



the Scottish Banner



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A' Bhratach Albannach

Volume 45 Number 6 NEWS FOR GLOBAL SCOTS December 2021



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the Scottish Banner

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The Banner Says...

Ringling in 'The Bells' with Scottish Tradition



by Sean Cairney

As we all look to put this year behind us and move on to what is hoped to be a better year ahead, Scots across the world will no doubt still find ways to celebrate this month's Hogmanay celebrations. Growing up we always raised a glass to Scotland when the clock struck midnight in the UK, as we would be getting ready ourselves to see in 'The Bells'. That tradition has stayed with me to this day and I always find myself, no matter where I am, thinking of Scotland when the clock there strikes midnight.

This year Edinburgh's Hogmanay is back to celebrate the end of what has been a challenging year for many, with three days of revelry, albeit scaled down, including the new Party at the Bells on Princes Street, the popular Torchlight Procession and the return of the iconic Edinburgh Castle fireworks display.

Scottish customs

Regardless of where you are on Hogmanay you can of course include some Scottish customs in your celebrations. Maybe not the most popular one to do, but one I always do, is redding the house for the New Year. Having a spring clean during the day of December 31st and starting the year off in a fresh and clean house, it is also meant to bring you luck and who can ever have enough of that?

Another custom, which again may be hard especially after Christmas, is paying off any debts before a new year begins. Easier said than done I know but it was considered bad luck to see in a new year with a debt.

First Footing is also one of Scotland's most famous Hogmanay traditions. This obviously dates back as it is *just slightly* not politically correct in today's world but the first foot that should enter your home in a New Year should be a dark-haired male (this goes back in history when fair haired men were linked to invading Vikings and no one wanted them coming through the door) to bring your household good fortune for the year ahead. Sadly, blond and red head men and no women of any description were welcome as the first guest of the year as they may cause a household to have bad luck for an entire year.

In this issue

Since 2009 I have had a dream to highlight the incredible Susan Boyle within our pages. We are so honoured to have the Scottish singing sensation in this month's edition. I remember the week the video of Susan went viral, we happened to be going to press and managed to include Susan in that edition just as her name was beginning to circulate across the globe. I have watched Susan's famous audition video countless times, especially when I am having a tough day, when she went out on stage a blew everyone's mind as she sang, *I Dreamed A Dream* from the global theatre hit *Les Misérabile*. It never fails to put a smile on my face and brings my mood back up. I am so grateful to Scottish journalist Neil Drysdale for preparing this story exclusively for *the Scottish Banner* and to Susan for having that dream and sharing it with the world.

Scotland is known for its incredible Hogmanay celebrations with revellers drawn to firework displays and fire ceremonies. However, one of Scotland's unique festive celebrations which takes place during both Christmas and New Year is The Kirkwall Ba' in Orkney. The winding streets of Kirkwall are the stage for a huge game of street football, which can last for several hours, or even days! The origins of this Orcadian celebration dates back to Norse times and surely must be one of Scotland's most unique holiday traditions.

In the Scottish Borders you will find the incredibly grand Marchmont House, whose interior is regarded as one of Scotland's finest. Marchmont was built in 1750 and still today has some of its original interiors. Outside this palatial mansion however the grounds have quite literally gone to the birds, and other natural life, as gamekeeper, naturalist and gardener Shaun Adams has lovingly worked on making the outside just as unique as Marchmont's interior. The 6,500-acre estate is now home to variety of birds, wildlife, plants and bees and what could be more grand than that?

Auld Lang Syne

Many people around the world may have no idea that a Scottish folk song penned by Scotland's national poet Robert Burns is by sung millions of people each year as the clock strikes twelve at New Year. Written in the 1700s Auld Lang Syne literally translates to 'old long since', or a long time ago, and is about remembering the good old days. I am always amazed that a poem penned in 1788, in Scots, still today plays a part in New Year traditions across the globe. The song was eventually transported across the world by Scots heading to new lands and now is often the first song many people still hear when they bring in a new year.

As we go to press with this issue pandemic life is still offering up challenges to many people across the world. This year has seen our world go through a raft of lockdowns, cancelled events, missed connections with friends and family and a great deal of added stress and isolation for many. Let us hope with 2022 on our doorstep we can all look forward to more confidence and clarity in life with the return of events, travel and a new normal of life, but hopefully with a bit of Auld Land Syne for us all.

The Scottish Banner wishes you and your family a safe, healthy and happy festive season ahead. 🍷

Do you have a favourite Scottish holiday tradition? Share your story with us! Do you have any comments from the content in this month's edition? Share your story with us by email, post, social media or: www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us #ScottishBanner, #TheBanner

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We appreciate your support and hope you enjoy this edition.



Gracing our front cover: Scottish singing sensation Susan Boyle.
Photo: Syco Entertainment/Nicky Johnston.

Arbikie-Distilling the world's first climate-positive spirits

Arbikie Highland Estate is a 400-year-old family farming business based on Scotland's sunny east coast. In 2014, the Stirling brothers opened the Arbikie Distillery on the Estate with a plan to combine the best of farming and traditional distilling with innovation. Over the last few years, it has become clear that the focus is to make Arbikie one of the world's most sustainable distilleries.



The Arbikie Distillery. Photo: The Gin Collective.

When the Stirling brothers set up Arbikie Distillery on their family farm on Scotland's east coast in 2014, their plan was to combine the best of farming and traditional distilling with innovation. Over the last few years, it has become very clear to them and all the Arbikie team that their focus is to make Arbikie one of the world's most sustainable distilleries.

Arbikie have a clear mission to become the global leader in a new category of single-estate, sustainable spirits. They were not satisfied with carbon-neutral, so they focused on distilling the world's first climate-positive spirits. They achieved that goal with the launch of their climate positive, Nàdar Gin in early 2020.

The brothers continue to set ambitious goals, but ones rooted in the commercial reality of building a business that retains family ownership, whilst also celebrating their family's over 400-year farming heritage. The Stirling's are building a long term, legacy business and so commerciality, balanced with sustainable considerations are at the forefront of their planning.

A zero-carbon distillery

Their six-year sustainable journey has been one of ongoing collaboration with partners, including the James Hutton Institute and Abertay University. Arbikie are a rare, field to bottle distiller as they grow what they need to distil on their own farms, whether

barley, wheat, potatoes, peas and chillies, or botanicals like juniper, coriander, lemongrass, and limes. They have pioneered field to bottle distilling across a range of spirits, including gin and whisky, as this fits with their circular economy approach to minimising their environmental impact. The brothers are the latest custodians of the family farms and so are mindful to pass on a business with a positive legacy to the next generation. They have adopted regenerative farming practices, minimising chemical inputs and are reviving heritage barley varieties; not only increasing crop diversity on the farm, but promoting regional differences and reviving traditional flavours in the resultant single malt whiskies.

Arbikie uses science to unlock distilling conundrums such as with Master Distiller, Kirsty Black distilling the world's first climate-positive spirits as her PHD. Nàdar Gin was launched in 2020 following years of endeavour by Kirsty and partners, Dr Pete Iannetta at the James Hutton & Professor Graeme Walker at Abertay University

Distilled from peas, Nàdar is carbon-negative, avoiding the release of 1.54Kg of CO2 into the atmosphere. The aim is to deliver a zero-carbon distillery which can be replicated across the distillation industry and highlight the opportunities for the acceleration of the hydrogen economy. The Stirling brothers and the Arbikie

team realise they are on a journey, with lots still to do, but their journey to Net Zero and beyond will be greatly helped by world leaders focusing on our climate change challenges at the recent COP26 in Glasgow, and beyond to COP27 in Africa.

Arbikie is involved in a number of climate-related projects, from partnering with ecoSPIRITS to remove single-use glass bottles from their supply chain, to implementing hydrogen as part of the UK Government's Green Distillery competition. The aim is to deliver a zero-carbon distillery which can be replicated across the distillation industry and highlight the opportunities for the acceleration of the hydrogen economy. Arbikie will be opening our new Distillery Experience in Arbroath in April 2022 allowing visitors to come and experience what they do first-hand.

For information on Arbikie Distillery see: www.arbikie.com



The Stirling brothers.

Viking fire fun. Photo: VisitScotland.



Did you know?

Scotland's winter fire festivals

- Fire festivals have been a part of the Scottish landscape for hundreds of years, and many of the modern celebrations have their roots in Celtic, Pictish and Viking times.
 - The Stonehaven Fireballs Ceremony is one of Scotland's most popular fire festivals and has been held for over 100 years. This event which takes place in Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire takes place on Hogmanay with flames from the old year lit as a pipe band heralds in the procession, who walk down the street swinging great balls of fire above their heads in a hot display of bravery and to start off the new year. It is thought the festival can trace its origins to an earlier 19th century fishermen's celebration.
 - The Flambeaux Procession takes place when the clock strikes midnight on Hogmanay, the villagers of Comrie, Tayside set alight the Flambeaux – long thin birch tree poles wrapped in hessian and soaked in flammable liquid. They parade around the village as part of the ritual to ward off evil spirits.
 - The Biggar Bonfire takes place in the South Lanarkshire town of Biggar. Large piles of wood are lit by the oldest resident of the town every Hogmanay in the High Street at the Corn Exchange
 - The Burning of the Clavie dates back to the 1750s, when the old Julian calendar was reformed, and the Gregorian calendar was brought in. However, residents of Burghead in Moray have continued to celebrate the 'old Hogmanay' on January 11th. The clavie, traditionally a wooden barrel filled with staves, is paraded through the town and up to the top of a local hill where it will burn well into the next day.
 - Up Helly Aa is a historic event which takes place on the streets of Lerwick, Shetland. Europe's largest fire festival traditionally takes place every year on the last Tuesday in January and attracts visitors from both near and far and marks the end of Yuletide and a tribute to Shetland's Viking heritage. Shetland also runs a variety of smaller fire festivals from January-March.
- Please note most events are not running this year and are due to ignite again in 2022.**

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SCOT POURRI

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

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

Combined Clans Luncheon in Adelaide



Piper Jason Moore.



Trevor Powell Addressing the Haggis.

We had a successful clans luncheon recently with 67 people attending. The location of the Fogolar Furlan Italian reception centre provides easy car parking and good space for both the seating of guests and displays of Highland dancing. While many clans were represented on the day, the main ones in numbers attending were Clan Donald, Clan Campbell, Clan MacFarlane, Clan MacLeod and Clan MacNeil.

Hamilton (Hammy) Marcelin and Jason Moore were our pipers on the day and

the highland dancers were provided by the Garrick – Stewart Highland Dancing School.

We welcomed Ian Ryrie as the new president of Clan Donald Society of South Australia who succeeds Michael Murphy who has retired after a number of years of service.

Yours aye,
John McNeil
The Scottish Associations of South Australia
Adelaide, South Australia

The Kilted Coaches



How wonderful to see the cover of your November issue of The Kilted Coaches. I have been enjoying these guys on YouTube for some time and just love the banter and positivity they have. I had no idea they had a new book coming out and suddenly I am letting folks know what I want for Christmas! The Kilted Coaches show off some great parts of Scotland and are obviously so unique in what they do as they are doing it all in kilts!

I am really enjoying all the stories on your website and as always *the Scottish Banner* keeps me up to date with not just news but upcoming events.

Keep up the great work!
Steph MacLean
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
USA

Agnes Drew

My name is Mary Drew and I am the youngest daughter of Agnes Drew. Mum loved your paper, *the Scottish Banner*, which she had ordered at our newsagents for 18 years. She also greatly enjoyed the products she had ordered from *the Banner* and had planned another order shortly before she passed away. I wish to thank

the Cairney family, for the many hours of reading that Mum had from your lovely paper, and we wish you many more years of success. My sister Irene has also been a lover of your paper, which she has had ordered for the same time as Mum.

All the best,
Mary Drew

Ed note: Thank you Mary for your note and please accept our sincere condolences for your family's loss and we are so honoured to have been part of your mothers life for so many years.

Auld Lang Syne

Sing us a song afore wi' gang
Forever o'er the sea
Nae mair tae look on Scotia's shores
For fightin' tae be free

Nae mair tae see the red deer
Drinking on Lomond's shore
The Clan has been disbanded
Tae rise again nae more

The heady days o' Glenfinnan
When freedom raised its held
Collapsed in the rout o' Culloden
Leaving hundreds o' clansmen deid

The Prince fled back tae Europe
Deserting clans who answered his call
Leaving Scotland raped and pillaged
Better he never landed at all

Banning the tartan and Gaelic tongue
English compulsory where hymns are sung
Pogroms against the Highland clans
Exiling thousands to foreign lands

Sing us a sang afore w' gang
Staun close whatever the pain
Pride sweat and tears an' we'll succeed
To rise as a nation again.

Davidson Harris
From the Barony of Gorbals

A Tribute



I would like to thank Heather Patterson of California for kindly sharing with *Scottish Banner* readers (November 2021 edition), her beloved late mother's beautiful poem about a wee Scottish Terrier. It so eloquently describes my precious little Scottie, Maggie, and I shall always treasure this very special poem. Thank you, Heather, and please accept my sympathy on the sad loss of your mother.

I would like to thank *the Scottish Banner* for such a wonderful publication, which provides such tremendous information on all things Scottish. It brings so much pleasure, not only to those of Scottish birth, but those such as myself who are incredibly proud of their Scottish origins and loving everything pertaining to Scotland and feeling such a strong pull to the old country.

I enclose a photograph of my dearly loved wee Scottie Maggie, the joy of my life for you to see what a beautiful little Scot she is! Keep up the great work with your publication and I eagerly await *the Scottish Banner's* arrival each month.

Margaret A Michie Benney

Ed note: Thanks for your note Margaret and glad the poem A Tribute has touched you, Maggie is a bonnie lass!

The Kilted Coaches



Thanks *Scottish Banner* for the great interview with The Kilted Coaches in the November issue. I only had just recently seen the Joanna Lumley travel show where she was in Scotland with them and thought they were great guys and then soon after my November issue arrives with them on the cover. I also had no idea Joanna Lumley had Scottish blood until reading this issue, which of course makes her even better! I have been now enjoying some of the videos Stephen and Rab put out and love the natural presence they have.

I was also hugely impressed with the interview with Michael Yellowlees and his dog Luna, walking across Canada for charity. What a remarkable thing for anyone to attempt, never mind finish. It is people like him who likely do more for the environment than the those attending the climate conference in Glasgow-what an incredible thing to do and I will be donating to this great Scot.

Claire MacLaren
Christchurch, New Zealand

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



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

Eilean Donan Castle



Sunset over Eilean Donan Castle.
Mik Coia

Puffin



Foods ready with the puffins of Staffa.
Debbie Neilson

Midhope Castle



Midhope Castle in West Lothian features in *Outlander*, do you know what the castle was called in the show?
Scotdrone

Edinburgh



Edinburgh views...
Aye Spy Photography

Carronades by the Clyde



Geilston House.
Photo: National Trust for Scotland.

Cardross is a quiet commuter village with a spectacular location on the north bank of the Firth of Clyde, midway between Helensburgh and Dumbarton. It's a small village yet its railway station has direct services to both Glasgow and Edinburgh. A nearby estate has fascinating links to the history of conflict and colonialism; perhaps there are lessons we can learn at Geilston House. The Geilston Estate lies just to the north-west of Cardross, on the Helensburgh side. The name comes from 'Gilliestoun' which means 'Servants' Farm'. It dates back to the 1500s, but the oldest parts of the current Geilston House were built around 1660; it's believed to have had a thatched roof until the early 1800s. As we'll see, the house has passed through various ownerships.

It was a Thomas Donald who purchased the estate in 1757. He was one of Glasgow's 'tobacco lords' who made their fortunes from the plantations and whose economic and cultural legacy is troublesome given the role of slavery in the industry (not to mention the health effects of tobacco). From 1769 to 1787 the Moore family rented Geilston from Donald. Dr John Moore had been a military medic during the Seven Years War of 1756-1763. His two sons, Graham and John, would also join the army.

John the younger became a major celebrity, serving in America, France, Egypt and Holland, acquiring a knighthood and reaching the rank of Colonel. He was killed in 1809 during the Peninsular Campaign but by then was so revered that Charles Wolfe composed a poem, *The Burial of Sir Charles Moore*. Graham joined the Royal Navy, was also knighted and reached the rank of Admiral. He lived until 1843, died peacefully, and is buried in the churchyard of Cobham in Surrey, England.

Carronades

Two of the curiosities of Geilston flank a park bench in the gardens; 'carronades' dated 1779. Carronades were small cannons made for the Royal Navy by the Carron Ironworks near Falkirk, famous centuries later for making many of the iconic red telephone boxes. Nelson's flagship *HMS Victory* was equipped with carronades.

Few carronades as early as the Geilston examples survive. The only other known similar carronade is at Bamburgh Castle in Northumberland. Since two military Moores were associated with Geilston, it might seem obvious why the carronades ended up there, but it's not quite that simple. In 1805, the house

and estate were bought by another military man, Lieutenant General Thomas Geils. Geils was already the owner of a number of local properties, most notably Ardmore, which sits on a tiny peninsula further along the firth towards Helensburgh.

His son-in-law, a Captain Courtenay, had served in the Peninsular Campaign and had assisted in the burial of Sir John Moore, so he already had some links with Geilston. And perhaps the name attracted him.

Geils had served in the army of the East India Company as an officer in the Madras Artillery. One of his descendants said that he had used the two Geilston carronades in India, though some military authorities question this. After he bought Ardmore, two carronades were positioned on a tower behind the house, and he used them to signal to friends on the opposite Greenock shore. Not something you'd recommend today, just phone. He sold Ardmore in 1809 and the carronades were said to have been moved to Geilston. One of Geils' sons, Sir Andrew Geils, also served abroad, including in India, but he was appointed Commandant of Hobart in Tasmania in 1812. Modern-day Geilston Bay in Tasmania is named after him.

The banks of the burn

In 1997 the Geilston estate passed to the National Trust for Scotland (NTS). The house itself isn't open to the public and the entry fee admits you to the garden and grounds. From the NTS office you pass the stable block, which encloses a neat dovecot, and reach the walled garden, adjacent to the main house. It's dominated by a soaring 100ft Wellingtonia and is ringed by colourful borders that, on one August visit, were being homed in upon by butterflies, bumblebees and honeybees. There's an impressive greenhouse, made by Mackenzie and Moncur of Edinburgh in the mid-1800s, that has recently been fully restored. In its time it would have been an imposing status symbol; Mackenzie and Moncur supplied hothouses

for many prestigious clients - including Queen Victoria. Even the garden 'shed' here is something special, brick-built, dating from 1797 and with a little window that enabled the gardeners to keek out at Geilston Burn and Glen. It has also been recently restored.

