is to be restored by the Council at a cost of up to £4.75m. Work will commence to bring the historic former Granton Station building back into use by early 2022 as a high-quality creative workspace and the derelict land in front of the building will once again be used as a public square for community events and recreation to be enjoyed by residents and visitors to the area. The station site is part of Granton Waterfront, a key sustainable £1.3bn regeneration project for Scotland, which will make a significant contribution to Edinburgh's target to become a net zero carbon city by 2030.

Cllr Rob Munn, Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee, said: "Granton Station is an important link to the rich industrial heritage of the area, and I look forward to seeing it back in use once again. As it did in Edwardian times, the building will serve the local community but now as a vibrant and modern business hub with open public space outside for everyone to enjoy."

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Calling the Clans

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

Clan Baird Society Worldwide



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

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

Dr. Debra J. Baird, President

3491 County Road 3459, Haleyville, AL 35565

Email: djbaird4@gmail.com

Regional Directors for Australia

David and Patricia Benfell

Email: clanbairdsa@gmail.com

website: www.clanbairdsociety.com



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](https://www.facebook.com/TheClanDonnachaidhSociety)

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 descent, or by recognized septs: Carlisle, Carruthers, Crosby, Randolph and Stenhouse.

Membership inquiries should be directed to:

Donald E. Bruce Polly A. (Bruce) Tilford, Secretary

President 5561 Earl Young Road

1051 Eagle Ridge Trail Bloomington, IN 47408

Stillwater, Minnesota 55082 www.familyofbruceinternational.org

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.donaldaustralia@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, Edmondson, 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 Balchidder,

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: elliottcommia@gmail.com

Website: www.elliotclan-usa.com



Clan Gregor Society Australasia

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

Frank McGregor

PO Box 14 NORTH HOBART TAS 7002

Email: clangregoraustalia@gmail.com

Web: www.clangregor.com

"Royal is our Race"



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.clandonaldivic@gmail.com

Formed in 1934, with membership from many MacDonald, McDonald and Macdonald families living in Victoria. Membership available, with dance classes for Scottish Country Dance most Friday evenings in Gardenvale.

CLAN MACDONALD YARRAVILLE

Hon Chief: Mr 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.



WEB WWW.CLAN-FORBES.ORG

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#GRACEMEGUIDE #LONACH

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); Hays(e); Hayne(s); Hey(s); Alderston; Arml;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

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

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

International Clan MacFarlane Society, Inc.
PO Box 258 Glenora, CA 91740 USA
info@macfarlane.org

Arms of the International Clan MacFarlane Society granted by Lord Lyon, King of Arms, 15 February, 2000

[MACFARLANE.ORG](http://www.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 MacRaid 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Clan Henderson Society

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

Purposes of the Society

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

Contact: Jeff Henderson
jeffh@bigpond.com
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

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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 and Septs of the CLAN MACNAUGHTON are invited to join our Worldwide Association to learn and share our MacNaughton and Scottish heritage. For more info go to: clanmacnaughton.net 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: Brian S. Ervin, Chairman
1103 Highview Dr. Lapeer, MI, 48446
Phone: 248-854-0798 brian.ervin@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 Thom
rthomnvrprcan@aol.com www.clanmaitlandna.org

Australia: Amanda Maitland clanmaitland@yahoo.com.au
6/1 Hinemoa Ave. Normanhurst, NSW, 2076

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

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

McAlpin/e

and variant spellings

Commander: Michael T. McAlpin

DISCOVER YOUR HERITAGE!

Contact: Membership@MacAlpein.com
Website: <https://macalpein.com/>

Clan MacLaren

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

Mark A. McLaren, President
President@clanmaclarenna.org

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, Twitter, & Instagram
[@ClanMacNeilUSA](https://www.facebook.com/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 VP Membership 505-470 Scenic Drive, London, ON N5Z 3B2
MacDowall

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	MacCoul
Conacher	MacConacher	MacCoul
Coyle	MacCoyle	MacCoul
Dole	MacDole	MacDill
Doual	MacDoual	MacDougall
Dougal	MacDougal	MacDougald
Dougle	MacDougle	MacDougald
Dugal	MacDugal	MacDugle
Dowall	MacDowall	MacDowall
MacDowell	MacDowell	MacDowell
Lulich	MacLulich	MacCullich
MacCulloch	MacCulloch	MacCullagh
MacClintock	MacClintock	MacClintock
MacHale	MacHoul	MacHoul
MacHowell	MacCowan	MacCowan
MacKichan	MacGowan	MacNameil
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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and all descended

ClanOliphantMembership@gmail.com
www.OliphantOfNorthAmerica.org



Clan Pollock

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

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



Clan Sinclair Australia

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

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

Scottish Associations and Societies



THE AMERICAN-SCOTTISH FOUNDATION, INC.

