



# the Scottish Banner



North American Edition



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*A' Bhratach Albannach*

Volume 41 Number 2 The world's largest international Scottish newspaper August 2017

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The Banner Says...

# Carrying on a legacy



by Sean Cairney

This edition of *the Scottish Banner* may look familiar to many filled with our great contributors and the usual mix of snippets and news. However, this page is certainly a very different one. For over four decades, Valerie Cairney, has set the tone for each issue with her editorial welcoming readers with often quite personal and heartfelt columns. As months developed into years people got to know Val through the connection of words.

**Practicing Scots**

This month I have the task to try and take on that role and connect our readers to each edition we produce. I thought it would be best to briefly tell people of my connection to *the Scottish Banner* and the international Scottish community. I cannot remember a time where Scotland has not been a part of my life. I grew up around family, businesses and events that clearly identified us as “practicing Scots”.

*The Scottish Banner* began because of our family’s strong Scottish connection and determination to keep that connection alive for others. My childhood included visits to Highland games across North America. Not many summers went by without my helping at some and getting to see Scottish culture across the continent. From Nova Scotia to California I soon learned that the Scottish community was large, active and diverse.

Over 40 years ago Valerie attended the Fergus Highland Games in Canada to launch *the Scottish Banner* and this month, some 493 editions of *the Scottish Banner* later, I also will be attending the Fergus Highland Games and look forward to meeting as many of our readers and friends as possible. So if you will be attending please stop by *the Scottish Banner* tent and say hello.

**A wee paper**

With today’s world of constant information and real time news it can be hard to remember a time we did not have everything at our fingertips.



Gracing our front cover:  
 Ross OC Jennings, the First Piper  
 at the Old Man of Storr, Skye.

Back in the 1970’s when *the Scottish Banner* began, for some just getting a “wee paper” with bits of information from Scotland was a big deal. So much so, the paper spread its pages across Canada and United States.

In the 1990’s I went backpacking and spent quite a bit of time in Australia. Whilst there, I attended some Highland games and immediately noticed the Southern Hemisphere had no Scottish newspaper, I told this to my mother, Valerie and that soon changed, with Australia and New Zealand distribution following.

Well that “wee paper” has gone on to resonate with many Scots and those of Scottish heritage around the world, and today it is read by people across four nations who each month celebrate with us their connection to Scotland.

**Much to write about**

We are very fortunate to have the topic of Scotland and Scottishness as the backbone of any issue of *the Scottish Banner*. For such a small nation, Scotland has given us much to write about, at times brutal history, the stunning scenery and the amazing events that fill the calendar. The dynamic forward thinking nation of today and of course the passionate international Scottish Diaspora community who today continue to celebrate and innovate just what it means to be a “practicing Scot”.

Each issue we produce we often have several articles waiting for placement because so much news, ideas and accomplishments are coming to us from both Scotland and the international Scottish community.

**Connecting people to Scotland**

Today we have people reading this publication in its print format, on their electronic devices, and also there are thousands of people connecting with us daily on social media. The Scottish community is strong, bold and that is why *the Scottish Banner* continues today some 41 years later after the first issue printed.

There have been many changes to *the Scottish Banner* since the 1970’s. Just in the past few years alone we have introduced a new layout presentation, digital download subscriptions and new writers. However, one thing that has not changed is the “wee paper” is still connecting people to Scotland each month. You don’t have to sound Scottish to have the spirit of Scotland in you and running through your veins. Today our readers speak with many accents but they have one common love of Scottish culture.

**I cannot remember a time when Scotland has not been a part of my life.**

I have great news for our American readers. From this issue on we will be available at Books-A-Million stores across the United States, and I hope to be able to share some more exciting distribution information with you soon. I am looking forward to connecting with more of the Scottish community from across North America in the coming months and discussing how we can work together.

**In this issue**

In this issue, we feature the First Piper Ross OC Jennings, who is connecting people to the sounds of Scotland with his bagpipes. If you are in Edinburgh this month for the Fringe Festival you may be interested in how the Army is making its Fringe debut this month. A true Scottish icon, Mary Queen of Scots, continues to captivate people from across the world and we learn why her legend is still strong.

We hope you enjoy this issue and as always keep in touch with us with your opinions, ideas and stories as we continue to keep *the Scottish Banner* as the “wee paper” for “practicing Scots”.

**Please share with us your views by email, post or at [www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us](http://www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us)**



The Red Hot Chilli Pipers will be joining the Scottish Banner at the Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games this month.

# Highland Games at Edinboro University celebrate University's Scottish heritage



Join Edinboro University for the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Edinboro Highland Games & Scottish Festival, which will be held Sept. 6-10 on the picturesque EU campus in Edinboro, Pennsylvania. Featuring world-class musicians, fine-gift vendors, national fiddle and harp championships, highland dance and athletic competitions, pipe band and solo competitions, clan gatherings, kids' crafts and games, and traditional Scottish food, the festival is an annual favorite that brings thousands of people to EU to revel in the rich traditions of Scotland.

Festivities begin Wednesday, Sept. 6, with a single malt tasting from 6-8 pm in the university president's dining suite. The music kicks off with the Tiger Maple String Band on Thursday, Sept. 7, from

6-9 p.m. at Sprague Farm & Brewery, 22113 US-6, Venango, PA. "Tiger Maple is a local favorite —talented musicians and fun music—and many of their tunes have origins in Appalachia, which has roots in Scotland, Ireland and other Celtic cultures," said Dr. Tim Thompson, professor and chair of Communication, Journalism & Media, and the director of the Highland Games. Thursday also features "Harping of the British Isles" at Fairview Presbyterian Church, 4264 Avonia Rd, Fairview, PA., beginning at 7 p.m.

### Calling of the clans

On Friday, Sept. 8, the First United Presbyterian Church in Edinboro will host the annual Scottish & Celtic Harp Showcase from 3-6 p.m. The showcase

will be followed by several fun activities on the EU campus, including a fiddle workshop and the Regional Scottish Fiddle Championships. Both fiddling events are set for the Frank G. Pogue Student Center, at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m., respectively. The evening will conclude with the lighting of the festival bonfire and calling of the clans on the lawns near the gazebo next to Mallory Lake on the EU campus.

The main festival events and games will be held throughout Saturday, Sept. 9, on the campus of Edinboro University, in and around McComb Fieldhouse at the corner of Scot and Scotland roads, and at the adjacent Pogue Student Center. The beer tent opens at 11 a.m. "If you get there before noon, you'll want to see the opening ceremony. It's spectacular, with the massed pipe bands marching and playing and the Scottish clans on parade," Thompson said. "Between noon and 4 p.m., you can catch all the best the festival has to offer."

### National Scottish Fiddle Championships

Bagpipe and Scottish and Celtic harp music will fill the air throughout the day, while pipe bands and soloists march together and compete against one another. Between the impromptu concerts, musical tent and numerous workshops, burly heavy athletes will toss various weighty objects on the back lawns as part of the ever-popular heavy athletic competitions. Those events include the caber toss, hammer, stone, and 56-pound weights for height and distance.

The festival is once again, for the sixth consecutive year, hosting the National Scottish Fiddle Championships, set for 12:30-3 p.m. in the Pogue Student Center. The U.S. National Scottish Harp Championships also will be held in the Pogue Student Center, from 1-3:30 p.m. An array of high-quality vendors will be on hand, selling clothing, jewelry, glassware and other goods. Scottish and American food vendors will offer sausage rolls, meat pies, shepherd's pie, chicken dinners, kettle corn, cookies, desserts and more.

### Ceilidh

The full schedule of Saturday's events will run from approximately 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., followed by the Ceilidh (kay-lee) dinner and music from 6-10 p.m. in Van Houten Dining Hall North. All festival events are free and open to the public, except the Ceilidh and the single malt tasting.

The Ceilidh, the only ticketed event of the festival, features a delicious buffet dinner, cash bar, music by the Chelsea House Orchestra and a dance. Hosted by the Robert Burns Scottish Club of Erie, reservations are \$35 per person. On Sunday, Sept. 10, events close with a Chelsea House Orchestra concert at 10:45 a.m. at the Edinboro United Methodist Church.

All events will go on, rain or shine, with alternate locations set in case of inclement weather. Let the Games begin!

Information is available on the website at [www.edinboro.edu/events/highland-games](http://www.edinboro.edu/events/highland-games).



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# Colossal Clansman launches “Piping Hot” summer in Glasgow

*The world’s biggest week of piping – Piping Live! and The Worlds – set to return to Glasgow, August 7 – 13.*



The landscape of Glasgow Green looked very different recently, as a giant 23ft piper mural, known as The Colossal Clansman, popped (or piped) up in the park – announcing that Piping Live! Glasgow International Piping Festival and The World Pipe Band Championships are returning to the city from 7 – 13 August. The world’s biggest week of piping will see over 50,000 music fans, families and tourists flock to Glasgow to enjoy 200 events and 8,000 performers throughout the week.

## Piping Live!

The Colossal Clansman was created using a remarkable 6 miles of fabric - the same

amount it takes to kit out the 23 participating Piping Live! bands and 21 competing in Grade 1 qualifiers of The World Pipe Band Championships. The 7m by 4m portrait, made by Glasgow artist, Bruno Gallagher, was created to showcase the grand scale of both events, which annually attract thousands of visitors from across the globe to the city.

Piping Live! Glasgow International Piping Festival is the biggest festival of its kind in the world and the week-long celebrations will see over 200 events take place in various venues across the city from 7 – 13 August. Its diverse programme is famed for bringing the best pipers and pipe bands in the world to Glasgow and 2017 is set to be just as outstanding, with acts including Peatbog Faeries, Battlefield Band and Tejedor topping the bill and many more to be announced in coming weeks. The programme will also see performances by the very best international acts from countries such as Estonia, Argentina, Canada, Czech Republic, Northern Ireland, Australia and Italy, as well as numerous events including the fiercely contested Master Solo, International Quartet and Pipe Idol competitions.

## Celebrating bagpipes

Throughout the week there will be daily performances and family fun in George Square, the festival’s city centre hub, as well as recitals, book launches and the hugely popular Street Café at The National

Piping Centre. The hugely popular Pipers’ Market will also return this year to George Square, bringing with it some of Scotland’s very best food and drink, as well as craft stalls for everyone to enjoy.

Roddy MacLeod, Festival Director of Piping Live! said: “Last year’s festival was all about celebrating bagpipes being at the heart of life’s moments that matter and this certainly resonated with people, as we celebrated a record-breaking number of attendees at Piping Live!. As well as selling more tickets than ever before, the festival had an economic impact of £2.3 million to Glasgow, which is just incredible. This year we are continuing to celebrate how piping and its music brings people together, with a diverse programme of events gathering the world’s best pipers and traditional musicians to the city. There really is something for everyone at Piping Live! – so make sure you come along and help make 2017 another record year for the festival.”

## The Worlds

The World Pipe Band Championships will return to Glasgow Green on 11 and 12 August. This year it celebrates its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, with the first ever World Pipe Band Championships being held at Murrayfield in Edinburgh in 1947. The event was first held in Glasgow in 1948 and has been staged in the city continuously since 1986. Known affectionately as The

Worlds, they’re hailed as the pinnacle of competitive Pipe Band competition and are organised on behalf of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association by the City of Glasgow. This year, the Worlds will be part of the celebrations for the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology.

This year, Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band from Northern Ireland defends the title they reclaimed last year. The band has been World Champions five times in the last six years. In recent years, over 225 bands have travelled from all over the world, bringing around 8000 pipers and drummers to compete in eight grades for the world title. Entries for this year’s event are open and the final list of participants will be confirmed six weeks before the championships.

Ian Embelton, Chief Executive of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association said: “The World Pipe Band Championships has developed and changed throughout its history but at its core the challenge to Pipe Bands is still the same. They spend months rehearsing for their shot at the World Title, all the time searching for the perfect performance that will show off their full talent as a band. A day out at the Worlds is to experience a unique showcase of Scottish culture but also to enjoy musicianship and teamwork of extraordinary quality. There is nothing quite like it.”

*For more details see: [www.pipinglive.co.uk](http://www.pipinglive.co.uk) or [www.theworlds.co.uk](http://www.theworlds.co.uk)*



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# SCOT POURRI



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## Valerie Cairney

Dear Valerie,  
I have just finished reading your editorial in the July edition of *the Scottish Banner*. First of all I would like to wish you all the very best in your future endeavours whatever they may be. I will miss your editorials very much. I am a long time subscriber but have never contacted the paper before so let me say now how very, very much I enjoy all the articles contained in the paper. To be entering 41 years of publication is absolutely fantastic and may *the Banner* have many more years of publication to come. Like many, I have my favourite articles but I still read every part of the paper. I know Sean will do a very good job but I will miss you. Thank you for all your work and dedication over the years. I have met you at Scottish Games and you were always so warm and friendly. I wish only the best for you.

Kind Regards,  
*Grace Bruce*

## Congratulations Val!

Valerie what a lovely editorial you wrote in the July issue and congratulations on seeing *the Scottish Banner* through 40 amazing years. I have been an avid reader for many of those years and trust me when I say yes *the Banner* is family to our family. My kids grew up seeing it around the house and many of my friends have enjoyed reading my copies. I personally have learned so much not only about Scotland's past, but the dynamic nation it continues to be through *the Scottish Banner*.

Without doubt this publication is a tremendous asset to the Scottish community and thank you for all your dedication and service.  
*John Ferguson*  
*Auckland, New Zealand*

## Stephen Alcorn White

I am trying to locate my cousin (the above). He left Scotland late 60's or early 70's, he went to Tauranga in New Zealand. As I am trying to do my family tree on my mother's side, my mum's

name was Sadie, Stephen's aunty. His sister name was Isobel, his mum's name Bessie, his dad Mick (Michael).

He represented Scotland at the Rome Olympics in boxing. Last known address in Scotland at 43 Barshaw Rd, Paisley, Glasgow.

Hoping readers may be of some help.  
Regards,  
*Wilma Turner*  
*19 Yareen Rd*  
*Cooma East, NSW*  
*Australia*  
*Email: wilmaturner443@gmail.com*

## The Kilted Yogi's



What a superb cover with the June issue of *the Scottish Banner*. I have heard of both the Kilted Yogi's (cheeky videos on YouTube!) and the New York Tartan Day parade. This is in fact the second year you have provided great coverage of this event and it has sold me to book a ticket to New York and experience it all for myself. It looks like a great time to be in the "Big Apple" and while I may not be able to balance someone on my legs like on your June cover I will wear my kilt and be just as proud to be a Scot!

Keep up the great work at *the Scottish Banner*-its read monthly and passed on to others who love everything about it. I learn much about Scotland from your pages and thank you for this.

*Brett Scott*  
*Toronto, Ontario*  
*Canada*

**Ed note: Thanks Brett for your note and looks like we know where you will be next April! Enjoy.**

## Sinclair Drive, Battlefield, Glasgow

In the November 2016 issue of your newspaper in the *Scotpourri* section there was a letter about Galbraith's store on Sinclair Drive, Battlefield, Glasgow, Scotland. Please, could anyone tell me the name of the person surnamed Sinclair for whom this street was named? My mother, Ruth Louise Sinclair (Mrs. John P. Green), is age 95. Her grandfather was James Adams Sinclair. He was born in 1837 in Barony Parish Finnieston, Glasgow. His parents were John Sinclair, a power loom weaver, and Mary MacArthur Sinclair. They had three children: John Sinclair who died in Victoria British Columbia, Canada, James A. Sinclair who died in Waltham, Massachusetts in 1913 (he owned a

hardware store), and Eliza Sinclair (Mrs. Moses Oliver), who died in Somerset, Massachusetts. In 1847 the Sinclair family went to Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. In 1850 the three children entered the United States through Watertown, New York.

We would be very glad to know if Sinclair Drive was named for my mother's Sinclair family.

Sincerely,  
*Ms. Susan M. Grady*  
*Falls Church, Virginia*  
*USA*  
*Email: Susan.Grady@ssa.gov*

## Port Patrick tombstone

How is this for a prophecy? From a tombstone in Port Patrick Churchyard (Scotland) dates 1440:  
*When pictures look alive with movement free*  
*When ships like fishes swim beneath the sea.*  
*When men oustripping birds shall span the sky*  
*Then half the world deeped.*  
*Drenched in blood shall lie.*

Sent to me by my late Mother from Scotland, God only knows how long ago and found amongst some papers.  
*Charlie Nibloe*  
*Werribee, Victoria*  
*Australia*

## Strip the Willow World Record Attempt



The world record remains intact and in Edinburgh's hands. We had several hundred "strippers" on the day but couldn't reach the numbers required to beat the record.

After the Giant Strip took place the attendees partied on doing YMCA, The Cha Cha Slide and Superman on the High Street. Just under £1k was raised in aid of the Highland Hospice and everyone had a great time.

Plans are now underway to have a further attempt next year as we learned a lot on the day. Marketing for the new event will require a Sponsor to attract the numbers we need to beat the record and bring it to Dingwall.  
*Liam Christie*  
*Director*  
*North Highland Events and Promotions Ltd*  
*President Inverness Chamber of Commerce*  
*Inverness, Scotland*  
**Ed note: Good luck with the record attempt in the future and hope you can get the 1915 "strippers" needed.**

**SENT TO OUR FACEBOOK OR TWITTER PAGES**  
*(Send us your photos or letters via social media)*

## Eilean Donan Castle



Some mornings walking the dog is simply no chore whatsoever.  
*Sent via Twitter by Eilean Donan Castle Scotland*

## Who is the best poser?



Scottish sheep enjoying a Lanarkshire sunset. Who is the best poser?  
*David Wilkinson*  
*Scotland*

## Isle of Skye



Last month, I holidayed in the UK, and spent 9 days traveling around Scotland. This photo was taken near Sligachan, on the Isle of Skye. My Great Great Grandparents, and their children, lived on an estate there. I had the opportunity to see the land where my ancestors once lived. The photo shows the remains of a stone footbridge.  
*Sent via Facebook by Scott McPhee*  
*Melbourne, Victoria*  
*Australia*  
**Ed note: Thanks for sharing Scott and how special to walk the land of your ancestors.**

# WHAT'S IN A NAME?

By: Ron Dempsey



Have a name that has you stumped? Scottish Banner readers can send in their name queries direct to Ron via the Scottish Banner via our website, by post or email: [info@scottishbanner.com](mailto:info@scottishbanner.com). Ron will do his best to help you with your name query and may just add that extra piece to your genealogy puzzle.



## Val Cairney

As mentioned in the July edition of *the Scottish Banner*, Val Cairney has decided to step away from the day to day running of this publication. For over 30 years I have been fortunate in being able to call Val a friend as well as a colleague and so I would like to give you my take on her career.

This column is about surnames and appropriately, the surname Cairney, is a Galloway name from MacCairnaigh meaning victorious. This is an apt name for our editor Val Cairney, who was victorious in taking a localized Scottish ex-pat newspaper founded in Canada to the dominant areas of Scottish immigration worldwide.

Val saw a void that needed to be filled for Scots away from "home". *The Banner* offered a vehicle for them to hear news from home and to reconnect with old friends. It is the

main source to find where all things Scottish are happening, whether it's highland games, Burn's suppers, Scottish artist concerts, local Scottish country dancing groups, and of course where one can find their clan. *The Banner* is still the Scottish "go to" publication on a global scale, with readers and subscribers in Canada, the United States, Australia and New Zealand, not to mention Scotland itself.