The wooded banks of the Geilston Burn lie within the estate and mossy paths run alongside it and over little footbridges. Take care, here, as the paths can be slippery in wet weather, but the glen is a gentle, peaceful delight. At one point, you come upon an old stone well; it commemorates the long-ago marriage of Joseph Tucker Geils and Hester Elizabeth Wilson, who then lived at Geilston. They were married in 1853 and have long since passed away but this well is a touching memorial to them and to their union. The Geils family eventually sold the estate to the Noble family in 1890.

The banks of the burn have displays of snowdrops, daffodils, wood anemones and bluebells in season and I could certainly stroll up and down the paths all day. Eventually, though, you'll make it to the kitchen garden. I found this the most educational part of the gardens as I was able to wander past lines of growing veg and discover what, for example, courgettes and chard and broad beans actually looked like before they hit the greengrocers' shelves. I even saw rows of sweetcorn, tall, heavy-leaved plants like you see in films set in America's Midwest. At the northern end of the kitchen garden there is a small orchard which, on one visit, was heavy with cherry-cheeked little apples. Nearby is a stone-lined dipping tank where in the past, the gardeners were able to get a reliable supply of water from a channelled spring.

Geilston Garden is 15-20 minutes' walk from Cardross Station; buses stop near the driveway and there is plenty of onsite parking. It's a place to enjoy the sights and the smells of a quirky and varied garden, but as we've seen it's also a place that hints at some historical lessons we all need to learn.



Geilston garden.



Geilston Burn.



Geilston in summer.

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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.



“Being in such a prominent position at the gateway to Dunbar, the stunning DunBear sculpture provides the perfect opportunity to commemorate key events such as COP26, one of the most important global meetings ever to take place in the UK. It is also fitting that it should be part of our low carbon community of DunBear Park, which through significant investment will adopt the latest low carbon technology. This will deliver on our ambitious goal to be an exemplar low carbon development. The DunBear has become a much-loved piece of public art, well-visited by the local community and drawing visitors to Dunbar town centre to find out more about John Muir, the pioneering naturalist and conservationist which it is a tribute to. It not only celebrates the work of one man, but also reminds us that we can each make a positive contribution to tackling climate change, benefiting both this and future generations.”

Ken Ross from Hallhill Developments Limited commented as the iconic DunBear sculpture, located at DunBear Park in

Dunbar, was lit up green to mark the recent COP26 climate change conference in Glasgow. The five-metre-high steel sculpture of a brown bear, created by renowned Scottish sculptor Andy Scott (who also created The Kelpies), was erected in 2019. The sculpture is a tribute to John Muir, the Dunbar-born naturalist and conservationist who emigrated to the USA with his family.



“Scotland has an incredibly rich and diverse built heritage, and listing is an important way of celebrating this history and ensuring that its value is recognised by future generations. The Alford Heritage Museum is a welcome addition to the List. Only the most outstanding examples are given a category A listing, and in this case we have recognised the important contribution the former mart makes to our understanding and appreciation of agricultural life, economy and society in this part of Scotland during the 19th and 20th centuries.”

Dara Parsons, Head of Designations at Historic Environment Scotland (HES), said as Alford Heritage Museum has been

awarded Category A listed status by HES, in recognition of its special historic interest as a rare surviving example of an early 20th century livestock auction mart, and an important piece of Aberdeenshire’s rural and agricultural heritage. Opening in 1905, the Alford Auction Mart was built for and operated by Aberdeen cattle salesmen Reith and Anderson, the largest cattle firm in Aberdeenshire at that time. As regulations changed and livestock sales centralised in the years following the Second World War, small, rural livestock marts declined, and the Alford Auction Mart closed in 1986 after 80 years of near-continuous operation.



“The 2021 Edinburgh’s Hogmanay celebrations have been reimagined to offer a safe and a fantastic experience for Edinburgh and beyond - telling the world that “We Are Back Together”. Through the Torchlight Procession, Party at the Bells and the iconic fireworks, this year’s Hogmanay event has been designed to deliver a celebration for the people of Edinburgh and our visitors, and to place Scotland at the forefront of the world’s new year events. We can’t wait to help bring everyone back together again.”

Event company Underbelly Co-Directors, Charlie Wood and Ed Bartlam, said that Edinburgh’s Hogmanay is back to celebrate the end of 2021 and the new year with an unforgettable experience for Edinburgh and beyond. This year’s Hogmanay programme has been revealed, including the new Party at the Bells on Princes Street and the return of the iconic Edinburgh Castle fireworks display. Edinburgh is the world’s festival city with internationally renowned festivals year-round and Edinburgh’s Hogmanay kicks them off at the beginning of every year.

“It is with a sad heart Yester Estate are having to close Yester Castle to public access with the recommendations from

Historic Scotland and East Lothian council under health and safety as due to the stone being removed making the structurally unstable.”

A spokesperson for Yester Castle, which has an underground hall known as “Goblin Ha”, in East Lothian said as the Medieval castle closed to public after ‘substantial theft’ of stone. Police Scotland said the theft of the stone has created a large area of damage in the wall that supports the vault of the underground room. Yester Castle and the Goblin Ha’ belonged to the Gifford family in the 12th -14th centuries, with the Goblin Ha’ said to date from the 13th century.



“I like to go foraging for seaweed as a food source to dry and eat. And I’m also very interested in the idea of using materials in my design work that are sustainable and renewable, so I decided to experiment a bit. The seaweed preserves well, has a wonderful texture and is very strong when it’s dried. I found it works really well for jewellery, it’s beautiful and very distinctive. And in terms of sourcing the material – it takes no land to grow, I only used what’s washed up so nothing is killed, and I collect it myself so there’s no long supply chain.”

Edinburgh designer Iona Turner said as she came up with the ultimate in sustainable and renewable jewellery – creating a collection made from Scottish seaweed. Iona (22), who is also a surf instructor, is one of 10 highly talented silversmiths and jewellers from across Scotland whose innovative work has been selected by the Scottish Goldsmiths Trust and Lyon & Turnbull for the online Elements 2021 Graduate Showcase exhibition. Her pieces include necklaces, neckpieces, brooches and earrings fashioned from the “bladders” of storm-cast knotted-wrack seaweed, which dries in many shapes and colours depending on the time of year and where it comes from.

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www.scottishbanner.com

SCOTWORD *Here is a wee Scottish crossword for you to try! If you're stuck, answers can be found on page 26.*

CLUES ACROSS

- 1) Front of the kilt (5).
- 5) Scots biter! (5).
- 8) Clyde resort near Ardrossan (9).
- 9) Hebrides nearest to mainland (5).
- 10) Having a cutting edge (5).
- 12) Scots valleys (5).
- 13) The young pretender (7).
- 15) Scottish sweetmeat (7).
- 17) Old government soldier (7).
- 19) Unit of heat (7).
- 21) Length of wound yarn (5).
- 22) Tartan trousers (5).

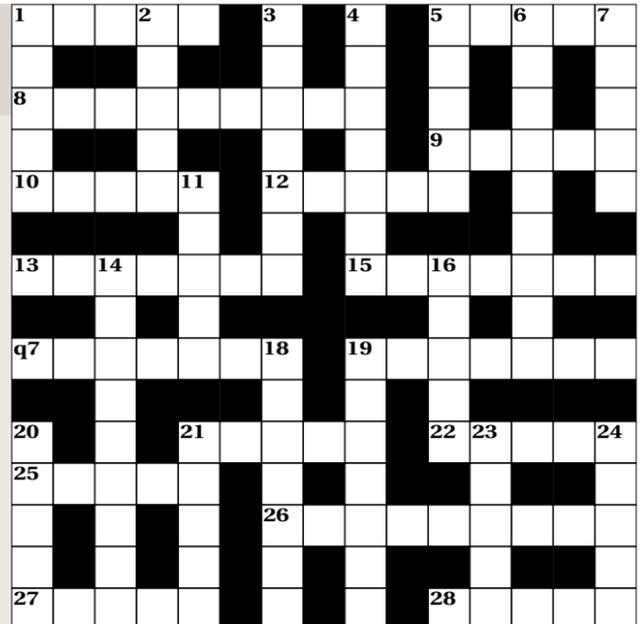
25) See 27 Across.

- 26) Village in valley of the River Balvag (9).
- 27 & 25 Across) Jimmy Shand played it! (5,5).
- 28) Abbey superior (5).

CLUES DOWN

- 1) Kirk domes (5).
- 2) Freshwater mammal (5).
- 3) Village west of Blairgowrie (7).
- 4) Old shooters (7).

- 5) The song thrush (5).
- 6) Castle near Stonehaven (9).
- 7) Pitchers! (5).
- 11) Viral disease (5).
- 14) Catch the boat here for Arran (9).
- 16) Young bird of prey (5).
- 18) Country betrayal (7).
- 19) Glasgow’s main station (7).
- 20) Change for the better (5).
- 21) Perth’s palace (5).
- 23) Restore to former condition (5).
- 24) A young salmon (5).



Lady MacGregor's Scotland

By: Lady Fiona MacGregor



Lady Fiona amongst the trees.

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



Welcome to Scotland where downpours make for a difficult few days. Here in the south bridges have been declared unsafe, banks are washed away, and roads are under water. The rain is a pain. Yet if things are to grow, it is vital, albeit in moderation. Yes, nature must be watered – especially when it comes to trees. And the coming year looks like being filled with those.

Plant a Tree for the Jubilee

In the summer of 2022, the Queen will have been on the throne for seventy years. It is a remarkable milestone. Beacons will be lit, and street parties will be held. And to further mark her Platinum Jubilee she has asked that folk plant trees. Her Majesty has certainly done her bit over the years. During her lengthy reign she has planted some fifteen-hundred right trees right round the world. Now local towns and villages councils and schools, charities and businesses are being urged to do the same. To 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee.'

So, as the Queen's personal representative in this part of Scotland one of my current tasks is to encourage communities to get digging. And why not? Trees are good. They are not only glorious to look at, but they are also past masters at capturing and storing harmful carbon. At one time Scotland groaned under the weight of forest.

Way back in time, this place was little more than a giant woodland. Today, alas, only about a fifth of our landmass is tree-covered. Compare that to European countries like Norway and Finland where three-quarters of the country is forested. Nevertheless, when we do grow them, we do it in style. There are the stately Scots Pines. There is the familiar Alder, the reassuring Oak and Birch. Then there are the more iconic specimens.

Let's hear it for our trees

The tangled Fortingall Yew in a Perthshire churchyard is reckoned to be thousands of years old whilst Dawick Botanic Gardens in the Scottish Borders boasts a superb Silver Fir that was planted in 1680. Some specimens come with mythical stories. The Armaddy wishing tree in Argyll is embedded with coins; a Celtic theory being that if you left a token of some sort, and said a prayer, or made a wish, it would come true. Yes, history has left us with some amazing examples. A Birnham

Oak still grows in the forest made famous in Shakespeare's Macbeth whilst William Wallace has his own Yew in Renfrewshire, as does Robert the Bruce and his stands by Loch Lomond. And trees have been on the agenda in Glasgow where the climate change conference has been taking place.

Trees are good. They are not only glorious to look at, but they are also past masters at capturing and storing harmful carbon.

Scotland has never seen so many foreign dignitaries in one place; two hundred countries and a hundred and twenty international leaders there for COP26. There delegates backed a move towards planting more trees. A promise was also made to end deforestation by 2030. Because trees are so environmentally friendly. They need water - and still the rain falls.

So, to escape the weather the chief and I have a night out. We are sharing an oversized pizza in a local restaurant. It is Jack Spratt and his wife. I eat his olives, and he

gets my chorizo. Supper is a prelude for taking in a movie. The new James Bond movie is in the local cinema - and it has rave reviews. It is a lengthy film, and we get back well after midnight. Which makes the following day a somewhat blurry one.

Late nights are unusual these days in the Armstrong MacGregor household. And it is strange, but these days neither of us is that keen to venture out in the evenings. Perhaps it is the impact of lockdown. A more likely explanation is that we are simply getting on and getting used to our armchairs. Which will not do! So later in the week, up in the hills we go. Taking with us wet weather gear, a picnic and the youngest MacNaughties. Benbecula, aka Bennie, is now nine months old and he is keen to stretch his wee Norfolk Terrier legs. He must be watched like a hawk, however. For our puppy is approaching the adolescence stage; running off and refusing to come back; his defiance the equivalent of a sullen teenager slamming doors. But back to our trees. You may already have yours up for Christmas. As yet, we do not. But last year we got decided to get one in a pot. Which meant that when the festivities were over, we were able to plant it in the garden. So, let's hear it for our trees. And I hope that wherever you are, you have a good festive season. After last year, it can surely only be better...

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

This vibrant design represents the new dawn rising from the United Nations 2021 climate change summit in Glasgow, Scotland. The conference branding is rooted in the MacGregor tartan – associated with

the Scottish town of Callander and the remarkable scientist of that name whose monumental discovery in 1938 linked the concentration of atmospheric carbon dioxide to human activities, primarily through burning fossil fuels. The COP26 colours of blue, green and white, surround the new dawn and represent the hopes of up to 30,000 delegates, that the conference will herald new initiatives, new targets and new achievements to tackle the global climate emergency. In keeping with Scotland's determination to continue reducing emissions to net zero, the tartan, in woven form, uses a combination of new wool and – for the first time – recycled wool from Prato in Tuscany, the traditional and historic recycling centre of Italy – Scotland's COP26 partner. This tartan (SRT reference: 13105) was designed by Brian Wilton and registered in March, 2021.



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SPONSOR & CORPORATE PARTNERS RECEPTION 7:00 PM

A formal gathering of fine food and live entertainment. *By invitation only.*

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING 8:00 PM
Practice your fancy footwork at this free event.

FREE Shuttle/Parking All Weekend!

Central Winds Park, & Satellite Lots
Sat. 7am-9:30pm; Sun. 8:00am-6pm

Come see top athletes compete in events dating back centuries. Both men and women toss caber and sheaf; throw hammer and stone. Power & precision are at a premium as heritage is hurled all over the field.

NORTH VS. SOUTH MEN'S CHALLENGE



EAST VS. WEST WOMEN'S CHALLENGE



Saturday: North vs. South, Men's Masters (45+) and Women's Open

Sunday: Women's East vs. West and Men's A & B

Pre-registration required for athletic participation. Go to <http://www.flascot.com> to learn more

Learn More & Buy Tickets at FLAScot.com

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

WELCOMING CEREMONIES Sat. 12:00 PM, Sun. 12:30 PM

Pipe bands lead colorful clans with the Parade of Tartans on the Ceremony Field.

KIRKIN' O' THE TARTANS SUN. 9:00 AM
Be part of an inspirational blessing of the clans.

HIGHLAND DANCING & CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION

Witness competitors from North America and abroad dancing the traditional dances of the Scottish Highlands. *Online pre-registration required to compete.*



ARCHERY

Shoot longbows and recurves for prizes and tournament.

AXE THROWING

Put an axe to target at 20 paces. Cheer or jeer those who attempt this feat.



PIPE & DRUM BANDS

Feel the pride and power as bands strut their stuff, and individuals compete in piping and drumming.

"This old barbaric music has magic in it"
Michael MacDonagh ~ 1916

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

Join friends on the Country Dance Stage for flying feet and twirling tartans.

HIGHLAND COWS

Get up close these gentle, shaggy Heilan' coos.

BORDER COLLIES

Skilled collies and shepherds thrill the crowd with feats of herding.

BOULDER BOOGIE (ages 16 & up)

Can you carry a really big stone? This prize event is open to all!

MEDIEVAL CAMP

Working forge, armored knights, battle gear and live weaponry demonstrations.

FOOD & DRINK

Savor meat pies, haggis, bridies, fish & chips, and much more.

BEER, WINE AND WHISKEY

Florida's own Dunedin Brewery presents locally crafted ales. Wine is also available. Or have a taste of Scotch-land and sample whiskies of fine quality.

SHOPPING

Visit merchants for kilts, tartan, music, bagpipes, weapons, jewelry, and more.

CLAN TENTS

Find your ancestry. Visit the friendly folks at our many clan & society tents.

KIDS' GAMES

Your brave lads and lassies will revel like royalty with arts, crafts, face painting, caber & wellie tossing, and more.

UNICORN HUGS

Greet the glorious, grand, National Animal of Scotland to soothe your soul.



Music All Weekend

FREE Saturday Night Ceilidh
6:00-9:00 PM

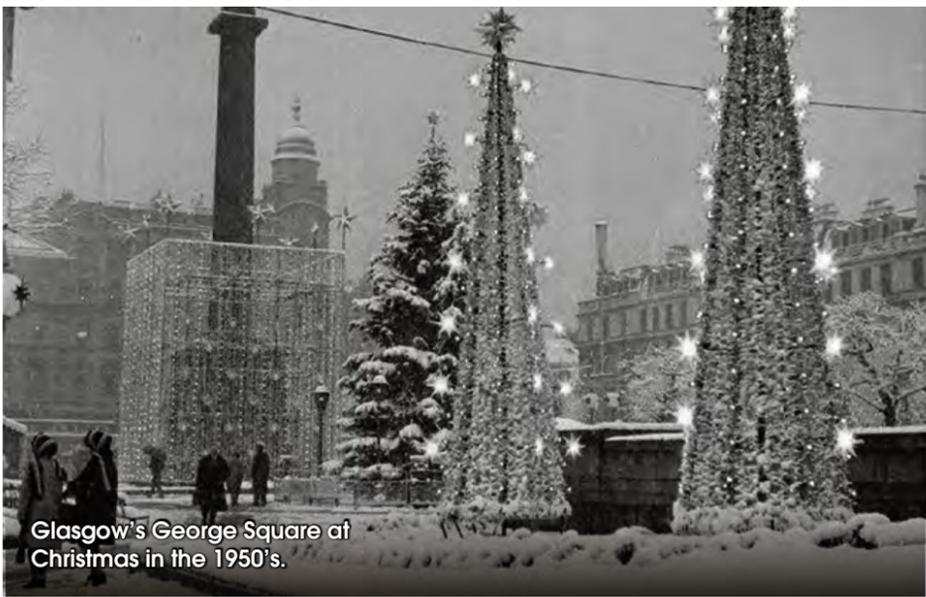
ALBANNACH
TUATHA DEA
THE BREAKERS
SCREAMING ORPHANS

AND MORE!



