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### Volume 41 Number 11

# Scottish Banner

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Distributed monthly in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA. ISSN 0707-073X

### Australia Post Print Approved PP:100004806

Published monthly by Scottish Banner Publications PO Box 6880 Hudson, FL 34674 USA

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# The Banner Says...

# Raise a dram and gather the Clan



by Sean Cairney

ay is upon us and in Scotland that means some of the nations most loved and famous icons come to life. May is Whisky Month and I cannot think of nation more associated with the 'water of life' than Scotland itself. This of course does not take away from places like Ireland, Japan or Australia also producing fine drops, but Scotland is known the world over for quality and excellence in dram.

Perhaps then it is no surprise that for a small country like Scotland, it still boasts over 100 distilleries (and growing!) across the country. Scotland's whisky industry is worth £5bn a year to the UK economy and accounts for around 20% of all UK food and drink exports. Staggeringly whisky exports earned £139 every second in 2017.

In Scotland you don't have to look hard to find whisky as the country has some 20 million casks maturing in warehouses. From the Lowlands to the Highland and islands there is a dram waiting for you, usually with a great tale behind it.

I did wonder if I had to have my DNA checked as I have never liked whisky. I have visited several distilleries in Scotland and may have been one of the few not looking forward to the obligatory tasting at the end.

Just like a good single malt however I have aged and have found some drops I enjoy. I was fortunate enough to sit down with actor Sam Heughan (aka Jamie Fraser from the hit show *Outlander*) a couple of years ago and he asked me to join him for a dram, how could I say no? Call it the 'Outlander effect' but since then I have found I too can enjoy 'Scotland's national drink'.

# **Highland Games**

Another national icon that will take off this month with the full bloom of spring are Highland Games in Scotland. The Scottish community is very lucky to have these cultural assets take place across the globe, and throughout the year, and getting to experience them in Scotland itself is always special.

Readers of *the Scottish Banner* will be well versed with these great celebrations of Scottish traditions. Pipe bands, heavy events, Scottish dancing, singers, Clans and societies, whisky tastings, Scottish dogs and more are on offer to remind us of where we came from and are a great tool to pass on our culture to the next generation.

This month Scotland again begins their Highland Games season, kicking the season off at Gourock Highland Games (always the first of the year). This year the Gourock Games has wisely chosen 16 year old Rhys McCole its Chieftain. Rhys a champion boxer and also a member of the SportScotland and Young Scot's Young People's Sports Panel and an Ambassador for Inverclyde for the Year of Young People 2018. This is a great way to connect younger people with their heritage and keep an event relevant.

In Scotland you don't have to look hard to find whisky as the country has some 20 million casks maturing in warehouses. From the Lowlands to the Highland and islands there is a dram waiting for you, usually with a great tale behind it.

Attending a Highland Games in Scotland itself can really be a great way to experience 'Scotland in Scotland' and a wonderful way add memories to your next visit. As with everything in Scotland the weather dictates much of the calendar and Highland Games run from this month through to September.

Of course across North America the Highland Games season is about to burst into many peoples calendars with northern regions getting ready to showcase Scotland from now through to the autumn. And while it may be cooling down in Australia this month's events page is packed full of Scottish events taking place, including of course Highland Games.

So do check out what is coming near you, or perhaps further away. Our events page each month lists many options for people and our web site houses one of the largest events listings for international Scots in the world, and is updated several times a month.

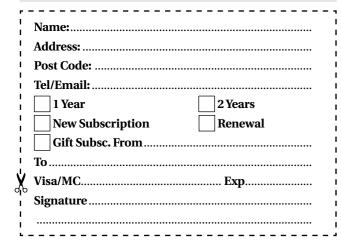
## In this issue

As mentioned May is Whisky Month and we are lucky to hear from Drew McKenzie Smith from Lindores Abbey. Lindores Abbey is considered the 'spiritual home of Scotch whisky' with Scotland's first whisky production recorded there in 1494 and last year Lindores Abbey reopened and has restarted its journey in whisky history.

Think St Andrews and you will no doubt think of golf, as you should. However look into the past and like so many parts of Scotland you will find a savage and gory history. This month marks the anniversary of a brutal siege at medieval St Andrews Castle. This involved the digging of siege mines which remain an utterly unique archaeological specimen to this day.

Anyone who had a radio plugged in the 1970's will remember the Bay City Rollers. This month we speak to lead singer Les McKeown who must have had one of the most unique experiences growing up. At 18 Les and fellow band members donned tartan and became one of the biggest music bands in history. The Rollers topped charts around the world and sold millions of albums. To be part of the soundtrack of an entire generation while wearing as much tartan as possible would be hard for most of us today to comprehend. The Bay City Rollers are still today one of Scotland's most successful bands ever and put Scottish music on the map.

**Changes at the Scottish Banner** Our North American readers will be aware from this issue we will be going digital only in the North American market. This decision whilst not easy reflects the challenging market conditions we face and at the same time our small family run office has been impacted by a series of life changing health issues. *The Scottish Banner* will of course continue to be distributed across Canada and the USA by digital subscription and we thank all our readers for their continuing support.





Do you have a favourite whisky or Highland Games?Share your story with us by email, post or at www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us



Gracing our front cover: Singer-songwriter KT Tunstall, Grand Marshal at the 20th New York Tartan Day Parade. Photo: Benjamin Chateauvert.

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# The 'water of life' flows across Scotland



The bonded warehouse at The Famous Grouse Experience and Glenturret Distillery. Photo: VisitScotland/Kenny Lam.

ith a history stretching back as far as the 11<sup>th</sup> century, Scottish whisky – also known as Scotch – is an important part of the identity of Scotland. Like the drink itself, the story of whisky-making in Scotland is fascinating and complex. It's believed whisky-making began in Scotland as winemaking methods spread from monasteries in Europe; with no access to grapes, monks used grain mash instead to produce an early form of the popular spirit. The name itself derives from the Gaelic name, uisge beatha, which translates loosely to 'water of life'. The first recorded instance comes much

later, in 1494 – local records show Friar John Cor of Lindores Abbey in Fife was granted the king's commission to make Acqua Vitae, Latin for 'water of life'.

Today, Scotland's 126 distilleries guard the secrets and ancient traditions that have made Scotch Whisky famous around the world. To be officially classed as Scotch Whisky it must be produced in Scotland and matured in Oak Casks for a minimum of 3 years. The entire process is nothing short of an artform; four ingredients – water, malt, peat and yeast – are refined through fermentation and distillation and then maturation. Each step has a subtle but tangible impact on the overall taste, and though the process is always the same, Scotland's five regions produce Scotch whiskies with key differences.

# The flavours of each region

Preference is a matter of taste; some connoisseurs prefer the smoky flavour of Islay whiskies, while others enjoy the light taste of a triple distilled lowland whisky.

Islay-The Islay malts are generally described as having a peaty or smoky character derived from the water and peating levels of the barley. The island malts are known for being powerful, flavourful and full of character.

Campbeltown-Characteristics include a defined dryness with a pungency, smoke and a solid salinity with a pinch of salt.

Highland-The largest whisky region in terms of size, covering a vast area and diverse range of distilleries. Whiskies made here are known for a heavier and drier character, with hints of nut, honey and heather.

Speyside-Though small, Speyside has almost half of the total number of distilleries in Scotland and is consequently officially recognised as a distinct region. Whiskies produced here are known for being elegant and refined, with subtle nutty and fruity notes, including apple, pear, honey, vanilla and spice.

Lowland-Traditionally Lowland single malts are triple distilled, often giving them a lighter taste. These whiskies are famed for their malty, zesty flavours and subtle hints of citrus.

# Did you know?

# Whisky facts

- The world's most popular spirit, Scotch whisky, is sold in over 200 markets worldwide.
- Scotch Whisky is one of the UK's top 5 exports, with 36 bottles exported every second.
- Scotch whisky delivers £139 per second to UK exports
- More Scotch whisky is sold in one month in France than Cognac in a year.
- Scotland's International Centre for Brewing and Distilling is the only organisation in the UK to offer both Honours and Masters degrees in Brewing and Distilling.
- Whisky in Gaelic is 'uisge beathe', which means 'water of life'.
- Whisky stored in barrels gradually evaporates at an approximate rate of 2% a year. This is referred to as the famous 'angels' share'.
- Scotch whisky can only be called Scotch whisky when it has been left for a minimum of three years to age in casks, in Scotland. Some casks hold whisky for considerably more time than this though.
- Scotland is home to more than 20 million casks of maturing whisky. That's almost four for every person living there.

# Tartan of the Month - Scotch Whisky 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

document. The tartan was created to tell this story. Colours and geometry: Blue is the pure Scottish water used to make the spirit, the three stripes representing the water source used by the Monks of Lindores Abbey; Dark grey represents John Cor and the robes of the Tironensian Order; Russet brown represents the traditional oak cask used for maturation, the shade between the brown and grey alluding also to the copper pot still; Ochre represents the "eight bolls of malt", the shade between the ochre and grey representing the yeast; Yellow and amber combine to represent the Scotch Whisky itself, with yellow shades in the tartan representing the ancient barley fields surrounding Lindores Abbey in 1494. The Scotch Whisky tartan is designed to harmonise with "The Angels' Share" (tartan reference 11497), the White not only representing



# DINE & WINE TRISTING LUNCH WEDNESDAY 2 MAY

Indulge in fabulous fare and fine wines with Paul Gordon, Chief

# SCOTTISH HIGHLAND DAY LUNCH WEDNESDAY 7 JUNE

Transport yourself to Scotland with our Scottish Highland Dancers, Pipe Band and the Haggis Ritual! \$70 PER PERSON 3-COURSES + 2 BEVERAGES

courtesy of the Scottish Register of Tartans.

ay is Whisky Month in Scotland and we celebrate with the Scotch Whisky Tartan (reference:11686) and designed by Steven Patrick Sim. Created to celebrate Scotch Whisky, the tartan also pays tribute to the "Spiritual home of Scotch" (Lindores Abbey, Fife), remembering the first written record of whisky production in the Exchequer Rolls of Scotland 1<sup>st</sup>June 1494.

Friar John Cor, by order of the King, to make aqua vitae VIII bolls of malt, is considered to be the industry's founding the glint in the whisky glass but also the Angels, said to have their own interest in Scotch.

Visit the registrant's website for the full rationale and numeracy within the tartan www.theTartanArtisan.com Winemaker at Leconfield Wines.

2-COURSES + WINE TASTING







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# SCOT POURRI

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

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

# Where is Scotland?



Regarding your March issue asking the question do you know a special place outside Scotland with a distinct Scottish name or link. I am originally from Maryhill in Glasgow, Scotland and immigrated to Canada in 1973. I am now retired and my wife and I live in Simcoe near the small hamlet of Scotland Ontario. We are also lucky to live near the small towns of Selkirk and Caledonia which were both settled by Scots. I have long been a subscriber of the Banner and when I called to renewed this year I was fortunate to speak with Valerie. We spoke about the early days of *the Banner* when it was on Queen St in Toronto. I told her that in those days I advertised my business in *the Banner*.

I would like to wish all of your readers well and all the best to you Sean in the future.

Yer doing a good job. Stuart Rusk Simcoe, Ontario Canada

Ed note: Thank you Stuart for sharing your bit of 'Scotland' with us.

# The strings of Scotia

**At the Blair Athol Distillery** Please see my poem on Scotch, specifically on one distillery (Athol Blair), which I visited in July.

## At the Blair Athol Distillery

Here in this rocky land, the barley grows taller than the fences between the fields. From the Grampians comes the pure water. the Burn of the Otter flows from these high hills down steep heathered slopes to Pitlochry, where it mixes with barley malt, warmth, and time. Ian hands you a glass with half an inch, instructs you how to sniff, taste and inhale, warm the glass with your hands, and repeat. He moves around the old tasting table with a pipette of pure water, dribbling maybe three drops into each glass, watching your face as you take the next sip and taste the flowers on the tongue as the whisky blooms. You thank the kind spirits of the grain, of water, oak, and time. What chemistry this is, you don't know, nor if the bottle you buy here will taste the same back home. but your own well is deep and clean. The spirits guided your dowsing rod, and it hovered over the spot they chose. No Scottish burn there, but you'd like to believe your few drops of Scottish blood gave you the Power, the Sight, the Gift-led you to your own burn beneath that red clay, with water so fine, so blessed in essence by the ghosts of the earth, that three drops can make a miracle. David Black

Dear wonderful Scottish Banner, Many thanks for sending me the DVD of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, and while I in the thanking mood may I say a big thank you for the Jimmy Barnes children's books which my daughter now reads to my great grandson, as we prepare to go back to Glasgow next year to say our final farewells to friends and family and the land of our birth, it is with sad hearts we do so, for some reason the older we become the strings of Scotia seem to pull harder, but thanks for the Banner, that will keep us up to date with news and scenes of the most beautiful country in the world. Nice to see Sean taking up successfully where mum left off. Yours Aye,

Bill McIntosh Serpentine, Western Australia

Where do you think you are? My significant other, Alexandra (Alex), and I always look forward to receiving the monthly issue of the Scottish Banner. Within minutes of its arrival we often thumb through it and begin reading what strikes our eyes. Your article on page 25 (Scottish Banner, March, 2018) was particularly relevant as we will be visiting Dunedin, New Zealand to spend time with my daughter, kiwi son-in-law and grandson at the end of this month. Initially it appeared that you had the wrong pipe band included in the photo as there is also a City of Dunedin Pipe Band in New Zealand as well. It would have been nice to capture an image of them as

well since the Dunedin Highland Games ad was earlier in the addition.

Just some wee thoughts. Warm regards, Derek G. Davidson Vancouver, British Columbia Canada

**Tracing your Scottish ancestry** A lot of people hopefully send off their DNA sample to various companies to trace their ancestors. From personal experience you MUST get both female and male strands tested. Female Mitochondria gives the most complete picture and male may fill in the gaps. If your test results include, for example Great Britain as a percentage, that is more or less useless as Great Britain is NOT a clear destination as there are many races in Great Britain, and you want a definitive explanation of your ancestors.

For example one in ten Scottish males are of Pictish descent however that may not show up unless you get your DNA tested properly. *Robert Bradshaw* 

A Cameron remembered



My name is David Bayne. I was born in Edinburgh and grew up in the Colinton Mains area. I served an apprenticeship as a chef at what was the North British Hotel. I emigrated to the USA in November of 1963. In June of 1965 I was conscripted into the US Army and served with the 218<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Det of the XVIII Airborne Corps on Fort Bragg NC. Not surprisingly I was called "Scotty". In March's edition *The Banner* said "Where is Scotland"? One of thousands of places in this world where you will find a "wee" bit of Scotland is Fort Bragg N.C. USA.

On November the 11<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 11:00 (Veterans day in the USA). A ceremony was held to remember 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Gerard G. Cameron. Lt. Cameron was killed in action on March the 24<sup>th</sup> 1945 in operation Varsity the last Airborne operation in the European theater of WWII.

Lt. Cameron was a member of the 218<sup>th</sup> CIC. (Counter Intelligence Company) .

ChiefWarrant Officer John Gerlosky of the 218<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Det. XVII Airborne Corps did the research to ensure Lt. Cameron's name would be inscribed on our successor unit the 525 MI Brigade's War Memorial. Sadly CWO Gerlosky died in July of last year before he could complete his last mission. I was aware of CWO Gerlosky's effort and contacted former members of the 218<sup>th</sup> MI Det. to raise the necessary funds to have Lt. Cameron's inscription added to the 525<sup>th's</sup> Memorial. It was CWO Gerlosky with the support of Major Heather Hall (525th MI. Brigade) and the former members of my unit the 218<sup>th</sup> MI Det. XVIII Airborne Corps that accomplished WO3 Gerlosky's mission to "Remember a Cameron" Lt. Cameron's name is inscribed on one end of the memorial. The above photograph is of the Memorial. The wreath had two ribbons on it. One with Lt. Cameron's' name and the other with CWO Gerlosky's.

Those in the photo L-R are Col. Tony Lackey (Ret) former CO of the 218th MI Det. Mrs. Dana Grelosky. David Bayne (Scotty) and Major Heather Hall.

Yes there is a "wee" bit of Scotland on Fort Bragg.

For many years I always look forward to receiving my monthly "Wee bit of Scotland". *David Bayne* 

Conway, South Carolina USA

## Ed note: Thank you David for your letter and service, it is wonderful to see Lt Cameron honoured.

St Andrew's First Aid at Scots Day Out



Please see one of our first aiders on duty at The Scots Day Out in Bendigo, Victoria. He is our Corps Sergeant Major Peter Barker, a 40+ year first aider with SAFAA. *David* 

*St. Andrew's First Aid Australian Headquarters* 



Send your photos or letters via social media

**Sgoil Lionacleit Pipe Band** 



On Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup> of April Sgoil Lionacleit Pipe Band from Scotland's Outer Hebrides travelled to Ellis Island as part of their trip to New York at Statue Of Liberty And Ellis Island Immigration Museum. Such great memories and performances. *Clan Currie USA* 

All seasons of Scotland





Louisa, VA

### USA

Facebook page www.facebook.com/ davidblackwriter

Ed note: Thank you David for sharing this with us for Whisky Month.

Doune Castle (Castle Leoch) for *Outlander* fans, bit further up the road to Glen Etive, both on Tuesday, that's Scotland for you. *Carolynn Wilson Scotland* 

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

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# The 20th Annual New York Tartan Day Parade



he 20<sup>th</sup> annual New York Tartan Day Parade took place on Saturday April 7<sup>th</sup>, the highlight of a week of celebration throughout the city. From talks to ceilidhs, to music and business networking, the city was celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup>anniversary of Tartan Day.



Taking the lead as Grand Marshal was the celebrated Scottish singer-songwriter KT Tunstall, who marched up Sixth Avenue with King, a rescue Greyhound, both dressed in red tartan and KT was the first woman to lead the Parade. With over 3500 marchers and crowds estimated at 35,000, Scottish American heritage and pride was on full display.

Prior to the Parade Ms Tunstall, mingled with the assembling pipers and marchers, and presented the following prizes:

- The Group/Band Travelling Furthest Internationally: Winner Lerwick Up Helly Aa Jarl Viking Squad
- Largest Contingent travelling internationally: Winner Sgoil Lionacleit Pipe Band.
- The North American Largest Contingent & Travelling: Winner Homestead Marching Band, Wisconsin

Ms Tunstall then took part in judging the winning Celtic Canines and Walkers Tartan Terriers of Scottish Terrier, West Highland Terrier, Cairns and Dinmont Dandie. During the Parade the Highland Herders of Bearded Collies, Border Collies, Smooth Collies, Rough Collies and Shetland Sheep Dog couldn't help themselves and began to herd each other down the Avenue. The Parade Celtic Canine was one of the Hebridean Hunting Hounds - a magnificent Wolf Hound.

With over 3500 marchers and crowds estimated at 35,000, Scottish American heritage and pride was on full display.

The Parade had many visitors from Scotland including Cabinet Secretary Keith Brown, MSP and Rt Hon Ken Macintosh Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament





Minister, accompanied by Clare Haughley MSP, Johann Lamont MSP and Viscount Thurso, Chairman, VisitScotland.