Val Cairney made all this happen and it didn't come easily. Never mind just rushing to meet deadlines and getting an issue to press, there was the rushing to highland games, or concerts to promote *the Banner* wherever possible.

The quality of her publication attracted some Scottish celebrity heavy weights to add their works to the columns of *the Banner* over the years including the late Nigel Tranter, an informative novelist of

Scottish history and the late and dear Molly Weir, actress and author who regaled us with tales of her childhood in the first half of the last century in the tenements of Springburn, in the north end of Glasgow.

There has been many interesting interviews with clan chiefs, Scottish artists and politicians over the years which is happily being carried on by Sean Cairney in the Australian office. While it may be a sad event to all of us who looked forward to her pleasurable editorials, it must be a happy time for Val to pursue other interests at a more leisurely pace.

Thank you Val for making this wonderful publication possible and know that you will be missed.

## Caskie

Mr. Lindsay Campbell of Upper Hutt, NZ. Has been very busy in searching the various parish records and the latest is Dunoon and Kilmun where he found another list of names for me to address. While all are interesting his first has me intrigued since it belongs to a Scot who played a significant part in occupied France during World War II. That name is Caskey or Caskie, it is from the Galloway Gaelic MacAskie. Son of Askie, where Askie is a personal name of Old Norse origin Asketil meaning "cauldron of the gods". It is predominantly found in the west coast of Scotland and Northern Ireland. The name is considered a sept of Clan MacLeod.

Dr. Rev. Donald Currie Caskie was born at Bowmore, Islay in 1902. He became a minister of the church and had a calling to Paris in 1935. When war broke out and France became occupied by Nazi Germany, he went to Marseilles rather than taking the opportunity to leave. He is reputed to have helped some 2000 military personnel escape France mostly via neutral Spain. He didn't always escape the notice of the Vichy government or the German Gestapo and was imprisoned more than once and narrowly escaped the death penalty. He wrote about his exploits in a book in 1957 entitled *The Tartan Pimpernel*. After the war he returned to Scotland served as minister in various churches until his retirement in the 1970's. He died in Edinburgh in 1983.

## Pitcairn

The surname Pitcairn is next on the list. It is from lands of the same name in Leslie, Fife. The name in various forms Petcarne, Petcairn etc. has been recorded in Scotland as early as 1249. Although I didn't find a definitive meaning for the name, I believe

that it is Pictish in origin as many places in the east and north east have as the first element in the names as "Pit." Robert Pitcairn, a naval officer was first to sight the island of his name in 1767. The same island that was to become famous as the new home of the Bounty mutineers. Major John Pitcairn of the Royal Marines has dubious honour of firing the first shot in the American Revolutionary War in 1776.

Clan badge: A full moon, Clan Motto: Plema refulgent (The full moon shines.)

## Kinnaird

Another name is these parochial registers is the name Kinnaird. Kinnaird is also a place name from Perthshire but generic enough to be from anywhere. Kinnaird translates from the Gaelic "ceann" meaning head and "ard" meaning height, so head of the height. It is recorded in 1180 from the court of William the Lion.

Clan Badge: A crescent arising from a cloud having a star issuing from between its horns, all within two branches of palm (running parallel to the side but not touching the edge of the arms) in all natural colours

Clan Motto: Errantia Lumina Fallunt (Wandering lights deceive).

## Clubb

An interesting name which doesn't sound very west coast Scotland is the surname Clubb. Although found throughout Britain, in Scotland there was a concentration of the name in Aberdeenshire. The name is self-explanatory for one who made clubs. Spellings included Club, Clubb, and Clubb. From this name we have the verb of clobber. The earliest recording of the name was in 1398 in Aberdeen.

## Mercer

From this same register was a farmer named Donald Mercer. Being a farmer this Donald has strayed from the family occupation that his occupational surname implies. Mercer from the Old French "mercier" was a draper, silk merchant or more generally a merchant. The name was found all over Britain and recorded in Scotland circa 1200.

There are two old Scottish rhymes concerning Mercers. One relates to the antiquity of the trade in the town of Perth.

"Sawe sicker 'tis as onie thing on earth, The Mercers aye are aulder than auld Perth."

The others talks of the trustworthiness of the trade.

"Folks say the Mercers tried the Town to cheat when for just two inches they did win six feet!"

Clan Badge: A golden cross

Clan Motto: Crux Christie nostra corona (The cross of Christ is our crown)

There are more interesting names that I wish to explore from Mr. Campbell's list but they will have to wait for another issue. It shouldn't surprise me that after 30 years of doing this column, I still find new names to address and I am glad that I do.

Here's wishing you a delightful August.

## Knock on history's door with the National Wallace Monument



**K**nock on History's Door, a special evening event at The National Wallace Monument, in Stirling, will see the doors to the famous Scottish landmark opened after hours for an exclusive tour on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August. With limited tickets available for each night, this unique experience offers guests access to explore the exhibitions and see the breathtaking views in a new light. Visitors are invited to climb the 246 stairs to discover the life and legacy of William Wallace inside the Monument built in his honour, and to meet historical characters along the way with live actor performances. Archaeologist and Honorary Research Fellow at Stirling University Dr. Murray Cook will also be participating each evening, providing expert insight into the

city's rich history and the Monument's surrounding area of the Abbey Craig.

### Incredible panoramic views

The visit to the National Wallace Monument after hours will also include the opportunity to enjoy the incredible panoramic views of Central Scotland from the Crown. Speaking about this special tour Ken Thomson, Marketing Manager at Stirling District Tourism, the charity that operates the Monument, said: "There are so many different ways of enjoying a visit to the Monument, with a packed programme of live entertainment available throughout the year - and now this special evening tour will allow visitors to see the building from a new perspective, and at a different time of day."

**For further details see:**  
[www.nationalwallacemonument.com](http://www.nationalwallacemonument.com)

# Scottish North American Leadership Conference



The Scottish North American Leadership Conference is coming to Canada as part of the Canada 150 Celebrations. This is a premiere opportunity for us to gather as a Diaspora, to share our common history and heritage and to plan ways to engage our youth so that our traditions and spirit can be carried forward to future generations. The conference will begin on Thursday afternoon with the opportunity to take part in a beginners workshop on Gaelic Language, presented by the Toronto Gaelic Society.

## Scottish heritage

Keynote speaker (6 pm) will be Chris Maskell. Chris is the Head of Scottish Affairs in Canada. Following Chris' address, there will be a banquet, with a haggis ceremony and plenty of time to network with others in the Diaspora. Friday begins with an opening address

by Richard Knight, VisitScotland and then the day offers a full range of talks on Scottish History (Katie McCullough, Centre for Scottish Studies, Simon Fraser University and Brian McQueenie, Sons of Scotland), Scottish Heritage (Christine Woodcock, Genealogy Tours of Scotland and John Cherry, St Andrew's Society of Detroit) and Youth (Karen McCrimmon, CASSOC, Rianna Crawford, Youth Ambassador and Rowan Gladish, Youth)

Following the conference, there will be transportation to Fergus to take part in the Hearth Lighting and Clan Welcome at the Fergus Scottish Festival. Everyone with an interest in Scottish history or heritage is invited to come to Guelph for this premier opportunity.

*The Scottish North American Leadership Conference takes place at the University of Guelph, August 10-11 For more information or to register: [www.snal2017.ca](http://www.snal2017.ca)*

# Let's Try the Bagpipes!



area displaying practice chanters, various types of bagpipes, reeds, music and assorted gear.

Keen potential pipers will be able to sign up for a one-hour group lesson where they'll learn the scale and hopefully the first line of *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*. PPBSO also be handing out a card directing potential pipers to our newly reinstated piping teacher database, so that they can find a teacher in their own local area.

The PPBSO booth will be open from 10:00 to 4:00 and they welcome knowledgeable pipers as Bagpipe Ambassadors. If you are interested in volunteering for an hour or two, please email Julie Stewart at [mrensemble@cogeco.ca](mailto:mrensemble@cogeco.ca).

If successful, the PPBSO hope to expand their presence at a larger number of future Highland Games. Come help the PPBSO find the next generation of pipers!

*For more information on the Pipers and Pipe Band Society of Ontario see: [www.ppbsso.org](http://www.ppbsso.org)*

Let's Try the Bagpipes! is a pilot project of the Pipers and Pipe Band Society of Ontario (PPBSO) at the Georgetown Highland Games and the Fergus Scottish Festival in 2017. The idea is to stimulate curiosity and spark a desire to learn by allowing members of the public to handle instruments, try them out and get all their questions answered. PPBSO will have a booth in the vendors

# Did you know?



## The World Pipe Band Championships

- The World Pipe Band Championships has been associated with Glasgow for nearly 70 years.
- Not all pipe bands appear in kilts, the rules dictate only that bands should wear uniform dress, which may not necessarily include kilts or tartan, but may include national dress.
- Each performance is judged by four adjudicators: Two piping judges, who listen carefully to the pipers, another who is focused on the drummers,

and a fourth who judges the overall ensemble performance. Judges are very experienced musicians themselves, who have all been accredited by the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association.

- The event has been operating regularly since 1930, when the Scottish Pipe Band Association (today known as the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association) was formed.
- Bagpipes have been banned twice in Scotland, once in 1560 and again in 1746.
- The most played song on the bagpipes is *Scotland the Brave*.
- The highly coveted Grade One title remained in Scotland until 1987, when the Canadian 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Highlanders Pipe Band became the first overseas band to win the award. Since then bands from Scotland, Australia, Canada and Ireland have all gone on to win.
- This year's event takes place at Glasgow Green on August 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> and will feature over 200 pipe bands from around the world.

# Lost Glasgow

*More than Just Memories*



A postcard from the 1910s or 1920s. Photo: Lost Glasgow/Facebook.

Heading to Glasgow this month? An incredible collection of images from Glasgow's history have gone on display for those lucky enough to be visiting Scotland's largest city from the group who run Lost Glasgow. Since launching in 2014, the Lost Glasgow Facebook page has attracted a strong global following. The site, which uses archive photographs to spark stories, memories, and debate about the city, its buildings, its people, and its ever-evolving history and future, was launched off the back of the successful Lost Edinburgh site. The Glasgow City Heritage Trust is teaming up with Lost Glasgow, to present an exhibition devoted to the documentation,

discussion and appreciation of Glasgow's changing architecture and its community throughout the last few centuries.

The exhibition will cover everything from the majestic to the mundane, from the city's great buildings to its more humble corners, from the tenement to the townhouse, from the great and the good, to the 'common old workin' man (and woman). The love of Glasgow and the tales of the city are on display, and everybody in Glasgow loves to hear a good story.

*Lost Glasgow – More than Just Memories is taking place at Glasgow City Heritage Trust, 54 Bell Street, Glasgow until August 31st. Admission is free. For details see: [www.glasgowheritage.org.uk/lostglasgow](http://www.glasgowheritage.org.uk/lostglasgow)*

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# SCOTSPEAK

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

**"I got a feeling then that Scotland didn't quite realise what an asset piping is and what connections it has throughout the world as a result of this music. I have friends throughout the world in Australia, New Zealand and the States because of piping. The Worlds is a big reunion every year."**

Glasgow's Lord Provost Eva Bolander and Chieftain of the 2017 World Pipe Band Championships said about the importance of the bagpipes for Scotland. The Swede has lived in Glasgow since 1995 and was reminiscing on attending the World's in 1990 when she was in a Swedish pipe band. 210 pipe bands will travel to Glasgow this month to compete in friendship.

**"It's wonderful, it's pretty good for a dunce. It's a bit special I must say, it's becoming quite overwhelming. I'm wondering if they know something I don't, all these prizes piling in, when you start to get the lifetime achievement stuff."**

Actor and comedian Sir Billy Connolly said in Glasgow after receiving an honorary doctorate from the University of Strathclyde. Connolly who is turning 75 this year also awarded a knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours List and has had 3 large murals of himself put up around Glasgow recently.

**"Arran Access Trust is delighted the Arran Coastal Way has become recognised as one of Scotland's Great Trails. Arran has been called 'Scotland in miniature' as the island encompasses so much of the landscapes, history, geology and wildlife of Scotland and - being only 2 hours from the centre of Glasgow - it offers unrivalled opportunity for folk to visit and enjoy island life. We believe the Arran Coastal Way is the finest walking circuit of an island anywhere in Scotland and look forward to welcoming**



The Arran Coastal Way.

**walkers whether they are completing the whole circumnavigation of the island or exploring a taster section for a day."**

Malcolm Whitmore, from the Arran Access Trust said as the Arran Coastal Way, a 65-mile-long circular route around the Isle of Arran on Scotland's south-west coast has been added to the Scotland's Great Trails. The trail passes through ancient woodland and along sandy beaches and rocky shores, with amazing wildlife and spectacular scenery all the way around the island. The route on Arran was originally conceived in the 1990s by two local men who had a dream to create a walk around the island's entire coastline.

**"Our first Tim Hortons restaurant received an exceptional welcome in Glasgow, so we're excited to launch this debut shopping centre concept within Silverburn. With its excellent reputation and recent investment by Hammerson, Silverburn is a perfect location for the expansion of Tim Hortons across Scotland."**

Gurprit Dhaliwal, COO of Tim Hortons UK and Ireland Ltd, said as the iconic Canadian cafe and bakehouse have

announced they will be adding further locations in Glasgow after the successful launch of the UK's first store on Argyle Street. The next store is Glasgow's Silverburn Shopping Centre with a planning application to open a third store on Sauchiehall Street already under way.

**"In the morning we were brought before the German commander, whose first action was to point his revolver at each of us in turn. We took this to be a warning to speak the truth or take the consequences. A French officer, acting as an interpreter, asked us to state our nationality. I replied in Gaelic: 'I do not know'. When he asked what country we were from, I then said: 'Ardnamurchan.'"**

In his memoir, Private William Kemp said as he and two other Scots spoke Gaelic during the war to trick their Nazi captors into believing they were from Russia, who at the time were not yet at war with the Nazis. The soldiers were hailed heroes on their return to Scotland but once the German's learned of the story, they targeted Gaelic prisoners for harsher treatment. The men were

from Lochaber and served in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, there story is now being made into a film.



**"It's great news that the community in South Uist will now have its flag formally registered in the Lyon Court and recognised as theirs. The flag is already widely used locally and I hope that this move will help promote South Uist's unique identity and strong community spirit."**

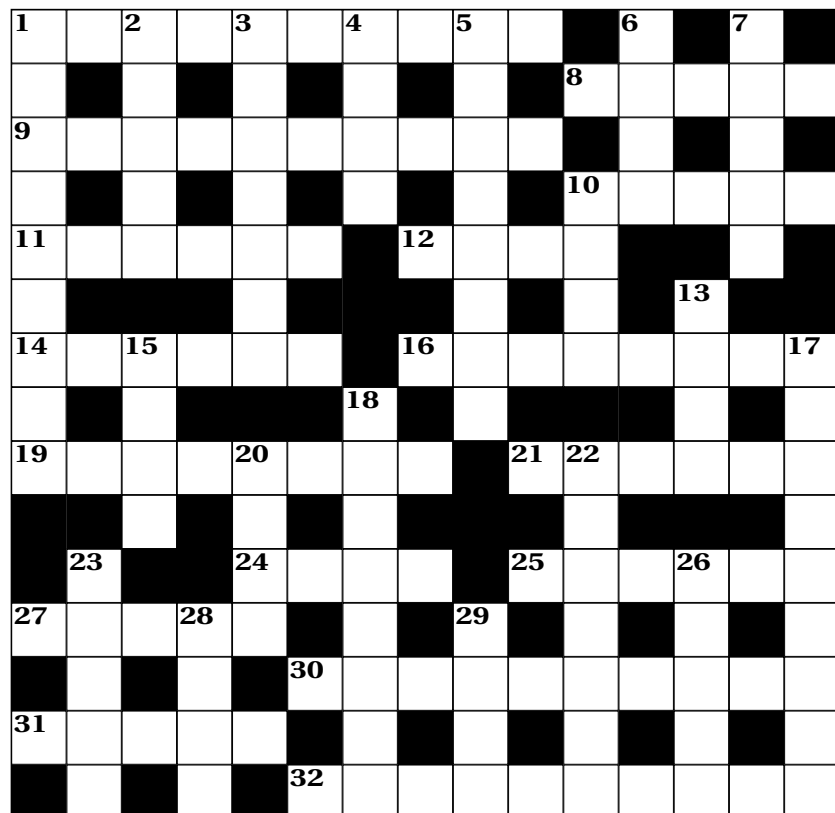
Western Isles MSP Alasdair Allan MSP said as South Uist won approval for the first officially recognised community flag in the Outer Hebrides. The design which is blue Nordic cross, edged with white, on a green background has been entered into the official records of the Court of the Lord Lyon, the heraldic authority for Scotland.

**"We have lived in our home for nearly 10 years. We were told it was haunted when we bought it, but kept our minds open and decided to buy the house regardless. Five nannies have left the role in the last year, each citing supernatural incidents as the reason, including strange noises, broken glass and furniture moving."**

A Scots couple from the Scottish Borders said as they are offering £50,000 a year for a nanny to help with their two children in their historic home. They have gone five nannies in the last 12 months due to supernatural incidents such as moving furniture, bizarre noises and breaking glass. The couple have not themselves had any ghostly experiences in the home.

## 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 23!



### CLUES ACROSS

1. He enters into the fray! (10)
8. Golf by the seaside (5)
9. From the "Granite City" (10)
10. Corner of the chimney (5)
11. Ridiculous! (6)
12. Finishes the game of bowls! (4)
14. Stores the treasure! (6)
16. Hebridean dweller (8)
19. Sun and moon in opposition (4,4)
21. Leapt (6)
24. Acquaintances (4)
25. Full of agility (6)
27. Scots informer (5)
30. Deep reflection (10)
31. Resides in Scotland (5)
32. Bird of prey's hatch! (6,4)

### CLUES DOWN

1. Mix oatmeal and cream for this (9)
2. Goes with tatties (5)
3. Firmly remained (7)
4. Travelling pedlar (4)
5. A tidy quality (8)
6. Greet in Scots! (4)
7. Spill accidentally in Scots (5)
10. River near Airlie Castle (4)
13. With an L it's perfect! (4)
15. Was Mac the first Scot? (4)
17. Seaforth's, Gordons, etc. (9)
18. Val Cairney works at it! (8)
20. A Scots mattress (4)
22. First School (7)
23. Part of the Highland Dress (5)
26. A kill's motion (5)
28. Burns' vocation (4)
29. A Scot's tousled hair (4)

## Celtic FC hotel planned



The pictures above shows a possible design of the new Celtic Park development.

**C**eltic Football Club has announced that it has made a Proposal of Application Notice to Glasgow City Council in relation to possible further development of the Celtic Park area. The application is part of Celtic's long-standing masterplan for the area, a vision which aims to deliver benefit to the Club and our supporters and allow further re-generation of the East End of the city. That proposal includes the potential creation of a new 4 star hotel, retail store, ticketing facility, restaurant and museum and creating over a 100 jobs for the community.



# Homecoming for historic map

An incredible map dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> century has returned home to the Aberdeenshire estate where it was discovered in the 1980s. The 'chimney map' is now known to be one of only three created by Dutch engraver Gerald Valk. It was found in Drumnahoy House, which was at the time part of the Castle Fraser estate, owned by the National Trust for Scotland, Scotland's largest conservation charity.