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.



Glasgow's George Square at Christmas in the 1950's.

A Scottish Christmas

In the 1940's and 1950's, Christmas in Scotland remained an essentially religious celebration. The forceful and pervasive encroachment of commercialism upon this special time was still to come. Christmas was not even in the minds of children until well after Halloween and Guy Fawkes Night had come and gone and the shops in Glasgow didn't put up their Christmas decorations and Christmas fare until well after the beginning of December. This made Christmas all the more special. For most Scottish adults there was less of the partying and drinking at Christmas that was to become more evident in later years.

Partying in Scotland was kept for the pagan New Year celebrations, although both Christmas and Hogmanay had borrowed some of their traditions from the same ancient Celtic customs of the Winter Solstice and the Roman Saturnalia.

Hogmanay

My dad wasn't even on holiday on Christmas day during most of my childhood, because up until 1958, Christmas was not recognized as a public holiday by the shipyards and engineering shops of the West of Scotland. He got two days at New Year instead. That was a hangover from the reformed Kirk's labelling of Christmas as a Popish and

Roman Catholic festival, nearly 400 hundred years before. For that reason Hogmanay became the time in Scotland when family and friends gathered together for a celebration and a party. There was even an earlier time when it was at Hogmanay that presents were exchanged in Scotland rather than at Christmas. It was a 20th Century reaction to what was fast becoming a national holiday in offices and other places of work that enabled the trade unions to eventually negotiate a Christmas Day holiday, from 1958, for Glasgow's heavy industry workers.

This was needed to accommodate St James's regular Sunday worshippers as well as the even larger congregations attending services on special occasions such as at harvest time, christenings, confirmations and especially at Christmas.

Christmas carols

Even then, the church elders had to bring in extra chairs from the church hall to seat the expanded congregation in the aisles, so large was church attendance at the midnight services at Christmas. With such a vibrant congregation to draw upon, St. James's could rely upon a strong church choir to raise the spirit. With such a swollen congregation adding to the strength of the regular choir, the inherent beauty of Christmas carols made for a wonderful and inspiring experience on each Christmas Eve. Everyone in the church seemed to be at one with the world and I delighted as a child in the friendly atmosphere of these Christmas services.

On the way home from such an occasion and in the early hours of the morning, there might be snow on the ground or at least a hint of snow to come. Walking and laughing in the company of friends and neighbours after the midnight service gave me a strong feeling of community and contentment. With the carols still resounding in our ears on that special night of nights, it was not hard to see 'the stars in the bright sky', and to say to ourselves, 'I love thee Lord Jesus and ask Thee to stay, close by me forever and love me I pray.'

In the 1940's and 1950's, Christmas in Scotland remained an essentially religious celebration.

Quiet and reflective time

Christmas in my family remained a relatively quiet and reflective time, to be spent with family and friends. On Christmas Eve our whole family attended the midnight service at St James's Church. The church overflowed with people drawn from an enrolled congregation of more than two thousand adult parishioners and although St. James's was a large church building there was also a need for an annexe, the Barnbeth Hall near to where my future wife, Jean, lived.



Carbisdale Castle.

The holly collection at Threave Garden

By: Michael Lawrie, Head Gardener, Threave Garden

While people often associate holly with Christmas, there's a lot more to discover about this diverse group of plants. I'd like to invite you to delve into the world of holly – you never know, you might find one you really like. Holly has long been believed to be a symbol of life and continuity. It has been adopted as an emblem of Christianity – the spiny leaves represent the crown of thorns, the berries signify the blood that was given by Christ as a symbol of salvation. It's also said that holly will ward off evil and negativity – cutting one to the ground is thought to bring bad luck. Druids once placed holly in their hair and beards to keep away evil. Bringing holly inside to decorate homes at Christmas has been a tradition for many hundreds of years; decorating fir trees, as we do today, didn't begin until the 1840s.

And if you're ever out in a thunderstorm, a holly bush is considered the safest place to shelter under, as the leaves act like mini lightning conductors and will hopefully prevent you from being hit.

Landscaped beauty

At Threave, the holly collection has been added to since the School of Heritage Gardening (the only Scottish garden dedicated to the training of horticulturists) was gifted the land from the Gordon family in the 1960s. I have a particular fondness for this plant and like to add to the collection whenever possible. The collection currently consists of over 70 different types of holly (Ilex). Some of these are species plants such

as *Ilex ciliospinosa* (Asian holly), others are cultivars, such as *Ilex x altaclerensis* 'Ripley Gold', but they all have a few identifying characteristics. All *Ilex* have alternate leaves (i.e. they grow alternately up the stem); they are dioecious (male and female flowers are on separate plants), with the berries being produced on female plants; and the berries are toxic to humans. If you're interested in our holly collection, you should visit Threave in the late autumn/winter to really appreciate these wonderful and interesting plants.

Threave's wonderful garden has been created over the years by students of the Trust's School of Heritage Gardening – and is a fine example of landscaped beauty. The garden is divided into a series of smaller gardens to showcase different styles, including a rose garden, rockery and walled garden. At the centre stands Threave House, designed in the Scottish Baronial style in 1871 for the Gordon family. Many of its rooms are displayed as they were in the 1930s.

Threave Garden & Estate is 1 mile west of Castle Douglas and only a short drive from Dumfries. For more information see: www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/threave-garden



Ilex x koehneana 'Chesnut Leaf'.

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 is Scotland's tallest peak after Ben Nevis?
- 2) The annual Braw Lads' Gathering takes place in which Borders town?
- 3) Name Edinburgh's famous rugby stadium?
- 4) What was the title of the sequel to Kidnapped by Robert Louis Stevenson?
- 5) Which Scot invented the legendary Lee Enfield rifle in 1878?
- 6) What is unusual about Carbisdale Castle, north of Inverness?
- 7) Scotsman David Stirling founded which elite fighting force?

- 8) In which Scottish town would you find the Coats Observatory?
- 9) Which is the largest Highland clan - the MacDonald's or the MacLeod's?
- 10) What is a but and ben?

Answers

- 1) Ben Macdui in the Cairngorms.
- 2) Galashiels.
- 3) Murrayfield Stadium.
- 4) Catriona.
- 5) James Paris Lee from Hawick.
- 6) From 1945 to 2016 it was used as a youth hostel.
- 7) The Special Air Service (SAS) a special forces unit of the British Army.
- 8) Paisley in Renfrewshire.
- 9) The MacDonald's.
- 10) A small country cottage.

Dig breaks new ground at Culloden



From left to right: Dr Daniel Rhodes (archaeologist), Catriona MacIntosh (Culloden Estate Manager) and Derek Alexander (Head of Archaeology) on site at Culloden.

An archaeological dig underway at Culloden Battlefield aims to shed more light on the 1746 battle. National Trust for Scotland (NTS) archaeologists are working with the Culloden Estate team to investigate several areas on the battlefield, which have never been excavated before.

A grid of small test pits will be opened up close to the access road into the Visitor Centre. This spot is close to where the left wing of the second line of Government troops lined up on that fateful day of 16 April 1746. Culloden was the last battle of the '45 rising, when Jacobites under Bonnie Prince Charlie were defeated by Government troops. The short but bloody battle, which lasted just 40 minutes, ended the Jacobite cause to restore a Stuart monarch to the throne.

In recent years, detailed archaeological investigations with metal detecting and geophysical survey work have taken place in the 'Field of the English', with trial trenching around Old Leanach Cottage, both close to the position of the Government first line. The recent fieldwork is further east on the site and will be looking for artefacts within the

topsoil such as buckles, buttons, lead musket and pistol shot, perhaps dropped by Government troops or Jacobite shots that passed through or over the Redcoats in the front line. In addition, digital and drone photography will be used to produce 3D models of the Culloden monument and the clan gravestones along with other battlefield markers.

The Cumberland Stone

In particular, a model will be captured of the Cumberland Stone, an enormous boulder which lies at the far eastern end of the battlefield. The stone is where the Duke of Cumberland, leading the Government troops, is traditionally reported to have eaten a meal on the day of the battle.

Raoul Curtis Machin, Operations Manager at Culloden Battlefield and Visitor Centre, said: "The team are really excited about the dig. They are passionate about the history of Culloden Battlefield and are always learning new things about this amazing site, which we can then share with the public who care so deeply about this important place. We are at a fascinating stage where the fusion of archaeological and historical research will more accurately explain the events of 275 years ago, giving us a greater insight into a place which the National Trust for Scotland is proud to play its part in protecting. We are very grateful to all our supporters and everyone who's contributed to Culloden's Fighting Fund for making this work possible."

The fund was set up to help protect areas of the battlefield not owned by the NTS from proposed developments.

Glenfiddich Piping Championship's 2021

The overall champion of the prestigious Glenfiddich Piping Championship has been named as Canadian piper Jack Lee from British Columbia. Third time overall champion Jack Lee went up against nine of the world's greatest solo players at the renowned 48th annual competition at Blair Castle to claim the title. The Silver Chanter 2021 winner Angus MacColl of Oban was crowned runner-up and 2019 title holder Finlay Johnston of Glasgow was third overall and the Piobaireachd winner. The MSR competition winner was William McCallum of Bearsden.

Jack Lee impressed with his playing of the Piobaireachd and March, Strathspey and Reel disciplines, taking second in the Piobaireachd and third in the MSR to come out on top as the overall Championship winner. The competition was played out in front of a live audience in Blair Castle's Victorian ballroom and hundreds from around the world who watched the spectacle online. Overall Winner, Jack Lee, said: "It's an absolute honour to be standing here with The Glenfiddich trophy. This is the third time I've had this and I can tell you it's a very sweet day."

Solo piping's ultimate prize

The National Piping Centre's Director of Piping, Finlay MacDonald, said: "The Glenfiddich is solo piping's ultimate prize and this year's competition yet again set the bar for world-class piping. I would like to extend my warm congratulations to our new champion and to all of the competitors for their excellent performances. We're delighted to see another successful year of celebratory competition at The Glenfiddich and to welcome people to the magnificent Blair Castle once again, while also

connecting with hundreds watching at home from around the world. We look forward to the event going from strength to strength in the years to come."

Competitors, travelled from near and far to take part, including 2020 champion Stuart Liddell, Dollar's Callum Beaumont, five-time champion Roderick Macleod MBE, William McCallum of Bearsden, Edinburgh's Iain Speirs, Glasgow-based Canadian piper Glenn Brown and Connor Sinclair of Crieff. This year, participants were selected from the two qualifying events that took place, with Stuart Liddell as the 2020 champion and Callum Beaumont as the overall winner of the Piping Live! Masters Competition. The other competitors were chosen based on previous achievements at the Glenfiddich Piping Championship.

The Glenfiddich Piping Championship was established in 1974 to inspire the world's finest exponents of Ceòl Mòr or Piobaireachd (the great music) and Ceòl Beag or light music (the little music). Run by The National Piping Centre, the world centre for excellence in bagpipe music, and funded through the William Grant Foundation, the event is held annually at Blair Castle in Blair Atholl, Perthshire.



Glenfiddich Piping Championship Overall Winner Jack Lee.



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IN SCOTLAND TODAY



Transformative regeneration of Aberdeen given go-ahead

A once-in-a-generation exciting transformative regeneration of Aberdeen's city centre, former market, and beach front has been given the go-ahead at a council committee meeting. The multi-million projects include the pedestrianisation of Union Street Central, the creation of a new city market, and the revitalisation of the beach area, with plans for a pier, new green hub, and a state-of-the-art sports area which could include a new stadium for Aberdeen FC. The go-ahead for the plans was hailed as 'exciting' and 'transformative' by the committee convener and Aberdeen City Council's Leader.

Aberdeen City Council City Growth and Resources Committee Convener Councillor Ryan Houghton said: "Exciting changes are happening in Aberdeen, and they are a hugely ambitious statement of intent. These multi-million-pound projects will create a more vibrant and people-friendly city centre with a fantastic new feature in the new Aberdeen Market as well as create an open and more accessible beachfront with new facilities. The plans will not only act to heal the city from the economic damage inflicted by COVID-19 by breathing new life into our city centre, boosting job creation, and promoting a wealth of opportunities to allow businesses and traders to thrive."

Plans include for the city centre, the committee agreed to fully pedestrianise the central section of Union Street. The city centre, new Aberdeen Market, and Queen Street projects are part of the City Centre Masterplan, a regeneration blueprint which is transforming the city centre with 50 projects involving the public and private sectors while conserving its proud heritage. Also planned are new regeneration projects for Aberdeen's beach area and a new Aberdeen Football Club stadium.

Council Leader and Vice-Convener for City Growth and Resources Committee Councillor Jenny Laing said: "These projects are truly transformative for the city centre and the beach area and show the depth and breadth of our ambition. They will bring real, positive change for the people of Aberdeen, and we look forward to hearing the updates in the months to come. We have listened to the very businesses we are trying to help who have said we need to do these works to ensure these areas are attractive places to go to and spend time in. These plans are only

the beginning of a process that we envisage will turn Aberdeen into a city that not only residents of the north-east but indeed the whole of Scotland will be proud of."

Wee Forests to leave living legacy for COP26 in Glasgow



Glasgow is set to become host to a network of Wee Forests in and around the city centre. Led by Earthwatch Europe and NatureScot, the project will create pockets of nature-rich green space across the city as a living legacy and celebration of COP26. Together Glasgow City Council, Earthwatch Europe, NatureScot, Glasgow Science Centre, Green Action Trust and The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) Scotland are planting eight Wee Forests across the city. The city, which hosted the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) last month, will be planted with eight new Wee Forests, in locations including Glasgow Green, Govan Road, Orkney Street, Maxwell Park, Castlebay Drive, Crookston Castle, Oakgrove Primary School and Rossendale Road. Scotland's first Wee Forest was planted in Easterhouse, Glasgow as part of the Seven Lochs Project in February 2021. Environment Minister Mairi McAllan said: "For many of us, the Covid pandemic has changed how we view and value nature, and we know people want to spend more time outdoors for the benefits it brings to their mental and physical health. We need to improve access to our green spaces and provide equal opportunities for everyone to connect to nature. Wee Forests are an ideal way of achieving this, whether as a place for children to play or a quiet spot to escape the hustle and bustle of the city. Our Wee Forests enable people to be directly involved in tackling the nature and climate crises by planting, looking after and charting the development of a forest and the wildlife it attracts in their own neighbourhood.

With the spotlight on Glasgow as we approach COP26, innovative projects like this will showcase to the rest of the world

how Scotland is leading the way in our action to tackle the twin crises of climate change and nature loss. A Wee Forest (also known as a Tiny Forest) is made up of 600 densely packed native trees in a space the size of a tennis court and is capable of attracting over 500 animal and plant species within the first three years. It also provides rich opportunities for engaging young and old alike with the environment and sustainability."

Following COP26, Earthwatch will collect scientific data with the help of young people from local schools and the wider community to assess the forest's environmental benefits such as carbon absorption and biodiversity, as well as assessing the social and wellbeing benefits of having this new green space in an urban area. A Wee Forest is first and foremost a community space – somewhere to come together and experience the benefits of access to nature for health and wellbeing.

Scotland's remotest mainland pub saved by community



The Old Forge Community Benefit Society Ltd has received £508,000 in order to take over ownership of one of Scotland's remotest pubs and keep it open as a focal point for the local community and as an attraction for visitors who make the journey to Knoydart by ferry or who walk the 16 miles over challenging terrain from the nearest road. After decades of private ownership, residents of the Knoydart peninsula have undertaken a bold plan to bring their local pub under community ownership. The Old Forge pub, situated in the village of Inverie on the Knoydart peninsula (Lochaber), is known to many as the *Guinness World Records* 'Remotest Pub in Mainland Britain'. Residents were informed earlier this year of the current owner's intention to place the pub on the market and a community consultation was held to gauge local opinion on seeking a community buyout - the response being overwhelmingly supportive. Jacquie Wallace, co-chair of the steering group, says "The Old Forge plays a vital role in our continued sustainability, and we have a great opportunity here to secure its future and bring added benefit to the community that wouldn't be possible under private ownership. Under a community ownership model, profits would be reinvested back into the community which will improve our circular economy and enable us to work on projects that benefit locals and visitors alike."

The Knoydart community has a track record of successful community ownership, having secured 17,500 acres of the Knoydart Estate in 1999 as one of the first community buyouts in Scotland. Ms Wallace continues "Pubs are at the heart of every community, and it is no different in Knoydart. As well as the obvious economic benefits, more than anything we are focussing on the positive social and environmental impacts. Our goal is for the pub to be a welcoming

and inclusive social hub for residents and the thousands of visitors we receive each year." The steering group are now working to establish a Community Benefit Society with the aim to purchase and manage the pub for community benefit. Of the 110 local residents, over 30 have offered to volunteer their time to the cause and working groups have been set up for all aspects of the project from business planning and fundraising to post-purchase management plans. Rhona Miller, Co-chair, The Old Forge Community Benefit Society Ltd, added: "We are delighted that the Scottish Land Fund has chosen to support our community-ownership bid of The Old Forge. This project is of huge importance to Knoydart, and we are now in a strong position to make it a reality."

Scotland's answer to The New York Highline unveiled



Scotland's answer to the New York Highline has been unveiled at Bowling Harbour in West Dunbartonshire with the transformation of a disused railway viaduct into a state-of-the-art linear park and walking, wheeling and cycling route at the western gateway to the Lowland canals. The Bowline, the jewel in the crown of a £10m regeneration programme at Bowling Harbour, connects the Forth & Clyde Canal towpath to the wider National Cycle Network (NCN), providing virtually uninterrupted off-road access from Glasgow to Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park. The fully accessible linear park boasts breath-taking views over the historic canal to the River Clyde and beyond. A new, high-quality access ramp has also been installed, allowing everyone walking, wheeling and cycling to access the National Cycle Network route for everyday and leisure journeys. The latest addition to National Cycle Network Route 7 means everyone, regardless of age or ability, can walk, wheel or cycle between Loch Lomond, Dumbarton and Glasgow on a virtually traffic-free route.