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

www.americanscottishfoundation.org



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



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/clansutherlandaustralia>
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

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER



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

Invites membership of all people of Scottish descent or association
The Secretary, P.O. Box 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

Supporting the Scottish Community in Victoria

Scottish Resource Centre
Level 1, 420 - 424 William St.
West Melbourne VIC 3003

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



Clan Scott Australia Group

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Commissioner: Heather de Sylva

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E: heatherdesylva@bigpond.com

Clan Young Australia



Ian J Young AM
Convenor

Membership inquiries:
Clan Young Australia
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Parkdale VIC 3195
membership@clanyoungaustralia.com.au
www.facebook.com/groups/youngsofaustralia/

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- > Celebrates Scottish Culture
- > Conducts Annual Burn Supper, Poetry Afternoon & Pleasant Sunday Afternoon

For Membership Information contact:
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Email: noelwright@netspace.net.au

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Established 1905

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

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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
Clan Mackenzie of Australia	Scottish Country Dance Victoria Society
Clan Maclean Australia	The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne
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Warmambool & District Caledonian Society	Warmambool 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
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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

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

The Saskatchewan Highland Games and Celtic Festival regrets to announce that the 2021 outdoor event has been cancelled. This event will return May, 2022. Info: www.saskhighland.ca

JUNE 2021

Georgetown Highland Games 12, Georgetown, ON

The committee members of the 2021 Georgetown Highland Games have unanimously made the difficult decision to cancel this year's games and look forward to continuing our tradition 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 10/11. We have decided that our June date is no longer feasible, so with that in mind, we have booked Victoria Park for Friday, September 10 & Saturday, September 11. Info: www.cobourghighlandgames.ca

ScotFestBC: The British Columbia Highland Games 18 - 19, Coquitlam, BC

This event has moved to September 4. 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

It is with regret that we once again have to inform you that the Board of Directors of the Caledonia Celtic Festival have had to make the decision to cancel our 2021 Caledonia Celtic Festival, due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Info: www.caledoniacelestialfestival.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 games. 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.nstatattoo.ca

Perth Kilt Run 26, Perth, ON

Get your kilt on for Perth's 11th world record kilt run. Info: www.perthkilt.run

JULY 2021

Embro Highland Games 1, Embro, ON

The Zorra Caledonian Society have made the difficult decision to cancel the 84th Embro Highland Games. Info: www.embrohighlandgames.ca

Happy Canada Day 1, Nationwide

Wishing all our Canadian readers and friends a Happy Canada Day!

Almonte Celfest: 25th Anniversary 2 - 4, Almonte, ON

A weekend of Celtic music, events and friendship at Gemmill Park. Info: www.almontecelfest.com

Penticton Scottish Festival 3, Penticton, BC

Family entertainment, pipeband & solo competitions, kid's zone, highland dance, heavy events, beer garden, & more. Info: www.pentictonscottishfestival.ca

Cambridge Scottish Festival 16 - 17, Cambridge, ON

This event will return July 15-16, 2022. Info: www.cambridgescottishfestival.ca

New Brunswick Highland Games 23 - 25, Fredericton, NB

Be a Scot for the weekend on the beautiful grounds of historic Government House. Info: www.highlandgames.ca

2021 Okanagan Military Tattoo 23 - 24, Armstrong, BC

The Okanagan Military Tattoo is a heart stirring musical extravaganza featuring pipers, drummers, musicians, military bands, marching troops, multicultural dancers, First Nations, and singers of all ages at Armstrong Fair Grounds. Info: www.okanagantattoo.ca or tickets 1 866 311 1011.

