



# the Scottish Banner



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*A' Bhratach Albannach*

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**the Scottish Banner**

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The Banner Says...

# Don't be a Huntigowk and not wear tartan in April



by Sean Cairney

The month of April is considered a month of change for many and depending on where you are reading this your nights are sure to be getting longer or shorter.

## Huntigowk Day

The month of course begins with a few tricks up its sleeve and many people trying to catch others out on April Fool's Day, in Scotland April Fool's Day is traditionally called as Huntigowk Day. In Scots Gowk means a foolish person or cuckoo. The unique thing about Scotland's fool's day is that unlike many other countries Scotland celebrates it for two days, on April 1<sup>st</sup> and April 2<sup>nd</sup>. On the first day people play pranks and tell lies to catch each other in an embarrassing situation. According to tradition people need to stop playing pranks and hoaxes by midday. In olden times Hunt-the-Gowk Day was celebrated by sending a person to find the fool for the day. Although this tradition is followed in some areas, it is slowly dying out.

On the second day or Tailie Day paper tails are attached to people's backs. A typical Huntigowk prank was handing someone a sealed envelope and asking them to deliver it to someone else. The recipient would open the letter - and read: "Dinna laugh, dinna smile, Hunt the gowk another mile."

While the history of April Fool's Day or All Fools' Day is uncertain, we know the Romans celebrated a day of fun and games with the Festival of Hilaria while, in ancient civilisation, New Year was celebrated between March 25 and April 1<sup>st</sup>. Anyone who observed New Year's Day on April 1 was called a fool or an April fish.

The day of its celebration was the first after the vernal equinox, or the first day of the year which was longer than the night (usually March 22).



The winter with its gloom had died, and the first day of a better season was spent in rejoicings.

## Tartan Day

Just a few days later across North America thousands of Scots will be celebrating Tartan Day on or around April 6<sup>th</sup>. Tartan Day honours Scottish heritage and the achievements that those of Scottish descent have had across North America and the world. The movement to get Tartan Day going and recognised began in Nova Scotia, Canada at a meeting of the Federation of Scottish Clans in Nova Scotia in March, 1986. Members, Bill Crowell, and Jean MacKaracher-Watson, put forward the following motion to the Federation: "That we establish a day known as 'Tartan Day'. This to be a day chosen to promote Scottish Heritage by the most visible means. The wearing of the Scottish attire, especially in places where the kilt is not ordinarily worn, i.e.: work, play or worship." Quite fitting that this recognition came from Nova Scotia, which translates to 'New Scotland'.

In the Southern Hemisphere International Tartan Day is celebrated on July 1<sup>st</sup>, the anniversary of the repeal of the 1747 Act of Proscription. The government passed the Act of Proscription in 1747 to punish the Jacobite rebels. The act banned tartan and Highland dress for nearly four decades until 1782.

## In this issue

This month marks the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath on April 6<sup>th</sup>. The Declaration is a letter written in 1320 by Scottish nobles and whole community of the kingdom of Scotland to the pope, asking him to recognise Scotland's independence and acknowledge Robert the Bruce as the country's lawful king. This is considered Scotland's most significant historical document and no doubt the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations will remind people on just what an important and fascinating document this is.

Speaking of Robert the Bruce, our US readers are quite fortunate to have the cinema release of the film, *Robert the Bruce*, taking place this month. We have caught up with the film's star, producer and writer Angus Macfadyen. The Glasgow born actor reprises his role as Robert the Bruce after first taking on this role in the internationally successful 1995 release, *Braveheart*.

The European Stone Stacking Championships takes place this month in Dunbar. The competition will find the best and brightest European stacking artists, with the

winner invited to participate in the World Stone Stacking Championships held annually in Lllano, Texas.

Most of us know Edinburgh explodes with character and history, but did you know it once did of lava and is a volcanic city? In fact, dormant volcanoes fill the skyline and Edinburgh's most iconic building, Edinburgh Castle, is on top of one.

## Corona Virus (COVID-19)

As we go to press with this edition the global impact of the Corona Virus (COVID-19) is becoming clear. The international Scottish event community worldwide has been greatly affected by event postponements and cancellations due to restrictions related to the virus. Once this issue is distributed no doubt more events will be making announcements into the coming weeks.

As *the Scottish Banner* hosts one of the leading international Scottish events listings in the world, we are updating our online events section daily ([www.scottishbanner.com/events](http://www.scottishbanner.com/events)) as news reaches us. We are asking readers and followers to check direct with events for details and organisers should contact us at [events@scottishbanner.com](mailto:events@scottishbanner.com) to share any changes (whether that be now or possibly down the track). We do have many organisations and publications who also use our listing and we are striving to keep our valuable community resource the most up to date listings available.

I am deeply aware of how this rapidly changing issue is now impacting current events, and has potential for those in the coming months, and our thoughts are with all organisers, attendees and participants at this unprecedented time. Once deemed safe I urge all our readers and friends to support Scottish events and of course other Scottish cultural groups and retailers who will also be greatly impacted.

I look forward to when our community can get back to normal and celebrate our great culture, in the meantime *the Scottish Banner* stands ready in any way we can to assist and support Scottish events and the wider Scottish community both now and in the future. 🌟

*What does the Declaration of Arbroath mean to you? Share with us the impact the Corona Virus is having on your Scottish connection, or have you any comments from the content in this month's edition? Share your story with us by email, post, social media or at: [www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us](http://www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us) #ScottishBanner, #TheBanner*



Gracing our front cover: Robert the Bruce. Photo courtesy of Signature Entertainment.

# Diana's Scotland



Outlander's Caitriona Balfe, Diana Gabaldon and Sam Heughan.

**O**utlander author Diana Gabaldon says she was "enchanted" by Inverness on her first visit to the city and could see herself living there, in an exclusive video by VisitScotland released recently to mark the premiere of *Outlander*: Season 5. The writer, who hails from Arizona in the USA, recalls her visit to the capital of the Highlands almost 30 years ago, in the video entitled Diana Gabaldon's travels in Scotland.

In the interview, Ms Gabaldon tells the national tourism organisation, Inverness reminded her of her hometown when she first set eyes on it during her Scottish travels in the early 1990s. She said: "We went to Inverness and booked into a small hotel on the river and we were just enchanted by that. It's a small town. It's got a very peaceful vibe to it.

I grew up in a small mountain town, Flagstaff, Arizona, and Inverness has much the same feel about it. It's just a very nice place. I wouldn't mind living there."

Diana Gabaldon's travels in Scotland was filmed at Hopetoun House near South Queensferry, in the wake of the author picking up her "International Contribution to Scottish Tourism" award at the Scottish Thistle Awards, for the *Outlander* Effect.

Sitting in the library of the 17<sup>th</sup> century stately home, Ms Gabaldon describes visiting Scotland for the first time with her husband while researching the second book in the series, *Dragonfly in Amber*.

The couple visited Edinburgh during the summer festival and stayed in Dundee where she recalls a humorous moment of "Scottish genteel hospitality" with a local police officer.

She talks about her time on Orkney, visiting Smoo Cave in the Highlands and exploring the Jacobite site of the Battle of Sheriffmuir in the Ochil Hills, Clackmannanshire.

### Scotland is so beautiful

Ms Gabaldon never visited Scotland whilst writing the first *Outlander* book, published in 1991 as *Cross Stitch* in the UK, and used her skills as a researcher to create an accurate picture of the Highlands in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

She said: "Because Scotland is so beautiful, there is an immense amount of pictorial stuff. Back then, it was VHS video

tapes, but there were also picture books and magazines, so I knew what Scotland looked like. I was quite surprised when I got here to find it was even better than it looked in the photographs."

A further seven novels and nine spin-off books have been published in 43 countries and in 39 languages, selling more than 35 million printed copies worldwide, and in 2014, *Outlander* was adapted for television by Sony Pictures Television.

*Outlander* follows the romantic adventures of English World War II combat nurse Claire Randall, who travels back in time to 18<sup>th</sup> century Scotland where she meets and falls in love with Scottish Highlander, Jamie Fraser.



Author Diana Gabaldon received a special Scottish Thistle Award for Outlander's contribution to Scottish tourism.

The *Outlander* Effect & Tourism paper, published by the tourism body's Insight team, has been revised with film location visitor numbers divided by season to give a clearer picture of its impact. The paper reveals that attractions used in the popular television adaptation of her famous novels have seen visitor numbers rise on average by 40%, from the year before their appearance on-screen.

Jenni Steele, Film and Creative Industries Manager at VisitScotland, said: "Diana's *Outlander* stories and the TV series have had a huge influence on fans deciding to visit Scotland and in our exclusive video the award-winning author reveals her own visitor experience and the places she holds dear. We're continually amazed at the effect *Outlander* has had on Scotland and would encourage fans who haven't ventured to our shores to do so, where they can walk in the footsteps of Claire, Jamie and even Diana herself."



Outlander's Jamie Fraser.

## Fife pocket money powers Australian wildlife fundraiser



Bearded Dragon at St Andrews Aquarium.

**Y**oung visitors to St Andrews Aquarium in Fife have collectively raised £612 in aid of an Australian wildlife rescue organization (WIRES) that is battling the catastrophic effects of the recent bushfires, through a series of fundraising initiatives organized by the Fife visitor attraction. WIRES (The New South Wales Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service) has been dealing with unprecedented levels of tens of thousands of calls to its helpline and thousands of call outs to rescue native animals affected by a lack of water, food and damage to their habitats. The devastating fires combined with the worst drought in history and record high temperatures have taken a tragic toll on native wildlife with many animals struggling as a result.

The fundraising activities were drummed up by the team at the Aquarium, who were frequently being asked by younger visitors to the attraction if there was anything that the Aquarium could do to rescue the animals affected by the bushfire.

John Mace, general manager of St Andrews Aquarium, commented: "Young people care passionately about the planet and animals and we were increasingly being asked whether we would be taking in animals that had lost their homes due to the horrific conditions caused by the bushfires. While we're a little too far away to be of immediate assistance, it got us thinking about what we could do to help and our team devised easy ways that the kids could fundraise around the Aquarium and help do their bit. It was simple things, like donating all the income from the kiddie rides in our foyer area, to donations for quiz sheets when they were visiting. We ran the fundraising activities over the mid-term break to make sure we got the most kids involved. It just goes to show the collective power of pocket money in helping to make a difference thousands of miles away."

The donations to WIRES will contribute to directly support the animals in their care.

# 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 Scottish Fiddle Orchestra



The Scottish Fiddle Orchestra will be touring from New Hampshire to Halifax and Montreal at the beginning of April, to celebrate its 40th anniversary. All welcome - please contact the venues for tickets. We're looking forward to coming.

More info at [www.sfo.org.uk](http://www.sfo.org.uk)  
David Lunt  
Edinburgh, Scotland

**ED note: This tour has been cancelled due to the Corona Virus, but the SFO will reschedule for 2021.**

### For Sale

My husband has passed, he was a former Pipe Major with the Lanark and Renfrew Scottish Regiment in Renfrew Ontario Canada. He also played competitive bands in Ottawa and Pettawawa Ontario. I have a large assortment of kilts, sporrans, shoes, trews etc all in excellent condition. I can provide a more complete list at your request. I would like to sell the items as a lot and will accept a reasonable price. Please advise if you or someone you know may be interested.

Thank you,  
Margaret Mackenzie  
Ontario, Canada  
E-mail: [rmackenzie01@hotmail.com](mailto:rmackenzie01@hotmail.com)

### Remembering our Scottish history

Congratulations on your work for *Scottish Banner* – you do a fabulous job. I was delighted that you note for 15<sup>th</sup> Nov that the Stone of Destiny was finally returned to Scotland. The Stewart family were neighbours when I was growing up – one of the boys became a local hero, he was in the team who originally rescued the Stone from Westminster Abbey. And that brings me to my wee grouch!

Westminster Abbey was built by Edward the Confessor. He had brought his nearest relative from exile to become the Aetheling – we would call him the Heir Apparent. The Aetheling had three children the eldest of whom was Margaret. He died soon after arrival. On the death of King Edward, it was found he had promised the throne to various others.....and we all know the resultant story of the Battle of Hastings. But what happened now to the family of the Aetheling? They became refugees again and fled to Scotland – where the eldest child Margaret, now a young woman of 2, 0 caught the eye of

the Big Chief of Scotland – King Malcolm. The story of Margaret, Saint and Queen is well known to us, as is the chapel she had built in Edinburgh Castle; the St Margaret Chapel is seen on world-wide television when the Tattoo is filmed. She died on 16<sup>th</sup> November 1093, so that is the date on which she is remembered annually. May I humbly suggest that she is more important to Scottish History that Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show.

Mary Esslemont  
Margaret River, Western Australia

**Ed note: Thank you Mary for your note and our readers are a treasure trove of information and suggestions to us, and we appreciate them helping us make the Banner better.**

### Lions celebrating Robbie Burns



Your readers may be interested to know that the Lions Club of Warners Bay have a tradition of hosting a Robbie Burns supper each year. About 2008, two Scottish members, the late Alistair Fyfe and Angus McGregor, organised the first celebration which was so successful that it has now become an annual event on our calendar. We follow all the traditions starting with the haggis and neppes followed by a dinner, musicians, a piper, a Highland dancer, demonstrations of Scottish country dances and a few drams of whisky to keep us all going. Our recent night was hosted by Angus McGregor and Lion

Christine Fyfe and attended by 55 people. Angus recited the Selkirk Grace, the Address to the Haggis and other poems. The audience included our Lions and those from other clubs, The Hunter Valley Scots Club, the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, a regular group from St Marys church and others who recognise a good night out. The evening ended with an enthusiastic chorus of Auld Lang Syne.

With kind regards,  
Lion Diana Stewart  
President, Lions Club of Warners Bay  
Mobile 0433128220

### Alba Magna Carta or The Flying Scotswoman-A Tribute to Nicola Sturgeon

Round corners fast of Lochs and Glens, Craggy Rocks, Highland Bens, blasting storms of political midges, Heather Royal the Lassie comes steaming, gleaming, storming bridges, uniting golden fruit of ages - ancestral voices awakening Alba, puffing, pushing, pulling, finding, holding, Crowning Auld Reekie Hill with Scotland's Will. No rusty iron, but granite Lady- Burns eloquent elect-ro magnetic maiden, outstanding Thistle... fast stand's the Nation.

Destiny's - Iona's Chosen child, tried, trusted true – Heaven's Blue blows full view Jacob's, Fergus now Nicola's Stone of Scone in place, red & ready, watching,

waiting, wakening soul on soul 'Face to Face' sensing ripest blow of pipes reed, Rosslyn, Raeburn, Rae, Scott, Kirk and Croft witnessing - delivering debt by deed.

Clans Kilts, Celts, salmon, oyster, malts, oats, raspberries, breads, revised technologies delivering new tweeds, sheep, longhorn, angus, deer, grouse gather listening, talking, glistening, walking the wind...

Billy the Fringe, Jackie, Robert, Fiona Bruce, Susan, Glasgow, Davies Glennie, Golf, Gillie, Inverness & Isles, Stirling sparkling rivers revenues weaving wisdom, beauty, grace by vast con-contrast murderous MacBoreth the biggest bluffing buffer low downing clowning cunning contrickselfservative of Antique Dagger Antic & Co anon...

Och out with the old 'YES' in with the New, down with Jack, up Cross of Whitest Blue. Listen... Nicola means not of shame... a Tory, but 'Victory of the People' a Victory gathering-bestowing Leader, giving, serving, loving, living up to her Grecian name winning game ticket delivering the Happiest Hogmanay of many a sorrowful year -imprisoned day. Freedom beckons within Greater Unity, so be it may, rail no more for journeys end, Home Sweet Home, Edinburgh Station.

By @charles Mugleston  
Felixstowe, Suffolk  
England

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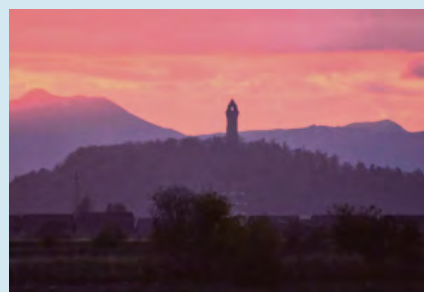


### Mirror, mirror on the wall



Mirror, mirror on the wall who's the fairest of them all? Scotland of course :-)  
A View From My Camera  
Scotland

### Stirling sunset



Sunset over Stirling looking towards the Wallace Monument.  
Charles McGuigan  
Scotland

### Glasgow



It's a lovely morning in Glasgow.  
Gary Chittick  
Scotland

### The Royal Mile



Royal Mile, Edinburgh.  
Shutter Bug Shots  
Scotland

# Significant women in Scotland's history honoured

Six trailblazing women from Scotland's past, from the country's first female solicitor to the first Scottish woman to direct a feature-length film, have been recognised as Historic Environment Scotland (HES) announced the latest round of recipients of its Commemorative Plaque scheme. The national scheme, which has been running since 2012, celebrates noteworthy individuals from Scottish public life, as nominated by the public, by erecting plaques on buildings with strong links to their life or work.

The successful female recipients under this year's scheme are:

**Madge Easton Anderson (1896-1982)**

The first female Solicitor in Scotland. Later became the first woman to qualify to practise law in both England and Scotland and a partner in the first known law firm to be led entirely by women.

The plaque will be installed at The Stair Building, which houses the University of Glasgow's School of Law.

**Mary Burton (1819-1909)**

Social reformer and suffragist. In 1869, she successfully campaigned for the Watt Institution and School of Arts (now Heriot-Watt University) to admit female students. The plaque will be installed at Liberton Bank House in Edinburgh, where Burton lived between 1844 and 1898.

**Cicily Isabel Fairfield (1892-1983)**

Better known under pen name Rebecca West, Fairfield was a novelist, travel



Dr Margaret Caroline Tait.

writer and journalist who famously reported on the Nuremberg Trials. The plaque will be installed at Hope Park Square in Edinburgh, which was the location of West's childhood home and inspiration for her novel *The Judge*.

**Isobel Wylie Hutchison (1889-1982)**

Arctic traveller and botanist who risked life and limb collecting plants for the Royal Botanic Gardens and Kew. She pioneered new routes across inhospitable terrain, boarded ghost ships and captured some of the earliest documentary footage ever recorded.

The plaque will be installed at Carlowrie Castle in West Lothian, Hutchison's birthplace and lifelong home.

**Elizabeth Buchanan Mitchell (1880-1980)**

One of Scotland's leading early female town planners and a pioneer in the profession.

She campaigned tirelessly for the importance of open spaces, gardens and quality mass-housing. The plaque is to be installed at the site of Mitchell's home in Biggar, Lanarkshire.

**Dr Margaret Caroline Tait (1918-1999)**

Avant-garde film maker and the first Scottish woman to direct a feature length film with 1992's *Blue Black Permanent*. The featured image of Margaret Tait reproduced courtesy of the Margaret Tait Collection at Orkney Library & Archive. The plaque will be installed at Tait's birthplace in Kirkwall, Orkney.

**Truly inspirational women**

The announcement was released for Women's History Month, which is celebrated each year in March to document the lives and achievements of women.

Barbara Cummins, Director of Heritage at HES, said: "The contribution of women in Scotland's history is often overlooked, and I'm pleased that this year's Commemorative Plaque awards give us the opportunity to celebrate the life and work of some truly inspirational women. Through our plaque scheme, we want to highlight the important link between people and places, connecting these exceptional individuals to the built environment that shaped their life and work. As we look forward to marking Women's History Month, I hope that awarding these plaques will bring some much-deserved recognition to some of the leading female figures from Scotland's past."

Maria Fletcher, a senior law lecturer who is leading on the centenary of women in law research and celebrations at the University of Glasgow, said: "Madge Easton Anderson is a very important person for us to remember, both here in the University of Glasgow and more widely throughout Scotland. We are delighted that the story of this amazing Scottish legal pioneer - who 100 years ago became the UK's first female solicitor - is now being recognised with her own plaque from Historic Environment Scotland. We are honoured that we will now have this HES plaque in Madge's alma mater and hope it will help to inspire our current and future students to be all they can be."

In total 17 influential people who lived and worked in Scotland - from artists and an actor to naturalists and a nautical engineer - have been recognised in this round of commemorative plaques.

## Petition launched to save North Lanarkshire's bands

North Lanarkshire Schools Pipe Band has been saved as councillors rejected options which would have seen the cessation of music groups including the World Champion-winning band. Concerned parents in the Scottish local authority launched a petition in response to proposed cuts to music tuition in its schools. The petition was signed by thousands of people. As part of major budget cuts, North Lanarkshire Council was considering disbanding the North Lanarkshire Schools Pipe Band. Some other bands, orchestras and choirs are also earmarked for the axe.

Recently, music teachers were told at an emergency meeting that the council is considering two proposals to save cash from its music budget: either cutting two instrumental teacher managers, one full-time instrumental teacher and all local ensembles or axing the entire in-school music service.

**World Pipe Band Championships**

North Lanarkshire Council has stated that it needs to cut £31 million from its budget this year and £100m over the next three years. The council borders the northeast of Glasgow and contains many of Glasgow's suburbs and commuter towns and villages. It also borders East Dunbartonshire, Falkirk, Stirling, South Lanarkshire and West Lothian. Its schools pipe band won the Novice Juvenile A grade at the 2019 World Pipe Band Championships.

Councillor Jim Logue, leader of North Lanarkshire Council, said: "We were faced with choices that no councillor wished to take. The fact is that local government revenue grant from the Scottish Government falls far short of the money required to continue to fund council services at current levels. So we had a difficult task. No councillor enters local government to make these kinds of cuts. However, the council has approved a budget which does its very best to protect the most vulnerable people in North Lanarkshire. Some savings we had to take are extremely difficult. We could have removed the school of football at Braidhurst High School, and funding for schools bands including the world-champion North Lanarkshire Schools Pipe Band. All of these were rejected."

Edinburgh Council is also considering cuts to its music provision, which could result in parents being charged for lessons or reducing the range of instruments on offer. Music tuition is not a statutory requirement in Scotland's state schools.



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**WHOLESALE AVAILABLE**

# SCOTSPEAK

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

*"I'm finished with stand-up – it was lovely and it was lovely being good at it. It was the first thing I was ever good at, Certain things go wrong, your brain goes adrift and affects your body, and so you walk differently, you walk like a drunk man sometimes. And you're frightened you'll be judged on it. And you shake sometimes."*

Sir Billy Connolly admits he will never perform stand-up again due to Parkinson's battle. The Big Yin says his condition has 'made his brain work differently' and it meant he could no longer perform in front of a live audience. The beloved Glaswegian star said despite having to leave the live stage for good, he wouldn't let his condition take over his life.



*"This is a major setback as we were looking forward to a special anniversary year celebrating 120 years of the steamship sailing. This follows on from a downturn in business linked to major landslides on the lochside last August and we were well on the road to recovery with the prospects of a bumper season ahead. The immediate priorities now are taking steps to safeguard the 55 direct jobs and many indirect jobs dependent on our Loch Katrine operations, and ensuring we are in a position to honour existing group business contracts as well as independent travel and walk up business this season. We are fortunate that we have other boats available."*

Sir Walter Scott Steamship Ltd manager director Gordon Allan said That the historic steamship Sir Walter Scott will not be sailing in 2020.

The 120-year-old steamship that sails on Loch Katrine in the Trossachs has been taken out of service due to extensive cracks in its boilers.

*"I am really happy with how A Tune for the Trust has turned out and how it sounds. The music is specifically written to be optimistic and looking to the future – something that ties in perfectly with the ethos of Eilidh's Trust. I hope the listeners will enjoy the tune as much as we have we in composing and performing it and that it adds to Eilidh's legacy in supporting music education for other young musicians Having been drumming and involved in music since I was eight I have benefited from music education. Therefore, Eilidh's Trust's ambition for young musicians is something that resonates a lot with me."*

National Youth Pipe Band of Scotland band, drummer Fergus Bryce said as he composed a pipe tune to support the work of the Eilidh MacLeod Memorial Trust called *A Tune for the Trust*. 14-year-old Barra schoolgirl Eilidh MacLeod was killed in the 2017 Manchester Arena attack.