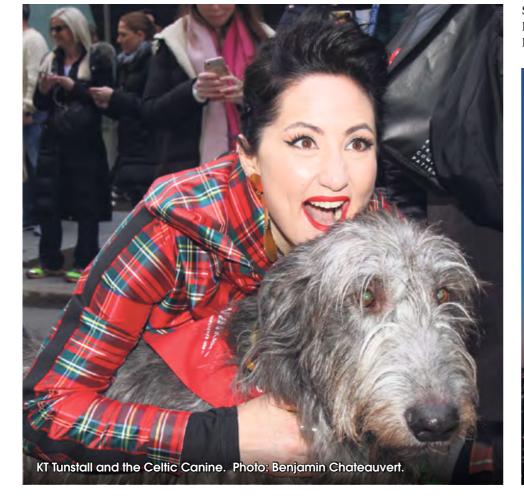
# Contributions made by Scottish-Americans

This year Clans played a larger role within the Parade with over 36 Clans gathering and marching in the Parade. Clan Chiefs included; The Earl of Erroll, Donald MacLaren of MacLaren - Convenor of the Scottish Clan Chiefs and The Hon Sarah Fraser of Lovat representing her nephew Lord Lovat. In honour of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Tartan Day the National Tartan Day NY Committee were honoured to be invited to ring the opening bell at the NASDAQ Exchange on Tartan Day, Friday April 6<sup>th</sup>. And the sight of the Empire State Building lit up in blue and white was a great tribute to all Scots worldwide.

Visiting Bands and Large Groups included: -Lerwick Up Helly Aa Jarl Viking Squad-Shetland, Sgoil Lionacleit Pipe Band-Uist, Homestead Marching Band-Wisconsin, Accrington Pipe Band-England, Forest Legion Pipe Band-Canada and Sons of Scotland Pipe Band-Ottawa, Canada.

In 1998, the U.S. Senate declared April 6 to be National Tartan Day to recognize the contributions made by Scottish-Americans to the United States. In 1999, two pipe bands and a small but enthusiastic group of Scottish Americans marched from the British Consulate to the UN on the first Parade. Since then, the event has grown to include hundreds of pipers, thousands of marchers and many more thousands cheering from the sidelines.

For further information on the New York Tartan Week see: www.nyctartanweek.org





# Australian & New Zealand April renewal notices



Australian and New Zealand subscribers please note our mailing house has incorrectly submitted renewal notices into all subscription copies with the April edition, the correct renewal date can be found under your address details on your address label. Please disregard this notice if your subscription does not expire in APR 2018 and no renewal payment is due. We have had numerous emails, post and calls and please be assured the correct renewal details have been maintained by *the Scottish Banner*.

Our apologies for this error.

# 2018 marks the 16th anniversary of the National Celtic Festival an opportunity to see world-class folk music from across the globe



he festival will run from June 8 to 11 and has unveiled an impressive line-up of artists hailing from cities near and far, including legends of the Irish music scene Altan, who will perform as part of their 30th anniversary tour, Scottish stars Paul McKenna Band, and local Irish/Australian troubadours Hat Fitz and Cara.

Take a 90-minute drive out of Melbourne to the stunning Bellarine Peninsula and experience Australia's



premier Celtic Folk festival - rich in culture, music, dance and theatre.

Attracting over 15,000 punters every year, this event transforms Portarlington's foreshore and surrounding haunts into a bustling winter-wonderland of talented musicians and performers, presenting concerts across 14 stages, with showcases, dance, theatre, literature readings, masterclasses and more.

## **Quality programming**

Visitors will be treated to The Folk Market, bursting with fine food and fresh produce from a wide range of food trucks, along with delicious local wines, craft brews and spirits from Victoria's bespoke distilleries. The market is adjacent to the festival and free to the public, so non-ticket holders can get amongst it.

National Celtic Festival is Australia's largest Celtic gathering, showcasing high profile acts and unearthing new talent in





the local and global folk music and arts scene. The quality of the programming sees the festival held in high regard alongside festivals such as Celtic Connections in Scotland and Celtic Colours in Canada.

The National Celtic Festival takes place on 8-11 June, 2018. For details see: www.nationalcelticfestival.com or for tickets via www.trybooking.com

# Dressed to Kilt Debuts in Houston, Texas on Tartan Day



ressed to Kilt (DTK) headed to Texas this year debuting in Houston to an enthusiastic crowd. Considered the largest and most prestigious Scottish fashion event in the world, Dressed to Kilt once again lured decorated military men, celebrities and world-class athletes from both sides of the Atlantic on Tartan Day celebrating all that is Scottish. The event honoured Houston's Man of the Year, Mr. Jim "Mattress Mack" McIngvale during a celebrity filled runway show celebrating country cool looks "From the Scottish Highlands to Houston," that was followed by an evening of dancing and cocktails. Models and attendees ranged from Reality TV Stars to real life military heroes.

Most expatriate Scots The City of Houston boasts the most

hangar in the US complete with a private jet parked inside for the festivities. Guests decked in their finest kilts, ball gowns and black tie garbs began the evening with Scottish highland dancing following by a full fashion show featuring some of Scotland's hottest designers modelled by a mix of celebrities, professional models and military heroes. The fashion show showcased the latest designs from Calzeat, Judy Clark, Edinburgh Castle, Kevin's Catalog, Harris Tweed Hebrides, GlenIsla Kilts, House of Bruar, House of Cheviot, Kiltane, Knockando Woolmill Scotland, Slanj, Totty Rocks, and Walker Slater. For the first time outside of Scotland the new Edinburgh Castle Tweed debuted on the runway.

**Prestigious Scottish fashion event** From its genesis in 2003, DTK is now the largest and most prestigious Scottish fashion event in the world, and one of the highest profile fashion shows in the United States. The show is produced by the Friends of Scotland charity which was co-founded by Sir Sean Connery in 2002. In recent shows Sir Sean Connery, Gerard Butler, Kiefer Sutherland, Kyle MacLachlan, Ivanka Trump and Donald Trump Jr., Chris "Mr. Big" Noth, Mike Myers and Craig Ferguson have all walked the runway. The charity has raised significant sums for the families of wounded veterans.





# Lea Gabrielle at Dressed to Kilt.



expatriate Scots than any other US city making it the perfect backdrop for the event. Notable attendees included Trae Tha Truth (rapper), Marcus Lutrell (war hero and founder of The Lone Survivor Foundation), Viscount William Garnock, Eve Muirhead (Olympic Champion, curling), Carl Lewis (Olympic Champion, track and field), Taya Kyle (Goldstar widow of American sniper Chris Kyle), Lea Gabrielle (Fox News correspondent) and Karen Bell (British Counsel General). The event was held at the brand new Million Air facility at Hobby Airport, Houston, and the largest private jet

For more information, please visit www.dressedtokilt.com

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# **SCOTSPEAK**

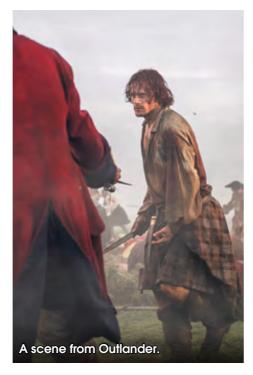
"Porridge, of course! I like my porridge and I eat it every day. That is helpful and having a job you enjoy. I like to think I've lived a decent life. I do ask myself - why me? Why have I lived so long when others haven't?"

110 year old Alf Smith, from St Madoes in Perthshire, said as he celebrated his birthday. Alf, along with Robert Weighton who lives in England, are the oldest men in Great Britain. Alf worked on his Perthshire farm into his 80's.

"I think it is too early in our process to say that there are guidelines. All whiskies work. And more importantly, there is a donut out there for any whisky or the other way around! It may be biased to say that Speyside whiskies work very well, as we obviously hold the region closer to our heart than others but there are so many delicious little characteristics here, that the pairing process is that much more enjoyable." Californian Johnny Baldaray said as he commissioned a specialist donut maker in Edinburgh to create some delicious delicacies to sample alongside half a dozen whiskies. The idea came about for this month's Whisky Month events in Speyside and he said there are some combinations that clearly work, with bourbons/bourbonbased brands great with sweet chocolate, port/fruity whiskies tend to match fruit or jelly topped, while smoky/peaty drams work with nuts or custard.

"Being on Outlander has completely changed my life. I am absolutely loving what I am doing now. I, first of all, joined an acting agency. I got a call for Outlander and I was a Highlander on season two and three. After season two I learned about Jacobite history. I started buying swords and everything. I kept buying the gear. When I first started getting into the Jacobite lifestyle my wife was a little sceptical. I think when muskets started

getting delivered to the house she just thought it had gone too far. I've just turned 40 as well so it feels like the start of a very exciting journey."



Actor and tour guide Andrew McAlindon said that his life has changed since being an extra on the hit show Outlander. Andrew has delved into Scottish history more and now runs a successful tour business based on Jacobite history and enjoys re-enactment events.

## "I think the main thing that has been missing up here is a public toilet so I have decided to install one."

Café owner John Ure said as he plans to open the most remote toilet on mainland Britain at Cape Wrath. Cape Wrath is the most north westerly point on mainland Britain and Mr Ure plans to build the facilities more than 300 feet above the sea and in a former Ministry of Defence bombing range.

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

"I look forward to joining the historic steamer for a sail on Loch Lomond in the near future and I am sure that a fully restored paddle steamer will become a very popular attraction with locals and visitors alike. I can't think of a better way to enjoy the stunning Scottish scenery along the bonnie banks than from the decks of a Clyde built steam ship."

Paul Semple of The Paddle Steamer Preservation Society said as £1m in funding for the paddle steamer Maid of the Loch has been raised. The historic steamer is currently docked at Balloch Pier as a static tourist attraction and Society hopes to see it plying Loch Lomond again.

"The more we look on the Isle of Skye, the more dinosaur footprints we find. This new site records two different types of dinosaurs - long-necked cousins of Brontosaurus and sharp-toothed cousins of T. rex - hanging around a shallow lagoon, back when Scotland was much warmer and dinosaurs were beginning their march to global dominance."

Dr Steve Brusatte, from the University of Edinburgh's School of GeoSciences, said as several large dinosaur footprints on the Isle of Skye have been discovered. The

footprints are believed to be up to 170 million years old and the discovery was assisted by using drone technology.

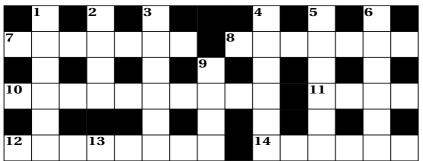
"There is no runway but the beach serves as a runway. A plane therefore can only land at very low tide. This is the only airport in the world which has scheduled flights landing on the beach. Totally unique! Romantically remote and properly unique. The seawater splashes up all over the plane as it lands, often in three inches of water. Sometimes you have to disembark onto wet rivulets of sand and seawater pools. Nowhere else in the world will you find a shark cleared off the runway! The whole experience is just fabulous. Such a stunning view coming in to land on the beach. You must do this trip at least once in a lifetime."

A voter said of Barra Airport in the Outer Hebrides in their entry for the most scenic runway in the world. Planes at the beach airport can only land and take off when the tide is out – has come second in a competition to find the planet's most scenic runway. Donegal Airport in Ireland won the competition with Barra coming in second, other airports in the list included Cape Town, Gibraltar, Barcelona, Oueenstown, Vancouver and Hong Kong.



SCOTWO

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**

7) A Scotsman's leather pouch 8) Where they spell it whiskey 10) Highland Region 11) Scots dagger 12) Enter it by a close! 14) Scots girl could be a dog! 15) Prominent sight in Edinburgh

- 19) Seen at Highland Games
- 20) Scrambled eggs
- 22) A stable company
- 23) The auld enemy
- 25) UK currency before pounds
- 26) Narrow flag

DUNMORE

		15		16						
	17								18	
19					20		21			
22				23				24		
25						26				

**CLUES DOWN** 

1) Smart trees!

2) Cunning piece of stonework 3) Describing Dunvegan's flag 4) Used for baking cakes

5) A Scottish heavy horse

6) State of inactivity

9) Glasgow district

13) Added to the value

16) A stock-keeper

17) Exhaustion

18) Tinalina with desire

21) Number in a soccer team

24) Her Majesty's daughter



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# Digital images delve deep into the heart of Edinburgh Castle



ne of the oldest and most hidden structures within Edinburgh Castle has been digitally documented by Historic Environment Scotland (HES), revealing valuable insights into the 700 year old structure. The Fore Well, the primary source of water for the medieval castle, was cut deep into the volcanic rock which towers over Edinburgh. It first appeared in historic records in 1314, when it was deliberately blocked by Robert the Bruce's troops as part of wider destruction of the castle to prevent it being used against them, but is thought to be older. In its long history it has provided a vital lifeline to the castle's residents throughout many sieges.

**Unprecedented access** During the Lang Siege in 1573 it was completely blocked by falling masonry from the bombardment of David's Tower and rendered unusable. It was subsequently cleared and extended in the following century and brought back into use. This later addition of a long straight stonework shaft is clearly visible in the new scans. The well was first surveyed in 1912 by William Thomas Oldrieve, Architect for Scotland with the Office of Works. The detailed drawings of the well created by Oldrieve allow for comparison with the new 3D models demonstrating the accuracy of the hand measurements taken more than a century ago.

Alastair Rawlinson, Head of Digital Innovation and Learning with HES said; "Our basic survey methodology would be recognised by William Oldrieve in 1912, but our laser scanning equipment lets us record the well in much more detail than was possible at that time. We build up a 3D model of the whole structure of the well, allowing for it to be viewed and explored by visitors. As part of our wider project to digitally document our estate, these scans will help us to monitor the condition of the castle and plan future conservation work. We're also starting to make many of our 3D models available online, so that people can explore our sites in more detail and get access to areas that they normally wouldn't."

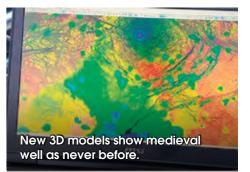
The 3D model of the Fore Well, is available to view on Sketchfab, a platform for viewing and sharing 3D models on computers, mobile devices and in virtual reality. This gives unprecedented access to an area of the castle that otherwise remains unseen. The well is thought to draw rainwater from the surrounding rock and soil, with HES Works Manager Mark Soutar, who was lowered into the well to carry out the scanning, witnessing a rise in the water level as he worked in the well shaft, suggesting that it continues to function today.

# Castle in a new light

Despite retaining water today, the Fore Well is known to have struggled to supply the castle garrison at times, with water in short supply during sieges in 1640 and 1689, when the water was also reported to have been unfit for drinking. Rachel Pickering, HES Cultural Resources Advisor welcomed the laser scanning and the insight provided, saying: "Very little survives of the medieval castle and it can be hard to understand or appreciate how the early castle would have looked. Exploration such as this helps us to look at the castle in a new light and will continue to help us reconstruct and bring to life the lesser known aspects of the castle's past."

The Fore Well has previously been a source for archaeological evidence relating to the castle, with finds including a complete cannonball and fragments of several others, a brass button thought to be from a military uniform and a halfpenny dated 1795. Finds during the recent scan provide more evidence of the castle's career as Scotland's most popular paid-for tourist attraction, with items including modern small change and a small, plastic toy skeleton being found.

The detailed scans were carried out as part of the Rae Project – HES' long-term project to digitally record in 3D all 336 sites in the care of Scottish Ministers.



More information on the project and techniques that HES uses for digital documentation can be found in the newly released Short Guide 13: Digital Documentation, which is available for free online at www.historicenvironment.scot

# Clan Donnachaidh to gather in Scotland this summer 🤇



rom the 10<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> August 2018

12<sup>th</sup> centuries,' wrote William Skene, the

of Atholl, but declined saying his family had already held that honour and he preferred the security of a royal charter for his lands granted in 1451, a thousand square miles of country that included Lochs Tay and Tummel and stretched as far as the gates of Perth. His successor was named in his charter 'Alexander, Robertson' and from then the chiefs and their descendants used the name Robertson.

The early earls of Atholl were kinsmen of the Stewart kings and they nibbled away at the clan's domain. The most successful was uncle and guardian of Alexander's grandson, William. He succeeded in snatching the best part of the clan's territory and, when William obtained his majority and objected, in 1516 the earl chopped off his head. In spite of this, great numbers of Robertsons remained on these lands and they tended to follow their chief rather than the earl. first to raise his sword for King James. In the '15, the Earl of Mar said that Struan's brigade was the strongest in his army and, aged 75, Alexander brought his clan south to fight at Prestonpans. At Culloden, as part of the Atholl Brigade, they suffered terrible casualties and the clan lands were forfeited.

The Clan Donnachaidh Society was first formed in Edinburgh in 1825. By the 1960s, it had settled its headquarters at Bruar where it built a Clan Centre and Museum. Now the Clan Society is raising money to purchase the Clan kirk at Struan where a thousand years of clansfolk lie at rest and worship services are still held today for those who attend the yearly clan gatherings.

For more information on Clan Donnachaidh visit: www.donnachaidh.com or send an email message to the Clan Secretary at: secretaryclandonna@btconnect.com. You can also follow the clan on Facebook at "The Clan Donnachaidh Society".

the Clan Donnachaidh (the Robertsons) are holding a special Gathering at Pitlochry in their Perthshire heartland. It is to celebrate Clan Chief Gilbert Robertson of Struan on his 35 years as Chief and his 80<sup>th</sup>birthday. With 26 branches of the Clan Society across the globe, a good turnout is expected for a program of bus tours, ceilidhs, lectures, dancing, music and conviviality. 'The Robertsons of Struan are unquestionably the oldest family in Scotland, being the sole remaining branch of that Royal House of Atholl which occupied the throne of Scotland during the 11<sup>th</sup> and historiographer Royal. They descend in the male line from the Celtic earls of Atholl and from the Kindred of St Columba.

# The children of Duncan

The first chief was Donnachadh Reamhar, which translates to "Stout Duncan". Hence his clan was called the Clan Donnachaidh, the children of Duncan. He was said to be a close adherent of King Robert Bruce and led his clan at Bannockburn. He called his son and heir Robert after the great king. The 4<sup>th</sup> chief, another Robert, captured the assassins of King James I. For this he was said to have been offered the earldom It was fortunate that the interests of the earls and the clan chiefs usually coincided in later centuries. With the incoming Stewart lairds they fought together as Athollmen in defence of their country.

**The Clan Donnachaidh Society** The historian Robert Scott Fittis wrote 'The Robertsons of Athole were long esteemed the best swordsmen in Scotland, and their prowess, under the royal banner, mainly contributed to the brilliant triumphs of Montrose.' The clan fought in all three Jacobite Risings. In 1689, Alexander, the Poet Chief, was the



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# WHAT'S IN A NAME?

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 at www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us, by post or email: 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.

y annual May mantra is "Never cast a cloot until May's oot." I can still hear my dear Mother saying those words every year at this time of year. It was sound advice not to shed too much of winter's garb until sunny days arrived. Although our southern cousins will looking for warmer clothes as the cooler weather approaches. May has a full block of events in Scottish history. May 1<sup>st</sup> was celebrated by the ancient Gaels as Beltane or the festival of the fire at the beginning of the growing season. There were four seasons celebrated our ancient ancestors, the other three were Imbolc on February 1<sup>st</sup> as the time for lambing. Lughnasa on August 1<sup>st</sup> was the festival of the harvest, and lastly Samhain, festival of the dead on November 1<sup>st</sup>, at the beginning of winter. A trace of this last festival is with us today in the form of Hallowe'en.

My annual May mantra is "Never cast a cloot until May's oot." I can still hear my dear Mother saying those words every year at this time of year.