Glengarry Highland Games 30 - 31, Maxville, ON

The Games is most disheartened to not be hosting one of the premier Highland Games in North America in 2021. In the meantime, the Games are monitoring the covid situation and developing ideas on how the spirit of the Games can be celebrated in some fashion. Keep checking back on the Games website and social media to see the plans. Info: www.glengarryhighlandgames.com

USA

MAY 2021

The Texas Scottish Festival 1 - 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.texascotts.com

Savannah Scottish Games 1, Savannah, GA

In light of the continued spread of the virus, the Games Board of Directors must cancel the 2021 event and look forward to being able to hold our 44th Savannah Scottish Games and Celtic Festival in May 2022 on the beautiful grounds of The Bethesda Academy. 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

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, Virtual event

Come celebrate Scottish Fest - Online Edition this year with us with tons of exciting online fun. 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 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 Komblau Field at S.B. Ballard Stadium. 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

Utah Scottish Festival & Highland Games 11 - 13, Salt Lake City, UT

The Utah Scottish Association Board of Directors has made the difficult decision to cancel the Utah Scottish Festival and Highland Games (2021) as a result of the ongoing coronavirus situation, but will return on June 10-12 2022. Info: www.utahscots.org

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.blairvillescottishfestival.com

JULY 2021

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games 8 - 11, Linville, NC

4 day annual festival and largest Gathering of the Clans in the US. Info: www.gmhg.org

Payson Scottish Festival 9 - 10, Payson, UT

Highland dance, Highland athletics, bagpipe competitions, Celtic music and more at Payson Memorial Park. Info: www.paysonscottishfestival.org

Portland Highland Games 17, Gresham, OR

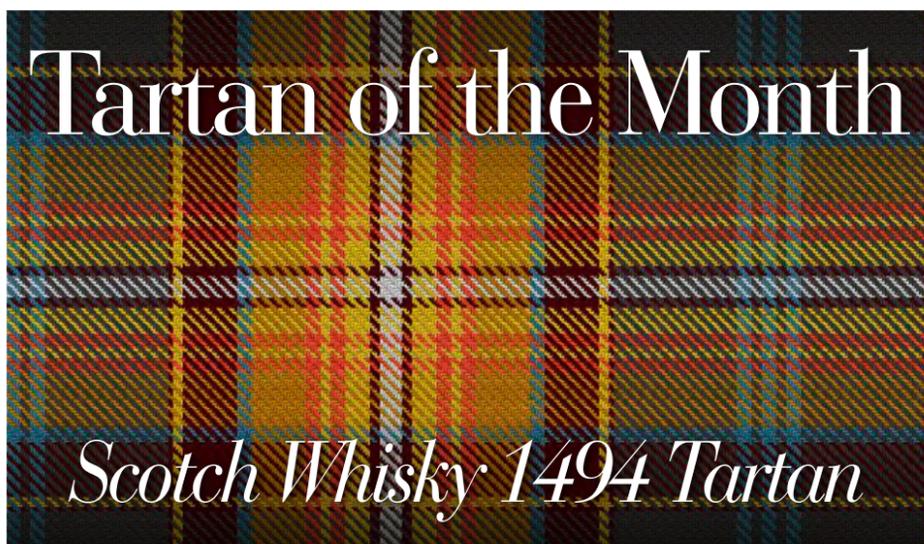
Due to current coronavirus restrictions, and the considerations of the health and well-being of our community, PHG are postponing the 2021 Games. The committee look forward to celebrating the Portland Highland Games in 2022. Info: www.phga.org

2021 Balmoral Piping & Drumming Summer School 18 - 23, Virtual event

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 at www.Bagpiping.org

Dressed to Kilt 24, Long Island, NY

The largest and most prestigious Scottish fashion show in the world honoring Sir Sean Connery, a new Sir Sean Connery Tartan that will be unveiled for the first time, at the Mill Neck Manor Estate on the Gold Coast of Long Island. Info: www.dressedtokilt.com



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).

May is whisky month so this month we raise our glass to celebrate Scotch Whisky, Scotland's world-famous

national drink, fondly referred to as 'the Water of Life'. It is intended to represent the origin story of Scotch (the first written record of whisky production in the Exchequer Rolls of Scotland 1st June 1494), and the Tironensian Grey Monks of Lindores Abbey who distilled the spirit for the first time in history. The design is also intended to reflect the amber hues and tones of Scotch whisky, as it sparkles in the glass. This is the third interpretation of the designer's creation of the Scotch Whisky tartan; the sett and colours were adapted from the original Scotch Whisky tartan reference #11686, which itself was inspired by the Angels' Share tartan reference SRT ref:11497. Refer to these two preceding tartans for the expanded rationale within the weave.