*"By stepping in quickly with a comprehensive plan, Loganair is aiming to maintain essential air connectivity within the UK regions to keep customers flying, and to offer new employment to former Flybe staff members who are facing an uncertain future today."*

Loganair chief executive Jonathan Hinkles said as the Scottish airline has announced plans to take on 16 routes operated by collapsed carrier Flybe. The routes will include flights from Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness and Newcastle.

*"The tunnel is at discussion stage. It may move to feasibility stage. In the interim we can start to have the debates about whether it's viable, whether it's going to help the Northern Ireland economy and the Scottish economy. Once we get better sight of the costs involved, should the prime minister decide to press the button, we would then want to engage with both Stormont and Holyrood to get a better understanding of the benefits and the challenges. We're not going to just come riding roughshod and slam a tunnel in - and by the way under the settlement of devolution, nor can we."*

Secretary of State for Scotland Alister Jack said as the UK government is investigating the possibility of digging a tunnel between Scotland and Northern Ireland. Some experts have suggested £15bn might be required for the project but others have said that £20bn would be a "conservative estimate".



*"We're so proud that Edinburgh is already the UK's greenest city, with more trees than people, more green space and more green flag parks than any other place in Scotland for people to enjoy. But we want to, and must, do even better – especially as we strive towards our hugely ambitious target of making the city carbon neutral by 2030. By joining the cohort of million tree cities such as New York, Shanghai, London and Los Angeles, we'll be able to substantially reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to lessen the impact of climate change. It's impossible to overstate the benefits trees bring to the urban landscape."*

*"They help clean our air, reduce the risk of flooding, keep us cool in the summer and warmer in winter and give the wildlife in our city a home, as well as making neighbourhoods look and feel tranquil and appealing."*

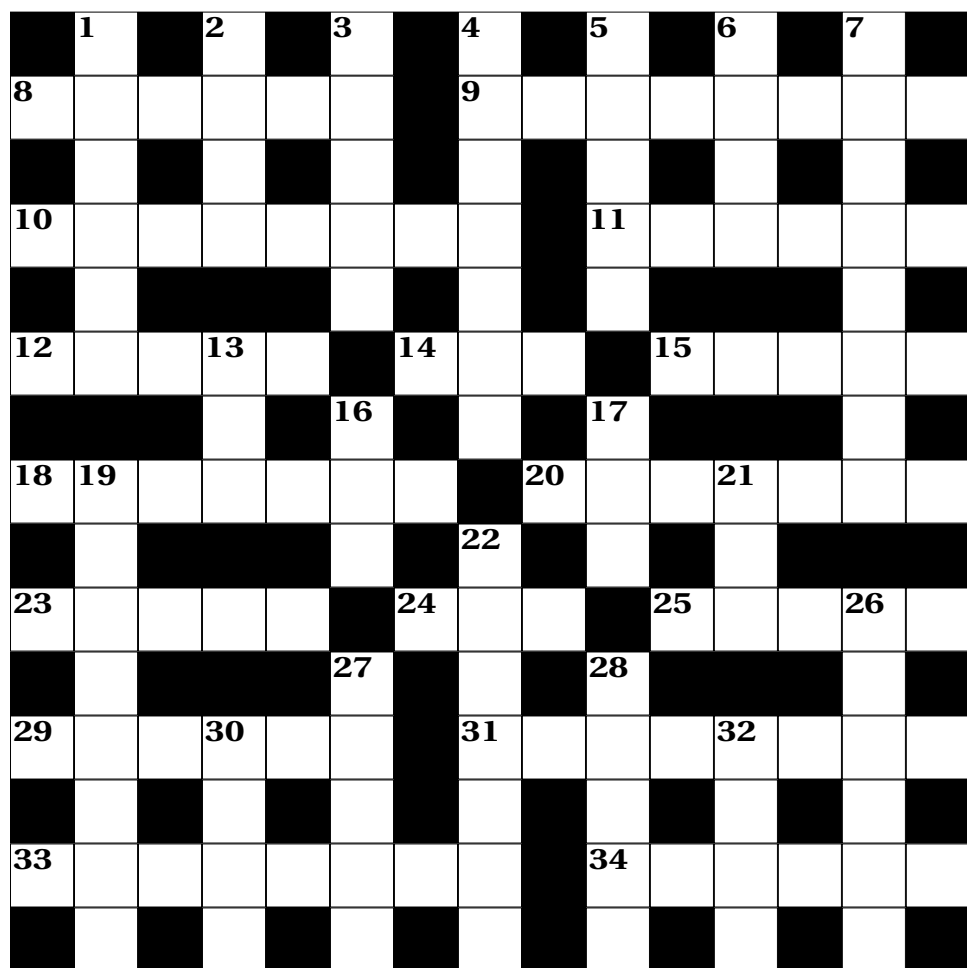
Edinburgh Councillor Donald Wilson, culture and communities convener, said Edinburgh could become home to one million trees by 2030 as the city council considers plans to protect and invest in its woodland. The capital will aim to be a "million tree city" by the end of the decade if plans are pushed forward by the authority's culture and communities committee. If approved, the council will form an action plan to achieve the one million tree target in urban Edinburgh – where the number currently stands at approximately 731,000.



*"This has taken its toll on the grass and gravel footpaths. We are very privileged to be able to use a lot of Scottish locations for the filming. They are not film sets. They should be respected."*

Raoul Curtis-Machin, of the National Trust for Scotland, said that the popularity of the hit show *Outlander* has caused wear and tear on footpaths and even items being taken as souvenirs. Researchers at Glasgow Caledonian University have studied the 'Outlander effect' on 25 of the shows locations across Scotland and seen a 45% rise in visitors to the sites over four years. Fans are being asked to "tread lightly" at historic locations associated with the books and TV series.

## SCOTWORD



Here is a fun crossword for you to try with a few of the answers to be found in Scotland! If you are in doubt, you may need a wee peek at a Scots dictionary or a map. Or, if you are really stuck, the answers can be found on page 24!

### CLUES ACROSS:

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

### CLUES DOWN:

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

# £2 million for world's first rewilding centre near Loch Ness



Dundreggan, Glenmoriston © Trees for Life.

**T**rees for Life is to establish the world's first rewilding centre near Loch Ness in the Highlands – thanks to more than £2 million of support from The Natural and Cultural Heritage Fund led by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), The National Lottery Heritage Fund and other funding. The groundbreaking centre will be at Dundreggan, the charity's 10,000-acre estate in Glenmoriston. It is expected to welcome over 50,000 visitors annually – allowing people to explore stunning wild landscapes, discover Gaelic culture, and learn about the region's unique wildlife including golden eagles, pine martens, red squirrels and wood ants.

The centre will boost the rural economy by providing a new attraction on the journey between Loch Ness and Skye, and benefit the local community through at least 15 new local jobs.

“Dundreggan Rewilding Centre will showcase how rewilding and nature can give people amazing experiences, create jobs and really benefit local communities. It will celebrate one of the Highlands' greatest assets – the wild landscapes and unique wildlife being returned through rewilding,” said Steve Micklewright, Trees for Life's Chief Executive. “Dundreggan has become a beacon of how to rewild a landscape. With this centre, it will become a beacon for rewilding people too.”

An all-weather visitor centre, café and events space will act as the gateway to fully accessible trails, child-friendly forest experiences and more adventurous walks. These will enable families and people with specific needs to get out into wild landscapes and get involved in rewilding.

## At Dundreggan, Trees for Life is protecting and expanding globally important fragments of Scotland's ancient Caledonian Forest.

Announcing the award from The Natural and Cultural Heritage Fund, SNH Chief Executive Francesca Osowska said: “A key priority for SNH is to help ensure tourism and other sectors benefit from, and invest in, Scotland's high-quality environment. Nature and culture are closely linked in the Highlands and Islands, and in many places they are central to the local economy, maintaining rural populations, jobs and skills.”

### Scotland's ancient Caledonian Forest

The core of the centre will include displays and interpretation in English and Gaelic, a café, classrooms, Gaelic Resource Centre and events space. Outdoor facilities will include fully accessible trails, children's forest experience area and more challenging trails. The centre will provide events and experiences for visitors to the

area, and groups with specific needs – such as those with physical or learning disabilities, families, schools and other groups.

The Rewilding Centre has been developed following extensive consultation with the local community. 10 per cent of local residents responded to requests for feedback, and all were overwhelmingly positive. Planning permission in principle was granted by Highland Council in April 2019, and Trees for Life will apply for full planning permission this year. Construction should begin in early 2021, with the centre opening in 2022.

At Dundreggan, Trees for Life is protecting and expanding globally important fragments of Scotland's ancient Caledonian Forest. The estate is home to over 4,000 plant and animal species – including several never recorded in the UK before or once feared extinct in Scotland.

Trees for Life is dedicated to rewilding the Scottish Highlands. Its volunteers have established nearly two million native trees at dozens of sites, encouraging wildlife to flourish and helping communities to thrive.

For more details see: [www.treesforlife.org.uk](http://www.treesforlife.org.uk)



Red squirrel, Scottish Highlands © Mark Hamblin, scotlandbigpicture.com.

## New Scottish £20 enters circulation



**A** new polymer £20 note by the Bank of Scotland's has been released, featuring an image of the Forth Bridge with the Queensferry Crossing in the background. The front of the note continues to feature the portrait of Scottish novelist and poet Sir Walter Scott alongside an image of the Mound in Edinburgh, as was the case with the older paper £20 notes. The Forth Bridge remains on the reverse, but the Queensferry Crossing, which opened in 2017, is visible in the background. The Queensferry Crossing is also celebrated in its own right on a limited number of commemorative £20 notes.

The notes feature a series of security measures, such as a 'window effect' which can be found in the windows of the Mound. They also have a holographic depth stripe, the top of the foil features a northern lights effect when tilted, and the clouds on the notes will move left to right when tilted east to west. Like the £10 polymer note, the £20 notes have the 'tactile emboss' feature to aid the visually impaired. All existing paper Bank of Scotland £20 notes will now be gradually withdrawn, but any in circulation will continue to be accepted at shops, banks and cash payment machines.

Unlike English banknotes, Scottish notes are produced by three different banks: Bank of Scotland, Royal Bank of Scotland and Clydesdale Bank. The notes are generally accepted in the rest of the UK as well.



Dear Friends,

It is with heavy hearts that we announce that the New York City Tartan Day Parade will not be taking place in 2020. We had hoped that we would be able to go ahead with the Parade being 3 weeks away, but following yesterday's news the State of New York, and New York City are banning large gatherings until further notice.

We are so sorry. This is hugely disappointing news for us to share with you. Given that the COVID-19 pandemic is a rapidly evolving situation, we will not be rescheduling this year's Parade. Instead we'll be focusing on returning stronger than ever in 2021.

We would like to take this time to thank Marti, Audrey, Bob, Barbara, Suzanne, Fraser, Dan, Steve, Caroline, and our PR team in Glasgow, Victoria and Pam, for all of their hard work over the past year. Without this amazing team, we would not be able to put on such a spectacular series of events. And to Howie and Charlie your support over the years has been unfounded. Thank you, from the bottom of our Tartan Hearts.

Thank you for your ongoing support,

Kyle Dawson  
Lesley MacLennan Denninger  
Camilla Hellman  
Lebby Campbell

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# Finding a balance in East Lothian

By: Nick Drainey



All images courtesy of Laurence Winram.

The beach of Dunbar.

## The European Stone Stacking Championships

At day at the beach: stacking some pebbles on top of each other while the waves lap the shore and seabird's whirl and cry overhead. Sounds like a good opportunity for a bit of relaxation and mindfulness in nature but it is also the setting for international competition. This month (April) the European Stone Stacking Championships take place in Dunbar with entrants from across the globe flocking to East Lothian to compete against each other in a contest of art, dexterity and speed.

The range of stacking competition stretches from children to the experts and is the brainchild of creator and director James Craig Page. An artist himself, he saw people balancing stones on YouTube about five years ago and "got inspired to go down the beach and create artwork".

His research led him to the Llano Earth Art Festival in Texas which is the largest nature and environmental art festival in the world, including the world rock stacking championships.

James says: "In 2016 we had been approached by the John Muir Trust to put on an event as part of the John Muir birthday celebrations, so we put on the first stone stacking competition in Britain. It was such a success that the following year I decided to go big and call it the European Championships and we started attracting competitors from all over Europe and all over the world."

### A work of art

The event, from 17 to 19 April, culminates in a two-and-a-half-hour marathon when artists can use everything from the smallest pebbles to the large rocks to produce a work of art. This can be enhanced with other things found on the beach including driftwood, broken fishing nets and sailing buoys which float in on the tide. The only real rule is that it all has to be found on the beach, on the day.

More than a dozen countries are going to be represented including Egypt, USA, Austria, France and Germany. But, despite the competitive element, the event is as much about fun and attracts thousands of spectators each year.

James says: "Although it is a competition and the winner does win an all expenses trip to the world championships in Texas next year there is

a very relaxed atmosphere. It is very much all the artists encouraging each other and learning from each other – all of it is done in a positive frame of mind."

Some have criticised stone stacking as an activity which is damaging to the environment because it moves stones and pebbles around. This, however, is rejected by the organisers of the championships.

### Artists can use everything from the smallest pebbles to the large rocks to produce a work of art.

"Absolute nonsense," James says. "Nobody is destroying nature. We are the first people who would go down and litter pick, clean up after ourselves and wherever possible have a no trace policy."

Contestants dismantle their creations if the incoming tide is not going to take them, something James says is central their ethos of looking after nature. He also says there is a health benefit for anyone who goes stone stacking, either in the competition or on their own. "People enjoy leaving balances up that are going to be taken by the tide. People seeing these things are benefiting so much by seeing something different in nature. Doctors prescribe going out into nature and this is what we are doing. We are encouraging people to go into nature, get in touch with their creativity and enjoy the



Competitor Pedro Durán working on his 30 minute stack.

beautiful coastline and waters of Dunbar as part of the Scottish Government's Year of Coasts and Waters."

### Holistic outlook

The Year of Coasts and Waters promotes the sea, lochs and rivers around Scotland, not just by visiting scenic locations but getting involved in activities in and around them. Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs, said the year promotes "a range of opportunities to experience and enjoy our unrivalled seas and shores, whilst encouraging responsible engagement and inclusive participation from both locals and visitors. There are lots of different opportunities to get involved with this celebratory year. From action and adventure, to cultural and heritage events there is something for all and I encourage everyone to get involved."

The stone stacking championships are a central part of the planned events this spring and is also supported by the Edinburgh Science Festival. Kicking things off in Dunbar will be a series of demonstrations and workshops to give inspiration for an artistic competition for families. The second day is all about speed with children and then adults trying to balance a pre-selected group of stones on top of each other as quickly as possible.



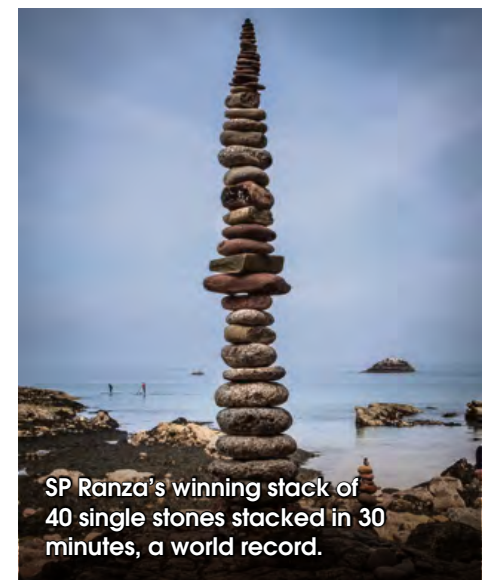
Pagoda design by photographer Laurence Winram.

Then, on the final day, things get a little more serious with a competition to balance as many stones vertically in 20 minutes. The finale comes when there is complete artistic licence to create a stunning artistic display with at least one balance involved.

Last year's overall winner was SP Ranza from France. He said: "I have a special philosophy. I practise meditation and when I practise stone balance it's a little bit the same."

He has a number of reasons to enjoy stone stacking: "The first is that it's free. As long as there are stones and gravity, we can practice it endlessly. Secondly, it is that through my art, I meet people and I can then talk to them about meditation and share my philosophy with them. And the last thing, which I love, and that is why I have balances in my living room, it is that when we make very sharp equilibria, on very small points of support, we may have made them, we always have the impression that the stones are levitating, that they are floating and they have no more weight."

On his website, James Craig Page, agrees with that holistic outlook: "Stone stacking is a meditative artistic skill which can be produced anywhere, with a growing global movement. Stone stacking utilises the materials found in nature and balancing uses nothing more than the natural gravitational pull of the Earth."



SP Ranza's winning stack of 40 single stones stacked in 30 minutes, a world record.



# Scotland in world first for genetic diversity



Red Squirrel © Lorne Gill/SNH.

Scientists have developed a world-first method to help understand and conserve genetic diversity in some of our most iconic wild species.

Heather, red squirrel, golden eagle, Scottish bluebell and Scots pine are among those assessed in a new report published by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).

Genetic diversity is the differences among individuals due to variation in their DNA. Conserving the genetic diversity of plants, animals and wild species is the focus of one of the 20 international Aichi biodiversity targets. But while there are strategies in place to assess and report on genetic diversity in agriculture, horticulture and forestry, there is a gap when it comes to wild species. Researchers identified a list of target species of particular importance for Scotland and developed a "genetic scorecard" for each, assessing their genetic diversity and any associated risks.

The species were chosen for their conservation or cultural value, importance for food and medicines or because they

provide crucial ecosystem services such as carbon storage. The research found that four of the assessed species - wildcat, ash, great yellow bumblebee and freshwater pearl mussel - were classed as being at risk of severe genetic problems as a result of factors including non-native species, disease, habitat loss and pollution.

Conservation action is underway to address these threats, for example through the Saving Wildcats project and Biodiversity Challenge Fund cash recently announced to enhance key freshwater pearl mussel populations across Scotland.

The new method for assessing genetic diversity will help further target long-term conservation strategies and address the international target. The report follows the news last year that SNH's Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve has been formally recognised as the UK's first area designated for genetic conservation, reflecting the importance of its ancient Caledonian pine forest.

## Safeguard Scotland's biodiversity

Environment Secretary Roseanna Cunningham said: "Our natural environment is central to our national identity, thanks in no small part to the many unique, varied and iconic wild species that are native to Scotland. A pivotal part of conserving some of our most at-risk biodiversity is to build a full picture of the pressures and issues that our wild species are facing - including the state of their genetic diversity. Work around conserving genetic diversity is an area

where Scotland is genuinely ground-breaking. In Beinn Eighe, we were the first nation in the UK to have a site recognised for genetic conservation. That is why this report, which provides us with new and powerful insight into the state of the genetic diversity amongst wild species is so important, and I look forward to it playing an important role driving further progress to safeguard Scotland's biodiversity."

David O'Brien, SNH Biodiversity Evidence and Reporting Manager, said: "Often when we talk about biodiversity the focus is on species and ecosystems, but genetic diversity is also essential for nature to be resilient in the face of pressures such as climate change, and it's great that Scotland is leading the way in this field. For the first time, this report sets out a clear 'scorecard' method for assessing the genetic diversity of wild species and applies this to some of our most important plants, animals and birds. Not only does it fill a major gap in addressing the international target for genetic biodiversity conservation but importantly it can be expanded to cover many more species, and adapted for use in any country in the world."

Professor Pete Hollingsworth, Director of Science at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, said: "Genetic diversity is the raw material that allows species to evolve and adapt to a changing environment - and thus conserving genetic diversity is an important way of helping nature to help itself. Genetic diversity is key to species adapting to changing climates, to new diseases or



Heather © Glyn Satterley/SNH.

other pressures they may face. At a time of increasing pressures and threats - maintaining genetic diversity maximises options and opportunities for species to persist and survive".

Dr Rob Ogden, Head of Conservation Genetics at the University of Edinburgh and co-author of the scorecard report, said: "The scorecard is designed as an affordable, practical tool that allows every country to assess its wildlife genetic diversity; what we measure in Scotland can now be compared around the world."



Harebell (Scots bluebell) ©Lorne Gill/SNH.

**Tartan of the Month**

*The Tartan Day Society of Washington State Tartan*

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

This month Tartan Day is celebrated across North America on April 6<sup>th</sup>. The Tartan Day Society of Washington State Tartan (Ref #11802) was designed for the Tartan Day Society of Washington State. Colours: green represents the official colour of Washington, known as the "Evergreen State"; blue represents the Pacific Ocean and Puget Sound; red, white and blue represent the colours in the United States flag. A woven sample of this tartan has been received by the Scottish Register of Tartans for permanent preservation in the National Records of Scotland. The Tartan Day Society of Washington State Tartan was designed by Robert Parrish and registered in May 2017.

## Are you missing NYC Tartan Week? Do you wish you could still do something to celebrate Tartan Day?

### SO DID WE!

We've taken the weekend to digest the news that left us all reeling on Thursday. Drams were consumed and brainstorming were had until the light bulb shone brightly...if the parade can't take place in Manhattan then why not do it virtually for the whole world to see?!

On April 6th 2020 we want you to flood our social media accounts with videos and photos showing you in all your Scottish splendor. Post to our page or group on Facebook and tag us @nyctartanweek on Instagram and Twitter!

Gather your pipes and bands and play your wee hearts out, record us a Celtic tune on your fiddle or accordion, sing or recite your favorite Scottish poem, recite your best Burns quote! Don your ghillies, dance around swords, fold yourself in to a yoga position or two in a kilt, wag your furry tails!



Young, old, two legs or four, we want to hear from all of you!

Share this across all you channels and friends, we want to see you in all your Scottish finery - let's make April the 6th 2020 the first ever Global Virtual Tartan Day!

COVID-19, you may take our parade this year, but you'll NEVER TAKE OUR PRIDE! Alba Gu Bra!

**We will see you online!**  
**National Tartan Day New York Committee**



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# Rare photos of Queen Victoria on display in Aberdeen and Edinburgh



Queen Victoria with her pony, Fyvie, and John Brown. Royal Collection Trust / © Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2020.

An exhibition of rarely seen photographs of Queen Victoria and the royal family at Balmoral has gone on show at the University of Aberdeen. Lent by Her Majesty the Queen from the Royal Collection, the exhibition will comprise 50 items including photographs, stereoscopic images and albums and will explore Queen Victoria's time in Scotland, including the building of Balmoral, royal engagements and royal portraits. It will also contain University of Aberdeen collection items relating to Scotland's great Victorian photographer George Washington Wilson, and Victorian photography more generally.

The Royal Collection Trust contribution is in addition to the George Washington Wilson collection. In 1953, AJB (Archie) Strachan donated 40,000 George Washington Wilson glass plates and negatives to the University. George Washington Wilson (1823-1893) was born in the North East of Scotland and went to Edinburgh and then London in the 1840s to train as a portrait miniaturist.

### Photographer to Her Majesty in Scotland

He became established in Aberdeen in the 1850s as an artist and photographer, and quickly made a name for himself among the middle classes and landed gentry.

His patronage by the royal family during their visits to the Balmoral Estates began in 1854, when he was invited to photograph the construction of Balmoral Castle.

A year later, in 1855, he was commissioned to take portraits of the royal family within the grounds of Balmoral. He continued to photograph members of the royal family throughout his career and was appointed 'Photographer to Her Majesty in Scotland' in 1873.

The University's George Washington Wilson & Co photographic collection consists of over 37,000 glass plate negatives - the world's largest collection of his work. In 2011, the University launched a new online system of high-resolution digital versions of images taken between 1853 and 1908 by the firm.

Neil Curtis, Head of Museums and Special Collections at the University, said: "The University has a substantial collection of George Washington Wilson photos and negatives in its Special Collections, so it's wonderful to be able to welcome this new exhibition. These photos were taken by royal appointment, focusing particularly on the royal family at Balmoral and is a chance to see some rarely seen images from the family photograph album."

The display will be held in the University's Sir Duncan Rice Library Gallery until July 5, when the Royal Collection items will move on to the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh from July 17 to October 4, 2020.

## Edinburgh tram extension gets underway



Construction work is now under way with Edinburgh Trams timetabled to take their first passengers to and from Newhaven. The new line will run for 4.69 kilometres/2.91 miles, connecting Leith and Newhaven to the current end of the Edinburgh tram line at York Place. The first phase of the £207m extension project is already well underway on Constitution Street, where the excavation of the road is being carried out to allow utility diversions, tracklaying and the installation of tram infrastructure. Eight new stops will be added to the system once timetabled services begin in spring 2023. The first stage of the tramline linking Edinburgh Airport with the city centre began in 2007, and whilst its expense doubled in budget, the service's passenger numbers have exceeded expectations.



