



the Scottish Banner



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A' Bhratach Albannach

Volume 45 Number 11 NEWS FOR GLOBAL SCOTS May 2022



Marvel actress Karen Gillan

*leads the 24th annual
NYC Tartan Day Parade*

» Pg 14

The Slate Islands

The islands that roofed the world

» Pg 24

Passing time at Huly Hill Cairn

» Pg 9



Whisky Month-Whisky
in Scotland» Pg 7
From Largs to Brisbane.....» Pg 10
Lochleven Castle-
The Prison Island» Pg 23

the Scottish Banner

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The Banner Says...

Whisky's Illicit History



by Sean Cairney

The month of May can be a wonderful one in Scotland, with the long evenings well and truly taking hold and at times better weather than peak summer. It is also a month where Scotland celebrates what is regarded by many as the 'national drink', whisky.

Scotland is rightly famed for its incredible array of whisky distilleries, the highest concentration of which is found in the Highlands, drawing thousands of visitors each year to regions across the country. With a history stretching back as far as the 11th century, Scottish/Scotch whisky is an important part of the identity, culture and economy of Scotland today.

However, Scotland's history with whisky production has not always been as we know it today. As 'having a dram' grew in popularity during the 18th century, the government attempted to regulate the whisky market and grab their share of the free-flowing income that uisge beathe' (or 'water of life') was providing farmers.

Illegal whisky

Historians have estimated up to 500,000 gallons of whisky was being produced a year by private unlicensed distillers. With industrialisation more and more people could afford to have a drink and farmers, especially in the Highlands and the North-East of the country, began producing whisky to help cover their farming and living costs and illegal whisky and whisky smuggling became part of the Scottish economic landscape. Many of the illegal drams were actually of

higher quality as licensed distillers often had to use lower quality products as they had to pay tax.

The government then tried to call time on the rife illegal whisky production, and the 1788 Excise Act banned the use of stills making less than 100 gallons (450 litres) at a time. Suddenly unlicensed private distillation in small stills, which had existed in Scotland for hundreds of years, was made to be illegal.

Like the drink itself, the story of whisky-making in Scotland is fascinating and complex.

The tables turned for the government came when the 1823 Excise Act reduced duty by over 50% and ended the advantage of illicit distillers over their licensed competitors. The first illicit producer to get his licence was a Mr George Smith in 1824. Mr Smith became the founder of The Glenlivet Distillery, which today is one of the world's most popular and bestselling single malt whiskies.

In this issue

It is so wonderful to see so many great Scottish and Celtic events taking place across the world. Our events page is again brimming with content, and it is wonderful to have the events in Scotland listed again from this month after a hiatus during the pandemic. We are fortunate to highlight the recent New York Tartan Day Parade and Week with our readers. This event is a prime example of how Scots are again reconnecting at events, celebrating our incredible culture, and sharing it with so many. Events across North America are certainly back on, and the summer is again looking a busy one. Australia also has got much taking place and crowds are returning after so much lockdown disruption. It is also great to see New Zealand slowly allowing gatherings to take place.

Scotland's Slate Islands lie just south of Oban on the west coast of Scotland. These now quiet islands, and often overlooked by visitors, at one time were the centre of the world's slate industry. Some may not realise that a slate roof at one time very likely came from these islands as tens of millions of roofing slates were quarried from the islands pits and shipped around the world. The main islands are Seil, Easdale, Luing, Lunga, Shuna, Torsa and Belnahua and these small islands for a time were known as 'the islands that roofed the world'.

The dynamic Scotch industry

Like the drink itself, the story of whisky-making in Scotland is fascinating and complex. It's believed whisky-making began in Scotland as winemaking methods spread from monasteries in Europe; with no access to grapes, monks used grain mash instead to produce an early form of the popular spirit. Those early and very illegal batches of whisky would sow the seed for an industry which is today worth billions of pounds to the economy and employs thousands of people.

In the 21st century whisky industry, heritage mixes with high tech and over 100 distilleries have been able to take centuries of accumulated distilling knowledge and expertise and merge it with cutting-edge design and green technology to produce quality spirits. And whilst illicit distilling is no longer taking place in Scotland it is certainly very much part of its history and ancient tradition and has helped form the dynamic Scotch industry that Scotland proudly has today. An industry that has made Scotch whisky the world's most popular spirit, which is sold in over 200 markets worldwide, and who cannot say cheers to that?

Should you be raising a dram this month, perhaps on World Whisky Day on May 21st, wishing you and yours 'do dheagh shlainge' or 'to your good health' and enjoy your May. 🍷

Do you have any comments from the content in this month's edition? Share your story with us by email, post, social media or: #ScottishBanner, #TheBanner

The Scottish Banner is more reliant than ever on our readers helping us to provide you with our unique content by buying a copy of our publication, regardless of if by print or digital subscription or at a retail outlet. You may also make a donation to the Scottish Banner via our website.

We appreciate your support and hope you enjoy this edition.



The 'Water of Life'. Photo: Scotland.org

Gracing our front cover: Karen Gillan leads the 24th annual NYC Tartan Day Parade. Photo: Benjamin Chateauvert/GreenCastle Photography.



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Canada

NOVA SCOTIA

HALIFAX

SCOT POURRI

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

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

The Wallaby's on Inchconnachan



Just comment about the wallaby's on Inchconnachan ('Hopping' to stay on the Bonnie, Bonnie banks, the Scottish Banner, March, 2022). They have been there for 80 years and not caused a problem, why move them? They are very

timid animals and do not bite or scratch. People are very lucky to see them, I don't think even a lot of Australian's have seen or even heard of them. The people who want them culled have they ever thought of the animals on farms or in zoo's that are not native to Scotland? I hope they are left alone.

I enjoy *the Banner*, keep it going.

All the best,

Gerry Browne

Peakhurst, New South Wales

Australia

Ed note: The petition now has over 9v0,000 signatures, people can still add to that at: www.change.org/p/scottish-government-save-the-wallabies-of-loch-lomond

Lismore City Pipe Band



Thank you for doing such a great job on the article in *the Scottish Banner* (*Lismore City Pipe Band marching on despite devastating flood damage*, April, 2022), it has certainly brought attention to our plight. On 30th March we were once again inundated by another major flood in Lismore, thankfully this one only entered the lower level of the hall, which made it a lot easier to clean up.

We have managed to clean up most of our uniforms and a lot of equipment that was in the hall during the first flood so are finally beginning to feel like we are achieving something although there is still a lot of repairs to do. We would like to assure everybody that the band's heart is still beating and getting stronger by the day. Our goal is still to be on the streets of Lismore on Anzac Day.

Regards,

Marcia Cameron

Acting Secretary Lismore City Pipe Band

Lismore, NSW

Australia

Ed note: You can still help get Lismore City Pipe Band back on their feet after catastrophic floods damaged equipment and their band hall at www.pipebandsqld.com

John Paul Jones Birthday (July 6, 1747)

Dear *Scottish Banner*,

John Paul Jones has been my hero since I was age five. He inspired me to attend the US Naval Academy (Class of 1976) and make the US Navy a career. I retired from the US Navy after 24 years as a CDR. I am a lifetime supporter of the John Paul Jones Birthplace Cottage and Museum, Scotland. In 2008 I was honored as the first non-Scot to be named as a Trustee of the Museum. I live in New Hampshire and am a proud volunteer guide at the John Paul Jones House, Portsmouth, New Hampshire. On April 24, 2022, I hosted a celebration at the John Paul Jones House honoring how New

Hampshire/John Paul Jones/US Ranger changed the course of the American Revolutionary War in just 3 days in 1778.

John Paul Jones was born and raised in Scotland. Son of a Scottish groundskeeper, at age 12 John Paul Jones went to sea as a cabin boy. Working his way up the ranks, he became a Ship Captain in the British Merchant Marine at the unheard age of 20! Jones' older brother, who had earlier immigrated to Virginia, was a successful tailor in Fredericksburg, VA and Jones would visit him often during his voyages on various merchant ships. Jones grew to love America and adopted her as his country since England mistreated Scotland.

Through an incredible string of incredible incidents, Jones was eventually selected to serve as a junior officer in America's fledging Continental Navy. Quickly rising through the ranks, Jones became the most important naval officer in the Continental Navy. He went on to become an internationally known naval warrior. Not only was Jones one of America's most important Founding Fathers, but he is also known as the Father of the US Navy! After the Revolutionary War and with no American Navy, Jones was given permission to serve in Czarina Catherine the Great of Russia's Navy. Despite winning several impressive naval battles, for which he is still highly regarded by the Russian Navy today, the leaders of the Russian Navy conspired against Jones. They spread false stories about Jones that Catherine believed and subsequently removed Jones from his command. Jones left Russia in disgrace. He spent his last couple of years living in Paris, where he died almost penniless in 1792.

Jones was buried with honors by the French. But since he was a Protestant and France was Catholic, he was buried in an unmarked grave outside the walls of Paris. In 1905, after five years of searching and at the cost of more than \$35,000 (his own money) the American Ambassador to France discovered the coffin of John Paul Jones. President Teddy Roosevelt sent a fleet of US warships to Paris and brought Jones back to Annapolis, Maryland to the US Naval Academy. Jones' remains are in a magnificent marble sarcophagus beneath the Chapel of the US Naval Academy.

Every July 6 we celebrate the birth of John Paul Jones at the cottage where he was born and raised in Dumfries. We would like to invite everyone to join us in this celebration. Free food and drink, along with free tours of the Cottage and Museum, along with other exhibits and entertainment will be provided (see: www.johnpauljonesmuseum.com). Come and enjoy the beautiful Scottish countryside and raise a toast to an incredible hero of Scotland and America!

All the best,

CDR James L Poole US Navy (ret)

Trustee, John Paul Jones Birthplace Cottage and Museum, Scotland

Member/Volunteer, John Paul Jones House, Portsmouth, NH

Exeter, New Hampshire

USA

Ed note: Thank you for sharing with our readers some of the background of a great Scottish American.

The Battle of Littleferry

Thank you *Scottish Banner* for the story on the Battle of Littleferry (*Commemorating The Battle of Littleferry*, *Scottish Banner*, April, 2022). I will admit I had never heard of this battle before and was quite intrigued of it, being so close to the very infamous Battle of Culloden. How wonderful to read there are passionate members of the Scottish community working hard to have this historic event remembered and passed on to future Scots and visitors alike. It is also of course wonderful to have a publication like *the Scottish Banner*

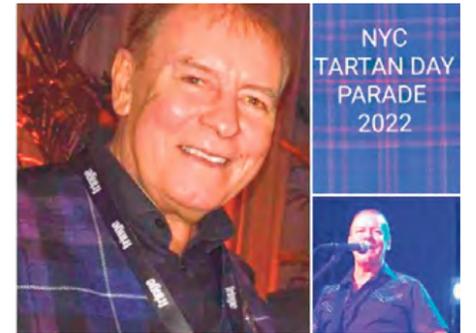
as I truly have no idea where else I would get to learn of this story. I am mad for Scottish history, and have a particular interest in battles, and will be doing some background reading on this battle and the area of Littleferry, which I have never been to but hope to change that on my next visit.

Chris Davie

Hamilton, Ontario

Canada

Bay City Rollers tartan to march at New York's Tartan Day Parade



And I for one as a lifelong Alan fan who then became a personal friend for which was beyond my wildest dreams will be honoured to march in his memory.

#Dontletthemusicdie

Jan Deighton

It was last year the 50th Anniversary of their first song release and top ten hit *Keep on Dancing*. Let us not forget to keep on Rolling thru' the decades ahead. Just as in the decade's past. We never let their music die.

Moira Anne Shearer

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



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

The Corpach Wreck



The wreck at Corpach (MV Dayspring), with Ben Nevis in the background.

Mik Coia

The Prince Albert Cairn



One of Scotland's Pyramids, The Prince Albert Cairn. There are eleven stone cairns on the Balmoral estate in Deeside, Scotland, and a single cairn on the adjoining Birkhall estate. The cairns commemorate members of the British royal family and events in their lives. The majority of the cairns were erected by Queen Victoria.

The Kilted Photographer
Scotland

Glencoe



"Buachaille Etive Beag" with the top of Lagangarbh Cottage to the left in Glencoe.

Ronald Stokes

I belong to Glasgow



A very still Glasgow morning.

Gary Chittick

Pose your questions on Scottish related topics to our knowledgeable readership who just may be able to help. Please keep letters under 300 words and we reserve the right to edit content and length. Letters can be emailed to info@scottishbanner.com or online at www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us, alternatively you may post your letters to us (items posted to the Scottish Banner cannot be returned). Please ensure you include your full contact details should you require a reply. This page belongs to our readers so please feel free to take part!

Gaelic is on the rise

VisitScotland has revealed how visitor interest in Scottish Gaelic has risen over the last four years. The research was released during the first ever World Gaelic Week/ Seachdain na Gàidhlig, which took place in March, and celebrated and promoted the importance of Gaelic, and highlighting the significant role the language plays within tourism and events. From 2018 to 2021 there was a 72 per cent increase in the number of VisitScotland.com users visiting Gaelic related content with a peak in pageviews during the 2020 lockdown.

With 2022 marking Scotland's Year of Stories, a key aim is to share how Gaelic is woven into the fabric of the country and has influenced the way we speak and tell stories now.

Celebrating Gaelic

A nationwide programme of more than 100 events presented by a range of partners from national organisations to community groups are taking place this year, in recognition of the wealth of stories inspired by, written, or created in Scotland. And over 20 of these events are celebrating Gaelic. Gaelic's popularity has also grown on the language app, Duolingo. The learning tool launched the free course on St Andrew's Day 2019 and there are now 430,000 active learners studying Scots Gaelic on Duolingo. The course has been a success in Scotland, the UK, and the world over with the largest number of learners in

the USA (35 per cent) - which speaks to the connection the Scottish diaspora has with the language. The app also has Gaelic learners from locations as far afield as Chad, Equatorial Guinea, San Marino, the Falkland Islands, and Tajikistan.

VisitScotland launched its first Gaelic toolkit last year to help the tourism industry to build upon the lure of the language with visitors. VisitScotland launched its first Gaelic toolkit last year to help the tourism industry to build upon the lure of the language with visitors. It highlights ways to use Gaelic and its culture to create a more immersive visitor experience such as teaching staff some basic phrases and translating place names to reveal their Gaelic origins and meanings. A diverse range of events that celebrate the Gaelic language are being supported through the Year of Stories Community Stories Fund. These events will be hosted by museums, festivals, arts centres and community groups right across Scotland, including on the islands of Tiree, Mull and Lewis.

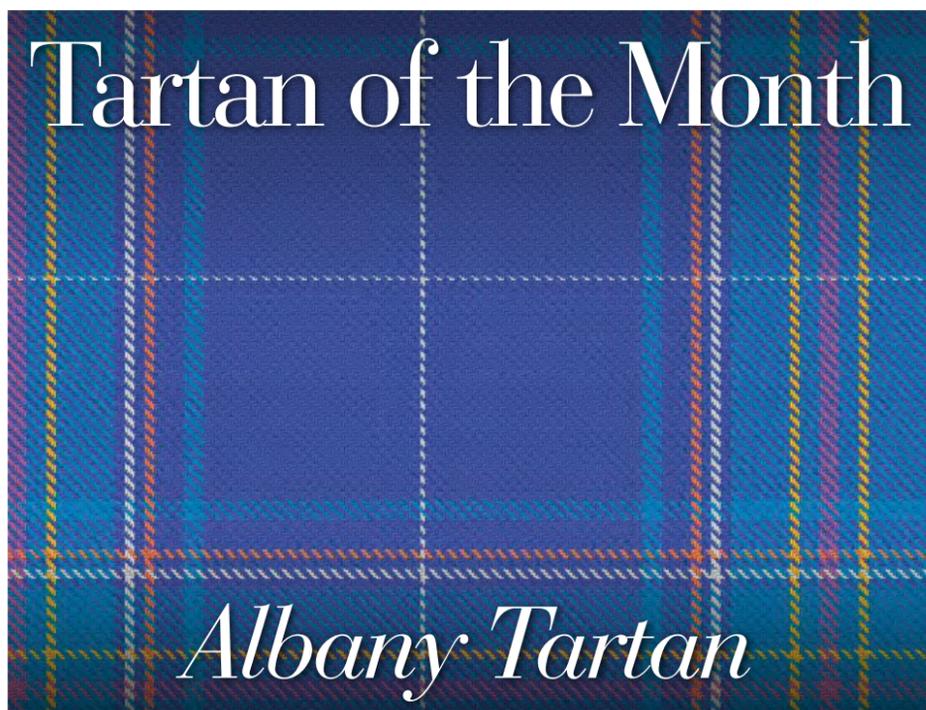
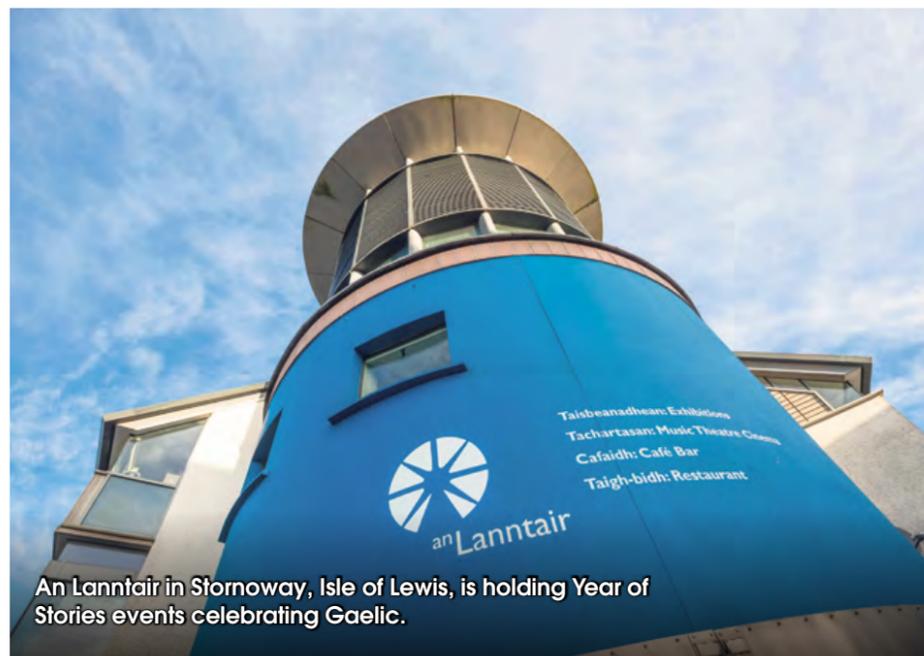
Scotland's identity

Malcolm Roughead, VisitScotland Chief Executive, said: "The importance of Gaelic to the Scottish tourism and events industry cannot be underestimated. As the sector starts to recover from the devastation of COVID-19, finding ways to position Scotland as a unique and stand-out holiday choice is vital. Gaelic and its rich

culture are an important part of Scotland's tourism offer and provides an extra layer of authenticity for visitors with a unique culture you can only truly experience in Scotland. This only strengthens the experience we know means so much to visitors. World Gaelic Week and the Year of Stories 2022 give an opportunity to highlight why we believe the language will continue to prove an asset to Scotland's identity and our tourism industry."