The harbour will benefit from the growing number of people choosing to walk, wheel and cycle across the nation, as more people give up the car and take to active travel. Catherine Topley, CEO at Scottish Canals said: "The opening of The Bowline marks a new era for Bowling Harbour, one built upon sustainability that everyone can enjoy. Active travellers making their way along National Cycle Network Route 7 can now take full advantage of the harbour's regeneration. Our renovated railway arches host a variety of local businesses transforming the area into a hub of activity, creating new jobs and opportunities. It's a special destination and one that is well worth a visit." The investment in Bowling Harbour will not only promote tourism, help tackle health inequalities and fight climate change by promoting carbon neutral travel, but act as a catalyst for further investment around the area.

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Susan Boyle

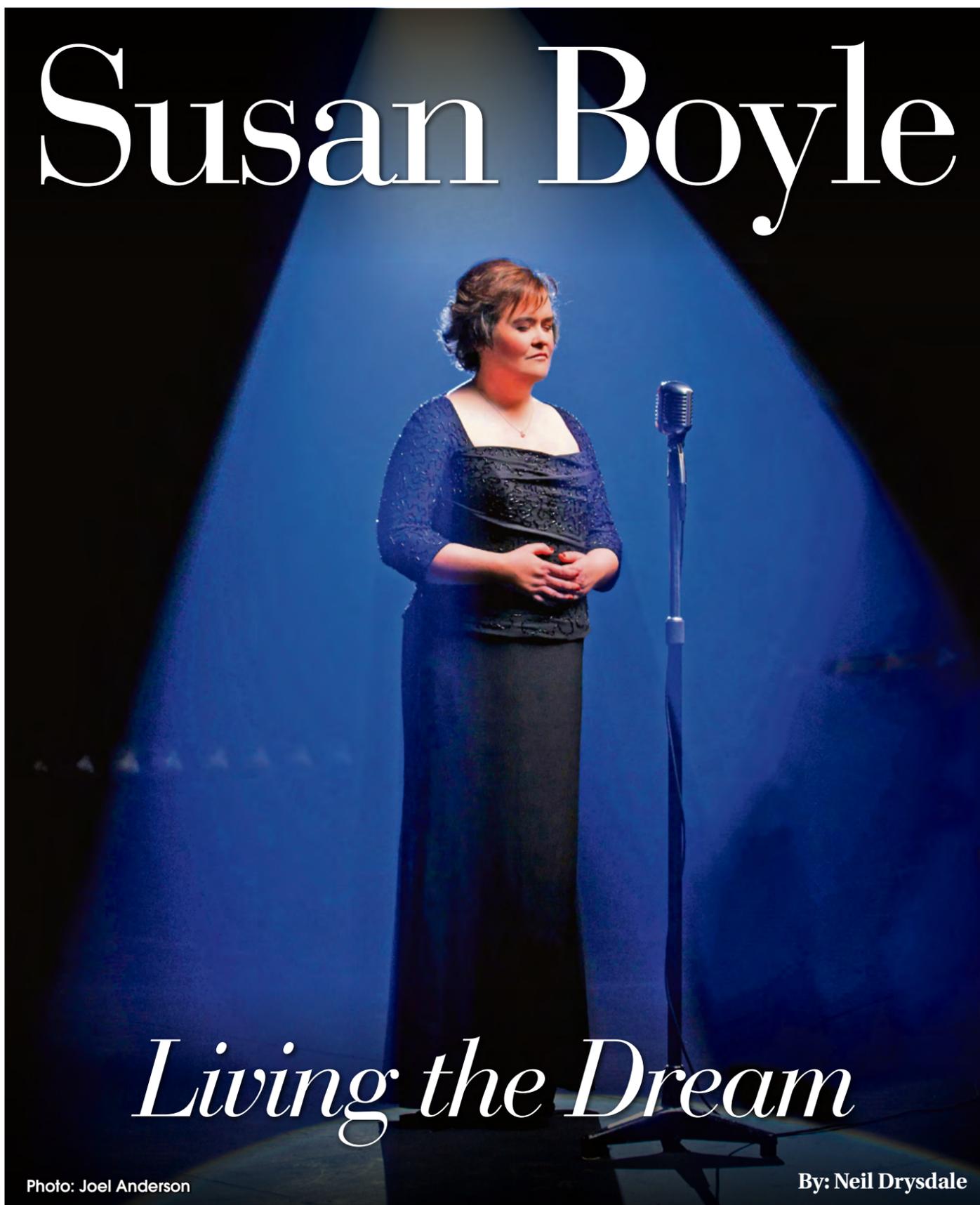


Photo: Joel Anderson

By: Neil Drysdale

Living the Dream

Scottish singer Susan Boyle rose to international fame in 2009 when she stepped out onto a Glasgow stage and appeared on Britain's Got Talent. The West Lothian natives debut album *I Dreamed A Dream* became the UK's biggest-selling debut album and Susan has gone on to sell over 25 million albums globally. Neil Drysdale spoke to Susan on her incredible rise to fame, her love of Scotland and how she has been getting on since the pandemic began.



Photo: Syco Entertainment
Nicky Johnston.

Life has ground to a halt for everybody in the last two years and Covid has cast a dark cloud over the arts and entertainment industry. Yet, even as singers and musicians have been forced to find new ways of working, they've quickly become used to the world of "virtual" concerts and recording sessions.

Susan Boyle is no exception to this brave new Zoom routine, even if she admits it caused her problems at the outset in 2020. But the 60-year-old artist hasn't been idle during the pandemic and is relishing getting back on the road in the New Year. Susan told *the Scottish Banner*: "Unfortunately, I haven't been able to perform or do any concerts.



Photo: Syco Entertainment
Nicky Johnston.

Susan Boyle is a resilient character who was the pivotal figure in what remains one of the genuinely jaw-dropping episodes in 21st century entertainment; the moment Susan shocked the judges and audience on Britain's Got Talent when she began to sing *I Dreamed A Dream*.

My tour in March 2020 just finished before the world shut down. I've still been practicing with my vocal coach, Chris Judge, to keep my singing voice active. To begin with, we would practice over Zoom or Facetime. He'd be at his house and I'd be at mine. Technology, eh - it's fantastic. But now that restrictions have eased, we can meet and sing in person again, which is great."

I Dreamed A Dream

Susan Boyle is a resilient character who was the pivotal figure in what remains one of the genuinely jaw-dropping episodes in 21st century entertainment; the moment Susan shocked the judges and audience on Britain's Got Talent (BGT) when she began to sing *I Dreamed A Dream*. Even now, more than a decade later, she appreciates there was something about her emergence which was similar to the script of the film *A Star is Born*. At school, growing up in the 1970s, Miss Boyle was a painfully shy youngster, somebody who far preferred being the face in the choir to a look-at-me prima donna. In those days, the idea of her taking centre stage on a reality TV show and singing in front of millions - and then, via YouTube, hundreds of millions of people, and subsequently performing for the Pope and The Queen would have seemed preposterous.

But there again, she wasn't just putting herself on parade for the Britain's Got Talent brigade. On the contrary, Ms Boyle says she was paving an escape from the days where she used to struggle to pay the household bills. She told me: "In some ways, life has changed dramatically. Financially, life has moved on from the days when I was unable to afford the gas and electric, to knowing nowadays that I

won't be sitting in the dark again fretting about how I am going to heat the house or keep the lights on. I am still grounded, though. I live in the same family home (in Blackburn in West Lothian) and I don't need a flashy big house with gates. I have got the same people around me that I always have, and there are wonderful neighbours who look out for me and they would give you the shirt off their back. So, in that respect, life hasn't changed. I know I have been incredibly lucky to keep such a wonderful balance, to be able to continue my normal life, going to Tesco's, living in the same house I grew up in and taking the bus. But these are all things I don't take for granted. It was a conscious decision to try and keep my normal and known way of life just the same."

There's a pinch-me quality about her comments which remind you of a star-struck youngster who has seen all her Christmases come at once. Susan said: "There were a few people who helped out in the early days, who have been childhood friends and are still friends to this day. My family were the ones who were so supportive and pushed me to do something more with my life and my mother, in particular, was the driving force who made me promise I would do something with my voice and my life. I started singing as a young girl in school and then joined the church choir and auditioned on a few other TV shows, but it was the support of friends and family who gave me the courage and confidence to try. That said, never in my wildest dreams when I stood on the Britain's Got Talent stage did I think for a second that, more than 10 years on, I'd still be performing and making albums. I thought it was all over on the night of the BGT final."

Proud to be Scottish

Her journey has been a whirlwind series of tales of the unexpected. She never remotely believed when she was "sneaking off from school to watch an Osmond's concert" that she would eventually meet and record a duet with Donny Osmond.

But it taught her another lesson which she regards as crucial. She added: "Meeting and performing with him was something else and he was the nicest and kindest man. They sometimes say: 'Don't meet your heroes', but I can honestly tell you he exceeded my expectations and it was unforgettable. I know I have been fortunate, and I am also incredibly proud to be Scottish, and would never consider leaving or living anywhere else in the world. We have everything in Scotland and more. The best people in the world, the kindest and a real sense of community. We have a beautiful country, and while it may be nice to go off and visit other places, there truly is no place like home. I try to have a glass-half-full attitude and while life always has its ups and downs, there really are not many negatives about living in Scotland. We are very lucky."

As she casts her gaze forward, Susan told me of her hopes for the New Year after being out of the public gaze for too long. Susan continued: "I am really looking forward to 2022 and the exciting things which are being lined up, which are a surprise, but I promise are exciting. I also hope, like everybody else, that life gets back to some semblance of normality. And I'd like to wish my fans a Happy New Year. May 2022 be a better year



for us all and I wish you all a year of health, happiness and your dreams coming true." Even now, Susan has that down-to-earth approach and sense of wonder in her voice. Susan is also a big fan of Adele's new single and

said: "She's so incredibly talented and I admire her bravery for bearing her heartbreak and creating stunning lyrics."

Let's hope we are treated to some new music from Susan as we move out of an awfully long winter.



Photo: Charlie Gray

Did you know?

- It is more than 10 years since Susan Boyle applied to go on Britain's Got Talent, and defied the odds by bringing the house down with an unprecedented success story.
- Here was a woman from a modest Scottish council house, in a small village, who fought back to take on the world with the power of her voice, defying preconceptions and reminding everybody never to judge a book by its cover.
- Miss Boyle broke all the conventions of the reality show reel and smashed the record books on both sides of the Atlantic, winning fans in every corner of the world.
- The YouTube video - which catapulted her from unknown to global phenomenon overnight - in her gold dress and wild hair, executing a flawless rendition of *I Dreamed A Dream* caught the public imagination.
- The self-styled 'wee wifey' from West Lothian subsequently became one of the biggest recording stars and has sold more than 25 million albums, achieved 250 million-plus audio streams and attracted around 650 million YouTube hits.
- She performed in front of half a billion people on the final of China's Got Talent and has sung for the Pope and The Queen, while smashing music records held by the Beatles which had remained unchallenged since the 1960s.
- There has been a successful autobiography, a musical about her life story, sell-out live tours in the UK and USA, a debut acting role in *The Christmas Candle*, a cameo role in *Zoolander 2* and three TV documentaries.
- Once known as a painfully shy, broke and under-confident woman, Miss Boyle has undergone a metamorphosis. Susan said: "I don't dream the dream any more - because I am living the dream."



Photo: Sony Music Australia.

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

1 - The first volume of *Encyclopaedia Britannica* was published in Edinburgh, edited by William Smellie. **1768**



1 - First lighthouse in Scotland opened (at Kinnaird Head, Fraserburgh). It was built by Thomas Smith and Robert Stevenson. **1787**

1 - English writer Jo (JK) Rowling moves to Edinburgh where she works on her first *Harry Potter* novel. **1993**

1 - Report of discovery of fossilised dinosaur footprints on the Isle of Skye. **2015**

2 - Mary Slessor, West African missionary, born in Aberdeen. Slessor was adopted by an African tribe, who called her "ma". **1848**

3 - Robert Louis Stevenson died in Samoa. The Edinburgh born author penned classics such as *Treasure Island* (1883), *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* (1886) and *Kidnapped* (1886). **1894**

3 - His Majesty's Theatre in Aberdeen opened and soon became the city's leading centre of entertainment. **1906**

4 - King William I (Lion) died at Stirling and was succeeded by his son Alexander II. **1214**

4 - Treaty of London, releasing James I from his 18 years captivity in England. **1423**

4 - Essayist and historian Thomas Carlyle, best known for his *History of the French Revolution* born in Ecclefechan. **1795**

4 - Cartoon character Desperate Dan first appeared in the *Dandy* comic. **1937**

5 - King Francis II of France, husband of Mary Queen of Scots, died. **1560**

5 - Death of Sir Robert Watson-Watt, the Brechin-born inventor of radar. **1973**

6 - King Alexander II crowned at Scone. **1214**

6 - Charles Edward Stewart's entry into Derby. A reluctant Charles and his Jacobite army was forced to withdraw from Derby only two days later. **1745**

6 - The Battle of Dryfe Sands took place near Lockerbie, Scottish Borders, resulting in many casualties, it was a battle between the clans of Clan Maxwell and Clan Johnstone. Many were wounded by downward sword strokes known as "Lockerbie Licks". **1593**



6 - The last 12 permanent residents leave the Island of Stroma. **1962**

7 - The birth of Henry Stewart, Lord Darnley, the Anglo-Scottish aristocrat and second husband of Mary, Queen of Scots. Mary married Henry, her first cousin, on the 29 July 1565, to be the uncrowned "King Henry". Darnley was the second husband of Mary and father of King James VI of Scotland and James I of England. He was assassinated in February 1567 by person unknown, although Mary's third husband James, Lord Bothwell, was seriously implicated in the murder. **1545**



8 - Mary, Queen of Scots, born Linlithgow Palace. The only surviving child of James V and Mary of Guise, Mary ascended to the Scottish throne following her father's death when she was only six days old. Mary Queen of Scots was beheaded at Fotheringhay Castle in England for her complicity in a plot to murder Queen Elizabeth I at the age of 44 years. **1542**

9 - King Malcolm IV, King of Scotland, died at Jedburgh Castle. **1165**

10 - The death of Duncan Forbes of Culloden, the Lord President of the Court of Session. As a prominent Whig, like many Scots Forbes supported the Hanoverian cause and used his influence to dissuade a number of clans from joining the Jacobites. **1747**

10 - 1928-Designer and architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh died. Known for his 'Glasgow style' with works such as the House for an Art Lover, the Scotland Street School, and the Glasgow School of Art. **1928**

10 - King Edward VIII abdicated and King George VI acceded to the throne. **1936**

11 - David Brewster, inventor of the kaleidoscope born. **1781**

11 - Architect and artist Charles Rennie Mackintosh died. **1928**

12 - Anne of Denmark, wife of King James VI, born. **1574**

13 - William Drummond, poet, born. Drummond was one of the first notable Scots poets to write exclusively in English after the Union of the Crowns in 1603. **1585**

13 - The death of Thomas Glover, an industrial pioneer in Japan. Born in Fraserburgh, he is considered a national hero in Japan. Fraser brought the first steam train to Japan, and created the shipyard in Nagasaki which would eventually form the Mitsubishi Corporation. **1911**

14 - James V died at Falkland Palace. Mary Queen of Scots succeeded him. **1542**



14 - Glasgow District Underground opened, powered by electricity. **1896**

14 - Will Fyfe, comedian, died. **1947**

14 - University of Stirling instituted by Royal charter. **1967**

15 - The Zoological Society of Glasgow was founded on this day. **1936**

16 - Oliver Cromwell becomes Lord Protector of England, Scotland and Ireland. Cromwell was the only invader of Scotland to conquer the whole country. **1653**

16 - Thomas Blake Glover, founding father of Japan's industrialisation (including Mitsubishi) and Japanese Navy, born Fraserburgh. **1838**

17 - Marriage contract between James IV and Margaret Tudor signed by King James. **1502**

17 - Lord Kelvin, scientist and inventor, died. **1907**

17 - Petrol rationing was imposed following the Suez crisis and the closure of the canal. **1956**

18 - Many Scottish historical records were lost when the ship Elizabeth of Burntisland sank off the English coast. The records had been taken to London by Oliver Cromwell and were being returned to Edinburgh. **1661**

18 - Society of Antiquaries founded and incorporated by Royal Charter in 1783, the Society's purpose is "to investigate both antiquities and natural and civil history in general, with the intention that the talents of humanity should be cultivated and that the study of natural and useful sciences should be promoted". **1780**

18 - Death penalty for murder was formally abolished in Britain. **1969**

19 - *The Scotsman* newspaper moves to new offices at North Bridge in Edinburgh, remaining there until 1999. **1904**

20 - First General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. **1560**

20 - Entertainer Andy Stewart was born in Glasgow. Stewart is perhaps best known for his STV show, *The White Heather Club*, which began in 1960, and his songs *Ye Cannas Shuw Yer Granny Off A Bus* and *Donald Where's Yer Troosers*. He died in 1993. **1933**

20 - Aberdeen beat European Cup Winners Hamburg 2-0 to become the first Scottish club to win the UEFA Super Cup. **1983**

21 - Robert Liston, who was born in Linlithgow in 1794, performed the first operation in a British hospital using anaesthetic (ether). **1846**

21 - Pan Am 747 blew up and crashed at Lockerbie, Dumfries, killing 243 passengers, 16 crew and 11 Lockerbie residents. The Pan American jumbo jet bound for New York was blown out of the sky by a terrorist bomb and crashes onto the Scottish town of Lockerbie killing all 259 passengers and 11 people on the ground. **1988**

22 - James Edward Stuart, the Old Pretender, son of James II, the deposed Catholic King of England, arrived at Peterhead in north-east Scotland to lead a Jacobite rebellion. **1715**

22 - Pop star Madonna married movie-producer Guy Ritchie at Skibo Castle, putting Dornoch into the media spotlight. The couple has since divorced but helped create a Scottish wedding boom. **2000**

23 - Major outbreak of cholera in Scotland. **1831**

23 - Fife born accordionist Jimmy Shand died. Shand's recordings are famous throughout the world due to his distinctive playing style on the button accordion, and later on the BBC with *The White Heather Club*. **2000**

24 - King William I (Lion) crowned at Scone. **1165**

24 - Edinburgh Castle surrendered to Oliver Cromwell. **1650**

24 - General George Wade was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the British army in Scotland after he had reported on the need for military roads in the country. **1724**

25 - Stone of Destiny removed from Westminster Abbey. Used as the coronation stone of the Scottish kings from the 10th century, the stone was removed by four Scottish university students whose story became a book and movie. The ringleader Ian Hamilton is a former contributor to *the Scottish Banner*. **1950**



25 - Christmas Day becomes a public holiday in Scotland. It was abolished in 1640. **1958**

25 - The Jacobite army reached Glasgow. The military campaign to return a Catholic Stewart king to the throne in place of the Hanoverian Protestant King William III. **1745**

26 - Alexander III, the King of Scots, was married to Margaret, the daughter of Henry III, King of England, in York. **1251**

27 - King Charles I, imprisoned at Carisbrooke Castle, reached an agreement with the Scots who offered military aid in exchange for a promise to establish Presbyterianism in England (but only for three years). **1647**

27 - Premiere of J M Barrie's play *Peter Pan* at the Duke of York Theatre, London. Barrie was born in Kirriemuir in 1860. **1904**

28 - James IV who liked to gamble played 'byllis' (similar to billiards) with a man described in records as "John Anderson that wantis the feit and handies". There's also a note mentioning that the king gave Anderson 14 shilling. **1501**

28 - Scotland's famous outlaw, Rob "Roy" MacGregor, died. He was immortalised in Sir Walter Scott's novel, *Rob Roy*. **1734**

28 - The Tay Bridge disaster occurred. 75 passengers were killed when the structure collapsed under a train during a storm. **1879**

29 - Charles Macintosh, who patented waterproof fabric, born in Glasgow. **1766**

29 - William Ewart Gladstone, UK Prime Minister on four occasions, born 1809. **1809**

30 - Rangers' first match at their new Ibrox Stadium, with capacity of 75,000. It was a 3-1 victory over Hearts in the Inter-City League. **1899**

30 - The Albion Motor Company was established. At first the firm made motor cars and commercial vehicles, but from 1913 concentrated on the latter. **1899**

31 - Prince Charles Edward Stewart, The Young Pretender, was born in Rome. Known as "Bonnie Prince Charlie", after the Gaelic pronunciation of his name, he led the 1745 Jacobite attempt to overthrow the Hanoverian monarchy. Bonnie Prince Charlie or the Young Pretender, was the son of James, the Old Pretender. **1720**

31 - 72 killed at Glen Cinema Fire, Paisley. **1929**



31 - The farthing coin (a quarter of an old penny) ceased to be legal tender. **1960**

‘Best in the UK’ accolade for Scotland’s Royal Botanic Gardens



Benmore Botanic Garden.