## Intricate conservation work

The rare piece was in very poor condition and was thought to have been stuffed under floorboards close to a chimney for many years. It was eventually taken to the National Library of Scotland where it underwent intricate conservation work and then went on display in Edinburgh. National Trust for Scotland Property Manager at Castle Fraser, Paula Swan said: "We are honoured to welcome this amazing map back to the Castle Fraser estate. It is a fascinating piece and of such historical significance. We are very grateful to the National Library of Scotland for giving us the opportunity to share and celebrate this fascinating story with visitors this summer."

## Quality and detail

Drumnahoy House owner Robert Paterson and his daughter who slept in the room where the map was discovered were at

Castle Fraser to welcome the map back to Aberdeenshire which was piped into the castle. Robert said: "I am absolutely delighted that the restored chimney map is coming home to Aberdeenshire for display. The chance discovery of the map - hidden in my home for so many years - and its subsequent restoration make for an interesting story. However, it is really the quality and detail of the map which takes your breath away. I see something new every time I see it, whether it is the intricate coastlines, lakes and rivers, or the finely drawn pictures of plants, animals, people, ships and cities. Looking at this map is a hugely rewarding experience and one that I will always treasure."

Paula continued: "How the map came to Aberdeenshire is unclear. One theory is that it was owned by Andrew Fraser, the 4<sup>th</sup> Laird who was known to have Jacobite sympathies. The map shows William and Mary, so would have been controversial at the time, and may have been hidden away. We do not know how he would have paid for such an expensive item though, as the estate was in dire financial straits at that time."

## On the Trail of Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites

The map will be on display at the historic castle throughout the summer. The team at the castle will be working with local schools and the community to uncover more of its fascinating story over the coming months. On the Trail of



Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites encourages people to get the real story of this dramatic period of Scottish history by visiting the National Museum of Scotland's major summer exhibition, Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites, and then heading out across the country to visit some of the places where these remarkable events unfolded.

Castle Fraser is an atmospheric baronial castle dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century and was the ancestral home of the Fraser family. Venture through the castle and up to the round tower, with

its panoramic views of the gardens and estate beyond to get a sense of life from the medieval to the Victorian period. Highlights include the Great Hall dating back centuries, a library filled with a treasure trove of antique books. Outside, explore the secret woodland garden, the walled garden and estate trails.

***On the Trail of Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites features 25 properties with a Jacobite connection (including Castle Fraser), which you can find with an e-book and further resources available at: [www.jacobitetrail.co.uk](http://www.jacobitetrail.co.uk)***

## Re-enactors being taught Gaelic insults



Photo: Garry Menzies/ Battle of Prestonpans Heritage Trust.

Jacobite re-enactors are being taught how to put fear in their enemies with a new app that will teach them historical 18<sup>th</sup> century insults and curses. The new app has been commissioned by the Battle of Prestonpans Heritage Trust (BPHT) so the battle demonstrations they take part in are as vivid and realistic as possible. Assisting with the app was also Bòrd na Gàidhlig, the body which works to promote Gaelic in Scotland.

The Battle of Prestonpans was the first significant conflict in Lothian and the second Jacobite Rising. The battle took place on September 21, 1745 and the BPHT annually re-enact the battle. This year it expected to be more insulting than ever as soldiers get the chance to hurl authentic insults at their ancient opponents with phrases being taught in Gaelic such as: "bloody hell", "she's a witch", "a pox on Hanover", "down with the elector (King George I)", "flee you rascal" and "do your worst".

# World first as car powered by whisky residue biofuel makes inaugural journey

An Edinburgh Napier spinout has driven the first car to be fuelled solely by a whisky residue biofuel. Working closely with Tullibardine Distillery in Perthshire, Celtic Renewables has developed a ground-breaking process that is set to revolutionise sustainable transport.

Using a biofuel called biobutanol which is made from draff – the sugar-rich kernels of barley which are soaked in water to facilitate the fermentation process necessary for whisky production – and pot ale – the copper-containing yeasty liquid that is left over following distillation – the team at Celtic Renewables has devised that the biofuel can be used as a direct replacement for road fuel, with no engine modification required.

The team has showcased the potential of biobutanol by driving a Ford Focus car around the grounds of Edinburgh Napier's Craiglockhart campus – powered solely by the biofuel.

Each year in Scotland, the Malt Whisky industry produces almost 750,000 tonnes of draff and two billion litres of pot ale which Celtic Renewables plans to use by converting them into millions of litres of advanced biofuel.

Professor Martin Tangney, the company's founder and president, said:

"This is the first time in history that a car has ever been driven with a biofuel produced from whisky production residues. It is fitting to do this historic drive in Scotland, which is famous not just for its world-renowned whisky but also for being a powerhouse for renewable energy.

"Celtic Renewables is playing its part in sustainability by taking this initiative from a research project at Edinburgh Napier to, what we believe will be, a multi-billion-pound global business with the opportunity to turn transport green."

## The power of whisky

The Celtic Renewables process, that uses bacterial fermentation to produce biobutanol, was originally devised in the UK at the start of the last century to produce acetone for explosives used in the First World War. It was phased-out in the 1960s due to competition from the petrochemical industry, but now Celtic Renewables is bringing it back to life by applying it to the residues of the whisky industry.

Tullibardine distillery manager John Torrance added: "Right from the outset when Celtic Renewables approached us, we could see the game-changing potential of a new fuel created from our by-products.

"We're a forward thinking distillery and we're happy to support what promises to be a ground-breaking first for renewable energy, for transport and for the Scottish whisky industry alike."

Celtic Renewables is an innovative and award-winning start-up company formed to commercialise a process for producing a superior next generation biofuel from the by-products of biological industries.

The Biofuel Research Centre was established by Professor Martin Tangney at Edinburgh Napier University in December 2007. It was the first such centre of its kind, set-up for developing sustainable biofuels.



Professor Martin Tangney celebrating a Scottish first. Photo: Edinburgh Napier University.

# Mary Queen of Scots - A Scottish icon

*This year marks the 450th anniversary of the imprisonment of Mary Queen of Scots, one of Scotland's most dramatic historical figures. The legend and fascination of Mary Queen of Scots has endured and grown over centuries and her life played out like a theatre of deceit, treachery, and martyrdom which led to her gruesome death at the age of 44. This year her relevance and international appeal is still strong with a new film on Mary being made and events taking place to celebrate a woman who was a trailblazer, a doomed monarch and icon as Judy Vickers explains.*



Mary Queen of Scots' death mask. Photo: The Mary Queen of Scots Visitor Centre, Jedburgh.

**I**n my end is my beginning." The words that Mary Queen of Scots embroidered while in prison in England were more prophetic than she could have ever known. The devout 16<sup>th</sup> century queen was likely thinking of eternal heavenly life or at the very least, the salamander, the symbol of her grandfather-in-law, Francois I of France, which, like the phoenix, self-ignited at death to be reborn from the ashes.

Looking back from the 21<sup>st</sup> century, though, in the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the queen's forced abdication and imprisonment, the words seem more to foreshadow Mary's own rebirth from 1567, when, defeated and rejected, she was rowed across the waters of Loch Leven to begin her years of imprisonment with a stay in the loch island's castle, to today when she represents a multi-million pound part of Scotland's tourist industry.

## A renaissance monarch

Or as the late Scots historian Jenny Wormald baldly stated: "She has given people far more pleasure, and far less pain, after her death... than she ever did in life." Her classic book *Mary, Queen of Scots: A Study in Failure* is being reissued this year, edited and with a new introduction by Anna Groundwater, a lecturer at Edinburgh University.

As the title suggests, the book is highly critical of Mary, a verdict which has proved controversial. Groundwater explains: "The 'crisis years' of 1565-67 were not the only reason for Mary's downfall: she failed to deal with the problems facing her as a renaissance monarch. She was born to



Mary Queen of Scots Festival jousting. Photo: Clanranald Trust.

supreme power but was wholly incapable of coping with its responsibilities.

"Since Wormald's book came out, subsequent histories of Mary have been somewhat less critical, but this evaluation remains a refreshing and pithy scholarly antidote. It reminds us that Mary was, first and foremost, a monarch, and it is as a monarch that she should be judged – not a martyr, or victim, or simply a woman. Wormald's opinions on Mary remain controversial, and continue to provide a suitably well researched balance to an argument that all too quickly tends to sink to the overly personal, the dramatic and the tragic."

## A perfect storm of historical drama

For most enthusiasts, though, it is the personal story of the queen who loved and lost everything that remains the appeal. This year, with a festival marking the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her imprisonment at Loch Leven being held in September, with jousting and a recreation of 15<sup>th</sup> century life, complete with Mary, and a new £180 million blockbuster film of her life, starring Saoirse Ronan, being filmed in Scotland, interest in the tragic Queen has never been higher.

For Shona Sinclair, curator of the Mary Queen of Scots Visitor Centre in Jedburgh, her charm isn't hard to decipher. She said: "Mary Queen of Scots has lasting international appeal. A strong and passionate queen, her life was both romantic and tragic – today it would not look out of place dramatized in a soap opera. In less than ten years, she had been queen in two countries, had three husbands and a child, been forced to give up the Scottish throne and imprisoned by her cousin, the Queen of England, who would eventually execute her. I doubt very much that her appeal will diminish, such drama never does."

The events of Mary's life proved a perfect storm of historical drama. She was born at Linlithgow Palace in 1542, where a statue to her stands and where a nearby pub is called the Four Marys after the four girls named after her who were to be her companions. Her father, James V, died when she was just six days old and she was crowned at nine months at Stirling Castle. Henry VIII of England was keen for her to marry his son, Edward, and sent an army to Scotland to try to force the issue – the "Rough Wooing". As a four-year-old, Mary was sent to Inchmahome Priory for safekeeping, then to France, where she married the Dauphin Francois. She was brought up as part of the French Royal family but her husband died in 1560 after just 17 months as Francois II. Mary returned to Scotland in 1561, landing at Leith near Edinburgh.

## All things to all people

Despite her own devotion to the Roman Catholic faith, she allowed her nobles and people to worship as Protestants but she

fell foul firstly of zealous reformer John Knox, then after her marriage to her cousin, Henry Stewart, Lord Darnley, in 1565, the Scottish nobles. A group of lords murdered her Italian secretary, David Rizzio, in front of her at Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh – stains from the blood can still be seen. In 1566, she gave birth to their son, James, at Edinburgh Castle but a few months later, in 1567, Darnley was murdered at Kirk O'Field near Edinburgh. James Hepburn, Earl of Bothwell was acquitted of his murder but when he and Mary married just three months after Darnley's death, the lords rose in rebellion. Mary was defeated, imprisoned at Loch Leven and forced to abdicate in favour of her infant son. She escaped but was defeated again and fled to England. She was imprisoned by her cousin, Elizabeth I, and executed in 1587.

Her appeal is not just in the drama of her life, but because she can be almost all things to all people: A symbol of Scots nationalism and defiance in the face of English aggression; a personal beauty – she stood 5ft 10in tall with a shock of auburn hair; a fierce defender of women's rights – she delivered an oration on the importance of educating women at the age of ten; a defender of the Catholic faith but also a proponent of tolerance (she allowed Protestant worship to continue); a woman who loved neither wisely nor well as her loveless and soured marriage to Darnley and her impossible love for Bothwell – she miscarried his twins at Loch Leven. Her cousin, Elizabeth, always feared her execution would make her a martyr, which is why she tried to put it off for so long. After her death, the English queen ordered all Mary's artefacts destroyed so that they wouldn't become icons but their rarity has only made them more precious.

## The popularity of Mary

Shona Sinclair, of the Mary Queen of Scots Visitor Centre, explains: "In the museum we have a number of artefacts which illustrate the popularity of Mary – 'relics' collected and cherished over the centuries as having once been owned or associated with her. Even today we are told about items which ordinary people keep as having been worn, used or belonged to her." One of the most popular exhibits at the museum, which attracts 30,000 visitors a year, is Mary's death mask, taken shortly after her execution. "In the 1970s, someone thought it would be a good idea to paint it to make it more lifelike – not something we would contemplate nowadays. Visitors are fascinated by this – it does show her as a beautiful woman."

The death mask isn't the only curiosity associated with Mary which can still be viewed – at Aberdeen's Blairs Museum, which chronicles Scotland's Catholic heritage, there is a full-length portrait of Mary, dressed as she was on the day of her execution. It was saved from the mob during the French Revolution by being hidden up a chimney. The National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh has



The Penicuik Jewel. Photo: National Museums Scotland.

some of her jewellery, known as the Penicuik Jewels, and Abbotsford House in the Borders has the crucifix which she clutched as she was led to her execution – as well as a rather grisly later portrait of her severed head. Several places lay claim to her ghost, including Stirling Castle, where she is said to appear as the "Pink Lady", Borthwick Castle in Midlothian, where she is said to appear dressed as a page boy – she donned such an outfit to escape unseen from the castle in 1567 and Craignethan Castle near Lanark, where she appeared headless.

She's been credited with introducing fireworks, shortbread, topiary and golf to Scotland and even a single lock of her hair sold for £7200 in Edinburgh when it came up for auction a few years ago. The question is less why she continues to appeal but whether that fascination will ever die out.



Statue of Mary Queen of Scots outside Linlithgow Palace, her birthplace. Photo: Anna Draine.

## Did you know?

- When Mary was six days old her father died and she became queen in 1542.
- Mary was executed by beheading at Fotheringhay Castle, on 8 February 1587 at the age of 44.
- Mary suffered a horrible death. The first axe came down, but landed on the back of her head rather than her neck. A second blow cut into her neck but a third was required to sever the head completely.
- After her execution, when the executioner raised her head for the crowd to see, it fell and he was left holding only Mary's wig and also Mary's Skye terrier had been hiding under her skirts, soaked in blood.
- Mary's son James went on to succeed Elizabeth in 1603. In 1612 he had his mother's body exhumed from Peterborough Cathedral and placed in the vault of King Henry VII's Chapel in Westminster Abbey, where she remains to this day.

# The Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games



The Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games is the largest, longest continually-running three-day event celebrating, promoting, and honouring Scotland's heritage in Canada, and contributions to 150 years of Confederation. With annual attendance nearing 20,000, the 72<sup>nd</sup> annual Festival offers programming that illuminates the four pillars of traditional Scottish culture: highland dance, Heavies competitions, pipes and drums, and the gathering of over 40 clans.

## Clan microsities

This year, the Festival has rebranded their logo, redesigned the website and social media platforms, and joined forces with other local festivals and stakeholders throughout the Township of Centre Wellington to "green up" the Fergus Scottish Festival by providing free access to municipal water onsite throughout the weekend and reducing the environmental footprint. In addition to these incredible changes, the programming remains spectacular. Local and international musicians enliven the festival grounds and the businesses and pubs of Fergus. Heritage and Clans venues have joined forces this year to create an innovative mix of traditional and dynamic displays and events, including the addition of clan microsities on the newly developed

website, which will allow clan members to promote their information and invite new members to join this year's festival.

## The Red Hot Chilli Pipers

This year's Festival is excited to introduce Steven MacTavish of Dunadry and Clan MacTavish as the 2017 "Honoured Chieftain of the Festival." Our Heavies, Highland dancing, and pipes and drums competitions are world-class events that draw thousands of spectators from around the world. The music programming this year is equally enticing, with the return of the Red Hot Chilli Pipers following our annual Friday night Tattoo'd in Tradition ceremony on the main field. We have an exceptional and diverse line-up of returning music acts, including fan favourite Scottish band Albannach, and new artists, such as the local band Fair Warning, who will be headlining our Hometown Reunion party in the Highland Pub on Saturday night! We've got something for everyone, from heart-thumping Celtic music, to traditional artisans, educational workshops, McKiddies fun, competitions, and all the best of Scotland...without the airfare!

*The Scottish Banner will be attending this year's Festival, please stop by our tent and say hello! The Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games takes place August 11-13th in Fergus, Ontario. For more details: 1-866-871-9442 or [www.fergusscottishfestival.com](http://www.fergusscottishfestival.com)*



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Photos courtesy of the Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games.

# Lady MacGregor's Scotland



Lady MacGregor of MacGregor – otherwise known as British broadcaster Fiona Armstrong. Fiona is currently news reading for the BBC. But she also leaves the studio from time to time to report on matters Scottish. She lives in Scotland with her husband, the MacGregor clan chief. Sir Malcolm is Convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, and Fiona is an active member of Clan Armstrong, so their lives are interwoven with all things tartan. The couple have moved from the borderlands to the lowlands, home is now a white tower house between Perth and Dundee, although filming and writing takes Fiona all over Scotland.

Greetings from Scotland which has had something of a regal feel about it... One of the main sporting events on the social calendar has just taken place at a Perthshire palace. The chief and I attended a garden party at another royal abode in Edinburgh. And I had the honour of crowning a queen in a Borderland town...

## Guid Nychburris

First the coronation... 'Guid Nychburris' is an annual festival in Dumfries in the south of Scotland. The name comes from a time when criminals were ordered to be 'good neighbours' - and although the actual pageantry only dates back to the 1930s, this is a celebration steeped in tradition. It recalls the ancient days when the town became a royal burgh.

Like other borderland 'ride-outs' it has an emotional pull for those born in the town. If you are a 'Doonhamer' you do not want to miss this stirring occasion and thousands turn out to watch the colourful pageant unfold. Hundreds of horses and riders gallop past the turreted Midsteeple building in the town centre. They are celebrating the community's proud riding traditions



Lady Fiona (second from left) and participants at this year's Guid Nychburris festival. Photo courtesy of Sir Malcolm MacGregor.

and there are emotional speeches and declarations of dignity and freedom.

Bonny lads and lassies abound - and a crucial part of the day is the crowning

of a 'Queen of the South'. This year lovely red-haired Molly Hyslop was chosen and I was asked to place the silver and blue velvet crown on her head. The sun shone. The pipe band did their stirring bit. Importantly, I remembered my crowning lines...

housed in the hound-pound, or canine crèche. Which was a good compromise. They could still see and hear the sights and sounds without having to wade through the mud. I wore my wellies, but the chief was vain and managed to ruin his best suede shoes...

## Tartan of the Month

### Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association 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.

Pipe bands from across the world will be converging on Scotland for the World Pipe Band Championships, presented by the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (RSPBA). This month we feature the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association tartan (STA ref: 2623) which was designed by Geoffrey (Tailor) Highland Crafts in 1999. A tartan design competition was run by the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, who adopted this design, and used the colours are based on their emblem. This tartan was recorded prior to the launch of The Scottish Register of Tartans.

The Association was founded initially as The Scottish Pipe Band Association (SPBA) in 1930 as an authoritative pipe band governing body in Scotland, today known as the RSPBA, who continue to promote and oversee pipe band initiatives across Scotland.

## Scottish Game Fair

Meanwhile, further north in the fair city of Perth, the Scottish Game Fair has been held at Scone Palace. Set in stunning parkland this majestic red sand-stoned stately home has been the seat of parliaments and the crowning place of ancient Scottish kings, including Macbeth and Robert the Bruce.

Scone, (pronounced Scoon, not Scon) is still a family home. It is lived in by the Mansfield family. But it is open to the public and every year a celebration of the great outdoors takes place in its hallowed grounds. There are hunting, shooting and fishing stalls. There are tents devoted to horses and dogs. You can learn about land conservation. You might buy an elaborately-carved horn-handle walking stick, or take your pick from the latest water-proof countryside jacket.

The chief and I love fishing - and I was there to give a talk in the fishing tent. For it is well known that ladies make good anglers. As a famous fisherman once noted: all that dusting and Hoovering makes our hands strong enough to wield a heavy salmon rod! Then we need the extra muscle. Because the record books prove that we women catch big fish. The heaviest salmon ever caught on rod and line in British waters was hooked in 1922 by a tiny Scotswoman called Georgina Ballantine...