May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1707 saw the installation of the Act of Union between Scotland and England to form the United Kingdom of Great Britain. May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1557 saw the establishment of the Scottish Reformation under the guidance of John Knox. As well as leading Scotland to becoming a Protestant nation, this change led the way to an education system that sought literacy for all children rich or poor. With the idea that they should be able to read Bible and religious tracts. There are many more historical events that occurred this month but these are the three that stood out for me.

# Rusk

We have a full plate of inquiries and name requests which always pleases us. Longtime reader of the Scottish Banner, Stuart Rusk of Simcoe, Ontario, Canada asked about his own surname. Rusk is usually associated with Perthshire but probably is a variant of Risk which is a surname from Stirlingshire. It is from the Gaelic place name "riasg" meaning morass with sedge, which sounds like an unhospitable type of terrain. I have even heard of a land area referred to as "the Reisk" in Kincardineshire which are probably a name variation of this type of topography. The oldest record of the name is 1552. Both Risk and Rusk are listed as being associated with Clan Buchanan.

The name Stewart is an occupational name. The purpose of a steward originally, in royal or noble house was to run the household and to control the larder. It was an elevated position within the house and every noble house no matter how modest had one. Thus the reason it is a common surname throughout Scotland.

To answer Mr. Sudlow's question about where his Stewarts may have originated, it would best to do a paper trail genealogy from his grandmother's line back and see where there is a possible connection to Scotland. This maybe a task, in that this line may have been in Northern Ireland for a few hundred years, back when records become scarcer. We wish him good luck in his search.

His paternal grandmother was Beatrice Willock from the Blackfriars' district of Glasgow.

Willock is from the Anglo Saxon personal name "Willa" meaning will or desire. However, with the popularity of the name William in the 11th century, the diminutive or pet forms of the name Willcock and Willock surfaced. So it maybe one of these two derivations.

Last question was if the name was connected to Clan Gunn. Will, Wilson and Williamson are listed as septs of the clan. Though, again one must remember with popularity of the William variants throughout Britain that not all bearers of the name would have an affiliation with the clan. Again a paper trail genealogy would hopefully ascertain this.

Lennox, Raymond and Glen

Mr. Ray Perry of Casino, NSW, Australia takes first prize for the largest list of names submitted to me. Since May of 2016, I have managed to address close to a dozen names in different editions of *the Scottish Banner* and here are the last three to date. Thank you for your interest.

The first is Lennox. Lennox is an ancient earldom, the name is from a Gaelic place name Levenach meaning smooth stream. There is a Clan Lennox so all history pertaining to the name can be accessed through their clan society.

The next name on the list is Raymond from the Old German "Ragimund" meaning counsel in mighty army. From what I can determine it is not too common in Scotland.

Lastly, while the name Glen seems selfexplanatory being a generic terms for a geographical feature, the name appears to be from the lands of the same name in the parish of Traquair, Peebleshire. The name was recorded as a surname in 1328.

Thank you all for you inquiries, it is my pleasure to respond and I hope it is your pleasure to read them. Enjoy your May.

NATIONAL



PAUL MCKENNA BAND FIONA ROSS | COLIN LILLI CATHERINE FRASER TRIO | CLAYMORE RICH DAVIES & THE LOW ROAD



# **By: Ron Dempsey**

**MacNeacail and Scorrybreac** From our Australasia office Mr. Stewart Sudlow, a reader since 2000 asked about a few names which interested him. He read about the 2018 Richmond Highland Gathering in Tasmania written by Frank who was born in Belfast in 1893. The question was where would the Stewarts originated in Scotland? It is quite difficult to give a specific answer for Stewart and its variants Stuart and Steward are one the more common names and found all over Scotland. It was the name of the royal house in Scotland and Britain for many generations. Originating from Walter, the steward to Robert the Bruce. Walter married Robert's daughter Marjorie to start the Stewart dynasty. This doesn't mean that all people bearing the name Stewart have a royal pedigree. Also there are at least a dozen Stewart or Stuart noble houses in Scotland.

Chief John MacNeacail of

MacNeacail and Scorrybreac.

MacGregor in the April issue of the Scottish

Scorrybreac and Mr. Sudlow was interested

Banner. In the article it mentioned Chief

John MacNeacail of MacNeacail and

in the name's origin. MacNeacail is

the Isle of Skye.

the right profile

Clan Motto: Scorrybreac

Bhreac meaning grey ridge.

Stewart and Willock

the Gaelic for MacNicol or Nicolson.

Some with the name were a sept of clan

MacLeod on Lewis others were situated in

Clan Badge: A red falcon head showing to

Scorrybreac is from the Gaelic Sgorr a

His grandmothers' name are next on Mr.

maternal grandmother Margaret Stewart

Sudlow's list of inquiries. The first being his

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# Bundanoon Is Brigadoon - The Bundanoon Highland Gathering



he sun shone and the pipes played and Brigadoon came out the mist to once again grace the streets an oval of Bundanoon. The crowds initially built up slowly and reached around



the 10,000 mark, who enjoyed outstanding performances from Scottish dancers, singer Mary Kiani, the heavy event championships, the Bundanoon Stones and the finale with the massed pipes and drums.



The street parade was a wonderful procession of bands playing such a broad variety of music that really entertained the spectators lining the street. There were 24 bands in total, consisting of over 550 performers, a great turnout for the Gathering. Also on the street parade were various children's floats, the Rural Fire Service and of course the proud Clan and Scottish societies marching in their groups. The Chieftain of the Day Warren Glase D.Ua and his wife Dawn were accompanied by the president Peter Rocca, and drove in style in a 1961 EK Holden supplied by Richard Alekna.

World class Scottish gathering The massed bands was led by Drum Major Clarrie Lemme of the NSW Police Pipe Band, Clarrie recently retired from the NSW Police Pipe Band and in recognition for his outstanding service and commitment the pipe bands the committee gave him the honour of leading the Massed Bands as a thank you for all the support he has given Brigadoon over many years.

The Scottish country dancers gave wonderful display to extremely appreciative audience and the award winning dance, *The Bundanoon Strathspey*, devised by Morton Jay was again performed at Brigadoon. As usual the *Dashing White Sergeant*where all spectators can participate was a wonderful spectacle. Also another crowd favourite was no doubt the heavy events, which included the lifting of the Bundanoon Stones, by The Tartan Warriors.

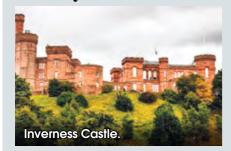


The Brigadoon Highland Gathering committee is a highly motivated volunteer group that delights in being able to produce a world class Scottish gathering and to see visitors enjoy a day of Scottish revelry is the best satisfaction that they can have.

Would be interested in joining this highly dedicated and committed committee? The Bundanoon Highland Gathering are looking for new members, please contact: publicity.brigadoon@gmail.com. The next Bundanoon Highland Gathering takes place on Saturday April, 6, 2019. For details see: www.brigadoon.org.au or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Brigadoon1978



# Did you know?



# Inverness

- The first Inverness Castle was built out of wood and was burnt down by King Robert I, also known as Robert the Bruce. The structure we see on Castle Hill today dates from the 1830s.
- Inverness hosted the first ever meeting of a British Cabinet outside of London at Inverness Town Hall in 1921.
- Abertarff House is the oldest building in Inverness and dates from 1593. It was built as the town house for the Frasers of Lovat.

# New Slains Castle Awarded Listed Status Scottish Castle which inspired Dracula recognised as having special historic interest.



he north-east, cliff-top property that is thought to have inspired Bram Stoker's Dracula and which features in Samuel Johnson and James Boswell's travels of Scotland has been awarded listed status by Historic Environment Scotland (HES). The listing recognises the special architectural and historic interest of New Slains Castle, from its origins in the 16<sup>th</sup> century to its significant remodelling in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Its spectacular clifftop setting and fascinating historical connections, also contributed to the decision to list. Head of Designations Elizabeth McCrone said: "New Slains Castle is a fantastic addition to Scotland's diverse range of listed buildings. This impressive ruin has four centuries of history to tell us about and it is remarkable, not only

for its architecture, but also for its literary associations. Dr Samuel Johnson and his biographer James Boswell visited New Slains Castle in 1773 and both were moved to write about it in their subsequent famous journals about their tour of Scotland. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the author Bram Stoker stayed in the area and the Castle is said to have helped to inspire his most famous novel, *Dracula*. Today, it continues to dominate the landscape and command views over the North Sea – making it a unique landmark in the area. Listing will help to ensure that its interest is recognised for future generations." in reprisal for Hay's participation in a rebellion against James VI. Hay constructed the castle in a contemporary style, with a tower and wings partially enclosing a courtyard. The use of such as design in a completely new structure sets Slains aside from other similar castles, such as Dunotter and Pistligo, where older towers had wings added to form a courtyard.

Some of the Castle's most unusual features were added by Gilbert Hay, 11<sup>th</sup> Earl of Errol, in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. This series of modifications saw the addition of an enclosed gallery around the courtyard. Further additions took place in 1707, when a new entrance and frontage were added, along with the large bow window, which command a striking view of the North Sea. The final additions took place in 1836, when the exterior of the house was

- Shinty, a form of hockey derived from the Irish game of hurling, began in the Inverness area and still today the sport is mostly played in the Scottish Highlands.
- Inverness is known as the "Capital of the Highlands".
- Inverness is a millennial city as it became a city in 2000.
- Inverness means "mouth of the river Ness" and is the most northerly city in Britain.

# **Unusual features**

The castle was constructed in the 16<sup>th</sup> century by Francis Hay, to replace Old Slains Castle, which was destroyed

remodelled in a Tudor style by Aberdeenbased architect John Smith.

The Castle passed out of the Hay family in 1916, when the cost of death duties led Charles Hay to sell the castle. Following a further sale, the contents of the castle were sold off and the roof removed to exempt the property from tax. The cliff-top location of New Slains Castle inspired Samuel Johnson to write: "I would not for my amusement wish for a storm; but as storms, whether wished or not, will sometimes happen, I may say, without violation of humanity, that I should willingly look out upon them from Slanes Castle."

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# **KINGS CASTLES AND** *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.*

Pollock housing. Photo: Glasgow City Council.

# **Schemes and Schemers**

Peas brose again mither, Peas brose again, Ye feed me like a duck mither, And me yer only wean.

ollok it turned out had a very ancient history with the Parish of Pollok having a connection with a chapel as far back as 1180 A.D. At that time "Peter, the son of Fulbert owner of Upper and Nether Pollok, gave to the monks of Paisley the church of Pollok with its land and waters, plains and pastures" which grant was confirmed by Bishop Jocelyn of Glasgow. The lands of Pollok came later into the hands of the Maxwell family and remained so since the time of Robert the Bruce from whom Sir John Maxwell got a grant of those lands together with the lands of "Lyoncroce" near Barrhead. A castle was built on the banks of the River Cart and Pollok House was built close to the same site as this old medieval keep in 1740.

Pollok in modern times became the name generally applied to the large housing estate that arose on the southwestern boundary of the city of Glasgow, about three or four miles, as the crow flies, from Govan and Plantation. When used by people living in the rest of Glasgow, the name Pollok came to refer, as well, to the area covered by the earlier housing schemes of Househillwood, Priesthill, Nitshill, Craigbank and South Pollok which in many ways simply retraces some of the old Parish of Pollok. Altogether, the greater Pollok housing scheme was to finally cover an area of two square miles but up until 1926 some of this land still lay outside the Glasgow city boundary. It was in that year that Glasgow annexed from Renfrewshire the three one time mining villages of Nitshill, Hurlet and Housillmuir. These villages had, for a long time, ceased to develop and their populations had become static. The whole area lent itself to housing development because it was largely made up of farmland with very few existing buildings, structures or communities to be accounted for. Building began in 1934 at Nitshill, Househillwood and Old Pollok, the area east of Braidcraft Road and about 1600 houses were completed before the outbreak of war in 1939.

of war were used as a labour force to help dig roads and sewers and to develop some of the land in Pollok for housing. After 1945, with the war at an end, the housing authorities had a massive task on their hands to try to catch up, to provide homes for large numbers of post-war newly-weds as well as people still on the housing waiting lists since before the war.

Housing was the main social problem inherited from the inter-war years in Scotland with many families living in overcrowded and sometimes desperate slum conditions in some of the older parts of Glasgow. Overcrowding in Scotland, in general, was six times as great as in England and Wales and even as late as 1951, half of all Scottish households didn't have a fixed bath. One in sixteen had no private toilet and about the same number had neither piped water nor a kitchen sink. My family would have been considered fortunate, living in our tenement in Blackburn Street; we had our own toilet and two rooms, one of which included the scullery and a kitchen sink.

Most people couldn't even think about buying a home and Glasgow Corporation became virtually the only source of homes to rent. The waiting lists were enormous. Building materials were in short supply and building land was scarce. To meet this critical need, and the raised expectations of a civilian population that had experienced 'total war' and now expected Government intervention, more housing estates were built in the outlying parts of the city. As part of this post-war reconstruction, building was re-commenced in Pollok with most houses built during 1946-1952. My family moved there from Plantation in 1947 with the number of houses in Pollok planned to grow to nearly 10,000 and the population to about 50,000 people by the late 1950's.

# Sir John Stirling Maxwell

When Glasgow Corporation first acquired the land for the development of Pollok from Sir John Stirling Maxwell, Sir John laid down a number of conditions for the planned sale. He obviously had in mind a garden suburb which was then in vogue and at the forefront of thinking in the minds of town planners. Pollok was to be a model suburb with the houses built, cottage-style with 'ample space for light around them'. Gardens were to have no railings and for every tree cut down to make way for a house, another was to be planted 'to preserve the natural surroundings'. Major roads were to be dual carriageways. Although the Corporation accepted these conditions, in good faith; the reality and difficulties of building soon after the war became apparent. The Corporation, quite quickly, had to depart from their envisioned high standards in much of their resumed building works for, like everything else, house-building had to operate within an austere post-war climate. There was an on-going shortage of building materials and the previously envisioned high standards were inevitably compromised. Pressures compelled the Corporation to switch, in many parts of Pollok, from terraced or semi-detached

family houses to flats, built four in a block, and to blocks of flats per se. In my own family's case we ended up with a top storey flat in a four in the block.

Pollok was to be spared, however, from the later blight on Glasgow; that was the high-rise, multi-storey flat. Much of the scheme was planned with long, wide main roads with large roundabouts at their intersections. The houses were grouped in open squares, ovals and crescents. It's interesting to note, however, that during the whole time I lived in Pollok (1947-1965) we waited with expectation and in the end in vain, for a road bridge to be built that would join Brockburn Road to Braidcraft Road, the route we took to St. James Parish Church. The road was laid up to the Levern Waters on both sides and a road bridge would have sensibly completed a very obviously needed transport connection. It was never built. In spite of the supply of plenty of wide roads, Pollok was planned in an era when there was little expectation that most of its citizens would own motor cars. There was practically no provision made for off-street parking to cater for the future users of these generous roads, and the increased ownership of cars that was to come about in later decades.

**Monotony of the Pollok landscape** In spite of the very evident variety in the types of houses built in Pollok, the planners were criticized for having produced a great deal of monotony within the housing stocks. This is partly explained by the lack of other kinds of buildings, such as public buildings. These might have helped to break the perceived monotony of the Pollok landscape, the wide spaces left between the houses and the fairly sparse tree plantings along the streets. Nevertheless, in its early days the individual verandas on the flats, the brightly coloured painted doors and the general brightness of the new buildings on the estate were much admired by some outside observers, with blocks of flats, on Netherplace Road, the ones that we looked on to from our back windows on Cornalee Road receiving the 1953 Saltire Society's Prize for design.

Interestingly enough it was originally intended by the planners that the developments at Nitshill and Househillwood would be separated from Pollok proper by open space, and that each would cater for a different kind of population. The Pollok scheme was to be occupied largely by those with higher incomes, while Nitshill and Househillwood were to contain a much larger percentage of unskilled workers. Whether much of this social engineering ever came to fruition, I cannot say, except that Househillwood and Priesthill remained separated physically from the rest of Pollok by the Househillwood Park and by the single row of shops at Peat Road Roundabout (or Househillwood Roundabout) which served everyone's needs.



# PROGRAM

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July 7:00pm - Ceilidh Rubina Auditorium, Abbotsford Convent 1 St Heliers Street, Abbotsford Adult \$20pp, Child (5-14) \$10pp

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July - Genealogy Day Conducted by Genealogical Society of Victoria (Further details & to book tickets go to MTF website)

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July 6:30pm - Gala Dinner Main Hall, Melbourne Town Hall Drinks & canapes on arrival. 3 Course meal Guest speaker & superb entertainment Cost: \$150pp Dress code: Black Tie. Ladies evening
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> July - Kirkin O' The Tartan Service 10:45am arrival. Service begins at 11:00am The Scots Church, Collins St, Melbourne This Event Is Free. (Booking required for morning tea catering)
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> July – 1:00pm - Pipe Band Performance Gordon Reserve, Spring St, Melbourne. Free Event
To book events & for regular event updates visit: www.melbournetartanfestival.com.au



# The inter-war years

During 1939-1945 most of the nation's resources were necessarily concentrated on the war effort and house building virtually came to a standstill in Glasgow. However, 200 houses in Pollok were completed for the Air Ministry during the war and were used to house workers employed at the then new Rolls Royce aero engine factory on the Hillington Industrial Estate, situated about four miles to the north. During the war German prisoners



reetings from Scotland, where I write this by candlelight – well almost. We have just had a spring storm and the lights have gone off. But, happily, I have ninety-nine percent of power left on my laptop. Enough to write this month's column... hurrah!

Our climate is so fickle. Yesterday was glorious, with bright sunshine and not a breath of wind. I still thought it might be cold, so I put on coat and gloves before I went out to start pruning the raspberries. Within ten minutes, I was working away in my shirt sleeves. No wonder we talk about the weather all the time...

# Prince Harry and Meghan Markle

And something else we are all talking about is that wedding. Our handsome prince marrying a gorgeous American film star. The world will be watching, of course. And some folk will get a more personal view than others.

Prince Harry and Meghan Markle are getting wed at Windsor Castle which is one of The Queen's favourite royal residences. This is the oldest and largest inhabited castle in the world – and it's in the adjoining St George's Chapel that the happy couple will tie the knot in May.

# Lady MacGregor's Scotland By: Lady Fiona MacGregor

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 to report on all matters Scottish. Fiona lives in Scotland with her husband, Chief of Clan MacGregor, Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor, and is also 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.



St George's is a place of worship that dates back five hundred years. Royalty is buried here – and, over the centuries, royalty has married here. But the chapel only seats eight hundred and as Harry and Meghan want many more people to feel part of things, they have invited some of those who have shown strong leadership, or served their communities, to join the celebrations.

Yes, you get some funny looks when you go into Waverley railway station bearing a giant bush in one hand and a suitcase in the other.

Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenants, or personal representatives, were asked to put forward names. From Dumfries in the south of Scotland, I suggested a lassie called Amy Wright. Amy helps run a café and drop-in centre. It's called 'The Usual Place' and it offers employment opportunities and training support for those with special needs. Amy herself was born with a physical disability. Despite that she is a dedicated volunteer – and an inspiration. We have told her to get lots of photos when she attends the royal do. Meanwhile a charity that works in Scotland is also set to benefit from the wedding. The engaged couple have announced that, rather than send presents, they would like people to give donations to worthwhile groups. 'The Wilderness Foundation' which introduces vulnerable young people from the cities to country life, is one of the suggested beneficiaries.