Stunning Logan Botanic Garden near Stranraer, one of the four sites of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE), has been voted Best in the UK in a recent consumer survey. The sub-tropical garden, home to some of the world’s rarest plants, scored a colossal 93 per cent satisfaction rating, achieving the maximum mark of five stars in every category, as voted by readers of a leading consumer magazine.

While Logan was crowned top garden, it was a day of celebration at all four of Scotland’s national botanic gardens as Dawyck in the Borders, Benmore near Dunoon in Argyll and the main Edinburgh site were all ranked within the UK’s top ten gardens.

Incredibly special

Richard Baines, Curator of Logan Botanic Garden, commented: “Logan is an incredibly special Garden and we are delighted to be recognised as such by

visitors and voted best in the UK. The warm climate makes it Paradise for plant lovers and our visitors are always surprised to see some of the more exotic palm trees, Gunnera manicata - the giant ‘rhubarb’, tree ferns and eucalyptus thriving so resplendently outdoors in Scotland. Of course, our most tender plants wouldn’t survive a Scottish winter, so we safeguard species such as our pelargonium collection from South Africa in our Victorian-style conservatory. It’s also the first public conservatory in the UK to be powered by green energy. As well as thousands of spectacular species of unusual plants, which underline our existence as a research and conservation institute, we offer visitors fine catering from the Potting Shed Bistro and our Studio exhibition space displays artwork from local, national and international artists. Watch out also for our magnificent dinosaur sculpture, Loganosaurus Rex, hiding within the tree ferns.”



Logan Botanic Garden and walled garden pond.

Logan Botanic Garden is located by Port Logan near Stranraer in the south-west of Scotland. As well as being a popular visitor attraction, its collection of plants constitutes part of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh’s Living Collection of rare and endangered plants. Many of the species are threatened in the wild or are not yet known to science. Among them, Logan’s dedicated team of horticulturists nurture plants which are growing from seeds collected during expeditions to Vietnam – one of which, Rhododendron tephropeplodes, has only recently been identified as new to science.

World’s pre-eminent botanical gardens

With a score of 89 per cent, Dawyck Botanic Garden near Peebles, famed for its awe-inspiring trees and year-round colour, was ranked joint second in the UK. Sister Garden at Benmore, in Argyll, was in joint third place with 88 per cent, impressing visitors with its towering Avenue of magnificent giant redwood trees (Sequoiadendron giganteum) and wild, mountain background. The main Edinburgh site, located in the north of the city, scored an impressive 86 per cent. With over 70 acres of spectacular landscapes, the Garden dates from 1670 and is one of

the world’s pre-eminent botanical gardens.

Richard Baines reflected: “At Logan, we never stand still – we are always developing the Garden, ensuring that there is something of interest to everyone. As part of our core activity, we have a mission to engage the wider world with the work of RBGE and our fragile planet. We look forward to welcoming new and return visitors to our beautiful Garden.”

Logan Botanic Garden dates from 1869 and acceded to the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh in 1969. Located on the south-western tip of Scotland and warmed by the Gulf Stream, Logan enjoys an almost subtropical climate, with spectacular and colourful arrays of species from the southern hemisphere.

Dawyck Botanic Garden is located near Peebles in the Scottish Borders and is home to some of Scotland’s oldest and tallest trees including Douglas firs and giant sierra redwoods. In early Summer, it is ablaze with azaleas and Himalayan blue poppies, with a riot of Autumnal colour later in the year. Benmore Botanic Garden is located near Dunoon in Argyll and is set within 120 acres of mountain landscape. Loved for its welcoming avenue of 150-year-old towering redwood trees, Benmore is also renowned for over 300 species of rhododendrons and spectacular views over the Holy Loch. The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh is a leading international research organisation delivering knowledge, education, and plant conservation action around the world. In Scotland, its four Gardens at Edinburgh, Benmore, Dawyck and Logan attract more than a million visitors each year.

The RBGE mission is to explore, conserve and explain the world of plants for a better future. For more information see: www.rbge.org.uk



Logan Botanic Garden and Cordyline walk.



Logan Botanic Garden and Butia eriospatha & cordyline walk.



‘For him’- Isle of Lewis Chess Set



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The bird man of Marchmont

By: Nick Drainey



Shaun Adams.



Hugo Burge at Marchmont.

I find a bit mind-blowing. It is a wonderful symbol for craftsmanship, something that is incredibly grand which we will hope will last for hundreds of years and something that really supports nature in a very beautiful way. It is something I am extremely proud of; it has been an unexpected journey and it still takes my breath away when I see it – bringing together the sensibilities of what we are doing at Marchmont.” Hugo describes taking on the renovation of Marchmont as “daunting” but at the same time he entered into it with pleasure, enthusing about the “relationship between arts, nature and humanity”. Hugh continued: “Everything about Marchmont is a celebration of creativity and that is a subject close to my heart. In a strange kind of way, if you look back to the 18th century, although the buildings were a great demonstration of building prowess, elegance, and grandeur, often they feel very comfortable in the landscape and the environment. There is a sensibility to nature and a sense of awe and closeness to nature – it is an unusual balance that seems to work.”

Shaun’s introduction to gardening growing up in the 1960s in Annitsford, North Tyneside was less grand, but just as passionate. He said: “My dad kept an allotment, so I was brought up growing veg and in the garden my dad had chickens. I’m over the top with my garden, hanging

baskets on the kennels. I just like to keep the place tidy.” Ever keen to embrace a challenge, Shaun is now looking after a quarter of a million bees in hives the estate brought in to improve biodiversity. He said: “That was totally new ... it is unbelievable how much there is to learn about, they are a marvellous little insect.”

Shaun went on a beekeeping course and had a mentor for a year, and now produces dozens of jars of honey each year. Hugo said: “We don’t get enough honey to sell. Really it is a treasure and a treat for myself, my family and occasional lucky friends. And Shaun gets some too. Hugh continued: “It (keeping bees) felt like a very natural thing to be drawn to ... a small way in which we could help to create a sense of balance at Marchmont between our human needs and requirements and the natural environment. And it is hard not to be swept up by the concerns around declining bee populations; having taken some interest in this it is very alarming, and it felt like something we could do in a practical, small way to support the bee environment and the eco-system at Marchmont.” And he is full of praise for Shaun: “He is passionate about nature and the collections of his own ducks and geese which he nurtures with pride. He also took up the challenge of beekeeping with enormous relish. He has a wonderful hands-on expertise with nature.”



Marchmont House. Photo: Mark J Richards/Wikimedia Commons.



Shaun beekeeping.

the tit family; great tits, coal tits and a few nuthatches and some robins.” Shaun has become an expert in what the owl boxes should be like, working with a charity to get it right. The best, he says, are actually in barns – where the young ones can practice flying from beam to beam. A good box has a platform where the young ones can wander about and look at their new world. But at Marchmont they have more than this.

There is now an Owl Temple – like an Ancient Greek temple to Athena – which is set on a tall carved pillar. It has been created by the renowned stone carver and sculptor Michelle de Bruin who has a studio nearby as part of Marchmont’s Creative Spaces which encourages the creative arts.

Everything about Marchmont is a celebration of creativity.

It was Hugo Burge, who, with his father, is behind the restoration project, that had the idea for the “rather spectacular” owl temple in the walled garden. He said: “I have spent some heavenly evenings watching barn owls scouring and floating across the landscape, some very precious and special interactions that strike to one’s core. I thought it would be extraordinary if we were able to encourage a barn owl into the walled garden. Gardening is new to me and what I love doing is closing my eyes and dreaming of what the landscape will look like in 20, 50 or 100 years. We have a new topiary avenue down the centre of the walled garden – it was a dream to imagine a barn owl flying down that little avenue through the mist one morning or late one evening.”

Relationship between arts, nature and humanity

The initial idea was a wooden temple but that blew over and broke. So, Hugh brought in Michelle. Hugh said: “I started to discuss whether it was an excessively potty idea to think about carving one out of stone and we both got more and more excited about it. The result is the extraordinary work she has created which



Shaun and the gardening team.



The Owl Temple.



Shaun’s car number plate B4 HEN.

He’s the birdman of Marchmont. A gamekeeper turned gardener who has enjoyed a lifelong passion for all feathered creatures, domesticated and wild. Shaun Adams has been a key part of the grand restoration of a Grade A listed 18th century Palladian mansion in the Scottish Borders. As well as work on one of the finest arts and crafts interiors in Scotland, there has been a transformation of the 6,500-acre estate at Marchmont, near Greenlaw. The work includes tree planting and other measures to encourage wildlife. Enter Shaun, who became gardener five years ago after three decades as a gamekeeper. In that time his job has evolved from straightforward gardening – including in the magnificent walled garden – to looking after the wild birds and the bees.

Lifelong love of birds

This has built on his own lifelong love of birds - for decades he has kept, and successfully shown, birds and in the garden of his home on the estate he currently has at least 100 hens (including Light Sussex and Modern Game), ducks (including Indian Runners and Muscovy ducks) and geese (Nene or Hawaiian geese). And if any more proof of his passion was needed, his car number plate is B4 HEN. Shaun commented: “I’ve kept poultry all my life, my grandfather and my dad kept poultry. I’ve got all sorts and I used to show poultry as well, but I keep them as a hobby now. It is nice to rear something from an egg and see them right through. Everybody thinks I’m mad because I have all this extra work on top of my job; I’m up first thing in the morning taking the dogs out and doing the chickens. But it’s in my blood, I’ve done it all my life.”

His day job involves looking after 120 bird boxes, as well as a growing number of owl boxes. Shaun continued: “Last year we had 75% with birds in them, mainly

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IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Christmas turkey

Ingredients:

20ml/¾fl oz. rapeseed oil
 1 x 5kg/11lb good-quality free-range turkey, preferably organically reared, wishbone removed (ask your butcher to remove the wings and neck and chop them into 2.5cm/1in pieces to use in the dish)
 40g/1½oz unsalted butter, softened to room temperature
 2 pinches sea salt flakes
 2 pinches freshly ground white pepper
 200ml/7fl oz. water
 salt and freshly ground black pepper
 1-2 tsp ground arrowroot (depending on how thick you like your gravy), dissolved in 1 tbsp. cold water
 roast potatoes and steamed seasonal vegetables, to serve

Method

Remove the turkey from the fridge and bring to room temperature - this will take at least an hour.
 When you are ready to cook, preheat the oven to 230C/220C fan/Gas 8.
 Heat the rapeseed oil in a large, heavy-based roasting tray on the stove top. Add the chopped turkey wings and neck and fry for 8-10 minutes, turning the pieces over every 2-3 minutes, or until evenly browned all over.
 Meanwhile, in a small bowl, soften the butter with the back of a dessert spoon, then season with the salt and freshly ground white pepper. Using a pastry brush or your hands, smear the seasoned butter all over the turkey. Add any remaining butter to the roasting tray once the chopped wings and neck have browned.
 Place the turkey on top of the wing and neck pieces, then roast in the oven for 30 minutes.
 Remove the turkey from the oven and baste all over with the cooking juices.
 Reduce the oven temperature to 160C/150C fan/Gas 3.
 Pour the water into the roasting tray, then return the turkey to the oven and continue to cook for a further 1 hour, basting the bird with the cooking juices every 20 minutes (do this quickly to prevent the heat escaping from the oven).
 At the end of the cooking time, test that the turkey is cooked through by inserting a skewer or roasting fork into the thickest part of its thigh; if the juices run clear, the meat is cooked. Alternatively, use a meat thermometer; if cooked, the temperature should be 74°C or above. If the turkey is not fully cooked, return it to the oven for a further

20 minutes or until the juices run clear.
 Remove the turkey from the oven and transfer the bird to a large, deep-sided tray, reserving the roasting tray the turkey was cooked in along with the cooking juices. Set the turkey aside to rest for a minimum of 30 minutes and up to 1½ hours.
 While the turkey is resting, cook your roast potatoes and vegetable dishes.
 When you're almost ready to serve the meal, return the roasting tray used to cook the turkey to the stove top. Bring the cooking juices to the boil over a medium heat, scraping up any burned bits from the bottom of the tray using a wooden spoon.
 Collect the juices released by the turkey as it was resting and add them to the gravy. Season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground black pepper, if needed.
 Reduce the heat until the gravy is simmering, then stir in the dissolved arrowroot and cook until the gravy has thickened.
 Strain the gravy through a fine sieve into a warmed jug. Keep warm.
 To serve, bring the turkey to the table and carve into slices. Serve with the roast potatoes and vegetables. Pour over the gravy.

Thyme and parsley stuffing

Ingredients:
 1 onion, peeled and finely chopped
 1 tbsp. vegetable oil
 2 tsp. chopped fresh parsley
 2 tsp. chopped fresh thyme leaves
 85g/3oz. fresh white breadcrumbs
 salt and freshly ground black pepper
 1 egg, beaten

Method:
 Sweat the onion in the oil until soft but not coloured.
 Mix the onion with the breadcrumbs and herbs and season well. Stir in enough egg to bind.
 Use to stuff meat or poultry, or roll into individual stuffing balls - cook these in the roasting tin with the meat for 30 minutes at the end of the cooking time.

Christmas carrots

Ingredients:
 9 medium carrots, peeled, topped and tailed
 250g/9oz. butter
 150g/5½oz. sugar
 3 tsp salt
 4 star anise

Method:
 Use a clean scourer to smooth the carrots and remove any peel marks (optional).
 In a pan combine 400ml/14fl oz. of water, the butter, sugar, salt and star anise. Bring to the boil, then reduce the

heat to a gentle simmer and add the carrots. Cook until the carrots are tender (approximately 45 minutes) and the volume of liquid has reduced by half.
 Serve the carrots as a side dish with the reduced cooking liquid poured over.

Onion & sage stuffing balls

Ingredients:
 40g/1½oz. butter
 2 onions, finely chopped
 8 sage leaves, finely chopped
 125g/4½oz. fresh breadcrumbs
 1 free-range egg, beaten
 salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Method:

Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6.
 Heat a frying pan until medium hot, add the butter, onions and sage and fry gently for five minutes until softened.
 Place the breadcrumbs in a bowl with the softened onions and mix to combine. Add the egg and season with salt and black pepper.
 Mix well then form into golf-ball sized balls and place on a roasting tray. (If making in advance, the stuffing can be frozen at this stage.) Roast in the oven for 20 minutes until crisp.

Christmas pudding



Ingredients:
 350g/12oz. mixed dried fruit (raisins, currants, sultanas)
 100g/3½oz. pitted ready-to-eat prunes, chopped or left whole
 100g/3½oz. dark muscovado sugar
 4 tbsp. dark rum
 100ml/3½fl oz. stout
 100g/3½oz. chopped walnuts
 100g/3½oz. blanched almonds
 100g/3½oz. ground almonds
 100g/3½oz. fresh white breadcrumbs
 50g/1¾oz. plain flour
 100g/3½oz. frozen butter, grated, plus a little extra for greasing
 ½ tsp freshly grated nutmeg
 1 tsp ground cinnamon
 2 tsp mixed spice
 100g/3½oz chopped glacé cherries (or left whole if you prefer)
 3 large free-range eggs, beaten
 Recipe tips How-to-videos

Method:
 Combine the mixed fruit, prunes, muscovado sugar, rum and stout in a mixing bowl. Stir well to mix, cover and leave for 24 hours to soak.
 After 24 hours, mix the walnuts, almonds, ground almonds, breadcrumbs, flour, butter, spices, cherries and eggs along with the soaked fruit mixture in a large mixing bowl, making sure you include all the soaking liquor from the soaked fruit. Mix well until completely combined (let all the members of the family have a stir and make a wish).
 Cover with cling film and leave to stand in a cool place for 24 hours.
 After 24 hours, grease a 1.2 litre/2 pint pudding basin with butter. Cut a circle of



This month gather friends and family around and eat perhaps a bit more than you should and celebrate Christmas and Hogmanay with a great range of food and drink. From our table to yours-Happy Holidays!

baking paper and place into the bottom of the pudding basin and then grease it with a little more butter. Pack the pudding mixture into the pudding basin, pressing as you add it. Fold a pleat into the middle of a large piece of baking paper and place over the pudding. Cover with a large piece of pleated foil, ensuring the pleats are on top of one another. Secure tightly with kitchen string tied under the lip of the pudding basin.
 Place an upturned saucer into a large saucepan one-quarter full of water. Fold a long piece of foil into quarters lengthways to create a long strip and place the pudding basin in the middle of the strip. Bring the sides of the strip up the sides of the pudding basin and lower into the saucepan. Ensure the water in the saucepan comes one-third of the way up the side of the pudding basin, but nowhere near the top of the basin. Leave the ends of the foil strip hanging over the side to make it easy to remove the pudding later.
 Bring the water to the boil and then reduce the heat to a gentle simmer. Simmer gently for 5-6 hours, topping up the water level as necessary throughout cooking (do not allow the pan to dry out).
 Once the pudding is cooked, remove from the pan and set aside to cool. The pudding can be stored for up to two years in a cool, dry place. To serve, reheat the pudding by steaming again (in the same way) for two hours, or until hot all the way through. Alternatively, remove the foil and reheat in the microwave.