Dogs are welcome at the Game Fair, but rain had fallen the day before and the ground underfoot was challenging. So the MacNaughties found themselves being

## Holyrood garden party

Finally, there was the annual jamboree that is the Holyrood garden party. And this is held in the grounds of the Queen's Edinburgh palace at the bottom of the Royal Mile and the Canongate. Again, thousands of people attend this stylish event which is ticket-only, personal invite from Her Majesty.

It is one royal way of saying thank-you to some of those people who serve their communities. They might be running a charitable organisation. They may be a fire-fighter who has worked to keep folk safe for thirty years. I attended in my capacity as a Lord-Lieutenant, one of the Queen's personal representatives in Scotland.

A royal garden party is such a spectacle. All those ladies in their frocks. All those swinging kilts... A myriad of headwear and gloves catches the eye. I was in a light blue outfit with matching straw hat. The tea came in proper china cups and the cucumber sandwiches were to die for...

At four o'clock on the dot the monarch appeared at the top of the palace steps and made her way down into the crowd. She was dressed in a gorgeous pink and white coat and pearls. Seemingly unstoppable at ninety-one she talked to her guests - among them folk I know from Annan who run a support drop-in centre. It made their day. It made their year. Then again, how many people get to chat to a Queen...?

Follow the MacGregor clan chief, Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor, Convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, on [twitter.com/theclanchiefs](https://twitter.com/theclanchiefs)

# Scotland's newest canal named in honour of HM Queen Elizabeth



A new canal section forming the eastern gateway to Scotland's historic Forth & Clyde Canal has been given a royal seal of approval after being officially named in honour of the Queen. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh boarded the Seagull Trust barge the *Wooden Spoon Seagull* and led a small flotilla along Scotland's newest canal section, built as part of the £43m Helix project which features the internationally-acclaimed, 30-metre-high Kelpies sculptures, before unveiling a plaque officially naming the new section the Queen Elizabeth II Canal. The unveiling was accompanied by a breathtaking aerobatic love heart display from the Global Stars stunt flying team.

## One of the most complex sections of waterway ever constructed in Scotland

The Helix has transformed 350 hectares of underused land between Falkirk and Grangemouth into a vibrant parkland, visitor attraction and marine hub with the canal and The Kelpies at its heart. The site is now managed by Falkirk Community Trust on behalf of the partners.



Images Scottish Canals.

The Queen Elizabeth II Canal forms the eastern gateway to the Forth & Clyde Canal, which carves across Scotland from Bowling in the west to Grangemouth and the River Carron in the east. One of the most complex sections of waterway ever constructed in Scotland, the Queen Elizabeth II Canal passes underneath two major trunk roads and across utility pipelines, demanding innovative engineering solutions from a UK-wide team of experts.

## A world-class marine hub

The Helix project and the canal at its heart have transformed the maritime experience of sailors arriving from across Northern Europe and beyond and created a world-class marine hub into and out of Scotland. The one-kilometre canal returns the Forth & Clyde back to its birthplace in Grangemouth some 250 years after it was built. The QEII Canal is the final piece of the Millennium Link – an £83.5 million project that restored the nation's inland waterways to a navigable state for the first time in more than 50 years and saw the construction of the iconic Falkirk Wheel.

Andrew Thin, Chairman of Scottish Canals, said: "The Kelpies and the Queen Elizabeth II Canal are helping put Falkirk and Grangemouth on tourists' 'to-see' lists the world over and serve as a towering tribute to the industrial past of the area and a symbol of its bright future. We'd like to offer a huge thank you to everyone who has visited the new canal by boat, boat or bike since its completion and look forward to welcoming even more visitors in the years to come."

Since The Helix was opened in April 2014, more than 2.5 million visitors from all over the world have stood in the shadow of The Kelpies, taken to its 27km of paths by boot or bike – which form a key part of the National Cycle Network – or watched boats travelling along the new canal. The project has brought renewed vibrancy to the area and boosted the local economy by an estimated £1.5m per year.

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# The First Piper



## *The Scottish Banner speaks to Ross OC Jennings*

*Ross OC Jennings is on a mission, to be the first person in the world, to play his bagpipes in every country on earth. Ross took the time to speak to the Scottish Banner's Sean Cairney on just what it is like to travel the world with a set of pipes, wear tartan and go after a world record.*

**SC:** Ross thank you for taking the time to speak to *the Scottish Banner*. Can we begin with you telling how you came up with the idea of being the first person to play bagpipes in every country in the world and how far are you into that goal?

**RJ:** In short, I wanted to combine two things that I really love, travel and music; however, the whole story is a bit more complex. In January 2014 I went to this adventure travel show in London where they had adventurers speaking about their incredible endeavours. It kicked off this idea of a bagpipe/travel world record, but I very quickly decided that the world record wasn't the most important part. The first country I visited (Tunisia) made me realise that travelling and piping was going to take a serious amount of

time (!!), and I shouldn't treat the whole adventure as a box-ticking exercise. It's now become this seemingly endless Celtic musical adventure where I meet the most incredible people through interactions that involve the bagpipes. Each interaction keeps me going and wanting to learn more.

**SC:** What got you into the bagpipes and could you ever have imagined your love for pipes would be taking you across the world and reaching for a world record?

**RJ:** I was sitting in a Monday morning school assembly and my bagpipe-teacher-to-be piped on in front of us and I thought it was the coolest thing ever! I'd tried the piano and guitar before and for some reason had given up. Being offered the opportunity to play something so unusual

(and loud!) totally grabbed my attention, and in combination with my mother being Scottish it felt like the perfect instrumental fit. I never thought starting it would lead to all this travelling though!

**SC:** Travelling with a set pipes must have its own set of challenges in terms of transporting them and playing in a variety of weather conditions, whilst wearing a kilt in all sorts of weather must also at times be challenge. How do you manage these aspects on your trips?

**RJ:** Kilts are OK in cold weather, but not so great in the heat! I usually just grin and bear it (or grin a sweat through it!) and then after a while my body ends up adjusting to the climate! Travelling with bagpipes on board a plane also has its

difficulties too, which is why I usually give myself an extra 30 mins at the airport.

**SC:** I would imagine in some cultures seeing a guy in a kilt with bagpipes can cause some confusion and amazement. Have you been surprised by reactions and is there anywhere that those reactions stand out more than other places?

**RJ:** No matter where I've been, the kilt gets a fair amount of attention! The best reaction I've ever had being... "Are you a woman?!" The skirt seems to totally confuse people, and it's usually followed up with a "why are you such an ugly woman?!"

**SC:** Ross many say music bonds people from across the globe, however bagpipes more than many other instruments must



The Old Man of Storr, Skye.



Piping in Jaipur, India.



Making friends in Vietnam.

be a great way to break the ice with many regardless if you speak the same language. What has been the overall reaction people have had to hearing your tunes?

**RJ:** One thing that keeps me going are the experiences and reactions I have with people when I play the bagpipes. For some reason whenever I pipe, the bagpipes seem to open up this exchange where people feel more open with me and consequently I am more open with them. I'm yet to have a negative reaction to what I've actually been playing, but I'll be interested to see when or if that does happen!



Forbidden City, Beijing.

**SC:** Bagpipes are synonymous with Scotland, however many will know that various forms of bagpipes are in fact played around the world and the pipes are truly a global instrument. Have you found places where your pipes have in fact brought an instant connection and familiarity for people?

**SC:** For a variety of reasons travelling to certain parts of the world can be challenging, dangerous and quite complicated, have you encountered any negative travel situations yet? And where is next on your travels?

**RJ:** The Middle East has to be the one region where people love bagpipes the most! Tunisia, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait... piping in those countries couldn't have been better received and it made me feel a lot closer to people as a result.

**RJ:** I'm yet to come across any seriously challenging situations as a result of the bagpipes (touch wood!), but there have been some iffy travel scenarios along the way. Exactly a year ago I was arriving in Monrovia (Liberia) when a thunderstorm hit, I'd been told only 2 two pilots in the whole Air Morocco fleet were good enough to land in Monrovia so I wasn't exactly filled with confidence! A lightning bolt struck the runway as we were about to land and there was so much rain coming down that it was a surprise we were still in the air. Long story short, there were bags flying around followed by plenty of screaming, vomiting and crying. I'll say no more! Next destination is to Belgium, on the train!

**SC:** Ross have you found any of the traditional Scottish piping tunes you play are more popular or recognised by people around the world? And do you have a favourite piping tune to play in front of audiences?

**RJ:** There's a certain repertoire of tunes that people seem to know (and request!). I always get asked for *Amazing Grace*, *Highland Cathedral* and *Scotland the Brave*, so I wouldn't say they're at the top of my favourites list! There are some slow airs that I like, but I do prefer a Hornpipe or a Jig. *Chasing Shadows* is one tune I do particularly enjoy. I'm now trying to learn more well-known songs, but the scale of the pipes means it doesn't always sound too great!

**SC:** Congratulations for winning Flight Centre's 2017 Travel Blog Awards recently. People can follow your travels and photography on your web site and on social media. How important has this been for not only you documenting your goal but also to connect with people as you travel?



Piping in Kuwait.



In Sierra Leone, West Africa.

**RJ:** If it wasn't for social media I wouldn't be in the situation I'm in now. I'm sure I would've found other ways to carry out the journey; however, my online presence has helped with a lot of aspects from connecting with people to financing the trip.

**SC:** And finally Ross you have been visiting schools on your travels and mentoring kids, what message do you have for someone who looking to learn to play the pipes, regardless of age, and how would you say the pipes have impacted your life?

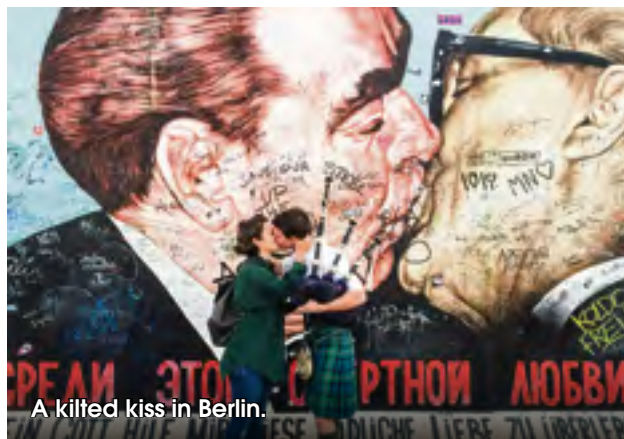


The dunes of Dubai.

**RJ:** It's easy to chuck out things like "you've got nothing to lose," or "you never know where the bagpipes will take you," but I've found that one of the most important things for me has been how I managed my time and prioritised things when learning the bagpipes. I was at school when I learned the pipes and had a lot on my plate, so adding more to the pot could have been stressful. I treated it as a release and it was the one thing I looked forward to doing. I loved (and

still love!) every aspect of the pipes, from its awkwardness to play to the squeaks and grunts it makes when they're not quite on form. How have they impacted my life?! Well I definitely wouldn't be doing this interview had I not learnt them!

**You can follow Ross OC Jennings-The First Piper across the world on social media or for more information see: [www.thefirstpiper.com](http://www.thefirstpiper.com)**



A killed kiss in Berlin.



Playing for the gods in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

IN SCOTLAND TODAY



# Queensferry Crossing to open August 30

Scotland's Economy Secretary Keith Brown has revealed the date the Queensferry Crossing will open to traffic and also details of an opportunity for the public to walk across the new bridge have been announced. On a visit to the Forth Replacement Crossing construction site, Mr Brown explained that the £1.35 billion bridge will open on August 30 and then close to allow the public to take part in a 'once in a lifetime' chance to walk over Scotland's newest icon on September 2 and 3.

The bridge will transition to a motorway once the final public transport links to the north of the Forth Road Bridge are completed. Mr Brown met with workers from both the FRC project and veterans of the construction of the Forth Road Bridge at the Queensferry Crossing and said: "It is fitting to be able to make this announcement alongside some of those who built the Forth Road Bridge and those who are building the Queensferry Crossing. What is being achieved on the Forth today, like what was achieved 53 years ago, is a testament to the expertise and the endeavour of those who have designed and built these bridges. I am very pleased to be able to confirm the Queensferry Crossing will open August 30, 2017. The bridge will be used by vehicles up to September 1, before closing to allow the public the chance to walk across it as part of the Queensferry Crossing Experience on September 2 and 3. This Queensferry Crossing Experience will allow for up to 50,000 people to have the once in a lifetime chance to walk across the Queensferry Crossing before it becomes a motorway with no pedestrian access."

Michael Martin, Project Director for the consortium building the Queensferry Crossing, Forth Crossing Bridge Constructors (FCBC) said: "The Queensferry Crossing is one of the

world's great bridges. It's the largest bridge of its type and its fast track design and construction has presented many challenges. The safety of our workforce, who have worked relentlessly through the hostile weather conditions in the Forth estuary to deliver the earliest completion of this project, has always been our number one priority and it will continue to be so as we move towards the completion of the project."

The Queensferry Crossing is said to be the longest three-tower, cable-stayed bridge in the world and the tallest in Britain. Construction of the bridge, which links the Lothians to Fife, has taken almost six years. It is intended to replace the Forth Road Bridge and will carry the M90 across the Forth.

## Canadian PM Trudeau receives honorary degree from the University of Edinburgh



Canadian PM Justin Trudeau and University of Edinburgh Principal Prof Sir Timothy O'Shea (image © Neil Hanna/University of Edinburgh).

The Prime Minister of Canada, The Rt Hon Justin Trudeau, has been awarded an honorary degree at the University of Edinburgh in July. Mr Trudeau received the degree of Doctor honoris causa at the newly-refurbished McEwan Hall prior to being received in audience by Her Majesty The Queen at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh. The award,

which was presented by University's Principal and Vice Chancellor, Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea, is in recognition of Mr Trudeau's achievements as a public servant with strong commitments to equality and diversity.

Mr Trudeau encouraged the graduating students to learn from their failures as well as their successes as they embarked on life after university. If something excites you a lot and scares you a little, you should probably do it, he told them. He urged the students to be bold, be brave, be open to the incredible opportunities in front of them, and to be the best versions of themselves. Prime Minister said; "It is a pleasure to be here today and to be invited to address you. It is an even greater pleasure to receive this honorary degree and a privilege to take to this stage."

To mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Confederation, the Prime Minister has been visiting Ireland and the UK in recognition of the strong family ties, history and common purpose that both countries share with Canada, including discussing his own Scottish background. Proposing Mr Trudeau for the award of the degree, the Director of the University's Centre of Canadian Studies, Dr James Kennedy, wished the Prime Minister a belated Happy Canada Day, and said "On 1<sup>st</sup> July, Canada celebrated 150 years of Confederation and, in light of the strong ties between Scotland and Canada, I can think of no better moment for the University of Edinburgh to honour the values that Canada embodies than by conferring this Honorary Doctorate on Mr Trudeau."

## Arctic explorer awarded posthumous Freedom of Orkney

Orkney Islands Council has awarded one of the islands most famous explorers the Freedom of Orkney, over 120 years after his death. Dr John Rae established the

final section of the north-west passage linking the Atlantic and Pacific oceans via the north of Canada, a route which has become known as the Rae Strait. John Rae was born at the Hall of Clestrain, Orphir, on 30th September 1813. Dr Rae who graduated from medicine at the University of Edinburgh and had strong links with Canada and worked there for the Hudson's Bay Company and got involved with mapping the arctic coast. He was buried in 1893 at Kirkwall's St Magnus Cathedral. Since 1948 the Freedom of Orkney has only been awarded 10 times.

## Plans to create a new garden at the Palace of Holyroodhouse announced



An artist's impression of the new physic garden at the Palace of Holyroodhouse. © J & L Gibbons.

The Royal Collection Trust has announced plans to create a new public garden at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, inspired by the 17<sup>th</sup>-century physic garden that was once within the Palace grounds. The original garden, created to teach students about the medicinal properties of plants and to provide pharmacists with fresh materials, was the first of its kind in Scotland and the second botanic garden to be established in Britain. The origins of today's Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh can be traced back to this historic Palace garden.

The new physic garden will be planted year-round with plants that would have been grown in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Alongside the reimagined physic garden will be a flowering meadow, evoking the 15<sup>th</sup>-century monastic garden of Holyrood Abbey, the Palace's first recorded garden.

The garden will be created behind the Abbey Strand buildings, which by the end of 2018 will house a new Learning Centre. At the same time, the Palace's Forecourt will be opened up to the public. Each of these projects is part of Future Programme, the £37-million investment by Royal Collection Trust to transform the experience of visiting the Palace of Holyroodhouse and Windsor Castle.

Jonathan Marsden, Director, Royal Collection Trust, said, "The return of scientific gardening to the place of its birth in Scotland will provide a new focus of interest for visitors to the Palace, for the local community, and especially, we hope, for young people. It will be a further addition to the Palace's spectacular setting within the natural landscape of Holyrood Park and Arthur's Seat beyond. It forms an important part of our plans to make more of the Palace's surroundings and will provide a family friendly space just moments from the Royal Mile."



By: Nick Drainey



# Fringe First-Scottish soldiers deployed to the stage



The cast of 5 Soldiers.

**Audiences may be used to seeing Scottish soldiers performing in Edinburgh each August at the world famous Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, however this month soldiers will also be making their debut at Edinburgh's Fringe Festival. Festival goers will enjoy a cutting-edge performance programme sparking conversations about what the Army is and what it stands for in 21st Century society, performed by real soldiers telling a thrilling and humane portrait of army life as Nick Drainey explains.**

The Army is waging a campaign to win the love of the public. Uniformed personnel are going into workplaces and communities to champion what they do, on and off the battlefield. And this summer a huge Army presence is planned at Edinburgh's Fringe Festival, far removed from the formal style of the annual Military Tattoo. Army@TheFringe is being run with Summerhall, in a real drill hall at the Hepburn House Army Reserve Centre - the Army's first ever Fringe venue. It will present drama, dance and other performances confronting issues including race and gender in the civilian world as well as ones focused on military life past and present.

## Bust some of the myths

Lt Col Gordon Mackenzie of the 51<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade said the new approach was separate from the recruitment campaigns which have been running for years. The Head of Engagement for the Army in Scotland said: "My job is not to get people to sign up to join the Army, it is often about explaining why taxpayers money is spent on the Army, what it is we do and maybe bust some of the myths that



Duncan Anderson.

exist about what we are. In general, I think the Army is held in quite high regard but it is not generally understood in any depth. "I am in my 50s and in my generation the Army was something people had been in; uncles and dads had done National Service but that doesn't happen anymore and people might not know anyone these days (who has been in the Army) so they don't have that level of connection and understanding. "People think of those old movies and the idea of doing drill marching up and down the square - they saw lots of Ross

**Army@TheFringe is being run with Summerhall, in a real drill hall at the Hepburn House Army Reserve Centre - the Army's first ever Fringe venue.**

Kemp videos and lots of things on the news during the days of Afghanistan and Iraq but it has all died off since then. So, people don't have any real understanding other than ceremonial moments when you don't learn much about our soldiers and our people. You just see models decorating the set, all look very smart and efficient at Trooping the Colour and things like that but you don't get any feeling for us as people."

## Diversity and inclusion

Lt Col Mackenzie said he and his colleagues work with councils, the Scottish Government and Scottish Parliament as well as youth organisations and employers. He added: "We also have a diversity and inclusion agenda, so we are trying to communicate to groups such as the LGBT

community, ethnic minorities, even just women because we don't have enough women who feel the Army is something to be interested in.