Joy Dunlop, Director of Seachdain na Gàidhlig, said: "I'm absolutely thrilled by the response to Seachdain na Gàidhlig,

people have been so busy creating their own ideas to feature within the extensive programme; we currently have over 90 events taking place throughout the globe, with more being added to our online events diary daily. This proves that Gaelic is thriving, not just here in Scotland but across the world and I can't wait to celebrate our language and culture this week on a global scale. If anyone wants to take part, free online resources, learning materials and advice can be found on our official website, where visitors can also find further information about the events."



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

The Albany tartan was designed to represent the Scottish community within Albany County, New York, United States. The colours were inspired by the Albany County Seal, The Town of Colonie Seal & The City of Albany Flag. The sett was inspired by the Royal Stewart tartans. The design includes an additional white stripe intended to represent the Scottish Saltire when crossing the blue ground. This tartan was registered in November, 2021 (SRT reference: 13338) and was designed by ScotlandShop to celebrate the links between Scotland and Albany and the opening of their US store there.



SCOTSPEAK

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



"It is wonderful to be able to display this rare, jewel-like book. It's particularly moving to see the young Mary, writing in her best script, to one of her closest relations in her mother, Marie de Guise's absence. She had had to remain in Scotland when Mary came to the French court in 1548, so Mary was particularly dependent on her mother's relatives for comfort and support. This poem therefore reflects the intimate bond with her great-aunt Louise."

Dr Anna Groundwater, Principal Curator, Renaissance and Early Modern History at National Museums Scotland, said an illustrated prayer book featuring a poem handwritten by the young Mary, Queen of Scots, is to go on display at the National Museum of Scotland. The prayerbook will be exhibited in the Kingdom of the Scots gallery alongside other objects on permanent display linked to Mary, Queen of Scots, including the Penicuik Jewels, recently returned from a major exhibition at the British Library, Elizabeth and Mary: Royal Cousins, Rival Queens, and a replica cast of her tomb in Edinburgh until August.



"This will be a historic moment, as it is the first time any British monarch has celebrated a Platinum Jubilee, and so we are delighted to participate in the celebrations. Whether it is taking in live music in our parks or helping local schools grow vegetables, we want all residents to have the opportunity to enjoy the event."

Bailie Denis Agnew, Convener of West Dunbartonshire Council's Cultural Committee, said that a beacon will be lit over West Dunbartonshire as part of a range of activities and events marking the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The light, traditionally a symbol of hope, will be lit in unison with more than 1500 in other areas all over the United Kingdom at 9.45pm on Thursday 2 June. In West Dunbartonshire, it will be positioned high over at ceremonies expected to take place at landmark Dumbarton Castle.

"It's very gratifying to see, as we begin the Falklands 40th anniversary period here in Scotland, that we are quite rightly focussing on the significant efforts of our colleagues who worked in the Rosyth Dockyard at the time. It was down to their efforts and those of other Dockyard

personnel around the country, that Britain was able to achieve such a huge undertaking. To refit and in some cases completely outfit from scratch a number of merchant ships, in just a few days, for a purpose they hadn't been designed for, to then sail some 8000 miles and operate as part of a quickly created Task Force within a war zone, was an incredible task. As much as it was the soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen who fought the war, they couldn't have done that without the extremely important preparation."

Brigadier Andy Muddiman ADC Royal Marines, Naval Regional Commander Scotland & Northern Ireland said at Rosyth Dockyard at the commemoration the 40th anniversary of the Falklands conflict (2 April - 14 June 1982). Workers at the Rosyth Dockyard converted five fishing ships into military vessels bound for the waters off Argentina.

"The Eden Project provides the opportunity for us to develop our city as a beacon for social and environmental sustainability, bringing the benefits of a just transition for our citizens to a society more in tune with our local and global environment. Dundee can again provide leadership for others in Scotland and beyond. As a university with social purpose at its heart and being an institution that is ranked top among UK universities for Climate Action, we are delighted to support this incredibly exciting development that will bring real benefits to our students as well as the wider community."

Professor Iain Gillespie, Principal & Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dundee, said as the next phase of the development of Eden Project Dundee has been confirmed. Ambitious plans to create a global attraction in the heart of Dundee have taken another step forward with agreement to complete detailed development design and formal planning. Eden Project Dundee, which is set to be built on the former gasworks on East Dock Street overlooking the River Tay, is projected to attract more than 500,000 visitors every year, generating £27m of economic impact on the region annually. The project will create 200 direct jobs and support an additional 300 jobs in the supply chain and connected businesses.



"We are launching a beer called United for Ukraine. All revenue from this beer will be donated to Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC)'s Ukraine Crisis Appeal. This is a small gesture of solidarity but it's important we show we are united with the people of Ukraine and stand against this appalling and unforgivable act of aggression. Like many breweries around the world, we've been inundated with requests to support those affected by the war in Ukraine. Charities and community projects alike have reached out asking for support, and the last thing we can do is sit idly by as it continues to unfold. So we're brewing a beer, with 100% of revenue going directly to those who need it."

Scottish beer brewer BrewDog said as they recently launched The United for Ukraine IPA. The new beer offers what BrewDog described as "pillowy softness" while a mix of citrus and exotic notes make for a "silky delivery". All revenue from BrewDog's United for Ukraine beer will be donated to Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC)'s Ukraine Crisis Appeal.

"We are ecstatic that after so many months of hard work we have been successful in securing the pub for the community. The Old Forge plays such an important role in Knoydart's social culture and economic sustainability, and with the business now in the community's hands we can steer it forward in a way that will work for the needs of the locals and the thousands of visitors who come every year."

Stephanie Harris, secretary of The Old Forge Community Benefit Society, said the community in Lochaber has been successful in its bid to buy Britain's remotest mainland pub in a landmark deal. Locals raised over £320,000 to purchase the remote 19th century pub, The Old Forge in Inverie.

Platinum Jubilee celebrations come to Ottawa



The Sons of Scotland Pipe Band and Pipe Major Bethany Bisailion have put together a spectacular weekend of programming to mark many special occasions, and they want you to take part, even if you don't live in Ottawa! The weekend of May 21/22 will see historic downtown Sparks Street come alive with the pipes and drums of the Sons of Scotland, and many guest players for the National Tartan Day

festivities and will be joined by many Highland dancers from schools in Ottawa and Hamilton, Ontario. They will have Scottish country dancing, a grand Corgi Walk, and music by many fantastic singers too. You can join them at the CBC Studios on Sparks Street and complete a card of congratulations for Her Majesty The Queen to mark her Platinum Jubilee, and the band will deliver them to Her Majesty. If you can't be there in person, you can arrange to send the band a card of your own that they will take to Scotland. All details will be on the Pipe Major's website at www.championbagpipes.com and the band look forward to a wonderful weekend of celebrations and so much more.



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 Scots cowsheds (5)
- 5 Tossed in sport. (5)
- 8 Round Scots cake (4 & 5)
- 9 Tenth part of income (5)
- 10 A young salmon (5)
- 12 Curling teams (5)
- 13 Scots guard (7)
- 15 The auld enemy (7)
- 17 Porridge necessity (7)
- 19 Drinks makers (7)
- 21 Revolutionary transport (5)

- 22 Slide on slippery Scots surface (5)

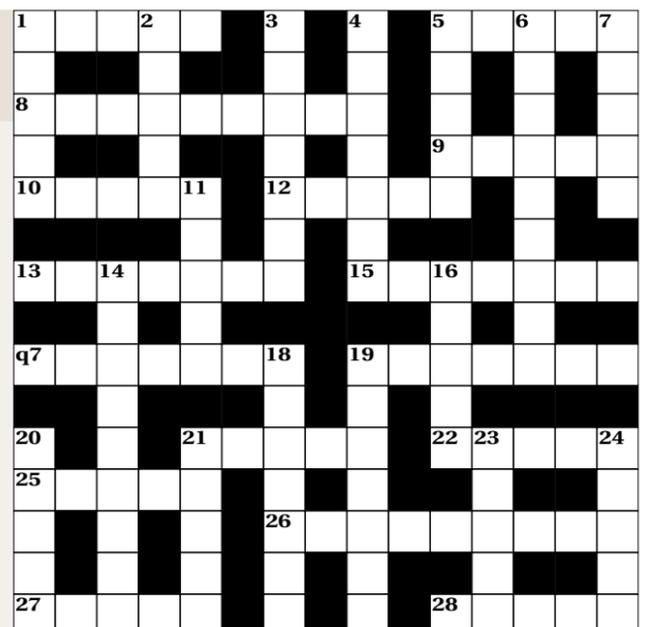
- 25 It goes wi' tatties (5)
- 26 Sporting activities (9)
- 27 Scots doors (5)
- 28 Fishy gathering (5)

CLUES DOWN:

- 1 Stays in Scotland (5)
- 2 Sorce out (5)
- 3 Scots purse (7)
- 4 To rush forward recklessly or carelessly in Scots. (7)

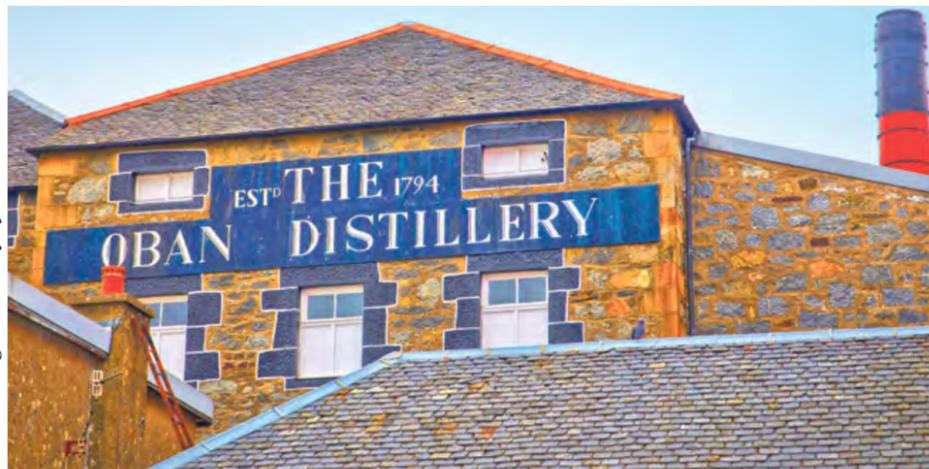
- 5 Ancient tribal people of Scotland and beyond. (5)

- 6 Clansman's weapon (9)
- 7 He's against the law (5)
- 11 Put up with in Scotland (5)
- 14 He's out of this world (9)
- 16 Northern Scots (5)
- 18 Argyll waterway (14, 3)
- 19 Market town West of Montrose (7)
- 20 Don't run on it. (5)
- 21 Fife town near Cupar (5)
- 23 Sailing vessel (5)
- 24 Art Supporter (5)



Whisky Month- Whisky in Scotland

Text & images courtesy of VisitScotland.



Whisky is wonderful stuff and well worth exploring. Lovingly produced throughout Scotland for hundreds of years, from the Highlands, islands and Lowlands, you'll find distilleries carefully crafting their own unique single malts and whisky blends – often following secret and closely guarded recipes. Such a well-loved drink, whisky even has its own calendar of events.

Kicking off the summer season of merriment is the ever-popular, month-long celebration of Scottish whisky known as Whisky Month in May, including the international celebrations around World Whisky Day on May 21st. So, make sure you're there to raise your glass and toast the world-renowned Scottish uisge beatha, meaning 'water of life'.

Head to its source

There are over 100 working distilleries in Scotland which are dotted across five distinct whisky-producing regions. Believe us when we say they're as diverse as the wines of France – no two Scottish whiskies taste the same! Honestly! The distilleries' pagoda roofs are unmistakably recognisable from a distance, and with their doors flung wide open to welcome whisky beginners and aficionados alike, there's no better place to start your whisky adventure than at its source. Discover the centuries-old art of whisky production on a visit to a distillery, and enjoy a wee dram at the end of the tour!

Scotland's whisky regions in a nutshell

- Speyside – by far the largest whisky-producing region, Speyside whiskies are noted for their elegance and complexity.

There's a refined smokiness mixed with sweetness and the region's rich and fruity whiskies are considered the ultimate Scottish single malt. The region is also home to the Malt Whisky Trail, the only trail of its kind in the world!

- Highlands – the biggest region in geographical terms, Highland malts embrace wide and robust flavours. Heavier and drier compared to other regions, some enjoy nutty, honey, heather or peaty notes, while others have a salty tang from the sea.
- Lowlands – the handful of Lowlands' distilleries still in operation produce more subtle and lighter style single malts and are traditionally known as the 'Lowland Ladies'. Savour their zesty flavours with a slightly fruity, citrusy hint – the perfect introduction for beginners.
- Islay – known as Scotland's whisky island. It's covered in peat which is used to malt the barley used in distilling and gives Islay single malts their characteristic smoky flavour with some salty, seaweed notes. Be prepared – their distinctive smell and taste is simply unforgettable!
- Campbeltown – as Scotland's smallest whisky-distilling region, Campbeltown holds a special place in the hearts of single malt enthusiasts. Whiskies produced in this small coastal town are briny in character and some boast subtle salty and peaty notes – a sheer treat to a palate.

Do's and don'ts

There's no right or wrong way to drink whisky, and you don't need to be an expert to enjoy it! Check out our tips on how to taste and appreciate a dram of single malt whisky. If you've a nose for adventure, forget the wine the next time you're cooking! It's not just haggis that goes well with whisky. The amber spirit is a great accompaniment to a variety of dishes. Discover top tips for pairing food and whisky, and don't be surprised when you see combinations like chocolate delice with Glenmorangie Signet or Dunsyre Blue cheese with Lagavullin 16-year-old. That's right – cheese and whisky!

You can find out more on Scotch whisky at www.visitscotland.com/whisky including the option to download eBooks on Scotland's distilleries and find full listings covering opening hours and directions, as well as details of each distillery's best known whiskies.



Glenfinnan Viaduct planning request



The Glenfinnan Viaduct, captured the imaginations of a new generation when it appeared in the *Harry Potter* films. Now Network Rail Scotland is looking to seek planning permission to carry out investigations to the concrete structure. Each summer, it attracts thousands of visitors a week eager to catch a glimpse of the Jacobite Steam Train, which runs from Fort William to Mallaig on the West Highland Line. Robert McAlpine & Sons, headed by Robert McAlpine – known as Concrete Bob – built the 21-span bridge using mass concrete, making it Scotland's longest concrete viaduct. The choice of material also saved significant time and money – the bridge took about four years to build but by October 1898 was complete enough to carry goods, according to Chartered Civil Engineer magazine. It cost just £18,904 – about £2.3m in today's money. Today, the concrete's weathering from the strong wind and rain of the Highlands gives it distinct character – something Network Rail ensures remains; the bridge is Grade A listed, meaning it is nationally important and we must refrain from cleaning off the marks from the rain that drains through it. Samples taken from the structure during the study of the viaduct's concrete hopes to help engineers plan for any future refurbishment, including being able to match the original concrete colour.