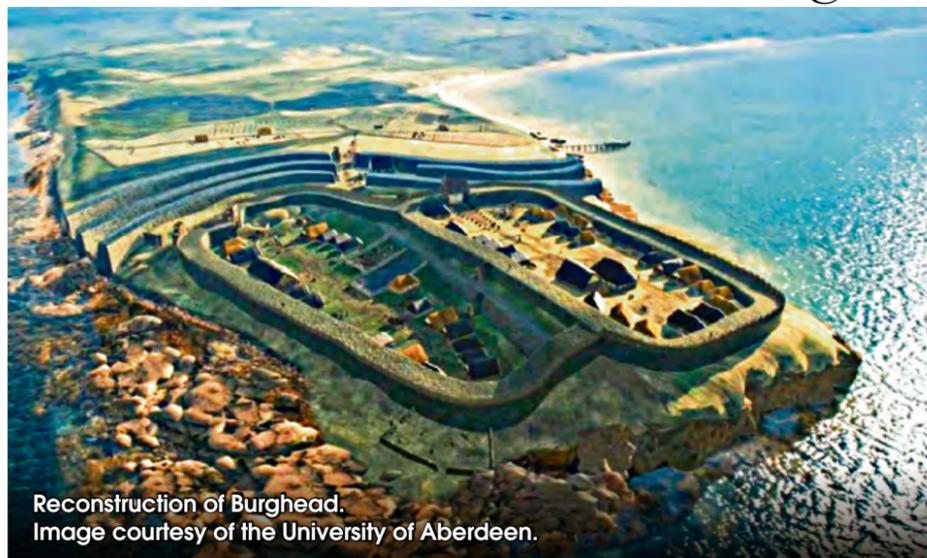
Brandy butter



Ingredients:
 110g/4oz. unsalted butter, softened
 85g/3oz. light muscovado sugar
 85g/3oz. icing sugar, sieved
 3 tbsp. brandy or cognac

Method:
 Put the butter in a bowl. Beat well with a wooden spoon till soft or for speed use an electric hand whisk (and if you use a food processor then there is no need to sieve the icing sugar).
 Beat in both the sugars till smooth, then add the brandy. If you are over generous with the brandy it will curdle so just beat in more sieved icing sugar and it will come smooth again.
 Serve with the Christmas pudding or even as a addition to a mince pie.

Scotland's largest Pictish fort 'reconstructed' in new images



Reconstruction of Burghead. Image courtesy of the University of Aberdeen.

Stunning new reconstructions have revealed how Scotland's largest known Pictish fort may have looked over one thousand years ago. Three-dimensional images of Burghead in Moray have been created based on archaeological excavations by the University of Aberdeen. Funded by Historic Environment Scotland as part of a wider video project to enable the public to learn more about Scotland's Pictish past, the images showcase the enormous defensive ramparts, which were once thought to be eight metres thick and six metres high, as well as dwellings within the fort. It has long been known that Burghead was home to a Pictish settlement, but it was thought that the 19th century development of the modern town had eroded most traces of this important period of its history. The landward ramparts were levelled, and part of the seaward defences was destroyed in order to build the modern harbour.

More than 30 Pictish carved stones were discovered during this destruction of the fort but just six carved bulls have survived along with a number of fragments of early Christian sculpture. When University of Aberdeen archaeologists first began excavations there in 2015, they expected little to have survived such extensive building work close by. But over the last five years, a very different picture has emerged and the digs, led by the University's Professor Gordon Noble have yielded some of the most significant Pictish items and building remains ever uncovered. It is this work which has enabled such a detailed reconstruction of how the site may have looked. Professor Noble said: "The scale of houses and buildings we have discovered evidence of show that this was a densely populated and important Pictish site. We have found many objects which have helped us to learn more about the everyday lives of Burghead's inhabitants between the 6th and 10th centuries AD. From metalworking to weaponry and even hair and dress pins, with each new dig we are finding out more about our ancestors who lived here. The foundations of the huge ramparts have survived far better than anyone anticipated, despite their wilful destruction over the centuries and the midden layers, which is effectively where the Picts threw their rubbish, have provided startling insights into the lives of the Picts to the archaeologists.

It wonderful to see the work of our excavations spanning more than five years brought together in these stunning reconstructions which offer an amazing insight into how Burghead may have looked"

Early Medieval Scotland

The reconstructions also include a spectacular well enveloped in the ramparts. Elements of this can still be seen today and the archaeologists have pieced together how this fitted with dwellings and other buildings across the site. Evidence of early Christian occupation was also uncovered in previous excavations, supporting theories that a chapel once stood at the entrance to the site, and this has been translated into the 3-D design. The fort at Burghead was destroyed by fire in the 10th century - a time when Vikings are known to have been raiding the Moray coastline - bringing to a rapid end a way of life which had endured for centuries. The fort then remained unoccupied until around the 12th century.

Dr Kevin Grant, Archaeology Manager of Historic Environment Scotland said: "Burghead fort was one of the most important places in Early Medieval Scotland and was built to be dramatic and imposing. These reconstructions help us imagine experiencing this spectacular site in its hey-day. We are also delighted to support these excavations, which are transforming our understanding of Pictish Scotland and saving important archaeological remains from being lost to the waves." Dr Watterson added: "Burghead has certainly been one of our most challenging projects to date. Not only has it been one of the largest sites I have reconstructed, but in order to model its full extent we had to completely remodel the landscape to remove the modern town and rebuild the eroded cliffs. Working in visualisation and outreach involves blending interpretation and research with compelling visual storytelling. For our team, capturing a sense of place for Burghead was particularly important. Its dramatic location on the Moray coast is key not only to its archaeological interpretation but also what makes it such a special place to visit today."

Additional funding from Historic Environment Scotland is supporting additional excavations at the site which it is hoped will further understanding of how those who lived at the site connected to the wider world.

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Calling the Clans

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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
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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/>
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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
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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

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m.edmiston@bigpond.com

Clan Gregor Society

Established 1822, Edinburgh, Scotland
Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor
7th Baronet of Lanrick and Balgibbier,
24th Chief of Clan Gregor

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

www.clangregor.org

For membership contact Keith MacGregor
PO Box 56, Redding Ridge, CT 06876
kmac1@optonline.net
Peter Lawrie, Secretary
6 The Esplanade, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 2EL, Scotland

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.
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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.elliottclan-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
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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

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

Contacting our registrar, **Jeanne P. Lehr**
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St. Louis, MO 63131-3038
Phone: 314-432-2842, registrar@acgsus.org
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President: Mr Norman A. Macdonald
Contact: secretary.clandonaldvic@gmail.com
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Hon Chief: Mr Thomas R. Macdonald
Contact: secretary@clanmacdonaldyarraville.com

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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 Australia

A' Hay A' Hay
A callout to all Hay's and our name variants, descendants, and supporters. Clan Hay looking for new members to join our illustrious Clan. All descendants and supporter's welcome.
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For more information, please contact:
Australian Clan Hay convenor, Chris Hay McMor Fairbank
PO Box 70, Darrinallum, Victoria, 3325, Australia
E: clanHayAustralia@outlook.com
[clanHayAustralia@Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/clanHayAustralia)

McAlpin/e

and variant spellings
Commander: Michael T. McAlpin
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Clan Hay

April Rich
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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); Della'a'y; Errol(l); Garrad; Garrow; Gifford; Hawson; Haygood; Hayter; Hayward; Haywood; Haynie; Hayden; Hayfield; Hayne(s); Leask(e); Leith; Lester; MacGaradh; Peebles; Peeples; Peoples; Turriff; Tweeddale; Yester
www.clanhay.com

Clan MacDougall Society of North America, Inc.
Valerie MacDougall
VP Membership
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Email: info@macdougall.org Home page: www.macdougall.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/clanmacdougall
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Doie MacDoie MacDole
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Dougie MacDougie MacDougal
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MacDowall MacDowall MacDowall
Lullich MacLulich MacCullagh
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Spelling Variations May Vary or Omit the Mac, Mc

Clan MacLellan

John B. McClellan, Jr.
Treasurer
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Sunnyvale, TX
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Chief: John MacNeacail
of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac
Contact Ross Nicolson
10/377 North Rocks Rd.,
Carlingford NSW 2118
www.clanmacnicol.org

The MacEanruigs, proud sons of Henry, invite you to join!
Clan Henderson Society
Purposes of the Society
• Foster Scottish culture and activities
• Promote Scottish festivals and games
• Assist in genealogical research
• Foster fellowship among kith and kin
• Promote the history of Scotland
• Promote charitable and educational activities via a scholarship fund
• Gather the Clan, as directed by our Chief,
Alistair of Fordell
Contact Jeff Henderson
jeffh@bigpond.com
0439 330 012
www.clanhendersonsociety.com

INTERNATIONAL CLAN MACFARLANE SOCIETY, INC
The OFFICIAL Clan MacFarlane Society
Founded 1911 - Glasgow & London
Re-established - 1973 Grandfather Mountain, NC
Leigh Stoy! 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. Masebster - Secretary
International Clan MacFarlane Society, Inc.
PO Box 339 Eldorado, CA 91740 USA
info@macfarlane.org
MACFARLANE.ORG

Clan MacLeod Societies of Australia
Membership is open to MacLeods and Septs (of any variant spelling), and descendants. **Recognised Septs:**
Askey MacAndie MacClure
Beaton MacAskill MacCorkill MacWilliam
Bethune MacAulay MacCrimmon Norie
Caskie MacCabe MacGillechallum Norman
Harold MacCaig MacHaigh Tolmie
Lewis MacCaskey MacRaild Williamson
• NSW, ACT & Qld - Peter Macleod 02 4397 3161
• Victoria & Tas - David Dickie 03 9337 4384
• South Australia - Rachel Hopkins 0433 184 375
• Western Australia - Ruth MacLeod 08 9364 6334
• Email: peter.macleod@exemail.com.au

Clan Macpherson Association
Clan Macpherson welcomes enquiries from Macphersons and members of our Associated families. For information about local activities visit our web site www.clan-macpherson.org branches
Africa: Derek Macpherson African.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +265 999 512 620
Canada: Denise Lagundzin Canada.Chair@clan-macpherson.org phone +1 519 507 4465
Europe: Will Tulling Europe.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +44 7793 317 387
Scotland & Northern Ireland: Annie Le Roy-Lewis SandNI.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +44 7793 317 387
Australia: John L. Macpherson Australian.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +61 409 122 141
England & Wales: William Macpherson EandW.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +44 7877 363 507
New Zealand: Tony McPherson NewZealand.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +64 274 587 813
USA: Robert T. McPherson UnitedStates.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +1 360 701 8133
The Clan Macpherson Museum is located in Newtonmore, Inverness Shire PH20 1DE, at the junction of the A86 and B9150 It is open from 1st April to 31st October. Ph +44 1540 673 332. See <http://www.clan-macpherson.org/museum/>

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 MacInnes
Int'l Assn. of Clan MacInnes (Aonghais)
Worldwide, we welcome descendants of all spelling variations, including (Mc)Angus, (Mc)Canse, (Mc)Ginnis, (Mc)Guenis, (Mc)Inch, (Mc)Innes, (Mc)Innis, (Mc)Kinnis, (Mc)Masters, (Mc)Neish, (Mc)Ninch, and more.
Scott McInnis, Member Services: scott@macinnes.org or visit www.macinnes.org

THE MACLEODS
RICH IN HIGHLAND TRADITIONS
FOR INFORMATION:
WWW.CLANMACLEODUSA.ORG
A.L. MACLEOD
3923 ROCKWOOD WAY #B
WEST VALLEY CITY, UT
84120-6880

The Clan MacRae Society of Australia and New Zealand
If your surname is MacRae, or you are descended from a person having the surname MacRae (any spelling) or that of a Sept of the Clan then you are eligible to join our Society.
Australian Contact:
Roslyn MacRae 0412 291 054 email: learn@vsr.com.au
NZ Contact: Sue Tregoweth email: sue.treg1@gmail.com

Clan 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

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 Macnachten 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 Macnachten
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 LAMONT SOCIETY AUSTRALIA invites membership from Sept names refer to Web Site www.clanlamontaustralia.com
Clan Chief Peter Lamont of that Ilk resides in Sydney Australia.
For all enquires about the Clan and Membership contact :-
President Ian McLucas.
Email ianandbevmclucas@bigpond.com
mobile 0448 778 799

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 rthomnprdcn@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



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 Lloydrown Road
Mebane, NC 27302



Clan Scott Australia Group

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

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

E: heatherdesylva@bigpond.com



Clan Wardlaw Association

Founded 2004

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

Email: clanwardlaw@yahoo.com

'Wardlaw ivermail!'

www.clanwardlaw.com
Wardlaw Tartan and Ancestry Books

Scottish Heritage USA, Inc.

P.O. Box 457
Pinehurst, NC 28370

Welcomes membership of anyone interested in the exchange of people and ideas between Scotland and the United States.

Write or phone for our free brochure.

www.scottishheritageusa.org
email: shusa457@gmail.com
(910) 295-4448

OLIPHANT CLAN & FAMILY ASSOCIATION of North America



The only home for all Clan Oliphant in the Americas.

Oliphant - Olyphant - Oliphint
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and all descended

ClanOliphantMembership@gmail.com
www.OliphantOfNorthAmerica.org



Clan Sinclair Australia

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

For further info contact

President: WayneSinclair 0417 146 174

Secretary : Liane Sinclair 0410 045 263

E: clansinclairaustralia@hotmail.com

www.clansinclairaustralia.com



THE AMERICAN SCOTTISH FOUNDATION, INC.

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

www.americanscottishfoundation.org

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 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



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.stewartociety.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 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



Clan Sutherland Society in Australia Incorporated

Contact: M Hodgkinson

212 MacKenzie Street

Toowoomba 4350 (07 4632 8559)

william.hodgkinson@bigpond.com.au

<http://goldenvale.wixsite.com/clansutherlandaus>

Facebook: Clan Sutherland Society in Australia



Caledonian Society of WA Inc.

Promotes Scottish Culture and Traditions in Perth, Western Australia

For further details contact John: 0427 990 754

Email: caledoniansocietyofwa@gmail.com

www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com

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 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 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@scotsofaus.org.au

Website: <https://scotsofaus.org.au>

Facebook: facebook.com/ScotsofVictoria



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 Young Australia

Invites membership from all those with the surname Young or with ancestral ties or connection to the surname.

Convenor: Ian J Young AM FSAScot

10 Cedric Street, Parkdale VIC 3195

E: membership@clanyoungaustralia.com.au

www.facebook.com/groups/youngsofaustralia/

The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Inc.

> Promotes interest in the works, life and milieu of the Scottish Poet Robert Burns

> Celebrates Scottish Culture

> Conducts Annual Burn Supper, Poetry Afternoon & Pleasant Sunday Afternoon

For Membership Information contact:

Secretary: Noel Wright (03) 8333 0973

Email: noelwright@netspace.net.au

Victorian Scottish Union Inc

Established 1905

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

Affiliated Clans & Societies

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

Chief: Mr Barry Grant

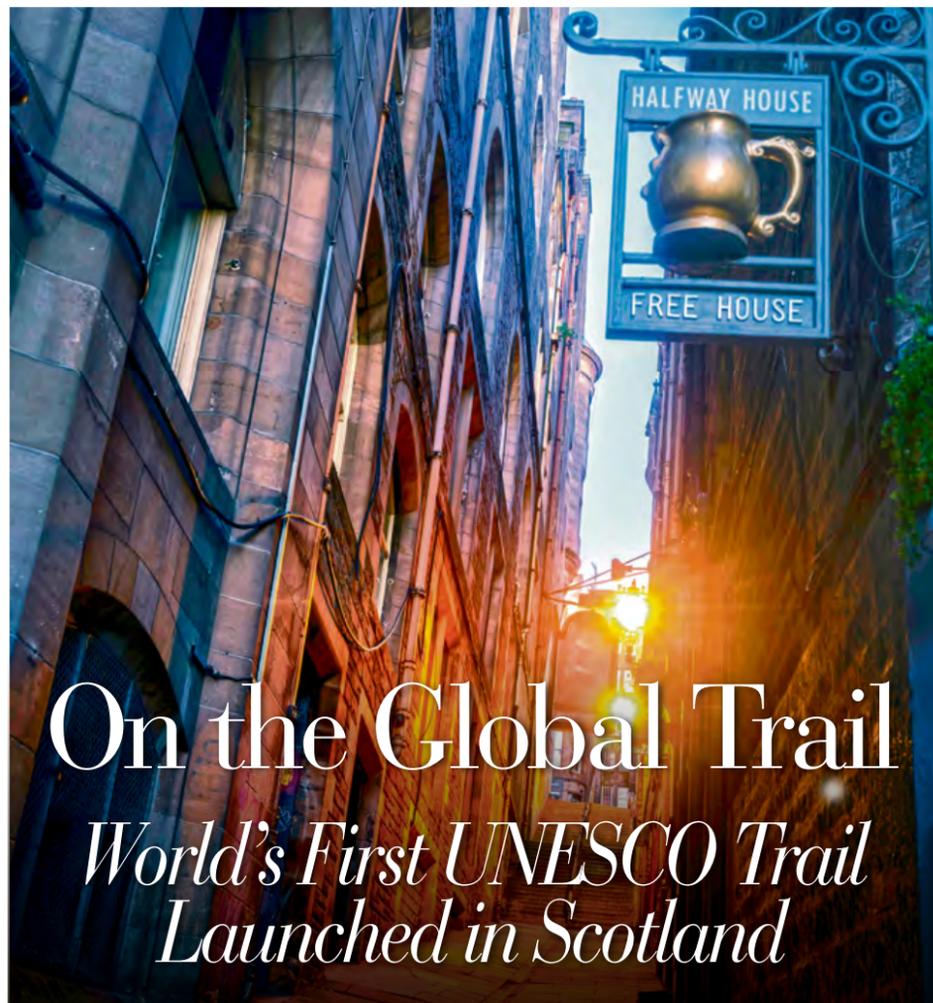
President: Mr Norman Macdonald

Secretary: Mrs Jan Macdonald

T: 03 9360 9829 M: 0438 584 930

E: secretary@victorianscottishunion.com

www.victorianscottishunion.com



On the Global Trail

World's First UNESCO Trail Launched in Scotland

The world's first ever UNESCO trail, bringing together some of Scotland's most iconic, diverse and culturally significant sites.