This tartan (SRT ref: 12974) was designed by Mr Steven Patrick Sim, The Tartan Artisan, and registered in November 2020. Slainte Mhath!

Scotword answers from page 6

Across:	Down:
1 Adder	2 Dunsinane Castle
4 Mince	3 Ells
11 Tangle O' The Isles	5 Iris
12 Akin	6 Caledonian Maids
13 Gills	7 Strath
14 Edge	8 Dowie
15 Alan	9 Thole
17 Iron	10 Islets
18 Elgin	16 Net
20 East	17 Inn
21 Nova	19 Squibs
25 Utah	22 Artist
26 Gaels	23 Jabot
27 Smit	24 Flask
30 Bottle of spirits	28 Clan
31 Weans	29 Birl
32 Close	

Plans for Fergus Scottish Festival 75th Anniversary 2021

The Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games would like to announce its plans for the 2021 Festival year. In 2020 we were devastated that our event was cancelled and our 75th Anniversary postponed but we were thrilled to create and present a virtual event, the successful Wee Digital Ceilidh, as well as community engagement activities to "Paint the Town Tartan" in its place.

Virtual Festival and Highland Games

Moving into 2021, our Board of Directors and staff continue to monitor COVID-19 developments and projections for the year ahead. With careful consideration, we have acknowledged that a live event like our Festival with crowds in the thousands is unrealistic in the current and unprecedented

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www.scottishbanner.com



pandemic situation. Our priority continues to be the ongoing recovery efforts and ensuring that our guests, volunteers, competitors, performers, clans, sponsors, and community are safe and healthy so they can enjoy 'Scotland without the Airfare' well into the future. As such we have made the proactive decision to not host our 2021 Festival in person live event, and instead encourage everyone to save the date for August 13 - 15th as we present our second ever virtual Festival and Highland Games. Should pandemic restrictions allow we will explore opportunities to add modified live components.

Visit *Fergus Scottish Festival* online at: www.fergusscottishfestival.com

IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Salmon with whisky

Ingredients:

- 250 g/ 8 oz. de-boned salmon
- 2 tbsp lemon juice
- ½ tbsp sugar
- 1 tsp chopped chives
- 1 tsp chopped dill
- 2 tsp Scotch whisky

Method:

Freeze the salmon for 1 hour.
 Slice the fish as finely as possible (use a very sharp knife for this), and place the fish slices into a shallow dish.
 Drizzle the lemon juice and Scotch whisky over the salmon then sprinkle the sugar, chives and dill on top.
 Leave the salmon to marinate overnight.
 Baste the salmon with the sauce until the majority is absorbed by the fish.
 Serve cold with fresh vegetables.
 Add pepper if preferred.

Whisky flapjacks

Ingredients:

- 55g/2oz. oats
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 55g/2oz. self-raising flour
- 55g/2oz. caster sugar
- vegetable oil
- 1 miniature whisky
- To serve:
- 2 segments orange
- fresh mint sprig

Method:

Mix together the main ingredients, except the oil and whisky, and shape into three patties. Heat a pan with a drop of oil and fry for two minutes on each side. Add the whisky to the pan, warm and carefully set alight to flambé for a few seconds. Serve on a warm plate with the orange segments and mint sprig.

Whisky chicken

Ingredients:

- 2 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves - cut into 1/2 pieces
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- ¼ teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 cup pineapple juice
- 3 tablespoons bourbon whisky
- ½ teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar

Method:

Sauté the chicken in a large pan over medium high heat until cooked through (no longer pink). In a small bowl, combine the soy sauce, garlic powder, pineapple juice, whiskey, pepper and sugar. Stir until sugar is dissolved and pour over chicken. Let simmer for 10 to 15 minutes, or until sauce is thickened to taste.