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TENEMENT TALES

By: Brian Diamond

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

George the Academic



I had just started high school and through some friends met a nice bright guy named George Kerr, George was a very cool academic dude who had gained a bursary to Alan Glens Academy, so already he was streets ahead of me.

When I was with him, my St Augustine's school uniform with the multi coloured braid never felt out of place, clearly the kind of nice boy that my mother wanted me to associate with. So, one Saturday evening George's parents were going out and he invited me to his house to pass the evening with him for company and I accepted. After his parents had left, George brought out his chemistry set, I never knew that one could get into so much trouble just playing with a chemistry set.

George set out his alcohol-based Bunsen burner and proceeded to mix a concoction of chemicals into a test tube which he heated over the burner shaking occasionally. Periodically he would stop and investigate the test tube and on one of these occasions there was a chemical reaction in the tube causing the mixture to explode and spurt out, some of which got in George's eye. When this happened, George dropped the test tube and covered his eye with one hand, while his other hand knocked over the Bunsen burner causing the alcohol to run over Mrs Kerr's Irish linen tablecloth, catching fire along the way. Upon seeing this with his good eye, George slapped at the flames causing the alcohol to splash to other parts of the tablecloth and catching fire in these locations. Eventually we did get the fire out, and thankfully George's eye suffered no damage after he rinsed it out with water. I don't know, and never asked if Mrs Kerr ever inquired about the sudden disappearance of her Irish linen table cover, now for anyone with half a brain this should have been enough of academia, the exception being me.

Gunpowder

On another occasion I met George, and he told me that he had managed to make gunpowder with his chemistry set, awesome!! How cool was that? He assured me that his gunpowder does not explode when you light it, it just produces a big flash, and he was keen to show it to me in action. We went into a dark corner close at the foot of Morrin Street so that we could see the flash better, and once there, George piled his gunpowder up on the flat curly wooden stopper of the handrail at the foot of the stairs. He produced a box of matches, and with me standing well back touched the flame to the powder, sure enough, there was no explosion, just a big bright flash as the gunpowder went up, WOW!! Holy smoke boy wonder. I was totally impressed, at least right up to the point where the wooden banister started to catch fire and travel up the staircase. Once again, we managed to avert disaster and got the fire out, am I a slow learner or what?

The final straw in the gunpowder caper came one late summer evening when several of us pals met George and he was carrying what looked like brown paper 1 pound

bag of sugar, if only it had been. No, this was a 1-pound bag of gunpowder that he had produced over the course of several weeks, and he was determined to impress us with his latest display of wizardly pyrotechnical chemical magic. This was to be strike three for me, so I said OK, but please don't light it near anything that can catch fire, I've seen that twice already.

We waited until dark, and all of us agreed that the safest place for this magical extravaganza was on top of the wash house roof, now what could possibly go wrong up there? We assembled on the roof and sat down full of excitement, anticipation, and expectation, George poured his gunpowder out in the middle of the roof, it was a substantial amount, and standing back he started to throw lighted matches at the mound of homemade gunpowder. Having been here twice before, and now learned from the experience, I of course was as far away from the powder as possible, and already planning my escape exit should anything go amiss.

Disappeared in a flash

Well, nothing happened, it seemed that George had produced a dud batch of useless gunpowder, so we all stood up prepared to leave the roof and find other more

rewarding pursuits. George was quite perplexed and a little despondent at the failed dud experiment, so decided to give it one last try. So, by striking quite a few matches together to create a larger flame, he moved in close to the mound, stretched out his arm and blew on the flame to get it started. KABOOM!!! The pitch-dark back yard was lit up like the "Blackpool Illuminations", it was daylight for a few seconds, and we were all completely blinded by the intensity and magnitude of the flash. When our vision returned to normal, we were astounded to find that poor George was gone, he was nowhere to be found on the roof with us, what happened to him? Where did he go?

The flash had been so bright that people were now opening their back yard windows and calling out to know what the heck had just happened, panic in the ranks, we could all still barely see, and where was George? With all this commotion going on, and our gang of friends trying to retreat from the roof, we heard a low moaning sound coming from the backyard below us, and there was George lying on the ground, so we of course made our way down to help him. Fortunately, he had sustained no serious injuries, when the powder keg went up, he had been temporarily blinded by the flash, had lost his bearings and walked backwards off the wash house roof, falling into the yard below. Of course, none of us witnessed this event as we were also blinded by the flash and could not explain his disappearance. When we got to him, his hair was singed beyond belief, he had no eyebrows or eyelashes, there was white rings around his eyes, and his face was covered in black soot, but other than that looking like a rather wild racoon, he was undamaged. At least now I did not have to explain to his parents how George had disappeared in a flash, and we don't know where he is. George would have to explain it to them himself, because from his appearance, there was no way of hiding that a disaster had overcome him somewhere on the way home.

Last heard from, George is an educator, possibly a professor, teaching in some university in eastern Australia, George if you ever read this story, Tom Gillies and I would like to say hello to you in person. On reflection, the local kids that I played with never got me in nearly as much trouble as my up-market friend, never did tell my mother that my academic friend was a gunpowder manufacturer.

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Passing time at Huly Hill Cairn



By: David C Weinczok



In the west of Edinburgh sits the almost forgotten prehistoric monument, Huly Hill Cairn. Today this historic site sits amongst a modern capital city. How should historic sites dating back thousands of years be viewed in our modern world? David C. Weinczok poses the question, did ancient people really intend for their monuments to last forever?

The historic centre of gravity in the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh pulls so strongly that many extraordinary places on the city's fringes are effectively invisible to all but the most dedicated seekers. There are standing stones in suburban hedges, Roman forts alongside crowded beaches, and medieval towers absorbed within college campuses. Of all the wonders of Edinburgh's fringes, none are as strikingly strange as Huly Hill.

Wedged between a massive roundabout, a McDonald's, and a go-cart track while also directly under the flight path of departures from Edinburgh Airport, there is no guidebook for Huly Hill. If it were located anywhere else, it would be a tourist draw on par with the ancient monuments of Kilmartin Glen or Orkney.

The historic landscape of Huly Hill

Huly Hill consists of a large 3,500-year-old burial cairn, now sealed shut, thirty metres in diameter rising to three metres high. It is triangulated within a trio of tall standing stones which were once possibly part of two separate concentric stone circles.

A large motorway separates these stones and the cairn from an outlying standing stone, all of which were part of a large, continuous megalithic site. A major discovery was made just south of Huly Hill in March 2001 during the building of an industrial estate. The remains of a chariot built between 475-380BC were unearthed, the only known chariot burial in Scotland and the oldest example in all of Britain. Known as the Newbridge Chariot, it testifies to the use of the area for burials and associated rituals over a period of several thousand years.



Beyond its archaeological significance, Huly Hill and the thoroughly modernised landscape of Newbridge raise essential questions about permanence and continuity. Sitting at the foot of one of the standing stones as planes fly overhead, freight trucks refuel, and Big Macs are doled out of drive-through windows, you can't help but reflect on change.

Building impermanence

When we build things, it is taboo to think about their inevitable destruction. Construction is a possessive process, reflected in the language we use around historic sites. Castles, stone circles, soaring tenements and other monumental undertakings are described as 'imposing' and 'dominating' themselves over their surrounds. The language of buildings' life cycles insinuates this, too – a structure is said to be 'in decline' or 'ruinous', suggesting a move away from its original intent, function, and worth.

The idea that the endurance of the things we build, and therefore our tangible legacies, will be subsumed by circumstances beyond our control strikes us on an existential level. Was it always so?

Permanent sedentarism is a relatively new feature of human life, so there is good reason to believe that our monuments were not always built as everlasting testaments to our place in the landscape. The people who made Huly Hill Cairn and the megaliths that surround it were permanently settled agriculturalists, yet their relationship to an ever-changing landscape and climate was arguably quite different – and certainly newer in collective memory – than our own. How shocked would they be by Huly Hill's modern environs? Perhaps less than we assume.

Example of creation through destruction

Across Scotland, there is ample evidence of ancient monuments of the kind that we imagine were meant to last forever being fundamentally altered. Tealing Earth House is an Iron Age subterranean passage known as a 'souterrain' located

between Dundee and Forfar. Around 2,000 years ago, someone saw fit to place a stone bearing cup and ring-style rock art at its entrance. The rock art was carved between 4,000 and 2,500 BC, meaning it was older to the builders of the souterrain than they are to us. The deliberate removal and repurposing of it tells us that the leavings of the past were regularly being adapted into the present.

cyclical affair. The dead were regularly moved around, replaced, and removed altogether, suggesting that remembrance of individuals lasted only as long as the survival of those directly connected to them. Speaking of the famous Ring of Brodgar, another Orkney monument that changed substantively over many centuries, Mark Edmonds suggests in his book *Orcadia* that, "...duration may not have always been that important to Neolithic people. Some things were built for the time, not for all time."

Of all the wonders of Edinburgh's fringes, none are as strikingly strange as Huly Hill.

Duddingston Loch, also in Edinburgh, was the scene of a tremendous Bronze Age offering. In its waters were deposited the deliberately broken fragments of swords, spears, and other metal objects between 1,000-800BC. Research into Bronze Age hoards by Dr Matt Knight, Senior Curator of Prehistory at National Museums Scotland, indicates that the breaking of these objects would have required considerable time, effort, and resources, suggesting a sacrificial and highly symbolic motive. In a time when bronze objects were the ultimate status symbol, their breaking and offering to the loch's waters can be interpreted as a creative act. Far from being 'destroyed', they attained a new significance and function after being broken. We may see such an act as a disposal, after which the objects became passive rather than active parts of the society that created them, but there is no reason to believe that Duddingston's Bronze Age residents saw it that way.

In the Orcadian isle of Wyre, a 12th century Norseman named Kolbein Hruge built his stone castle within the ruins of a broch which predated him by a millennium. Not far away in the chambered cairns of Rousay, which are not entirely unlike Huly Hill, the interring of bodies within them was a

Change as a feature, not a flaw

A common assumption of both residents of and visitors to Scotland is that many features of our natural and built landscapes 'always' looked as they do now. At site after site, however, we see that change rather than perfect continuity is the defining feature of the passage of time. When in such places, I often wonder what the people who created them would think of what has become of them. Would they be

comforted by the knowledge that their homes and tombs are still subjects of awe thousands of years later? Or would they be aghast that the place where their ancestors were interred are now, as Huly Hill is, surrounded by noise, fumes, busy thoroughfares and uncaring passers-by?

Putting aside the obvious shock at the technological differences between the ages, the more I learn about places like Huly Hill and prehistoric peoples the more I suspect their reaction would be somewhat different. "Are those things still around?" they might ask. "Don't you think it's time to find somewhere new? Have you really just let it sit there for all those years, frozen in preservation? That's perfectly good stone you could be using!"

Still, on some fundamental level there is continuity here. Huly Hill remains a place to dwell on the passing of time and our fleeting place in it. It is still a monumental work, even if our relationship to such monuments would be unrecognisable or baffling to their creators. Amid a maelstrom of motor vehicles, air traffic and commercial transactions, there is still a reflective calm to the place. Some things change, some things stay the same – I like to think that the people who broke the first earth and placed the first stone at Huly Hill would have it no other way.

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From Largs to Brisbane

By: David McVey



Brisbane Glen, Brisbane Mains Farm.

according to his lights and introduced or promoted a number of reforms in currency, trade and agriculture, but tired of much of the political infighting within the colony. However, during his time in New South Wales he continued his interest in astronomy. In 1822 he set up an observatory at Paramatta, which became the first, perhaps, at which the southern skies were studied in detail; it's said that Brisbane observed and catalogued 7385 stars during his time in Australia. After his governorship, the observatory continued to function until 1847 and a memorial in the form of an obelisk now marks the place where it stood. In 1978, the Sir Thomas Brisbane Planetarium was established in Brisbane.

This would have been an impressive and valuable collection given the length and variety of his military career. They have never been recovered and have possibly been melted down.

Largs



Largs. Photo: VisitScotland.

Sir Thomas Brisbane was born in 1773 in the family home, Brisbane House, high in the glen of the Noddsdale Water near Largs in North Ayrshire.

When his Governorship ceased, Brisbane returned to Scotland, to Brisbane House, and he lived there for the rest of his life. Attempts were made to coax him back into the army, but he refused. His life back home was not a quiet one, however, and he certainly left his mark - and his name - in history and geography. In 1808 he had built and equipped an observatory at Brisbane House; the Paramatta one is said to have been modelled on it. He made sure there was no need for him to cease from his astronomy studies when he was visiting his wife's family estate at Makerstoun, by building an observatory there. This building survives today.

In 1833 Sir Thomas succeeded no less a figure than Sir Walter Scott as President of the prestigious Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE), on the strength of his astronomical studies. Sir Thomas founded the Makdougall Brisbane Medal for scientific achievement awarded most years by the RSE. Confusingly, he founded another Makdougall Brisbane Medal, presented by the Royal Scottish Society of Arts. Talking of medals, in 1961 it was revealed that Brisbane's military medals had been stolen from the place where they were in storage in London.

his mark as an astronomer.

After Edinburgh, Brisbane joined the army at the age of 16 (people in Scotland went to university very young back then) and quickly rose in the ranks, becoming a Major General by 1813. He served in numerous actions over the decades including the War of 1812 in the United States and the Peninsular Campaign against Napoleon. The Duke of Wellington was apparently a friend and admirer of Brisbane. Brisbane married Anna Maria Hay Makdougall [sic] of Makerstoun in the Borders in 1819. When his wife's father died, in a modern-sounding move, he adopted their surname, becoming Thomas Makdougall Brisbane.

Astronomy

Brisbane may have become Governor General of New South Wales on the recommendation of Wellington. By most accounts, he was a decent Governor

Brisbane died in 1860. The Brisbane House he lived in is no more; it was unoccupied by 1939 and demolished some years after. The remains of his observatory, however, can still be seen near Brisbane Mains farm and a trust has been formed with ambitious plans to restore it. Various drawings and architectural plans survive as a basis for this. If he has left his mark on Australia, Brisbane's name is also clearly etched in and around his hometown. He is buried in Old Largs Kirkyard, in the Brisbane Aisle. The glen of the Noddsdale Water is now usually known as Brisbane Glen.

The road that runs through it from Largs towards Greenock is unambiguously named Brisbane Glen Road. By the side of the southern end of the road, near Brisbane Lodge and opposite Brisbane Glen Cemetery, there is an easily overlooked cairn that stands as a memorial to Sir Thomas Brisbane. The inscription, enclosed by a map outline of Australia and accompanied by Scottish and Australian flags, runs:

This cairn commemorates Sir Thomas Makdougall Brisbane who was born in this glen in 1773 and died in Largs in 1860. He was Governor General of New South Wales from 1821 to 1826 and gave his name to the Brisbane River. This cairn was donated by the people of Brisbane, Australia and was erected in 1989.

Of course, Largs is another name that is familiar in Australia. The North Ayrshire town remain a popular seaside resort, famous as the site of the 1263 Battle of Largs, as the ferry terminal for Great Cumbrae, and for the legendary Nardini's ice cream parlour. It might surprise some that Brisbane, who might easily have remained in Australia, opted to return to Scotland. Certainly, he had obligations as a laird and landowner. And if Largs is a little cooler than Brisbane's Australian haunts, it's not that cool. The Gulf Stream warms the Firth of Clyde and there are many palm trees in private gardens and public spaces around the town. Perhaps there were some in the early 19th century too. If so, I wonder if Sir Thomas Brisbane, laird/soldier/astronomer, saw them when visiting his nearest town and was reminded of his time in the warmer parts of the world?

Brisbane, Queensland, is now a great world city. Most people in Australia and elsewhere will have a vague notion that it's named after a figure from colonial times; they might perhaps even suspect that he was a Scotsman. And it's true that the city seems to have been named after the Brisbane River, while the river originally took its name from Sir Thomas Brisbane, the Governor of New South Wales from 1821-1826.

Sir Thomas Brisbane was born in 1773 in the family home, Brisbane House, high in the glen of the Noddsdale Water (a much smaller river than the one that would eventually bear his name) near Largs in North Ayrshire. The little peak of The Knock dominates the scene. Brisbane studied mathematics and astronomy at the University of Edinburgh. While he is most remembered as a soldier and administrator, Brisbane would also make

PPBSO Judges all set for The Worlds



The World Pipe Band Championships are set to return August 12-13, 2022.

As with The Pipers' & Pipe Band Society of Ontario's (PPBSO) Diamond Anniversary, this year also marks the 75th anniversary of the "modern era" World Pipe Band Championship. Since 1947, the annual pipe band championship has been organized by The Royal Scottish Pipe

Band Association (RSPBA) and for the last 30 years or so has been staged on the grounds of Glasgow Green, Scotland. As most know, the Covid-19 pandemic has halted the running of the annual contest over the last two years. This year the championship is back in full force and this coming August 12-13 will see a few of the PPBSO's well-kent judging faces put to work: Greg Dinsdale, Ken Eller and Bob Worrall are all scheduled to judge various grades of competition.