- Edinburgh's Beltane festival originates from Scottish and Irish Gaelic pre-Christian times.
- It was held to mark and celebrate the blossoming of spring, and coincided with the ancient pastoral event of moving livestock to their summer grazing.
- The word Beltane roughly translates from a Gaelic-Celtic word meaning bright/sacred fire.
- The modern Beltane Fire Festival is inspired by the ancient Gaelic festival of Beltane which began on the evening before 1 May and marked the beginning of summer.

- Torches are lit to reveal the May Queen, the Queen of Summer.
- Leading the Horned God and flanked by her White Warrior Women and Processional Drummers, the May Queen's way is guided by Blue Men, druidic spirit guides and the guardians of the ritual.
- Beltane is celebrated with huge bonfires to celebrate the power of the sun. Rituals include communal dancing around the bonfire, burning of effigies, and fire dancers.
- The procession passes anti-clockwise on April 30<sup>th</sup> around Edinburgh's Calton Hill, the May Queen awakening the elements of Air, Earth, Water and Fire.



### The Balmoral School of Piping & Drumming

SUMMER



2020

Pittsburgh, PA

July 5-10, 2020

East Stroudsburg, PA

July 12-17, 2020

Instructors: Terry Tully, Robert Mathieson, George Balderose, Richmond Johnston, Gordon Bell (Drumming)

Instructors: Robert Mathieson, Bruce Gandy, George Balderose, Richmond Johnston, Gordon Bell (Drumming).

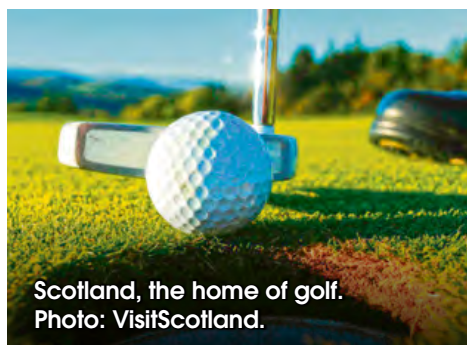
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or call: (412) 323-2707

By: Lady Fiona MacGregor

# Lady MacGregor's Scotland



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



Scotland, the home of golf. Photo: VisitScotland.

Greetings from Scotland. Where it is mild, but wet. In fact, this has been the second wettest month on record here. One day the rain came down in torrents. Unfortunately, an outside drain was blocked, and, with nowhere else to go, the water gouted out great swathes of the track at the back of the house.

But I would imagine, that, wherever you are, the weather is not the main topic of conversation at the moment. As I write, more and more cases of corona virus are being identified. It is a great worry. But fingers crossed, things will calm down. Let us sincerely hope so.

Perhaps a bit of Scottish music would help take people's minds off things. Because it certainly seems to be cheering the President of Nigeria. This month I read

that this African country's top man has got himself a pipe band. One which accompanies him on official engagements and greets him when he arrives back from foreign trips. I tell you this because the pipers are clad in the Chief's tartan. Yes, believe it or not, they are dressed in the MacGregor red and black – sometimes referred to as the Rob Roy tartan. They look incredibly smart, with the leader of the band quoted as saying that that pipe music is good because it has a calming effect on the soul. The Chief has since written to Nigeria's President Buhari to congratulate him on his choice of Highland uniform.

## Whacking small white balls across

Alas, the MacGregor did not take his kilt to Spain a few weeks ago. When we slipped off for a week to get a bit of sun. Our destination was Fuerteventura, one of the Canary Islands, and, interestingly for us, we were staying at a golfing hotel.

Because when it comes to the glorious game, neither of us plays. For my part, I would like to. And in my youth, I have tried to. But the fact is, I was born with very little hand-ball co-ordination. So, basically, I am useless at it. Whilst the MacGregor has no interest. Yet there we were. Sitting on a balcony, happily watching folk whacking small white balls across the green.

Yet in some ways, being in this part of the world was a reminder of home. If you took away the weather, the palm trees and the groups of jolly Germans massing on the links, it came with Scottish undertones.

For it is the Scots who invented golf; royalty and lesser mortals playing it from medieval times; soldiers and emigrants then taking it right round the world.

Here was the aptly named 'St Andrew's Restaurant'. Here were golfers clad in yellow-striped Gordon tartan golfing jackets. Here was whisky – and, according to the chief, a decent Rob Roy cocktail. As the week progressed a Dutch lady approached with a question. She knew that golf had originated in Scotland but was keen to find out if the word was short for 'gentlemen only, ladies forbidden'. I told her I didn't really know, but I was sure that Mary Queen of Scots once played it. So probably not.

## Glasgow

Back here, meanwhile, and I made a trip to Scotland's largest city. The TV company I work for had asked me to make a film on simplifying your home. And Glasgow is where we went to interview a professional de-clutterer; a lady who can transform a wardrobe; who can clear out a messy kitchen and help us get rid of all that 'stuff' we accumulate in our lives.

That itself was a fascinating exercise. But just as interesting was the chance to film some of the city sights. Despite having being something of an industrial city, the 'dear green place' lives up to its name, with Glasgow boasting dozens of parks and woodland.

We took in the cathedral. A great Gothic creation, Glasgow's oldest building and the best-preserved cathedral on the Scottish mainland. Then there were the city chambers. A vast monument to an industrial past and the wealth created when Glasgow was second city of Empire. It is an awesome place, one said to contain more marble than the Vatican...

With not even a million inhabitants, Glasgow is what you would term a small city. Nevertheless, for a country girl like me, the place is an eye-opener. Everywhere you turn history contrasts with modernity; the medieval turrets and towers of Glasgow University and the iconic shell-shaped Science Centre on the south bank of the River Clyde.

It was an all-too-brief working visit. And one of these days I will take the time to see Glasgow at leisure. But stout shoes will be needed. Like many a Scottish community, part of the city is built on a series of little hills. Ever onwards and upwards. In the meantime, please stay safe...

## Coul Links golf development rejected



**T**wild stretch of coastline which is an important habitat for rare and endangered plants and animals has been saved from a development proposal. A 18-hole championship golf course was proposed for dunes at Coul Links at Embo, near Dornoch. The Scottish Government announced that the plans were refused due to the unacceptable impact on the natural heritage value of Coul Links. This site is of international importance for nature. Part of the proposed golf course is within the Loch Fleet Site of Special Scientific Interest, and the Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet Special Protection Area.

This area is designated partly because of its fragile network of sand dunes and the birds that shelter on lochans between the ridges. The dunes at Coul Links are particularly unusual because they form a complete undisturbed system from foredune to slacks. The site is noted for important protected birds including terns, geese and waders, and a rich variety of plants.

# Arbroath Abbey investment to mark 700th anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath

**Historic Environment Scotland (HES) have announced a £300,000 investment to enhance the visitor offer at Arbroath, 700 years after the Declaration was created.**



A view of Arbroath Abbey from above.

**A** new exhibition, opening on the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration, Monday 6 April 2020, will tell its story through a mix of digital technology and traditional crafts. The Declaration of Arbroath (originally known as the Barons' Letter) is one of Scotland's most important historical documents. The letter was written in medieval Latin and sent to the Pope from Robert the Bruce and his barons, asserting Scotland's independence from England and asking the Pope to recognise Bruce as the lawful King of Scotland. The exhibition will explore the history of the Abbey from its founding in 1178 to the present day. A new short

animated film has been created to visually tell the story of the history and content of the letter. As part of the exhibition, National Records Scotland (NRS) have gifted a facsimile of the surviving document, created by internationally renowned conservator and restorer, David Frank. This facsimile is almost indistinguishable from the surviving document, with every detail considered and replicated using the same methods and materials as the original.

## Shaping Scotland's history

The exhibition will also present the Arbroath Tapestry, which will be unveiled to the public for the first time.

Designed by Andrew Crummy, whose previous works include the Great Tapestry of Scotland, the artwork was hand-stitched by local embroiderers to celebrate the Declaration's 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary and tells its story through a triptych of intricately sewn panels. Other highlights for visitors at Arbroath Abbey include medieval artefacts that relate to the site.

These include arrowheads from the Wars of Independence era, a royal tombstone and a book that records 200 years of events at the Abbey. Other exhibition features include a new digital model of the Abbey as it once was, and an on-screen resource about the barons who supported the sending of the Declaration.

## Iconic document

Paul Lowe, Chief Executive of NRS, said: "As the custodians of this iconic document we recognise its particular significance to Arbroath. We are thrilled to gift this unique facsimile of the Declaration to the Abbey, as part of the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. We hope it will continue to inspire visitors from around the world as well as the people of Arbroath, providing fresh insights into this fascinating period in our history."

# KINGS CASTLES AND “DURTY” WEE RASCALS

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



## Corrie-fisted Weans

*We're the cack-handed kings, we're the lefties,*

*You right-handers just haven't a clue,*

*Cos' if you'd been through what we've been through,*

*Then maybe you would feel superior too!*

*Chorus from "The Left-handers lament" by Ian Radburn.*

For most of my time at Leithland Road Primary School my teacher was Mr. Lauder who we all held in high regard because, as a good teacher, he only gave us the strap when it was well deserved and he taught us a lot about Scottish history. That was important to me at least. I understood at a later time that he was a post-war emergency-trained teacher, although he never talked to us about the recent war that he had been part of. I must have been a cause of frustration for Mr. Lauder. Every year Glasgow Corporation Education Department ran a writing competition and some of the best writers were selected from each school to copy from a piece of text and to submit it back to our teachers in our very best handwriting. Although selected by my teachers for the competition each year, my scripts were never submitted.

I was left-handed and was using a pen nib, an inkwell and a blotter to attempt my schoolboy copperplate writing. I was doomed from the start to smudge the paper, as my left hand made its careful way across to the right-hand side of the page and over what I had laboriously written. Jean, my future wife, was at this same time attending Carnwadric Primary School. She tells me that she was also picked for this competition but unlike me, her's was submitted and displayed in the Exhibition Hall in Bellahouston Park, an honour I was always precluded from.

A smarty pants I have told her but then again, she was right-handed. Easy for her you might say.

## Left-handedness

Left-handedness from ancient times and well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century was, as often as not, looked upon by society as an unnatural aberration to be dealt with fairly ruthlessly. That was in spite of around 10% of the human population being left-handed across cultures and history. Children in Scotland who showed this so-called 'unnatural tendency' in school were often severely dealt with, to be chastised, threatened with the Lochgelly and sometimes remorselessly punished by 'right-minded' teachers. Common sayings such as a left-handed compliment are ambiguous and even the 'Good Book', contain many discriminatory references to the left hand that give little comfort and solace to the child who favours it. To make matters worse heavy users of left-handed brains, but actually the right hemisphere of the brain, were said to be just that wee bit different from users of the right-handed brains but in fact the left hemisphere. We were said to be a wee bit messier, a wee bit clumsier, a wee bit dreamier and a wee bit more emotional than the right-hander. These were not particularly useful traits for 'cackie-handers' coping with a right-handed school, never mind a right-handed world.

It was the right-handed children, using their verbal, rational left hemispheres that usually got on best with the expectations of the teachers. Their brains handled speech very well and they were dab hands at analytical and sequential thought. Of course, these were seen as useful traits in the classroom, by their mainly right-handed and right-minded teachers. So, the right-hander often got the best deal at school because the 3 R's 'reading, riting and 'rithmetic' are logical, linear and naturally very highly valued in society.

But all was not lost for us, the minority, the one in ten 'corrie-fisted weans', like me, for the more emotional lefty brain can be good at understanding three-dimensional

space, music, tone of voice and best of all can be imaginative and very often creative seeing beyond the status quo to think more laterally. Research also suggests that we can be hot-tempered but are very often empathetic and not as rigid in our thinking as many 'righties'. We lateral thinkers are supposedly good at drawing pictures and telling funny stories because the brain of a lefty likes to day-dream and is likely to dream away all by itself during the hours of sleep, creating wonderful ideas for us all when we awake in the mornings. This supposedly helps to give us lefties insights and hunches and an ability to deal with feelings and ideas, often those not easily put into words. It's said to help to make us experimental and creative because creativity seems to have virtually nothing to do with language or the intellectual skills arising from book learning. In fact, many of the most famous of the lefties of the world were not especially good at school. Because the basic tools of creative thinking are said to be mental pictures the lefty brain, less hampered by logic and rationality, is apparently free to make all sorts of new and creative connections with these pictures.

So that explains why even though many lefties are missing from history, because they were made to switch and conceal their natural tendencies, they nevertheless have a disproportionate presence in history, from Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar and Napoleon to Leonardo Da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael and Isaac Newton, Lewis Carrol, Mark Twain and Queen Victoria, among many others. In spite of all this good news I don't remember my left-handedness ever being mentioned by any of my teachers. Nor were we corrie-fisted weans told about those possible historical leftie role models. For while right-handed people rarely think about which hand another person is using, lefties are usually very quick to spot a fellow south-paw. That I think is because we often feel an affinity with the fellow corrie-fister. Some sensitive authors like Peter Radburn have even said that being left-handed made him feel different and special and that he observed that left-handed people had a kindred spirit of affection and appreciation for other lefties.

## Wrong way around

My brother, Charlie, 13 years older than me, and also a natural left-hander, was made to change to his right hand at his school, pre-war Lorne Street Primary, in Govan. In the more enlightened post-war era in Pollok no-one tried to make me do the same, but it took me several years to learn to twist my hand around so that I didn't track across my own writing, a bit too late for the school competitions. By then the ball point pen had become an accepted substitute for the scratchy school pen nib and the fancier fountain pen, although I was still capable of smudging the ink from a Biro pen until I had mastered the twisting of my hand. Whilst my teachers never tried to make me change, and I thank them for that, they never, as far as I can remember, ever tried to assist me to come to terms with being left-handed either. In a class of up to forty pupils there was likely to have

been at least four of us who were to learn, mainly by trial and error, and without fully comprehending why, that we would face a world arranged for right hands. Nor were either of my parents left-handed so they wouldn't have thought much about the problem either and probably accepted that it was for the best when my brother was made to change from left to right during his schooling. We 'cackie-handers' would discover that scissors in art and craft classes were always going to be painful and difficult to use, as well as just about every other tool on earth made for right hands. Without thinking, we were going to set the table for our mothers the "wrong way around" and we were likely to confuse the other person when opening a door for them. We were going to find spiral notebooks and fat cheque-books, amongst other common things, a nuisance to use in everyday life.

On the brighter side, we corrie-fisted weans having been forced to conform to a right-handed world are said to be more emotionally independent, determined and stubborn, more apt to have an "I am my own person attitude", perhaps useful characteristics on many occasions. One of a number of suggestions as to why Darwin's 'survival of the fittest' in evolutionary terms didn't breed us lefties out a long time ago may be that we 'cackie-handers' had that element of surprise up our sleeves in one to one combat over the eons where the opponent lost a few seconds in coming to terms where the wooden club or metal sword thrust was going to come from.

If of course the lefty is any good at sports such as cricket, tennis, and boxing he or she might find that they had a bit of an advantage on an otherwise level playing field. Martina Natrilova and John McEnroe come to mind amongst many other successful sports people. I happened to also favour my left foot for kicking a ball but I was a fairly ordinary football player even with that possible advantage for a player on the left wing of the pitch. I can honestly say I was never a bully at school and would like to think that throughout my life I was more likely to show some support for the underdog, another supposed trait often found in the lefty. But that's for others to judge. When I found myself in schoolboy fights at primary school, and sometimes winning, I'm sure the right-handers became a little confused and surprised when dealing with a punch coming in a less conventional way from a 'south-paw'.

I will put my left hand up to having often been hot tempered and assertive, even as a bairn. I detested bullies of any kind then and detest them today as an adult. That could get me into a physical fight as a schoolboy and a verbal argument as an adult; but very often metaphorically speaking firing and taking the bullets on behalf of other people I tried to represent or stand up for. Being hot-tempered but empathetic, valuing personal independence and social justice are traits found in many lefties-so that's one of my excuses, if not reasons, for favouring leftist democratic politics and detesting folk who misuse and abuse the power given to them by the rest of us.

# Benny the Poker

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.



No offence Jimmy, a phrase often heard in Glasgow's better social circles. No one used this phrase better than the late Chick Murray, a truly funny man. Apparently, he was coming home one night and found a man stealing his garden gate. He went to the police to report the incident and the Constable asked him if he stopped the theft.

No says Chick, I was scared that he might take offence. Normally this phrase is generally used when one is about to say or do something incendiary that may offend the sensitivities of one's neighbour. I am using this phrase as an introduction to what is really two tenement tales both directed at my favourite uncle, a man with a wicked sense of humour who was always quick to laugh. In the interests of being P.C., something that all Glaswegians are noted for worldwide, in the old days P.C meant a Police Constable, my how times have changed. So being P.C. today, I have to acknowledge that although the part two of this tale has clear sectarian overtones, they are being delivered with a pure heart and an ironic twist. Hopefully these stories should bring a smile to the face of a real Glaswegian or Springburnite, rare individuals who were never born without a keen sense of humour.

## The Road

So, with all of this being said as an introduction, I now in advance say "No Offence Jimmy" to every class and creed who reads this true tale and manages a good belly laugh at the end. My father's family were raised in the early 1900's in Turner St, just off Royston Rd. It was a hard and sadly depressed area often referred to as "The Garngad" or "The Road".

"The Road" was a far cry from the scenic countryside of Bishop Briggs, it was said that if you ever saw a cat on "The Road" with a tail, it was a lost stray and had never been in contact with the local rats. My father, Matthew, had a tear away younger brother named Bernard (Benny). Apparently in the early days of their youth Benny had a penchant for attracting trouble, it just seemed to follow him around. Never anything serious, generally brawling in the street or at local dance hall after a few drinks. In those days the police had a zero-tolerance program, so they had no compunction about throwing the offender, guilty or not, in the van and of to the local jail.

My father was the family consigliere and said that his task in life was to bail brother Benny out of Maitland St and make sure that their parents never knew about his after-hours extra-curricular activities. My father maintained that Benny was generally a quiet youth who got into trouble because of an unlikely tough reputation, which he really did earn, and like the gunfighters of the old west,

faster guns and tougher men came to test his reputation. Uncle Bernard's nemesis was his nickname, he was known on "The Road" as "Benny the Poker", a nickname sure to attract the demons from the dark side. I remember my uncle Bernard very well in later life as I was growing up, a quiet man, with a boxers facial countenance, he was 5 ft. 4" tall and 5 ft. 4" wide, his feet barely reached the ground, clearly a wee man to step aside for, so here is the first part of uncle Bernard's tale.

## Poker in the Park

Uncle Bernard and my father both worked in the Caley, a facility where top quality steam engines were made in good times, and when work was slack, particularly on the night shift, the men found other things to do to keep themselves busy. During one of these slack periods, Uncle Bernard decided to make a brass poker as a birthday present for his mother, such a thoughtful lad. Now I am sure that almost every home in Springburn had one of these pokers, a hand-crafted brass stem with multi coloured rivet's acting

as a handle, all smuggled out from Cowlairst, The Caley or NB Locomotive. Although very decorative in appearance, these pokers were quite useless in relation to the work that they were designed for, as heat from the fire rapidly travelled up the brass stem and burned the hands of the unskilled user. On this fateful Fair Friday pay day, carrying two weeks wages at the start of Glasgow's biggest holiday, Uncle Bernard was proudly making his way home from work across the football pitches at St Rollock's and approaching his home on Royston Rd. His prize, the hand-crafted poker, smuggled out of work, securely hidden up his sleeve, ready to present to his mother for her birthday, sadly not to be. Close to home, Uncle Bernard was approached by three well known corner boys who apparently had some thoughts of separating Uncle Bernard from his hard-earned pay packet. Uncle Bernard was no fool, he was a union man and he knew that there was no room for negotiation or arbitration with these individuals.

He had only two choices to make rapidly, flight or fight, and running was never an option because as I have previously stated, his feet barely reached the ground. So as the three assailants surrounded their intended victim, making their demands, and brandishing their weapons of choice, Uncle Bernard whipped mothers brass poker out from his sleeve, and rapidly made short work of his assailants with quick decisive strokes of the purloined poker. The would be robbers who were caught completely off guard quickly withdrew from the field of battle with no prize, no honour, but much the wiser in their choice of next victim, and so the legend of "Benny the Poker" was born. This 'Poker in the Park' extravaganza earned Uncle Bernard a reputation that attracted the wrong attention from the wrong people and made his life a little tougher in a neighbourhood that was fuelled with poverty and deprivation. Eventually the brothers and sisters of the family got married and moved to new locations, Uncle Bernard had five children and he moved to a terrace house Barmulloch, a far cry from "The Garngad" and a new life begun for him and his family. His children and grandchildren are now resident in New Zealand, Australia, and the USA. The second part of this tale follows, appropriately named Benny and the Bird.

## Memorial commemorating Titanic helmsman unveiled at his Aberdeen resting place



Robert Hichens final resting place.

The family of a survivor of the RMS Titanic disaster gathered recently to unveil a memorial commemorating his final resting place in Aberdeen; thanks to the detective work of an Aberdeen City Council employee. Cornishman Robert Hichens was helmsman and one of six quartermasters on the legendary liner's ill-fated maiden voyage from Southampton to New York in 1912. His character was tarnished by the event and the ensuing controversy surrounding his role in the disaster but Robert's great granddaughter Sally Nilsson, who unveiled the plaque, has fought tirelessly to help redeem his reputation and wrote the book *The Man Who Sank Titanic: The Troubled Life of Quartermaster Robert Hichens*.

During her research for the book, Sally discovered that Robert might have been buried in one of Aberdeen's cemeteries. Enlisting the help of Ian Burnett, Bereavement Services Officer for Aberdeen City Council, they were able to search records to track down Robert's final resting place in Trinity Cemetery.

## The last man at the wheel of Titanic

Sally was excited by the unveiling after what she described as a "long road" to the ceremony. Sally said: "For over one hundred years no-one knew where the last man at the wheel of *Titanic* was buried. Two weeks before the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary I found out with the help of Ian Burnett. Robert Hichens was one of the most important witnesses on that fateful night. He went on to serve in World War I and was part of the vital convoys as Third Officer on the merchant ship *SS English Trader* during the Battle of the Atlantic in World War II. We are all very grateful for everyone who have made this special day possible. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts"

Ian said: "It's been an honour to help Sally and her family find the grave of her great grandfather and help provide a lasting memorial at the actual place where he was buried with the help of colleagues in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. We are particularly indebted to Barry Mackland of Memorial Specialists Aberdeen Limited for his marvellous

and generous gesture of providing the memorial to Robert Hichens and David Lamb, who is also buried in the plot, completely free of charge".

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission also helped with the installation of the memorial. Iain Anderson, the Commission's regional manager for Scotland, said: "This fascinating story of marking the grave of one of the *RMS Titanic*'s helmsman started for CWGC when we were asked to help replace the headstone of a Dutch sailor buried in the same grave as him. It's always rewarding to see how much small acts to remember those who passed mean to families today. This was a joint effort and we were pleased to be able to help in our own small way."



Sally Nilsson and Ian Burnett.

# Culross - *The Village that Survived*



Culross Palace.

Photos courtesy of David McVey.

Scotland's villages are often far from picturesque. The scenery around them is often spectacular - think of Crianlarich or Aberfoyle or Glencoe - but the architecture is often functional with no underlying theme. Only relatively recent planned settlements from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries - such as Inveraray or Monymusk - look as if they are designed to match. But few older villages are today picturesque postcards from another time. It would be hard to film *Midsomer Murders* in Scotland.

Of course, there are exceptions and the most remarkable is probably Culross in Fife, a small community on the northern bank of the Firth of Forth. It has become quite famous in recent times as a location in the *Outlander* TV series (if that is your thing), but, more to my taste, it also appeared in BBC Scotland's 2008 reworking of *The Thirty-Nine Steps* with Rupert Penry-Jones as Hannay. Culross also featured, bizarrely, as a Norwegian village in the first *Captain America* film!