# The Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs

The chief and I are not on the list of invitees to this special royal day. Then, why should we be? But we have been at our own celebratory dinner. After eight years, the MacGregor has stepped down from running the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs (SCSC). And this was the sendoff. A grand 'thank you', held in a smart Edinburgh restaurant; suitably chiefly, with tartan, salmon and venison on the menu.

The MacLaren was there. Donald MacLaren is the new convenor of the SCSC. Also present among others at the event was the McNab, the MacThomas, and the chiefs of the Lesley and Caithness clans.

It was all most convivial – especially when they presented my chief with a rather apt present. The oak tree features on the MacGregor coat of arms. The symbol was adopted because legend has it that a king was being threatened by a wild boar until one of the name uprooted a tree trunk and used it to beat off the beast.

It is a romantic tale. But reality dawned the following day when we had to get the thing home. We know that Scotsmen are well used to tossing a caber or two before breakfast. But try carrying a six-foot tree through the streets of Edinburgh: the chief struggling under the weight and trying to avoid decapitating people; me walking several paces ahead and trying to pretend I wasn't with him.

Yes, you get some funny looks when you go into Waverley railway station bearing a giant bush in one hand and a suitcase in the other. At least it is a striking bush. Or it will be. When the leaves appear later in the year, we are reliably informed they should be tinged with red. Just like my husband's hair!

Anyhow, the MacGregor then left it to me to get the thing planted. Because he was heading to Washington to take part in Tartan Week celebrations. The US capital is an exciting city, but it is perhaps a little racy for my liking. The last time I was in Washington I had my passport pinched. It was at the top of a hotel where we were told we would get a great view of the White House. Too great a view, as it happened because I was so caught up with the vista that I failed to watch my bag properly. Hey ho, it's back to the raspberry pruning!

# Repairs and conservation of historic Bute House now compete



estoration to parts of Bute House, the official residence of the First Minister of Scotland, has now been completed. The premises have returned to full operation as a working government building. The conservation work, coordinated by Historic Environment Scotland, began in October after routine monitoring revealed urgent ceiling repairs were required to the category A listed Georgian building, part of Edinburgh's New Town World Heritage site. Extensive work was carried out to stabilise and retain the ornate plaster ceiling in the drawing room - the main public reception room in the building - and strengthen the floors above. Both traditional techniques and modern materials were used in the repairs, which have preserved for the future the unique features of the building, including the cantilevered stone staircase. Maintenance and modernisation work also took place while Bute House was closed. This included repairing faulty ventilation systems, installing heating for the first time throughout the whole building, and refurbishing the toilet facilities. Bute House, on Edinbrugh's Charlotte Square, is a beautiful example of Georgian classical revival architecture typical of Edinbrugh's New Town.

# Scone Palace to host the World Championship in Medieval combat



cone Palace is getting back to its medieval roots this May

contact medieval battles, duelling, team fights, archery, falconry and much more.

and scrapes than those taking part in full-contact medieval fights.

Scone Palace's hosting of the world championships came about after William Murray, Viscount Stormont, son of the Earl and Countess of Mansfield, learned about the growing popularity of the sport. While working in New York, William met several American and Canadian fighters and the Vice-President of the International Medieval Combat Federation. William then offered to host the 2018 World Championships at Scone Palace.

William said of his first brush with fullcontact medieval combat: "It was quite the spectacle, like watching boxing in armour. It was hugely entertaining to watch, and not for the faint-hearted. I was brought up watching the film *A Knight's Tale*, so I found myself completely taken by the sport. It's a real coup for us to be hosting the World Championships."

When it plays host to the world championships for full- contact medieval combat, a sport rising in popularity around the globe. Thousands will descend on the historic visitor attraction, known for being the crowning place of medieval kings, when it hosts the International Medieval Combat Federation World Championships from May 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> 2018. The event will attract 25,000 visitors, 500 competitors and 500 officials from 31 countries worldwide. Many of the competitors will set up a medieval encampment on the grounds of the Palace and will include full-

# Historically accurate

This marks the first time that the United Kingdom has hosted the championships, which take place every three years at historic venues around the globe. While medieval re-enactment fighting has been popular for decades, countries around the world are signing up for fullcontact events, in which ancient combat is revived as a regulated sport featuring historically accurate weapons and armour. Organisers and participants say the sport is relatively free of injuries and that rugby players sustain more bumps

### More information available at www.scone-palace.co.uk



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# Tartan soul-The Bay City Rollers



Les McKeown (centre) with his band enjoy performing hits such as Shang-A-Lang, Bye, Bye Baby, Saturday Night and more.

# The Scottish Banner speaks to Les McKeown

Considered as possibly the world's first 'boy band' the iconic Scottish pop band The Bay City Rollers had worldwide hits such as Shang-A-Lang, Bye, Bye Baby, Saturday Night and I Only Wanna Be With You. The lead singer of Scotland's greatest pop band Les McKeown took the time to speak to the Scottish Banner's Sean Cairney ahead of a tour to Australia and New Zealand on how it feels like to perform those hits today whilst wearing tartan, using social media to connect with fans and just what it was like to be a part of a generations musical soundtrack.



SC: Les thanks for taking the time to speak to the Scottish Banner. Last year you had a greatly successful return tour to Australia, what can fans expect from the 2018 tour and how excited are you to be coming back Downunder?

LM: The fans of the Bay City Rollers (BCR) music like the songs to be reproduced as close to the records as possible and tartan to be worn by the band members, wearing our iconic shirts. We do all that and have the music in the show down pat for fans. It is a really good party atmosphere and people love reminiscing about their younger days and enjoying the music. This is also my first return to New Zealand in some years which we are also very excited about.

do 3 or 4 shows a week on those tours and that's been going on for some time and getting stronger and stronger. So whatever it is I am not going to fix it, because it's not broken!

**SC:** You have called your fans family who have grown up together, can you tell us more about the family connection you feel with your fans?

LM: That's right, and there is a lot of that today with social media. Through live messaging or Periscope or Facebook live, I can have a chat with the fans and connect with them in real time. I am active in a social media sort of way and love reaching out to fans. Of course you also get used to seeing fans over the years at the live shows and at times I catch up with them for dinner or have a catch up during intermission at one of our gigs. Some fans are able to maintain a friendship connection like that and some are still amazingly besotted by my mere presence if you know what I mean, they can still be a bit weak at the knees!

SC: Les the music of the Bay City Rollers takes audiences on a unique voyage back to a time when they were the soundtrack for a generation. How does that make you feel to be able to connect to fans so many all these years later whilst at the same introducing a whole new generation to your hits?

SC: What advice would the Les McKeown of today give the teenage Les starting out with the Rollers in Edinburgh all those years ago?

LM: Keep on doing what you are doing! There have been lots of some extreme highs and sadly some lows, but all in all it's been a great ride for me. I also never could have known all the influences we have had on people such as bands like The Ramones writers of films and Judy Murray (mother to tennis greats Andy and Jamie Murray) she comes along to our shows. It surprises me to meet so many people who you have had such an impact on their life.

SC: The energy and excitement of performing all the Rollermania hits must be quite a thrill. How does it make you feel to relive this excitement with fans old and new?

LM: It is even more rewarding now as we take such care to make sure the music sounds good. The BCR have so many hit songs and though we change the set list all the big hits remain in place. We may



do some numbers acoustically or even get fans up on stage to sing with us, but we keep true to the music. It is what people expect and what we love to do.

SC: And finally how much tartan do you like to see the audience wear at a Rollers show? Also how different is it for you to preform today with so many people having cameras which would not have been the case in the 1970's?

LM: Dress as you like, it a party like atmosphere. We are going back in time together for a couple of hours. It really is a very special occasion that people want to enjoy. Quite a few people no doubt don a bit of tartan out of respect for their own history and culture.

Regarding pictures sometimes it can get to you especially when people bring an iPad and all you see is the back of a computer looking at you. In some theatres there is a photo limitation, where fans can take videos or pictures for a few songs and then we ask they put them down and enjoy the show.

The Bay City Rollers are touring Australia nationally and in Auckland, New Zealand during July and August. For details see: www.metropolistouring.com

# Scottish Australian Heritage Council's annual "Scottish Week"

- Save these dates -Friday 29 June to Saturday 7 July, 2018 EVENTS INCLUDE Fri 29 June - Lecture: The Enlightenment, The Library - Speaker: Paul Brunton OAM at SMSA.

SC: The Bay City Rollers first visited Australia in 1976 amid the phenomena of Rollermania. Can you tell us how you try to take audiences, old and new, back to those 1970's days?

LM: Audiences now are excited about the possibility of seeing their heart throb live again. I do lots of touring in the UK, Europe and Japan and can

LM: There are a lot of new people coming to our shows to see what all the fuss was about. Of course peoples sons and daughters have also grown up to their Mum (and Dad!) playing our music in the car or at home. So the kids know all the songs as well. The male of the species who would never have come to our shows back in the day, are now coming in droves wanting to also hear those songs of their childhood and have fun.

Australia nationally in July & August, and the Scottish Banner has 2 double passes to any performance across Australia to giveaway.

To win enter via our email or website: competitions@scottishbanner.com, www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us or post (sorry no telephone entries) our Sydney office, our full contacts can be found on page 2.

Please ensure you include what location/date you are wanting to attend (full tour details can be found on page 32), and email/phone details.

Winners will be notified directly, good luck!

**Sat 30 June** - Burns Supper, Cellos Restaurant, Castlereagh Boutique Hotel.

Sun 1 July - Kirkin' o' the Tartan at Hunter Baillie Memorial Presbyterian Church, Annandale, a light lunch then the Clans and Families Forum, including a speaker on DNA.

Other events - Inspection of Mosman Cairn, History Lecture: "The Long Siege of Candia (1648-69)" and Wed 4 July - Parliamentary Lunch recognising Tartan Day.



For more details go to www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au or ring Nea on 0408 990 413

# Hawthorn claims top band title



awthorn has emerged as Australia's premier band after the 2018 Australian Pipe Band Championships at Brisbane Boys' College in April. The Victorian band under pipe major Kyle Warren, formerly



Tony Sell, Bob Semple OAM BEM, Nat Russell GC OAM and Sam Young.

of the Red Hot Chilli Pipers, claimed its first national title since 2010 when the championships were last held in Queensland. Hawthorn was one of four bands competing in the top grade in the championships that attracted more than 30 bands from across Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia for the event that also included highland dancing, medieval displays and Scottish stalls.

# **Pipe Bands Australia**

The band's drum major Bob Semple OAM BEM, who turns 98 in May and is the chieftain of Pipe Bands Australia (PBA), was among the jubilant Hawthorn contingent after results were announced. Grade 3 was won by the visiting Foundation New Zealand Youth Band while Knox Grammar

School was victorious in Grade 4. The juvenile championship was taken out by Scotch College Melbourne. Benjamin Casey (Victoria) achieved a hat-trick of Australia drum major solo titles while the juvenile event went to Izaak Dove of Brisbane Boys' College. The championships were the culmination of a big week for Pipe Bands Australia that included the announcement of the first 12 inductees into its Hall of Fame, among them Bob Semple. PBA also announced inaugural recipients of awards in promotion and advancement of the movement, performance and education and training with those selected eligible for elevation to the Hall of Fame. It was also announced that the PBA diamond jubilee year Australian championships will be held on 4 and 5 April 2020 in Maryborough, Victoria, where the first Australian championships were held in January 1961 following formation of the national association a few months earlier.



after the announcement of results.

## The result were as follows: Grade 2 Hawthorne City

The Pipeband Club Moorabbin City St Andrew's Pipe Band

## Grade 3

Foundation New Zealand Youth Emmanuel College Highlanders Scotch College (Melbourne) Canberra Burns Club Pipe Band Coastal Scottish Pipe Band City of Melbourne Highland Pipe Band No 1 Victoria Scottish Pipes and Drums Greater Springfield Pipe Band Auckland Police Pipe Band

## Grade 4

Knox Grammar No 1 Brisbane Boys College No 1 Haileybury The Scots College **BBC Old Collegians** Brisbane Boys' College No 2 Old Scotch Pipes and Drums Maclean & District Pipe Band Gold Coast Tweed Pipes and Drums Murrumba Pipes and Drums Toowoomba Caledonian Society Canberra Burns Club Pipe Band City of Brisbane Pipe Band City of Melbourne Highland Pipe Band No 2 **Qld Irish Association Pipe Band** St George's Girls School

## Juvenile

Scotch College (Melb) Foundation NZ Youth The Scots College Haileybury Pipes and Drums Brisbane Boys' College No 1 Knox Grammar School No 1 Brisbane Boys' College No 2 Haileybury Pipes and Drums Development Band St George's Girls School



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# Seabin-Scotland's first floating garbage bin

A Scottish first has recently launched in Aberdeenshire to help save Scottish waters from plastic waste which is crippling the world's oceans. Banff Harbour is leading the fight against ocean plastics by installing the innovative Seabin device, designed by two Australian surfers to clean up the oceans floating garbage as Nick Drainey explains.



**Bv: Nick** Drainev



"Seabin" which can collect microplastics, plastic bottles and even discarded oil is being used for the first time in Scotland as part of the fight against growing levels of dangerous litter and waste in the waters around the country's coast. The ingenious device, which is being installed in Banff harbour, places a pump below a mesh bag which sits on the water. Water and debris are then sucked down with waste material left in the bag. The potential catch equates to around 50,000 plastic water bottles a year or more than 30,000 paper cups, as well as oil floating on the surface or micro

plastics down to the 2mm in diameter.

# **Fishing for Litter**

The installation at Banff, by Aberdeenshire Council, has the backing of KIMO UK, an Aberdeenshire-based environmental organisation linking local authorities around the coast of the North Sea. Faron McLellan the Coordinater for KIMO UK, which runs the Fishing For Litter scheme which has seen trawlers collect 1,400 tonnes of debris from the sea since 2005, said: "Seabins are

**Australian surfers Pete Ceglinski and Andrew Turton** began developing the Seabin in 2015 after becoming fed up of the amount of

The Fishing for Litter scheme sees most of the waste collected used for recycling. Old fishing nets can be turned into socks and it is even possible to use old ropes to make swimsuits.

At Banff, the Seabin, which costs around £3,000, is to be bolted onto a pontoon so it can move up and down with the tidal range, collecting up to 20 kg of waste at a time.

Australian surfers Pete Ceglinski and Andrew Turton began developing the Seabin in 2015 after becoming fed up of the amount of debris in the water. They are now being produced in France and installed in countries across the world. While the current Seabin only works in calm waters, the creators of the device have the long term goal of developing a more advanced version which could be installed in the floating garbage patches found in the open oceans of the world. Calum MacDougall, Engineering Sales Manager at Inland and Coastal Marina Systems, which is supplying the Seabin, said: "One thing I find amazing is that fish are not attracted to it. They also have a special sponge which will take in a small oil or diesel spill."

# **Microplastics**

The amount of plastic in the world's oceans has been creating growing concern in recent months, especially since the BBC highlighted the problems in its environmental documentary series Blue Planet II. More than 10 million tonnes of plastic is thought to enter the sea each year, causing harm to marine animals and even ending up being digested by humans after fish have ingested tiny particles, known as microplastics. The Scottish Government's environment secretary Roseanna

Cunningham has said she would like to see the banning of plastic straws written into law by the end of next year and backs the EU's vision to phase out single use plastics by 2030, while Prime Minister Theresa May has pledged to eradicate all avoidable plastic waste in the UK by 2042.

Gina Hanrahan, Acting Head of Policy at WWF Scotland said that was a step in the right direction: "Plans by the Scottish Government to phase out single use plastics by 2030 is a really welcome and significant step forward. The tide is turning quickly on plastics and we're confident consumers in Scotland will support deposit return. We urgently need to help consumers reduce plastic consumption where it is clearly unnecessary. The UK Government plan to wait until 2042 will see more plastic than fish in our oceans. To avoid falling out of step with the EU and Scotland, the UK Government needs to go further faster to halt the wave of coffee cup, plastic bottle and other plastic waste."

## **Remote Scottish beaches**

Last year, researchers from Heriot-Watt University found that levels of microplastics on remote Scottish beaches were as high as those found in industrialised regions. The scientists, working with Orkney Islands Council, took over 100 sediment samples from 13 locations around the Scapa Flow, and compared them to samples from the Clyde and Firth of Forth. The results showed that microplastics were present in all 13 samples taken from Scapa Flow, despite its remoteness and Orkney's small population.

And in March Greenpeace reported tiny fragments of plastic in two thirds of the sea around Scotland, some of the country's most important feeding grounds for sharks, whales, dolphins and seabirds.



Mr MacDougall said the concerns were being felt across the marine industry and interest in Seabins was growing. He said: "We already have another four or five

enquiries from Scotland, people have realised they have to act. If this is going in, environmental wise it ticks a big box."



# Did you know?

- The Seabin creators say that in the four years of product testing, no fish were caught in the bin.
- · The Seabin in Banff is only the second such device to be installed in the UK after the Portsmouth UK launch in 2017.
- It is estimated that the volume of plastic leaking into the sea is approximately eight million metric tons a year - with only 9% being recycled. Less than 20% of this originates from ocean-based sources like fisheries and fishing vessels.
- · Seabin is made from recycled plastic and can be powered by renewable energy.

FINNAIR





# LONDON MANCHESTER DUBLIN EDINBURGH

**VIA SINGAPORE OR HONG KONG** 

## debris in the water.

a fantastic, low cost way to help remove marine litter from the sea. The concept fits in well with our Fishing For Litter scheme and once this first Seabin has been installed in Banff, we at KIMO UK are looking into using our nearby Fishing For Litter skip at Macduff to dispose of the litter collected. Even at this early stage, we have had great interest from other Fishing For Litter harbours and we are currently sourcing new funding to cover the initial purchase and installation costs of additional units."



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# Lindores Abbey The spirit of whisky



May is Whisky Month and Scotland is no doubt known as the land of whisky. Today whisky is one of Scotland's national icons and an industry worth billions to the UK economy. Last year a distillery opened in Fife at the location of what is believed to be the first recorded whisky distillation in Scotland. Lindores Abbey is located on the edge of Newburgh, Fife and dates back to 1191. The family run business is headed by Drew Mackenzie Smith, who took the time to speak to the Scottish Banner's Sean Cairney on the important history of Lindores Abbey, how they are blending modern and ancient technology and just what makes whisky production 500 years in the making so special.

**SC:** Drew thank you for taking the time to speak to *the Scottish Banner*. Can we begin by you giving a brief history of Lindores Abbey and how it has a connection to whisky?

Whisky and Friar John Cor was a monk of Lindores Abbey, 8 bols of malt would have produced about 1500 bottles of today's whisky so it was quite an operation!

we are doing now, distilling is an ancient technique that they were involved in so we are really just carrying on from where they left off when the Abbey was ransacked by John Knox and his reformers. ruin that means a great deal to me and the locals but possibly not enough of a pull to bring the thousands of tourists that I had originally hoped to encourage to visit this small corner of the kingdom of Fife.

Everything changed when I read of the exchequer roll, everybody kept saying 'you should build a distillery' and a lot of people (especially from the US) couldn't understand that a place with such massive historical importance was being allowed to crumble away. I read of (and have visited) Mt Vernon, George Washington's distillery and have often spoken with Steve Bashore who runs it. It is a great example of what can be done with perseverance and on a site that there was barely nothing now stands a fantastic 'original' working distillery, a great credit to all involved.