Whisky sauce

Ingredients

- 2 shallots, roughly sliced
- 1 celery stick, roughly sliced
- 2 tsp light olive oil
- 4 fresh thyme sprigs

- 1 fresh bay leaf
- 100ml/3½fl oz chicken stock
- 400ml/1½ pints double cream
- 70ml/2½fl oz good Scotch whisky
- 2 tsp wholegrain mustard
- 1 tbsp Dijon mustard
- sea salt and freshly ground white pepper

Method:

Place a large saucepan over a medium heat and cook the shallots and celery in the olive oil. Fry gently for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally, without colouring the vegetables.

Add the thyme and bay to the pan, taking care as they might crackle a little, then stir and cook for 2 minutes.

Pour in the chicken stock and reduce the liquid by half. This should take about 5 minutes.

Stir in the cream and then gently simmer the mixture for 20 minutes, reducing the liquid by one third. Take care not to let it boil and stir every couple of minutes.

Remove the sauce from the heat and strain it through a sieve into a clean pan, discarding the cooked vegetables and herbs.

Place the sauce back on the heat and stir in the whisky along with both types of mustard. Cook for a further 5 minutes before seasoning with salt and white pepper to taste and serving.

Cranachan with raspberries, whisky and cream



Ingredients:

- 3 tbsp. soft brown sugar
- 75g/2½oz. porridge oats
- 250ml/9fl oz. double cream, whipped until soft peaks form when the whisk is removed
- 75g/2½oz. cream cheese
- 1 tbsp. plain yoghurt
- 1 tbsp. icing sugar
- dash whisky
- 50g/1¾oz. dark chocolate, chopped
- 30g/1oz. fresh raspberries
- sprig fresh mint, to garnish

Method:

Gently heat the sugar in a frying pan until golden and completely melted.
 Add the oats and stir well, then pour the mixture onto a non-stick baking sheet and leave to cool. When completely cooled, break into small pieces.

Place the whipped cream, cream cheese, yoghurt, icing sugar and whisky into a bowl and mix well, then fold in the chocolate.

To serve, place half of the caramelised oats into the bottom of a serving glass.

Whisky Month

Celebrate Whisky Month in May with these recipes which add a splash of flavour using "the water of life". You can of course omit Whisky if preferred, enjoy and Slainte mhath! Your very good health!

Top with half of the cream mixture, then half the raspberries. Repeat the layering with the remaining oats, cream mixture and raspberries and garnish with a sprig of mint.

Hot Toddy



Ingredients:

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

Method:

Whisk the whisky and honey together and split between 2 heatproof glasses. Add half of the cinnamon stick to each, then top up with 200ml/7 fl oz. boiling water.

Add a splash of lemon juice to each, then taste and add more to your preference. Finish each with a slice of lemon, studded with a clove, and serve immediately.

Sporran breeze

Ingredients:

- 1 orange wedge
- 50ml single-malt whisky
- 2 tsp passion fruit syrup
- 25ml/1fl oz. fresh apple juice
- 25ml/1fl oz. cranberry juice
- ¼ apple, to garnish

Method:

Put the orange wedge, whisky, passion fruit syrup, apple juice and cranberry juice into a cocktail shaker. Add a handful of crushed ice and shake hard. To serve, strain the cocktail into a highball glass fill with crushed ice. Garnish with the apple.



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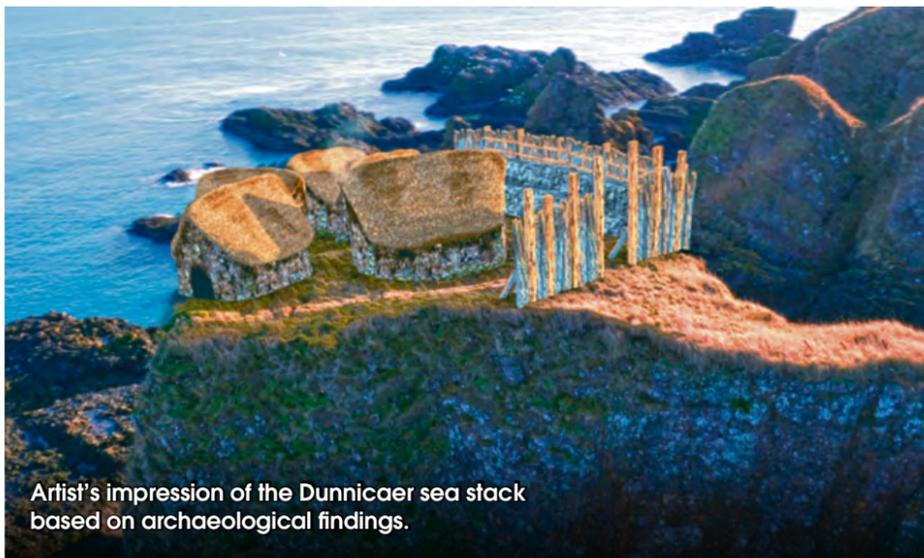
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Archaeology which has changed the face of Scotland's warrior kingdoms scoops prestigious award