## Industrial Revolution

How Culross came to be the way it is, and how it came to survive as it does, is a remarkable story. And it's all thanks to industry.

In the very distant past, it's said that St Mungo (also known as St Kentigern) was born near what would become Culross. St Mungo is now perhaps best known as the patron saint of the great city of Glasgow, but some ruins to the east of the village mark his supposed birthplace. He had died in 603 and, exactly 900 years later, the Archbishop of Glasgow had a chapel built on the supposed birth site. The ruins are all that remains of this chapel.

## How Culross came to be the way it is, and how it came to survive as it does, is a remarkable story.

Soon after the chapel was built, however, Culross lost its rural character. By 1622 there were 50 salt pans around the village, facilities where seawater was heated to produce salt. The process also produced smoke, since locally mined coal was burned to heat the water. Culross, then, had an early foretaste of the Industrial Revolution but it didn't live on

salt and coal alone. For centuries its local smiths had a near-monopoly in Scotland on the making of girdle irons, flat metal plates for cooking over open fires. Culross developed port facilities to help supply its industries and to distribute its products.

In its industrial heyday, Culross was a small town rather than a village, and during the reign of James VI it was elevated from a Burgh of Barony to a Royal Burgh. The impressive domestic and public buildings that survive date from this period. The showpiece building today known as Culross Palace, was built for Sir George Bruce.

## Robert the Bruce

Many of today's visitors arrive at the Palace expecting to hear about kings and princes but was an industrialist. Born in 1548, a distant descendent of Robert the Bruce, Bruce travelled on the continent in his youth, learning about how collieries should be run. He took over Culross's local coal mines in 1575.

His greatest innovation was the 'Egyptian Wheel', a horse-powered device that drained the mine of water more efficiently than previous methods. The is enabled his miners to work at depths of over 200ft, whereas the monks who had originally operated the mines got no deeper than 30ft. Bruce, by the standards of his day, was said to be a good and caring employer and, in a modern-sounding touch, his mines hosted a royal visit when James VI who was given a tour.

Bruce died in 1625 and Culross's industry and port facilities gradually faded from prominence as the Industrial Revolution proper began to kick in elsewhere. The National Trust for Scotland acquired the Palace in 1932 and began a process of assembling an estate in the heart of the village - for without its industry, Culross, Royal Burgh or no, was a village again. Many of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century properties came into the Trust's possession and some, like the Palace and the former Town House, were opened to the public, while others were let out as domestic homes. And so, the historic heart



of Culross became a time capsule of 17<sup>th</sup> century Scotland - but without the smoke and noise and smells that would have accompanied its industries.

## Historic streets

The Palace and its gardens are the main attraction and give a real insight into the rather Spartan comfort that even a rich merchant would have enjoyed in the 1500s and 1600s. The gardens occupy a steep hillside behind the palace and have been set out as they might have been in the 1600s, with appropriate plants and trees. It is a peaceful and fragrant space and you can sometimes buy fruit and veggies that have been grown there.

It's well worth strolling around the historic streets and alleys of Culross. Another merchant's house owned by the Trust, known as The Study, dates from 1610. On the edge of the village are the remains of Culross Abbey. Culross Abbey House stands just east of the abbey ruins and dates from 1608, yet it looks like a much more modern construction, something that might have appeared 100 years later. It was built by Sir George Bruce's brother Edward. Clearly, the two men took differing approaches to domestic architecture. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century it was the home of Admiral Thomas Cochrane, Earl of Dundonald, a swashbuckling figure who was a naval hero, an inventor, a politician and a convicted fraudster. He was furious when the Royal Navy refused to give him a command in the Crimean War. He was, at the time, aged 80. There's a memorial to him near Culross Palace.

Culross's main industry now, inevitably, is tourism but before you go, make sure you're familiar with the pronunciation of the village's name; the 'l' is silent and, unusually for Scotland, the emphasis is on the first syllable; *Coo-ross* is a fair approximation. There are car parks to the east and west of the village. Buses run to Culross from Dunfermline and from Falkirk. But however, you get there, it's a journey back in time.



# Robert the Bruce

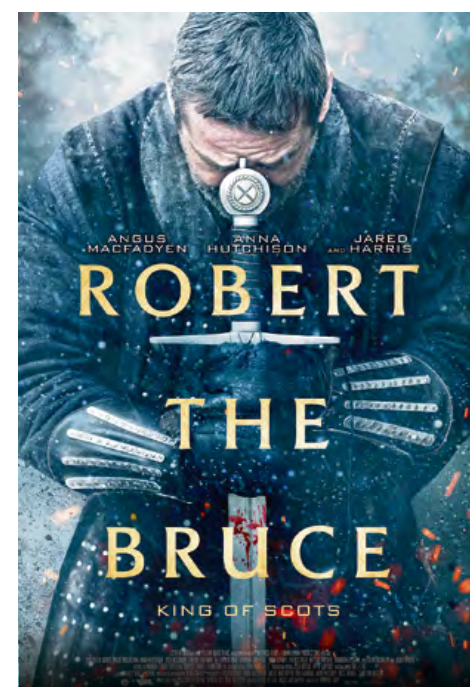
*The Scottish Banner speaks to Angus Macfadyen*

**Robert the Bruce is a hard-hitting historical epic covering the turbulent time after William Wallace's victories depicted in Braveheart. Angus Macfadyen reprises the role he played so memorably in Braveheart as Scottish leader Robert the Bruce in this retelling of the legendary story which premiered at the 2019 Edinburgh International Film Festival. It's 1306 and King Robert's forces have been decimated. His slaying of rival John Comyn was an act that makes him an outlaw, and in the lost months after, the injured King finds himself hunted across the snowy Highlands. He takes shelter with stoic Morag and her brave children, a family hitherto more allied with the English, who restore him to health and help him find the resolve to rally the Scots and lead them to independence.**



Angus you are the lead actor in Robert the Bruce however, some may not know you also produced and co-wrote the script and have been trying to get this project off the ground for over a decade. Can you tell us about your role in the film and why this is such an important film for you?

**AM:** The Bruce has been like a ghost in a cave for over two decades, unable to see the light of day. It's a story I had to tell.





Playing Robert the Bruce is not a new thing for you as you played him in the 1995 international hit Braveheart. How exciting is it for you to both be able to reprise this iconic role and what would you say sets Robert the Bruce apart from the Mel Gibson classic?

**AM:** This film deals with the year Bruce disappeared from history. He stopped fighting the English having lost too many times, he gave up and went to die alone in a cave. It's a very personal story. It's about the death of ambition and the birth of a hero, of a desire which transcends the material world.

**Scots telling their own mythology, their own history, well it's like we are showing you our very souls.**

Whilst not a sequel to Braveheart, Robert the Bruce tells the story of the King of Scots from William Wallace's execution to the Scottish victory at Bannockburn. What is it about these crucial years that the film hopes audiences learn most about?

**AM:** No, we do not get to Bannockburn in this film. That is the next film. I have that script ready to shoot. I hope it doesn't take another 22 years to make because I'll definitely be too old to play the part by then.

Robert the Bruce had its World Premiere at the Edinburgh international Film Festival. How important was it for you and the films team to have the premiere in Scotland and what do you hope Scots get from the film?

**AM:** The director Richard Gray and I set out to have the film open in Scotland on the anniversary of Bannockburn! It was a highlight for us. I just hope we have made a film which Scots and English alike enjoy. I don't like the fact that certain unionist rags have decided to tear it down as Scottish nationalist propaganda, which it is not. The enemy in this film is not the English, it is Scot vs Scot. It is the self, one has to conquer.



This month Robert the Bruce will release at cinemas in the United States. How exciting is it for yourself and all involved with the production to know that US audiences will soon be able to watch this important film?

**AM:** I am increasingly alarmed by the pandemic at hand and I fear this film may best be watched on a TV set at home, if the numbers keep growing.

Robert The Bruce has quite a diverse cast from 3 continents including New Zealand, England the USA, not to mention an Australian director, how difficult was it for the production to keep the Scottish accents alive and true in the film?

**AM:** It was terrifying! Knowing the Scots would be seeing the film first and remembering how harsh they were with Mel's attempt.

Scotland's incredible history has never been so alive on screen as it is today with the release of not only Robert the Bruce, but also the success of Outlander, Mary Queen of Scots, and Outlaw King. How exciting is it for you to be able to be part of sharing Scotland's history with not only Scots, but also those across the globe?

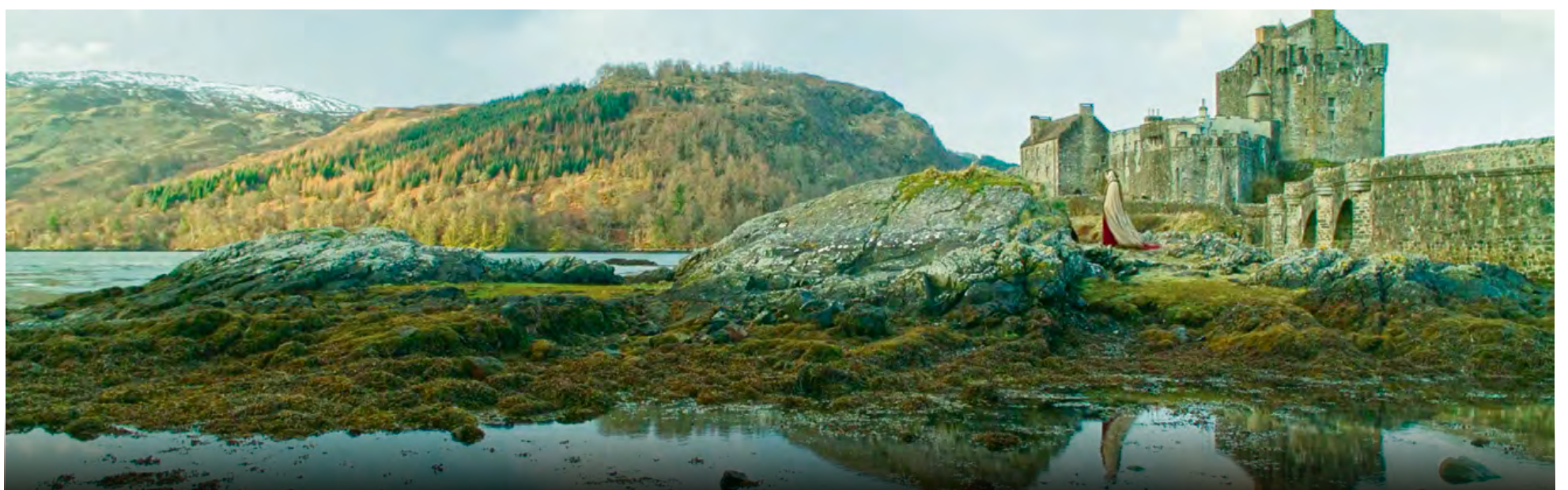
**AM:** Very exciting. Scots telling their own mythology, their own history, well it's like we are showing you our very souls. If you take that away from a people, you are committing cultural genocide.

And finally, Angus you have a very personal connection to this historical legend who continues to capture imaginations over 700 years later.

What is it about Robert the Bruce that excites you and has made you so passionate to share his story with the world?

**AM:** I suppose long after the man's bones have turned to dust, its inspiring to explore the myth of a flawed human being who reached beyond himself to become a good king. Just look at the flip side of that coin, Macbeth, the tyrant. I'm in post-production with that film as we speak. A tale of two Kings. Good and bad. Two ways of moving about our deaths.

**Robert the Bruce US Premiere Event on April 16, in additional select US theaters on April 24, 2020. For details: [www.robertthebrucefilm.com](http://www.robertthebrucefilm.com)**



IN SCOTLAND TODAY



Photo: VisitScotland.

## Orkney crowned best place to live in the UK

Orkney has been crowned the UK's best place to live, following the past two years as runner up, according to the 2019 Bank of Scotland Quality of Life Survey. The archipelago, famed for its spectacular landscapes and archaeological treasures, sealed the top spot based on Orcadians' high employment levels, low crime rate, strong exam results, smaller primary class sizes and good health and happiness scores. Shetland, which takes second place in the Scottish table, is the only other location north of the border to break into the UK top 50. The Western Isles, Argyll & Bute, and Dumfries & Galloway make up the top five in Scotland.

Made up of around 70 islands, visitors enjoy the unspoilt landscapes, wide open spaces and the abundant island wildlife in Orkney. Ricky Diggins, Network Director, Bank of Scotland, said: "Orcadians will be thrilled to learn that not only is their home the best place to live in Scotland, it's now taken the crown for the whole of the UK. With Shetland and Eilean Siar coming second and third in Scotland, it's a clean sweep of the podium places for these island communities. Their more remote locations may not appeal to everyone, but with benefits including high employment, low crime rates, smaller class sizes and more affordable housing, people around the country will now be dreaming of a life spent on the isles."

At a UK level, Richmondshire in North Yorkshire took second place, followed by Rutland in the East Midlands, Hambleton in North Yorkshire and Eden in Cumbria in fifth place.

### One of Europe's largest footbridges to open in Glasgow



The final design for the pedestrian and cycle bridge that will connect Govan and Partick across the River Clyde in Glasgow has been unveiled. The bridge will link Water Row in Govan and Pointhouse Quay at the Riverside Museum. One of the aims

of the 110m-long bridge is to connect visitor attractions such as the Riverside and Kelvingrove museums with Govan Old Parish Church and Fairfield Heritage Centre. The idea for the bridge, funded by the £114m Glasgow City Region City Deal, emerged from public meetings held in 2015 to discuss the regeneration of Govan and Partick. Councillor Susan Aitken, leader of Glasgow City Council and chair of the Glasgow City Region City Deal Cabinet, said: "The bridge connecting Govan and Partick will see the West End and the South Side of the river reconnected, opening up new opportunities for these communities. The development of the Waterfront and West End Innovation Quarter stretching from Byres Road and the University of Glasgow over to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital will see the bridge and the areas around it at the very heart of what promises to be a key area of growth for the city."

An extended quay wall will ensure that the bridge does not obscure views of the Riverside Museum. The bridge facilitates a 63m-opening main span to accommodate larger vessels such as the Waverley, making it one of the largest opening footbridges in Europe. It is hoped that construction will start next year with the bridge opening to the public in 2022.

### Scottish mainlands most northern whisky distillery planned for John O'Groats



Planning permission has been granted for a 32,670 square foot site that will house a distillery, visitor centre and bonded warehouse in John O'Groats. The new venture is the brainchild of local husband and wife team Derek and Kerry Campbell and is set to open in 2021. Situated in the heart of the area on a disused plot adjacent to the main car park, alongside producing whisky the venture will also

offer a new visitor attraction to tourists and provide those travelling from Land's End to John O'Groats with an opportunity to toast their journey with a dram of Scotch whisky. It is estimated that six new jobs will be created during the first year, including a Master Whisky Maker and Visitor Centre Manager.

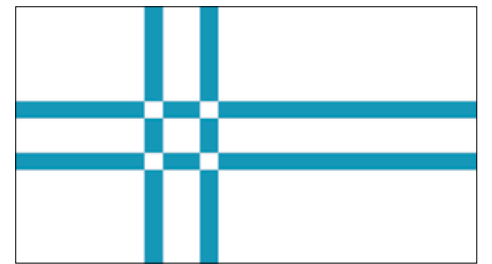
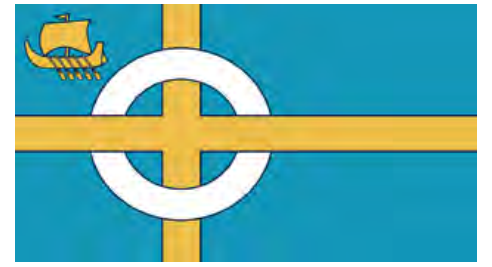
The new distillery and visitor centre will encompass one large building which has been designed to showcase the two copper stills and traditional whisky making process, while making the most of the fantastic views across the Pentland Firth through large glass windows placed along the front of the building. A 1,500 square foot dunnage warehouse will also be built on the site to mature and store the Highland spirit.

Confirming the HIE funding approval, Keith Muir, head of business growth for Caithness and Sutherland, said: "Tourism and food and drink are two key industries in Caithness, and this project features both. As well as producing a brand-new whisky, it will enhance the area's wider visitor offering, notably around the North Coast 500. All of this encourages visitors to stay in the area longer, which benefits all local businesses and communities."

Distillery Founder Kerry Campbell said: "With a longstanding interest in the whisky industry, I began to truly appreciate quality Scotch whisky around 12 years ago and since then have developed a growing passion for Scotland's national drink. After many conversations with my husband around the idea of building our own distillery and creating our own whisky, I'm delighted that we are now one step closer to making these plans a reality having secured planning permission on our dream site at John O'Groats. We believe the whisky we will produce will be unlike that from any other distillery, due to our coastal location in John O'Groats and the impact the local climate will have on our spirit as it matures. With traditional methods at the heart of our plans and an ambition to showcase whisky distilling in John O'Groats to the world, we are looking forward to opening the doors to our micro-distillery in due course.

Work on the distillery is due to begin in summer 2020, with the aim of opening the visitor centre to the public in summer 2021.

### Isle of Skye flag competition



The shortlist for the Isle of Skye's new official flag has been narrowed down to six designs. A competition to create an "instantly recognisable emblem" of the island received 369 entries and voting is now under way to work out a winner.

A hugely successful competition to design a flag for the Isle of Skye has attracted a total of 369 entries – mainly from Skye but also across Scotland and also came in from Australia, India, Portugal, USA and France. Six finalists were selected on 31 January 2020 and as we go to press a public vote is underway. The designs vary widely, including inspiration from the popular island's mountainous Cuillin landscape, Celtic crosses and another symbolising Skye's nickname as the 'winged isle'. Only one will be formally approved by Scotland's heraldic authority, the Court of the Lord Lyon.

In Scotland, 11 regions, cities and towns have registered their own flags, and a further four are currently in the process of doing so. Eight of the already-adopted flags have come in the last three years.

# Edinburgh - Scotland's volcanic capital

*Edinburgh was once strewn with violent active volcanoes, spewing ash and lava in what are today serene and beautifully rugged landscapes. Creating the dramatic cityscape we know today as Judy Vickers explains.*

All images courtesy of Kenny Lam/VisitScotland.



Arthur's Seat and Salisbury Crags.

The position of the iconic bridges across the Forth, the seven hills that have shaped Scotland's capital city, even the fact that Edinburgh exists at all is down to the curious presence of a 300-million-year-old phenomenon – its volcanoes. The hard rock that forms when molten rock, thrown out from the innards of the Earth, has cooled has been key in shaping the landscape in many parts of Scotland, from the west coast islands, such as Staffa, through to Glasgow, Ayrshire, Fife, and East and West Lothian. But nowhere is it more evident than Edinburgh.

## Castle Rock

For a start, the entire city is built where it is because of the volcanic lump now known as Castle Rock. The plug of an ancient volcano, it was once covered with softer rock but this was scraped away by glaciers during the Ice Age, leaving a tail of sedimentary rock. A hill with an easily defensive position, with the tail providing just one access route, was an obvious place for a settlement when the ice retreated and people arrived around 13,000 years ago. It then became a hilltop fort, then Edinburgh Castle and the town grew up around it, with the tail becoming the Royal Mile.

Geologist Angus Miller explains: "The hard rock that Edinburgh is built on shaped the city, without it there would have been no Edinburgh. Most cities are built at a port or on a river. Edinburgh is unique as being based around this rock. Volcanoes have created the scenery of the city."

This month, Angus – known as Edinburgh's volcano expert – will be leading a series of walks around another of Edinburgh's volcanic creations, Arthur's Seat, describing the fire and ice which created it as part of the Edinburgh International Science Festival. To do so is to be transported back 342 million years to the Carboniferous period, when the area around Holyrood Park was a warm, jungle-filled swamp and Scotland itself was sitting considerably further south than now. "The biggest surprise for most people is that Scotland was on the Equator. Most people have also noticed that we have moved since then," he laughs.

Mighty rivers flowed from the mountains of the north, bringing sediment and mud, and the area would have been lush with green vegetation. There would have been few animals – some early amphibians, but no reptiles, mammals or birds. Even so, the eruptions of Arthur's Seat would have been catastrophic to the plants and creatures living there.

**The position of the iconic bridges across the Forth, the seven hills that have shaped Scotland's capital city, even the fact that Edinburgh exists at all is down to the curious presence of a 300-million-year-old phenomenon – its volcanoes.**

"In world terms, it wasn't a huge volcano, but there would have been magma and ash clouds thrown into the air so the vegetation would have been destroyed and the animals would have been affected," says Angus, who has worked in volcano hotspots around the world and witnessed eruptions on the Caribbean island of Monserrat.

The volcano continued erupting for tens of thousands of years, spewing out magma which cooled to form black basalt rock. But Arthur's Seat and Castle Rock were not the only places to come from volcanic activity. "Calton Hill, the third hill in the city centre, is also made of lava flows, it is part of the same volcano," says Angus. "And the Campsie Hills and the Renfrewshire hills are all lava flows from the same period. It brings home how volcanic activity has made the landscape of central Scotland."

## A hotspot for volcanic activity

All the seven hills of Edinburgh were created by some form of volcanic activity - Corstorphine Hill was formed from magma that was trapped underground and cooled. "And Stirling Castle is often said to

be sitting on a volcano although that isn't quite right because the magma didn't quite erupt, then it cooled very slowly, leaving behind the very hard dolerite rock. All the crags around Stirling and most of the islands in the Forth are made of dolerite, which is much harder than volcanic rock."

Just how much of today's Scottish landscape and living has been created by the volcanoes of the past was brought home to Angus when he walked from St Abb's to St Andrews on a coastal geology walk over 20 days, inviting people to join him for free for any section, to mark Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters. So many of the coast's headlands protrude into the sea because they are made of harder volcanic rock, including at North Queensferry, where the topography of the landscape determined the positioning of the bridges across the Forth.

Central Scotland was a hotspot for volcanic activity then because of its position on the Earth's tectonic plates, the giant sheets of the planet's crust which move and cause earthquakes and eruptions as they spilt apart or collide together. Around 300 million years ago, though, central Scotland stabilised and all was quiet until 60 million years ago when the continent of North America ripped away from the west coast of Scotland, heralding a new phase of volcanic activity which saw the basalt columns of Staffa, off Mull, created.

It was the last time Scotland was to see eruptions, but Edinburgh's volcanic past would shake the world again in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, albeit this time metaphorically.

It was at Holyrood Park that Edinburgh scientist James Hutton formed his theory that the planet was immeasurably older than then believed from the Bible and that some rocks were older than others. He used the layers of igneous and sedimentary rock visible at Salisbury Crags to prove it, revolutionising geology and science. "It's a great reason to walk Arthur's Seat, because you're walking in the footsteps of this amazing guy who changed the way we see the world," says Angus.

Hutton also realised that rock formation had happened slowly, too slowly for humans to notice, and that it was continuing. "That was his big insight," says Angus. "We do, I think, sometimes take the landscape for granted. We think of it as fixed – that geology is finished and in the past. But with climate change we know it's not fixed and it is still changing."

And he said Scotland was still at the forefront of such geological research with projects such as Dynamic Coast which is mapping the way coastlines have changed over decades in order to predict how they will be affected in years to come.

"It's nice to make that connection with the past and the future," he says.



Edinburgh Castle on Castle Rock.



Castle Rock viewed from Arthur's Seat.

# Calling the Clans

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

## Clan Baird Society Worldwide

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

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

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

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



## Clan 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](mailto: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](mailto:ivc@donnachaidh.com)

## Clan Fraser Society of Australia



Invites all Frasers and Fraser sept 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](mailto:donchitts@hotmail.com)  
Website: <http://clanfraseraustralia.org>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Pages/Clan-Fraser-Society-of-Australia/482236358590288>

## Clan Bell North America

Cordially invites membership inquiries from persons Named Bell (all spellings), their descendants and friends. Computerized Genealogical data base available to help members in their research. Quarterly newsletter published. Tents hosted at major Scottish games from coast to coast.