But back at Lindores, whilst I struggled along, I didn't have the £10m required to get something like this off the ground, but I pulled together all the required financial documents and forecasts and hit the road to find investment and was very lucky that very quickly a small group of whisky lovers came on board and here we are with a fantastic distillery, spirit in casks and our first product, Lindores 'Aqua Vitae' ready to hit the shelves.

SC: Your vision for Lindores Abbey includes being a sustainably responsible. From using the same bore water used hundreds of years ago, recreating ancient gardens and growing your own barley on the land. Can you tell us more about the green initiatives you are taking on and why they are so important for you?

**DMS:** Distillery's are basically production units, if you strip away all the romance of the whisky industry you are really just processing barley into spirit, so anything we can do to be more environmentally friendly we do, for instance the draff, the husks of barley left behind after mashing, gets taken away by trailer and travels less than a mile to be used to feed the cattle at our neighbours farm, and the pot ales (the liquid waste) gets taken by another farmer to be used a chicken feed, so it's all going

**DMS:** The Abbey was founded by David, Earl of Huntingdon on land gifted to him by his Brother, King David I of Scotland, the Abbey was founded in 1191 and has been host to several Kings, Dukes and nobleman. My great Grandfather purchased Lindores Abbey Farm in 1913 but it was only in 1999 that I first read of the entry in *The Exchequer Roll of 1494*, this was like the Royal tax record and it reads "To Friar John Cor, 8 bolls of malt wherewith to make Aqua vitae for the King". This is the earliest written record of the production of what we now know as Scotch **SC:** The hard working monks of Lindores set the stage for cultivation and production. What do you think those Tironensian monks who originally occupied the site would think of the distillery today?

**DMS:** The Tironensians were renowned for using the most advanced techniques in their farming and fruit growing operations and I think they would be hugely impressed by what we have here today, having said that, if they were here I wouldn't be! But they worked the land to provide for themselves and that is what **SC:** The Lindores Abbey farm has been in your family since 1913, as the Custodian of Lindores, what gave you the idea to bring whisky back to the property? What pressure have you felt and challenges have you faced in bringing whisky production back to the 'spiritual home of whisky'?

**DMS:** We lived in blissful ignorance of the link to the exchequer roll for about 90 years but I always felt that there was potential to welcome visitors to the Abbey as it has a massive history out with the Exchequer roll, but in reality it is a beautiful tranquil

back into the system.



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Soon we will be planting around 600 fruit trees, these will be apple, pear and plum, the three fruits we know were grown at Lindores, for instance we have record in 1422 of the abbot of Lindores sending his man with 'plowmyss for the King', the King would have been at nearby Falkland Palace and we know that he paid three shillings, which was actually a fair sum in those days so they must have been good plums!

We are hoping to be able to use some of our pot ales and draff as fertilizer for the orchards so again, the cycle of life is very much to the fore at Lindores.

I've lived here all my life and as the Abbey was in private hands no one really knew much about it and now I can share its history with people from around the world.

The monks also used reed from the reed beds that they planted in the River Tay in front of the Abbey, these became the largest reed beds in Europe and were used in thatching, we have a wooden barn on the property which we will be thatching next year, again bringing the ancient crafts back to life at Lindores.

**SC:** Drew whilst you have embraced the unique history of Lindores, the distillery is a modern cutting edge business. Can you tell us what visitors can expect to enjoy on a visit to Lindores Abbey today?

**DMS:** We put a lot of thought into this and our idea was to have a very premium offering for visitors (probably why it cost several million ??) so the first part of their visit would be to our 'Apothecary', this is a beautiful room created to look and feel like an ancient apothecary with mortars and pestles, plants in jars and all sorts of distilling memorabilia. Visitors can book an 'Apothecary' session where they will spend time with our on-site 'Apothecar', he is actually a great chap called Tim Foster who is also a graduate of the brewing and distilling course at Heriot Watt University, arguably the leading distilling course in the world.

to use and how to blend them together to create their own version, we will then write down their recipe in our big leather book and they can take their own bottle home.

Guests can then wonder along the cloister, similar to a monastery but in our case it's where our horses used to live, this has been created into a lovely long space with stone and glass. The central point being our 50 foot long oak table, carved form a local tree that was over three hundred years old, on the table we have twenty wooden books featuring small stories and facts about the Abbey and there are items showing the skills of the monks who once lived here, finely carved stones and illustrations from music scores, illustrated here by a monk called Thomas Wode in his books called the Wode Psalters. Last summer we actually had a performance of the music, the first time it had been performed at Lindores Abbey for over 500 years, it was a very special moment indeed and for me quite an emotional experience.

After the cloister our visitors are taken into the distillery itself, we have the ultimate USP at Lindores being recognised as 'The Spiritual home of Scotch whisky' but if the spirit doesn't come up to scratch we would just be an attraction and not a serious distillery.

At the very outset I promised our lead whisky consultant the late Dr Jim Swan that I would pay whatever it takes to make our spirit world class, and whilst there are no guarantees in this life, certainly the best way to do this was to use the best suppliers so we used Forsyths of Rothes, the Rolls Royce of still makers and commissioned them to provide us with a full turnkey operation and that is what they have done. We now have a beautifully designed, fully functioning distillery with three beautiful copper stills named Dodo, Poppy and Gee after my mother and two daughters, for some reason my wife Helen declined to be named after three tons of copper! The still house has views over the Abbey itself and right across the fields of barley to the River Tay, I believe it is one of the most beautiful views from any distillery but I would admit to being a wee bit biased! From the still house guests are then taken for a tasting in the 'Legacy Bar', to be honest this was originally my legacy but now we've opened it I've made it available to all in the sense that we set up a preservation society which is limited to just 1494 members and part of the rewards for joining is getting your name carved on the wall, showing that you have

contributed to the preservation of the spiritual home of Scotch whisky.

Finally, guests are welcome to stroll amongst the Abbey grounds and enjoy delicious homemade food in the refectory, this was what the dining area was called when the Abbey was founded in 1191, the soup is especially good but again I'm a wee bit biased as I make it, I used to be a chef so it keeps me in practise!

**SC:** Scotland is synonymous with whisky and it is undoubtedly one of the icons of the nation. Some may not realise that the taste of any whisky can change by geography, water used or even the wood of the whisky cask. As a distillery which straddles both the Lowlands and Highland region can you describe 'water of life' produced at Lindores?

DMS: The Lindores Single Malt will be a balance of 3 different casks, American Oak Ex-Bourbon, European Oak Sherry Butt and lastly European Oak Wine Barrique's that are returned to the cooperage to be shaved, toasted and re-charred to a unique Lindores recipe. The maturation journey is to ensure and enhance, that what is already to be found in the NMS stays there but also to add in some further layers from the cask maturation period, we are also able to fine tune the final spirit by varying the use of each different cask, this spirit is "complex" it's not going to be your "typical" lowland spirit, it is in essence, distilled and matured to be unique!

**SC:** You have also created a Preservation Society to help protect the medieval abbey ruins of Lindores Abbey. How important is it for you to preserve not only the story of Lindores but also the physical link? Also have you learned any historical facts you were not previously aware of?

**DMS:** It is hugely important to me that we have set up the preservation society as the Abbey has existed in one form or another for over 800 years and one of the main reasons I have set up the distillery is to help raise funds to preserve the Abbey.

At the same time we are expecting about 25,000 visitors per year which inevitably will take its toll on the fabric of the Abbey itself so the preservation society will be incredibly important to help us to keep what remains of the Abbey intact.

One of the elements I'm most proud of is that we had to have an archaeologist on site throughout the build and very early on we started to unearth previously buried abbey walls, and these had been buried for over 500 years.



What this did was enable us to get a far better vision of what the Abbey actually looked like as there were no records of this as they were all destroyed in the reformation, I got the archaeologist, a leading expert in Tironensian monasteries and an illustrator to sit in one room and draw up the picture we now have in the visitor centre, it is the best guess we will ever have of what the Abbey actually looked like and basically it was twice the size we thought, so for me personally, to have done this on my watch is hugely satisfying, long after I'm gone people will be able to visit Lindores and learn the history of the Tironensians and how they lived and worked at Lindores abbey all those centuries ago.

**SC:** And finally Drew in 2017 your dream of opening Lindores Abbey to visitors came to fruition. The story of Lindores Abbey can now be told to Scots and visitors from across the world, how does that make you feel that what started some 500 years ago is now a part of a modern Scotland?

**DMS:** It means a great deal to me, it just shows that if you believe in something enough you can make it happen! I've lived here all my life and as the Abbey was in private hands no one really knew much about it and now I can share its history with people from around the world, we've already welcomed visitors from many countries but there are even locals who come up to me who didn't know they had such history on their doorstep.

Also one thing that I am very excited about is that soon the Aqua Vitae and then the whisky will be available all over the world, so someone could be sipping a dram of Lindores single malt in North Alaska knowing that a little bit of their money has gone to preserve the spiritual home of Scotch whisky.

Lindores Abbey Distillery is situated in North West Fife, next to the small town of Newburgh. For further details see: www.lindoresabbeydistillery.com



Tim will talk people through making their own aqua vitae, which herbs and spices

# IN SCOTLAND TODAY



# Top overseas medal haul for Team Scotland at the 2018 Commonwealth Games

Team Scotland has surpassed their previous best tally at an overseas Commonwealth Games at last month's Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in Australia with 44 medals, finishing in the top ten at number eight in the national standings. Team Scotland had set a goal of coming home with at least 30 medals to beat the previous best away overseas Games record set in Melbourne in 2006 with 29 medals. Team Scotland won a record 53 medals at the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games. Team Scotland Gold Coast 2018 comprised of 224 athletes, 131 men and 93 women, including 18 Para-Sport athletes.

Sportscotland chief executive Stewart Harris said: "Once again Team Scotland has delivered on the global stage with a string of sensational performances surpassing our best ever performance at an away Games in the Gold Coast. For many of those medalwinning athletes, the 2018 Commonwealth Games marked the next step on an incredible sporting journey, and we are thrilled for each and every one of them who have brought home a medal. They have put in hours of hard work behind the scenes with the athletes and each and every one of them should be very proud of the results we have achieved. And while we are of course delighted with the medal successes I also want to pay tribute to the many athletes who achieved a personal best and to every single member of the team for the incredible dedication they have shown to the Games."

The Commonwealth Games is the only multi-sport Games in which Scots get to compete under the Scotland flag and it is the pinnacle of the Scottish sporting pathway for many of the 26 member sports and athletes. Scotland concluded the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games with a total of 44 medals with 9 gold, 13 silver and 22 bronze. The next Commonwealth Games will take place in Birmingham, England in 2022. renewal project, and hopes the new visitor attraction can open for summer 2019. The project will enable the Museum to be redeveloped to meet the expectation of today's visitors and to tell the stories of the soldiers of one of Scotland's great Highland Regiments over the last 220 years. In his appeal letter Prince William wrote: "The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Museum needs your help. This project has already received substantial donations and pledges but we still need to raise more. This ambitious project will ensure that this great historical legacy will survive, engaging and educating the visitors of tomorrow. Without The Argylls' Museum the history will be lost as The Argylls no longer exist as a regiment in their own right. We have to keep the memory alive of what The Argylls have contributed to history."

Based in Stirling Castle, the Argylls museum is planning a major revamp of its officially nationally recognised collection of militaria, art, and archives. The museum hopes to attract and additional 30,000 visitors each year with work commencing this summer. More than 9,500 Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders have died in combat, immortalised by such episodes as the Thin Red Line at Balaklava. To help the appeal see: www.argylls.co.uk

'Outlander effect' impacts Clan Fraser headstone at Culloden Battlefield



. .. . . . . . .

British Government under the command of the notorious Duke of Cumberland. Between 1500 and 2000 Jacobites died on the battlefield, with 50 Government troops killed and was the last full-scale battle to take place on British soil.

Whilst tourism officials, including those at Culloden Battlefield, are enjoying the increase in visitor numbers to Scotland's historic sites many have also needed to look at ways to best manage the visitor numbers whilst maintaining the historic integrity of properties.

## **Backing for clans**



Photo: L-R - Nicholas Wilkes, "Jacobite Standard Bearer" - Arran Johnston, "Bonnie Prince Charlie" - Culture Secretary Fiona Hyslop - Jamie MacNab, Chief of the Clan MacNab, Scottish Council of Standing Chiefs - Ettore Viscontini, "Jacobite Highland warrior".

A total of 11 community events spanning nine local authorities are receiving support of more than £48,000 in 2018 from the Scottish Clan Event Fund. The fund supports events that engage local communities and encourage international visitors. For the sixteen events funded last year, receiving £47,550, VisitScotland estimate 60% of those attending were international visitors and the net economic impact of the events was in excess of £1.7 million. The 2018 grants include £5,000 to the Battle of Prestonpans Heritage Trust, for a commemoration event planned on 15 September. As she met representatives of the Heritage Trust, Culture Secretary Fiona Hyslop confirmed the Clan Fund would support further events in 2019 and 2020 through the next funding round, to open to applications at the end of May. Ms Hyslop said: "Scotland's rich history is a huge draw for visitors from around the world. And with up to 50 million people globally claiming Scottish ancestry, we know that our cultural heritage is one of our unique selling points as a 'must visit' destination. The Scottish Clan Event Fund is about tapping into that market and -

crucially – supporting clan organisations to connect with and involve people within their local communities. Events are taking place this year the length and breadth of the country, from Orkney to Argyll. The plans in Prestonpans are significant as they demonstrate the expansion of community-focused activities into areas not traditionally associated with Scottish clans."

The Battle of Prestonpans Heritage Trust will stage a battle re-enactment on 15 September, alongside unveiling memorial tables to those who died in what was a significant conflict of the second Jacobite Rising.

# 3D model of Great Polish Map of Scotland launched



The newly restored Great Polish Map of Scotland and a 3D model of the monument have been unveiled. The 3D model, which has been created by Historic Environment Scotland, highlights the cultural links between Scotland and Poland and will be presented as a Scottish contribution to the Polish independence centenary celebrations in November this year. During a visit to the map's site at the Barony Castle Hotel in Eddleston, Culture Secretary Fiona Hyslop said: "The Great Polish Map of Scotland is a fine example of Scotland's ties and friendship with Poland. I congratulate the individuals and volunteers involved in its restoration for their incredible work. This restored version of the map and its digital model further strengthen the long-standing cultural connections between our nations and highlight our shared history and heritage. As we prepare to celebrate the centenary of Poland regaining its independence, we hope the 3D model will contribute to raising awareness of the strong bonds between Scotland and Poland." The stone map of Scotland was built in the 1970s to recognise the hospitality shown to Polish soldiers during World War Two and is located in the gardens of Barony Castle Hotel, Peebles. The map sits in an oval pool about 160ft (50m) wide and 5ft (1.5m) deep with water recreating rivers, lochs and seas.

# Royal backing for the Thin Red Line Appeal



Prince William has lent his backing and support to help The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Museum. Under threat of closure following Ministry of Defence cuts, the Museum is embarking on a £4M The Clan Fraser headstone at Culloden Battlefield outside of Inverness has been closed for repairs, the latest historic site in Scotland to do so due the impact of increased tourism from the 'Outlander Effect". The ground around the stone needs to be fixed due to an increase of up to 30% by fans of the *Outlander* books and television series. The *Outlander* series follows the character Jamie Fraser played by Scots actor Sam Heughan. The Battle of Culloden took place on April 16 1746 and marked the end of Prince Charles Stuart's Jacobite uprising. Highland forces and their allies were routed by forces of the

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# Have a dram good time in Scotland in 2018



hisky events take place across Scotland each year with events for lovers of whisky and its rich history. Visiting a whisky distillery is a 'must do' for many whilst visiting Scotland and there are also festivals which celebrate Scotland's connection with the amber liquid. If you are travelling to Scotland this year look out for these great events coming up (courtesy of VisitScotland), we have also included some that have already taken place should you be considering a whisky themed trip beyond 2018.

# Fife Whisky Festival

# 10 March, Cupar, Fife

The new Fife Whisky Festival, took place at the historic Corn Exchange in Cupar showcased the finest whiskies from the Kingdom of Fife and beyond. Over 25 exhibitors offered a huge range of whiskies to try and the festival was opened by round-the-world cyclist and Guiness World Record holder, Mark Beaumont.

# Inverness Whisky & Gin Festival – The Big Day Out

# 7 April, Inverness, Highlands

The Inverness Whisky & Gin Festival again took place at Bogbain Farm overlooking the Moray Firth, just south of the Highland Capital. The organisers promised that the Big Day Out would be an adventure from start to finish! There was live music throughout the day and a Fired Up Scotland pop up restaurant will serve the very best of Scottish cuisine.

Spirit of Speyside Festival 3 – 7 May, Speyside, Highlands Whisky Festival, featuring top distillers from all over Scotland. You can opt for a ticket which also allows entry to a whisky masterclass where you will have the chance to try special and rare malts and go on an educational whisky journey.

# World Whisky Day 19 May, various locations

Raise a glass to Scotland's national drink on World Whisky Day. You could attend an associated whisky-themed event, such as the combined history tour with whisky tasting by Mercat Tours held in Edinburgh's ancient Blair Street underground vaults, or why not head to your favourite whisky bar or plan a visit to a distillery?

# Edinburgh Whisky Stramash 19 – 20 May, Edinburgh

'A glorious rammy of whisky' is what the organisers call it, and we couldn't agree more. Set in the opulent and historic Surgeon's Hall on Nicholson Street, the Edinburgh Whisky Stramash is the whisky event which doesn't take itself too seriously. There are plenty of whisky experiences to take part in – some of them quite whimsical in nature – which showcase whiskies from both Scotland and beyond.

# Fèis Ìle, The Islay Festival of Music and Malt

# 25 May – 2 June, Isle of Islay

Ardbog Day – part of the Islay Festival of Music and Malt at the Ardbeg Distillery

Set sail (or fly) to the enchanting Isle of Islay, Scotland's whisky island, for Fèis Ìle. Expect a warm Hebridean welcome and great craic as you explore the distilleries and sample whiskies with the island's famous peaty flavours. The festival also offers a taste of the unique island culture, with the programme featuring Gaelic and traditional music, ceilidhs, as well as events covering golf, history, natural heritage and more. of the exhibitors. There are also some rare and more exclusive whiskies available to purchase, or you can educate your senses at whisky masterclasses.

# Dramathon

# 20 October, Speyside, Highlands

Now this is an event with a difference – Dramathon is a marathon distance race where whisky is very much the motivation! Running part of the Speyside Way from Glenfarclas Distillery to Glenfiddich distillery, you can race distances of a full marathon, a half-marathon, a 10K or a relay race. Along the way, get stamped as you pass distilleries to collect whisky miniatures at the finish line. It won't just be the whisky that will warm you up!

# **Theatre of Drams**

22 – 26 October, Bowmore Hall, Islay Learn enough to start your own distillery at the Theatre of Drams Festival. This whisky symposium takes place on Scotland's whisky island – Islay and 2018 will be the second year it will have run. Spend five days learning about whisky production with knowledge shared by distillers, barley experts, chemists, coppersmiths, coopers, brand ambassadors and more. If you're short of time, it's still possible to join the festival for just a day or two by cherrypicking your preferred events.

# **Glasgow Whisky Festival**

# 10 November, Glasgow

This festival brings Scotland's national drink to the country's national stadium. Whisky lovers flock to the Glasgow Whisky Festival at Hampden Park to sample and savour a wide range of great whiskies. This festival also showcases the distilleries which are closest to Glasgow along with the city's independent bottlers.