Artist's impression of the Dunnicaer sea stack based on archaeological findings.

Pioneering work led by the University of Aberdeen, which has revealed a new picture of Scotland's Pictish past, has won Current Archaeology's prestigious Research Project of the Year award for 2021. *The problem of the Picts: searching for a lost people in northern Scotland* was selected through a public vote at the awards celebrating the people and projects judged to have made outstanding contributions to archaeology.

Mysterious people

Since 2012, the research team led by Professor Gordon Noble has been building a very different picture of

the early societies of northern Britain given the name 'Picti' - meaning 'Painted Ones' - by the Romans, to that traditionally presented in popular accounts. The Picts have long been regarded as a mysterious people, leaving behind little evidence of their presence other than their iconic carved stones and so their image in popular culture has at times been of a wild warrior tribe of painted people. Excavations as part of the Northern Picts project since 2012 have shown the Picts to have been a much more sophisticated society, trading across Europe and creating large, hierarchical settlements.

At Tap o' Noth, an imposing hill which rises above the village of Rhynie to the north of Aberdeen, the team made their most spectacular find yet. In 2020, using radiocarbon dating and aerial photography, they uncovered evidence which indicates that thousands of people may have lived in more than 800 huts perched close to the summit, rivalling the largest known post-Roman settlements in Britain and Ireland. This built on the picture they began unravelling in the valley below at Rhynie where eight years ago they found evidence for the drinking of Mediterranean wine, the use of glass vessels from western France and intensive metalwork production at a site at Barflat farm, just to the south of the village. The finds suggest it was a high-status site, possibly even with royal connections.

Trying to put the Picts on the archaeological map

Other finds were made at the precarious Dunnicaer sea stack close to the iconic Dunnottar Castle near Stonehaven. The rocky outcrop, which could only be accessed with the help of experienced mountaineers, was identified as the oldest Pictish fort ever discovered, dating back as far as the third or fourth centuries, with implications for the dating of the Pictish symbol stones found there. While at Burghead, the largest Pictish fort previously known in Scotland, they found

evidence of longhouses, Anglo Saxon coins of Alfred the Great and complex feats of engineering which were used to construct enormous defensive ramparts.

These finds, together with their work on the Picts' most famous legacy - their system of symbols - has radically altered the accepted face of Scotland's warrior kingdoms. Professor Noble said: "It was a great honour to be nominated, let alone win. Our project has been about trying to put the Picts on the archaeological map, and winning this award is testament to the fact that we have succeeded to some extent. But there's much we can do in the coming years to ensure that progress continues. Since we began our work on northern Picts in 2012, we have uncovered ever-increasing evidence of Pictish society through large-scale excavations of the scale hitherto rarely undertaken. These have begun to underline the importance of northern Pictland and north-east Scotland to the establishment of the first kingdoms of Scotland. For too long this period of Scotland's history has been a particularly poorly illuminated part of the so-called Dark Ages. Our work is shedding new light on this and engaging people in new ways with our Pictish past. We are delighted that our work on the Picts has been recognised by Current Archaeology with this award and particularly that people got behind us with their votes."

Did you know?

Scotland's five regions produce Scotch whiskies with key differences.

Text and photo courtesy of Scotland.org.

- The Islay malts are generally described as having a peaty or smoky character derived from the water and peating levels of the barley. The island malts are known for being powerful, flavourful and full of character.
- The Campbeltown characteristics include a defined dryness with a pungency, smoke and a solid salinity with a pinch of salt.
- Traditionally Lowland single malts are triple distilled, often giving them a lighter taste. These whiskies are famed for their malty, zesty flavours and subtle hints of citrus.
- The Highlands are the largest whisky region in terms of size, covering a vast area and diverse range of distilleries. Whiskies made here are known for a heavier and drier character, with hints of nut, honey and heather.
- Though small, Speyside has almost half of the total number of distilleries in Scotland and is consequently officially recognised as a distinct region. Whiskies produced here are known for being elegant and refined, with subtle nutty and fruity notes, including apple, pear, honey, vanilla and spice.