In addition to judging on Friday of the event, Bob Worrall is back, again, to provide colour commentary to the live-streamed Saturday main presentation. For many years he has, alongside Jackie Bird, co-hosted The Worlds show. The tradition continues with BBC Scotland once again packaging a prime-time television programme for airing shortly after the big day.

More information can be found at: www.theworlds.co.uk, or by visiting the RSPBA's website: www.rspba.org



The other Brisbane River, Noddsdale Water.



The Knock at Brisbane Glen.

Scottish Medical Pioneer Dr Flora Murray to feature in Bank of Scotland £100 note

Image credit: Wellcome Collection CCBY 4.0.



Dr Flora Murray and Dr Louisa Garrett Anderson.

studied at the London School of Medicine for Women, the University of Durham and, eventually, the University of Cambridge.

Together with her partner, fellow medical practitioner and daughter of the first English women to qualify as a doctor, Louisa Garrett Anderson, she set up the Women's Hospital for Children which provided health care for working class children. But despite her extensive skills and savvy leadership style, Flora struggled to progress in her career. Until the start of the First World War women doctors were only permitted to treat women and children and could not study general medicine and surgery either. This is one of the reasons why Flora – already a staunch women's rights advocate – believed so passionately in women's suffrage. Alongside delivering medical support to suffragettes recovering from hunger strike and other injuries sustained through their activism, Flora spoke regularly at public gatherings and became one of the key figures for the movement in Scotland. She also joined the 1911 census protest – whereby Emmeline Pankhurst rallied women suffragettes to refuse the 1911 census in protest of the government's unwillingness to give women the vote.

How did Flora help during the First World War?

Thousands of soldiers needed urgent medical assistance during the First World War. This is where Flora and Louisa spotted an opportunity to do their bit, plus try and change damaging societal norms for the better. So, knowing their offers to help would likely be rejected by the British War

Office, together they set up the Women's Hospital Corps (WHC) – a group of women doctors and nurses who ran two military hospitals in Paris and Wimereux, France, between September 1914 to January 1915.

Following the success of those hospitals, Flora and Louisa were then invited by the UK Government to run Endell Street Military Hospital – a large institution in London staffed predominately by suffragette women.

More than 24,000 seriously ill soldiers were treated and countless lives saved while the hospital was open. Even more impressive; both Flora and Louisa had little knowledge of trauma or orthopaedics, yet rose to the challenge nonetheless. Unsurprisingly, Flora's heroism didn't go unnoticed. In 1917 she and Louisa were awarded the CBE for their efforts during the war. And in 1923, they retired to their cottage in Buckinghamshire with their two terrier dogs. Although little is known about Flora and Louisa's personal lives they remained in a committed relationship, and even wore matching diamond rings. In 1923, Flora sadly died of cancer at the age of 54, leaving behind an inspiring legacy that promoted gender integration within the medical profession. She was buried in Buckinghamshire. Her memorial stone also pays tribute to Louisa, and concludes with the line 'We have been gloriously happy.'

Bank of Scotland's bank notes

In 1696 Bank of Scotland became the first commercial bank in Europe to successfully issue paper currency. And the bank has issued notes showcasing Scotland's incredible history for more than 320 years.



Currently, it issues £1, £5, £10, £20, £50 and £100 note denominations. The new £100 polymer note will feature a portrait of Dr Murray at The Royal Free Hospital in London, painted by Francis Dodd in 1921 on its reverse side, plus an image of female stretcher bearers outside Endell Street Hospital. It also boasts significant security features too, such as an anti-counterfeit 'window effect on its front side that displays an image of Dr Murray, the bank's logo and '£100' within a vertical strip. The new £100 polymer note will enter circulation on 9th May 2022, a day after Flora's birthday.

Caroline Clarke, Chief Executive of the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust, said: "As the first institution in Britain to train women in medicine, the Royal Free Hospital drew aspiring female doctors from across the globe; we're immensely proud that the Bank of Scotland and the Royal Free Charity have worked together to give Flora her rightful place in the pantheon of British medical history. Almost a century since her death, Flora's story is a reminder of the huge debt of gratitude we owe to those early agitators who refused to accept the limitations imposed by a society that didn't believe women could or should be doctors, physicians and surgeons. Then and now, we embrace the pioneers, the innovators, and the game-changers."



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IN SCOTLAND TODAY



Over 1 million Scottish Gaelic learners on Duolingo

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the National Centre for Gaelic Language and Culture, has entered a new partnership with Duolingo to deliver the app's popular Scottish Gaelic language course that has already attracted over 1.1 million Gaelic learners worldwide. The announcement that the National Centre for Gaelic Language and Culture has taken over the development of the Scottish Gaelic Duolingo course was announced during the recent World Gaelic Week (Seachdain na Gàidhlig) in March. The same group of volunteers who have been working on the course since it launched in 2019 will now develop the course as part of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig's team.

Today, there are 431,000 active learners worldwide: 37% in the USA, 25% in the UK and 6% in Canada, with the remainder spread across the globe. The primary motivation to learn is 'Culture', with 40% of learners choosing this, followed by 'Brain Training' 18%, and 'Family' and 'School', both 12%.

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Principal Dr Gillian Munro said: "This exciting new partnership is a great opportunity to align Duolingo's Scottish Gaelic language content with our own Gaelic language courses at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. The success of Scottish Gaelic on Duolingo demonstrates the growing demand to learn Gaelic both in Scotland and internationally, and we would like to pay tribute to the dedicated volunteers for developing such a great course - ceud mìle taing dhuibh."

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig's Adult Learning Manager Màrtainn Mac a' Bhàillidh also worked as a volunteer on the Duolingo Scottish Gaelic course. He said: "The Duolingo app is a brilliant learning resource to attract new learners, and to help existing learners and lapsed Gaelic speakers on their learning journey. I look forward to developing the Duolingo course, while promoting further learning opportunities to the growing Scottish Gaelic Duolingo community."

Duolingo's Scottish Gaelic course is available for free on iOS and Android, and at duolingo.com, using game-like experiences to help learners practise and improve their Gaelic language skills.

Major new study shows role beavers could play in restoring Scotland's rivers



Beavers could make an important contribution to improving the condition of Scotland's rivers, including helping to

improve water quality and limiting the effects of drought. The positive role they can play in water resource management, as well as in creating habitat, carbon sequestration and river restoration, is highlighted in a report produced by scientists at the University of Aberdeen and the James Hutton Institute. They have collated evidence from 120 studies of beaver populations worldwide, as part of a large-scale review of their effects on streams and rivers. In Scotland, beavers have already taken up residence in a few areas, including Tayside and Knapdale. While sometimes their presence has been welcomed, in other situations there has been conflict, for example where their activity affected intensively managed landscapes.

Until now, evidence of the role of beavers in helping to manage river ecosystems in Scotland has been minimal. Angus Tree from NatureScot said: "This is a significant study that clearly demonstrates the unique ways in which beavers engineer ecosystems. It backs up evidence we've gathered over the years and will help our work with stakeholders as we develop the best ways to live with, and benefit from, beavers. We are committed to continuing work to restore and manage beavers, as one important way to protect Scotland's environment and respond to the climate emergency."

Olivia and Jack are Scotland's top baby names



Olivia has overtaken Isla to become Scotland's most popular name for baby girls for the second time, according to figures on baby names registered in 2021 published recently by National Records of Scotland (NRS). Jack is the most popular name for baby boys for the 14th year in succession, followed by Noah and Leo. Lyla shot up 56 places in the top 100 girls' names to 74th overall, while Blake rose 46 places and Rowan 41. Carson has seen the largest increase in the top 100 boys' names in 2021, rising 42 places to 83rd, while Struan has jumped 37 places and Myles is up by 35.

Director of Statistical Services, Pete Whitehouse said: "Beneath the headline figures the long-term trend is for more names to be used each year, including some names only given to one baby in 2021. Almost 12% of baby girls were given a name that no other girl was registered with in 2021. Almost 9% of boys had unique names for births last year. Together with the growing range of names being used

this means it's far less common for children to share their name with their classmates than it was for their parents or grandparents."

With NRS running this year's census Pete Whitehouse took the opportunity to appeal to parents to take part; "I know the parents of young children, particularly those with babies, have busy lives but I ask them to make time to fill in the census form and record their growing families in the census. Like registering a birth, filling in the census form is a legal responsibility for every household and provides the Scottish Government, councils, the NHS and many others with data they need to provide services for the whole country from the very youngest to the oldest."

You can explore the popularity of first names in Scotland over the years with NRS's interactive app. NRS also published a list of the most common surnames in the Birth, Marriage and Death registers for 2021. Smith, Brown, and Wilson have been the three most popular surnames since the first list, which is for 1975, and remained the top three in 2021.

Babies' First Names, 2021 and the Most Common Surnames in Birth, Marriage and Death registers are available on the NRS website: www.nrscotland.gov.uk

Stunning bear sculpture lit up in solidarity with Ukraine



The stunning sculpture of a brown bear, The DunBear, has been lit up in the Ukrainian flag colours of blue and yellow in solidarity with the people of Ukraine. Located beside the A1 at Dunbar, The DunBear is a tribute to the pioneering Dunbar-born naturalist and conservationist, John Muir, who played a key role in the establishment of National Parks in the USA. The five-metre-high steel sculpture is much-loved by the local community and has attracted increased footfall to the town, benefitting it immensely.

Designed by renowned Scottish sculptor, Andy Scott, also responsible for The Kelpies, The DunBear was erected in 2019 by Hallhill Developments. It forms the centrepiece of DunBear Park, a proposed 54.3-acre low carbon community that aims to include a range of commercial, community and residential uses.

Ken Ross from Hallhill Developments, which is responsible for The DunBear and is undertaking the DunBear Park development, said: "As part of the global show of solidarity for the people of Ukraine, we have lit up the stunning DunBear sculpture in blue and yellow, the colours of the Ukrainian flag. We wanted the people of Ukraine to know the considerable support they have, given the horrific impact of the Russian invasion, which has torn so many lives apart. Our thoughts are with them."

The DunBear illumination joins a variety of historic and cultural sites across Scotland which have been lit in blue and yellow in support of the people of Ukraine.

RSPB Scotland launches UK's first eagle nest camera feed at Loch Garten Nature Centre



Photo: Ian McNab @RSPBScotland.

New camera provides visitors to The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Scotland Loch Garten Nature Centre with live views of a white-tailed eagle nest. In what has been hailed as a first for the UK, a new live camera feed at RSPB Scotland's Loch Garten Nature Centre is giving visitors an up-close look at Scotland's largest bird of prey.

A pair of white-tailed eagles, Shona and Finn, have established a nest in the vast landscape of the Cairngorms Connect partnership, of which RSPB Scotland is part, with their activities beamed live to the Loch Garten Nature Centre at the charity's Abernethy nature reserve. Using methods successfully trialled in other countries including Estonia and Latvia and under special license from NatureScot, experts from Wildlife Windows have installed a camera approximately 3 metres from the nest. As eagles will often become nervous about new items or changes around their nest, all work was undertaken in autumn when it was safe to do so and the camera has been hidden in a stick to avoid unsettling them.

Jason Fathers of Wildlife Windows said: "Wildlife Windows consider it a privilege to have installed this white-tailed eagle nest camera. As far as we are aware, this is the first camera of this quality on a white-tailed eagle nest in the UK. This has been one of the most challenging camera installations we have completed, due to the sensitivity of the species and remote location. We are very keen to see the story unfold while getting a close-up insight into white-tailed eagle life."

Jess Tomes, Abernethy Site Manager for People at RSPB Scotland, said, "This is an enormously exciting addition to the visitor offer at the Loch Garten Nature Centre. The images we're getting live from the nest are phenomenal and our visitors will get a very rare and extremely privileged peek at the domestic life of a breeding white-tailed eagle pair. Already we're noticing little personality traits in them – the male is very attentive to his mate and to tidying the nest – it's fascinating to watch."

Also known as sea eagles, white-tailed eagles have a wingspan of 2.5 metres and are often referred to as 'flying barn doors'. They were driven to extinction in Scotland in 1918 before birds from Scandinavia were re-introduced to the Isle of Rum in 1975. Subsequent re-introductions in other parts of the country, as well as the birds' natural dispersal means there are now populations spread as far as Fife, Orkney and the northwest Highlands. To avoid disturbance of the birds, the exact location of the nest is not being disclosed to the public. Visitors to RSPB Scotland's Loch Garten Nature Centre can view the live feed daily throughout the spring and summer.

The face of a medieval wanderer

Isotope analysis of 'bodies in the bog' found at Cramond reveals several crossed a politically divided Scotland, meeting their end hundreds of miles from their place of birth. For decades, the skeletal remains of nine adults and five infants found in the latrine of what was once a Roman bath house close to Edinburgh have fascinated archaeologists and the public alike. Discovered in Cramond in 1975 they were originally thought to be victims of the plague or a shipwreck from the 14th century. Then radiocarbon dating showed them to be some 800 years older, dating to the 6th century, or early medieval period.

New bioarchaeological work led by the University of Aberdeen has brought to light more details of their lives and has revealed that several of the group travelled across Scotland to make Cramond their home. Their investigations change our understanding not only of this important site but of the mobility and connections of people across Scotland in the early medieval period, when the country was broadly divided between the Scotti in Dál Riata to the west, the Picts in most of northern Scotland and the Britons in the south.

The bodies in the bog

The researchers examined the bones and teeth of the group unearthed from what was once the latrine of a bathhouse in a Roman fort, leading to them being coined 'the bodies in the bog'. Using isotope analyses they were able to look at the diet and origins of each of the adults in the group. Professor Kate Britton, senior author of the study, said

they were surprised to discover that despite being buried in close proximity to each other – leading to assumptions that they were one family - some were brought up hundreds of miles apart.

Professor Britton said; "Food and water consumed during life leave a specific signature in the body which can be traced back to their input source, evidencing diet and mobility patterns. Tooth enamel, particularly from teeth which form between around three and six years of age, act like little time capsules containing chemical information about where a person grew up. When we examined the remains, we found six of them to bear chemical signatures consistent with what we would expect from individuals growing up in the area local to Cramond but two – those of a man and a woman – were very different. This suggests that they spent their childhoods somewhere else, with the analysis of the female placing her origins on the West coast. The male instead had an isotopic signature more typical of the Southern Uplands, Southern Highlands or Loch Lomond area so it is likely he came to Cramond from an inland area."

Historically elusive time period

The findings, published in the Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences journal, provide one of the first insights into early medieval population mobility in Scotland. Dr Orsolya Czére, post-doctoral researcher and lead author of the study, added: "This is a historically elusive time period, where little may be gleaned about the lives of individuals from primary literary sources. What we do

know is that it was a politically and socially tumultuous time. In Scotland particularly, evidence is scarce and little is known about individual movement patterns and life histories. Bioarchaeological studies like this are key to providing information about personal movement in early medieval Scotland and beyond. It is often assumed that travel in this period would have been limited without roads like we have today and given the political divides of the time. The analysis of the burials from Cramond, along with other early medieval burial sites in Scotland, are revealing that it was not unusual to be buried far from where you had originally grown up. Previous studies have suggested that those buried here were of high social status, even nobility. What we can say from our new analyses was that these were well-connected individuals, with lives that brought them across the country. This is an important step in unravelling how these different populations of early medieval Scotland and Britain interacted."

Despite evidence for geographical mobility, social tensions may still have been high. Several of the skeletons at Cramond indicate that some of the individuals may have met with violent ends. Osteoarchaeologist and co-author Dr Ange Boyle from the University of Edinburgh said: "Detailed osteological analysis of the human remains has determined that a woman and young child deposited in the Roman latrine suffered violent deaths. Blows to the skulls inflicted by a blunt object, possibly the butt end of a spear would have been rapidly fatal.



Reconstruction of man who may have come from Loch Lomond.

Dr Orsolya Czére with extracted bone collagen.

This evidence provides important confirmation that the period in question was characterised by a high level of violence."

John Lawson, the City of Edinburgh Council archaeologist, co-author and lead archaeologist on the investigations at Cramond, says the new findings further underline the importance of the Cramond site. Her said: "This paper has been the result of fantastic collaboration between ourselves and our co-authors from Aberdeen and Edinburgh Universities. The final results from the isotopic research have confirmed the initial 2015 results giving us archaeological evidence and a window into the movement of elite society in the 6th century. In particular it is helping us to support our belief that Cramond during this time was one of Scotland's key political centres during this important period of turmoil and origins for the state of Scotland. Whilst it has helped us answer some questions about the individuals buried in the former Roman Fort's Bathhouse, it has also raised more. We hope to continue to work together to bring more findings to publication as these have a significant impact on what is known about the history of Scotland and Northern Britain during the Dark Ages."