"We do quite a lot of stuff in schools as well but it is not to do with talking about the Army, it is to do with supporting the education programme. We have some programmes based around vaguely military ideas like the ballistics of a helmet so a teacher can ask us to come in and just help add a bit of colour by having someone different talking about things in a different way."

## First Fringe venue

Because the military is often seen as stuffy and remote, new ways of attracting attention have been found including the Army's first Fringe venue. Army@TheFringe shows will take place from 11 to 26 August at the Hepburn House Army Reserve Centre, in East Claremont Street, which will be transformed into a temporary performance space staffed by serving soldiers. A total of six shows are planned with four being performed each day. Lt Col Mackenzie said: "We don't make it necessarily very easy to engage with because we wear strange uniforms which people can find intimidating, we sometimes speak in a military-techno language that doesn't lend itself to communication and of course we work and live in places surrounded by barbed wire fences with guards at the gate.

"The Fringe is about reaching out beyond the wire. It is about inviting people



Fringe ready Lt Col Gordon Mackenzie.

into our home and create this discussion and curiosity of what we are about.

"We tend as an Army to do things in a traditional way and that doesn't necessarily resonate with the audiences we want to reach out to. We have the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo and, tourists apart, a lot of people are converted or interested by the time they turn up. But what we are trying to do with arts engagement is reach out to audiences that wouldn't normally think about coming to something that looks like an Army event.

"The communication is being done by the artists and whether we agree with it or not it creates a vehicle for discussion. Another part of it is that in this world of media and social media a lot of communication is about narratives and images and the arts creates fantastic narratives and images - the dancers, the storylines."

**For details on Army@The Fringe see: [www.armyathethefringe.org](http://www.armyathethefringe.org)**

## 5 Soldiers: The Body is the Frontline

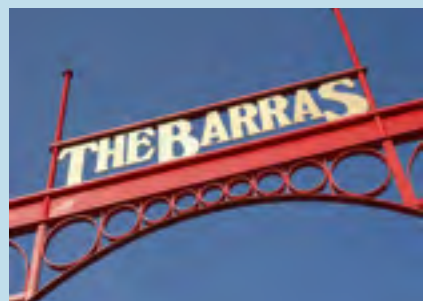


Professional dancer Duncan Anderson stars in the acclaimed, *5 Soldiers: The Body is the Frontline*, which is making its first appearance on the Fringe this summer as part of the Army@TheFringe venue. Rosie Kay Dance Company's production provides a portrait of Army life, telling the stories of five men and women serving on the frontline. Mr Anderson, from Falkirk, said: "I am the lowest rank, a standard trooper. I love playing that rank; I am a victim and there is a point where I crack up. It is important because I think a lot of people think soldiers go into warfare like machines but they are human beings. So, I hope we show the physical and emotional pressure the soldiers go through."

He added: "There is a lot of waiting around and then a short burst of action.

You would want to get on and do it and not sit around thinking about what you are going to go through - I think they use a lot of banter and humour to take their minds off it." The dancer and his co-performers spent three days on combat exercise with The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards in the Galloway Forest this spring. They underwent training which showed what it is like to be out on patrol in enemy territory, be part of an ambush, deal with a roadside bomb blast and undergo an artillery bombardment. They also witnessed a live fire exercise involving heavy machine guns and grenades. Mr Anderson said: "It was amazing to step into this world that not many people see, it was the best research I have ever done for a show."

## Revamp for iconic Glasgow Barras



A £1.5 million renovation of Glasgow's Barras market has been approved by Glasgow City Council. The initiative will seek to attract new retail and business premises and make the iconic East End location a cultural hub for the arts and restaurants. A council representative said: "The Barras is a legendary part of Glasgow's landscape. Our plans involve improving transport links, making the general environment as welcoming and sustainable as possible and enhancing connections with the local community. The Barras is a fantastic asset for Glasgow and we want to make the most of it for the local community and the city as a whole." The revamp of the area, which is part of Glasgow's £1 billion City Deal, which will also look to attract creative industries will take place from September and is expected to be completed by March, 2018.

# Masts go up on Discovery

The historic *Royal Research Ship (RRS) Discovery*, now a major visitor attraction in Dundee, has been showing off her newly refurbished look in time for the summer. The ship that carried Captain Robert Falcon Scott and crew to the Antarctic, built in Dundee, has been undergoing vital restoration work since late last year, when rigging and masts were removed and transported to a specialist shipbuilder in Gloucester. The same company, T. Nielsen who are experts in the conservation and preservation of historical ships, spent the three weeks reassembling the ship in time for summer visitors.

Admission includes entry to the *RRS Discovery* exhibition, which tells the story of the building of the ship in Dundee through to Captain Scott and his crew's gruelling expedition to the Antarctic. The stories are told through hands-on interactive and computer-based displays, an audio-visual show, and artefacts from the ship. Visitors can also do a virtual tour of the ship thanks to an interactive augmented reality exhibit, using Xbox controllers, developed by St. Andrews University.

*RRS Discovery's* repair programme was funded partly by a crowdfunding campaign, which raised more than £40,000 and was fronted by TV presenter Lorraine Kelly. Dundee Heritage Trust, which operates the popular visitor attraction, is still seeking donations towards the overall £350,000 cost of renovating the ship. Paul

Jennings, executive director of Dundee Heritage Trust, said: "The restoration work to the masts and rigging went very smoothly down in Gloucester and we're excited, as I'm sure the public is, to see *Discovery* in all her masted glory again."

### National Antarctic Expedition

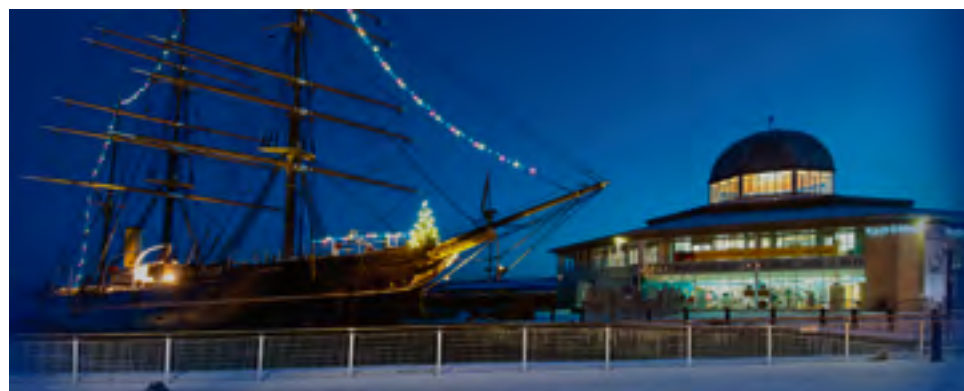
On 16 March 1900, construction began in Dundee of the last wooden three-masted ship to be built in the British Isles – *RRS Discovery*. Launched into the Firth of Tay a year later, *Discovery* was designed for Antarctic research, and her first mission was to carry Robert Falcon Scott and Ernest Shackleton, key figures in the "Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration", on their initial, remarkably successful journey to the Antarctic, otherwise known as the National Antarctic Expedition.

Five months after setting sail, *Discovery* sighted the Antarctic coastline, which

Scott charted for the next month. The crew weighed anchor in McMurdo Sound where the ship remained, locked in ice, for the next two years. Despite this setback the expedition successfully determined that Antarctica was indeed a continent and relocated the Southern Magnetic Pole (which moves north west by about 10 to 15 kilometres per year). *Discovery* arrived back in Britain in 1904, and spent the next 82 years touring the world in various roles, including charting the migration patterns of whale stocks, carrying munitions to Russia, and acting as the headquarters of the 16<sup>th</sup> Stepney Sea Scouts.

In 1986 *Discovery* returned to the City of Dundee where she was built, and has since become the centrepiece of the Discovery Point visitor centre, berthed in her own custom-built dock.

For more information visit [www.rrsdiscovery.com](http://www.rrsdiscovery.com)



## Piping At Forres - The European Pipe Band Championships



Inverary & District, 2017 European Pipe Band Champions.

Inverary & District have been crowned European Champions at Piping At Forres for the second time. More than 100 bands took part in the European Pipe Band Championship held in Forres in Moray. The event now in its fifth year was attended by thousands of



pipers, drummers and visitors from all over the world. Organised by Forres Event Limited, Piping At Forres is sponsored by Benromach Speyside Single Malt Scotch Whisky and supported by EventScotland, part of VisitScotland's Events Directorate and is part of Scotland's Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology 2017.

### World class piping

George Ussher, president of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association said: "It's been an absolutely fabulous day, people are really enjoying themselves. The amount of families that we have seen is fantastic and this introduces new people to piping which in essence is what the day is all about."

Taking the honour of being Chieftain for the day was Moray man, the Major General Seymour Monro, a fitting appointment as he is the President of the Forres and

District Pipe Band and has been a Deputy Lieutenant of Moray since 2011. The Major General said: "It has gone terrifically well. Supremely well-organised. The bands have played fantastically. As far as I am concerned there is not a better pipe band championships anywhere in the world."

The Piping At Forres event not only includes world class piping, Highland dancing but also has a food and drink village, a craft and retail village, bars and family attractions such as funfairs. Visitors can even try their hand at the pipes and drum themselves. Also featured is the World Tattie Scone Championship run by the Oakwood Cookery School and this year's winner was Christine De Agostini of Rafford who is now the World Tattie Scone Champion. New to Piping At Forres this year was the AES Solar Science Tent and "Have A Go Row" which provided visitors with numerous interactive

activities such as practising your puff on the pipes and controlling a Mars Rover remote control vehicle.

**Piping At Forres, the European Pipe Band Championships, will return to Grant Park, Forres on 30 June 2018, for further details see: [www.pipingatforres.com](http://www.pipingatforres.com)**



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# THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

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

**1** - Death of Queen Anne; George I, Elector of Hanover becomes king. **1714**

**1** - Proscription Act introduced, banning tartan and the carrying of weapons. The penalty for a first offence was six months in jail and a second offence resulted in transportation for seven years. **1747**



**1** - University of Dundee which was incorporated into the University of St Andrews in 1890, constituted as a separate university. **1967**

**2** - Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, died in Nova Scotia. Although he is best known for this invention Bell was also well known for his work on deafness. **1922**

**3** - Sir William Kirkcaldy of Grange executed, after defending Edinburgh Castle on behalf of Mary Queen of Scots from May 1568 to May 1573. **1573**

**3** - King James II killed by an exploding cannon at the siege of Roxburgh Castle. **1460**

**3** - William Wallace betrayed and handed over to the English. **1305**



**3** - The 2014 Commonwealth Games (officially the XX Commonwealth Games) closing ceremony took place in Glasgow, Scotland. **2014**

**4** - Birth of the entertainer Sir Harry Lauder. His hits included *Roamin' in the Gloamin'* and *Keep Right on to the End of the Road*. Lauder died in 1950 at the age of 79. **1870**

**4** - Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, the future Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, born. **1900**

**5** - James, Earl Douglas, died out of sight of his army, in a bush, at Battle of Otterburn in which Scots defeat Henry Percy, (Hotspur) but with the loss of the Earl of Douglas. **1388**

**5** - The Scottish Parliament established a General Post Office. **1695**

**6** - First Glasgow/Edinburgh coach service began from White Horse Inn, Edinburgh. **1678**

**6** - Donald Alexander Smith - later Lord Strathcona - born in Forres. A pioneer of the Hudson Bay Company in the North-West, he later championed the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway across Canada and drove the last spike at Craigellachie, British Columbia. **1820**

**6** - Birth of Sir Alexander Fleming, discoverer of penicillin. **1881**

**7** - Lord Kitchener, the war minister, began a mass recruiting campaign, three days after Britain declared war on Germany. By the war's end a total of 147,609 Scots had been killed, a fifth of Britain's dead from a country that made up only 10% of its population. **1914**

**8** - Former World flyweight boxing champion Benny Lynch died. **1946**

**8** - King Edward I removed to England the Stone of Destiny on which generations of Scottish kings had been crowned. **1296**

**8** - King James IV married Margaret Tudor, daughter of King Henry VII of England. The marriage was known as the Union of the Thistle and the Rose. **1503**

**9** - Civil engineer Thomas Telford born in Dumfries. **1757**



**9** - Prestwick Airport in Ayrshire opened after David McIntyre set up Scottish Aviation Ltd. Aircraft had been flying from the area since 1913. **1935**

**10** - King James III crowned at Kelso Abbey. **1460**

**10** - Education (Scotland) Act passed, providing elementary education for all children. **1872**



**10** - Perth Museum and Art Gallery opened by the Duke and Duchess of York. **1935**

**11** - Andrew Carnegie, the Dunfermline-born steel industrialist and philanthropist, died. Throughout his later life Carnegie established a number of foundations for education and research such as the Carnegie Foundation and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. **1919**

**12** - Popular character actor Fulton McKay was born in Paisley. **1922**



**12** - Roy Williamson, the Scottish folk musician and songwriter, died. Williamson was one of the famous duo, The Corries, along with Ronnie Browne. **1990**

**13** - Explorer Alexander Gordon Laing became the first Christian to reach Timbuctu, Africa. **1826**

**13** - Birth of John Logie Baird, developer of television. **1888**

**13** - Scotland's first nuclear power station at Dounreay went "critical" ushering in the generation of power from atomic reactions. **1957**

**14** - King Duncan I killed in battle at Pitgavney by Macbeth. **1040**

**14** - King Robert III born at Scone. **1337**

**14** - King Robert III crowned at the Augustinian abbey of Scone. **1390**

**14** - University of Strathclyde was constituted in Glasgow, based on the Royal College of Science and Technology. **1964**

**15** - Macbeth killed in battle by Malcolm at Lumphanan. **1057**

**15** - Novelist and poet Sir Walter Scott born. Synonymous with the Scottish Borders Scott wrote classics such as *Waverley* and *The Bride of Lamermoor*. **1771**

**15** - Foundation stone for the Monument to Sir Walter Scott laid in Princes Street Gardens. **1840**

**16** - Birth of Carolina Oliphant (Lady Nairne), poet and author of many Jacobite songs, including *Charlie is my Darling*. Her songs are second only in popularity to Burns. **1766**

**17** - The see of St Andrews became an archbishopric by a bull of Pope Sixtus IV. **1472**

**17** - Visit of George IV to Edinburgh began, orchestrated by Sir Walter Scott. **1822**

**17** - First Edinburgh International Festival opened. **1947**



**18** - The Tay Road Bridge opened. The Tay Road Bridge carries the A92 road across the Firth of Tay from Newport-on-Tay in Fife to Dundee. **1966**

**18** - Arthur Elphinstone, Lord Balmerino, the Jacobite noble, was executed. Balmerino was captured along with Lord Kilmarnock after the Battle of Culloden and the pair were tried for treason in London and beheaded in the Tower of London. **1746**

**19** - Mary Queen of Scots lands at Leith on her return from France, after the death of her husband, King Francis II. **1561**

**19** - Charles Edward Stuart, raises his standard at Glenfinnan, at the start of the '45 uprising. **1745**

**19** - Scottish aviator Jim Mollinson landed after the first East/West solo flight of the Atlantic from Portmarnock, Ireland to Pennfield, New Brunswick. **1932**

**20** - Ronald Ross, the first Scot to win a Nobel prize (in 1902) dissected a mosquito and established the link with malaria. **1897**

**21** - Battle of Dunkeld when the newly formed Cameronians defended the town against 3,000 Highlanders. **1689**

**21** - Birth of William Murdoch who pioneered the use of coal-gas lighting in 1792 in partnership with James Watt and Mathew Boulton. **1754**

**21** - Birth of Donald Dewar, former Secretary of State for Scotland and First Minister in the new Scottish Parliament. **1937**

**22** - Battle of the Standard at Northallerton in which King David I was defeated by the English. **1138**

**22** - Devorgilla, Countess of Galloway founded Balliol College, Oxford. She was mother of John Balliol (who acceded to the Scottish throne in 1292). **1282**

**22** - King Charles I raised his standard at Nottingham, initiating a Civil War in England between the Royalists (also known as Cavaliers) and Parliament (Roundheads). **1642**

**22** - *Beyond the Fringe*, an influential satirical revue, opened in Edinburgh. **1960**

**23** - 1305 Sir William Wallace was executed in London. Wallace was captured after being betrayed by Sir John de Menteith and was transported to London. King Edward I had devised a new method of execution for one of his arch-enemies, and Wallace became the first person to endure the agonies of being hanged, drawn and quartered. **1305**

**24** - Berwick on Tweed finally ceded to England (Edward IV) after changing hands 12 times. **1482**

**24** - The first Edinburgh International Festival of Music and Drama opened. The festival was inspired by the arts festivals organised in Salzburg before the Second World War, but has grown to become the largest event of its kind in the world. It has also spawned a book festival, film festival and the festival fringe. The festival was also responsible for the creation of Scottish Opera and forced a greater amount of funding from the Arts Council to be given to Scotland. **1947**

**25** - James Watt, developer of steam power, died. **1819**



**25** - Actor Sir Sean Connery born. Connery famously went from an Edinburgh milk man to global movie superstar. **1930**

**26** - Novelist and statesman John Buchan born in Perth. **1875**

**26** - The Donibristle Mining Disaster occurred in the Fife coalfield. The disaster occurred when part of Mossmorran peat bog near Cowdenbeath collapsed on sixteen miners 360 feet underground. Four miners were lost, as was a four-strong rescue party. All the bodies were eventually recovered but some remained underground until the December of that year. **1901**

**27** - First balloon ascent in Britain by James Tytler, Edinburgh. **1784**

**27** - James Thomson, the Scottish poet, died. Thomson's most famous works include the anthem, *Rule Britannia*. **1748**

**28** - Edward I of England held a parliament at Berwick to which he summoned all Scottish landholders to sign the Ragman Roll. **1296**

**28** - The Battle of Newburn on Tyne. The battle was fought between Leslie's veteran Scottish army and a hastily assembled English force. The Scots had invaded northern England in response to the attempts of Charles I to impose an Anglican prayer book upon Scotland. **1640**



**29** - The population of St Kilda were evacuated from the island. The island was evacuated on economic grounds at the islanders own request as the population had dwindled from 73 in 1920 to only 37 in 1928. The island had been populated since Bronze Age times, but from the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, the islanders had begun to lose their means of self-sufficiency and the fate of the resident population was sealed. The island was sold to the Marquess of Bute, a keen ornithologist, who bequeathed it to the National Trust for Scotland in 1957. **1930**

**30** - Birth of golf course designer Dr Alister Mackenzie; he was responsible for Augusta National and Cypress Point, among others. **1870**

**30** - Liz McColgan won the World Athletics Championship 10,000 metres in Tokyo by a margin of 20 seconds. **1991**



**31** - The first Edinburgh Film Festival opened. The festival was officially opened on this date by the Lord Provost at the Playhouse Cinema. The festival was originally known as the International Festival of Documentary, but has now grown to become recognised as one of the great worldwide film festivals. **1946**







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Commissioner: Heather de Sylva

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E: heatherdesylva@bigpond.com  
W: clanscottaustaliagroup.moonfruit.com


**Scottish Associations and Societies**



**The Scottish Australian Heritage Council**

Founded at a meeting held in Sydney 18 June 1981  
Welcomes membership from all Australians of Scottish descent.