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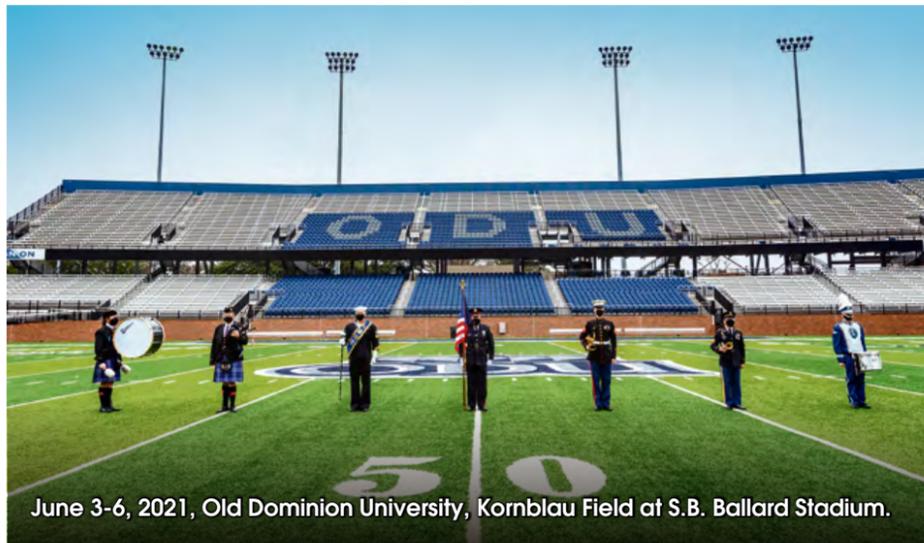
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Virginia Arts Festival announces 2021 Virginia International Tattoo with new dates and new outdoor venue



June 3-6, 2021, Old Dominion University, Kornblau Field at S.B. Ballard Stadium.

For more than two decades the Virginia Arts Festival's Virginia International Tattoo has brought a spirit of patriotism, pride, and friendship to Hampton Roads. It is an enormous annual undertaking which hit a roadblock in 2020 when Covid-19 restrictions made presenting a live Virginia International Tattoo impossible. "We heard from so many disappointed Tattoo fans—many of whom had attended every year," said the Festival's Perry Artistic Director Robert W. Cross of the 2020 cancellation. "So we are thrilled to announce that we will be presenting the Virginia International Tattoo again this spring."

Taking the Tattoo outdoors

The 2021 Virginia International Tattoo will take place outdoors, with five public performances scheduled June 3-6 at Old Dominion University's Kornblau Field at S.B. Ballard Stadium. Some of the world's great Tattoos take place outdoors, including the legendary Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Scotland. "We're excited about taking the Tattoo outdoors," said the show's producer, Scott Jackson.

"The sight of bands marching with precision across the field...the massed pipes and drums in their colorful tartans...flags waving and the fans rising to their feet to sing their favorite service songs—it's once again going to be a goosebump-inducing experience. Old Dominion University is excited to host the

2021 Virginia International Tattoo for the first time in the newly renovated S.B. Ballard Stadium," said ODU Spokesperson Giovanna Genard. "We look forward to partnering with Virginia Arts Festival to continue the tradition of this event in the 757 in a new and unique way outdoors while celebrating diversity, music, military, and the arts."