Scotland's UNESCO Trail brings the country's 13 place-based UNESCO designations, including World Heritage Sites, Biospheres, Global Geoparks and Creative Cities together to form a dedicated digital trail. It aims to take visitors on a cultural journey across the country experiencing everything from history to science, music, design and literature to nature and cityscapes. Designed specifically to support ambitions to make Scotland a world-leading responsible tourism destination, Scotland's UNESCO Trail encourages visitors to stay longer, visit all year round, make sustainable travel choices, explore more widely and at the right time of the year, and in turn, contribute to the sustainable quality of life of those communities surrounding the designated sites.

The digital trail – which is available on visitscotland.com/unesco-trail - showcases the breadth of culturally astounding UNESCO designations on offer across Scotland, providing information and inspiration to visitors across the world. It also celebrates businesses and communities that are committed to responsible tourism business practices and promotes sustainable travel options.

Explore along Scotland's UNESCO Trail

Journeys to explore along Scotland's UNESCO Trail include:

Long renowned as the birthplace of literary heroes and classic authors such as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Dame Muriel Spark, Edinburgh is a designated UNESCO City of Literature, along with being home to the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh UNESCO World Heritage Site and with the Forth Bridge UNESCO World Heritage Site nearby connecting the city to the Kingdom of Fife.

Storytelling is interwoven into every corner of Scotland's Capital and there are always new tales to discover. Literary lovers can climb the 60-metre tall monument to Sir Walter Scott, before heading to the Scottish Storytelling Centre for an event (and a coffee stop), before checking out one of the various independent bookshops including Edinburgh Bookshop in Bruntsfield or the Golden Hare Books in Stockbridge. The city is also home to the largest literature festival in the world in August, as well as having the highest concentration of public libraries in Scotland, including the National Library of Scotland.

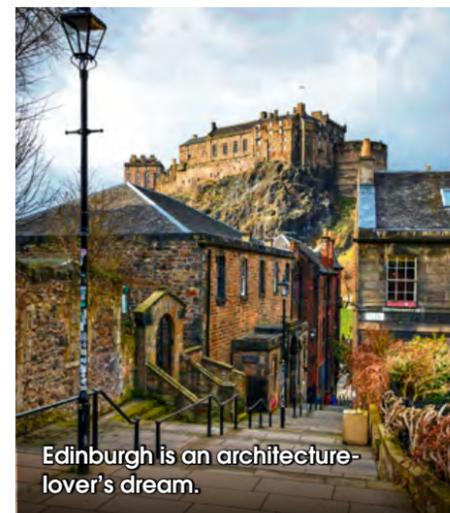
With its juxtaposition of Old and New Towns, Edinburgh is an architecture-lover's dream. After being deemed unfit for purpose in the 18th century, with its overcrowded and dirty streets, city planners envisioned a better standard of living which would embody the progressive ideals of the Enlightenment. This led to the creation of the Georgian New Town. From the skyline of the medieval Old Town with its medieval tenements and closes to the neat and ordered grid of the neoclassical New Town, a new discovery awaits behind every corner of the city. Visitors can learn about the darker side of the Old Town's past with a walking tour run by locally-run companies including Mercat Tours. Topping this experience off with a trip across the Firth of Forth by car or boat to witness the Forth Bridge (or even by rail to travel across the bridge itself), a true feat of engineering that has inspired writers from JM Barrie to Iain Banks.

Famed for its vibrant music venues, world-class orchestras, and night life, it isn't difficult to see why Glasgow is a UNESCO City of Music. Glasgow is a vibrant city of culture and the birthplace of legendary music acts including Simple Minds, Deacon Blue and Franz Ferdinand. With over 100 music events taking place each week, visitors can enjoy a gig at the famous Barrowlands, dance with a stranger at a local ceilidh, browse the many record stores for a classic album or enjoy a tour of the city's music scene with Glasgow Music City Tours.

Full of natural beauty and stunning landscape, the Galloway & Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere covers 5,268 square kilometres of south-west Scotland. Those looking for an adventure can trek one of the Biosphere routes - including Glentworth set in the heart of the Galloway Forest - or meet with one of the Biosphere Guides to watch wildlife, learn about local history or try a new skill or activity. Alternatively, head to Kirkcudbright for its historic streets and galleries; or cycle through the natural environment to enjoy the best food and drink, including that of Castle Douglas, a designated Food Town with lots of local produce.

In 2014, Dundee was named as the UK's first (and still the UK's only) UNESCO City of Design. The city has made an extraordinary contribution to industries including comics, journalism, pharmaceuticals, computer games and design. Visitors can now explore V&A Dundee, Scotland's first design museum. After that, take a look around the McManus Art Gallery & Museum or follow in the footsteps of Captain Scott and his crew on the RRS Discovery at Discovery Point. Finally, no trip to Dundee – known as Scotland's sunniest city - would be complete without a jaunt to nearby Broughty Ferry for the delicious food and drink, including Forgan's restaurant.

Located just a short distance from Glasgow, the region of Lanarkshire is home to not one but two UNESCO sites: Frontiers of the Roman Empire: Antonine Wall UNESCO World Heritage Site, as well as New Lanark UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its central location makes it a perfect region for walks, cycling and family days. Constructed 20 years after Hadrian's Wall in about AD 142, the Antonine Wall was the biggest building project the people of Scotland have ever seen as it stretches right across the country



Edinburgh is an architecture-lover's dream.

from the Clyde to the Forth. Sections of this monument are still visible today for exploring. Visitors can also check out the local Chatelherault Country Park, a five-star visitor attraction that has been described as a 'Jewel in the Landscape'.

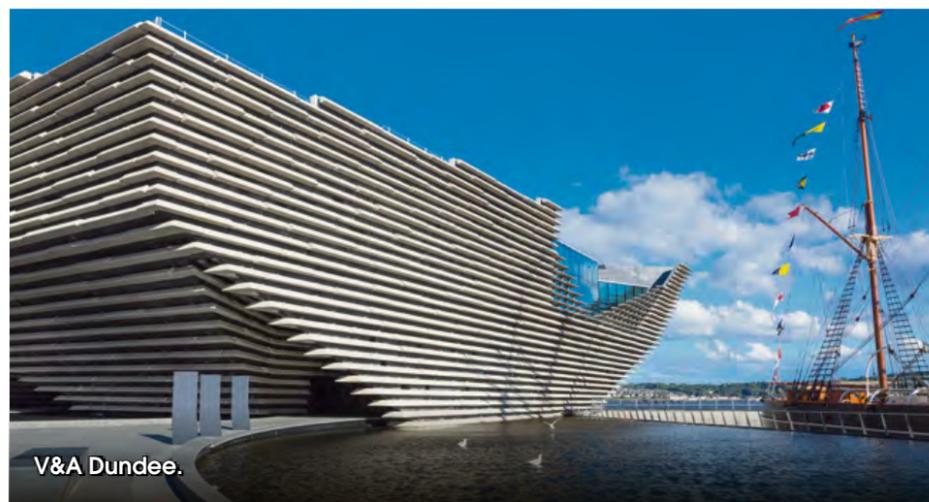
An incredibly memorable visitor experience, the New Lanark UNESCO World Heritage Site is an exceptional example of a purpose-built 18th century mill village, set in a picturesque Scottish landscape near the Falls of Clyde. The village was founded in 1785, and the cotton mills, powered by water-wheels, were operational from 1786 to 1968. At the turn of the 19th century the mill buildings formed one of the largest industrial groups in the world. Visitors can spend a whole day at site: checking out the visitor centre, taking a walk around the village to see the historic buildings, having lunch, indulging in a spa treatment or enjoying a woodland walk to see Dundaff Linn and the stunning Corra Linn in the Falls of Clyde Wildlife Reserve. The site also has a hotel and self-catering cottages for anyone looking to extend their stay.

Meanwhile, in the far North, the archipelagos of Orkney and Shetland are giving visitors the chance to travel back in time by exploring their unique archaeological treasures. The Heart of Neolithic Orkney UNESCO World Heritage Site brings together four key sites near Stromness on the Orkney Mainland: The Stones of Stenness, The Ring of Brodgar, the chambered tomb of Maeshowe and the pre-historic domestic settlement of Skara Brae. JP Orkney offers guided tours around all of these sites in fully electric vehicles and can also take guests out on nature walks.

Shetland boasts some of the of the best-preserved archaeology in Europe. When exploring the Shetland UNESCO Global Geopark, visitors can walk on an ancient ocean floor, explore an extinct volcano and stroll across shifting sands – all in the space of a day. Another must-see on a trip to Shetland is Sumburgh Head with its lighthouse and visitor centre as well as a nature reserve which is home to one of the UK's busiest seabird colonies.

Scotland is the first nation in the world to create such a pioneering initiative. Developed through a unique partnership between VisitScotland, the Scottish Government, the UK National Commission for UNESCO, Historic Environment Scotland, NatureScot, the National Trust for Scotland and Scotland's 13 UNESCO designations, the project has received £360,000 funding from the Scottish Government to support the strategy for the sustainable recovery of Scottish tourism.

For more information, please visit:
www.visitscotland.com/unesco-trail



V&A Dundee.

WHAT'S ON - SCOTTISH EVENTS

The international Scottish event community worldwide has been greatly impacted by event postponements, scaled down presentations 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 (including events across Scotland and Australia/New Zealand) or add your event at: www.scottishbanner.com/events

Canada

DECEMBER 2021

Scottish North American Community Conference 10 – 12, Virtual event

The Conference, now in its 19th year, is presented annually by founding partners, The American-Scottish Foundation and CHICAGO SCOTS in association with St. Andrew's Society of Detroit, Council of Scottish Clans & Associations (COSCA), Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada (CASSOC), the Toronto, Ontario-based Scottish Studies Foundation and the University of Guelph. The Conference is an opportunity for those in the Scottish North American community to share views, values, experiences and best practices. Info: www.scottishleadershipconference.com

The Gaelic Society of Toronto Ceilidh 17, Virtual event

A Ceilidh is all about community and coming together! If you have a story, a song, or an instrument you play, we invite you to contribute – skill level is not the important thing at a Ceilidh, so simply join and tell, sing or play! Most of all, we invite you to contribute with your presence and join us via Zoom. Info: gaelictoronto@gmail.com or www.gaelicsocietytoronto.com

Happy Christmas 25, Nationwide

Wishing all our readers, advertisers and friends a very happy and peaceful Christmas!

Happy Hogmanay 31, Nationwide

The Scottish Banner wishes all our readers, advertisers and friends a very Happy Hogmanay and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2022!

31, Ottawa, ON

Hogman-eh! '21 – Reconnect & Rejoice

This year, at Hogman-eh!, the Scottish Society of Ottawa's tenth annual Hogmanay celebration, celebrate in-person and virtually. The evening will be filled with entertainment for young and old, in-person or online and includes fireworks, dance performances, music, children's entertainers, and food and drink at Saunders Farm, 7893 Bleeks Rd. Tickets for in-person event available through the Scottish Society of Ottawa and Saunderson's Farm websites. Limited tickets will be available for the event. Online entertainment available on Facebook, YouTube or our website: www.ottscot.ca

JANUARY 2022

A Celebration of Robbie Burns

15, Coquitlam, BC

Join us for our annual celebration of Scotland's National Bard, Robbie Burns! Fiddler Rosie Carver with Celtic band Blackthorn and a special guest piper feature the musical traditions of Scotland with a special focus on Burns' songs and poems at Place des Arts, 1120 Brunette Ave. Info: www.eventbrite.ca/e/a-celebration-of-robbie-burns-tickets-168324809035

The Gaelic Society of Toronto Ceilidh 21, Virtual event

A Ceilidh is all about community and coming together! If you have a story, a song, or an instrument you play, we invite you to contribute – skill level is not the important thing at a Ceilidh, so simply join and tell, sing or play! Most of all, we invite you to contribute with your presence and join us via Zoom. Info: gaelictoronto@gmail.com or www.gaelicsocietytoronto.com

Burns Supper 22, Vancouver, BC

A traditional Scottish meal with all the trimmings – wonderful music – entertainment – and more. It's a great way to introduce your family and friends to Scottish culture and enjoy the camaraderie of the local dance community. Info: www.rscdsvancover.org

Burns Supper 22, Calgary, AB

Celebrate Robert Burns with the Calgary Burns Club at The Westin Hotel. Info: www.calgaryburnsclub.com

Happy Burns Night January 25, 2022 Nationwide

Celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Scottish poet Robert Burns. The tradition of the Burns Night Supper was first held in 1801 by the poet's friends, five years after his death.

FEBRUARY 2022

The Gaelic Society of Toronto Ceilidh 18, Virtual event

A Ceilidh is all about community and coming together! If you have a story, a song, or an instrument you play, we invite you to contribute – skill level is not the important thing at a Ceilidh, so simply join and tell, sing or play! Most of all, we invite you to contribute with your presence and join us via Zoom. Info: gaelictoronto@gmail.com or www.gaelicsocietytoronto.com

Kilt Skate 27, Maxville, ON

The Glengary counties (North and South) are branded "the Celtic Heart of Ontario", join kilted and tartaned enthusiasts for Kilt Skate 2022 at Maxville and District Sports Complex. Info: www.kiltskate.com

USA

DECEMBER 2021

The Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend 3 – 4, Alexandria, VA

Scottish Walk Weekend includes Friday, December 3: Taste of Scotland and Saturday, December 4: Scottish Christmas Walk at the Campagna Center. Info: (703) 549 0111 or www.campagnacenter.org/scottishwalkweekend

Scottish North American Community Conference 10 – 12, Virtual event

The Conference, now in its 19th year, is presented annually by founding partners, The American-Scottish Foundation and CHICAGO SCOTS in association with St. Andrew's Society of Detroit, Council of Scottish Clans & Associations (COSCA), Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada (CASSOC), the Toronto, Ontario-based Scottish Studies Foundation and the University of Guelph. The Conference is an opportunity for those in the Scottish North American community to share views, values, experiences and best practices. Info: www.scottishleadershipconference.com

Scottish Christmas Celebration 14, New York, NY

The American-Scottish Foundation® and The Burns Society of the City of New York invite members and friends to the Annual Scottish Christmas Celebration on Tuesday December 14. The event will take place at Union Club – 101 East 69th Street, New York City – from 6 to 8pm. Come celebrate the holidays with hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and traditional Scottish songs and Christmas carols! Tickets for members are \$60 and non-members \$75. Info: www.americanscottishfoundation.com

The Pipes of Christmas 18, New York, NY

2021 marks the 23rd year of The Pipes of Christmas, NYC's favorite Celtic Christmas concert. By popular demand, their 'Festival of Advent' program returns online Sundays during Advent. Info: www.pipesofchristmas.com

The Pipes of Christmas 19, Summit, NJ

2021 marks the 23rd year of The Pipes of Christmas, Celtic Christmas concert at Central Presbyterian Church. Info: www.pipesofchristmas.com

Happy Christmas 25, Nationwide

Wishing all our readers, advertisers and friends a very happy and peaceful Christmas!

Happy Hogmanay 31, Nationwide

The Scottish Banner wishes all our readers, advertisers and friends a very Happy Hogmanay and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2022!

Scottish American Society – Hogmanay Ceilidh with Celtic Conundrum

31, Dunedin, FL

Music will be provided by Celtic Conundrum, but bring your dancing shoes, you will need them. Scottish New Year's Traditions will be to the fore as we ring out the old and ring in the new at Scottish Cultural Center, 917 Loudon Ave. Info: www.sas-dunedin.org

JANUARY 2022

Florida Keys Celtic Festival 8-9, Marathon, FL

The Florida Keys Celtic Festival features family-friendly Celtic rock and Traditional music, Irish & Scottish Dancing, Sheep-dog herding, Pipes and Drums, a Children's Glen with games, face painting and fun activities, and fabulous Celtic (and Keys) foods and crafts vendors. Highland Athletics, the original Strongman sport, features a sanctioned Woman's Highland Athletics Competition and Men's Highland Athletic Demonstrations at Marathon Community Park MM49 US Hwy 1 Ocean Side. Info: www.floridakeyscelticfestival.com

Winter Storm

13-16, Kansas City, MO

Cancelled due to Covid restrictions. Winter Storm is looking forward to welcoming everyone back to Kansas City in 2023, January 12-15. Info: www.mhaf.org

Burns Supper

15, Norfolk, VA

Celebrate the Bard with the newly-founded Siren City Pipe Band as it presents a fundraiser to help build the band and its impact on the community at Norfolk's Lake Wright Hotel. Info: www.sirencitypipeband.com

Central Florida Scottish Highland Games 15-16, Winter Springs, FL

Presenting a taste of Scotland & celebrating Scottish heritage at Central Winds Park. Info: www.flascot.com

The 27th Annual Burns Night Gala Celebration 21, New York, NY

Celebrate Scotland's National Bard, Robert Burns. Hosted by the American Scottish Foundation and University Club, New York. Info: www.americanscottishfoundation.com

Scottfest Burns Night 2022 22, Broken Arrow, OK

Join Scottfest as we celebrate Scotland's prodigal son, poet laureate and philosopher, Robert Burns. Fantastic food, Single Malts, drinks, poetry and lots of frivolity and fun at Stoney Creek Hotel Tulsa. Info: www.facebook.com/OKSCOTFEST

The Jersey Devil Pipe Band Burns Supper 22, Stafford Township, NJ

Come out for an evening filled with traditional Scottish music, poetry, and fine Celtic cuisine. Entertainment for the evening will include performances from The Jersey Devil Pipe Band, The Nae Brecks Pipe Band, several notable solo pipers, a proper presentation and address to the Haggis, and will be capped off with a collective Massed Bands at Manahawkin Elks Lodge. Info: www.facebook.com/jerseydevilpipeband

Happy Burns Night 25, Nationwide

Celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Scottish poet Robert Burns. The tradition of the Burns Night Supper was first held in 1801 by the poet's friends, five years after his death.