Applications for membership can be obtained from:  
The Hon Secretary, SAHC  
Susan Cooke tel: 02 6255 6117  
Email: alfredhcooke@gmail.com  
www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au



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In Canada contact: William J.M. Murray  
1001 Cordero Crescent  
Campbell River, BC V9H 0C3

In the U.S. contact: Kathy Wolf  
11186 Coal Ridge St.  
Firestone, CO 80504-5789



**Clan Shaw Society**

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Mike Shaw  
Secretary  
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For further info contact  
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Secretary: Liane Sinclair (03) 9348 2663

E: clansinclairaustralia@hotmail.com



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www.clanpringle.org.uk

William L. Pringle, III  
e-mail: williampringle3@gmail.com  
Clan Pringle Assoc. (North America)  
6538 140th Ave., Holland, MI 49423



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William L. Pringle, III  
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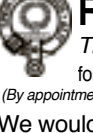
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Balmoral Highland Dancing Society	Geelong Scottish Dance
Begonia City Highland Dancing Society	Glenbrae Celtic Dancers
Brunswick Scottish Society	Horsham & District Highland Dancing Club
Clan Cameron	Kilmore Celtic Festival
Clan Donald Victoria	Maryborough Highland Society
Clan Grant	Mornington Peninsula Caledonian Society
Clan Lamont Australia	Scottish Country Dance Victoria Society
Clan Macdonald Yarraville Inc	St Andrews First Aid
Clan Mackenzie of Australia	The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne
Clan Maclean Australia	The Royal Caledonian Society
Clan Sinclair Association	Warrambool & District Caledonian Society
Glenmaggie Scottish Folk Festival	Warrambool Caledonian Highland Dancing Society


Jan Macdonald: Secretary  
Victorian Scottish Union  
T: 03 9360 9829 M: 0438 584 930  
E: secretary@victorianscottishunion.com  
www.victorianscottishunion.com



**Ross Clan in Australia**

The clan is active again in Australia for information contact Commander Des Ross (By appointment David Ross Bt Chief of Clan Ross and Bahagowan)

We would be pleased to hear from anyone with Ross Clan heritage and interest  
contact Commander Des Ross at lonepiper.ross@gmail.com



**Clan Sutherland Society of Australia**

The Society welcomes membership of all bearers of the Sutherland name and any of their septs- (Cheyne, Duffus, Frederith, Mowat (or any variation of the spelling).

Marie Hodgkinson  
212 MacKenzie Street  
Toowoomba, 4350  
Queensland, Australia  
e-mail: william.hodgkinson@bigpond.com.au  
http://goldenvale.wix.com/clansutherlandaus



**CLAN ROSS AMERICA**  
ASSOCIATION AND FOUNDATION MERGED

Many Names - One Clan

Liz Ross, President  
Robert Aumiller, Membership Secretary  
caamembership@abcglobal.net  
PO Box 6341  
River Forest, IL 60305  
www.clanross.org

# SCOTTISH BANNER EVENTS

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

### AUGUST 2017

**4 - 5 Maxville, ON - The Glengarry Highland Games**  
One of Canada's top Scottish events which includes the North American Pipe Band Championships, the largest massed pipe bands in North America, and much more. Info: 1-888-298-1666 or [www.glengarryhighlandgames.com](http://www.glengarryhighlandgames.com).

**5 - 6 Eldon, PEI - PEI Highland Games & Scottish Festival**  
Presented by the Caledonian Club of PEI at the Lord Selkirk Campgrounds with highland dancing, athletics, and pipe bands. Info: [www.caledonianclubofpei.ca](http://www.caledonianclubofpei.ca)

**6 Montreal, QC - Montreal Highland Games**  
Montrealers celebrate Highland games, music and culture at Parc Arthur-Therrien in Montreal's borough of Verdun. Info: 514-842-2030 or [www.montrealhighlandgames.qc.ca](http://www.montrealhighlandgames.qc.ca).

**10 - 12 Guelph, ON - 2017 Scottish North American Leadership Conference**  
Pulling together the Scots diaspora from both Canada and the US to look at What the Relevance of Scottish History and Heritage is to the Future Generations at the University of Guelph. Info: [www.cassoc.ca](http://www.cassoc.ca).

**10 - 13 Guelph, ON - Clan MacFarlane Worldwide AGM**  
Celebrate with us in Guelph and Fergus throughout a 4 day weekend of MacFarlane Clan activities including the Fergus Scottish Festival and a Ceilidh with dinner buffet and live Celtic entertainment at the Holiday Inn in Guelph. Info: Barb Duff [barbbduff@gmail.com](mailto:barbbduff@gmail.com) or [www.facebook.com/groups/clanmacfarlaneworldwideinc](https://www.facebook.com/groups/clanmacfarlaneworldwideinc)

**11 - 13 Fergus, ON - Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games**  
Scotland comes to Fergus with highland dance, Clans, pipe bands and much more. Info: 1 866-871-9442 or [www.fergusscottishfestival.com](http://www.fergusscottishfestival.com).

**11 - 13 Goderich, ON - The Goderich Celtic Festival**  
An annual celebration of the music, craft, and culture of the Celtic nations. Info: 519-524-8221 or [www.celticfestival.ca](http://www.celticfestival.ca).

**14 - 18 Wolfville, NS - Scotch on the Rocks Scottish Country Dance Week**  
Scottish Country dance week, consisting of: Four ½ day classes at Intermediate-Advanced level, a Scottish ceilidh & a dance with live music. Info: Duncan Keppie 902-542-5320 or [keppie@eastlink.ca](mailto:keppie@eastlink.ca).

**24 - Toronto, ON - Dance Dufferin Grove**  
All are welcome to this eighth annual Dance Dufferin Grove Scottish country dance outreach event. It's a great night to attract new dancers and to spend time in one of Toronto's most community-oriented and busiest downtown parks. Info: [www.dancescottish.ca](http://www.dancescottish.ca)

**26 Montreal, QC - SAS Golf Tournament**  
Every year the St Andrew's Society hosts a golf tournament. Grab your kilt or your tartan trews for 9 holes of golf at Caughnawaga Golf Course, followed by a delicious meal in the clubhouse. Info: [www.standrews.qc.ca](http://www.standrews.qc.ca)

### SEPTEMBER 2017

**2 - 3 Canmore, AB - Canmore Highland Games**  
Celebrate Scotland the shadow of the Rocky Mountains. Info: 403-678-9454 or [www.canmorehighlandgames.ca](http://www.canmorehighlandgames.ca).

**2 Calgary, AB - Calgary Highland Games**  
One of the oldest gatherings in North America at Springbank Park for All Seasons. Info: [www.calgaryhighlandgames.org](http://www.calgaryhighlandgames.org)

**9 - 10 Trenton, ON - Trenton Scottish Irish Festival**  
Promoting and celebrating Celtic culture and heritage at Centennial Park. Info: [www.trentonscottishirish.com](http://www.trentonscottishirish.com)

**9 Toronto, ON - The Gaelic Society of Toronto Whisky Tasting Dinner & Fundraiser**  
Gaelic-related event with Comunn Gàidhlig Toronto/ The Gaelic Society of Toronto. Info: [www.gaelicsocietytoronto.com](http://www.gaelicsocietytoronto.com)

**16 Orillia, ON - Gaelic Society of Toronto Picnic in Orillia**  
Pack a lunch and join us for some fun activities and camaraderie at Couchiching Beach Park, 140 Canice St. Info: [www.gaelicsocietytoronto.com](http://www.gaelicsocietytoronto.com)

**2 Vancouver, BC - West End Fall Frolic**  
The West End Scottish Country Dance Club welcomes everyone to the seventh annual Fall Frolic. Start the new season dancing old and new favourites to live music. Info: [www.rscdsvancouver.org](http://www.rscdsvancouver.org)

**13- Windsor, ON- RSCDS Windsor Open House**  
Meet the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Windsor Branch at 7:30 p.m. in Mackenzie Hall, 3277 Sandwich Street West. Info: [www.rscdswindsor.org](http://www.rscdswindsor.org)

**30- Toronto, ON- Culture Days Drop-in Ceilidh**  
This is part of a cross-Canada celebration of different cultures. Free event and dance easy lots of fun ceilidh dances. This is a great way to experience a taste of Scottish social dance at Eastminster United Church, 310 Danforth Ave. Info: [www.dancescottish.ca](http://www.dancescottish.ca)

**30- Montréal, QC- RSCDS Montreal Branch Workshop & Tea Dance**  
The Montréal Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society social at Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul 3415 Redpath. Info: [www.scdmontreal.org.weebly.com](http://www.scdmontreal.org.weebly.com)

## USA

### AUGUST 2017

**4 - 6 Snowmass Village, CO - Colorado Scottish Festival**  
The only free Scottish Festival in Colorado sponsored by the St. Andrew Society of Colorado & Snowmass Village. Info: [www.scottishgames.org](http://www.scottishgames.org).

**5 Livonia, MI - St. Andrew's Society of Detroit Highland Games**  
A great day of Scottish celebration at Greenmead Historical Park 20501 Newburgh Rd. Info: 248 526-1849 or [www.highlandgames.com](http://www.highlandgames.com).

**6 - 11 Wilmington, NC - 2017 Clan Macleod AGM**  
Clan MacLeod events presented by Clan Macleod USA. Info: [www.clanmacleodusa.org](http://www.clanmacleodusa.org)

**11 - 12 Sparta, MI - Sparta Celtic Fest**  
A Celtic celebration with tons of music, food, beverages, crafts and fun for all ages. Info: [www.spartacelticfest.org](http://www.spartacelticfest.org)

**12 Liverpool, NY - Central New York Scottish Games & Festival**  
Celebrate Scotland at Long Branch Park, Onondaga County. Info: [www.cnysscottishgames.org](http://www.cnysscottishgames.org)

**17 Sarasota, FL - The Caledonian Club of Southwest Florida Social**  
Casual Scottish get-together for food & drinks, no reports, just chats. Membership not required at Meadows Village Pub, 5013 Ringwood Meadow. Info: Shona Burtner (941) 925-0462 or [skburtner@hotmail.com](mailto:skburtner@hotmail.com)

**19 - 20 Amherst, NY - Buffalo Niagara Scottish Festival**  
A weekend of Scottish celebration and entertainment at Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village, 3755 Tonawanda Creek Rd. Info: 716-689-1440 or [www.bnvh.org/scottish](http://www.bnvh.org/scottish)

**19 - 20 Hamilton, MT - Bitterroot Celtic Games & Gathering**  
Celebrate Celtic culture at Daly Mansion, 251 Eastside Hwy. Info: [www.bccg.org](http://www.bccg.org)

**19 - 20 Winston, OR - Celtic Highland Games & Clan Gathering**  
Presented by the Douglas County Celtic Society at Riverbend Park. Info: [www.dccelts.org](http://www.dccelts.org)

**19 Brunswick, ME - Maine Highland Games and Scottish Festival**  
Full day of Scottish events and fun at Topsham Fairgrounds. Info: [www.mainehighlandgames.org](http://www.mainehighlandgames.org).

**25 - Sep 2 Boulder Creek, CA - The Valley of the Moon Scottish Fiddling School**  
A week of intensive study, recreation, and good times with people who share an interest in the music and dance traditions of Scotland and beyond. Info: [www.valleyofthemoon.org](http://www.valleyofthemoon.org)

### SEPTEMBER 2017

**1 - 3 Waukesha, WI - The Wisconsin Highland Games**  
Celtic fun for the entire family at Waukesha Expo Center. Info: [www.wisconsinscottish.org](http://www.wisconsinscottish.org)

**2 - 3 Altamont, NY - Capital District Scottish Games**  
Scottish events, entertainment and more at Altamont Fair Grounds, 129 Grand St. Info: [www.scotgames.com](http://www.scotgames.com)

**2 - 3 Pleasanton, CA - The 152nd Scottish Highland Gathering and Games**  
Celebrate Scottish culture, cuisine, competition and entertainment at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, presented by The Caledonian Club of San Francisco. Info: [www.thescottishgames.com](http://www.thescottishgames.com)

**5 - 10 Estes Park, CO - Clan MacRae Family Gathering**  
Presented by the Clan MacRae Society of North America with a variety of activities and events for Clan members. Info: Judy McRae [judym-crae@aol.com](mailto:judym-crae@aol.com).

**7 - 10 Estes Park, CO - Longs Peak Scottish-Irish Highland Festival**  
Immerse yourself in Celtic culture at the highland festival in Estes Park. Info: (800) 90ESTES, 970-586-6308 or [www.scotfest.com](http://www.scotfest.com)

**7 - 10 Edinboro, PA - Edinboro Highland Games & Scottish Festival**  
Featuring music, dance, athletics, art, food, and family gatherings at Edinboro University. Info: 888-8GO-BORO or [www.edinboro.edu/events/highland-games](http://www.edinboro.edu/events/highland-games)

**9 - 10 Columbus, IN - Columbus Scottish Festival**  
A full weekend of Scottish fun at Bartholomew County Fairgrounds. Info: [www.scottishfestival.org](http://www.scottishfestival.org).

**9 Hermitage, TN - Middle Tennessee Highland Games 2017**  
In the heart of Music City Nashville focusing on the Highland athlete and to honor its growing amateur competitions. Also an outstanding musical talent from the area providing entertainment throughout along with a great Clan experience often described as a big family reunion at The Hermitage, 4580 Rachel's Lane. Info: [www.midtenngames.com](http://www.midtenngames.com)

**9 North Riverside, IL - Scottish American History Forum**  
At the Scottish Home (Heritage Hall) 2800 Des Plaines Ave. Open to the public and free to attend. Info: 708 447 5092.

**15 - 17 Lincoln, NH - New Hampshire Highland Games & Festival**  
A celebration of Scottish heritage at Loon Mountain Resort, 60 Loon Mountain Rd. Info: 1-800-358-7268 or [www.nhscot.org](http://www.nhscot.org).

**16 - 17 Olcott, NY - 17th Niagara Celtic Festival**  
Celebrating the best in music, food, culture and fun at Krull Park, 6108 Lake Rd. Info: 716 778 5730 or [www.niagaraceltic.com](http://www.niagaraceltic.com)

**16 Fresno, CA - Fresno Scottish Gathering and Games**  
Celebrating 40 years of Scotland at Kearney Park, presented by the Fresno Scottish Society. Info: [www.fresnoscottishsociety.org](http://www.fresnoscottishsociety.org)

**22 - 24 Bethlehem, PA - Celtic Classic Highland Games and Festival**  
Celebrate Celtic culture in historic Bethlehem at 532 Main St. Info: 610-868-9599 or [www.celticfest.org](http://www.celticfest.org)

**22 Ligonier, PA - First Annual ACGA Fèis**  
At the Antiochian Village and will include presentations on Gaelic tradition, song and instrument workshops. Info: [www.gaelicusa.org](http://www.gaelicusa.org)

**30 Dixon, CA - Dixon Scottish Highland Games**  
Celebrate Scotland at Dixon Fairgrounds, 655 South First St. Info: [www.scotsindixon.org](http://www.scotsindixon.org)

## SCOTLAND

### AUGUST 2017

**1 Killin, Perthshire - Clan Macnab International Gathering**  
Clan Macnab members from across the world unite at the Killin Highland Games. Info: [www.clan-macnab.com](http://www.clan-macnab.com)

**3 - 8 Aberdeen - Clan Hay Tartan Ties**  
Delve into the history of the Scottish people and their way of life at Tartan Ties, organised by Clan Hay. Info: [www.clanhay.org](http://www.clanhay.org)

**4 - 26 Edinburgh - The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo**  
The greatest show on earth with pipe bands, military displays and hundreds of performers from across the world on the Esplanade of Edinburgh Castle-2017 features a Splash of Tartan with Clans being highlighted nightly. Info: [www.edintattoo.co.uk](http://www.edintattoo.co.uk).

**4 - 7 Newtonmore - Clan MacPherson Annual Gathering**  
The annual clan gathering brings together Macphersons and associated families from all over the world to celebrate their history and heritage. Info: [www.clan-macpherson.org](http://www.clan-macpherson.org).

**4 - 28 Edinburgh - The Edinburgh International Festival**  
An unparalleled celebration of the performing arts and an annual meeting point for peoples of all nations with events throughout the city. Info: [www.eif.co.uk](http://www.eif.co.uk)

**6 - 13 Bruar, Perthshire - International Gathering of the Clan Donnachaidh Society & AGM**  
A week of events in celebration of Scottish heritage in Pitlochry, Blair Atholl, and Bruar at the annual Clan Gathering. Included the honour of participating in the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo on 12 August, led by our Chief, Gilbert Robertson of Struan. Info: Clan Secretary +44 (0)1796 483770 or [www.donnachaidh.com](http://www.donnachaidh.com).

**7 - 13 Glasgow - Piping Live!**  
A great week, with pipers from across the world coming together to take part, share their music, compete and perform across Glasgow. Info: [www.pipinglive.co.uk](http://www.pipinglive.co.uk).

**9 - 11 Kirkwall, Orkney - Stewart Society AGM**  
Dinner & Ceilidh at Albert Hotel also: Palaces of the Stewart Earls of Orkney, St. Magnus Cathedral, Earl's Ru, Italian Chapel, Skara Brae, Maes Howe, Skail House & Churchill Barriers. Info: + 44 (0)131-220-4512 or [www.StewartSociety.org](http://www.StewartSociety.org).

**9 Portree - The Isle Of Skye Highland Games**  
Traditional highland games with all the usual treats, including piping, Highland dancing and kids activities at Skye Games Field. Info: [www.skye-highland-games.co.uk](http://www.skye-highland-games.co.uk)

**11 - 12 Glasgow - World Pipe Band Championships**  
The world's biggest pipe band championships, includes bands from across the world, Scottish dance and more at Glasgow Green. Info: +44 141 353 8000 or [www.theworlds.co.uk](http://www.theworlds.co.uk).

**13 Perth - Perth Highland Games**  
Featuring running, cycling, heavy events, Highland dancing, pipe band contests and more at North Inch Park. Info: [www.perthhighlandgames.co.uk](http://www.perthhighlandgames.co.uk).

**15 Glasgow - Currie Family Convention**  
The Clan Currie Society seeks to facilitate the formal recognition of a Chief of Name and Arms of Currie by the Lord Lyon King of Arms. The Convention will be held at the Trades Hall of Glasgow. Info: Revd. Dr. David A. Currie: [currieconvention@gmail.com](mailto:currieconvention@gmail.com)

**18 Edinburgh - Stewart Gathering**  
At the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Info: Info: + 44 (0)131-220-4512 or [www.StewartSociety.org](http://www.StewartSociety.org).

**19 Rothesay, Isle Of Bute - Bute Highland Games**  
Full programme of dancing, heavy, athletics and pipe band and drum majors, junior shinty and a great wee family day out. Info: [www.butehighlandgames.org](http://www.butehighlandgames.org)

**24 - 26 Dunoon - Cowal Highland Gathering**  
Traditional Highland games, renowned for its unique atmosphere, world-class competitors, beautiful Highland location at Dunoon Stadium. Info: [www.cowalgathering.com](http://www.cowalgathering.com).

### SEPTEMBER 2017

**1 - 3 Dunoon - Clan Lamont Society Annual Gathering: 'Hands Across the Seas'**  
Full programme of activity in Dunoon Burgh Hall including sailing trip to Loch Striven to the Manse Clan Lamont Society HQ, formal dinner and ceilidh. There will also be films, children's activities, workshops, an exhibition of Lamont history over the years in the Burgh Hall. Info: [www.clanlamontsociety.com](http://www.clanlamontsociety.com).