There are lots of other whisky events taking place throughout the year, including tastings and food pairings – why not find a whisky event taking place when you visit? Or, find a distillery and take a tour.

For help planning a whisky inspired trip see: www.visitscotland.com



Join whisky lovers from far and wide in romantic Speyside for a unique and varied whisky festival programme. The Spirit of Speyside Whisky Festival is filled with special manager and behind-the-scenes distillery tours, whisky and food pairings, whisky tours by train or 4×4, sensory experiences, ceilidhs, whisky-themed walks and more, held across a huge range of iconic distilleries and local venues.

# **Stirling Whisky Festival**

### 12 May, Stirling

Stirling Highland Hotel is transformed into a whisky lover's paradise during the Stirling Edinburgh Whisky Festival 16 June, Edinburgh The Assembly Rooms in Edinburgh is where you can find the Edinburgh Whisky Festival, a one-day event which will delight whisky fans. Included in the price of your ticket is the sampling of whisky from all



# FEATURING

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# CALLING THE CLANS

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

# <u>Clan Baird Society Worldwide</u>



Bayard, Bardt, Barth and Biard or varied spellings of the name of Scottish origin In addition to the Society newsletter and the opportunity to associate with fellow clansman members may

query the Society geneologist. For information write:

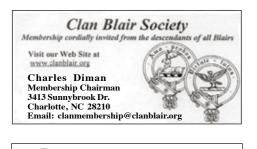
Dr. Debra J. Baird, President 3491 County Road 3459, Haleyville, AL 35565 Email: djbaird4@gmail.com

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



CLAN BELL **Clan Bell North America** 

ordially invites membership inquiries from persons Named Bell (all bellings), their descendants and friends. Computerized Genealogical ta base available to help members in their research. Quarterly newsletter ublished. Tents hosted at major Scottish games from coast to coast. Your Bell ancestry is important! Visit our web site: www.clanbell.org Contact our Membership Chairperson: Pauline Bell 1513 Anterra Drive, Wake Forest, NC 27587 e-mail: debellinnc@reagan.com



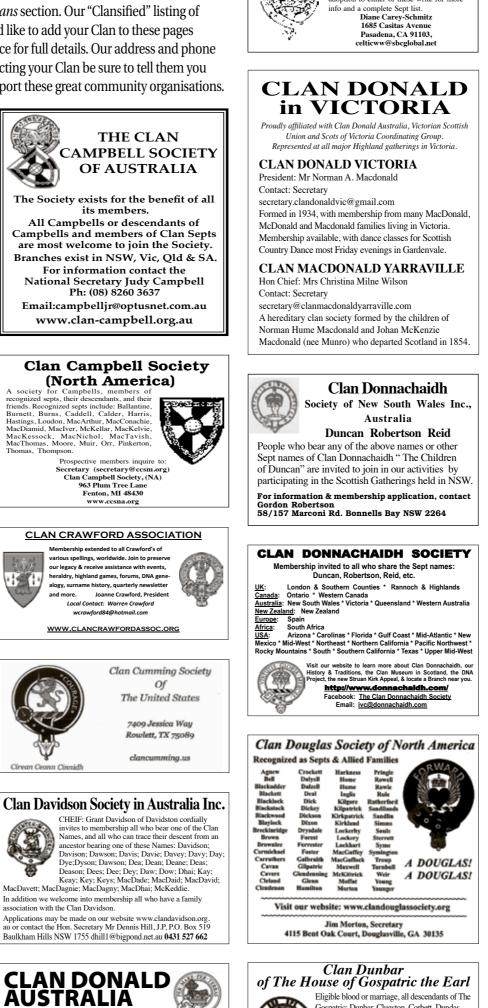
# Family of Bruce International, Inc.

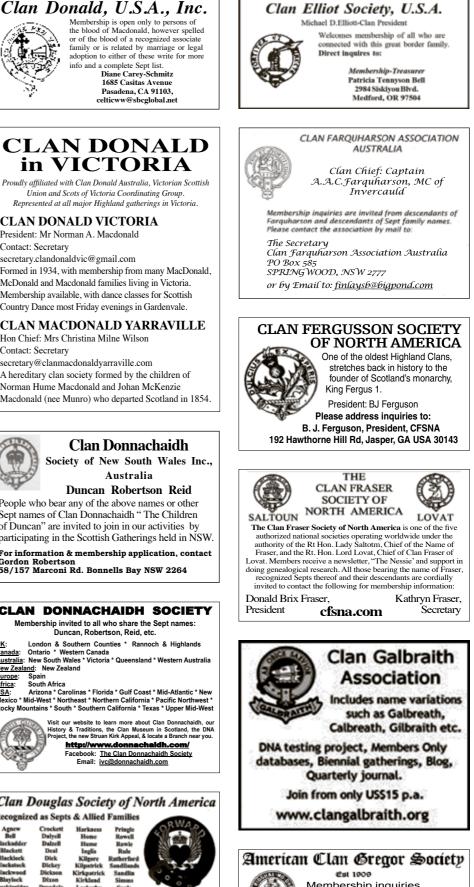
Family of Bruce International, Inc., the only such organization recognized by the heredi-tary chief of the Name of Bruce, The Rt. Hon. Earl of Eigin and Kincardine, is a non-profit organization established to create kinship amongst its family members and promote interest in the Family of Bruce and its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

William A. Bruce, FSA Scot, President 5556 27th Ave. So.

Polly A. (Bruce) Tilford, Secretary 5561 Earl Young Road Bloomington, IN 47408 Minneapolis, MN 55417-1934 www.familyofbruce.org











Statesville, NC 28625



Mr La State Commissioners

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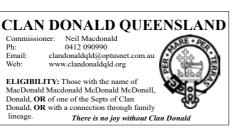
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WA

Council of the Chiefs of Clan Donald'

Mr Lachlan Macdonald Mr A. Neil Macdonald Ms Therese McCutcheon Mr Norman A Macdonald Ms Pamela McDonald

secretary.clandonaldaustralia@gmail.com There is no joy without Clan Donald







Peddie, Strickland, Washington, Wedderburn and all spelling variations of each name. Also all other families who were associated with The Gospatric Chieftain David C. Dunbar

3 Laguna Ave,

Kirwan Old 4817

61 (0)7 4755 4370

Edgar, Grey, Hervng, Home, Knox, Nisbett,

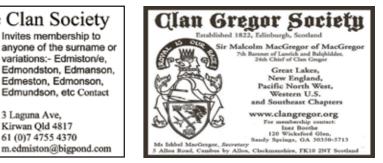
Eligible blood or marriage, all descendants of The Gospatric: Dunbar, Clugston, Corbett, Dundas,

> 16419 Carlton Vale Ct. Tomball, TX 77377-8488

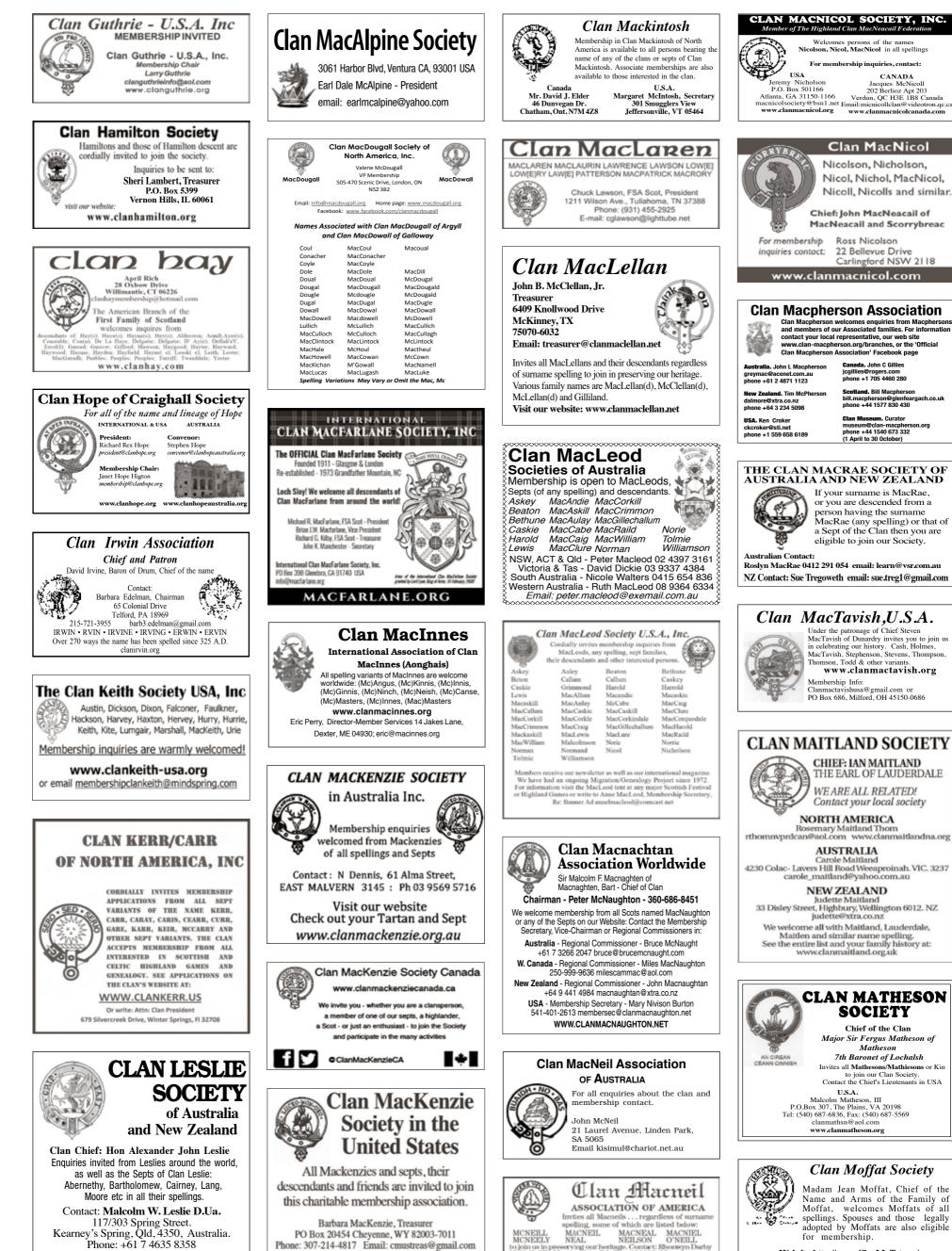


Clan Gregor Society NORTH HOBART TAS 7002 Email: clangregoraustralia@gmail.com Web. www.clangregor.com

"Royal is my Race"



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malncol@icr.com.au www.clanleslie.org



Website: www.clanmackenzie.com

spelling, some of which are listen perow. MCNEIL MACNEIL MACNEAL MACNIEL MCNEELY NEAL NEILSON O'NEILL to join us in preserving our heritage. Contact: Rhonwyn Darby McNeil, VP, Membership, PO. Box 230693, Montgomery AL 36123-0693, (334) 834-0612, E-mail rdmatngm@taol.com

Website: http://www.ClanMoffat.org/



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



# Scottish Gaelic Society of Victoria

www.scottishgaelicsocietyvic.org

Founded in 1905

12:30 pm during school terms

at The Kildara Centre, rear of

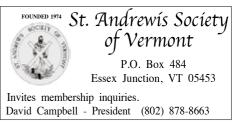
39 Stanhope Street, Malvern. Language Class: Wednesdays 7:00 to 8:30 pm during school terms at the Celtic Club, 420-424

Contact Maurice Fowler 0408 223 277 Email: scottishgaelicsocietyvic@gmail.com



The Society of St. Andrew of Scotland (Queensland) Limited ABN 30 093 578 860 Invites membership of all people of Scottish descent or association

The Secretary, P.O. Box 3233, South Brisbane, BC, QLD, 4101, Australia. www.standrewsociety.com





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

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> Jan Macdonald: Secretary Victorian Scottish Union

T: 03 9360 9829 M: 0438 584 930 E: secretary@victorianscottishunion.com www.victorianscottishunion.com

# **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** or email **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

## MAY 2018

**5 Hamilton, ON - Poor Angus and Scottish Ceilidh** A fundraiser event to help offset costs of attending the World Pipe Band Championships in Scotland in August 2018 by the Toronto Police Pipe Band (Grade 3) at Scottish Rite, 4 Queen Street South. Info: info@torontopolicepipeband.com

**5 Toronto, ON - Clan MacLeod Spring Ceilidh** Come, bring your friends, family, bring the grandchildren, (all ages welcome) and join your fellow MacLeod Clansfolk at Melrose Community Church, 375 Melrose Ave. Info: Cathie White at 416 691 2215 or white2215@bell.net **5 Toronto, ON - Cànan agus Òran Gaelic** 

# Language & Song Workshop

The Gaelic Society of Toronto and the University of Toronto Celtic Studies Program will be holding a day of Gaelic language and song for learners of Scottish Gaelic at Alumni Hall, 121 St. Joseph Street (Saint Michael's College, University of Toronto). Info: 905 844-4908 or www.gaelicsocietytoronto.com/gaelicnewsevents.

### 12 Toronto, ON - West Toronto Scottish Country Dance Ball

Music by Scotch Mist at Sala Caboto, part of the Columbus Centre at Lawrence Ave & Dufferin Street. 40 Playfair Ave. Info: www.dancescottish.ca

### 16 Toronto, ON - Glenview's Spring Fling

Enjoy an evening of Scottish country dancing to the lively music of Fred Moyes at Glenview's end-ofseason Spring Fling at Glenview Presbyterian Church, 1 Glenview Ave. Info: www.glenviewscdg.org

## 19 - 21 Victoria, BC - 155th Victoria

Highland Games & Celtic Festival The celebration of Scottish and Celtic music, arts, and culture at Topaz Park. Info: www.victoriahighlandgames.com

### 19 - 20 Regina, SK - Saskatchewan Highland Gathering & Celtic Festival

Bagpipes, Scottish dance & heavies and more at Victoria Park. Info: www.saskhighland.ca

**19 Nationwide - World Whisky Day** A day of global whisky celebration, try a dram and celebrate the water of life. Info: www.worldwhiskyday.com

### 25 - 27 Peterborough, ON - 34th Annual Stoney Lake Scottish Country Dance Workshop

RSCDS Peterborough invites you to dance with guest teacher Rebecca Blackhall-Peters and musician Fred Moyes. Enjoy the beauty and recreation of Pine Vista Resort. Info: www.pscds-on.org

**26 Kingston, ON - Kingston Scottish Festival** Pipe bands, Scottish dance, vendors and more. Info: www.kingstonscotfest.com

## **JUNE 2018**

9 Georgetown, ON - 43rd Annual Georgetown Highland Games A great day of Scottish family fun at Georgetown Fairgrounds. Info: www.georgetownhighlandgames.com

10 - 16 Moncton, NB - Moncton Highland Games Scottish dance, pipe bands, athletics and more. Info: www.monctonhighlandgames.com

## 15 - 16 Cobourg, ON - 55th Cobourg

Scottish Festival & Highland Games Friday night ceilidh and full Highland games on Saturday at Victoria Park. Info: www.cobourghighlandgames.ca

### 16 Coquitlam, BC - BC Highland Games & Scottish Festival

A celebration of Scotland at Percy Perry Stadium, Town Centre Park, 1299 Pinetree Way. Info: www.bchighlandgames.com

23 - 24 Selkirk, MB - Manitoba Highland Gathering A weekend of Scottish celebration and events at Legacy Park. Info: www.manitobahighlandgathering.org

### 23 Water Valley, AB - The Water Valley

**Traditional Celtic/Folk Festival** A one day event that features Celtic talent of all levels involving music, dance and stories

### 23 Perth, ON - Perth Brewery World Record Kilt Run 2018

The annual Perth's World Record Kilt Run is both a festive spectator sport and unique opportunity for runners of all ages to don a kilt and follow a route through the historic stone streetscapes of Perth and across the spectacular Tay River. Info: www.perthkiltrun.ca

# 24 Edmonton, AB - Edmonton Scottish

**Society Highland Cathering** A full day of Scottish events and entertainment with pipe bands, Alberta's largest Highland dance competition, heavy events and more. Info: edmontonscottish@shaw.ca

### 26 - July 2 Halifax, NS - The Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo The world's largest annual indoor show based with hundreds of performers onto the stage

from around the world at Scotiabank Centre. Info: 1-800-563-1114 or www.nstattoo.ca

### **29 - July 7 Cape Breton, NS - Kitchenfest - Féis a'Chidsin** Fiddles and bagpipes, concerts and céilidhs, food and drink, Gaelic language and song, cheering and dancing, informality and hospitality at Cape Breton's biggest kitchen party. Info: www.kitchenfest.ca

USA

# MAY 2018

**5 Savannah, GA - Savannah Scottish Games** A day of Scottish celebration at Bethesda Academy Main Campus 9520 Ferguson Ave. Info: www.savannahscottishgames.com

### **6 Redlands, CA - 14th Annual Pipes of Spring** An afternoon of bagpipes, drums, organ, highland dancing, and more at University of Redlands, 1200 E Colton Ave. Info: www.blandfordbands.org

6 Mount Vernon, WA - Scottish Music Sessions Musicians from around the region gather for a music session at the Littlefield Celtic Center. Info: www.celticarts.org

### 19 - 20 Albuquerque, NM - Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival

Two days of food, drink, live music, athletic competitions, Celtic vendors, and more. Info: www.celtfestabq.com

### 19 - 20 Maryville, TN - Smoky Mountain Scottish Festival and Games

At Maryville College, East Tennessee's premier celebration of Scottish culture and history. Info: www.smokymountaingames.org **19 Nationwide - World Whisky Day** 

# A day of global whisky celebration, try a dram and celebrate the water of life. Info: www.worldwhiskyday.com

**19 Shortsville, NY - Finger Lakes Celtic Games & Festival** A wonderful array of Scottish, Irish, Welsh, and Cornish performers, vendors, and food. Info: flceltic@yahoo.com

### **19 Elkton, MD - 58th Annual Fair Hill Scottish Games** A day of athletics, music, dancing, food, and

arts celebrating Scottish and Celtic culture at Fair Hill Race Track, 4600 Telegraph Rd. Info: www.fairhillscottishgames.org

### 26 - 27 Alma, MI - 51st Alma Highland Festival

A great weekend of Scottish entertainment, Clans, dance and more at Alma College. Info: www.almahighlandfestival.com or 989 463-8979.