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Marvel actress Karen Gillan

*leads the 24th annual
NYC Tartan Day Parade*

All images, unless noted otherwise, courtesy of Benjamin Chateauvert/GreenCastle Photography.



The Theatre School of Scotland.

Scottish actress Karen Gillan arrived at New York's Algonquin Hotel carrying only a change of shoes and a small bag. With barely 24 hours leave from filming the next *Guardians of the Galaxy* film in Atlanta, Georgia she packed only what she could carry. Once at the hotel she slipped effortlessly into the familiar routine of hair and makeup which, for her

role as Grand Marshal of the NYC Tartan Day Parade, would take considerably less time than the daily transformation into her iconic character Nebula from the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

"The fact that I get to lead the [parade] is completely insane," Gillan said. "I'm so excited to be in one of my favorite cities in the world celebrating my country."

Born in Inverness, Karen Gillan studied acting at the Performing Arts Studio Scotland and later at the Italia Conti Academy in London, which opened the doors for her to land some of her most recognizable roles including Amy Pond in *Doctor Who* (2010-13), Ruby Roundhouse in *Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle* (2017), and of course the humanoid assassin Nebula in *Guardians of the Galaxy* (2014), *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2* (2017), *Avengers: Infinity War* (2018), and *Avengers: Endgame* (2019). Her most recent film, *The Bubble*, which was recently released on Netflix.



A wee dancer at Bryant Park.



When the pipers play.



A Highland Fling in the heart of NYC.



The American Scottish Foundation.



Guardians of the Gillan

Donning a custom Clan McQueen tartan kilt paired with a Motley Crew tee shirt, Gillan was accompanied by an entourage of seven girlfriends (each sporting their own custom kilts) as the second ever female Grand Marshal of the NYC Tartan Day Parade. Gillan said she loved the feeling of leading an “army of women in kilts,” prompting the kilt designer, Howie Nicholsby of 21st Century Kilts, to dub the companions the “Guardians of the Gillan.”

Shouts of “Inverness!” followed Gillan from the city spectators as she waved from atop the double-decker bus parked at the end of the parade route. Back in person for the first time since 2019 because of COVID-19, the 24th annual NYC Tartan Day Parade returned with over two thousand participants registered to march in the pinnacle event. With participants reconnecting from all across Scotland, the United States, and Canada, NYC Tartan Week President Kyle Dawson likens the event to a “family reunion,” adding that Karen Gillan was the ideal figure to represent Scotland and Scottish culture in America.

Other events celebrating Tartan Week included the American Scottish Foundation’s Tartan Day Observance held at Bryant Park to honor the day in readings of Declaration of Arbroath and Senate Resolutions. The day included music from the Highland Divas, Noisemaker, NYU Pipes and Drums, the Theatre School of Scotland and MSP Angus Robertson bringing remarks from Scotland.



Shamrock Thistle Pipes and Drums.



Robert Currie, Commander of the Name and Arms of Currie and Madam Pauline Hunter of Hunterston and that ilk, 30th Chief of Clan Hunter. Photo: James Higgins.

Tartan Day is a celebration across both the US and Canada with events from South Carolina with Tartan Day South, to San Antonio to Los Angeles where St Andrews LA held the Tartan Film Festival. In Washington DC the National Tartan Day Award was presented by the Scottish Coalition USA to Bob Currie as part of the National Capital Tartan Day celebration.

The 25th annual New York City Tartan Day Parade will take place on Saturday, 15th April, 2023. For details see: www.nyctartanweek.org



John Bellasai President at Council of Scottish Clans & Associations, National Tartan Day Award recipient Robert Currie, Commander of the Name and Arms of Currie and The American Scottish Foundation President Camilla G. Hellman, MBE at the National Tartan Day Awards in Washington, DC.

The Guardians of the Gillan rallied together for a giggling Braveheart war cry of “freedom!” as they rushed out to represent Scotland on the streets of New York City.

Inside the hotel Gillan paused the music on her phone – *I’m Gonna Be (500 Miles)* by The Proclaimers – as she joined her army of women for a dram of whisky from a specially gifted bottle courtesy of NYC Tartan Week sponsor, Braeburn Whisky. The Guardians of the Gillan rallied together for a giggling Braveheart war cry of “freedom!” as they rushed out to represent Scotland on the streets of New York City.



A proud Scotsman.



The VisitScotland team at Radio City Music Hall.



Photo: Kylie Corwin.

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

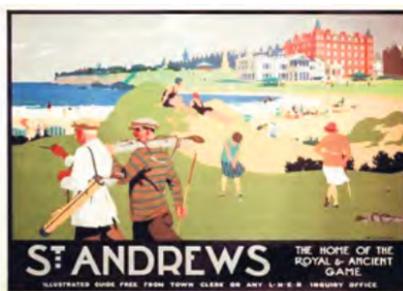
12 - The Black Watch regiment was commissioned under General Wade to police the Highlands. The force was known in Gaelic as Am Freiceadan Dubh, "the dark" or "black watch". The regiment's motto is Nemo Me Impune Lacessit (No One Assails Me With Impunity). **1725**

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

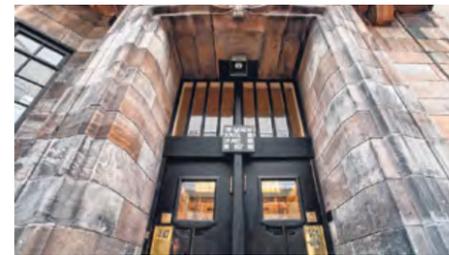
22 - Britain's worst train disaster at Quintinshill (near Gretna Green) in which three trains collided, with the loss of 227 lives. A troop train carrying the Seventh Royal Scots Regiment hit a stationary train and the night express from London then hit the wreckage. Two signalmen were later jailed.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

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

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

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

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



23 - A major fire at the Glasgow School of Art causes severe damage to the main building, designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh. A further fire took place during the restoration in June, 2018. **2014**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

HRH The Princess Royal officially opens The British Horse Society's Scottish Hub



The Princess Royal officially opened the British Horse Society's new Scottish Hub at Stirling. Photo: Julie Howden.

The British Horse Society (BHS) officially opened their new Operational Hub in Scotland with their Vice-Patron, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, who unveiled a plaque to mark the opening. The Scottish Hub, based at the Stirling Agricultural Centre, is also home to many rural organisations and activities including the famous Stirling bi-annual bull sales. The BHS is the largest equestrian charity in Scotland and the opening of the Hub will provide a prestigious base for its members, volunteers, stakeholders, and supporters in Scotland and the north of England to experience and champion best practice equestrianism.

To highlight the variety of stakeholders that the BHS works with in Scotland, HRH The Princess Royal saw a demonstration from Police

Scotland Mounted Branch who work with the Society on Operation 'Lose the Blinkers.' The collaborative campaign is directed at all road users with the aim of reducing injuries and deaths because of vehicles passing too close or too fast to ridden or driven horses.

Equestrianism

The event also included a display by the Pipe Band, and the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards who work closely with the Society. The partnership has been instrumental in developing equitation within the regiment. Others in attendance to celebrate the grand opening were members of the Moredun Foundation which the BHS funds to support research into equine grass sickness.

Helene Mauchlen, National Manager in Scotland for The British Horse Society said, "This is a huge step forward for the BHS with most legislation pertaining to the horse and equestrianism being devolved to The Scottish Government. By opening a new Operational Hub in Scotland, the BHS is accommodating a four-nation approach. It is a privilege and honour to have our Vice-Patron HRH here in Scotland to see the work of the BHS and to meet our members, volunteers, supporters, and stakeholders."

The Princess Royal presented five BHS Awards to BHS volunteers and stakeholders on their contributions to the Society, as well as unveiling a plaque.

To find out more about the BHS and their work in Scotland visit: www.bhs.org.uk/Scotland



Did you know?

The K13 Memorial

- The K13 Memorial is one of a number of monuments commemorating the lives of those lost when the *HMS K13*, a steam-propelled First World War submarine sank during sea trials in the Gareloch on 29th January 1917.
- Salvaged and recommissioned as *HMS K22*, she had been built at the Fairfield Shipyard in Govan, in south-west of Glasgow.
- A problem led to the stern of the vessel to flood, leaving 27 navy personnel and 6 Fairfield workers dead.
- 47 crew were saved following a highly dangerous and difficult rescue. They were trapped within the stricken submarine for 57 hours as divers battled to attach hoses to provide an air and food supply, later managing to connect a steel wire to pull the vessel to the surface.
- The memorial is located at the entrance to Elder Park in Govan. The memorial in Elder Park was funded by officials, foremen and employees of the Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Company in honour of the dead and unveiled on 25th November 1922.
- Other memorials for the *K13* submarine disaster include at Faslane on the Gareloch and also in Sydney, Australia. That memorial was created in Carlingford, NSW in 1961 by the widow of Charles Albert Harry Freestone, a survivor of *K13*, who after leaving the Royal Navy emigrated to Australia.
- The Submariners Association hold a service each January in remembrance of those who lost their lives.

gmhg.org

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The Piping & Drumming Camp
The Highland Echoes Show
The GMGH Marathon
The Bear Race
and more!

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photo credits: James Shaffer & Benjamin Greene

IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Honey and whisky porridge

Ingredients:

150g/5½oz. porridge oats
3 tbsp. double cream, plus extra to serve
250ml/9 fl oz. milk
1 tbsp. soft brown sugar
dash whisky
1 tbsp. clear honey, to serve

Method:

Place the oats, cream, milk, sugar and whisky into a small saucepan and cook over a gentle heat for 6-7 minutes, until thickened and smooth. To serve, pour the porridge into a bowl and drizzle with honey and cream.

Whisky and prawns

Ingredients:

2 limes, 1 juice and zest, 1 juice only
90ml/3½fl oz. whisky
180g/6½oz. soft light brown sugar
20 raw tiger prawns, peeled, deveined
1 red chilli, seeds removed, finely chopped
1 tbsp. vegetable oil

Method:

Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6. Heat the lime juice, whisky and sugar in a saucepan over a medium heat, stirring gently, until the sugar has dissolved. Once the sugar has all dissolved, stop stirring, turn up the heat and boil for 5-7 minutes, or until the mixture becomes syrupy and thickens. To tell if it is ready, dip a wooden spoon in the mixture and tap off the excess – some glaze should still stick to the spoon, but it will not be as thick as honey. (Sometimes the whisky catches alight and you will see a blue-orange flame coming from the pan. Just take it off the heat and the whisky will burn itself out).

Stir in the finely grated lime zest, then remove the pan from the heat and set aside.

Put the prawns in a shallow ovenproof dish and sprinkle over the chilli. Brush the prawns with the oil and then with the glaze. Bake in the oven for 10-15 minutes, or until the prawns turn opaque. Remove from the oven and brush with more glaze, reserving any extra glaze for dipping, and set aside to cool slightly before serving.

Whisky Chicken

Ingredients:

2 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves - cut into pieces.
2 tablespoons soy sauce

¼ teaspoon garlic powder
1 cup pineapple juice
3 tablespoons whisky
¼ teaspoon ground black pepper
1 tablespoon brown sugar

Method:

Saute chicken in a large skillet over medium high heat until cooked through. In a small bowl, combine the soy sauce, garlic powder, pineapple juice, whisky, pepper and sugar. Stir until sugar is dissolved and pour over chicken. Let simmer for 10 to 15 minutes, or until sauce is thickened to taste.

Whisky mustard crusted pork chop with sautéed potatoes

Ingredients:

For the whisky mustard pork chops:
75ml/3fl oz. whisky
25g/1oz honey
1 lemon, juice only
75g/3oz yellow mustard seeds
25g/1oz brown mustard seeds
50ml/2fl oz. water
4 x pork loin chops, French trimmed, fat removed
75g/3oz dried breadcrumbs
1 tbsp. olive oil
25g/1oz butter
For the sautéed potatoes:
50g/2oz. butter
3 tbsp. olive oil
4 small potatoes, peeled, cut into thick slices
1 garlic clove, peeled, finely sliced
2 fresh sprigs rosemary, leaves only
salt and freshly ground black pepper
400g/14oz baby spinach leaves
2-3 tbsp. water

Method:

Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6. Heat the whisky, honey, lemon juice and water into a saucepan and heat until the honey dissolves. Stir in the mustard seeds and cook for 1-2 minutes, or until most of the liquid has been absorbed. Blend the mixture in a food processor until creamy (this will take a few minutes). Sprinkle the breadcrumbs onto a plate. Brush the pork chop on one side with the mustard mixture and dredge in the breadcrumbs. Spoon the remaining mustard into a small bowl and set aside. Heat the olive oil and butter in an ovenproof frying pan until hot. Fry the pork chops for 2-3 minutes on each side, or until golden-brown on each side. Transfer to the oven for 6-8 minutes, or until the pork is cooked through. Remove from the oven and set aside to rest. For the sautéed potatoes,

heat the olive oil and half of the butter in a frying pan until hot. Fry the potatoes for 4-5 minutes, or until golden-brown and tender. Add the garlic and rosemary and season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Heat the remaining butter in a frying pan, add the spinach and water and cook for 2-3 minutes, or until the spinach has wilted. To serve, spoon some potatoes onto each of 4 serving plates, top with a pork chop and spoon some spinach alongside. Serve with the remaining mustard.

Chocolate, croissant and whisky pudding

Ingredients:

500ml/18fl oz. milk
500ml/18fl oz. double cream
1 vanilla pod
3 whole eggs
5 egg yolks
200g/7¼oz. caster sugar
3 large croissants
25g/1oz sultanas
25g/1oz. butter, melted
175g/6¼oz. good quality white chocolate, grated
3 tbsp. whisky
55g/2oz. apricot jam, slightly melted
icing sugar
vanilla ice cream, to serve

Method:

Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6. Pour the milk and cream into a pan, add the vanilla pod and gradually bring to the boil. Place the eggs, egg yolks and sugar together in a bowl and mix well.

While the cream is heating, slice the croissants and place in an ovenproof dish, slightly overlapping the pieces. Sprinkle with sultanas and pour over the butter. Once the cream has boiled, take it off the heat. Add the egg mixture and chocolate and stir well. Set on one side to allow the chocolate to melt, stirring occasionally. Add the whisky to the cream mixture.

Next, using a sieve, strain the cream over the croissants, cover with foil and bake in the oven for fifteen to twenty minutes or until almost set. Remove from the oven, coat the top with the jam and dust with icing sugar. Caramelize the topping using a very hot grill. Serve at room temperature with a spoonful of ice cream.

Whisky marmalade



Ingredients:

1 small grapefruit
2 lemons
1 sweet or Seville orange
1.75 litres/3 pints water
1.4kg/3lb 1oz. granulated sugar
75ml/5 tbsp. whisky

Method:

Juice the fruit and pour the juice into a large, lidded pan with a capacity of 6-8 litres/10-14 pints. Add the water. Scrape out the inner



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

membranes and pips from the fruit with a small sharp knife. Put the membranes into a food processor or mini-chopper and chop finely. Put the chopped membranes, and any pips, into a muslin bag or a piece of muslin tied with string. Add to the pan. Shred the peel to your preferred thickness and add it to the pan. Set aside to allow the peel to soak for a few hours or, if possible, overnight. Bring the lidded pan to boil, reduce the heat and simmer very gently for two hours. The peel should be very tender. Meanwhile, preheat the oven to 140C/275F/Gas 1. Pour the sugar into a baking dish and warm in the oven for a few minutes.

Remove the muslin bag from the pan and squeeze the liquid from the bag into a bowl. Pass through a sieve and add to the pan. Weigh the contents of the pan - it should be no more than 1.4kg/3lb 1oz. If you have more than this, return the contents to the pan and simmer to reduce the liquid until the correct weight is achieved. Add the warmed sugar to the pan and stir until dissolved. Gradually bring the pan to a rolling boil. After seven minutes, test the setting point by scooping out a large spoonful of the marmalade. Allow the mixture to cool a little, then slowly pour it back into the pan. If it is at the setting point, the drops will run together to form a hanging flake (this is known as the flake test). It can take up to 30 minutes to reach setting point, so keep testing.

Leave the marmalade to cool for 5-10 minutes (a skin should form on the surface). Remove any scum from the surface and add the spirit of your choice to the pan. Gently stir the marmalade to evenly distribute the peel and the alcohol. Pour the marmalade into sterilised jars and seal. Leave the jars upright and undisturbed to set.

Rob Roy

Ingredients:

50ml/1.5 oz. scotch whisky
Splash of red vermouth
few dashes of angostura bitters
ice
1 cocktail cherry, to garnish

Method:

Put a tumbler in the fridge to chill until cold. Meanwhile, pour the whisky, vermouth and bitters into a mixing glass or jug along with a handful of ice cubes. Stir until the outside of the glass or jug feels very cold. Fill the chilled tumbler with ice, then strain in the cocktail.

Twist the strip of orange peel over the drink to express the oils, then discard. Garnish with a cocktail cherry to serve.

Serving up a taste of Scotland in the Big Apple



Clann An Drumma, Scottish chef Tony Singh and Finlay Wilson, the Kilted Yogi.