**Your Bell ancestry is important!**

Visit our web site: [www.clanbell.org](http://www.clanbell.org)  
Contact our Membership Chairperson: Pauline Bell  
1513 Anterra Drive, Wake Forest, NC 27587  
Email: [debelling@reagan.com](mailto:debelling@reagan.com)

## 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  
Qld  
SA  
Vic  
WA

Mr John Currie  
Mr A. Neil Macdonald  
Ms Therese McCutcheon  
Mr Norman A Macdonald  
Ms Pamela McDonald

[secretary.clandonaldustralia@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.clandonaldustralia@gmail.com)  
**There is no joy without Clan Donald**

## Clan Dunbar of The House of Gospatric the Earl

Eligible blood or marriage, all descendants of The Gospatric: Dunbar, Clugston, Corbett, Dundas, Edgar, Grey, Heryng, Home, Knox, Nisbett, Peddie, Strickland, Washington, Wedderburn and all spelling variations of each name. Also all other families who were associated with The Gospatric.

**Chieftain David C. Dunbar**  
16419 Carlton Vale Ct.  
Tomball, TX 77377-8488

## 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](http://www.clangalbraith.org)

## Family of Bruce International, Inc.

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

**Membership inquiries should be directed to:**

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

## Clan Donald Queensland

Commissioner: Neil Macdonald  
Ph: 0412 090990  
Email: [clandonaldqld@optusnet.com.au](mailto:clandonaldqld@optusnet.com.au)  
Web: [www.clandonaldqld.org](http://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**

## Edmonstone Clan Society

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

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

## Clan Gregor Society

Established 1822, Edinburgh, Scotland  
Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor  
7th Baronet of Lanrick and Balghidder,  
24th Chief of Clan Gregor  
Great Lakes,  
New England,  
Pacific North West,  
Western U.S.  
and Southeast Chapters  
[www.clangregor.com](http://www.clangregor.com)  
For membership contact Keith MacGregor  
P.O. Box 56, Redding Ridge, CT 06876  
[kmac1@optonline.net](mailto:kmac1@optonline.net)  
Peter Lawrie, Secretary  
6 The Esplanade, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 2EL Scotland



## Clan Cameron NSW Inc.

President: Alistair Cameron  
[cameron490@ozemail.com.au](mailto:cameron490@ozemail.com.au)  
Secretary: Terry Cameron  
[secretaryclancameronnsw@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryclancameronnsw@gmail.com)

[www.clan-cameron.org.au](http://www.clan-cameron.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](mailto:bill-mcdaniel@att.net)

## 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](mailto:elliottcommia@gmail.com)

Website: [www.elliotclan-usa.com](http://www.elliotclan-usa.com)

## Clan Gregor Society Australasia

All MacGregors and Septs of our Clan are invited to join one of the oldest Clan Societies in Scotland Est 1822. If you live in Australia or New Zealand, please contact our clan representative in Australia;

Frank McGregor - Clan Gregor Society  
PO Box 14  
North Hobart TAS 7002  
Email: [clangregoraustalia@gmail.com](mailto:clangregoraustalia@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.clangregor.com](http://www.clangregor.com)  
**"Royal is my Race"**



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](mailto:libertyv93@gmail.com)  
[www.clan-campbell.org.au](http://www.clan-campbell.org.au)

## CLAN DONALD in VICTORIA

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

**CLAN DONALD VICTORIA**

President: Mr Norman A. Macdonald  
Contact: [secretary.clandonaldivic@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.clandonaldivic@gmail.com)  
Formed in 1934, with membership from many MacDonald, McDonald and Macdonald families living in Victoria. Membership available, with dance classes for Scottish Country Dance most Friday evenings in Gardenvale.

**CLAN MACDONALD YARRAVILLE**

Hon Chief: Mrs Christina Milne Wilson  
Contact: [secretary@clanmacdonaldyarraville.com](mailto: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.

## Clan Farquharson Association Australia

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

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

**The Secretary: Clan Farquharson Association Australia**  
PO Box 585 Springwood, NSW 2777  
or by Email to: [finlaysb@bigpond.com](mailto:finlaysb@bigpond.com)

## American Clan Gregor Society

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

**Gregor Grier MacAdams MacNish Magruder McGehee Gregory King Peter Fletcher Gregg Lecky Black and many others**  
Contacting our registrar, **Jeanne P. Lehr**  
11 Ballas Crt.  
St. Louis, MO 63131-3038  
Phone: 314-432-2842, [registrar@acgsus.org](mailto:registrar@acgsus.org)  
website: [www.acgsus.org](http://www.acgsus.org)



## Clan Cumming Society of the United States

[www.clancumming.us](http://www.clancumming.us)  
[info@clancumming.us](mailto:info@clancumming.us)

c/o G. Allen Cummings  
PO Box 6888  
Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28469-6888

## 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  
58/157 Marconi Rd. Bonnelis Bay NSW 2264

## FORBES

**WEB** [WWW.CLAN-FORBES.ORG](http://WWW.CLAN-FORBES.ORG)

**f** @CLANFORBESSOCIETY

**ig** @CLANFORBESSOCIETY

**tw** @CLANFORBES1

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#GRACEMEGUIDE #LONACH

CONTACT: [MEMBERSHIP@CLAN-FORBES.ORG](mailto:MEMBERSHIP@CLAN-FORBES.ORG)

## Clan Hamilton Society

Hamiltons and those of Hamilton descent are cordially invited to join the society.

Inquiries to be sent to:  
Sheri Lambert, Treasurer  
P.O. Box 5399  
Vernon Hills, IL 60061  
visit our website:

[www.clanhamilton.org](http://www.clanhamilton.org)

## Clan Hay

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

The American Branch of the First Family of Scotland welcomes inquirers from descendants of: Hay(s); Hays(s); Hayne(s); Hey(s); Alderston; Arml;Ayer(s); Constable; Con(n); De La Haye; Delgatie; Delgatie; D' Ay(e); Dellah'aY; Errol(l); Garrad; Garrow; Gifford; Hawsen; 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 McDougall  
VP Membership  
505-470 Scenic Drive, London, ON  
N5Z 3B2

Email: [info@macdougall.org](mailto:info@macdougall.org) Home page: [www.macdougall.org](http://www.macdougall.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/clanmacdougall](https://www.facebook.com/clanmacdougall)

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

Coul	MacCoul	MacCoul
Conacher	MacConacher	MacDowall
Coyte	MacCoyte	
Dole	MacDole	MacDill
Doual	MacDoual	MacDougal
Dougal	MacDougal	MacDougal
Dougle	MacDougle	MacDougle
Dugal	MacDugal	MacDowall
Dowall	MacDowall	MacDowall
MacDowell	MacDowell	MacDowall
Lutlich	MacLutlich	MacCullach
MacCulloch	MacCulloch	MacCullagh
MacClintock	MacClintock	MacClintock
MacHale	MacHale	MacHaul
MacHowell	MacHowell	MacCowan
MacKichan	MacKichan	MacNameil
MacLucas	MacLucas	MacLuke

*Spelling Variations May Vary or Omit the Mac, Mc*

## Clan MacLaren

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

Mark A. McLaren, President  
611 Indian Home Rd.  
Danville, CA 94526  
(925) 838-8175  
boarsrock@earthlink.net

### CLAN MACNEIL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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

website: [ClanMacNeilUSA.us](http://ClanMacNeilUSA.us)  
Find us on Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram  
@ClanMacNeilUSA



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

## Clan Henderson Society

**Purposes of the Society**

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

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

**www.clanhendersonsociety.com**



### INTERNATIONAL CLAN MACFARLANE SOCIETY, INC.

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

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

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

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

**MACFARLANE.ORG**



## Clan MacLellan

John B. McClellan, Jr.  
Treasurer  
6409 Knollwood Drive  
McKinney, TX  
75070-6032  
Email: [treasurer@clanmaclellan.net](mailto: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](http://www.clanmaclellan.net)




## Clan MacNicol

Chief: John MacNeacail  
of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac

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

### Clan Hope of Craighall Society

For all of the name and lineage of Hope

**INTERNATIONAL & AUSTRALIA**  
President & Commissioner:  
Stephen Hope  
[president@clanhope.org](mailto:president@clanhope.org)  
[commissioner@clanhopeaustralia.org](mailto:commissioner@clanhopeaustralia.org)  
[www.clanhopeaustralia.org](http://www.clanhopeaustralia.org)

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**  
High Commissioner:  
Richard Rex Hope  
[highcommissionerusa@clanhope.org](mailto:highcommissionerusa@clanhope.org)

**Membership Chair:**  
Janet Hope Higton  
[membership@clanhope.org](mailto:membership@clanhope.org)  
[www.clanhope.org](http://www.clanhope.org)

**CANADA**  
Commissioner:  
Scott Hale  
[commissioner@clanhope.ca](mailto:commissioner@clanhope.ca)  
[www.clanhope.ca](http://www.clanhope.ca)

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




## Clan MacInnes

### International Association of Clan MacInnes (Aonghais)

All spelling variants of MacInnes are welcome worldwide: (Mc)Angus, (Mc)Kinnis, (Mc)Innis, (Mc)Ginnis, (Mc)Ninch, (Mc)Neish, (Mc)Canse, (Mc)Masters, (Mc)Innes, (Mac)Masters

**www.clanmacinnes.org**

Eric Perry, Director-Member Services 14 Jakes Lane,  
Dexter, ME 04930; [eric@macinnes.org](mailto:eric@macinnes.org)


## Clan MacLeod Societies of Australia

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

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

- NSW, ACT & Qld - Peter Macleod 02 4397 3161
- Victoria & Tas - David Dickie 03 9337 4384
- South Australia - Rachel Hopkins 0433 184 375
- Western Australia - Ruth MacLeod 08 9364 6334

Email: [peter.macleod@exemail.com.au](mailto:peter.macleod@exemail.com.au)

### Clan MacNicol of North America

Chief John MacNeacail of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac

Clan MacNicol is a small but vibrant clan active in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Scotland and the USA. From the misty Isle of Skye, the Hebrides and the Northwest Highlands, the sons and daughters of MacNicol, Nicol, Nicolson (and of other spelling variations) have spread to six continents. Nearly two centuries ago, the Chiefly line emigrated to Australia where it thrives to this day.

Membership is open to all who acknowledge the Clan Chief as its leader and wish to join the Society. New members will receive a copy of the Clan history book and two issues of the Clan Journal *Scorrybreac* during the year.

For more information and to join visit [www.clanmacnicol.org](http://www.clanmacnicol.org)

In the United States Contact: Society President: Jeremy Nicholson  
Email: [presidentna@clanmacnicol.org](mailto:presidentna@clanmacnicol.org)  
Postal Address: PO Box 501166, Atlanta, GA 31150-1166 USA

In Canada Contact: Canadian Membership Secretary: Jacques McNicoll  
Email: [mcnicollclan@videotron.qc.ca](mailto:mcnicollclan@videotron.qc.ca)  
Postal Address: 202 rue Berlioz - Apt. 203, Verdun, Québec H3E 1B8 Canada





## Clan Irwin Association

### Chief and Patron

Alexander H. R. Irvine, 27th Baron of Drum - Laird of Drum  
Chief of the Name and Arms of Irvine of Drum.

Contact: Barbara Edelman, Chairman  
65 Colonial Drive, Telford, PA 18969  
215-721-3955 [chairman@clanirwin.org](mailto:chairman@clanirwin.org)  
IRWIN • IRVIN • IRVINE • IRVING • ERWIN • ERVIN

Over 270 ways the name has been spelled since 325 A.D.  
**www.clanirwin.org**



## Clan Mackenzie Society in Australia Inc.

Membership enquiries welcomed from Mackenzies of all spellings and Septs

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

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



## THE MACLEODS

### RICH IN HIGHLAND TRADITIONS

FOR INFORMATION:  
**WWW.CLANMACLEODUSA.ORG**

A.L. MACLEOD  
3923 ROCKWOOD WAY #B  
WEST VALLEY CITY, UT  
84120-6880



## 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](http://www.clan-macpherson.org)/branches, or see our 'Official Clan Macpherson Association' Facebook page.

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

**Canada:** Ed Smith  
Canada.Chair@clan-macpherson.org  
phone +1 519 802 8821

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

**Scotland & Northern Ireland:** Rory Macpherson  
SandNI.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org  
phone +44 7525 763 765

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

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

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

**USA:** Xerxes Herrington  
UnitedStates.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org  
phone +1 703 341 9588

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



## CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY of Australia and New Zealand

Clan Chief: Hon Alexander John Leslie  
Enquiries invited from Leslies around the world, as well as the Septs of Clan Leslie: Abernethy, Bartholomew, Cairney, Lang, Moore etc in all their spellings.

Contact: Malcolm W. Leslie D.Ua.  
117/303 Spring Street.  
Kearney's Spring, Qld, 4350, Australia.  
Phone: +61 7 4635 8358  
malncol@icr.com.au [www.clanleslie.org](http://www.clanleslie.org)

### Clan MacKenzie Society of Canada

We invite you - whether you are a clansperson a member of one of our septs, a highlander, a Scot, or just an history enthusiast - to join the Society and participate in many activities

Website: [www.clanmackenziecanada.ca](http://www.clanmackenziecanada.ca)





### Clan Macnachten Association Worldwide

Sir Malcolm F. Macnaghten of Macnaghten, Bart - Chief of Clan

Chairman - Peter McNaughton - 360-686-8451

We welcome membership from all Scots named MacNaughton or any of the Septs on our Website: Contact the Membership Secretary, Vice-Chairman or Regional Commissioners in:

**Australia** - Regional Commissioner - Bruce McNaught  
+61 7 3266 2047 [bruce@brucemcnaught.com](mailto:bruce@brucemcnaught.com)

**W. Canada** - Regional Commissioner - Miles MacNaughton  
250-999-9636 [milescaammac@aol.com](mailto:milescaammac@aol.com)

**New Zealand** - Regional Commissioner - John Macnaughtan  
+64 9 441 4984 [macnaughtan@xtra.co.nz](mailto:macnaughtan@xtra.co.nz)

**USA** - Membership Secretary - Mary Nivison Burton  
541-401-2613 [membersec@clanmacnaughton.net](mailto:membersec@clanmacnaughton.net)  
**WWW.CLANMACNAUGHTON.NET**



## The Clan MacRae Society of Australia and New Zealand

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

**Australian Contact:**  
Roslyn MacRae 0412 291 054 email: [learn@vsr.com.au](mailto:learn@vsr.com.au)  
NZ Contact: Sue Tregoweth email: [sue.treg1@gmail.com](mailto:sue.treg1@gmail.com)



## Clan MacAlpine Society

102 Rainbow Drive #48  
Livingston, TX 77399-10020 USA  
Earl Dale McAlpine - President  
Email: [earlmc Alpine@yahoo.com](mailto:earlmc Alpine@yahoo.com)



## Clan Mackenzie Society in the United States

All Mackenzies and septs, their descendants and friends are invited to join this charitable membership association.

Barbara MacKenzie, Treasurer  
PO Box 20454 Cheyenne, WY 82003-7011  
Phone: 307-214-4817 Email: [cmustreas@gmail.com](mailto:cmustreas@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.clanmackenzie.com](http://www.clanmackenzie.com)



## Clan MacNeil Association of Australia

For all enquiries about the clan and membership contact: John McNeil  
21 Laurel Avenue,  
Linden Park, SA 5065  
Email [kisimul@chariot.net.au](mailto:kisimul@chariot.net.au)



### Clan MacRae Society of North America

*Granted Arms in 2008*

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

**www.macrare.org**

Need more info? Contact:  
Bruce MacRae, President  
303-670-9611  
[brucewaynemcrare@gmail.com](mailto:brucewaynemcrare@gmail.com)



### Clan Maitland Society

Chief: Ian Maitland, The Earl of Lauderdale! We are all related! Contact your local society  
**North America:** Rosemary Maitland Thorn  
rthomnvrpcan@aol.com www.clanmaitlandna.org  
**Australia:** Carole Maitland carole\_maitland@yahoo.com.au  
4230 Colac- Lavers Hill Road Weeaprounah. VIC. 3237  
**New Zealand:** Judette Maitland judette@xtra.co.nz  
33 Disley Street, High bury, Wellington 6012. NZ  
We welcome all with Maitland, Lauderdale, Maitlen and similar name spelling. See the entire list and your family history at: [www.clanmaitland.org.uk](http://www.clanmaitland.org.uk)



### Clan Ross of The United States

David Ross of Ross, Baron Balnagowan, Chief of the Clan invites all Ross', septs and their descendants toto join in preserving our heritage.  
**www.theclanross.com**  
clanrossoftheunitedstates@gmail.com  
Contact L. Q. Ross  
105 S. Graham Ave, Orlando, FL 32803



### Clan Sutherland Society of North America Inc.

The Society cordially invites membership of all Sutherlands (however the name is spelled) and of the associated families: Cheyne, Duffus, Gray, Frederith, Mowat and Oliphant.  
**Email: Secretary@ClanSutherland.org**  
**Website: www.ClanSutherland.org**



### Caledonian Society of WA Inc.

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



### Clan Munro Association, U.S.A

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

**COME JOIN US!**  
Web site: [www.Clanmunrousa.org](http://www.Clanmunrousa.org)  
Write: Heather Munro Daniel  
4600 Lloydrownn Road  
Mebane, NC 27302



### Clan Scott Australia Group

**Clan Chief: The Duke of Buccleuch KT, K.B.E**  
**Commissioner: Heather de Sylva**  
Membership welcome from Scotts and Septs: Balwearie, Harden, Laidlaw, Geddes & Langlands.  
Info: Secretary, PO Box 320, Maclean, NSW, 2463  
**E: heatherdesylva@bigpond.com**  
**W: clanscottaustrialiagroup.moonfruit.com**

### Clan Young Australia



Ian J Young AM  
Convenor  
**Membership inquiries:**  
Clan Young Australia  
10 Cedric Street  
Parkdale VIC 3195  
**membership@clanyoungaustrialia.com.au**  
[www.facebook.com/groups/youngsofaustrialia/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/youngsofaustrialia/)



### Hunter Valley Scots Club Inc

Promotes and supports all forms of Scottish culture in Newcastle, Hunter Valley and surrounding areas. Members and interested people are welcome to attend activities such as Burns Night, Caledonian Night, St Andrew's Day, and other social functions.  
**Web: hvscots.org Email: hunterscots@gmail.com**  
P.O. Box 34, Kotara NSW 2289



### Murray Clan Society of North America

Applications for membership are invited from Murray's and the following allied families: Balneaves, Dinsmore, Dunsmore, Fleming, Moray, Murrie, Neaves, Piper, Pyper, Smail, Smale, Small, Smeal, and Spalding.

**In Canada contact: William J.M. Murray**  
1001 Cordero Crescent  
Campbell River, BC V9H 0C3  
**In the U.S. contact: Robert W. Murray**  
2000 Cambridge Ave #329  
Wyomissing, PA 19610-2738



### Clan Shaw Society

Invites membership or inquires from all: Shaw, Ayson, Adamson, Esson, MacAy, MacHay, Shiach, Sheach, Sheath, Seith, Seth, Skaith, Scaith and Shay.  
**Secretary: Mike Shaw**  
2403 West Cranford  
Denison, TX 75020



### Clan Wardlaw Association

Founded 2004  
Worldwide organization for all Wardlaws or related families. We invite you to join us.  
**Email: clanwardlaw@yahoo.com**  
**'Wardlaw ivermair!'**  
[www.clanwardlaw.com](http://www.clanwardlaw.com)  
**Wardlaw Tartan and Ancestry Books**



### The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Inc.

> Promotes interest in the works, life and milieu of the Scottish Poet Robert Burns  
> Celebrates Scottish Culture  
> Conducts Annual Burn Supper, Poetry Afternoon & Pleasant Sunday Afternoon  
**For Membership Information contact: Secretary: Noel Wright (03) 8333 0973**  
**Email: noelwright@netspace.net.au**



### Clan Pollock

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

**A. D. Pollock, Jr.**  
PO Box 404  
Greenville, KY 42345  
e-mail: [apollockis@comcast.net](mailto:apollockis@comcast.net)



### Clan Sinclair Australia

Membership and inquiries from all Sinclairs, Sinclair Septs and Sinclair descendants.  
For further info contact  
President: WayneSinclair 0417 146 174  
Secretary : Liane Sinclair 0410 045 263  
E: [clansinclairaustralia@hotmail.com](mailto:clansinclairaustralia@hotmail.com)  
**www.clansinclairaustralia.com**



### Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc.

Promoter of International Tartan Day, Brisbane, Queensland  
PO Box 3188, South Brisbane 4101  
Bi-Monthly Newsletter, All things Scottish  
All persons of Scottish Descent welcome.  
**www.aussie-scots.org.au** Ph 07 3359 8195  
Email: [secretary@aussie-scots.org.au](mailto:secretary@aussie-scots.org.au),

### Scottish Heritage USA, Inc.

P.O. Box 457  
Pinehurst, NC 28370  
Welcomes membership of anyone interested in the exchange of people and ideas between Scotland and the United States.  
Write or phone for our free brochure.  
**www.scottishheritageusa.org**  
**email: shusa@embarqmail.com**  
(910) 295-4448



### Clan Ross in Australia

for information contact Commander Des Ross  
(By appointment David Ross Bt Chief of Clan Ross and Balnagowan)  
We would be pleased to hear from anyone with Ross Clan heritage and interest.  
Contact: Commander Des Ross at  
[lonepiper.ross@gmail.com](mailto:lonepiper.ross@gmail.com) M 0403 830 853  
Ken Duthie JP Director of Publicity M 0409 322 374



### The Stewart Society

Welcomes Stewarts, however spelt, by name, birth, or descent, from all over the world. Annual Gathering in historic, Stewart-related properties in Scotland. Newsletter. Annual magazine.  
**Please inquire: The Secretary**  
53 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2HT,  
Tel/Fax 0131 220 4512 **www.stewartociety.org**



### Chicago Scots

Established in 1845, the Chicago Scots (aka Illinois Saint Andrew Society) is the oldest 501c3 in Illinois. The Chicago Scots organise programs and events to educate, entertain and nourish Scottish identity. The Chicago Scots operate Caledonia Senior Living, a unique retirement community located in the forest preserve a few miles west of downtown Chicago.  
**Tel: 708-447-5092**  
**W: www.chicagoscots.org**

### The Scottish Australian Heritage Council



Membership is welcomed from all Australians of Scottish descent.  
For information please contact  
The Hon Secretary SAHC, Susan Cooke  
Ph: 0411097724  
Email: [alfredhcooke@gmail.com](mailto:alfredhcooke@gmail.com)  
  
[www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au](http://www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au)

### Clan Ross America

Representing the great Highland Clan of Ross since 1976.



Paul D Ross, President  
Virg Bumann, VP Membership  
1015 Archer St, San Diego, CA, 92109  
[membership@clanross.org](mailto:membership@clanross.org)  
[info@clanross.org](mailto:info@clanross.org)  
**www.clanross.org**



### Clan Sutherland Society in Australia Incorporated

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



### Comunn Gàidhlig Astràilia

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

### Scottish Gaelic Language Classes:



Wednesdays 7:00 - 8:30 pm  
during school terms  
420-424 William Street, West Melbourne.  
**Contact: Maurice Fowler 0408 223 277**  
**Email: scottishgaelicvictoria@gmail.com**  
**Scottish Gaelic Society of Victoria**  
Founded in 1905  
<https://www.scottishgaelicvictoria.com>

# The Declaration of Arbroath

By: David C Weinczok

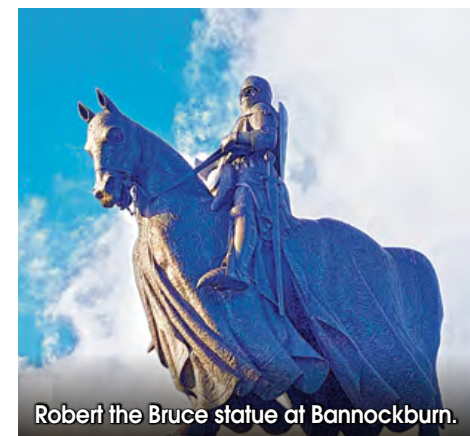


2020 marks the 700th anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath, dating back to 6 April 1320, it is still considered one of Scotland's most important historical artefacts, as David C. Weinczok explains.

All images courtesy of the author.



Arbroath Abbey.