**26 - 28 Greenville, SC - Greenville Scottish Games** Celebrate a great weekend of Scotland at Furman University, 3300 Poinsett

Highway. Info: www.gallabrae.com **26 Eugene, OR - 16th Eugene Scottish Festival** Scottish family day with music, Clans and more at Irving Grange, 1011 Irvington Dr. Info: www.eugenescottishfestival.com

### **JUNE 2018**

 1 - 3 Glasgow, KY - Glasgow Highland Games
 Annual festival celebrating heritage and traditions of all Celtic people. Info: www.glasgowhighlandgames.com
 2 Friendsville, MD - Garrett County Celtic Festival
 Celebrates the heritage, arts, and culture of the **3 Wauwatosa, WI - Milwaukee Highland Games** Celebrate Scotland at Hart Park, 7300 Chestnut St. Info: www.milwaukeescottishfest.com

### 7 - 10 Salt Lake City, UT - Clan Leslie International Gathering

Join Clan Leslie Society International and special guests The Honourable Alexander Leslie & Miranda Leslie. Info: www.clanlesliesociety.org

### 8 - 10 Salt Lake City, UT - Utah Scottish Festival & Highland Games

A weekend of Scottish fun and friendship at the Utah State Fair Park 155 N 1000 W, presented by the Utah Scottish Association. Info: www.utahscots.org

**9 - 10 Plymouth, CA - Mother Lode Highland Games** A full weekend family friendly event, filled with Scottish Heavy Athletics, Highland Dancing, hundreds of bagpipes, Scottish & Celtic foods, music and entertainment at Amador County Fair, 18621 Sherwood St. Info: www.themotherlodegames.com

### 9 - 10 Blairsville, GA - Blairsville Scottish Festival & Highland Games

Celebrate Scotland at Meeks Park. Info: 706 745-5789 or www.blairsvillescottishfestival.com

**14 - 17 Franklin, NC - Taste of Scotland Festival** A celebration of Scotland with music, food and family fun. Info: www.tasteofscotlandfestival.org

# 15 - 16 Itasca, IL - Chicago Scottish

Festival & Highland Games An extravaganza of activities and attractions - from the Caber Toss to Highland Dancing to the Dogs of Scotland at Hamilton Lakes, 900 Thorndale Ave. Info: www.scottishfestivalchicago.org

# 15 - 22 San Diego, CA - College of Piping

California Summer School of Piping Held once again at the Army and Navy Academy of Carlsbad – a superb, beachside location conducive to learning – this is the ideal location in which to improve on your piping and drumming. Info: www.collegeofpiping.org

### **16 Prosser, WA - Prosser Scottish Fest** Central Washington's premier Scottish Fest and

Central Washington's premier Scottish Fest and Highland Games at Prosser Wine and Food Park. Info: www.prosserscottishfest.org

### 16 Mt. Airy, MD - Mid-Maryland Celtic Festival Celtic music and events at Mt. Airy Fire Dept Fairgrounds, 1003 Twin Arch Rd. Info: www. midmarylandcelticfestival.com

17 - 22 Winchester, VA - The National Piping Centre Virginia Piping School 2018 Presented by Glasgow's National Piping Centre with worldclass instructors and welcoming all levels of players at Shenandoah University. Info: www.thepipingcentre.co.uk

### 17 - 22 Newbury, MA - New England Pipe and Drum Academy

The New England Academy of Piping and Drumming returns again to the Adelynrood Retreat and Conference Center for the annual Scottish bagpiping and drumming seminar. Small classes, intense instruction, and great camaraderie make this summer camp a must. Info: Bruce Beavis 1-773-580-1733 or www.nepada.org

# 19 - 24 Indianapolis, IN - Balmoral School of Piping

and Drumming's 2018 Summer Music Sessions An intensive summer program for pipers and drummers for both beginners and accomplished musicians with some of the best pipers and drummers in the world at University of Indianapolis. Info: 845-389-1774 or www.Bagpiping.org 22 - 23 Wellington, OH - The Ohio Scottish Games

The traditional dance, music and athletics of the ancient highland games. at the Lorain County Fairgrounds. Info: www.ohioscottishgames.com

### 23 - 24 Vista, CA - 45th San Diego Scottish Highland Games

A great family Scottish celebration with music, fun and friendship at Brengle Terrace Park, 1200 Vale Terrace Dr. Info: www.sdhighlandgames.org

**23 - 24 Manheim, PA - Celtic Fling & Highland Games** Delight your senses with the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of this rollicking Celtic celebration at Mount Hope, 2775 Lebanon Rd. Info: www.parenfaire.com/celtic

### 2775 Lebanon Rd. inio: www.pareniaire.com/celuc 23 Graham. WA - 49th Annual Tacoma Highland Game

24 Lakeville, CT - The Round Hill Highland Games A wee bit o' Scotland will be at Lime Rock Park celebrating Scottish heritage and culture, holding traditional professional and amateur highland game competitions. Info: www.roundhill.org

**30 Palmer, AK - Alaska Scottish Highland Games** Celebrate Scotland at the Alaska State Fairgrounds. Info: www.alaskascottish.org

# SCOTLAND

### MAY 2018 3 - 7 Speyside - The Spirit of Speyside

Whisky Festival 2018 One of the world's biggest whisky festivals with a programme of almost 500 whisky-inspired events at various venues. Info: +44 7789 671 635 or www.spiritofspeyside.com

**3 - 7 Hawick - Alchemy Film and Moving Image Festival** Attracting some of the most innovative filmmakers from around the world, the experimental film festival will again transform the town into a creative hub as it screens more than 120 films from over 20 different countries. Info: www.alchemyfilmfestival.org.uk

### 12 Stirling - Stirling Whisky Festival

Stirling Highland Hotel is transformed into a whisky lover's paradise during the Stirling Whisky Festival, featuring top distillers from all over Scotland. Info: www.stirlingspiritcompany.scot

13 Greenock - Gourock Highland Games The first games of the Scottish season at Battery Park, Eldon St. Info: www.inverclyde.gov.uk

**19 - 20 Edinburgh - Edinburgh Whisky Stramash** Over 200 different whiskies from around the world to sample and number of participatory "experiences" that Stramashers can get involved in at historic Surgeons' Hall, Nicolson St. Info: www.thewhiskystramash.com

# 19 Nationwide - World Whisky Day

A day of global whisky celebration, try a dram and celebrate the water of life. Info: www.worldwhiskyday.com

### **19 Paisley - British Pipe Band Championships** Paisley comes alive with the skirl of the pipes and the beat of the drums. Expect over 150 of the finest bands from across the world competing for some

of the most prestigious titles in bagpiping at the St James Playing Fields. Info: www.paisley2021.co.uk **20 Fochabers, Aberdeenshire - Gordon Castle** 

### Highland Games and Country Fair

Held in the historic grounds of Gordon Castle, the event brings together the traditionally Scottish and the quintessentially country to offer visitors a plethora of entertainment. Info: www.gordoncastlehighlandgames.co.uk

24 - 27 Dumfries and Galloway -

25 - June 3 Dumfries & Galloway -

**Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival** 

25 - June 2 Bruichladdich, Isle of Islay

The Islay Festival of Music and Malt

Knockengorroch World Ceilidh 2018

The World Ceilidh returns for 2018 to celebrate

with the best music, the best audience and the best

atmosphere at Knockengorroch Farm, Carsphairn,

Castle Douglas. Info: www.knockengorroch.org.uk

Scotland's largest rural multi-artform festival, with

more than 170 artists performing at 82 events in 42

at the end of May. Info: www.dgartsfestival.org.uk

A diverse programme featuring traditional music,

ceilidhs, Gaelic lessons, golf, bowling and whisky

tasting on Islay. Info: www.islayfestival.com

26 Bathgate - West Lothian Highland Games

venues across the full breadth of the region for 10 days

### **23 Glasgow - Discovering family history at Kelvin Hall** Have you discovered the outline of your family history? Do you want to find out more about your ancestors' lives?

This workshop at Kelvin Hall will show you how to use

our huge range of resources. Info: www.kelvinhall.org.uk

performed by individuals and groups. Info: www.watervalleycelticfestival.org Appalachian immigrants from Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and Brittany. Info: www.gccelticfestival.com Celtic concert and Highland games at Frontier Park, 21718 Meridian Ave E. Info: www.tacomagames.org Traditional Scottish Highland games covering all disciplines including pipe band and Highland dancing competitions. Info: www.westlothiangames.com

# DID YOU KNOW?

*The Scottish Banner* has one of North America's most comprehensive Scottish events listings available! With hundreds of Scottish events listed from around the world and updated weekly. See our most up to date listings and add your event anytime at: www.scottishbanner.com/events

# Answers to Scotword on Page 7

ACROSS: 7) Sporran; 8) Ireland; 10) Sutherland; 11) Dirk; 12) Tenement; 14) Lassie;15) Arthursseat; 19) Dancer; 20) Omelette; 22) Firm; 23) Sassenachs; 25) Guineas; 26) Pennant.

DOWN: 1) Spruces; 2) Arch; 3) Faerie;
4) Griddle; 5) Clydesdale; 6) Inertia;
9) Easterhouse; 13) Enrichment; 16) Herdsman;
17) Fatigue; 18) Iching; 21) Eleven; 24) Anne.



# IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



# Whisky and honey porridge

## **Ingredients:**

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

# Method:

Place the oats, cream, milk, sugar and whisky into a small saucepan and cook over a gentle heat for 6-7 minutes, until thickened and smooth.

To serve, pour the porridge into a bowl and drizzle with honey and cream.

# Beef with whisky and mushroom cream, wilted spinach and potatoes

# Ingredients:

For the beef:

3 tbsp. black peppercorns, coarsely ground, sieved, dust discarded 4 x 175g/6oz. fillet steaks, cut in half 4 tsp Dijon mustard freshly ground sea salt and freshly ground pepper 2 tbsp. sunflower oil 50g/2oz. butter 200g/7oz. fresh cep (porcini) mushrooms, thickly sliced

# For the potatoes:

450g/1lb.new potatoes, scrubbed, boiled until tender 50g/2oz butter all sides of the steaks with the Dijon mustard and then press them into the crushed peppercorns to coat.

Heat a large frying pan until very hot and add the sunflower oil. Season the steaks with salt, then add to the pan to cook for 1-2 minutes. Turn once to brown both sides (don't move the steaks around once they are in the pan or the peppercorn crust will fall off - cook to achieve a good crusty coating on each side.) Add the butter and allow it melt and turn nutbrown in colour, but don't let it burn.

Add the mushrooms and stir in the butter. As the mushrooms start to absorb the pan juices, turn the steaks again and allow them to cook for 3-4 minutes on each side, or until cooked to your liking.

Remove the steaks and place onto a baking tray and leave to rest in a warm place.

For the potatoes, place the potatoes into a large mixing bowl. Add the butter and gently crush each potato with a fork until it just splits. Season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground white pepper, and add the parsley. Mix until all the butter has been absorbed, but don't over-mash the potatoes.

For the spinach, heat a medium frying pan or wok until hot. Add the butter and the spinach and stir-fry for one minute, then add the water. Continue to stir until the spinach has wilted. Remove from the heat, season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground white pepper and set aside until ready to serve.

For the whisky sauce, add the whisky to the pan used to cook the steaks, and cook over a very high heat for one minute to boil off the alcohol. (CAUTION: the whisky may catch fire, which is perfectly acceptable, but if this worries you, have a large lid handy to place onto the pan to prevent the flames. And make sure you have your extractor fan turned off.) Add the stock and boil to reduce the liquid volume, until thickened, then add the cream. Boil to reduce the liquid volume again, scraping and stirring to loosen the stuck bits from the bottom of the pan. Pour any juices released by the resting steaks into the sauce and stir well. To serve, place a chefs' ring into the centre of each of four plates. Fill with the crushed potatoes and carefully remove the ring. Place a small pile of spinach onto the potatoes, and arrange two medallions of steak on top of each pile. Spoon the sauce and the mushrooms over the steak, and serve.

# Whisky flapjacks

Ingredients: 55g/2oz. oats 2 eggs, beaten 55g/2oz. self-raising flour 55g/2oz. caster sugar vegetable oil 1 miniature whisky To serve: 2 segments orange fresh mint sprig Method: Mix together the main ingredients, except the oil and whisky, and shape into three patties. Heat a pan with a drop of oil

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

# Whisky and prawns

# Ingredients:

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

# Method:

Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6.

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

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

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

# Cranachan with raspberries, whisky and cream



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

# 75g/2½oz. cream cheese

1 tbsp. plain yoghurt 1 tbsp. icing sugar dash whisky 50g/1¾oz. dark chocolate, chopped 30g/1oz. fresh raspberries sprig fresh mint, to garnish

# Method:

Gently heat the sugar in a frying pan until golden and completely melted.

Add the oats and stir well, then pour the mixture onto a non-stick baking sheet and leave to cool. When completely cooled, break into small pieces.

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

To serve, place half of the caramelised oats into the bottom of a serving glass. Top with half of the cream mixture, then half the raspberries. Repeat the layering with the remaining oats, cream mixture and raspberries and garnish with a sprig of mint.

# Hebridean Sunset



Ingredients: 1 shot Scotch whisky 1 shot Grand Marnier ½ shot Cointreau ½ shot lemon juice 1½ shots orange juice Dash of Grenadine Twist of orange

# Method:

Fill glass with cubed ice. Prepare Orange Twist. Fill shaker with ice (metal section). Put orange juice, lemon juice, grenadine in shaker (glass section). Add Scotch whisky, Grand Marnier & Cointreau to shaker (glass section). Shake for 1 minute. Strain into glass. Squeeze orange oil from twist over drink & rub round rim of glass. Put orange twist into glass & place straw poyt to it

salt and freshly ground white pepper 3 tbsp. chopped flat leaf parsley

## For the spinach:

25g/1oz. butter 500g/1lb. 2oz baby leaf spinach 3 tbsp. water salt and freshly ground white pepper

# For the whisky sauce:

50ml/2fl oz. whisky 50ml/2fl oz. beef stock 50ml/2fl oz. double cream

## Method:

For the steaks, spread the coarse black pepper pieces over a small plate. Coat

# Ingredients: 3 tbsp. soft brown sugar 75g/2½oz. porridge oats 250ml/9fl oz. double cream, whipped until soft peaks form when the whisk is removed

### twist into glass & place straw next to it

# MacDaddy

Ingredients: dash whisky bitters 1 strip orange zest 25ml/1fl oz. Scotch whisky 25ml/1fl oz. ginger liqueur lemon zest, to garnish

# Method:

Place all the ingredients into a cocktail shaker with a handful of ice and stir to mix. Strain into a whiskey tumbler over ice, garnish with lemon zest and serve.

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# By: Bethany Bisaillion Sons of Scotland Pipe Band at New York Tartan Week



embers of the Sons of Scotland Pipe Band from Ottawa, Canada joined the Celtic Cross Dancers from Ottawa to help celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the celebrations of Tartan Day in New York City. They performed at the Tartan Day on Ellis Island event, hosted by the wonderful Bob Currie who had a fabulous display on the history of golf, and they played for hours, welcoming in the ferries with so many happy visitors, and then headed to the Pre-Parade Ceilidh presented by the New York Caledonian Club, joined by dance group







Shot of Scotch and their piper Thomas Leigh – what a great troupe they are!

The following day the band played altogether in Bryant Park, and then got set to play in the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the New York City Tartan Day Parade – the 4<sup>th</sup> time for the Sons of Scotland – and we had a wonderful time. A huge parade in front of 30 000 people, all the 3500 participants loved playing up  $6^{th}$  Avenue, and it looks like success will continue for all the organizations involved in these terrific events.

For more information about the Sons of Scotland Pipe Band please see: www.sospb.com

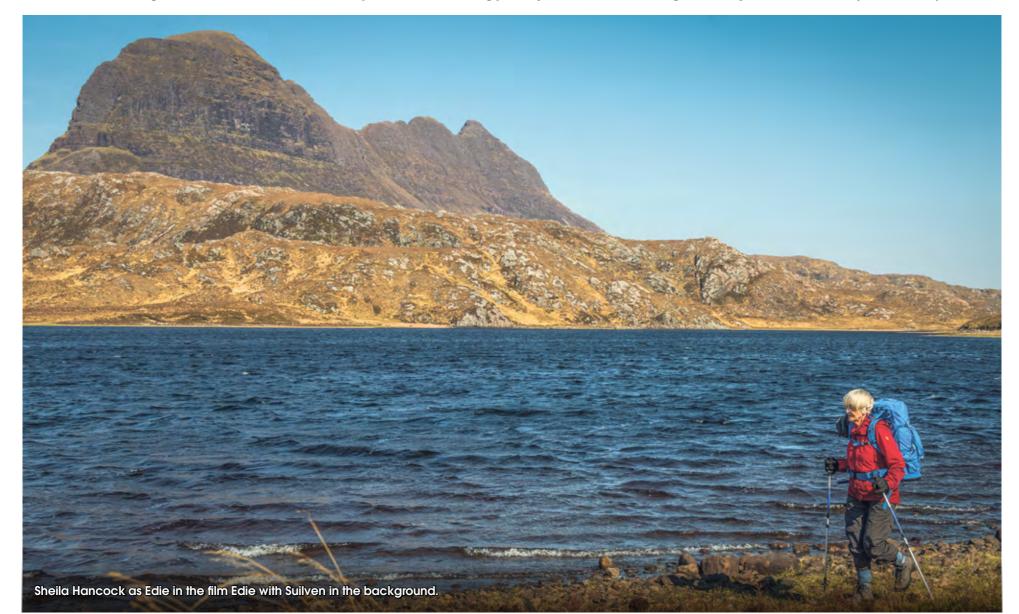






# By: Judy Vickers Saving Suilven - The Pillar Mountain Hundreds of tonnes of mountain and rock are about to be moved in one of Scotland's most remote mountain locations. Suilven is one of the most unique mountain in Pritain and is used of remain to the first of the instruments of the most unique mountain in Pritain and is used of remain to the first of the instruments of the most unique mountain in Pritain and is used of remain to the first of the first of the most unique mountain in Pritain and is used of remain to the first of the most unique mountain and rock are about to be moved in one of Scotland's most remote mountain locations. Suilven is one of

Hundreds of tonnes of mountain and rock are about to be moved in one of Scotland's most remote mountain locations. Suilven is one of the most unique mountains in Britain and is need of repair to protect the footpaths in this walkers paradise. This month the community owned lands will see both helicopters being used to access the remote environment and a film released which stars this imposing location which should bring even more visitors to this unspoilt and stunning part of the North-West Highlands of Scotland as Judy Vickers explains.



H undreds of tonnes of rock will be moved by helicopter into some of the most remote wilderness in Scotland this summer to repair access to one of the country's most spectacular mountains. And those behind the £200,000 project on Suilven say it

couldn't have come at a better time as the iconic mountain is due to star in a new movie being released this month.

Suilven's name comes from the Norse for "Pillar Mountain" and, despite being lower than a Munro, its distinctive sugarloaf shape and the remoteness in Assynt, Sutherland,



attracts walkers and climbers from far and wide. World-renowned mountaineer Sir Chris Bonington is a huge fan and said: "The most magical walk I have ever known was on Suilven. It is a very special place, in a wonderful setting, and I urge the public to back this important path restoration project."

But the popularity of this isolated summit – it is even said by some to have scared other mountains away because of its imposing presence – has meant problems with erosion on the path leading to its base from Glencanisp, near the fishing village of Lochinver.

# Edie

And that popularity is set to be boosted even further this summer by its high-profile role in the film *Edie*, starring veteran actress Sheila Hancock. The film tells the story of an elderly carried out by the John Muir Trust and the Assynt Foundation under the umbrella of the Coigach-Assynt Living Landscape (CALL) Partnership, one of Europe's largest landscape restoration projects.

When completed in August, the restoration project will have repaired a severely eroded 2.5km section of the route to prevent further damage and maintain public access, helping support tourism in the local community. It also aims to protect the rare habitat of peat bog and wet heath, and the plant species and wildlife it supports – these include the black-throated diver, red deer and the iconic golden eagle.

Despite a severe winter which saw large falls of snow and sub-zero temperature for a longer period than expected, the work done last year has survived well and the final stage will see the main approach path to the foot

woman, Edie, who faced with the prospect of life in a retirement home, sets off to Scotland in order to climb a mountain – Suilven - and rekindle some of the magic of her youth.