Burns Night Supper 29, Washington, DC

An annual St. Andrew's Society of Washington event honoring the birthday of Scotland's greatest poet and author, Robert Burns. The Society comes together for drinks, followed by dinner and a celebration of the life and contributions of Robert Burns, called the "Immortal Memory." Info: www.saintandrewsociety.org

FEBRUARY 2022

Sarasota Highland Games & Celtic Festival 4 - 5, Sarasota, FL

February 4th, 7PM-10PM Ceilidh, followed by a full day of Scottish celebration February 5th, 9AM-5PM with the Games at Sarasota County Fairgrounds. Info: www.sarasotahighlandgames.com

Balmoral Winter Workshop Online 4 - 6, Virtual event

Beginning in February 2021, Balmoral is offering weekend-long Winter Workshops for Pipers and Drummers. Workshop attendees receive instruction on the Great Highland pipes, Scottish smallpipes, Scottish snare drum and more. Info: www.balmoralschoolofpiping.org/winter-workshop

City of Dunedin Pipe Band presents "Highland Roads," LIVE in concert 5, Alexandria, VA

The City of Dunedin Pipe Band, Grade 1 Champions, present "Highland Roads," LIVE in concert, along with a WORKSHOP for pipers & drummers at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 East Campus Dr. Info: www.cityofdunedinpipeband.com/events

Asheville Celtic Festival 19, Fletcher, NC

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

Mount Dora Scottish Highland Festival 19 - 20, Mount Dora, FL

Celebrate the Scottish Culture in Mount Dora with bagpipers, Highland Athletics, Celtic music, dancing, Society and Heritage Clan Village, Shortbread Contest, and more. Info: <https://ci.mount-dora.fl.us/698/Mount-Dora-Scottish-Festival>

Northeast Florida Scottish Games and Festival 26, Green Cove Springs, FL

Bringing a "Wee Bit o' Scotland" to the Northeast Florida area. Each year residents of Northeast Florida and the surrounding areas gather and enjoy the athletics, music, food and fun of the games at Clay County Fairgrounds, 2497 State Road 16 West. Info: www.neflgames.com

Scotword answers from page 6

Across:

- 1) Apron
- 5) Midge
- 8) Saltcoats
- 9) Inner
- 10) Sharp
- 12) Glens;
- 13) Charlie
- 15) Shortie
- 17) Redcoat
- 19) Calorie
- 21) Skein
- 22) Trews
- 25) Music
- 26) Strathyre
- 27) Dance
- 28) Abbot

Down:

- 1) Apses
- 2) Otter
- 3) Craigie
- 4) Muskets
- 5) Mavis
- 6) Dunnottar;
- 7) Ewers
- 11) Polio
- 14) Ardrossan
- 16) Owlet
- 18) Treason
- 19) Central
- 20) Amend
- 21) Scone
- 23) Rehab
- 24) Smelt

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By: Susanne Arbuckle

The Kirkwall Ba' - Orkney's Alternative Festive Tradition

Since at least 1850, The Kirkwall Ba' has been a regular sporting fixture in Orkney's festive calendar. Orcadians don't indulge in the same Hogmanay celebrations and Christmas Day dinners that take place around the rest of Scotland. Instead, friends and families gather in the town centre to socialise and watch the highly physical matches, which can last an average of 5 hours or more, being played through the historic streets of Kirkwall and is unique to Orcadian culture as Susanne Arbuckle explains.



The Kirkwall Ba' - Players marching to the start.

On the days leading up to Christmas, the sound of hammering reverberates around the historic streets and closes of Kirkwall. The sight of householders and shopkeepers barricading their windows and doorways with heavy-duty timber is a sight likely to fill first-time visitors to the capital of the Orkney Islands with apprehension. For Orcadians, these well-rehearsed annual preparations stir up excited anticipation as they signal the final countdown to The Ba' season.

Since 1850, The Kirkwall Ba' has been a regular sporting fixture in Orkney's festive calendar, although its origins date back centuries before that. Games take place twice a year, on Christmas Day and New Year's Day, between two sides known as 'Uppies' and 'Doonies'. When babies were born at home, the side a player joined was dictated by the side of the town he was born in, either north (Doonies) or south (Uppies) of Kirkwall's Mercat Cross. With most births now taking place in hospital, players choose their own allegiance, usually guided by family loyalty.

Festive greetings

There are two matches played each day starting with the Boy's Ba in the morning. Seen as a rite of passage for many Orcadian males under 16, this is generally a smaller and less brutal event than the Men's Ba'. It is an opportunity for local youngsters to serve their apprenticeship in a game that has often been played by generations of men in their families before them. In the afternoon, as the majority of Scotland sits down to enjoy traditional Christmas celebrations or recover from Hogmanay excesses, hundreds of



The Kirkwall Ba' - Steam rises from the pack.

Orcadians gather in front of the 12th century St Magnus Cathedral for the Men's Ba', the main event of the day. For many, The Ba' is an opportunity to exchange festive greetings with family, friends, neighbours and colleagues, making it as much a social occasion as a sporting spectacle.

As game-time approaches, rival male factions of Uppies and Doonies advance from their respective ends of the town in a uniform of rugby tops and steel toe-capped boots, with several hundred players meeting in the middle ready for battle. Supporters roar encouragement as both sides lock themselves in a tight mass facing the Mercat Cross. The crowd cheers as the 1 pm cathedral bell chimes and a locally handcrafted leather ball, known as the Ba', is thrown into the baying pack and immediately disappears. What follows is a highly physical and drama-filled game of mass street football that has no real rules and no time limit. Each side attempts to force their way through the historic narrow streets to reach their designated goal at equidistant ends of Kirkwall. For the Uppies, the goal is against an unassuming wall in the south end, for the Doonies, it is in the chilly waters of Kirkwall Bay in the north end. On rare occasions, the game has been won in minutes but most games are played well into the winter darkness, lasting an average of 5 hours or more.

Close to the heart of any Orcadian

Long periods of the scrum making little progress are interspersed with bursts of high drama, excitement, and thunderous stampedes when a player manages to make a break with the Ba'. Although it is termed street football, feet are rarely used, with hands being the preferred means of passing. Often subterfuge is required, with players smuggling the ball out under their jersey. The sheer exertion of the pack generates clouds of steam, while every obstacle – be it a wall, roof, or building, is overcome in relentless pursuit of the goal.

The wooden barriers prevent players from being forced through glass windows and doors although accompanying volunteer medics are on hand to treat other inevitable injuries that include men passing out from lack of oxygen to having bones broken in the crush.

Veteran participants jostle around the fringes directing the younger players and as the adrenaline rises, some year-long personal grudges are settled with fisticuffs. Onlookers pursue the game as it manoeuvres around the town, sometimes tediously slowly, other times at a surprisingly high pace. Seasoned spectators keep a safe distance, and their exit options open in anticipation of a sudden charge in their direction. Following who has possession of the ball is a challenge for both competitors and bystanders.

As the hours tick by, clothing becomes increasingly ripped and tattered in the mayhem, and friends and family offer up supplies of food and water to boost exhausted players. Other than a pre-match team talk and a good night's sleep, there is very little preparation before game days, although it is obvious to anyone watching that a high level of fitness is needed to endure the hours of punishing physical activity. Marcus Shearer, a 25-year 'Doonie' veteran summed up the experience as "hard" with players needing to be "committed and observant for anything and everything that can happen".

In the end, one side is eventually victorious and the winning team's song is chanted loudly through the streets, but the competition doesn't quite end there.

The overall individual winner of the Men's Ba' is fiercely debated by his teammates, although only long-term committed players make the shortlist. Once the victor is decided, he is duly hoisted above the singing crowd with his coveted ball in hand. His name is added to the legendary list of Kirkwall Ba' players and in return for receiving the ultimate honour, he is responsible for hosting the afterparty. The celebrations last many more hours and occasionally they have been known to go on for days.

Asked about what it means to those that play in The Ba', Marcus replied, "It means the world, carrying on a tradition which is close to the heart of any Orcadian" and it is that local pride and passion that continues to attract generation after generation of Kirkwall men and boys prepared to risk life and limb for a leather ball.



The Kirkwall Ba' champion is chosen and raises the ball.

Hogmanay in the Highlands

The Brodie family lived at Brodie Castle from the mid-1500s until 2003 – find out more about the origins of Scotland's Hogmanay traditions and how this night would have been celebrated at Brodie Castle in the Scottish Highlands.



Brodie Castle in the snow.

It is thought the word Hogmanay might have come from 'huginane', a French term meaning 'gala day', brought back by Mary, Queen of Scots when she returned from France. A competing theory suggests it's from the Scandinavian word for yule, 'hoggo-nott'. Whatever the origins of its name, the roots of Scotland's midwinter festivals can be traced right back to pagan times. Christmas and New Year used to be celebrated as part of a longer yule period in Scotland. But Christmas feasting was strongly frowned upon after the Reformation, and the festivities became focused instead on Hogmanay.

Historical records show the importance of Hogmanay in the Highlands of Scotland. In 1794, the minister for Kirkmichael in Banffshire noted how his parishioners believed the direction of the wind at New Year revealed what lay ahead. If it came from the south, there would be heat and fertility; from the west would bring milk and fish; the wind from the north meant cold and storm; and from the east signalled fruit on the trees.

Later, in 1881, Reverend Walter Gregor in his Notes on the Folklore of the North-East of Scotland recorded that New Year was celebrated very enthusiastically, with workers taking three days off. Scotland still enjoys two public holidays at New Year, compared to only one in the rest of the UK.

Hogmanay customs

Some Hogmanay customs also continue to this day, such as the belief that a clean house is necessary to bring in the New Year. When open fires were common, the ashes were cleared and a new fire was laid. And then there's 'first footing': the first person to enter a house after midnight is thought to bring good luck (so long as they bring gifts of coal, whisky and shortbread!). In Burghead, 14 miles east from Brodie, local people continue to celebrate New Year with an ancient fire ceremony: the Burning of the Clavie.

However, this takes place not on the eve of 1 January, but 11 days later, on the old New Year's Eve of the Julian calendar. A burning barrel filled with staves is carried around the town and deposited on an ancient fort, from where locals collect the embers to keep for good luck during the following year.

However you choose to celebrate, we wish you all the best for 2022!

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

Canada and US wins at the 2021 Balmoral Classic, US Junior Solo Piping & Drumming Championships



Cameron Bonar and Sebastien Arguelles.



from Scotland. Competitors submitted one video for each of two events in their discipline: an MSR and Piobaireachd for pipers, and an MSR and Hornpipe & Jig for snare drummers. The panel of judges was truly international this year, with judges from the United States, Scotland, Ireland, Canada and Australia.

Piping

The Overall piping winner was Cameron Bonar of Surrey, British Columbia, Canada, who took first place in both the MSR and the Piobaireachd. As Overall Winner he won a set of blackwood Duncan MacRae Bagpipes donated by McCallum Bagpipes, and the Ralph and Patricia Murray award for a full scholarship at the 2022 Balmoral Summer session. Cameron also won the E.W. Littlefield, Jr. Award for the MSR event and a Piper's Choice set of smallpipes donated by Scott's Highland Services of London, Ontario and the Balmoral Award for the Piobaireachd event and five tutorial bundles from Murray Henderson Piobaireachd Studio. Prizes for 2nd to 5th place pipers included a handcrafted blackwood "MAC 1" pipe chanter donated by MacLellan Bagpipes, an Antique Thistle Faux Seal Sporrán donated by Celtic Croft, a Gift Certificate for pipetunes.ca donated by McGillivray Piping Inc., and additional prizes. The 2nd to 5th place Overall Winners receive tuition for one week at the 2022 Balmoral School summer session.

Drumming

The Overall drumming winner, Sebastien Arguelles, from Houston, Texas, USA, also took first place in both drumming contests. He was awarded an Axial "Silver Sparkle" Snare Drum donated by Henderson Imports of Traverse City, Michigan, the David Peet Memorial Award for the Overall Winner, and the Henry Matthews Scholarship for one week's full scholarship at the 2022 Balmoral Summer session. Sebastien also won the St. Andrew's Society of Pittsburgh Award for his first in the MSR and The Pittsburgh Firefighters Memorial Pipe Band Award his first in the Hornpipe & Jig. The 2nd to 6th place Overall Winners receive tuition for one week at the 2022 Balmoral School summer session.

After the Saturday contests, there was a Live via Zoom awards ceremony, attended by the competitors, their families, our judges and staff, and Classic supporters. After a break, they were treated to an outstanding concert with Scottish fiddle virtuoso Alasdair Fraser, and renowned cellist, Natalie Haas. Calvary United Methodist Church with its amazing collection of Tiffany stained glass windows, surrounded the audience with special ambiance for the in-person event, which was also live-streamed.

For more information on the Balmoral Classic and to see the full results see: www.balmoralschoolofpiping.org

The 15th annual Balmoral Classic, featuring the US Junior Solo Piping & Drumming Championships, took place in November with piobaireachd contests streaming via YouTube. This was the second Balmoral Classic that was online, remote and virtual. Scheduling and logistics were intensive and very competently organized and executed by Sean Patrick Regan, Program

Coordinator; Leslie Clark, Balmoral's Associate Director; Elaine Lee, Marketing Director; & Arthur McAra, Master of Ceremonies. Clark and Regan also served respectively as Registrar and Chief Steward for the Classic. Fifteen pipers were invited to participate in the contest: eleven from six US states and four from Canada. Six drummers were invited to compete in the contest: five from the US, and one

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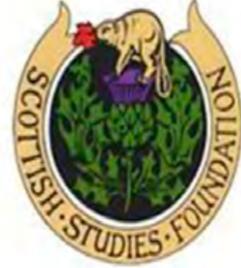
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185th anniversary of St. Andrew's Society of Toronto

By: Brendan Fyfe



48th Highlanders Pipes & Drums.



The St. Andrew's Society of Toronto is celebrating its 185th anniversary in 2021. The organization has been promoting Scottish culture and supporting local charities since 1836.

Canada would not become a country until 1867 which makes the Society older than the country it calls home! Scots have been leaving their homeland for many generations in search of adventure and economic opportunities. As a result, over 50 million people around the globe have Scottish ancestry including 4.8 million Canadians. These numbers are especially remarkable when we consider that the current population of Scotland is only 5.5 million. A cultural society often followed whenever a number of Scots ended up in one place. Saint Andrew, as patron saint of Scotland, was a common symbol to rally around. St. Andrew's Day (November 30) became the annual date to gather and dine on traditional fare. After the meal, which would almost always include haggis, there would be a series of toasts, songs and music.

Founded in 1836

St. Andrew's Societies were established in dozens of cities on six continents. Although they all operated independently, there were some informal connections among them. The first meeting of the St. Andrew's Society of Toronto was in 1836. The young city had changed its name from York only two years earlier. It had roughly 10,000 citizens but was growing quickly. While many immigrants found success in their new home, others struggled with unemployment, homelessness, and food insecurity. Present day Canada

has multiple institutions focused on helping people overcome poverty. But since few of these programs existed in the 1830s, it often fell to cultural groups to look after their own. Several of Toronto's most prominent Scots got together and agreed to form a committee to assist their compatriots who had fallen on hard times. It was determined that the focus would be on those who were newly arrived.

The first meeting of the St. Andrew's Society of Toronto was in 1836.

Officers were elected and managers assigned to assist those in need. They focused on finding their compatriots work, a place to live and making sure that families didn't go hungry. Although the lives of many were improved, times were hard, and death lurked around every corner. Whether it was poverty, illness, or misfortune, many would never see the shores of Scotland again.

The St. Andrew's Society of Toronto purchased a large burial plot in Mount



Learn to curl social.



Kilt Skate Toronto.

Pleasant Cemetery in 1886. The intent was that Scots who died in Toronto without resources would be buried in "a small piece of Scotland." An official dedication came in 1891 along with a cairn. Members in good standing can still apply to be buried in Mount Pleasant.

The connection between The St. Andrew's Society and the 48th Highlanders of Canada dates back to the late 1800s. A group of local Scottish cultural organizations came together to raise funds and lobby the government to form the province's first kilted regiment. Despite being rebuffed on their initial requests, the group persevered and achieved their goal. The relationship between the Society and the 48th has remained close since the battalion's inception in 1891. The organizations have co-hosted the St. Andrew's Charity Ball for many years with the regiment's Pipes & Drums a focus of the evening's entertainment.

Celebrating Scotland in Toronto

Scottish music, cuisine and whisky are showcased at events throughout the year. A Learn to Curl Social is one of the Society's most popular get togethers. Attendees include many recent Scottish immigrants who are eager to learn a game that was born in Scotland and beloved in Canada. Canadians of Scottish heritage will continue to play a key role in the future of Toronto. According to the 2016 national census, 256,255 Torontonians claimed Scottish ancestry (roughly 9% of the city's 2.7 million inhabitants). Among the city's ethnic origin populations, only the Chinese (332,825), English (331,895) and Irish (262,965) registered larger numbers.

The modern Society has remained true to the benevolent goals of its founders. Funds are raised for local charities through memberships, donations and events that showcase Scottish-Canadian culture. These experiences range from dance lessons to pub nights and formal affairs like the St. Andrew's Charity Ball. Everyone is welcome to attend events or become a member. It doesn't matter whether they were born in Scotland, have Scottish ancestors or are just looking to meet some great people.

Over \$1 million has been donated in the past 15 years through the St. Andrew's Charitable Foundation. These grants benefit newcomers from all nations and focus on the challenges that early Scottish immigrants would have faced - families at risk, public health, homelessness and food insecurity. The Society still welcomes newly arrived Scots with open arms. They are introduced at various get togethers and brought to key events around the city.

Every December, members sign up to support the Society for another year. Members receive partner discounts and the opportunity to buy tickets before the public for most events. Their fees help the Society sponsor Highland Dance troupes, Celtic musicians and others working to keep Scottish-Canadian culture alive. These funds also support bursaries for post-secondary students focused on Scottish studies.

The St. Andrew's Society of Toronto is still going strong after 185 years. Those interested in getting involved can find out more on the Society's website at www.standrewstoronto.ca



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