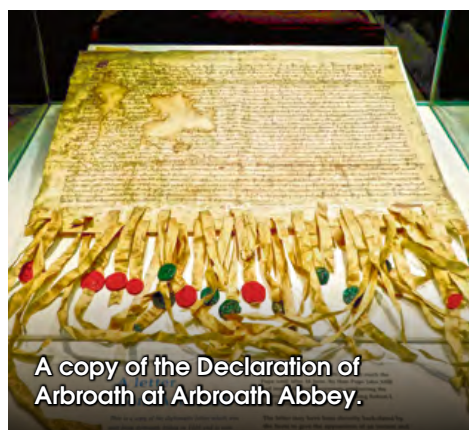


Robert the Bruce statue at Bannockburn.

Think of Scotland, think of freedom. The two have become so entwined in the public imagination that no small part of the nation's inward and outward identity is defined by it. This is no trite or superficial veneer; behind the iconic, defiant final cry of 'Freedom!' in *Braveheart* are centuries of social structures, philosophy, and life-or-death struggles which collectively give shape to a distinctly Scottish idea of liberty. On the sixth day of April this year, we celebrate the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the most influential articulation of that vision – the Declaration of Arbroath.

## Scotland's legendary origins

The Declaration is remarkable for many reasons, not least because it was effectively an elevator pitch for a nation. Composed in the midst of the long and often desperate Wars of Independence, it was one of three letters sent by the Community of the Realm of Scotland to Pope John XXII in an attempt to get him on Scotland's side. Scotland was excommunicated at the time, and despite its status as the Papacy's 'special daughter' this meant that it could count on little support from Rome just when it needed it most. The Declaration of Arbroath made the case by laying out Scotland's legendary origins - tying it to an ancient Scythian homeland, Greek kings, and an Egyptian pharaoh's daughter to – before detailing Edward I of England's many foul deeds and raising up their king,



A copy of the Declaration of Arbroath at Arbroath Abbey.

Robert the Bruce, as Scotland's champion. Next, things got really stirring. Many a tattoo has been done of the Declaration of Arbroath's most famous line, which proclaimed: *For as long as a hundred of us remain alive, never will we on any conditions be subjected to English rule. It is in truth not for glory, nor riches, nor honours that we are fighting, but for freedom alone, which no honest man gives up but with life itself.*

## Surely, no single work has done this with greater consequence – for Scotland and the world – than the Declaration of Arbroath.

Now, one common misconception is that the Wars of Independence established Scotland as an independent nation. It's in the name, after all. In fact, Scotland was sovereign from the mid-9<sup>th</sup> century until Edward's war machine poured over the Border in 1296, and even enjoyed cordial relations with its southern neighbour for much of the thirteenth century. By 1320, however, Edward's brutal sack of Berwick (then a part of Scotland), the humiliation of the Ragman Roll, the execution of Wallace, and countless other depredations had left scars too deep to forget. This was an existential struggle, and the Declaration of Arbroath reflects that.

In that context, the line that immediately followed the famous passage above is even more extraordinary. Rather than speak with a voice of uncompromising unity, the authors of the Declaration imposed a condition on their hero-king the like of which existed nowhere else in the medieval world. They told the Pope: *But after all, if this prince [Robert the Bruce] shall leave those principles which he hath so*

*nobly pursued, and consent that we or our kingdom be subjected to the king or people of England, we will immediately endeavour to expel him as our enemy, and as the subverter of both his own and our rights, and will choose another king who will defend our liberties.*

## Scotland's Gaelic realms

While the flames of war were still burning, the Scots found a way of forging a new social contract which, centuries later, would lay the foundations for modernity. The idea that a leader's authority comes from their deeds rather than solely from what blood happens to flow in their veins, was at its heart. To modern sensibilities this is self-evident, but in the fourteenth century no other official document in the world dared to proclaim anything nearly so radical. It would take nearly half a millennium for that to happen in the form of the American and French Revolutions. One third of the signatories of America's Declaration of Independence were Scots or born to Scots parents and were steeped in an educational tradition that included the works of Duns Scotus, whose role in shaping the philosophy behind the Declaration of Arbroath was discussed in the November 2019 edition of *the Scottish Banner*.

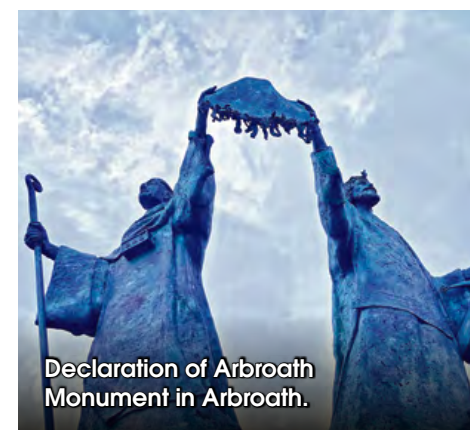
It is also worth noting that the Declaration's emphasis on merit and stewardship drew from a longstanding practice in Scotland's Gaelic realms. In the Hebrides especially, being born the son of a chieftain was certainly a position of privilege but it was by no means a guarantee that you would inherit your father's position if another was deemed mightier or was more widely supported. The history of medieval Scotland is also rife with instances where common folk spoke to their king as first amongst equals rather than as some divinely ordained paragon, suggesting that they perceived a narrower gap between them than commoners did in the other realms of Europe. After crossing the Firth of Forth

on a stormy night, for instance, King Alexander III – fated to fall to his death off of cliffs mere hours later and so trigger a succession crisis that resulted in the Wars of Independence – was scolded by Alexander, a cook, in the exasperated tone of a parent telling off their young child.

## Scotland's surrogate constitution

Now, this tendency should not be overstated – medieval Scotland was very firmly a monarchy with a strict hierarchy, and the meritocratic backstop presented in the Declaration of Arbroath was never actually implemented at any point. To this day, however, many Scots maintain a distinctly egalitarian approach to power and politics, and many modern political leaders' reputations are made and broken by the extent to which they are seen as acting in good faith and representing the interests of those they are meant to serve. This is an ideological fruit whose seeds were planted seven centuries ago, and which flowered during the Scottish Enlightenment of the eighteenth through nineteenth centuries.

Yet for all that, the document described as Scotland's "surrogate constitution" remains curiously obscure to most. It does not possess anything like the household name recognition of the Magna Carta, nor does it appear in university courses on political theory. Many even in Scotland are completely unaware of its existence or at least its significance beyond being a historical relic, something that this year's Arbroath 2020 celebrations are attempting to rectify. Too right. If a fairer, more equal, and indeed 'freer' Scotland is something we are to aspire to, we must reflect on how that freedom has been conceived of in our past. Surely, no single work has done this with greater consequence – for Scotland and the world – than the Declaration of Arbroath.



Declaration of Arbroath Monument in Arbroath.

# SCOTTISH BANNER EVENTS

*The international Scottish event community worldwide has been greatly impacted by event postponements and cancellations due to restrictions related to the Corona Virus (COVID-19). Updates are happening daily and we are keeping our this listing up to date as news becomes available, however please check with events direct for current information or see: [www.scottishbanner.com/events](http://www.scottishbanner.com/events) for our most up to date information.*

*Having a Clan event? Know of a Highland Games? Know where the pipes will be playing? Let Scottish Banner readers know of Scottish events both near and far with the Scottish Banner events page. Send us your community event, concert, meeting or anything with a Scottish twist! Please submit events either online at [www.scottishbanner.com/events](http://www.scottishbanner.com/events) or email [info@scottishbanner.com](mailto:info@scottishbanner.com). Please ensure you submit your event in the exact format we use below, events not submitted in this way cannot be guaranteed to be printed. Events will run both in print and online and is a free service.*

## CANADA

### APRIL

**02 - Fredericton, NB - The Scottish Fiddle Orchestra Live**  
PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT HAS BEEN POSTPONED- Come and join the ceilidh with The Scottish Fiddle Orchestra who are celebrating their 40th Anniversary at Fredericton Playhouse. Info & tickets: [www.sfo.org.uk](http://www.sfo.org.uk)

**03 - Charlottetown, PEI - The Scottish Fiddle Orchestra Live**  
PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT HAS BEEN POSTPONED- Come and join the ceilidh with The Scottish Fiddle Orchestra who are celebrating their 40th Anniversary at Confederation Hall. Info & tickets: [www.sfo.org.uk](http://www.sfo.org.uk)

**04 - Montreal, QC - Curling for Dummies**  
PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED- Presented by the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal. This event is open to all ages, and players with any level of experience including complete novices! Instruction will be provided to help out beginners so that everyone will have a good time on the ice at The Montreal West Curling Club. Info: [www.standrews.qc.ca](http://www.standrews.qc.ca)

**04 - Port Coquitlam, BC - BC Open Championships & Competition & Workshops**  
PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT HAS BEEN POSTPONED- West Coast Open Premiership with 7 categories of Highland Dancing events at Riverside Community Church, 2329 Fremont Connector. Info: [www.facebook.com/events/2379155755640401](http://www.facebook.com/events/2379155755640401)

**04 - Riverview, NB - The Scottish Fiddle Orchestra Live**  
PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT HAS BEEN POSTPONED- Come and join the ceilidh with The Scottish Fiddle Orchestra who are celebrating their 40th Anniversary at Riverview Arts Centre. Info & tickets: [www.sfo.org.uk](http://www.sfo.org.uk)

**04 - Toronto, ON - Tartan Day Celebration**  
Celebrate Tartan Day with the St. Andrew's Society of Toronto. Info: [www.standrews-society.ca](http://www.standrews-society.ca)

**06 - Halifax, NS - The Scottish Fiddle Orchestra Live**  
PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT HAS BEEN POSTPONED- Come and join the ceilidh with The Scottish Fiddle Orchestra who are celebrating their 40th Anniversary at Rebecca Cohn Auditorium. Info & tickets: [www.sfo.org.uk](http://www.sfo.org.uk)

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

**08 - Montreal, QC - The Scottish Fiddle Orchestra Live**  
PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT HAS BEEN POSTPONED- Come and join the ceilidh with The Scottish Fiddle Orchestra who are celebrating their 40th Anniversary at Le Gesu. Info & tickets: [www.sfo.org.uk](http://www.sfo.org.uk)

**11 - Toronto, ON - Toronto Indoor Games 2020**  
PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED- The Toronto Indoor Games are a long-standing tradition at the Toronto Branch and are back with a new location for 2020. All events will take place at Toronto Police College beginning with solo contests at 8:30 AM and band contests at 1 PM. Everyone is welcome - admission for competitors & spectators is \$5. Info: [www.pptsotonto.org/indoors](http://www.pptsotonto.org/indoors)

**17 - Toronto, ON - The Gaelic Society of Toronto Ceilidh**  
PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED- Come out to speak and learn Gaelic, enjoy cultural fun and activities, share a story, song or dance and help grow our Gaelic community together at the Tiki Room at the Tranzac, 292 Brunswick Ave. Info: [www.gaelicsocietytoronto.com](http://www.gaelicsocietytoronto.com)

**17 - Winnipeg, MB - Come to the Ceilidh**  
The St. Andrew's Society of Winnipeg will hold its second Family Friendly "Come to the Ceilidh" on April 17 at the Crescentwood Community Centre in Winnipeg as a way to celebrate Tartan Day. Info: [www.standrewssocietywinnipeg.com/ceilidh](http://www.standrewssocietywinnipeg.com/ceilidh)

**18 - Montreal, QC - The Quebec Thistle Awards Ceremony**  
PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED- The Quebec Thistle Committee of the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal brings together Scots and Scots organizations from across Quebec to celebrate Scottish culture and traditions brought to Quebec by our forefathers at the Black Watch Officer's Mess. Info: [www.quebecthistle.org](http://www.quebecthistle.org)

**18 - Toronto, ON - Farpais Phìobaireachd Òigridh / Young Pipers Championship**  
PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED- Communn Gàidhlig Toronto / The Gaelic Society of Toronto is hosting our annual Young Pipers Championship. The Championship is open to all Pipers 21 years and under and according to Grade at The Toronto Scottish Regiment HQ and A Company, 70 Birmingham Street, Etobicoke. Info: [www.gaelicsocietytoronto.com](http://www.gaelicsocietytoronto.com)

**19 - Ottawa, ON - National Tartan Day and Pipefest 2020**  
A celebration of heritage and tradition with music, song and dance on Parliament Hill at 12 noon. Join the Sons of Scotland Pipe Band and guest players, Highland and Scottish country dancers, and the Ottawa Catholic School Board Children's Choir for a grand show celebrating tartans, friendship and more. This year's concert also features Pipefest 2020, which is a charity component raising money for the Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation - and you can donate at the parade or online at <http://donate.ottawacancer.ca/goto/Pipefest2020>. Info: [www.sospb.com](http://www.sospb.com)

### MAY

**01 - Alliston, ON - Bluebell Spring Dance and Light Supper**  
South Simcoe Scottish Country Dancing invites you to enjoy an evening of dance inspired by spring, followed by an indulgent light supper for only \$10 at Knox Church, 160 King Street South. Info: [SCDAlliston@gmail.com](mailto:SCDAlliston@gmail.com)

**02 - Calgary, AB - Ogden Legion Indoor Piping Competition**  
Piping competition and events. Info: [www.aspd.ca](http://www.aspd.ca)

**15 - Toronto, ON - The Gaelic Society of Toronto Ceilidh**  
PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED- Come out to speak and learn Gaelic, enjoy cultural fun and activities, share a story, song or dance and help grow our Gaelic community together at the Tiki Room at the Tranzac, 292 Brunswick Ave. Info: [www.gaelicsocietytoronto.com](http://www.gaelicsocietytoronto.com)

**15 - 17 - Toronto, ON - RSCDS Spring Fling 2020 Toronto**  
Spring Fling 2020 Toronto will be the first Spring Fling to be held outside of Europe. If you are between 12 and 35 years old, no matter whether you are an intermediate-level or expert Scottish Country Dancer, you are welcome to join us! Over 35? Check out the Fringe at: [www.springfling2020.com/toronto](http://www.springfling2020.com/toronto)

**16 - Nationwide - World Whisky Day**  
A day of global whisky celebration, try a dram and celebrate the water of life. Info: [www.worldwhiskyday.com](http://www.worldwhiskyday.com)

**16 - 17 - Regina, SK - Saskatchewan Highland Gathering & Celtic Festival**  
A weekend of Scottish celebration and events at Victoria Park. Info: [www.saskhighland.ca](http://www.saskhighland.ca)

**16 - 18 - Victoria, BC - Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival**  
Held over a 10 day period, culminating in the May long weekend events held at Topaz Park, this is one of the oldest festivals in North America and one of the very few 3 full day Highland Games. Info: [www.victoriahighlandgames.com](http://www.victoriahighlandgames.com)

**23 - Kingston, ON - Kingston Scottish Festival**  
Pipe bands, entertainment and more at Lake Ontario Park. Info: [www.kingstonscotfest.com](http://www.kingstonscotfest.com)

**28 - 31 - Perth-Andover, NB - Gathering of the Scots**  
A variety of events celebrating Scotland, including whisky, Clans and athletics. Info: [www.gatheringofthescots.com](http://www.gatheringofthescots.com)

**31 - Winnipeg, MB - Scotch Tasting & Cigars**  
Join the Winnipeg Police Pipe Band and celebrate their 100th anniversary at The Metropolitan Entertainment Centre, 281 Donald St. Info: [www.wppb.ca](http://www.wppb.ca)

## USA

### APRIL

**01 - Lewiston, ME - The Scottish Fiddle Orchestra Live**  
PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT HAS BEEN POSTPONED- Come and join the ceilidh with The Scottish Fiddle Orchestra who are celebrating their 40th Anniversary at Franco Centre for the Arts. Info & tickets: [www.sfo.org.uk](http://www.sfo.org.uk)

**02 - 05 - Cayce, SC - Tartan Day South Highland Games & Celtic Festival**  
PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED - Annual event taking place around National Tartan Day & celebrating Celtic Heritage at 2001 Charleston Highway. Info: [www.tartandaysouth.com](http://www.tartandaysouth.com)

**02 - 05 - San Antonio, TX - 2020 Clan MacRae Family Gathering**  
PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED - Includes Tartan Day at the Alamo - During this ceremony, Clan MacRae will place a flower bouquet at the Alamo in honor of its fallen hero's, especially the Scots and those of Scottish descent who died there. The 700th anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath signed on April 6, 1320 will also be commemorated, Clan events and more. Info: [www.macrae.org](http://www.macrae.org)

**03 - 05 - San Antonio, TX - Kilts and Cowboy Boots Clan Gathering**  
PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED - Clan Colquhoun, Clan MacGregor, Clan MacFarlane and Clan Scott will be coming together, in a spirit of camaraderie and friendly competition, for some modern warfare during the San Antonio Highland Games. Info: [www.clancolquhoun.com](http://www.clancolquhoun.com)

**04 - Dunedin, FL - Dunedin Highland Games**  
PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT HAS BEEN POSTPONED- A celebration of Scotland at the Dunedin Community Center. Info: [www.dunedinhighlandgames.com](http://www.dunedinhighlandgames.com)

**04 - New York, NY - New York City Tartan Day Parade**  
PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED- Celebrate Scotland with a march up Sixth Avenue in New York City, to the swirl of kilts, the skirl of bagpipes and the cheers of tens of thousands of spectators. Info: [www.nyctartanweek.org](http://www.nyctartanweek.org)

**04 - 05 - San Antonio, TX - San Antonio Highland Games & Celtic Music Festival**  
PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED- A kilt-filled weekend for all ages. Info: [www.sahga.org](http://www.sahga.org)

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

**09 - 19 - Los Angeles, CA - ScotWeek**  
PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT HAS BEEN POSTPONED- A festival that highlights both the proud history of Scottish culture as well as its special bond with the United States and its people moving forward into the future. ScotWeek will host events promoting Scottish heritage, contemporary culture and charity to provide opportunities for education and scholarship. Info: [www.scotweek.org](http://www.scotweek.org)

**11 - New York, NY - Dressed to Kilt**  
PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT HAS BEEN POSTPONED- A Scottish night of charity, fashion and fun- Celebrating Scottish Clans & Native American Tribes. Info: [www.dressedtokilt.com](http://www.dressedtokilt.com)

**17 - 19 - Huntersville, NC - The Loch Norman Highland Games**  
PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT HAS BEEN POSTPONED TO AUG 15/16- Come and experience all the fun with Highland dancing, pipe bands, Highland athletics, a Giant Kid's Zone, Scottish merchants, haggis, Celtic rock and traditional performers, historic reenactments, Scottish country dancing, kilted running events, Scottish Clan Societies and so much more at Historic Rural Hill. Info: [www.lochnorman.com](http://www.lochnorman.com)

**18 - 19 - Bakersfield, CA - 25th Annual Kern County Scottish Games**  
A day full of Scottish fun for everyone at the Kern County Fairgrounds. Info: [www.kernscot.org/highland-games.html](http://www.kernscot.org/highland-games.html)

**18 - 19 - Las Vegas, NV - Las Vegas Highland Games**  
One weekend each April the Las Vegas Celtic Society throws the Las Vegas Highland Games, a massive festival for the community featuring Celtic music, food, vendors, and athletics at 500 S Grand Central Pkwy. Info: [www.lasvegascelticsociety.org](http://www.lasvegascelticsociety.org)

**24 - Select US locations - Robert the Bruce Film Release**  
Robert the Bruce in select US theaters. For details: [www.robertthebrucefilm.com](http://www.robertthebrucefilm.com)

**25 - Portland, OR - 5th Annual Spring Ceilidh**  
Sponsored by Clan Donald Oregon Region. Featuring Scottish & Irish music and dancing, presentation of the Haggis with traditional bag piping and highland dancing. Info: Tammy Soto, Clan Donald Oregon State Commissioner: [tammysoto@hotmail.com](mailto:tammysoto@hotmail.com) or 360-433-8655

**30 - 03 - Norfolk, VA - The Virginia International Tattoo**  
PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED - Presented annually, the Virginia International Tattoo is an exhibition of military bands, massed pipes and drums, military drill teams, Celtic dancers, and choirs. Info: [www.vafest.org/tattoo](http://www.vafest.org/tattoo)

### MAY

**01 - 03 - Decatur, TX - The Texas Scottish Festival**  
The skirl of the Pipes, the cheers of encouragement for the Athletic events, and the swirling of the Highland Dancers reminds all Scots of our rich and glorious heritage. Info: [www.texasscots.com](http://www.texasscots.com)

**02 - Savannah, GA - Savannah Scottish Games**  
Savannah's favorite Caledonian tradition at the historic grounds of Bethesda Academy. Info: [www.savannahscottishgames.com](http://www.savannahscottishgames.com)

**16 - Nationwide - World Whisky Day**  
A day of global whisky celebration, try a dram and celebrate the water of life. Info: [www.worldwhiskyday.com](http://www.worldwhiskyday.com)

**16 - 17 - Maryville, TN - Smoky Mountain Scottish Festival & Games**  
A weekend of authentic Scottish Highland festivities in East Tennessee in the Great Smoky Mountains at Maryville College. Info: [www.smokymountaingames.org](http://www.smokymountaingames.org)

**23 - Greenville, SC - Greenville Scottish Games**  
Celtic music, pipe bands and the greatest Scottish Happy Hour in the world at Furman University. Info: [www.gallabrae.com](http://www.gallabrae.com)

**23 - 24 - Alma, MI - 53rd Alma Highland Festival**  
A great weekend of Scottish music, events and friendship at Alma College. Info: [www.almahighlandfestival.com](http://www.almahighlandfestival.com)

**29 - 31 - Lucas, KY - Glasgow Highland Games**  
A celebration of Scotland at Barren River Lake State Resort Park. Info: [www.glasgowhighlandgames.com](http://www.glasgowhighlandgames.com)

## SCOTLAND

### APRIL

**02 - 05 - Inverness - The Clan Gunn Society's 60th Diamond Celebrations**  
PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED- Clan members and septs gather for a variety of activities and events celebrating Clan Gunn. Info: [www.clangunnsociety.org](http://www.clangunnsociety.org)

**03 - 05 - Arbroath - Arbroath 2020 Festival**  
PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT HAS BEEN POSTPONED -2020 marks the 700th anniversary of the 1320 Declaration of Arbroath. Events include a Festival Concert, Declaration Pageant Procession, Arbroath Embroidered Tapestry. Info: [www.arbroath2020.com](http://www.arbroath2020.com)

**04 - 05 - Balloch - SpringFest: The Scottish Food and Drink Festival**  
A springtime event to celebrate all things food, from the people behind the ever-popular Loch Lomond Food & Drink Festival. Springfest is back in 2020 with another fantastic line up of food and drink producers, live entertainment, whisky tastings, chef demonstrations, kids' activities and more. Info: [www.lochlomondspringfest.co.uk](http://www.lochlomondspringfest.co.uk)

**12 - 13 - Kenmore - A Celtic Spring**  
Celebrate spring and explore how people prepared for the season 2500 years ago, with the chance to help plough fields, plant crops, ready boats and more. The Scottish Crannog Centre wakes up after the winter and invites you to join them in celebrating the start of Spring. Info: [www.crannog.co.uk](http://www.crannog.co.uk)

**30 - Edinburgh - Beltane Fire Festival**  
PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED -A modern interpretation of the ancient fertility festival, the Beltane is the only festival of its kind in the world. Join hundreds of performers and thousands of revellers as they come together on Calton Hill to celebrate the death of winter and the birth of summer by casting off the darkness and celebrating the light on one of the most magical nights of the year. Info: [www.beltane.org](http://www.beltane.org)

## Scotword answers from page 6

Across:	Down:
8 Bairns	1 Gaelic
9 Evermore	2 Brae
10 Bluebell	3 Isles
11 Tangle	4 Wellies
12 Scapa	5 Keith
14 Pew	6 Amen
15 Plaid	7 Brollies
18 Princes	13 Pan
20 Lamlash	16 Ken
23 Agley	17 Bap
24 Don	19 Regiment
25 Tweed	21 Law
29 Smokie	22 Cockade
31 Kinghorn	26 Eyries
33 Antlered	27 Weirs
34 Instep	28 Annie
	30 Kyle
	32 Hose



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Event organisers please send  
amendments to:  
[events@scottishbanner.com](mailto:events@scottishbanner.com)



# Tartan Day- 10 'unbe-weave-able' facts about tartan

Text and photo courtesy of VisitScotland.