Hundreds of New Yorkers enjoyed a taste of Scotland in April courtesy of a special Tartan Day Takeaway event hosted by VisitScotland. As part of its ongoing work to bring back international visitors following the COVID-19 pandemic, the national tourism organisation treated locals to some tasty Scottish street food served by Scottish TV Chef and restaurateur Tony Singh. Hosted next to Madison Square Park in Manhattan, the pop-up food truck's menu,

inspired by Tony Singh's Scottish Sikh heritage, featured Punjabi Salmon Tacos, Kheer with Islay Whisky Sweet Mango, washed down with Scotland's 'other national drink' Irn Bru.

The Tartan Day festivities were led by Finlay Wilson, the Kilted Yogi who conducted some fun-filled kilted yoga with passers-by and fuelled by Scottish music. The event formed part of wider Tartan Week celebrations in Canada and the USA recognising the strong historical

and cultural ties with Scotland. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the USA was the largest international market for visitors to Scotland with the highest number of visits (636,000) and expenditure (£717 million) in 2019. Meanwhile Canada was the top international market for visitors visiting multiple regions within Scotland between 2017 and 2019. This year marked the return of the first VisitScotland in-person events at Tartan Week since 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, culminating in the annual Tartan Day parade in New York on Saturday 9 April which will be led by Scottish actress, Karen Gillan as Grand Marshall.

North America has enjoyed a flavour of the best Scotland

Vicki Miller, VisitScotland Director of Marketing & Digital, said: "After a two-year break, VisitScotland is thrilled to be back in North America and part of Tartan Week. North America is Scotland's largest international market, and the return of these visitors is vital for the long-term recovery of our valuable tourism and events industry. Tartan Week, and creative events such as the Tartan Day Takeaway, are a key part of our work to keep Scotland top of mind and rebuild international demand. It complements

our global marketing 'Scotland is Calling' campaign - which aims to make Scotland the destination of choice for all visitors in 2022 and beyond - as well as our work with inbound travel trade and airline partners to secure the return of direct routes. We know there is pent-up demand for travel and hope North America has enjoyed a flavour of the best Scotland has to offer this week. Scotland is open and our tourism and events industry looks forward to welcoming back visitors."

Scotland's rich history and diverse culture are a strong motivator for both USA and Canadian visitors. An increase in film and TV shows set in Scotland in recent years such as *Outlander* and the country's reputation as the 'Home of Golf' have also helped attract visitors. Recent research by VisitBritain into consumer sentiment towards international travel during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, has found 80% of USA and 77% of Canadian respondents intend to travel abroad for leisure purposes within the next 12 months with consideration for Scotland increasing among all age groups. Rebuilding international visitor demand and re-engaging with the North American market will help support the recovery of Scotland's valuable tourism industry from the COVID-19 pandemic.



This castle featured in the film Hamlet.

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) In which year was the *Queen, Elizabeth II* launched?, a) 1964, b) 1967 or c) 1969?
- 2) Where was Bonnie Prince Charlie born?
- 3) Inveraray Castle is the seat of which Duke?
- 4) Was Robert Burns an only child?
- 5) On which Scottish island is Talisker malt whisky distilled?
- 6) Which clan is traditionally Lord of the Isles?
- 7) If a Scot developed a 'keenk', what would he be doing?

- 8) Which Scottish castle on north-east coast featured in Mel Gibson's 1990 film *Hamlet*?
- 9) Where in Scotland would you find the memorial statue to the Commandoes?
- 10) Which classical composer introduced bagpipe music into his compositions?

Answers

- 1) b) 1967
- 2) In Rome in 1720.
- 3) The Duke of Argyll.
- 4) Burns had three brothers and three sisters - he was the eldest of a family of seven!
- 5) The Isle of Skye.
- 6) The MacDonalds.
- 7) Coughing.
- 8) Dunnottar Castle.
- 9) Near Spean Bridge.
- 10) Mendelssohn.

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WHOLESALE AVAILABLE

Calling the Clans

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

Clan Baird Society Worldwide

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

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

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

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



Clan Cumming Society of the United States

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

Clan Donnachaidh Society of New South Wales Inc., Australia

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

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

Clan Fraser Society of Australia

Invites all Frasers and Fraser septs to join our clan society.

All members receive a copy of our quarterly newsletter "Strawberry Leaves"

Membership enquiries to Don Chitts
Ph: (03) 9754 5120 donchitts@hotmail.com
Website: <http://clanfraseraustralia.org>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Pages/Clan-Fraser-Society-of-Australia/>
482236358590288

CLAN BELL

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

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

Clan Davidson Society in Australia Inc.

CHIEF: Grant Davidson of Davidston cordially invites to membership all who bear one of the Clan Names, and all who can trace their descent from an ancestor bearing one of these Names: Davidson; Davison; Dawson; Davis; Davie; Davey; Davy; Day; Dye; Dyson; Dawson; Dea; Dean; Deane; Deas; Deason; Dees; Dee; Dey; Daw; Dow; Dhai; Kay; Keay; Key; Keys; MacDade; MacDaid; MacDavid; MacDavett; MacDagnie; MacDagny; MacDhai; McKeddie. In addition we welcome into membership all who have a family association with the Clan Davidson.

Applications may be made online: clandavidsonaus@gmail.com or contact the Hon. Secretary Mr Dennis Hill, J.P., P.O. Box 519 Baulkham Hills NSW 1755 dhill1@bigpond.net.au 0431 527 662

CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY

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

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

Visit our website to learn more about Clan Donnachaidh, our History & Traditions, the Clan Museum in Scotland, the DNA Project, the new Struan Kirk Appeal, & locate a Branch near you.

<http://www.donnachaidh.com/>
Facebook: [The Clan Donnachaidh Society](https://www.facebook.com/TheClanDonnachaidhSociety)
Email: ivc@donnachaidh.com

Clan Galbraith Society

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

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

www.clangalbraith.org

Family of Bruce International, Inc.

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

Membership inquiries should be directed to:

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

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

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

secretary.donaldaustralia@gmail.com
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Edmonstone Clan Society

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

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

Clan Gregor Society

Established 1822, Edinburgh, Scotland
Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor
7th Baronet of Lanrick and Balgibbider,
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

National Clan Cameron Australia 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
secy.nationalclancameronaus@gmail.com
www.clan-cameron.org.au

Clan Donald Queensland

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

Elliot Clan Society, U.S.A.

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

Direct inquires to: Jim Dougherty
Treasurer/Membership Chair
Email: elliottcommia@gmail.com
Website: www.elliotclan-usa.com

Clan Gregor Society Australasia

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

Frank McGregor
PO Box 14 NORTH HOBART TAS 7002
Email: clangregoraustalia@gmail.com
Web: www.clangregor.com
"Royal is our Race"

THE CLAN CAMPBELL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

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

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

Clan Donald U.S.A. Inc.

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

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

Clan Farquharson Association Australia

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
www.clanfarquharsonaus.weebly.com

American Clan Gregor Society

Est 1909 Membership inquiries welcomed from MacGregors of all spellings and Septs

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

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

CLAN CARRUTHERS SOCIETY -INTERNATIONAL-

Clan Chief
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www.clancarrutherssociety.org
clancarrutherssociety@gmail.com

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

CLAN DONALD VICTORIA
President: Mr Norman A. Macdonald
Contact: secretary.clandonaldvic@gmail.com
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CLAN MACDONALD YARRAVILLE
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Contact: secretary@clanmacdonaldyarraville.com

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

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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.
 Alderston; Ayer; Bagra; Beagrie; Conn (Aberdeenshire only); Constable; Delahaye; Delgaty; Du Plessis; Dupplin; Errol; Garrow; Geary; Gifford; Hayden; Haye; Hayes; Hayler; Haymes; Hays; Hayton; Hayward; Hey; Hye; Kinnoul; Laxfirth; Leask*; Leith; Locherworth; Logie; Macara; MacGaradh; McKester; Peebles; Phillips (Aberdeenshire only); Slains; Turriff; Tweeddale; Yester; Zester
 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

McAlpin/e

and variant spellings
Commander: Michael T. McAlpin
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 Website: <https://macalpein.com/>

Clan MacLaren

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 Lawson Low[e]
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 MacPatrick MacRory
 Mark A. McLaren, President
 President@clanmaclarena.org

CLAN MACNEIL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
 invites all MacNeils, regardless of surname spelling, to join us in celebrating our heritage!
 website: ClanMacNeilUSA.us
 Find us on Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram @ClanMacNeilUSA




Clan Hay

April Rich
 28 Oxbow Drive
 Willimantic, CT 06226
 clanhaymembership@hotmail.com
 The American Branch of the First Family of Scotland welcomes inquiries 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
 505-470 Scenic Drive, London, ON N5Z 3B2
 Email: info@macdougall.org Home page: www.macdougall.org
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/clanmacdougall
Names Associated with Clan MacDougall of Argyll and Clan MacDowall of Galloway

Coul	MacCoul	Macoual
Conacher	MacConacher	
Coyle	MacCoyle	
Dole	MacDole	MacDill
Doual	MacDoual	MacDougal
Dougal	MacDougal	MacDougald
Dougle	MacDougle	MacDouglid
Dugal	MacDugal	MacDugle
Dowall	MacDowall	MacDowall
MacDowall	MacDowall	MacDowall
Lullich	MacLullich	MacLullich
MacCulloch	MacCulloch	MacCullagh
MacClintock	MacClintock	MacClintock
MacHale	MacHale	MacHoul
MacHowell	MacHowell	MacHowan
MacKichan	M'Gowall	MacNameil
MacLucas	MacLucas	MacLuke

Spelling Variations May Vary or Omit the Mac, Mc

Clan MacLellan

John B. McClellan, Jr.
 Treasurer
 383 Ash Brook Lane
 Sunnyvale, TX
 75182-3250
 Email: treasurer@clanmaclellan.net
 Invites all MacLellans and their descendants regardless of surname spelling to join in preserving our heritage.
 Various family names are MacLellan(d), McClellan(d), McLellan(d) and Gilliland.
 Visit our website: www.clanmaclellan.net

Clan MacNicol

Chief: John MacNeacail
of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac
 Contact: Secretary Mal Nicolson
 PO Box 243
 GYMEA NSW 2227
www.clanmacnicol.org

Clan Henderson Society

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

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

 Contact: Jeff Henderson
jeffh@bigpond.com
 0439 330 012
www.clanhendersonsociety.com

INTERNATIONAL CLAN MACFARLANE SOCIETY, INC.
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 Re-established - 1973 Grandfather Mountain, NC
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 Michael R. MacFarlane, FSA Scot - President
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 John K. Manchester - Secretary
 International Clan MacFarlane Society, Inc.
 PO Box 339 Eldersburg, CA 91740 USA
info@macfarlane.org
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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 - Alex McLeod 08 8327 0925
 ● Western Australia - Ruth MacLeod 08 9364 6334
 ● Email: peter.macleod@exemail.com.au

Clan Macpherson Association

Clan Macpherson welcomes enquiries from Macphersons and members of our Associated families. For information about local activities visit our web site www.clan-macpherson.org branches

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

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Text and images courtesy of Historic Environment Scotland.

Lochleven Castle - The Prison Island



Lochleven Castle.

Discover the tumultuous history of Lochleven Castle, one of Scotland's most stunning ruins with a past filled with family feuds, imprisonment and escape.

Mary Queen of Scots famously escaped from her prison at Lochleven Castle on 2 May 1568. The castle is situated on a small island in the middle of Loch Leven. Now inhabited by wildlife only, it's the perfect spot for reflection and relaxed strolls. It is hard to imagine that the castle once served as a high security prison! Step back in time with Historic Environment Scotland and relive the most intriguing parts of the castle's history.

Locking up royal relatives

For a castle that lies off the beaten track in Kinross, its significance should not be underestimated, as it has a long line of esteemed guests. Robert the Bruce's son David II visited the castle twice in the 1360s. He used the castle as a prison for his own nephew, who would later become Robert II of Scotland, as well as Robert's son Alexander. Robert challenged David throughout his reign. As David had no children himself and Robert was his only heir, this heightened tensions between them. Robert, however, would have to wait until the death of David in 1371 to



A portrait of Mary Queen of Scots. © Hulton Getty. Image courtesy of www.scran.ac.uk



King James III. © Hulton Getty. Image courtesy of www.scran.ac.uk

ascend the Scottish throne. It was Robert II who ended the royal status of Lochleven Castle when he handed it over to Sir Henry Douglas, whose family would look after the castle for centuries to come. The fine tower house at Lochleven was likely added due to the high-status prisoners, such as the future king to be. More than 200 years later, Mary Queen of Scots would also be imprisoned in this part of the castle.

Church versus Crown

When James III ascended the throne, it was his goal to bring the church under closer royal control. An essential part was limiting papal influence on taxation and provisions in Scotland. In the 1470s, Patrick Graham, the archbishop of St Andrews, was supporting the power of the papacy in Scotland over that of the king. The pope upgraded St Andrews from bishopric to archbishopric in 1472. He thereby made Graham more powerful than other bishops in Scotland.

Unsurprisingly, this made him fall out of favour with James III. Over the following years, Graham's money and goods were restrained and he was gradually stripped of all political power. As he no longer proved a useful ally in Scotland to the pope, he was excommunicated in 1475. A series of events that followed led to his confinement at Inchcolm, Dunfermline, and finally, Lochleven Castle. He died at Lochleven within months of being imprisoned.

A Queen in captivity

Around 80 years later, the prison at Lochleven Castle would see its most famous inmate. Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned in the tower house and would live through a dark period during her stay. Mary was pregnant when she arrived at Lochleven, but miscarried twins two months later. Still on her sickbed, she was then forced to abdicate from the throne. To add further to her humiliation, the laird of the castle fired guns and lit bonfires on 29 July 1567. These marked her infant son James VI's ascension to the Scottish throne.

Mary described the castle as 'mon ennuieuse prison' or 'my boring prison'. While she was constantly surrounded by one of the Douglas women who acted as her guards, she was not entirely without friends. The laird's brother George Douglas and a young man called Willie Douglas

helped her disguise herself and escape the island by boat on the evening of 2 May 1568. Willie Douglas had become very fond of the queen and had previously helped to smuggle her letters.

The English prisoner

A lesser known, but equally interesting inmate of Lochleven was Thomas Percy, the Earl of Northumberland. He was sent for his imprisonment at Lochleven not long after Mary. Thomas Percy had lived an eventful life even before was held captive in Scotland. His father was executed when he was a young child. He only regained his ancestral privileges and lands when he came of age through an act under the Catholic Queen Mary I. Years later, Catholics started to be persecuted under Elizabeth I and the Church of England.

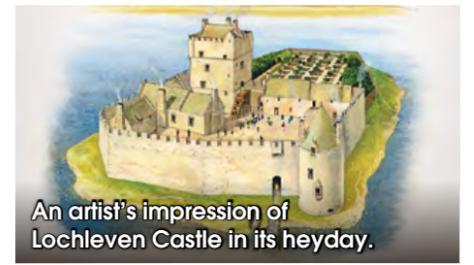
The Earl of Northumberland was among the Catholic nobles of Northern England who tried to replace Elizabeth I with Mary Queen of Scots on the English throne. The uprising, known as the Rising of the North, failed within a month. Thomas Percy fled to Scotland where he was caught and

imprisoned at Lochleven Castle. After two years of imprisonment there, he was sold for a high sum to the English government. Like his father before him, Percy was sent back to England to be executed for treason. In 1895, he was beatified by the Catholic Church.

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



Artist's impression of the Tower House.



An artist's impression of Lochleven Castle in its heyday.

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By: Judy Vickers

The Slate Islands - *The islands that roofed the world*



Easdale, Slate Islands. Photo: Michael Walsh, CC BY 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons.

The Slate Islands are a group of islands, consisting of Luìng, Seil, Easdale and Balnahua, and located in the Inner Hebrides, just north of Jura. They are known as the islands that roofed the world because, as the name suggests, they were once famous for their slate quarries. Now more than half a century later the island community is looking to start slate quarrying again as there is a growing market for the product, as Judy Vickers explains.

For a couple of centuries, they were the islands which roofed the world, their rich mineral deposits which had been used since time immemorial for simple homes, suddenly in demand around the globe. Hundreds flocked to the tiny Slate Islands off the west coast of Argyll, swelling the population into thousands, to work the seams of rock which would cover mighty buildings as far afield as Canada, Calcutta and New Zealand. But two world wars and the influx of modern materials, as well as slate from the likes of Spain and China, which lacked the iron pyrite (or fool's gold) that gave the islands' slate a distinctive glitter but also meant it wasn't suitable to be cut by machinery, saw the industry collapse in the 20th century.