**2 - 9 Shetland Islands - Follow the Vikings Roadshow & Festival**  
Experience Viking heritage on a scale never before seen in Shetland. Info: [www.shetland.gov.uk](http://www.shetland.gov.uk).

**2 - 3 Kinross - The Mary Queen of Scots Festival**  
Celebrate the rich cultural and history and heritage of the Kinross area, most notably it's famed connection to Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots with living history encampments, music, food and more. Info: [www.maryqueenofscotsfestival.co.uk](http://www.maryqueenofscotsfestival.co.uk)

**2 Braemar - Braemar Gathering**  
Perhaps the most famous and best Highland Games anywhere. It features the finest Pipe Bands, pipers, Highland dancers, and athletes in a beautiful setting surrounded by hills. The patron of the Gathering is Her Majesty the Queen. Info: [www.braemargathering.org](http://www.braemargathering.org).

**3 Blairgowrie - Blairgowrie & Rattray Highland Games**  
Traditional highland games with highland dancing, piping and sports at Bogles Field. Info: [www.blairgowriehighlandgames.co.uk](http://www.blairgowriehighlandgames.co.uk).

**8 - 10 Fort George - The Highland Military Tattoo**  
A showcase of the best of Highland and military culture and traditions, set against the stunning backdrop of Fort George near Inverness. Info: + 44(0)131 3108701 or [www.highlandmilitarytattoo.co.uk](http://www.highlandmilitarytattoo.co.uk)

**9 Pitlochry - Pitlochry Highland Games**  
Traditional Highland games featuring dancing, pipe band competitions and, of course, heavy events and track & field at Pitlochry Recreation Ground. Info: [www.pitlochryhighlandgames.co.uk](http://www.pitlochryhighlandgames.co.uk)

**11 Glasgow - The HNC Music - Piping**  
The only course which has a bespoke Music First Study Unit for performance on the Highland Bagpipe at The National Piping Centre. Info: +44 (0) 141 353 0220 or [www.thepipingcentre.co.uk](http://www.thepipingcentre.co.uk)

**16 Bonar Bridge - Invercharron Highland Games**  
Traditionally the final games of the year, many of the Scottish Games Association league results are decided at Invercharron, making it the most exciting of the season, at Balblair Farm. Info: [www.invercharrongames.co.uk](http://www.invercharrongames.co.uk)

**22 - 1 Wigtown - Wigtown Book Festival**  
Scotland's National Book Town's literary festival: 240+ events. Info: [www.wigtownbookfestival.com](http://www.wigtownbookfestival.com)

**28 - 29 Faskally Wood - Enchanted Forest: Oir An Uisge**  
Perthshire's renowned sound and light show offers visitors a unique opportunity to experience the outdoors, at night and with spectacular imagery. Info: [www.enchantedforest.org.uk](http://www.enchantedforest.org.uk)

### Answers to Scotword on Page 8

**ACROSS** - 1. Contestant; 8. Links; 9. Aberdonian; 10. Ingle; 11. Absurd; 12. Ends; 14. Hoards; 16. Islander; 19. Neaptide; 21. Sprang; 24. Kith; 25. Lissom; 27. Clype; 30. Meditation; 31. Bides; 32. Osprey eggs

**DOWN** - 1. Cranachan; 2. Neeps; 3. Endured; 4. Tink; 5. Neatness; 6. Girn; 7. Skell; 10. Isla; 13. Idea; 15. Adam; 17. Regiments; 18. Editress; 20. Tike; 22. Primary; 23. Plaid; 26. Swing; 28. Poet; 29. Birt.

IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



## Aberdeen butteries (Rowies)

### Ingredients:

500g/1lb 2oz. strong plain flour, plus extra for dusting  
 1 x 7g sachet easy-blend dried yeast  
 1 tbsp. soft light brown sugar  
 1 tbsp. sea salt flakes  
 350ml/12¼fl oz. warm water  
 vegetable oil, for greasing  
 275g/9¾oz. butter, plus extra to serve  
 100g/3½oz. lard  
 ready-made jam, to serve

### Method:

In a large bowl, mix together the flour, yeast, sugar and salt until well combined. Make a well in the centre of the mixture, then gradually add the water in a thin stream, stirring well with a wooden spoon, until the mixture comes together as a dough. (NB: You may not need to use all of the water.) Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured work surface and knead lightly for 8-10 minutes, or until smooth and elastic. Transfer the kneaded dough to a clean, greased bowl and cover with a greased sheet of cling film. Set aside in a warm place to rise (prove) for at least one hour, or until the dough has doubled in size. Meanwhile, in a separate bowl, cream together the butter and lard until well combined. Divide the mixture into four equal portions. When the dough has proved, turn it out onto a lightly floured surface and knead for a further 1-2 minutes. Roll out the dough into a 40cm x 20cm/16in x 8in rectangle, about 1cm/½in thick. Turn the dough around so that the shortest edge is facing you. Spread one portion of the butter and lard mixture over the bottom two-thirds of the dough rectangle. Fold the remaining one-third of the dough rectangle over onto the butter and lard mixture to cover the centre section of the dough rectangle. Fold the other end of the dough rectangle over the folded dough, so that the dough ends up three times its original thickness. Roll the dough out again to a 40cm x 20cm/16in x 8in rectangle, about 1cm/½in thick. Repeat the process of spreading and folding with another portion of the butter and lard mixture. Repeat the process twice more, until all of the butter and lard mixture has been used up and the dough has been rolled out a total of four times. Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6. Roll the dough out again to a 40cm x 20cm/16in x 8in rectangle, about 1cm/½in thick. Cut the dough into 16 pieces and roll each into a

round, flat bun shape. Transfer the buns to a lightly oiled baking tray and set aside for 40-45 minutes, or until they have doubled in size again (leave enough space between them for expansion). When the buns have risen, bake them in the oven for 15-18 minutes, or until they have risen further and are golden-brown and cooked through. Set aside to cool on a wire rack. Serve each buttery warm, spread with butter and jam.

## Highlander Soup

### Ingredients:

2 cups dried lentils or peas  
 1.35kgs/3 lbs. ham or beef bone  
 ½ cup diced celery  
 1 small onion, diced  
 1 cup cut carrots  
 2 tablespoons flour  
 2 teaspoons salt  
 ¼ teaspoon pepper

### Method:

Wash lentils or peas & soak overnight in cold water. Drain. Add the recipe water & bones. Heat to boiling. Simmer 2 hours. Add greens (celery) & carrots & simmer until lentils or peas are tender. Skim all fat from soup. Remove bones, cut off any meat, dice it, & return diced meat to the soup. Sauté onions, then add flour, salt and pepper. Mix well. Slowly add one cup hot soup stock to onion mixture, cook until thick & smooth & return thickened mixture to rest of hot soup.

## Celtic scallops

### Ingredients:

scallops (hand-dived if possible)  
 1 medium cauliflower  
 500ml/16½fl oz. full fat milk  
 icing sugar  
 150g/5oz. unsalted butter  
 30g/1oz. chopped shallots  
 30g/1oz. chopped button mushrooms  
 1 bouquet garni  
 100ml/4oz. dry white wine  
 100ml/4fl oz. double cream  
 50ml/2fl oz. virgin olive oil  
 30g/1¼oz. water soaked raisins  
 30g/1¼oz. washed salted button capers (baby capers have more flavour but others are fine)  
 15 leaves of fresh chervil

### Method:

Using a table knife prise the scallop open. Lift the scallop from its shell and remove the

roe and beard (keep the beards for the sauce and the roes can be used in a salad). Keep the scallops on a cloth in the fridge until ready to cook (this keeps them dry for frying in oil).

To make the cauliflower, cut the cauliflower into even sized florets. Break off 15 florets and set aside. Slice the remaining cauliflower, and cook in the milk, with enough salt to taste, until tender and remove from the milk. Purée in a liquidizer using 50ml/2fl oz. of the double cream until smooth, adjust seasoning where necessary. To make the sauce, gently fry the scallop beards in 30g/1oz. butter without any colour. Then add the shallots, mushrooms, bouquet garni and cook for a few more minutes. Pour in the wine and reduce by 9/10ths. Add 50ml/2oz. of the double cream and bring to the boil. Remove to a low heat and stir in 120g/4oz of butter. Adjust the seasoning and pass through a fine sieve onto the raisins and capers. Do not allow this sauce to get too hot or cold (store in a warm place). Cook the scallops in a non-stick pan to your liking. Season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Dust the cauliflower florets liberally with icing sugar and in the same pan fry them until golden. To serve, place the cauliflower florets neatly around the serving plate. Put some of the purée in the centre. Place the scallops on top and spoon around the caper and raisin sauce. Decorate the dish with chervil.

## Dundee Marmalade



### Ingredients:

900g/2 lb. Seville or bitter oranges  
 2 lemons  
 8 cup water  
 815g/4 lb. preserving sugar

### Method:

Wash oranges and lemons, put whole, into large saucepan or preserving pan. Add water, cover, bring to boil, simmer 1 ½ hours until fruit can be easily pierced. When fruit is ready, remove, leave on plate to cool. Slice to required thickness, remove pips (pits) and add to juice, boil 10 minutes, strain. Add sliced fruit to juice, bring to boil, add sugar, stir over gentle heat until dissolved, Boil up rapidly without stirring for ½ hour or until setting point, about 108°C /220°F. A small spoonful on a cold saucer will 'wrinkle' when tilted if marmalade is cooked enough. Pour into warmed jars, cover immediately.

## Highland Salad

### Ingredients:

1 x 300g/10½oz. sirloin or fillet steak  
 salt and freshly ground black pepper  
 25ml/1fl oz. rapeseed oil

1 red chilli, finely chopped  
 1 tbsp. palm sugar  
 2 garlic cloves, sliced  
 2 tbsp. fresh coriander, plus extra for the salad  
 2 tbsp. fresh mint  
 1 tsp. fish sauce  
 1 tbsp. soy sauce  
 1 lime, juice and zest  
 1 round lettuce  
 50g/1¾oz. sugar-snap peas, halved  
 6 radishes, sliced

### Method:

Preheat a barbecue or griddle pan to hot. Season the steak with lots of black pepper, drizzle with oil and place onto a hot barbecue or griddle pan for five minutes, turning half-way through. To make the dressing, put the chilli, palm sugar, garlic and a teaspoon of salt into a pestle and mortar. Grind for 1-2 minutes, then add the coriander and mint and grind for another minute. Mix in the fish sauce, soy sauce, lime juice and zest.

Cut the lettuce into six wedges and place in a bowl. Top with the sugar-snap peas, radishes and a few coriander leaves. Pour the dressing over the salad and toss to coat. Slice the beef and lay it on top of the salad

## Scottish Summer Dessert

### Ingredients:

Slices of medium or thin white bread with the all the crusts removed. Use a light, airy variety if possible.  
 500g/1lb. of fresh soft fruit (strawberries, raspberries, cherries, brambles). There are no fixed proportions but it works best if half of the fruit consists of strawberries.  
 30ml/1 fl oz. water  
 150g/5oz. or ¾ US cup of caster (or fine granulated) sugar

### Method:

Line the base and the sides of a 1½ pint or 900ml. pudding basin with a layer of bread. Wash and trim the fruit (removing any stones or stalks) and cut strawberries in half. Put the water and sugar in a pan and bring to the boil. Add the fruit with the softest (raspberries/brambles) last. Cook only briefly - the fruit should still retain its shape. Drain off the syrup and retain for later. Spoon the fruit into the bowl which has been lined with bread. Add a little of the retained syrup. Place more bread to cover the top of the bowl. Place a saucer on top and apply pressure. Keep the bowl and the juice in a refrigerator overnight. Loosen with a palette knife and turn out onto a large bowl. Pour the rest of the syrup over it. Cut into wedges and serve with lightly whipped double cream/whipping cream.

## Glasgow punch

### Ingredients:

1 large wedge fresh lime  
 50ml/2fl oz. aged rum  
 1 lemon, juiced and zested, mixed with 2 tsp caster sugar  
 4 small chunks fresh pineapple  
 1 pinch fresh nutmeg

### Method:

Place all the ingredients in a cocktail shaker with a handful of ice and shake hard. Strain the cocktail into a small wine cup and garnish with a pinch of nutmeg and serve.



# Floral clock blooms in honour of The Scotsman's bicentenary



Scotsman Editor Frank O'Donnell, Lord Provost Frank Ross and Horticultural Services Manager, Graeme Craig, view the new design. Photograph: Ian Rutherford.

Edinburgh's world-famous floral clock in Princes Street Gardens is now in full bloom, celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *The Scotsman* newspaper. The blossoming timepiece, maintained by the City of Edinburgh Council, forms part of a year of bicentenary celebrations. The design was created in partnership between *The Scotsman* and the Council and bears the paper's founders' commitment to "good

sense, courage and industry" as part of the themed plant pattern.

## Iconic to Edinburgh's past and present

*The Scotsman* has been based in Edinburgh since it was first published in January 1817 from its original head office on the High Street. The publication has already featured in the clock's design, with the 1992 layout marking its 175<sup>th</sup>

year. The Lord Provost, Councillor Frank Ross, said: "Much like the city's floral clock, *The Scotsman* newspaper is iconic to Edinburgh's past and present, so it is particularly fitting that this key milestone is celebrated in its design. As ever, the completed clock is a beautiful achievement, and is thanks to the hard work and dedication of our Parks and Greenspace service. I would encourage anyone living in or visiting the capital to stop by and catch the clock ticking during the summer."

## Designed in honour of various organisations and individuals

The floral clock was first created in 1903 by the Edinburgh Parks Superintendent, John McHattie. The clock initially operated with only an hour hand with a minute hand added in 1904, followed by an accompanying cuckoo clock in 1952. Until 1972 the clock was operated mechanically, and had to be wound daily. Since 1946 it has been designed in honour of various organisations and individuals, including the Girl Guides Association, Robert Louis Stevenson and the Queen, for her Golden Jubilee.

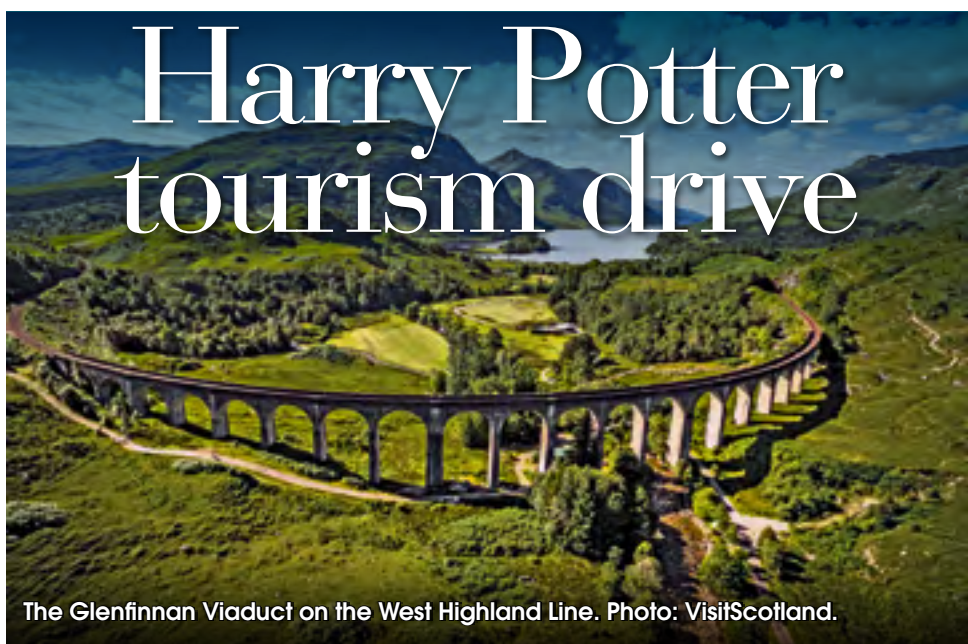
It has taken two gardeners more than a month to plant the 35,000 flowers and plants used to create the clock, which will

be in bloom until October. This year, the clock's mechanism has also undergone an upgrade, while the beloved cuckoo clock, which sounds every 15 minutes, has been given a new operating system.

Find out more about Edinburgh's parks and green spaces at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/parks](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/parks)

## Did you know?

- The floral clock was created in 1903.
- The planting begins in May each year.
- 35,000 plants are used in the design (compared to 13,000 in 1930s; 25,000 50s-60s).
- The cuckoo was added in 1952.
- In 1946 the clock began celebrating a different event or anniversary.
- Clock circumference: 36 ft.
- Clock width: 11 ft 10 ins.
- The large hand weighs 80lbs.
- The small hand weighs 50lbs.
- In 1973 the clock began being operated electrically
- Edinburgh's is believed to be oldest floral clock in the world



The Glenfinnan Viaduct on the West Highland Line. Photo: VisitScotland.

A Ford Anglia seen flying over the Glenfinnan Viaduct in *Harry Potter and The Chamber of Secrets* has touched down in Bo'ness to help Fetlar the snowy owl launch VisitScotland's first ever Harry Potter holiday itinerary. The online guide has been created for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* – the first of JK Rowling's seven bestselling books about the boy wizard – which was first published on 26 June 1997. Using the itinerary, fans of Harry, Ron and Hermione can enjoy a magical four-day tour of Scotland, starting in Edinburgh, where Rowling wrote the first and last novels in the series, and finishing in Glen Coe, which forms the stunning backdrop

to the movies *The Prisoner of Azkaban* and *The Goblet of Fire*.

## The Glenfinnan Viaduct

It also includes a trip on the Jacobite Steam Train, the real-life Hogwarts Express which can be seen crossing the Glenfinnan Viaduct on the West Highland Line in *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*. To celebrate the itinerary launch, one of the Ford Anglia 105Es used in the 2002 movie was at Kinneil House, a Historic Environment Scotland property, along with five-year-old Fetlar, a snowy owl similar to Harry's beloved pet Hedwig. The car is on display at Bo'ness Motor Museum, alongside such gems as James Bond's Lotus Esprit from *The Spy Who Loved Me* and Del Boy's Reliant Robin from *Only Fools and Horses*, while Fetlar can be visited at the Scottish Owl Centre. Among its many feathered residents, the Centre is also home to

Oulu – a 15-year-old Great Grey and real-life sister of Errol, Ron Weasley's hapless bird who also features in *The Chamber of Secrets*.

## Other locations on the itinerary include:

The Elephant House, Edinburgh – the coffee house where JK Rowling wrote much of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*.

The Balmoral, Edinburgh – where the author penned the final book of the series, *The Deathly Hallows*.

Rannoch Moor, Highlands – the mysterious place where Death Eaters board the train in the movie *Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows: Part 1*.

Loch Shiel, Highlands – the loch which doubles for the Black Lake in the film series.

Steall Falls, Highlands – a beautiful cascading waterfall that features in *The Goblet of Fire*, when Harry faces down a Hungarian Horntail

dragon in the Triwizard Tournament.

Clachaig Inn, Glen Coe, Highlands – the inn next door to the site of Hagrid's Hut in *The Prisoner of Azkaban*.

Jenni Steele, Film and Creative Industries Manager at VisitScotland, said: "Harry Potter is a truly global phenomenon that has brought joy to millions of people of all ages over the last two decades. As 'the birthplace of Harry Potter', Scotland boasts numerous locations associated with the bestselling books and the blockbuster movies. Our handy new online itinerary allows fans to follow in the footsteps of JK Rowling as well as the boy wizard himself and enjoy a magical tour of Scotland."