A joyful celebration

Every year, the Virginia International Tattoo is a joyful celebration—but this year's Tattoo offers powerful new reasons to rejoice. Marking the nation's—and the world's—emergence from a devastating pandemic, the 2021 Virginia International Tattoo will celebrate the power of the human spirit, with inspiring performances including:

- The finest bands and drill teams of the U.S. Air Force, Army, and Marine Corps
- Bagpipers and drummers from throughout the U.S., Canada, and the United Kingdom (international performers subject to travel ability)
- Chicago Wheel Jam—daring acrobatics performed inside a steel wheel
- U.S. Marine Corps FAST Company—heart-stopping feats of dexterity and strength
- Old Dominion University Band and Drumline—high-stepping performers to an irresistible beat
- The soaring voices of Virginia Children's Chorus and Virginia Symphony Orchestra Chorus
- And much more

A salute to the heroes

The show will include a salute to the heroes of the Greatest Generation – our WWII Veterans - which had been planned for the 2020 Tattoo. Plans are underway for a fireworks finale and more spectacular additions made possible by the transfer to an outdoor venue. The five performances will include a 10:30am matinee on Friday, June 4, which will allow schools from throughout the region and nationally to once again bring their students to experience a lesson in history, patriotism, and musicianship. And one of the most remarkable Virginia International Tattoo traditions continue: Special Audience Night, where children with special needs and their families will be invited to attend the final dress rehearsal for free.

The 2021 Virginia International Tattoo will closely adhere to the most up-to-date CDC safeguards, with information on those as well as parking, dining, and accessibility available on the Virginia Arts Festival website.

Tickets for the Tattoo are available online at vafest.org or by phone through the Virginia Arts Festival Ticket Office at 757-282-2822. Discounts available for groups of 10+ by calling 757-282-2819.



Towering objectives

By: Charlie Mill



Dundee based writer Charlie Mill provided stories for the Scottish Banner for many years, touching on Scottish history, lifestyle and some of Scotland's truly unique characters. We recently opened the vault of Charlie's great work to share a collection of some of his favourites with readers today.

He was the offspring of a wealthy east-coast family and spent many of his younger years visiting and re-visiting many foreign lands before returning to Scotland to find renown and glory. Sir Hugh Munro's enchantment with his country's high mountain peaks, whose exact height he gauged using barometric pressure, led to nearly 300 of the tallest peaks over 3000 feet being named Munros in his honour. This also

initiated one of Scotland's most demanding and taxing pastimes -- Munro bagging.

Sir Hugh's method was ingenious although innocent in its simplicity. Barometric pressure drops the higher one goes, so if a climber measures the pressure at the base of the incline, another measurement of the drop when he reaches the summit will allow him to work out the height. Recently the old barometer he used to calculate the heights of the mountains

for his celebrated Munro's Tables was put on general display in the Royal Museum in Edinburgh, one hundred years after his ground-breaking investigations.

Sir Hugh Munro's enchantment with his country's high mountain peaks, whose exact height he gauged using barometric pressure, led to nearly 300 of the tallest peaks over 3000 feet being named Munros in his honour.

Mentally exhausted with wandering from country to country, Sir Hugh came back to Scotland in the hope of unearthing a fresh challenge, and in 1889 he assisted the founding of the Scottish Mountaineering Club. For the next two years he traversed his homeland measuring mountains in an attempt to record every one which was 3000 feet or higher, and when his final table of 283 peaks was ultimately put into print the total compilation was named Munros in recognition of his workmanship.

Munro bagging

Sir Hugh was born in 1856, the son of Sir Campbell Munro of Lindertis in Angus. When he took on the task of measuring

all the hills it was understood by the majority of those who climbed the peaks that possibly 30 or so were over the 3000-foot mark. But working with a recently-purchased Victorian barometer Munro located 283 and his studies proved to be much more accurate than measurements made by the Ordnance Survey at the time.

Since those early days the tables have been updated as the latest in measuring systems prove even more precise. A few of the initial Munros have been downgraded to tops, while others, like the second summit on Beinn Alligin, to the north of Loch Torridon in Ross and Cromarty, was upgraded as it had just been graded as one Munro. Nevertheless as a benchmark of his perseverance and preciseness, the official present-day number of Munros has fluctuated by only one to 284.

Sadly, Sir Hugh Munro never managed to capture all the tops named after him. When he died in 1919 at the age of 63 from pneumonia, he had reached the summits of all but two of the pinnacles. Only the atrocious weather defeated him from standing atop the Isle of Skye's Inaccessible Pinnacle (or the In Pin, as it's known by the climbing fraternity) each time he attempted its ascent. The other he failed to conquer was Carn Cloichmhuillin in the Cairngorms - which was soon after downgraded to a top. The first person to bag all the Munros was the Rev. Archibald Robertson, a close friend of Sir Hugh and co-founder of the Scottish Mountaineering Club.



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