The last quarry closed in 1961 but now, more than a half century later, there are plans to restart the slate industry, albeit on a much smaller scale. The community trust on one of the islands, Luìng (pronounced Ling), has commissioned a geotechnical survey to be carried out by rock experts to see if the plan is viable. A renewed interest in historical buildings means that if there are sufficient and accessible deposits, slate quarrying will return to its ancient home. Because from the days of earliest man, the slate from these islands – Seil, Luìng, Belnahua and Easdale – was used by its inhabitants to make homes, animal shelters, gravestones and anything else they needed. "Slate was used for everything," says Mike Shaw, chairman of the Scottish Slate Islands Heritage Trust. "Back then it wasn't just a material for putting on roofs. You name it, everything was made of slate."



Luìng. Photo: Remi Mathis, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons.

Easdale slate

Islanders with little technology at their disposal came up with an ingenious way of splitting the rock into thinner sheets to make it more useable. Mike explains: "The slate is exposed on the beach, there are long outcrops of slate running in seams down the beach and into the sea so it's staring you in the face. Early people drove wooden wedges into the cracks at low tide, when the tide rose and the water got into the wood, the wood swelled and cracked the slate. It was a low-tech solution."

Until the 18th century, there was no large-scale commercial quarrying although slate from the islands – known as Easdale slate whichever of the Slate Islands it comes from – was used for many prominent buildings including nearby Castle Stalker, Cawdor Castle near Inverness and Glasgow Cathedral. People quarried in their spare time to supplement their income from farming or fishing. But in 1745, the landowner, the Earl of Breadalbane, part of the Argyll Campbell family, set up the Marble and Slate Company to make more of the islands' natural resources. The marble side never really took off, but the slate did – within 50 years production rose fivefold to five million slates a year. With a Highland population suffering in the aftermath of the '45 Rising and the Clearances, there was a ready labour force and the population of the islands rose from 1492 in 1755 to 2833 in 1831.

Men worked in dug-out pits lined with slate for shelter. They were paid per thousand slates sold – in arrears. "They lived on the company shop on credit and when they did get paid most of it went back to the company shop to pay their debts," says Mike. "It is filthy dirty work, slate creates a dust a bit like coal dust and everyone's faces were black when they came out of the quarries."

The sea was vital

The sea was both a help and a hindrance – quarries were placed close to where the slates could be loaded as even with

skilled nappers (rock splitters) they were still a hefty two to two and a half inches thick. In the days before decent roads, the islands were surprisingly well connected – the inner channel running from Seil down Loch Linnhe out past Jura and Islay to Ireland providing a protected sea road from earliest times. Even when Seil was attached to the mainland in 1792 by the Bridge Across the Atlantic, the structure was built with a big arch. "The reason for that amazing arch was that even by then they really didn't want to close it as a sailing route," says Mike. "When you look around at this part of the world, these sea lochs and little islands, they are all defined by little forts and later castles from the Iron Age onwards. There was always a lot going on here. The bridge was a froth really because things continued to be moved by sea by the beginning of the 20th century. The sea was vital."

But with the plethora of small quarries having seen the easy pickings dug out in the early days, deeper, below sea level minings struggled to keep the ocean out. "Water was always a problem," says Mike. Nevertheless the quarries became deeper – and with an enormous proportion of waste, as much as 60 per cent, the industry changed the face of the islands. In fact, originally there was another island – Ellenabeich, or Island of the Birches – which lay between Easdale and Seil. "There was an enormous quarry there, it became like an orange, cut in half and with all the orange taken out and only the peel left, in places only a metre and a half thick, so really very thin and quarried to a depth of 300 feet," says Mike. "The waste was enormous and the spoil was dumped in the channel between Ellenabeich and Seil to the point that the channel was completely blocked." The island of the birches ceased to exist as an island but on that hard, packed-down spoil in the former channel, a village was built – called Ellenabeich. It's just one of the quirks about these islands; others include the fact that the primary school on Seil is called Easdale Primary School and there are buses which run from Oban, the nearest main town, to Easdale "even though a bus can't go to Easdale island".

Easdale slate was exported around the world – including eastern Canada where there were Breadalbane land interests, but also to India and New Zealand, where there is an Easdale Street in Wellington. Breadalbane's company was dissolved in 1866 and the quarries came under the control of separate commercial interests but in 1881 disaster struck. A wild storm saw a tsunami hit the islands and various quarries, including the one at Ellenabeich were flooded. There was no loss of life – the inhabitants headed for the hills in time



Bridge Over the Atlantic, Slate Islands. Photo: Tanya Dedyukhina, CC BY 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons.

– but even the huge suction pump that kept the daily ocean influx out couldn't cope with this deluge and the quarry was abandoned, as were others that were close to the end of their lives anyway.

A tiny part of the islands' rich history

The 20th century brought more challenges. "Men here joined up in droves for the First World War and the Second World War. A lot of lives were lost but those young men who survived were exposed to the world and a lot turned around and said: 'Do we really need to be digging slate?'" Production was also halted during the Second World War as it was not seen as necessary for the war effort. And as machinery was brought in to do skilled jobs, it was found the iron pyrite in Easdale slate – which sparkles when first exposed to the air, dulling as time goes on – made it unsuitable for the new technology. "Easdale slate had no chance," says Mike.

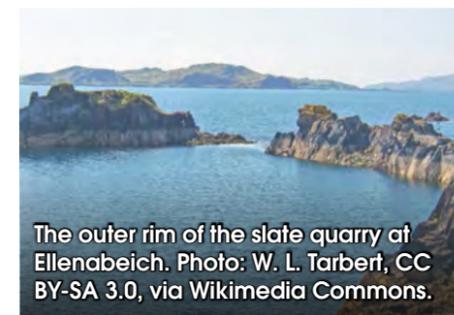
The last quarry closed in 1961 by which time the population had collapsed, dwindling to just three on Easdale at one point. Model estate worker cottages, built in the 19th century to house immigrant labour at the height of the industry, were sold off to sitting tenants for a few shillings but many couldn't find work and moved any way, leaving the houses to sit empty. "But then 25 years later, people come and said: 'That's my grandpa's house, I'm going to have it as a holiday home,'" says Mike. The beauty and tranquillity of the islands means many have chosen to move here and the population has risen again – with around 150 on Seil and 200 on Luìng – albeit many are retired. Belnahua, which was once home to almost 200 people, is now uninhabited. Easdale, however, which struggled to sustain a population without the slate industry as it has no natural water supply, now has a population of around 60 thanks to modern technology.

The heritage centre sees many visitors coming to find out more about their quarry worker ancestors. For Mike, though, the slate industry boom was just a tiny part of the islands' rich history. "The slate industry lasted around 200 years – the Vikings were here for 400! If you have any eye for history you realise you are stubbing your toe against a far older time here."

For more details see: www.slateislands.org.uk



Quarry on Seil. Photo: Remi Mathis, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons.



The outer rim of the slate quarry at Ellenabeich. Photo: W. L. Tarbert, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons.

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The St. Andrew's Society of Montreal is proud to announce the return of an evening of unique and rare whiskies in aid of the Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital at Mount Royal Club 1175 Sherbrooke Street West. Info: www.whiskyfete.org

Soldiers of the Queen

26, Armstrong, BC

The Okanagan Military Tattoo together with the Armstrong Regional Co-op, will be hosting the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) Mounted Troop in a performance called "Soldiers of the Queen" in celebration of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee at Armstrong Fairgrounds. Info: 250 549 7469 or www.ticketsseller.ca

JUNE 2022

Georgetown Highland Games

11, Georgetown, ON

A fun filled day of piping, dancing and heavyweight athletes, surround by friends and family at Georgetown Fairgrounds. Info: www.georgetownhighlandgames.com

St. Andrew's Society of Toronto Spring Dinner

17, Toronto, ON

Join us for a night of fine dining courtesy of Chef John Higgins and his staff at The Chef's House. The focus for the dinner is modern Scottish cuisine. Info: www.standrewstoronto.ca

ScotFestBC: The British Columbia Highland Games

17-18, Coquitlam, BC

Pipe bands, Clans, entertainment and more at Lafarge Lake Park, just steps away from the Lafarge Lake-Douglas Station. Info: www.scotfestbc.com

Cobourg Scottish Festival & Highland Games

17-18, Cobourg, ON

A full traditional Highland Games with Friday Night and Saturday Night Ceilidhs at Victoria Park. Info: www.cobourghighlandgames.ca

Greater Moncton Highland Games & Scottish Festival

17-19, Moncton, NB

Features Highland dance, pipe, drum, and pipe band competitions as well as dozens of workshops & demonstrations covering

everything from Gaelic language and song to falconry and sheep dog herding to historical elements, and more at the Hal Betts Sportsplex. Info: www.monctonhighlandgames.com

Water Valley Celtic Festival

18-19, Water Valley, AB

Celtic music and more. Info: www.watervalleycelticfestival.org

Orillia Scottish Festival

18-19, Orillia, ON

A celebration of Scotland in Orillia. Info: 705-325-8442 or www.scottishfestival.ca

Kingsville Highland Games

25, Kingsville, ON

Pipe bands, Scottish dance, Clans, entertainment and more at Kingsville's beautiful Lakeside Park. Info: www.facebook.com/kingsvillehighlandgames

75th Red Deer Highland Games

25, Red Deer, AB

Highland dancing, piping and drumming, heavy events, shortbread competition and more. Info: www.reddeerhighlandgames.com

Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo

25-July 2, Halifax, NS

The 2022 Tattoo will feature talent from around the globe, including the Heeresmusikkorps Neubrandenburg (German Army Band Neubrandenburg) from Germany, the IMPS Motorcycle Display Team from the United Kingdom, and the Vancouver Police Pipe Band from British Columbia at the Scotiabank Theatre. Info: www.nstattoo.ca

JULY 2022

Happy Canada Day

1, Nationwide

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

2022 Embro Highland Games

1, Zorra, ON

Family fun with a Scottish flair and a wide variety of Scottish-entertainment options at 355644 35th Line. Info: www.embrohighlandgames.ca

Kincardine Scottish Festival & Highland Games

1-3, Kincardine, ON

On the shores of beautiful Lake Huron and under the shade of mature trees in Victoria Park, the 22nd anniversary event will include local and international artists, Pipe Bands, Highland Dancing and Heavy Athletics competitions, Celtic vendors, Clan representation, Bairns' (children's) program, and more. Info: www.kincardinescottishfestival.ca

Almonte Celtfest

2-3, Almonte, ON

Celtfest is a weekend of Ottawa Valley and Celtic entertainment, performed in the natural amphitheatre of Gemmill Park. Info: www.almonteceltfest.com

Antigonish Highland Games

8-10, Antigonish, NS

Scottish Heavy Events, Piping and Drumming, and Highland Dancing competitions and more. Info: www.antigonishhighlandgames.ca

The Festival of the Tartans

14-17, New Glasgow, NS

New Glasgow Highland Games is celebrated every year with a four-day program that is sure to bring out the Scot in everyone. Info: www.festivalofthetartans.com

Cambridge Scottish Festival

15-17, Cambridge, ON

Waterloo Region's only Scottish Festival - experience a wee taste of 'Scotland on the Grand'. Info: www.cambridgescottishfestival.ca

New Brunswick Highland Games

21-24, Fredericton, NB

Workshops, entertainment, competitions and provide visitors an opportunity to learn more about Scottish heritage. Info: www.highlandgames.ca

The Okanagan Military Tattoo

23-24, Vernon, BC

A heart stirring musical extravaganza featuring pipers, drummers, musicians, military bands, marching troops, multicultural dancers, First Nations, and singers of all ages at Kal Tire Place. Tickets: 250-549-SHOW (7469) or info: www.okanagantattoo.ca

Glengarry Highland Games

29-30, Maxville, ON

In the course of the day, more than 50 pipe bands are put through their paces to decide the North American Pipe Band Championships™, more than 200 dancers defy gravity in the Highland Dance competition and giants hurl telephone pole-sized cabers and 50 pound iron hammers around the infield. Info: www.glengarryhighlandgames.com

Montreal Highland Games

31, Montréal, QC

Every year, the Games brings together Montrealer's of all backgrounds to celebrate Scottish sport, music and culture at Douglas Hospital. Info: www.montrealhighlandgames.com

USA

MAY 2022

Texas Scottish Festival & Highland Games

6-8, Decatur, TX

The sounds of bagpipes and Celtic music will fill the air at the 36th Annual Texas Scottish Festival & Highland Games celebrate everything "Scottish" at the Wise County Fairgrounds, 3101 FM 51, in Decatur, Texas. Info: www.texasasscottishfestival.com

Savannah Scottish Games and Celtic Festival

7, Savannah, GA

A full Scottish Games at The Bethesda Academy. Info: www.savannahscottishgames.com

Grand Valley Highland Games

14-15, Grand Junction, CO

Bagpipes, Drummers, Pipe bands, Live music, The Young Dubliners, Wicked Tinkers, Food, Whisky Tasting, Heavy Athletics, Clans Culture, kid friendly games, Highland Dancing and more. Info: www.grandvalleyhighlandgames.com

Springtime at Fraser's Ridge-A North

Carolina Scottish Experience

19-21, Ferguson, NC

The event is a celebration of the Scottish history of North Carolina and the traditions of Scottish culture in the backcountry of North Carolina inspired by the books and series, Outlander. This is a 3-day immersive event that will include Scottish culture-focused workshops, music, dancing, food, living history encampment, clans, and vendors at Leatherwood Mountains Resort. Info: www.ncsassenachtours.com/springtime-at-frasers-ridge

Stirling Classic Scottish Festival

20-22, Yukon, OK

Vendors, Clans, pipe bands and Highland Games at Mollie Spencer Farm. Info: www.thestirlingclassicsf.com

World Whisky Day

21, Nationwide

World Whisky Day invites everyone to try a dram and celebrate the water of life. Slàinte Mhath!

Fair Hill Scottish Games

21, Elkton, MD

A day of athletics, music, dancing, food, and arts celebrating Scottish and Celtic culture at Fair Hill Fair Grounds, 4640 Telegraph Rd. Info: www.fairhillscottishgames.org

Finger Lakes Celtic Games & Festival

21, Shortsville, NY

The first Celtic Games & Festival of the season in New York state, with Highland Heavy Games, Pipe Bands en Masse, Clans and Societies, musical entertainment all day and close to 100 vendors. Info: www.flceltic.com

Smoky Mountain Scottish Festival & Games

21-22, Townsend, TN

Come celebrate all things Scottish - family friendly and pet friendly weekend event - music - food - highland games and dancers at the Townsend Visitor's Center, 7906 E. Lamar Alexander Parkway. Info: www.smokymountaingames.org

Alma Highland Festival

27-29, Alma, MI

Memorial Day Weekend for Scottish dance, music, food, entertainment, athletics, vendors, Scottish clans, and more at Alma College. Info: www.almahighlandfestival.com

Eugene Scottish Festival

28, Eugene, OR

A celebration of Scotland at Irving Grange, 1011 Irvington Dr. Info: www.eugenescottishfestival.com

Scottish Fest

28-29, Costa Mesa, CA

Memorial Day Weekend at the Orange County Fair & Event Center www.scottishfest.com

Greenville Scottish Games

28-30, Greenville, SC

A series of activities bringing the best of Scotland and rich Southern heritage together for your enjoyment at Furman University. Info: www.gallabrae.com

JUNE 2022

Glasgow Highland Games

3-5, Lucas, KY

The 2022 Glasgow Highland Games are cancelled. Info: www.glasgowhighlandgames.com

Milwaukee Highland Games

4, Wauwatosa, WI

Wisconsin's original and oldest traditional Scottish Highland Games at Hart Park, 7300 Chestnut St. Info: www.milwaukeehighlandgames.org

Garrett County Celtic Festival

4, Friendsville, MD

A Celtic celebration at Friendsville Community Park, bonnie banks of the Youghiogheny River. Info: www.gccelticfestival.com

Utah Scottish Festival & Highland Games

10-12, Salt Lake City, UT

A great weekend of Scottish events presented by Utah Scottish Association at Utah State Fair Park 155 North 1000 West. Info: www.utahscots.org

Blairsville Scottish Festival & Highland Games

11-12, Blairsville, GA

Highland dancers, Scottish athletes, family clans, bagpipes and drums and traditional musicians come to celebrate their heritage. Info: www.blairsvillescottishfestival.com

The Scottish Festival & Highland Games

17-18, Itasca, IL

A variety of Scottish activities and attractions from the iconic caber toss to the largest bagpiping and drumming championship in North America. There is truly something for everyone with Highland Dancing competition, children's activities, dogs of Scotland, a British Car show, a Celtic rock stage, knobby knees contest, whisky tasting, genealogy and much more. Info: www.chicagoscotts.org

Prosser Scottish Fest and Highland Games

18, Prosser, WA

Central Washington's only Highland Games. Info: www.prosserscottishfest.org

Ohio Scottish Games

24-25, Berea, OH

A celebration of Scotland, including the US National Scottish Harp Championship, at Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, 19201 E. Bagley Rd. Info: www.ohioscottishgames.com

San Diego Scottish Highland Games

and Gathering of the Clans

25-26, San Diego, CA

Experience the wonder, and traditions of Scotland at Bregle Terrace Park. Info: www.SDHighlandGames.org