Get out your kilt or tartan trews – 6 April is Tartan Day, a chance for Scots both at home and overseas to celebrate their rich cultural heritage. Coinciding with the anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath, Tartan Day began in Canada in the 1980s and has since seen parades, ceilidhs and celebrations pop up all over North America, including the world-famous Tartan Day Parade in New York.

In Scotland you'll find a range of great Tartan Day events, particularly in the region of Angus, where the Declaration of Arbroath was signed in 1320. And with tartan having made a return to the runway – Mulberry, Yves Saint Laurent and Versace have all unveiled colourful plaid designs – you can celebrate in style! Have a look at these fun facts to find out more about Scotland's favourite fabric:

**1. Love Me Tartan:** Elvis Presley has no less than three tartans to his name. The singer is said to have roots in Lonmay, a tiny village in Aberdeenshire, and in 2004 local designer Mike King created an official Presley of Lonmay tartan in his honour

followed by a modern version a few years later. The Scottish Tartan Registry also lists the Presley of Memphis tartan by Brian Wilton, which is based on the colours of the US flag with a gold stripe to represent Elvis' multiple Gold Discs. It even has a thread count of 42 – the age the King was when he died.

**2. One giant leap for tartankind:** Alan Bean, an American astronaut of Scottish descent, took a little piece of MacBean tartan up to the moon during his Apollo 12 mission in 1969. Despite some rumours to the contrary, he didn't leave his clan's colours to float around in space forever: he took the material back to Earth and donated it to Clan MacBean and to the St Bean Chapel in Fowls Wester, Perthshire.

**3. Tartan trendsetters:** Nowadays Queen Victoria may not be known as a fashionista, but she's partly to thank for tartan's popularity today. A fan of all things Scottish, she turned up to the Great Exhibition in 1851 with her young sons, Albert and Alfred, decked out in full Highland attire. Sales of plaid went through the roof, and became a particularly popular choice for schools. Since then tartan has been seen on uniforms not only in the UK, but also in countries such as the US, the Philippines and Japan.

**4. Big in Japan:** Speaking of the Japanese, they're amongst Scotland's biggest fans when it comes to fashion. The country is the largest international importer of the Outer Hebrides' famous Harris Tweed, and tartan is a staple of Japanese street and

runway fashion – designer Jun Takahashi once had models strut down the runway painted from head to toe in plaid. The country has had several tartans dedicated to it; Hello Kitty even has her very own design!

**5. Unusual designs:** Scotland is home to a rare species of tartan sheep. Well, sort of – the talented owners of the East Links Family Park near Dunbar and the Auchingarrich Wildlife Centre in Perthshire have been known to paint their sheep tartan for Tartan Day and other events. The sheep have become a tourist attraction in their own right – the Auchingarrich flock even featured in an episode of *Come Dine With Me!*

**6. The original rebelwear:** Tartan and kilts were banned under the 1746 Act of Proscription in an attempt to control the Highland clans that had supported the Jacobite Risings. Those suspected of supporting the enemy cause were asked to take an oath stating that they would "never use any tartan, plaid or any part of the Highland garb, and if I do so, may I be cursed in my undertakings, family, and property – may I never see my wife and children, father, mother, and relations – may I be killed in battle as a coward, and lie without Christian burial in a strange land, far from the graves of my forefathers and kindred".

**7. Police in plaid:** Black and white checks can be seen on police uniforms and vehicles all over the world, but did you know the design is technically a type of tartan? Named 'Sillitoe Tartan' after Chief

Constable Percy Sillitoe of the City of Glasgow Police, the checks were first used by police in Scotland in 1932. Their use has since spread to police forces in parts of Australia, Spain, the USA, Hong Kong and several other countries.

**8. Woven words:** Like many English words, we nabbed 'tartan' from the French. The name comes from the word *tiretaine*, stemming from the verb *tirer* (to pull). The term also has links to the Spanish *tiritaña*, a type of silk cloth, and the Gaelic *breacan*, meaning plaid or speckled.

**9. Pricey patterns:** Peebles knitwear firm Holland & Sherry are proud creators of the world's most expensive tartan – a luxury blend woven from pure Mongolian cashmere that will set you back £500 a square metre, or £5,000 for the full kilt. Don't re-mortgage the house just yet, though! Kilts normally cost between £150 and £500, depending on the quality and length of the material, and you can get a lightweight version for a reasonable £50.

**10. Not just for Scots!** One popular misconception about tartan is that you have to be a card-carrying clansman to wear a family tartan. In fact, tartans didn't become associated with specific clans until the 19<sup>th</sup> century; before that people picked their plaids based on colours, just as they do now. If you do want some personal connection to your design, you'll probably be able to find one regardless of whether or not you have Scottish roots – countries from the Congo to Zimbabwe and beyond have their own national tartans, as do each of the US States and Canadian provinces.

## Perth Pictish find offers glimpse into Scotland's warrior past

Archaeologists have carefully recreated images of a figure on a Pictish stone, discovered during the construction of a road in 2017, with the details uncovered offering new insights into Scotland's warrior past. During ground clearance work close to Perth's McDiarmid Park, a nearly two metres-high monolith was found, depicting a male figure carrying a spear. Though the outline of the man could be seen, the carving was faint in places and the surface of the stone had partly delaminated. Archaeologists from the University of Aberdeen, which is leading the study of Northern Picts, have taken thousands of photographs to create 3D images. This has clarified the design and allowed them to compare it to those found on other stones.

### Significant find

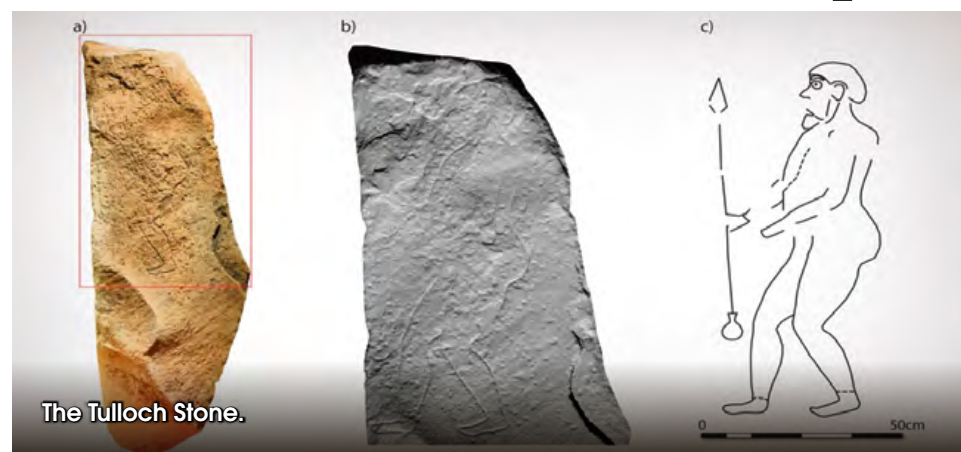
Professor Gordon Noble, Head of Archaeology at Aberdeen, and Dr Mark Hall, archaeological curator at Perth Museum, say the stone – known as the Tulloch Stone – is a 'significant find' which adds to the corpus of material available for study. In a paper published in *Antiquity* the research team argues that similarities observed between the Tulloch Stone, named after where it was discovered, and those found at Rhynie in Aberdeenshire and Newton of Collesie in Fife are 'filling the gaps' of Scotland's undocumented history.

Professor Noble said: "By looking at the three stones together, we have been able to draw new conclusions about what these figures represent. On the Tulloch Stone

we can now see that the man is carrying a distinctive door-knob butted spear which we know from previous research was in use from the third to the sixth century. He also has a very distinctive hairstyle, is wearing a helmet and necklace and has a faint line around the left ankle which could suggest footwear or tight leggings. In line with the other stones, this is clearly a depiction of a warrior. Its find spot overlooks the coming together of the rivers Tay and Almond, a junction marked by a Roman fort and later a possible Pictish royal centre, suggesting the monolith might have been located in a cemetery of the elite. Because the presentation of the figures is standardised across all of the stones, it is likely that it represents a generic sacred image, rather than it being a depiction of someone buried there." Dr Hall says this also points to a war lord or warrior ethos which has been well documented in Anglo Saxon England but for which little evidence has previously been seen in Scotland.

### Scotland's Pictish past

Professor Gordon Noble said: "This bridges a crucial gap in knowledge as although we know that warrior ideology is important for rulership, we haven't previously been able to demonstrate how that evolves through time in the period before the sixth and seventh centuries when we begin to get historical records for Scotland. In Anglo-Saxon England we have lots of examples of burials with weaponry and the poem Beowulf epitomizes the warrior ethos of this period. This has not been evidenced in Scotland in the same way but here through



the new Tulloch find and a reconsideration of long-known stones we can see that warrior ideology cast in stone – meaning these martial values were conveyed in a very public way to be visible in the landscape and to invoke supernatural protection."

Professor Noble added "This bridges a crucial gap in knowledge as although we know that warrior ideology is important for rulership, we haven't previously been able to demonstrate how that evolves through time in the period before the sixth and seventh centuries when we begin to get historical records for Scotland. We believe that the weapon-bearing individuals shown on these stones may represent a war-oriented social organisation that was integral to resisting the Roman Empire and to creating the overtly hierarchical societies of the post-Roman period."

The Tulloch Stone was discovered during construction work for the A9/A85 scheme, part of the Perth Transport

Futures Project, and is now undergoing further research and conservation prior to going on display in a new museum being developed for Perth, set to open in 2022. Dr Mark Hall said increased public awareness of Scotland's Pictish past was opening up new opportunities for important archaeological study.

He said: "Most of the recent Pictish finds have been as a result of people paying greater attention. The workmen who scooped up this stone did well to realise that there was something on it and to alert the appropriate authorities. It is likely that there are more Pictish stones out there to be found and every new stone is a fantastic addition to the corpus. This discovery of the Tulloch stone has revealed fresh details allowing the reconsideration of the existing related sculptures, fostering new insights and conclusions that are not possible when only dealing with a single example."

IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



## Roast potatoes

**Ingredients:**

- 5 tbsp duck fat
- 16 medium-sized Maris Piper or King Edward potatoes (each about 175g/6oz.)
- 8 garlic cloves
- 8 sprigs thyme
- sea salt

**Method:**

Preheat the oven to 190C/170C Fan/Gas 5. Parboil the potatoes in salted water for 7–8 minutes, or until almost cooked (they will still feel firm when pierced with a knife). Drain thoroughly using a colander, then shake the potatoes around a little in the colander until the outsides are roughened. Set aside, uncovered.

Put the duck fat into a roasting tin and heat in the oven for 5 minutes.

Add the drained, roughened potatoes to the tin of hot duck fat, then sprinkle over the garlic cloves, thyme and sea salt and mix until the potatoes are well coated in the fat. Return the tin to the oven and roast for 45–60 minutes, or until golden and crunchy.

## Scottish spring salad

**Ingredients:**

- For the spring salad:**
- 12 Jersey Royal potatoes
  - 10 green asparagus spears, sliced on an angle
  - 150g/5½oz. young broad beans, podded
  - 150g/5½oz. peas, podded
  - 150g/5½oz. fresh or frozen soy beans
  - 3 spring onions, sliced on an angle
  - drizzle of olive oil
  - 4 purple asparagus spears, sliced using a peeler
  - 1 lemon, juice only
  - 2 shallots, cut into rings
  - 15 mint leaves, 10 torn, 5 shredded
  - small bunch of chervil
  - handful watercress
  - punnet of pea shoots

sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

**For the dressing:**

- 1 tbsp Dijon mustard
- 5 tbsp red wine vinegar
- 1 tsp walnut oil
- 300ml/10½oz. extra virgin olive oil

**Method:**

Bring a large pot of water to the boil and blanch the potatoes, drain and carefully slice in half.

Bring a large pot of salted water to the boil. Drop in the green asparagus, broad beans, peas, soy beans and spring onions and cook for a couple of minutes. Drain and run under cold water to stop them cooking but not to cool them.

Spread on a tray with the potatoes. Sprinkle with a little olive oil and season with salt and pepper.

Put the purple asparagus in a bowl and sprinkle with lemon juice and salt to cure and soften.

For the dressing, whisk together the mustard and vinegar in a bowl, slowly adding the oils. It should have a thick consistency, like a sauce. Season with a good amount of salt and black pepper.

Mix all of the vegetables with the shallots, mint, chervil, watercress and pea shoots and pour over the dressing. Divide between four plates and dig in.

## Slow roast leg of lamb

**Ingredients:**

- whole head of garlic
  - 1 tbsp salt flakes
  - 2 sprigs rosemary, leaves only, chopped
  - 2 sprigs thyme, leaves only
  - olive oil
  - 1 leg of lamb, approximately 2kg/4½lb
- For the mashed potatoes**
- 1kg/2lb 4oz. potatoes
  - 100g/4oz. butter
  - 25g/1oz. Parmesan, finely grated
  - salt and freshly ground black pepper

**Method:**

Preheat the oven to 160C/Fan 140-150C/Gas 3. Separate and peel the garlic cloves, and crush them with the salt in a pestle and mortar. You need

enough salt to give the mixture some grit. Mash the garlic into the salt. Add the rosemary and thyme, then mix with enough olive oil to make a thick paste.

Rub the garlic mixture over the whole surface of the lamb. Place the lamb into a deep-sided roasting tin.

Add 250ml/9fl oz. of water to the roasting tin. Baste the meat with the liquid, then cover the lamb with foil. Roast for 3–3½ hours, until cooked to your liking.

When cooked, pour off any excess oil from the top of the liquid, leaving the cloudy, herby sediment in place. This is the gravy. Cover the pan with a lid and rest for 15 minutes.

Cut up the potatoes and cook in boiling, salted water. When soft enough to mash, drain in a colander then mash with the butter and grated Parmesan. Season well with salt and pepper.

Carve the lamb into thick chunks and serve with the mashed potatoes. Pour over the pan juices and serve.

## Hot cross buns



**Ingredients:**

- For the buns:**
- 625g/1 lb. strong white flour, plus extra for dusting
  - 1 tsp. salt
  - 2 tsp. ground mixed spice
  - 45g/1.5 oz. unsalted butter, cut into cubes, plus extra for greasing
  - 85g/3oz. sugar
  - 1 lemon, zest only
  - 1½ tsp fast-action yeast
  - 1 free-range egg
  - 275ml/10fl oz. tepid milk
  - 125g/4oz. mixed dried fruit
- For the topping**
- 2 tbsp. plain flour
  - vegetable oil, for greasing
  - 1 tbsp. golden syrup, gently heated, for glazing

**Method:**

For the buns, sieve the flour, salt and ground mixed spice into a large mixing bowl, then rub in the butter using your fingertips. Make a well in the centre of the mixture, then add the sugar and lemon zest and yeast.

Beat the egg and add to the flour with the tepid milk. Mix together to a form a soft, pliable dough.

Turn out the dough onto a lightly floured work surface. Carefully work the mixed dried fruit into the dough until well combined. Knead lightly for 5 minutes, or until smooth and elastic.

Grease a large, warm mixing bowl with butter. Shape the dough into a ball and place it into the prepared bowl, then cover with a clean tea towel and set aside in a warm place for one hour to prove.

Turn out the proved dough onto a lightly floured work surface and knock back the dough. Shape it into a ball again and return it to the bowl, then cover again with the tea towel and set aside for a further 30 minutes to rise.

Turn out the dough onto a lightly floured work surface and divide it into 12 equal pieces. Roll each piece into a ball, then flatten slightly into a bun shape using the palms of your hands. Cover the buns again with the tea towel and set aside to rest for 5-10 minutes.

Grease a baking tray with butter and transfer the buns to the tray. Wrap the tray with the buns on it loosely in greaseproof paper, then place inside a large polythene bag. Tie the end of the bag tightly so that no air can get in and set aside in a warm place for a further 40 minutes to rise.

Preheat the oven to 240C/475F/Gas 8. Meanwhile, for the topping, mix the plain flour to a smooth paste with 2 tablespoons of cold water.

When the buns have risen, remove the polythene bag and the greaseproof paper. Spoon the flour mixture into a piping bag and pipe a cross on each bun.

Transfer the buns to the oven and bake for 8-12 minutes, or until pale golden-brown. As soon as you remove the buns from the oven, brush them with the hot golden syrup, then set aside to cool on a wire rack.

## Easter fruit cupcakes

**Ingredients:**

- 100g/3½oz. unsalted butter
  - 2 tsp ground ginger
  - 2 tsp ground mixed spice
  - 250g/9oz caster sugar
  - 100ml/3½fl oz. sunflower oil
  - 4 free-range eggs
  - 1–2 small dessert apples, about 100g/3½oz
  - 100g/3½oz. crystallised ginger
  - 100g/3½oz. currants
  - 100g/3½oz. dried mixed fruit
  - 300g/10½oz. plain flour
  - 2 tsp baking powder
  - ½ batch cream cheese frosting (see Tip below), to serve
- For the sugar syrup:**
- 25g/1oz. caster sugar

**Method:**

Line the holes of a muffin tin with muffin cases or paper wraps, and preheat the oven to 180C/160C Fan/Gas 4.

Melt the butter with the spices in a small saucepan over a low heat, then pour this into a mixing bowl with the sugar and oil and stir well. Beat in the eggs until smooth. Peel the apples and grate them, discarding the core, and stir the apples into the other ingredients. Stir in the crystallised ginger, currants and mixed fruit. Stir in the flour and baking powder evenly.

Three-quarter fill each muffin paper with spoonfuls of the mixture and bake for about 25 minutes, or until a skewer poked in comes out almost clean.

Make the syrup by boiling the sugar with 25ml/1fl oz water in a small saucepan until dissolved, then leave the liquid to cool. Brush it over the warm cupcakes.

When cold, pipe crosses on the cupcakes with the cream cheese frosting before serving.

# New Jim Clark Trail

## *Celebrating the beauty of the Scottish Borders*



tour celebrating the rich heritage and culture of the Borders.” said Ben Smith, Chair of The Jim Clark Trust.

### The spirit of the Jim Clark story

Jim Clark was admired and respected around the world not just for his remarkable success winning the Formula One World Championship in 1963 & 1965 and the Indianapolis 500 in the same year, but also for his sportsmanship and humility. He was a shy farmer at heart who was always happiest at home on his farm at Edington Mains. The Jim Clark Trail reveals insights on culture and history that highlights the stark contrast in Clark's life from rural farming to the danger and glamour of motor racing in the 1960's. “He was the best. Shy almost introverted, modest, he was a Borders farmer after all. And he never stopped being a Borders farmer.” Once recalled Sir Jackie Stewart OBE, Honorary President of the Trust.

Visitors to the Museum and Trail can refuel at the Jim Clark Café Bistro. Or extend their driving adventure to include neighbouring Border market towns such as Coldstream, Kelso, Melrose, Jedburgh and Hawick famous for castles, abbeys, textiles, common riding and beautiful open roads. A key message to all visitors is to please drive responsibly. Organised Car Club tours are also being offered by the Trust. The Trail is announced with an illustrative map available to download from a new website and online shop with the new museum open from through to the end of October.

The Jim Clark Trail aims to help promote and support tourism in the local area to benefit from thousands of visitors to the new museum this spring and summer capturing the spirit of the Jim Clark story. The Trail is free to visitors with a detailed tour guide with satnav codes and insights available from the museum and café bistro. The Trust are collaborating with Scottish Borders Council, Live Borders and the Midlothian Borders Tourist Action Group to help support the new #ScotlandStartsHere campaign.

**A download of the trail map is available at [www.jimclarktrust.com](http://www.jimclarktrust.com)**

As of the new Jim Clark Motorsport Museum has recently opened, a new driving adventure has been announced by The Jim Clark Trust. The Jim Clark Trail is a 50 mile scenic driving tour celebrating the beauty of the Scottish Borders, the rich heritage of motorsport in the area and cultural local attractions. The new initiative aims to enhance the experience of visitors to discover the places and stories behind the double Formula One World Champion and famous Berwickshire farmer, Jim Clark.

The Scottish Borders is one of the most beautiful, historic and rural parts of the UK where the River Tweed forms a natural

boundary between Scotland and England, with a backdrop of the rolling hills of the Cheviots and Lammermuirs. The area includes some of the quietest, most scenic roads in the UK where Jim Clark learnt to drive both on his farm and local roads. It is also steeped in motorsport history with the former WWII Airfields of Winfield and Charterhall, once famous racetracks in the 1950s and 1960s that influenced Clark's early career.

### Celebrating the rich heritage and culture of the Borders

The Jim Clark Trail starts and finishes at the new Jim Clark Motorsport Museum in Duns where visitors can discover the

story of Clark's life and racing career with an exciting interactive experience, featuring trophies, memorabilia, film, imagery and two of his iconic race cars.

The route leaves Duns to visit Clark's home village of Chirnside, his gravestone and memorial clock, then crosses the border from Scotland to England with panoramic views of the landscape, to the historic coastal town of Berwick Upon Tweed famous for its Elizabethan fortifications and visits by artist L S Lowry. It continues on a loop following the majestic River Tweed to Norham's impressive 12<sup>th</sup> century stone fortress or a visit to the Union Chain Bridge, the world's oldest wrought iron suspension bridge completed in 1820.

The route returns back over the Scottish border to discover the history and heritage of Winfield and Charterhall via the Richard Hillary RAF Memorial before returning to the museum in Duns. It was at Winfield and Charterhall, once graced by a who's who of motor racing including Stirling Moss, Nigel Hawthorn, Roy Salvadori, Guiseppe Farina, Reg Parnell and Jackie Stewart, that Clark honed his remarkable natural driving skills with Berwick & District Motor Club and Border Reivers before joining the Lotus Grand Prix Team.

“The Jim Clark Motorsport Museum is fast becoming a magnet for classic and sports car enthusiasts. The Jim Clark Trail is an exciting new adventure for all visitors, on a far more modest scale to the North Coast 500, a stunning driving



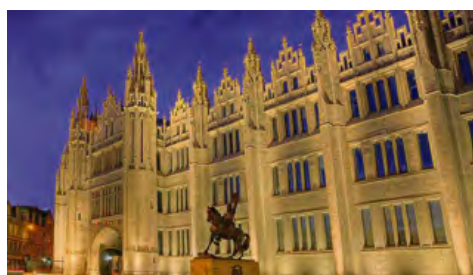
Jim Clark. Photo: Frank Hall.

# THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

*Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past*

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

**1** - The birth of Sir William, Mr Justice MacPherson of Cluny, the noted Scottish jurist and the 27<sup>th</sup> Chief of Clan Macpherson. **1926**



**2** - The College of New Aberdeen was founded. The college was founded by the Earl Marischal of Scotland, George Keith of Invergie, and became known as Marischal College. Marischal College was the second university in Aberdeen, following the foundation of King's College in 1495 by Bishop William Elphinstone. The two universities were united in 1860 as the University of Aberdeen. **1593**

**2** - Tartan Day is officially proclaimed in the Canadian province of Prince Edward Island. **1992**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**5** - Disaster at English/Scottish football match at Ibrox Stadium when part of the flooring collapsed, killing 20, injuring 200. **1902**



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



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

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

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

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



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

**7** - The Scottish National Party was founded. The SNP was created out of the merger of a number of parties; the National Party of Scotland, formed in 1928 from an amalgamation of a number of small parties following the rejection of a Home Rule bill, and the Scottish Party, a breakaway section of the Cathcart Conservative Association. The party enjoyed its first success in 1945, when Robert MacIntyre was elected to represent Motherwell. **1934**

**8** - Radical prisoners were taken from Paisley to Greenock jail under escort. The citizens of Greenock fought their escort, the Port Glasgow Militia, until they reached the jail. Still coming under attack, the Militia opened fire on the stone-throwing crowd. Eight were killed, including an eight year old boy, and ten wounded, before the militia retreated from Greenock. In the evening, the angry Greenockians stormed the jail and freed the prisoners. **1820**

**9** - Second Treaty of Durham in which David I is recognised as King of an independent Scotland by King Stephen of England. **1139**

**9** - Simon Fraser, Lord Lovat, the leading Scottish Jacobite rebel was beheaded on Tower Green, London. Lovat has the unwanted notoriety of being the last man to be publicly beheaded in Britain. It is said his last words said were in Latin: "Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori" or "It's sweet and seemly to die for one's country". **1747**

**10** - King James V born. **1512**

**10** - Sandy Lyle becomes the first Scottish (and British) golfer to win the US Masters tournament. **1988**

**11** - Scottish settlement in Darien, Panama, abandoned. **1700**

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

**15** - Actor and comedian Rikki Fulton born in Glasgow. He was best known for his double act with Jack Milroy as Francie and Josie and as the Rev I M Jolly in Scotch and Wry. **1924**

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

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



**16** - The Battle of Culloden took place at Culloden Moor, where British troops defeated the Scottish Jacobite army for the final confrontation of the 1745 Jacobite Rising. It was the last ever battle to be fought on British soil with over 1500 Scottish fatalities. **1746**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

**22** - Sculptor and artist Sir Eduardo Paolozzi died. Born in Leith, he was a founder of the Independent Group, which is seen as a precursor to the '60s British pop art movement. **2005**

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



**30** - David Livingstone, the renowned Scottish missionary and explorer, died. Born in Blantyre, Livingstone was famed for his exploration of central and southern Africa. He was the first European to see Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. **1873**

# Once upon a time...



Charlotte Brady and brothers Carter, Angus and Finn McKay take inspiration from Scotland's Storybook Trail to learn more about Peter Rabbit at the Beatrix Potter Exhibition & Garden at Birnam Arts, Perthshire. Photo: Julie Howden.