To view the full itinerary see: [www.visitscotland.com/see-do/attractions/tv-film/harry-potter-itinerary](http://www.visitscotland.com/see-do/attractions/tv-film/harry-potter-itinerary)

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# The Land o' Cakes

## *Why Scotland's oatcake deserves its own day too*

By: Shirley Spears



Oatcakes being made at Stockan's in Orkney.

When I recently heard that there was now a national day to celebrate oatcakes, my heart skipped a beat. Sitting in the garden over the summer months in the Skye sunshine (yes, we do enjoy the odd ray of sunshine now and then, so do the midgies...) with a glass of red wine and a plate of cheese and homemade oatcakes never fails to put a smile on my face. So, the thought that someone else had thought the oatcake deserved its own day was fantastic.

### The land of cakes

I was slightly disheartened when I then discovered that this so called National Oatcake Day was in fact celebrating the Staffordshire oatcake; a pancake like snack, made from oatmeal, quite different to our beloved Scottish biscuit. However, our oatcake has been around for hundreds of years and absolutely deserves the recognition with its own day as well; Scotland is, of course, the land of cakes!

With 2017 being the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, it seemed fitting that I delve into where our beloved oatcake originated. There is no official authentication of when the Scottish oatcake was first enjoyed however it is thought they date back to at least the Romans. There are records of it being common practice in the 14<sup>th</sup> century for the chieftain and his clan to travel everywhere with a small bag of oatmeal so they were never caught short!

Traditionally each community had its own mill to grind the oats grown at the local crofts which would provide oatmeal for

each household. We know that oats, in the form of oatcakes and porridge, were very much the staple diet of Highlanders and still play an important part in our diet today.

### Very much part of the Scottish cuisine

In the middle of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, Jean Froissart, a French-speaking medieval author and court historian from the Low Countries, visited Scotland, and in his Chronicles, described the staple diet of the Scots soldier: 'Under the flap of his saddle, each man carries a broad plate of metal; behind the saddle, a little bag of oatmeal. When they have eaten too much... sodden

**There is no official authentication of when the Scottish oatcake was first enjoyed however it is thought they date back to at least the Romans.**

flesh, and their stomach appears weak and empty, they place their plate over the fire, mix with water their oatmeal, and when the plate is heated they put a little of the paste upon it, and make a thin cake, like a crackenel or biscuit, which they eat to warm their stomachs; it is therefore no wonder that they perform a longer day's march than other soldiers.'

Oatcakes are still very much part of the Scottish cuisine however they have

become somewhat more refined than depicted in Froissart's account. There is nothing quite like a crumbly homemade oatcake lathered with cream cheese, adorned with Scottish smoked salmon and a drizzle of lemon.

Scotland is host to a plethora of exquisite local food producers and these producers are often family businesses who have used traditional methods for many years. However, in recent years, producers have found innovative ways of modernising their traditional products and those making oatcakes have been a part of that.

### Ancient grain

Stockan's Oatcakes is a 4<sup>th</sup> generation family business based in Stromness, Orkney and they have been making oatcakes for over 100 years.

Irené Archer, Director, Stockan's Oatcakes, said: "All our oatcakes are made using the finest wholegrain oats and are picked and checked by hand, ensuring the quality and taste are always perfect. We use specially made oatcake moulders which means we can produce the wonderful traditional oatcake shape. This shape dates back hundreds of years when oats would be mixed with water and placed on a round griddle and cooked on an open fire, this would then be cut into quarters, hence the triangle shape with the curved top.

"Last year we decided to incorporate an ancient grain that has been grown on Orkney for centuries, bere barley. Known as the "90 day barley", beremeal is extremely nutritious and high in fibre. Working in partnership with Queen Margaret's University, we were keen to develop a new product unique to Orkney, the result being our award-winning Orkney Beremeal Oatcakes."

### True to tradition

Elaine Jamieson, Head of Food and Drink, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, said: "Stockan's Oatcakes is a prime example of a family run business, staying true to tradition but reflecting modern trends and demands in their products. We work closely with over 100 of the most ambitious food and drink businesses in the Highlands and islands and help them turn innovative ideas into viable products for market. During the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, we are seeing a lot of innovation that is inspired by the past; something Stockan's and other producers across our region are doing."

Froissart's record of the Scots soldiers' oatcake recipe must be the earliest recorded recipe for oatcakes around; and I hope mine lives up to expectations. With this recipe in hand, everyday can now be Scottish Oatcake Day!

*Shirley Spears is the owner and retired head chef of The Three Chimneys restaurant, Skye and is also a Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Ambassador. In the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, Shirley discusses the history of the Scottish oatcake and how producers within the Highlands and Islands are blending tradition with innovation to modernise the ancient oatmeal staple.*

## Traditional Scottish Oatcakes

*Shirley Spear, owner and retired head chef of The Three Chimneys, Skye (makes 16)*

### Ingredients:

200g/7oz. medium oatmeal  
25g/1oz. plain wholemeal flour (plus a little extra for rolling)  
¼ teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda  
Good pinch of fine salt  
25g/1 oz. salted Scottish butter at room temperature (plus a little to grease the baking tray)  
125mls/4 fl oz or ½ a cup. hot water taken from a recently boiled kettle

### Method:

Pre-heat the oven to Gas mark 5, 190C/375 F.  
Lightly grease a large, flat baking tray and set aside.  
Place the oatmeal, flour, bicarbonate of soda and salt into a mixing bowl.

Add the diced butter and rub into the oatmeal mixture with your fingertips until it is broken up and well distributed.

Pour in 100mls/2¾ fl oz. warm water and using your fingers, mix to form into a ball of soft dough. Add more water if required. Divide the dough in half.

Sprinkle a little flour on to a clean work surface and knead one half into a smooth ball. This should only take a few seconds.

It is important to work quickly to avoid the mixture drying-out.

Roll the dough very thin, about 3mm depth and cut round shapes using a 6cm pastry cutter.

Lift each oatcake carefully with a palette knife and place on the greased baking sheet.

The oatcakes can be placed quite closely together as they hardly alter in size while baking.

Repeat using the second ball of dough.

Place the baking tray into the oven and bake for 15/20 minutes until firm to touch and turning golden at the edges.

Remove from the oven to a wire tray to cool. The oatcakes will continue to crisp as they cool.

Serve as soon after baking as possible, or when completely cool, store in an airtight tin.



Stockan's factory in 1936.

## 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.

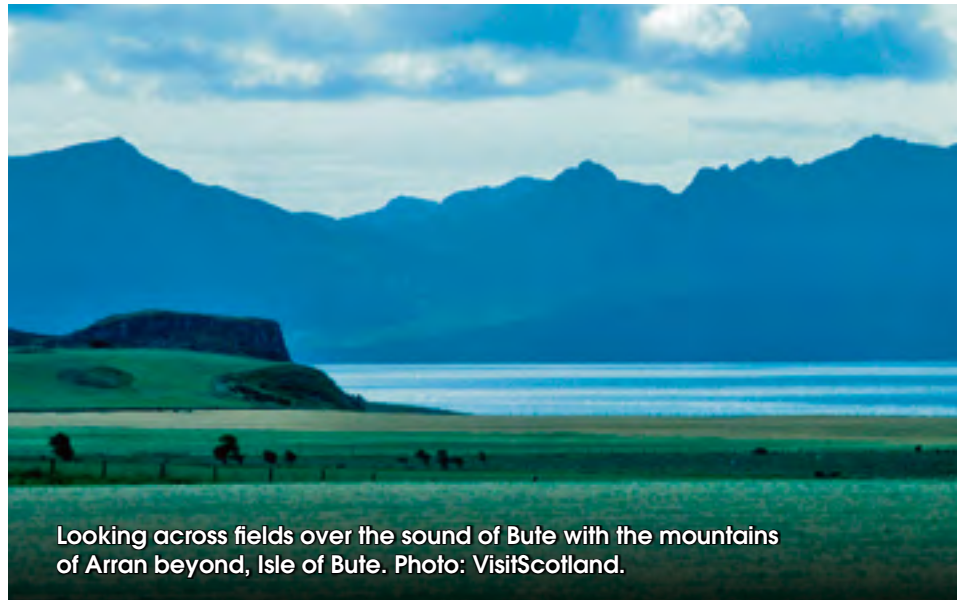


### Memories of the Isle of Bute

My Uncle George, Aunt Betty and my younger cousins Drew and Tom once lived on the Isle of Bute, and when I was about twelve years old, George, a ship's carpenter, left the shipyards to become a postman on Bute. The family lived in a cottage in a very small hamlet on the west coast and its name is now lost to me. The little cottage looked out, south-west on to the Sound of Bute and the Isle of Arran. I was about eleven years old and was invited down for a few days during the summer holidays and proudly took the train on my own to Gourock and then boarded the ferry to Rothesay, where my uncle met me at the pier. His Royal Mail van took me over to the other side of the island. I spent some wonderful days there with the weather remaining fine and dry with magnificent clear blue skies. The evenings were long and balmy and we were able to take our walks, after tea, along farm roads, paths and fields filled with the heady, sweet smells of summer, startling the curlews on their nests and listening to the sweet calls of peewits.

### Spiritual experience

There is no apparent reason why any of us should be touched emotionally by the sound of a piece of music, by stirring words or by the beauty of a scenic place. In terms of science, human evolution and



Looking across fields over the sound of Bute with the mountains of Arran beyond, Isle of Bute. Photo: VisitScotland.

survival there is no easy answer to explain why our emotions can be triggered so easily by such things. But on that evening, after a perfect day, I found myself in bed a little before sunset, always very late in a Scottish summer. I was sleeping in a little attic room, a box room, which had a big gable window that looked out over the green and blue sea to the Isle of Arran. The picture window framed the mountainous island like the subject of a landscape painting. As I lay there with the sun setting behind the island I saw a wondrous sight, a perfect combination of sea, mountains, colour and light. I can only describe it as

a spiritual experience, not religious, not an epiphany, not supernatural, simply delightful and powerful in its grandeur. For a few precious moments it was breathtaking: I could not believe what I was seeing and felt somehow privileged to be there, to experience this perfect scene. I wanted to shout out "Do you see that? Isn't that incredible? Isn't that wonderful?" Instead, I cried. I sobbed salty tears into my pillow, not with pain but with delight.

I never told anyone about what had happened that precious evening for thirty years or more, and that was only because I was undertaking, at that later time, a post-

graduate course on counselling where we, as adult students, were asked to share something special from our past lives, something that touched our emotions and something that we had perhaps been reluctant to tell before. It was a means of bonding the group as well as bringing us to understand the importance of confidentiality; sharing something normally held private. Strangely enough, it was a kind of catharsis for me to admit that I had once been so moved emotionally by such a thing in my in childhood. Anyway,

**The picture window framed the mountainous island like the subject of a landscape painting. As I lay there with the sun setting behind the island I saw a wondrous sight, a perfect combination of sea, mountains, colour and light.**

a tough little guy from Glasgow didn't go around telling his pals in the 1950's or anyone else for that matter that he was moved to tears by a wee bit of Scottish scenery. That was a matter of survival.

# Linlithgow Palace Junior Tour Guides celebrate 40 years



In its 40th year, the Linlithgow Palace Junior Tour Guide project reunites past and present guides to mark this special anniversary with an exhibition of photographs and memorabilia this month.

The Linlithgow Palace Junior Tour Guide project turns 40 this year and to mark this special anniversary, Junior Tour Guides past and present are being asked to dig out their stories, photographs and memorabilia to be shared at a celebration in August. Taking place at Linlithgow Burgh Halls on Sunday 13 August, the free event will invite those involved in the scheme over the years to reunite and relive their experiences as Junior Tour Guides. The material collected will be put on display, creating an exhibition which will commemorate the project and its importance within the local community.

### Learn about the history and heritage

The Junior Tour Guide scheme was launched by Linlithgow Primary School in 1977, with the aim of helping local children learn about the history and

heritage on their doorstep by taking an active role in promoting it. Now going strong in its 40<sup>th</sup> year, the guides - dressed in period costume and in character as 16<sup>th</sup> century lords and ladies - bring the site's colourful history to life for visiting groups of schoolchildren.

Bill Hendrie, former head teacher of Linlithgow Primary School who pioneered the scheme, said: "I'm incredibly proud to see the Junior Tour Guides celebrate this milestone. Forty years ago, I used to give tours of Linlithgow Palace myself. When demand for these tours increased, I had the idea of getting pupils involved as a way to bring to life the history of the Palace that they were learning at school. The scheme soon took off, proving popular with visiting groups of school children - some from as far afield as England. We even attracted the attention of TV and radio, with the

Junior Tour Guides featuring on *Highway* hosted by Sir Harry Secombe and Jimmie Macgregor's long-running Radio Scotland programme *Macgregor's Gathering*. It is a privilege to see the Junior Tour Guides become such a special part of the history of Linlithgow, with many residents having been involved with the project over the years. I hope that we can stir some memories and inspire people to look out their photo albums to help celebrate this wonderful project."

Today the Junior Tour Guide scheme is a partnership between Historic Environment and Linlithgow Primary School, working with Illuminate UK who provide training for the guides. As well as school visits, Junior Guides volunteering their services during the school summer holidays also give tours to visitors through the Summer Guide Project.

### Engaging with their historic environment



Closely linked to many aspects of the Curriculum for Excellence, training

as Junior Tour Guides is designed to increase pupil's understanding and appreciation of their local heritage as well as helping them to build confidence and develop transferable life skills. In recent years, the scheme has been developed and extended to other sites within the care of Historic Environment Scotland, including The Blackhouse in Arnol, Doune Castle, Trinity House and Melrose Abbey.

Elaine Johnston, Learning Officer at Historic Environment Scotland, said: "This special anniversary for Linlithgow, falling in our Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, is a great opportunity to highlight just how successful the Junior Tour Guide scheme has been since its inception as a way of getting children involved in their local communities and engaging with their historic environment. In the past few years alone, over 4000 pupils and teachers have enjoyed tours by the Junior Tour Guides, which we advertise through our online schools programme. We receive wonderful feedback from visitors about how much they have enjoyed their tours from the Junior Guides, and the children themselves are so positive about the skills and confidence they have gained from the experience. This scheme has such importance for the local community and I'm looking forward to discovering the stories of the Junior Tour Guides from the past few 40 years."



Strathy Point: Highland Ranger & Sea Watch Regional Coordinator, Paul Castle, spotting porpoise from his favourite watch site Strathy Point where he's seen many cetacean species. Photo: Kathy James/ Sea Watch Foundation.

Every year, scientists at the Sea Watch Foundation lead the National Whale and Dolphin Watch – a campaign to get members of the public contributing to science to protect whales and dolphins. They are calling on people across Scotland to get involved with this year's event, which runs from 29 July-6 August 2017. For over 40 years, Sea Watch Foundation scientists as well as volunteer observers all around the UK's coast have been reporting on whales, dolphins and porpoises – collectively known as cetaceans – to inform Sea Watch's huge database of records.

### Flagship summer event

The scheme is one of the oldest and longest running citizen science schemes in the world. Members of the public are being asked to take part in National Whale and Dolphin Watch, the charity's flagship summer event which is now in its 16<sup>th</sup> year.

"Many people don't realise the wealth of whales and dolphins we have around our coasts. Scots don't need to go abroad to go whale watching or to have a dolphin experience," says Kathy James, Sightings Officer for Sea Watch Foundation.

"For a few months now, killer whales have been spotted from the Moray Firth round the north of Scotland to the west coast. Large whales, possibly fin whales – second only in size to blue whales – have been spotted out in the Hebrides and reports of bottlenose dolphins have been coming in from the Moray Firth as well as south towards the border."

Since National Whale and Dolphin Watch began in 2002, around 4,500 sightings have been made in locations from the Channel Islands and the Scillies to the Shetland Isles – encompassing places as varied as Brighton, Plymouth, Anglesey, Aberdeen, Whitby and Hull.

"You'd be surprised at what you might see even in places that aren't

designated hotspots. It's all about getting out there to spot the animals using your patch and reporting your sightings. Even if you don't see any cetaceans during a watch, that information is just as valuable to us, as it helps us to build a picture all around the UK," says Kathy.

"All that people need to do to take part is to report their whale and dolphin sightings to us and to either participate in the advertised organised watches or to arrange their own. No experience is necessary!"

### Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust

On Scotland's west coast, Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust – which acts as a regional coordinator for Sea Watch, and which runs an extensive Community Sightings Network – says public involvement is vital to ensuring the long-term future of cetaceans in what is one of Europe's most important marine habitats.

"Spotting whales, dolphins and porpoises in the wild is a fantastic experience – and by reporting their sightings, people can make a huge difference in helping us to map cetaceans' distribution and inform policies to protect them," said Pippa Garrard, the trust's Community Engagement Officer.

"So we're hoping that National Whale and Dolphin Watch 2017 creates a real buzz across Scotland. We're urging people take the opportunity to get involved as citizen scientists and have a great time."

During the nine-day 2016 National Whale and Dolphin Watch,



Harbour porpoise is the smallest of the UK's cetaceans. Photo: Mick Baines/ Sea Watch Foundation.

11 different whales and dolphins were recorded in UK waters, as well as the tiny harbour porpoise, which measures just a metre and a half when fully grown. Some 1424 sightings were logged and 7,622 individual animals included.

People are being urged to register to run watches of their own during National Whale and Dolphin Watch 2017, so that they can contribute valuable data for the protection of these magnificent species.

To find out more about the event, please visit [www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk/nwdw](http://www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk/nwdw)



Killer whales at Wick. Photo: Colin Bird/ Sea Watch Foundation.

### Did you know?

- In total, 29 species of dolphins, whales and porpoises have been recorded in UK and Irish waters, 13 of these during a National Whale and Dolphin Watch.
- Dolphins face a number of threats including accidental capture in fishing nets, marine pollution, noise disturbance and depletion of fish stocks. They may also be affected by rising sea temperatures as a result of global climate change.
- Sea Watch is a registered marine conservation research charity working to improve the conservation of whales and dolphins in the seas around Britain and Ireland. It aims to involve, inform and educate members of the public and to raise awareness of threats faced by marine mammals.

## Norwegian Royal couple mark historic ties with Orkney



Orkney received a Royal visit when Crown Prince Haakon and Crown Princess Mette-Marit of Norway travelled to the islands to mark the 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of St Magnus. The visit, during the St Magnus Festival, was an occasion to celebrate Orkney's longstanding relationship with Norway. The Royal couple took part in a commemorative ceremony in memory of Norwegian sailors and World War 2 soldiers who are buried at St Olaf Cemetery near Kirkwall, toured St Magnus Cathedral and visited the Neolithic settlement Skara Brae.

Convener of Orkney Islands Council, Harvey Johnston, said: "Orkney's ties with Norway are long and enduring and I am sure that the Royal couple will feel a genuine affinity for the islands during their visit. It is very appropriate that they are visiting our islands in the year when we mark the death 900 years ago of the man who became our patron saint. It was an event of huge historical significance to Orkney, led directly to the building of the Cathedral and was, of course, immortalised in the sagas."

Orkney's historical ties to Norway date back many centuries to when the islands were populated by Norwegians in the late 700s. Norway's National Day – 17 May – is celebrated in the islands annually and, at Christmas, a tree is delivered to Orkney as a gift from the region of Hordaland.

## More options for US readers

From this issue our US customers can find the **BAM!** BOOKS-A-MILLION *Scottish Banner*

each month at Books-A-Million, also known as BAM!, which owns and operates the second largest bookstore chain in the United States. Our American customers can still get their *Scottish Banner* through our home subscription service, digital download service or at select Scottish events around the country, and more exciting retail announcements coming in 2017!

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