Tacoma Highland Games

25, Tacoma, WA

A celebration of Scottish culture at Frontier Park. Info: www.tacomagames.org

Alaska Scottish Highland Games

25-26, Palmer, AK

Featuring all things Scottish-Bagpipes, Heavy Athletics, Celtic Dance, Drumming, Kilted Mile, Scotch Tasting, Historical Demonstrations, Musical Guests and more at Alaska State Fairgrounds. Info: www.alaskanscottish.org/highland-games

Round Hill Highland Games

26, Lakeville CT

A wee bit o' Scotland will be at Lime Rock Park for a fun-filled day of Scottish activities. Info: www.rhhg.org

JULY 2022

The Highland Echoes Show

7-10, Boone, NC

Attend a theatrical performance telling the story of Scotland in the 1700s and the movement of the Scottish people to places all over the world - The Scottish Diaspora story. All the legends, mystery, and history that surround our Scottish heritage - our community. This is your story and our story, and we express it the way those before us expressed their stories...through the arts. This event will also be livestreamed. Info: www.gmhg.org/shows

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games

7-10, Linville, NC

Thousands of kilt-clad Scots make their way to MacRae Meadows for their annual gathering and games. Info: 828 733-1333 or www.gmhg.org

Payson Scottish Festival

8-9, Payson, UT

Highland Dance, Highland Athletics, and bagpipe competitions. Listen to Celtic music and dance at Payson Memorial Park, 300 S Main St. Info: www.paysonscottishfestival.org

Skagit Valley Highland Games

9, Mount Vernon, WA

Solo bagpiping and drumming competitions, bagpipe bands, fiddling, traditional Scottish athletics, Scottish Highland dancing and more at Edgewater Park. Info: www.celticarts.org

Glasgow Lands Scottish Festival

16, Northampton MA

Celebrate Scotland at Look Park. Info: www.glasgowlands.org

Monterey Scottish Games & Celtic Festival

16-17, Monterey, CA

Live music performers, bagpipe competitions, Celtic cuisine and more at Monterey County Fairgrounds, 2004 Fairgrounds Rd. Info: www.montereycelticfest.com

Glasgow Lands Scottish Festival

16, Northampton MA

Celebrate Scotland at Look Park. Info: www.glasgowlands.org

Portland Highland Games

16, Gresham, OR

A Scottish experience featuring incredible Scottish pipe bands, dancers and athletes at Mt. Hood Community College. Info: www.phga.org

Scotword answers from page 6

Across:

- 1) Byres
- 5) Caber
- 8) Drop Scone
- 9) Tithe
- 10) Smelt
- 12) Rinks
- 13) Dragoon
- 15) England
- 17) Oatmeal
- 19) Brewers
- 21) Cycle
- 22) Skite
- 25) Mince
- 26) Athletics
- 27) Yetts
- 28) Shoal

Down :

- 1) Bides
- 2) Expel
- 3) Sporan
- 4) Breenge
- 5) Celts
- 6) Battleaxe
- 7) Rebel
- 11) Thole
- 14) Astronaut
- 16) Gaels
- 18) Loch Awe
- 19) Brechin
- 20) Empty
- 21) Ceres
- 23) Ketch
- 24) Easel

Scotland strengthening bonds with US and Canada



MSP Angus Robertson, Ontario's Tourism and Culture Minister Lisa MacLeod and Niagara Falls Mayor Jim Diodati at the majestic Niagara Falls.

Niagara Falls illuminated the colours of Scotland's Saltire. Photo: The Scottish Government Canada.

The enduring cultural, historical, educational and economic links between Scotland, Canada and the United States was underlined by External Affairs Secretary Angus Robertson when he visited North America to mark Tartan Day. The Cabinet Secretary engaged with business leaders, political representatives, diaspora groups and cultural organisations in Ontario, New York and Washington DC. Mr Robertson also met with the US Government's State Department to discuss the continuing warm relations between the US and Scotland, as well as a series of businesses who are investing in Scotland. Celebrating the historic connections between Scotland and the United States, Mr Robertson met with the

Friends of Scotland Congressional Caucus in Washington DC, and members of Scottish Diaspora groups in New York City. The Cabinet Secretary attended a VisitScotland event to discuss modern and sustainable tourism at the University of Guelph in Ontario. In addition to taking part in the annual Tartan Day parade in New York City on 9 April, the Cabinet Secretary went to Niagara Falls, Ontario and witnessed the iconic falls illuminated in blue and white, in a special celebration of the links between Scotland and Canada.

Time-tested relationship between North America and Scotland

Cabinet Secretary for External Affairs Angus Robertson said: "International trade and investment is key to growing

our economy, and this week in Canada and the US I will emphasise the Scottish Government's role in working with partners to support Scottish companies, and the benefits to investors of working with the Scottish Government and Scottish Development International. These thriving modern links can only add to the strong and time-tested relationship between North America and Scotland, which is forged in history and renewed each year in the warm and colourful celebration of Tartan Day. This year in particular, Tartan Day, on 6 April, is a timely reminder of the importance of friendship and community between nations, of celebrating shared histories,

nurturing relationships, and upholding the values that we share and hold dear."

Tartan Day started in Nova Scotia, Canada and has grown to be a continent-wide celebration of Scottish culture and community. Tartan Day is celebrated each year on 6 April, having been created by a Senate Resolution in 1998, which led to Presidential passing of recognition of the observance, and a Presidential Proclamation by President George W. Bush in 2008. Events span across Tartan Week, culminating in Tartan Day parade in New York on 9 April. There are almost 1,000 Scottish associations and clubs in America and, in the most recent US Census, more than five million Americans claimed Scottish ancestry.

Events Continued

Elizabeth Celtic Festival

16-17, Elizabeth, CO
Celtic music, food, dance, piping, Scottish Heavy Athletics, local artisans, Living History Reenactments, and find your family clan at Casey Jones Park. Info: www.elizabethcelticfest.org

Maine Celtic Celebration

22-24, Belfast ME
A full weekend of Celtic music, culture and workshops on the harbor in Belfast. Info: www.mainecelebration.com

Dressed to Kilt

23, Long Island, NY
A Scottish evening of fashion and fun. This year's fashion show theme will be: "Dress for Adventure-From the Highlands to the Hamptons". The show will be held at the Mill Neck Manor Estate on the Gold Coast of Long Island about 20 miles from NYC with proceeds to the Navy Seal Foundation. Info: www.dressedtokilt.com

Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games & Clan Gathering

23-24, Enumclaw, WA
Bringing Scotland to the Pacific Northwest for over 70 years through the skirl of the Pipes and Drums, the beauty of Highland Dancing, the brawn of Scottish athletics, and the sharing of clan history. Info: www.sshga.org

Dayton Celtic Festival

29-31, Dayton, OH
Saturate your senses in the sights, sounds, and tastes of our Celtic heritage at Riverscape MetroPark. Info: www.daytoncelticfestival.com

Scotland

MAY 2022

The National Whisky Festival: Glasgow Edition

7, Glasgow
With over 200 whiskies available to sample from some of the most celebrated names in the industry, plus an extensive programme of award-winning mixology, local food vendors, cutting edge musicians and live artists. Info: www.nationalwhiskyfestival.scot

Gourock Highland Games

8, Greenock
See heavy competitors throw the Kempock Stane, hear the Pipe Band competitions and watch the Highland Dancers, all in a stunning setting with the River Clyde as the back drop at Battery Park. Info: www.facebook.com/GourockHighlandGames

Gordon Castle Highland Games

15, Fochabers
Scotland's only Highland Games and Country Fair at Gordon Castle Estate. Info: www.gordoncastle.co.uk/highland-games

Perth Festival

19-28, Perth
One of the oldest, continuously-running independent arts festivals in Scotland, Perth Festival of the Arts celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. Each May, Perth Festival becomes the gem in Scotland's cultural calendar. With performances in Perth Theatre, Perth Concert Hall and other venues, the 10-day Festival features the best in classical music, theatre, rock, folk, jazz, literature and visual art. Info: www.perthfestival.co.uk

World Whisky Day

21, Nationwide
World Whisky Day invites everyone to try a dram and celebrate the water of life. Slàinte Mhath!

British Pipe Band Championships

21, Greenock
Welcoming over 100 bands to Inverclyde at Battery Park, free event. Info: www.inverclyde.gov.uk/tourism-and-visitor-attractions/british-pipe-band-championship

2022 Orkney Folk Festival

26-29, Stromness, Orkney
Back to its best this spring, with plans in place for a return to full-scale live events. The 39th festival will bring some of the finest folk musicians from Orkney, Scotland and further afield to the islands. Info: www.orkneyfolkfestival.com

Blackford Highland Games

28, Blackford, Perthshire
Held since 1870 on the park, an area of land loaned to the community by the landowner. A condition of the loan is that the Highland Games are held there annually in May. Info: www.blackfordhighlandgames.co.uk

Atholl Highlanders Parade and Gathering

28-29, Blair Atholl Perthshire
The Atholl Highlanders are a Scottish ceremonial infantry regiment. They are the only remaining private army in Europe and act as the personal bodyguard to the Duke of Atholl - Chief of the Clan Murray, with parade and Highland Gathering at Blair Castle. Info: www.blair-castle.co.uk

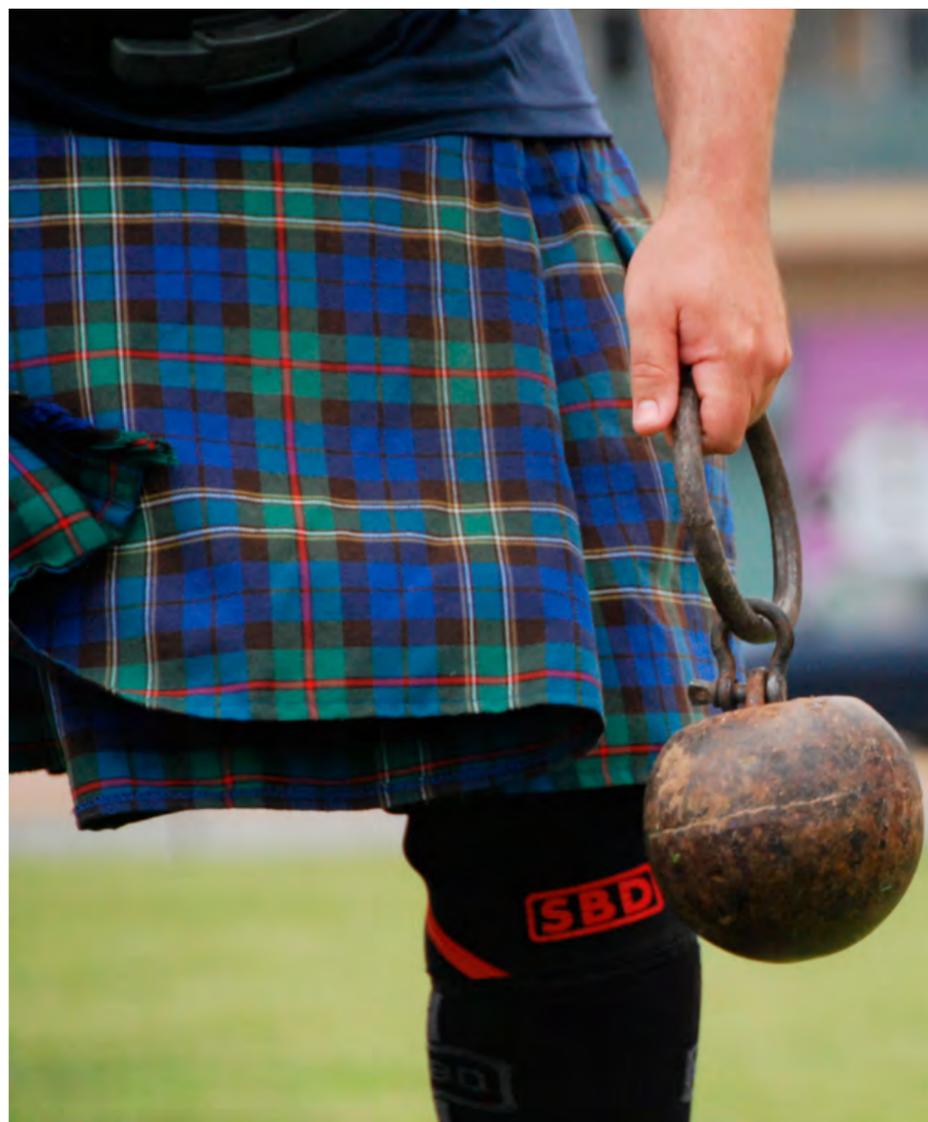
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Greater Moncton Highland Games & Scottish Festival hosts 2022 SMAI Masters World Championships



Images courtesy of Jenna Morton.

This year's Greater Moncton Highland Games & Scottish Festival is an international affair, with the New Brunswick event acting as Host Games for the 2022 Scottish Masters Athletics International (SMAI) Masters World Championships (MWC). The Games are being held June 17-19; a pay-per-view online stream of the MWC and Games' highlights will be available. The SMAI MWC events will take place Saturday and Sunday; amateur and other heavy event classes will compete on Friday.

Piping, drumming, pipe band, Highland dance, and single stick sword competitions will happen Saturday; Sunday will include demonstrations and performances in these disciplines. Throughout the weekend the grounds will have sheep herding and shearing, weaving, axe throwing, archery, blacksmithing, fly casting, military vehicles, children's activities, a local craft beer & spirits market, workshops, and more. Two musical stages, with concerts Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, will keep everyone entertained.



The ceilidh tent.

Highlights include:

- Honorary Chieftain Michael Yellowlees, the Scot who walked across Canada.
- Headline musical acts The Barra MacNeils, the RCMP Pipes & Drums, American Rogues, & more.
- Largest gathering of redheads east of Montreal, with a live taping of Authentic Ginger podcast.
- Author Riel Nason reading her children's book, *Disaster at the Highland Games*.

A few MWC events to watch

Dirk Bishop, perhaps New Brunswick's most decorated heavy athlete (having won at least eight provincial titles and four consecutive MWC titles), is coming out of retirement for the event. He's also a *Guinness World Record* holder, shared with Danny Frame, for most cabers tossed by a team of two in three minutes. Frame, from Nova Scotia, will also be competing.

Sue Hallen of Illinois took part in the first Women 50+ MWC competition in 2008; she placed second overall, with her arm in a sling. She's competed consistently ever since. She's facing tough competition in her Women 65-69 class, with Ruth Welding and Susan Zemke also coming to Moncton. Larry Sisseck, competing in the Men 70+ class, is the oldest registered competitor and on his 10th trip to the Masters. The California athlete and SMAI Hall of Famer was an MWC Champion in 2012, 2017, and 2018. Teresa Nystrom has five previous MWC titles to her credit, taking the top spot in her class consecutively from 2015 to 2019. Al Stagner, a SMAI Hall of Famer from Colorado, is competing in his 12th MWC, in the Men 65-69 class. He won his class in Scotland in 2009, USA in 2010, and in Canada in 2011. Denise Houseman is competing in her 16th MWC. This is her first time in the Women 60-64 class. The SMAI Hall of Famer from New Hampshire won six consecutive titles 2006 – 2011; she also took top spots in 2015 and 2017.

Cleveland, Ohio's Janine Tessarzik is bringing along a huge online cheering section; @JanineThrows has more than 140,000 TikTok followers and is helping bring heavy events to a whole new audience. She's demystifying the sport for thousands of online viewers and representing like no one's business.

A Snapshot of Moncton

Moncton is Canada's only official bilingual city, giving equal focus to both English and French, and has been voted as Canada's 'most polite city' by *Reader's Digest*.



RF Forbes competing.

Rapid growth, combined with its small-town charms, have consistently seen Moncton named one of the best places in the country to live and to work. It's also a fantastic place to visit, the perfect homebase for an exploration of Canada's East Coast. The Greater Moncton Romeo LeBlanc International Airport is a 10-minute drive from the downtown core, with direct flights to various major centres (The city itself is only a nine-hour drive from Boston.) From Moncton, you're just a 20-minute drive to the warmest saltwater beaches north of the Carolinas, 30 minutes to walking on the ocean floor at the iconic Hopewell Rocks, and just over an hour from North America's first UNESCO Global Geopark, Stonehammer. Downtown Moncton is also encompassed by the UNESCO Fundy Biosphere Reserve; the Bay of Fundy is home to the world's highest tides, with the Petitcodiac River rising up to 25 feet twice a day. That epic wave flows 29 kilometres through the city centre, often attracting surfers to what's known affectionately as the Chocolate River, given the colour brought on by its muddy banks.

Next year, the SMAI Master World Championships will be hosted in Friesland, Netherlands, home to a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for mudflats, outdoor adventures, and sparse population. We can't help but be amused at the similarities to Southeastern New Brunswick!

How to join the fun-Individual weekend passes to the 2022 MWC & Greater Moncton Highland Games are \$40. The MWC competition will be available as a pay-per-view event, streamed live online via AOTV. Full details, schedules, and more available online at: www.monctonhighlandgames.com



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