From *Peter Rabbit* to *Peter Pan*, *Harry Potter* to *The Howlat*, Scotland has inspired some of the world's best-loved literary creations.

Whether it's history, landscapes, wildlife or even architecture, for decades authors have used some of the country's greatest assets to create characters that continue to delight readers of all ages. In recognition of this, VisitScotland has launched, Scotland's Storybook Trail, a collection of places with links to some of the most celebrated characters in children's literature.

The trail, which comprises of a colourful map hosted on [visitscotland.com](http://visitscotland.com) and will be available at selected VisitScotland iCentres, as well as bookshops and libraries across Scotland, will help bookworms embark on their own adventures across the country, learning more about their favourite stories and discovering new tales inspired by or written in Scotland.

Featured locations include the birthplace of *Peter Pan* creator, JM Barrie in Kirriemuir, Angus; the Isle of Coll, the inspiration of Katie Morag's fictional home on the Isle of Struay; the Scottish Owl Centre in West Lothian where readers can meet some feathered friends, similar to those that feature in the *Harry Potter* series; and Birnam Arts in Perthshire, the region that inspired Beatrix Potter's famous creations.

And it's not just the book locations themselves that will appeal to young readers – the trail includes some great bookshops and festivals to discover around Scotland.

### World-class literary links

Jenni Steele, Film and Creative Industries Manager at VisitScotland, said: "Scotland has world-class literary links. Our landscapes, history and people have inspired writers for centuries, helping to bring to life enduring characters that capture the imaginations of not just youngsters but grown-ups too.

A great story has to have great characters and that's what inspired Scotland's Storybook Trail. We wanted to create something, as we celebrate Scotland's Year of Young People 2018, that encourages booklovers of all ages to discover the places and people behind these famous fictional friends."

Marc Lambert, CEO of Scottish Book Trust, the national charity changing lives through reading and writing, said: "Scotland has a rich history of iconic literary characters, created or inspired by its places and people. Visiting locations with a special connection to favourite stories or figures is a real thrill for fans of any age, and Scotland's Storybook Trail is packed with superb suggestions. Now is the perfect time to take a trip round our beautiful country and enjoy again, or for the first time, some

of the greatest Scottish stories ever told and the places where the creative spark started – just don't forget to pack a book."

So take a magical adventure from page to place and discover just some of the Scottish locations with literary links to best-loved stories;

### Harry Potter – JK Rowling

Grab your wands and prepare for a magic adventure! Visit Tom Riddle's grave at Greyfriars Kirkyard, meet some of Hedwig's feathered friends at the Scottish Owl Centre or join a tour of the Capital to find out how Edinburgh's buildings and people inspired JK Rowling's smash-hit series about a boy wizard. Film fans-make sure to hop aboard the 'Hogwarts Express' across the Glenfinnan Viaduct.

### Katie Morag – Mairi Hedderwick

The Isle of Coll in the Inner Hebrides was the real-life inspiration for Katie Morag's home on the Isle of Struay. Take a picnic to the beach, explore the island's only real village, Arinagour, and keep an eye out for the whitewashed cottages that look just like the illustrations in Mairi Hedderwick's books.

### Peter Rabbit and Friends – Beatrix Potter

Beatrix Potter created her most famous fluffy friend, Peter Rabbit, following childhood summer holidays in Dunkeld, watching and drawing wildlife. Birnam Arts is a great place to learn about the region that inspired her, you may also meet some of her other characters in the Beatrix Potter Exhibition Garden.

### Peter Pan – JM Barrie

Make sure to pack your pixie dust as you head off on an awfully big adventure in search of Peter Pan. A statue of 'The Boy Who Never Grew Up' can be found at JM Barrie's Birthplace in Kirriemuir, Angus but it was Moat Brae in Dumfries, where Barrie lived as a boy, that inspired Neverland, the enchanted faraway place where Peter Pan and the Lost Boys outwit Captain Hook.

### Treasure Island – Robert Louis Stevenson

Robert Louis Stevenson's swashbuckling adventure was written during a stay in Braemar. It's thought Stevenson based



some of the characters on people he met in the village. Treasure Island is also rumoured to have been inspired by Fidra Island in East Lothian which the writer used to watch from the area known now as Yellowcraig. Today, rather than pirates you are more likely to find puffins as the island is an RSPB Scotland reserve.

### The Gruffalo – Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler

Take a stroll through the deep dark wood on Ardkinglas Estate in search of the Gruffalo. Look out for the Mouse who'll help guide you along the trail which tells the story, translated into Scots, of Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's famous, loveable beast.

### Beano, The Dandy and Oor Wullie

The antics of Dennis and his pals in Beano, and A'body's favourite wee laddie, Oor Wullie have been published every week for decades by DC Thomson who are based in Dundee with Beano recently celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Look out for statues of fellow DC Thomson legends, Desperate Dan, Minnie the Minx as well as Oor Wullie, in Dundee city centre. And don't miss the chance to grab a selfie on Bash Street.

### Thumble Tumble – AH Proctor

The Isle of Arran is the extraordinary little home of this extraordinary little witch. Visit Brodick Castle and Lochranza Castle where Thumble Tumble's first two magical adventures were set. Keep your eyes peeled for Night Witches, Sea Dragons and Flower Nymphs – you never know what magic you might encounter on this spectacular island.



The Glenfinnan Viaduct.



Dundee, home to The Dandy.



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# Fluctuating Fortunes

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



The ruins of Dunbar Castle.

In the year 1329 AD when Robert the Bruce passed away, his son was immediately crowned and given the title of David II. As he was only a small boy he, of course, couldn't rule himself, so Randolph, the Earl of Moray, was ensconced as Regent.

For three years the country was ruled by Randolph, who proved to be very just, but very strict, to the point that at times he appeared to many as a cruel man and so made many enemies. One day he died very suddenly, and it was the thought of several people in authority that he had been poisoned — but that assumption was never proved.

So, another Regent was chosen to rule during David's youth, but he turned out to be neither a good leader nor a good ruler, and once more troubles among the people were activated. At that time, as it is today, there were many great lords who owned lands both in Scotland and England, and during the wars quite a few of these lords who had fought for Edward lost their Scottish lands. The reality of losing their estates and the fact that there was only a child on the throne stirred them into rebelling in the hope of winning back their lands again.

They found a leader in Edward Baliol, the son of John Baliol, who had been Scotland's ruler before Robert the Bruce. Edward Baliol insisted that he had a better right to the throne than David and, in spite of the Treaty of Northampton, he was helped and assisted by Edward of England, who once again hoped to become Scotland's overlord.

## The Battle of Dupplin Moor

So once again Scotland was torn in two by civil wars, some taking the side of Baliol and some backing David. A battle known as the Battle of Dupplin Moor was fought a few miles from Perth. The outcome was that the loyalist Scots who were fighting for the young King were utterly defeated!

An ignoble Scottish baron showed Edward Baliol where to cross the River Tay, on the other side of which the King's army lay.

Silently, at midnight, Baliol led his soldiers over and broke into the Scottish camp while the soldiers were all asleep. The Scots were soon awake and sprang to arms. Randolph, Earl of Moray, the son of the famous Earl, gathered his men together quickly. They fought bravely and in spite of the surprise the battle might have ended in victory instead of defeat — if only the Regent had known how to command his men!

But in his inexperience, he drew up his soldiers in such close lines that they fell over each other, many crushing each other to death, without ever getting near the enemy. So, in the end, far more of the Scots were killed by their friends than by their foes! It's recorded that the crowd was so dense, the slaughter so gruesome, that in one part of the field the dead lay in heaps of a spear length in depth! The Regent and most of the bravest and the best of the Scottish nobles were among the slain.

## Chased from his kingdom

After the battle Edward Baliol made his way to nearby Scone and there he crowned himself King. So, Scotland now had two monarchs -- David Bruce and Edward Baliol. But King David and his young child bride, who happened to be Edward of England's sister, fled over the water to France and relative safety. One of the first things Edward Baliol did after appointing himself King, was to acknowledge himself, as his father had done earlier, vassal of the King of England. But his jubilations were destined not to last long, for there were many Scotsmen who were still loyal to their true King. They decided on another Regent to rule in David's name and one dark night they suddenly attacked Edward Baliol. They slew many of his barons and, in the fighting, Edward himself barely escaped with his life.

He had to make his escape so quickly that he hadn't even time to get dressed, and throwing himself on a bare-backed horse he galloped off through the darkness. So, in less than three months

after the crown had been placed upon his head, he was chased from his kingdom, penniless, and almost naked!

## Black Agnes

He fled back to England to his master Edward, and in the see-saw situation that saw victory one day for the Scots then the next for the English, Edward gathered a huge army and marched back northwards against the Scots, and in the Battle of Halidon Hill the Scots were once more defeated! Edward then over-ran the country, plundering and conquering, till no-one dared call David King anymore, except the little children in their games when they played at being kings and queens.

But Scotland would by no means yield to England's domination, and sporadic fighting still went on throughout the nation. Among those who fought most bravely for their country at that time was a courageous lady called the Countess of March. Because she was always dressed the darkest of clothes she was known by her countrymen as Black Agnes.

## Dunbar Castle

Her husband, the Earl of March, was away fighting for the King, when the English besieged his castle of Dunbar, to the east of the capital. The position and taking of Dunbar Castle made it an important acquisition for the English, but they didn't take into consideration the fighting qualities of Black Agnes, who had made up her mind that nothing or no-one would make her give up her domain and estates. As these were the days before cannon, the armies carried about with them great engines, which were capable of throwing enormous stones at the brick walls of the castles, in the hope the defensive barricades would eventually crumble. The English brought their most powerful engines against Dunbar, but Agnes just laughed as they bombarded the castle walls with gigantic stones.

It's claimed she stood on the ramparts with her ladies and her maids and when a stone hit the walls, she would bid them

wipe the spot with a clean white cloth, as if to say, that she liked to keep her castle clean and tidy, and all the harm the English could do was to make a little dust! She was always on the walls, or at the gate, and in the most dangerous places throughout the attacks, taunting the English, and encouraging her own troops to stand their ground by her brave words.

## Beaten by a woman

Angry as they were, the English couldn't help but admire Black Agnes for her courage, and they accepted her gibes and jeers with rugged chivalry. "There goes one of my lady's tiring-pins," said the English leader one day as a knight fell dead beside him, pierced by a Scottish arrow. "Black Agnes's love-shafts go straight to the heart."

For five months Agnes kept the castle intact, but by the end of that time its inhabitants were close to starving. Dunbar lies by the sea, but the English watched so carefully that no assistance could be brought to the brave little garrison either by land or by sea. One night, however, a bold Scotsman managed to slip between the English ships which lay close to the castle. In his little vessel were forty colleagues and by the darkness of night managed to acquire enough food and provisions for their brave companions in the castle. After this the English lost all hope of ever taking Dunbar Castle, so they abandoned their siege and left, angry and ashamed at having been beaten by a woman! But the Scots people were so proud of Black Agnes and her defiant stand, and minstrels made up poems about her deeds and sang of her valiant actions.

*"She kept a stir in  
tower and trench,  
That brawling, boisterous  
Scottish wench;  
Came I early, came I late,  
I found Black Agnes  
at the gate."*



By: Rosalind Jones

# Antarctic and Arctic – *Tartans united to help*



Wendy Searle with her unique Antarctic tartan bow tie.

familiar charity looped ribbons, could be worn by anyone, anywhere, and wearers would help broadcast the facts about polar melting and the dire plight of penguins, polar bears, and other endangered wildlife.

## Wendy Searle

Wendy Searle was involved because during December 2019 and January 2020 she undertook the challenge to beat the women's record to ski solo and unassisted to the South Pole. Sponsored with Antarctic tartan products, the weight she had to 'woman-handle' was such a vital issue that only a bow tie actually made it to the South Pole! It was, however, unique because it was the very first bow tie ever made in the Antarctic tartan.



The first bow tie ever made in the Antarctic tartan.

A polar camp worker photographed Wendy holding her sponsored Antarctic bow tie, standing where all lines of longitude converge at a point – the South Pole!

## Break the ice

Now this unique, D.C. Dalglish woven, Antarctic tartan bow tie, - the only one to have reached the South Pole, is to offered to the highest bidder in a sealed bids auction. The money raised will go to Wendy's charities – the Army Benevolent Fund and the Youth Adventure Trust. So, if you have a 'Penguin Suit' (tuxedo, dinner jacket, or tails) and would like to own a really beautiful bow tie with an amazing story to tell, then go online and place your bid. The Antarctic tartan bow tie is sure to help 'break the ice' on special occasions if you relate its origins and aspirations.

With extreme weather, fires, floods, famines, and extinctions already happening, the world's 'greatest' District tartans need your help to spread the message that we must save our poles! We now know that saving the Arctic and Antarctic are the key to saving planet Earth.

So, if you care, then wear the badges - Antarctic and Arctic tartans. United to help!

**The auction closes on June 21<sup>st</sup>. You can also learn more about Wendy and her amazing expedition at: [www.southpole2020.com](http://www.southpole2020.com).**

**Email your 'sealed bid' to: [www.southpole2020.com/contact](mailto:www.southpole2020.com/contact)**

**If you don't win the auction you can still buy an Antarctic tartan bow tie, AND Antarctic and Arctic awareness badges, from the UKAHT online shop. [www.ukaht.org/shop](http://www.ukaht.org/shop)**

**Would it surprise you to know that the two Scottish district tartans with the greatest global coverage were designed thanks to penguins?**

Wendy set off from Hercules Inlet, hauling 86 kilos of essential supplies, more than her body weight, becoming the seventh woman to attempt to reach the pole. It was to be a gruelling expedition during which she determinedly pulled her pulk (sledge) through difficult ice fields of sastrugi, fought fierce katabatic winds, and endured temperatures down to minus 35 degrees.

Skiing 11 to 12 hours each day, finally, with scarcely any food and fuel left, Wendy skied her last 25 hours non-stop – and reached the Scott-Amundsen South Pole Station. It had taken her 42 days, 16 hours and 23 minutes, making her the 4<sup>th</sup> fastest unsupported female. Triumphant at her achievement of skiing a total of 715 miles, hauling everything with her unaided, she had lost 12 kilos in weight.

**W**ould it surprise you to know that the two Scottish district tartans with the greatest global coverage were designed thanks to penguins? And that these tartans are now playing a part in raising more awareness of Climate Change? It all happened by chance when award winning wildlife photographer Ben Osborne clicked his shutter on a pair of King penguins in Antarctica. Ben little realised that his image of these majestic birds would not only become the cover of the BBC book *Life in the Freezer* but also inspire two vitally important tartans symbolising the world's polar environments. But it did.

The Antarctic tartan, designed in 1999, was followed one year later by the Arctic tartan. Using the chromatic palette of Ben's photo and plotting the tartans like

geographical maps, the Arctic tartan was the perfect reverse of the Antarctic. Green, representing vegetation of the Arctic's tundra and taiga, however, replaced the bright yellow of penguin plumage. These 'twin' tartans, approved by the British Antarctic Survey, at their suggestion were gifted to the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust (UKAHT) who conserve historic British bases on the Antarctic continent.

## Environmental protection of both polar regions

The UKAHT marketed their tartan at one of these old bases - Port Lockroy on the Antarctic Peninsula. This far flung outpost is a British Post Office perched on a rocky islet shared with Gentoo penguins. Visiting cruise ships from New Zealand and Argentina anchor nearby and intrepid tourists are ferried ashore where they can buy tartan scarves, ties, and other mementos. Port Lockroy's inquisitive little penguins meet and greet the visitors but the concerning question is - for how much longer? It has only recently become known that with ice shelves gradually melting and food sources diminishing that penguin species are under threat.

Originally designed with the aim of conserving polar wildlife and bringing about awareness of global warming, now both tartans are doing just that. Last year the UKAHT elected to use their tartans to champion the need for environmental protection of both polar regions. The designer and UKAHT, with input from intrepid Antarctic explorer Wendy Searle, decided that both tartans should be sold as 'awareness ribbons'. It was felt that enamel tartan badges, in the form of now



King penguins. Photo courtesy of Ben Osborne.



# Scotland and the USA

*Stretching back many centuries, the shared history and heritage between Scotland and the United States of America leaves an enduring legacy that is tough to beat.*

Text and images: Scotland.org

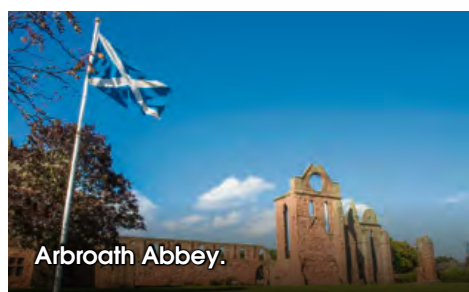


New York's Tartan Day Parade.

**U**nCLE Sam, Davey Crockett, John Paul Jones, Mickey Mouse, George Washington, Neil Armstrong – all 100% American, right? Wrong. All these US icons also share more than a little Scottish DNA. But that's only half the story, because the strong links between Scotland and America go way beyond this and can be found in the deepest roots of everything from politics to business.

You see, right from the formation of the country, Scots and their descendants have been front and centre in shaping America's laws, political and education system, and business success. Today, that two-way trans-Atlantic trade – in visitors, innovation, investment, business and friendship – continues.

## Trans-Atlantic roots run deep



Arbroath Abbey.

The Scottish influence in the birth of modern America is acknowledged in Senate Resolution 155 which declares April 6<sup>th</sup> each year to be designated and observed as Tartan Day. The resolution honours the role, 'that Scottish Americans played in the founding of the Nation'.

Did you know, that of the 44 men who have served as US President, an astonishing 34 have been of either Scottish or Ulster-Scots descent? This includes George Washington, Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton. According to genealogists, even Barack Obama's ancestry can be traced back to William the Lion who ruled Scotland from 1165 to 1214.

'Uncle Sam', who was famously depicted on US Army recruiting posters, is said to be modelled on Sam Wilson, a food business operator in New York, whose parents

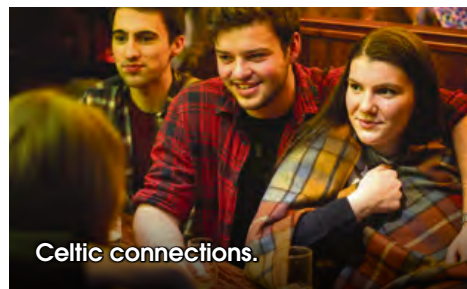
came from Greenock in Scotland. And as for that Mickey Mouse connection, the famous Walt Disney character was voiced for almost 40 years by a Scotsman from Dundee called Jimmy Macdonald.

## The Scottish influence in the birth of modern America is acknowledged in Senate Resolution 155 which declares April 6th each year to be designated and observed as Tartan Day.

Jamestown, the first permanent European settlement in America was named after King James VI of Scotland. Even the US Declaration of Independence was partly modelled on Scotland's 1320 Declaration of Arbroath.

Founding father Benjamin Franklin even visited Scotland, touring the country in 1759. Often referred to as 'Dr Franklin', he was granted his doctorate by St Andrews University, Scotland's oldest university.

## A two-way affair



Celtic connections.

But it's not all historical links between our two countries, and our contemporary connections are equally strong and vital.

These days, rather than a sea crossing, passengers at Scottish airports can take direct flights to New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Orlando, and Boston

and over 350,000 Scots visit the USA every year. Similarly, Americans harbour an affinity with Scotland, its people, history and landscape and in recent years we have welcomed more than 560,000 US visitors to Scotland.

Today there are almost 1000 Scottish associations and clubs in America and, in the most recent US Census, more than 5 million Americans claimed Scottish ancestry. Coupled with that – we also welcome a huge amount of US students to our universities every year. In 2017, 4,480 American students chose to study at Scottish universities, laying the foundation for lifelong links of friendship with the country.

## Industry and enterprise



Scots who made their mark on America.

Many of the early Scots who set their sights on America went on to win fame and fortune, but at the same time change the way the world worked.

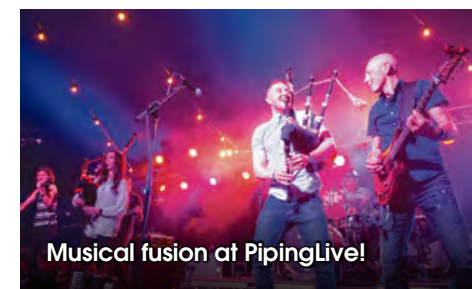
Telephone inventor Alexander Graham Bell was born in Edinburgh; John Muir – the father of America's National Parks – hailed from Dunbar; Allan Pinkerton – the world's first private eye – came from the Gorbals area of Glasgow; industrialist Andrew Carnegie was born in Dunfermline; car manufacturer David Dunbar Buick was born in Arbroath; John Paul Jones - the 'Father of the American Navy' - was a gardener's son from Kirkbean, Kirkcudbrightshire; while Bertie Charles Forbes, the founder of American financial journalism, left Scotland for New York City in 1904.

Today, the USA is Scotland's top international export destination. Annual exports were worth up to £5.5bn in recent years, with the engineering and advanced manufacturing, food and drink, financial

and business services; technology, digital and media; and the energy sectors all performing strongly.

In total, US companies account for 34% of the total of foreign inward investment in Scotland and employ around 90,000 people across the country.

## Music to our ears



Musical fusion at Piping Live!

From country to rock and pop, Scotland's musical connections with America run deep. Elvis Presley's roots can be traced back to a village in Aberdeenshire. The musical icon is descended from Andrew Presley, who emigrated to North Carolina in 1745. Scotland was the location for The King's only visit to the UK, a brief landing at Prestwick Airport in 1960, on his way back Stateside after serving in the US military.

The late legendary country musician Johnny Cash was another American giant with Scottish roots, being able to trace his family back to the Kingdom of Fife. Also, protest singer Woody Guthrie even came to Glasgow looking for his family roots, singing and playing in the folk bars of Glasgow in the 1940s. Even Nirvana's Kurt Cobain regularly cited Scottish indie bands Eugenius and the Vaselines as being amongst his favourite acts.

Traditional music also plays a part in our trans-Atlantic love affair, with Glasgow regularly welcoming US bands and acts to its annual Piping Live!, Celtic Connections and Americana music festivals.

In 2018, the *New York Times* placed Glasgow, Scotland's biggest city, at No 10 in its '52 Places to Go' list, praising its friendliness, vitality, great venues, and live music and arts scenes.

## What's in a name

Many locations in America were nostalgically named after the places Scottish immigrants had left behind. There are eight Aberdeens, eight Edinburghs, 21 Glasgows and eight places simply known as Scotland in the United States today. In addition, many places have Scottish clan names, with areas named Campbell, Cameron, Crawford and Douglas throughout the USA.

Today, many Scottish-founded towns and cities across the States remember those historic links by staging annual Highland games and hosting clan gatherings.

American visitors might also be surprised to discover that Scotland has places called Mount Vernon, Dollar, and even a Mount Florida.

One thing's for sure, Americans will always find a warm welcome in Scotland.



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