So the final phase of a huge restoration project is taking place at just the right time but because of its remote location, this involves helicopters transporting the rock rather than a couple of volunteers with spades and a wheelbarrow. Adding to arduous nature of the task, the workers often have to spend the night in a remote bothy as the weather can be treacherous. The path repair work, with a total cost in the region of £200,000, is being of Suilven fully upgraded. The steep ascent to the mountain's ridge will also be stabilised.

## Unique shape and form

A helicopter lift this month (May) will transport several hundred tonnes of rock and gravel out to the work site so that the path workers can begin constructing a path where at present there is just a boggy trudge through peaty ground. Once the materials are on site, however, the workers will have to make long walks in and out of the remote site – in the first phase last year, one of the contractors, Alec McMullen, walked more than a total of 450 miles over four months.

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Chris Goodman, footpaths officer for the John Muir Trust, said: "The airlift is scheduled for the week of 7<sup>th</sup> May, weather permitting. Contractors ACT Heritage and Arran Footpaths will then work away on the next 1km of the path through the spring and summer with work due to be completed by the end of August. With the film Edie, featuring Suilven, due to be released, it seems likely we'll see a growth in interest in Suilven so the work on the path comes at a fortuitous time in preventing further trampling damage of the vegetation and peat along the route."

Situated in the spectacular landscape of West Sutherland, Suilven's imposing summit dome cannot be missed and has for years been attracting people up to it.

Stewart Hill, chairman of the Assynt Foundation, said: "Of all of the mountains in North West Scotland it is the unique shape and form of Suilven that make it stand out and attract so many walkers to the Assynt Foundation land on which Suilven stands. The Assynt Foundation gladly welcomes these visitors, but their footfall does cause erosion, which is why we urgently need to repair the path in a manner that will

like this. The benefit of organisations working together to share expertise can be huge, but funding is always needed to turn aspirations into reality. Our thanks go out to all that have made a commitment to the appeal, and we'd urge everyone who loves Suilven to follow suit."

Situated in the spectacular landscape of West Sutherland, Suilven's imposing summit dome cannot be missed and has for years been attracting people up to it. Last summer those included the film crew of 27 who spent 12 weeks filming in the area, including 85-year-old Ms Hancock, widow of Inspector Morse actor John Thaw. The Victorian stalking lodge where Ms Hancock stayed is now to be offered for self-catering holidays.

But the construction of the path is by no means the first building work to be done - a dry stone wall straddles the summit ridge. This was built in the middle of the 19th century when the Highland Clearances were well underway. When a potato famine hit there was starvation across the country and in some places the rich landowners would only give the people food in return for work, often with little point such as the wall over Suilven or in other areas where roads were built in the middle of nowhere, known as Destitution Roads.

Even before that time, the rocks of the mountain were revered - there is an old corn mill at Alltanabradhan on the coast near Lochinver, one of what was once many in the area. A sign next to it explains how John MacLeod is said to have procured his millstones from the top of Suilven in the 1800s.



on community-owned land managed by the Assynt Foundation. In June 2005, the community of Assynt bought these estates, 44,400 acres of stunningly beautiful natural land, from the Vestey family, under provisions of the 2003 Scottish Land Reform Act. The Foundation manages the land for the benefit of the community and the public in general, as an important part of the protection and sustainable development of Scotland's natural environment.

Through creative and sensitive uses

order to create a more diverse economy and encourage young people to stay in Assynt.

Wildlife Trust and comprises 14 organisations

The organisations have joined forces to work together to deliver one of the largest ecosystem restoration projects in Britain - an aspirational 50-year plan to bring woodland connectivity, species-rich flora and fauna, and economic growth back to

The Foundation is also working with the Coigach-Assynt Living Landscape

Partnership which is led by The Scottish including community land-owners, private land-owners, and charitable landowners.

preserve it in the long term." Sustainable development Richard Williams, manager of the CALL of the estates and their assets, the Assynt Partnership said: "The Partnership has In modern times the area has led the way Foundation aims to create new employment, enterprise and housing opportunities in the Scottish uplands. evolved specifically to tackle challenges in community ownership. Suilven lies Storm damage limits access to Fingal's Cave



onservation charity the National Trust for Scotland is warning visitors to Staffa that access to the world-famous Fingal's Cave will be limited this spring. The concrete walkway



which provides entry to the cave has been damaged by violent winter storms. As a result, entry to the cave on foot will not be possible. Visitors will be able to view the cave from the entrance and from the sea and will still be able to access Staffa, which is a National Nature Reserve, to enjoy its fantastic puffin colony and amazing views.

A fantastic place to visit Staffa Ranger Emily Wilkins said: "This year's winter storms have really taken their toll and the concrete walkway has been badly damaged. To keep our visitors safe, we are asking them not to enter the cave on foot, but to enjoy the

**Scottish Genealogical Research** Let us build

views from the entrance or from boats. We are currently working with a team of engineers on possible solutions. Repairing a structure like this in such a remote location is a real challenge and realistically it will take several months before even a short term fix can be carried out. Staffa is still a fantastic place to visit, and we'll be running our usual programme of summer events in the months ahead. Boat trips will continue as usual too."

Lying 6 miles west of the isle of Mull, Staffa is small (1/2 mile long and 1/4 mile wide) and formed of hexagonal columns that were created millions of years ago by volcanic eruptions and a vast blanket of

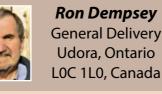


lava that spread into the Atlantic Ocean. Years of waves crashing against these columns created the magnificent Fingal's Cave. Staffa was hardly known until 1772, when the botanist Joseph Banks highlighted the wild, natural beauty of the island. It soon became a must-see location.

Famous visitors have included Queen Victoria, Lord Tennyson, Jules Verne, Robert Louis Stevenson and John Keats; all fell under the island's spell. The island came into the care of the National Trust for Scotland in 1986, a gift from John Elliott, Jr, of New York in honour of his wife Elly's birthday and was designated a National Nature Reserve in 2001.



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# **THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY**

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

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

1 - Act of Union of English and Scottish parliaments proclaimed. 1707

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

2 - King James I crowned at Scone. 1424



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

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

3 - John Knox began the Reformation in Scotland. 1557

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

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

**5** - King George VI officially opened the Empire Exhibition in Glasgow. 1938



 $\mathbf{6}$  - Last major bombing attack on the Clyde area by the Luftwaffe; Greenock was badly hit with 280 dead. 1941

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

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

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

Covenanters, reinforced by troops withdrawn from England because of the threat from Montrose, gathered at Inverness before marching overnight in an attempt to surprise Montrose at Aldearn. The Royalists won a fierce fight, killing 2000 Covenanters for the loss of 200 of their own men. 1645

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

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

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

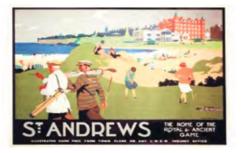
11 - Covenanter martyrs, Margaret Lachlane, or McLachlan, and Margaret Wilson, refused to take an oath of loyalty to Charles II that acknowledged his authority on everything, including religious matters. They were tied to stakes in the Solway near Wigtown where they drowned as the tide rose. A reprieve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



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

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

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



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

15 - Mary, Queen of Scots, married Earl of Bothwell - at 4am. 1567

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

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

16 - James Boswell's Life of Johnson published. 1791

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

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

18 - Robert the Bruce invades Isle of Man. 1313

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

29 - King Charles II born. 1630

29 - King Charles II returned to

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

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

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

9 - The Marquis of Montrose and his Royalists camped at Auldearn near Nairn, en route to attack Inverness. The

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

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

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

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

England. Royal Oak Day. 1660

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

# Royal Bank

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

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# WW1 Prisoner of War letters published 100 years after being written



he letters speak of love, longing, worry and war. A prisoner of war and his family writing to each other to ease the pain of separation during the First World War. Now seven months of correspondence, between Professor Archibald Allan Bowman and his wife Mabel, have been published by the University of Glasgow on the centenary of the day they were first written. The first letter was published in April and they are being released in instalments to show how it must have felt to anxiously wait for news of a loved one.

The letters were written between April 1918 and November 1918 and will be published for the first time in the order they were written. During the war, with censorship in place, the couple would not have received the letters in order and in some cases there would have been a lag of a few weeks. The University holds the full collection of documents from Professor Bowman, its Chair of Moral Philosophy (1926-1936), which give a rare insight into the professional and personal life of this remarkable man.

Petros Aronis, a History of Art student from Athens, has curated the Bowman social media project on Instagram called Letters from A Prisoner of War 1918. He said: "There are beautiful and touching sentiments expressed in the letters. It also shows the vital role, those on the home front had in providing prisoners of war with food and provisions parcels to keep them feed and clothed in the camps. In this project, as well as putting them into chronological order, I also have tried to highlight how the letters were impacted by the war. For some of AA Bowman's letters the censors used black ink on top of the writing and in Mabel's case the censor cut out parts of her letters. It has been a wonderful experience retelling this internment story and using today's digital media to do it.'

A remarkable insight into wartime Britain

Professor Tony Pollard, Professor of Conflict History and Archaeology, said: "As a conflict historian, this is a remarkable insight into wartime Britain. They transport us back in time to see what ordinary people had to deal with both at home and on the front line during the First World War. This student research project also helps to bring a new understanding to the documents, showcasing the letters as historical objects which tell their own special story of war censorship. I am delighted to see these letters being published on social media to give a modern day context to this superb archive."

Some of the scheduled posts zoom in to highlight the texture of the paper; show how they were censored and in some case how they were damaged in their journey. Written in both English and German, the letters paint a picture of life for the officers in captivity although many sections of the correspondence are blacked out by censors. AA Bowman's speaks of his isolation from the outside world with no access to newspapers and how he was keeping himself busy by running classes to teach his fellow PoW including German lessons. But from the home front, the letters give a fascinating insight into the day to day life of Mabel and their children in wartime Scotland and how difficult it was to access the vital provisions her husband needed.

# The Highland Light Infantry

Bowman was born in Beith, Ayrshire. He married Mabel Stewart in 1912. The couple had three children who studied at the University of Glasgow, like their parents: Archibald (known as Ian), Mary (known as Maisie) and Alastair Bowman. Bowman studied at



the University of Glasgow between 1901 and 1905. Following graduation, he was appointed Assistant to the Professor of Logic at Glasgow and Lecturer in Logic at Queen Margaret College. In 1912 the Bowmans moved to Princeton University where AA Bowman was the Chair of Logic. However, when the First World War broke out, he applied to Princeton and was granted leave of absence to join the British Army. He joined the Highland Light Infantry in 1915 and was sent to France. He was taken prisoner at the Battle of Lys in April 1918 and was held prisoner until November 1918.

Whilst a prisoner of war he wrote Sonnets from a Prison Camp. Following repatriation A A Bowman returned to Princeton in September 1919. In 1926 he was appointed to the Chair of Moral Philosophy at Glasgow, a position he was to retain until his death on 12 June 1936, aged 53.

# National Collection of Aerial Photography gives RAF the Hollywood treatment



o mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Royal Air Force(RAF), the National Collection of Aerial Photography (NCAP) opened up its vault of 26 million images to help Scottish actor Ewan McGregor celebrate the many heroes that took to the skies. In a new BBC programme Hollywood star Ewan and his brother Colin, a former RAF pilot, take to the skies in some of the world's most iconic planes including the Spitfire - and explore the origins, role and impact of the RAF in its first 100 years. To tell the story of the RAF, the BBC enlisted the help of NCAP, who provided aerial photographs taken on reconnaissance sorties during

WWII by pilots flying Spitfires. The photographs were used by interpreters at RAF Medmenham to obtain intelligence about the enemy and their activities. These were recorded in an early form of 3D called stereoscopy. Bismark and the Dambuster raid. In addition, reconnaissance and survey flights flown during peace time and the Cold War by RAF pilots have added to the collection as have allied photography and captured German Luftwaffe images.

There are many modern uses of the collection. From identifying unexploded bombs in Germany, aiding climate change scientists and recording land use changes, this vast record of the world from above has evolved beyond its reconnaissance roots. NCAP works with partners around the globe, such as the US National Archives and Records Administration, to digitise tens of thousands of their as yet unseen WWII images of Europe, Russia and Japan preserving them for future generations. Dr Allan Williams, Head of NCAP, said: "The NCAP collection is a testament to those who created it and those recorded within it. We are pleased to have been able to contribute to the BBC's RAF at 100 and to assist with demonstrating the importance of aerial photography to the RAF, and the role it continues to play in peacetime to capture the changing face of the planet." People are urged to help celebrate these archives by visiting the NCAP website and exploring our various collections at www.ncap.org.uk



**One of the world's largest military photo collections** NCAP, part of Historic Environment Scotland, holds one of the largest collections of both military declassified and non-military aerial photographs in the world, covering 103 countries. The huge archive grew from the photography taken by RAF pilots during WWII and includes such seminal images of the commences at 9.30am followed by a full day of entertainment with pipe bands, beautiful singing, highland dancing, Knights in shining armour jousting on horseback, Scottish Terrier dogs, Celtic market stalls, & more.

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# The Siege of St Andrews Castle CWeinczok



This month hundreds of years ago a siege took place at the medieval 13th century St Andrews Castle. The formable castle which juts out to sea was the focal point of power and wealth for the church and clergy men of Scotland at the time, and was a key part to the lead up of the Protestant Reformation. The fortress in what we know today as the 'home of golf' has an incredible history and has seen religious tension, assassination and medieval warfare as David C. Weinczok explains.



odern St Andrews is a place of stylish tranquillity, a seaside idyll whose ancient university and world-famous Old Course distinguish it as a centre of learning and leisure. Numerous ice cream shops, trendy cafes and romantic beaches make St Andrews a perfect place to leave worldly concerns behind. As is so often the case with Scottish history, however, things were not always so blissful. As the most powerful ecclesiastical centre in Scotland, the battle for the nation's very soul was fought in St Andrews' streets – often literally.



Rewind to the spring of 1546, when a series of events were unfolding that culminated in one of the most climactic and chaotic episodes in St Andrews' long history. These were the early days of the Protestant Reformation, with figures such as John Knox planting the seeds of the new Protestant faith in often hostile soils. So tense was the situation in St Andrews that Knox took to carrying a large twohanded sword while accompanying his friend and fellow reformer George Wishart throughout the town. Acting as they were in the shadow of Scotland's greatest Cathedral, and with the Regent Arran's recent reversion to Roman Catholicism bringing a period of relative toleration to an end, Knox and company were playing a dangerous game indeed.

Tensions exploded into outraged action with the sudden and brutal execution of Wishart as a heretic. His hands tied behind his back, an iron chain fitted to his waist and his pockets packed with gunpowder, Wishart was hanged from a gibbet, cut down while still alive, then burned at the stake. Presiding over the affair was Cardinal David Beaton, who through this act sealed his own grisly fate. started early, with many records of day-today castle life beginning with the delivery of supplies long before the laird or lady would wake and take breakfast. When construction was happening, the constant comings and goings made it easy to blend in.

Disguised as stonemasons the Protestant lairds approached the gates, led by William Kirkcaldy of Grange. William asked the porter if the Cardinal was awake – certainly an unusual query from a stonemason – and just as the porter realised something was awry and shouted the alarm he was struck and cast into the moat. St Andrews Castle, with its great fore tower and defences built to withstand heavy artillery, was no soft target but now the vengeful lairds had the keys. Around 100 workmen within the castle withdrew to safety, leaving the plotters to their bloody business.

Dropping his sword and pleading innocence, Beaton was assailed before being given a rhetorical demand to repent for the burning of Wishart. James Melville of Carnbee then struck the mortal blow, with Beaton pleading 'I am a priest, I am a priest' and, at the last, 'Fie, fie, all is gone'. In a sanguinary display, his body was hung from the castle walls before being pickled in a barrel of brine and stored in the castle's infamous, inescapable (not that that was a concern) bottle dungeon. The vengeful lairds were successful, but victory



# **Protestant lairds**

In the early hours of 29 May, a Saturday, a group of Protestant lairds from across Fife quietly gathered in the Priory churchyard. Cardinal Beaton was no fool and, anticipating trouble, he was busy strengthening St Andrews Castle, already a formidable guardian for the Church's wealth. The Renaissance-era workday

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was a distant prospect; with word of the deed rippling across Scotland, the Regent Arran gathered a force and laid siege.

**One of Scotland's longest sieges** It would prove to be one of Scotland's longest sieges, lasting over a year. Much of that time was passed in a historically typical though not terribly dramatic state of fragile truce, wherein the two sides agreed to not directly harass one

Rewind to the spring of 1546, when a series of events were unfolding that culminated in one of the most climactic and chaotic episodes in St Andrews' long history.

another more often than was necessary or commanded. While the besiegers settled in for the long haul and probed the defences for any weakness, those inside plugged the gaps and heard lessons on the classics, grammar and theology from John Knox in the castle chapel. Unlike in many films, the reality of siege warfare was mindnumbingly boring with direct assaults using ladders and the like being as rare as they were costly. That said there were several moments that pierced the tedium in dramatic fashion.

By November, nearly six months after the Protestant lairds stormed the castle and slew Cardinal Beaton, the besiegers were digging mines to bring down the walls from underneath. The defenders could not have known how close the mines were drawing to the walls; they would only have been able to listen for the clanging of metal on rock deep below the ground. The attackers' mine was a relatively comfortable construction, wide enough for pack animals to be used to clear rubble and with stepped passages easily tall enough to stand upright in.

The countermines, dug by the defenders to intercept the attackers' mines, were an altogether different matter. Reflecting the anxious desperation of their position, the countermine is cramped and claustrophobic in the extreme. There were two false starts, with those shafts abandoned when the defenders realised they were off their mark. The third attempt succeeded, and it must have been a spectacularly startling moment for the miners of both sides when they found themselves suddenly face-to-face with one another.

**The brutality of the combat** It is impossible to fathom the brutality of the combat that took place deep below the ground, the grim sounds of battle almost unheard by those on the surface and seeming almost ghostly. The defenders won the day, scuppering the mines and securing their safety – for a time, at least. The mines today remain intact and utterly unique, being the only siege mines accessible to the public in Europe. If you can stomach the tight space, entering the mines makes for one of the most unusual and memorable experiences to be had at any Scottish castle.

After defying the odds for so long the defenders must have felt that salvation was at hand when a fleet, which they believed to be reinforcements sent by the English, was spotted near the coast on 29 June 1547. Despair reigned, however, when the ships got close enough to discern their colours – French, sent by Henri II under his talented admiral Leon Strozzi, to crush the Protestant uprising.

The galleys bombarded the castle though little damage was done and the defenders were even able to force one galley to withdraw after taking losses. Despite this minor victory the noose was now tightening beyond all hope. Knowing that the Regent Arran was on his way to St Andrews with a large force, Strozzi landed his men in the city on 24 July. With canons set up atop the Priory Church and St Salvator's College (which still stand today) an all-out bombardment commenced. A breach appeared in the castle's walls, and the psychological impact of hours of bombardment finally broke the defenders' will.

The surviving defenders, including Knox, negotiated surrender and boarded the French galleys as prisoners having received assurances that they would be freed once in France. They sailed to Rouen, optimistic that the worst of their ordeal was over. Indeed, the high born amongst them were ransomed for great fortunes as was the custom of the period. To their horror, Knox and his companions were forced to become galley slaves in the French navy. They had hit rock bottom, and the story of Knox's subsequent ascendancy is as dramatic as that of the great siege of St Andrews Castle. But that is a tale for another time.

David C Weinczok is a heritage professional, presenter and adoptive Scot based in Edinburgh. Twitter: @TheCastleHunter







he SS Politician, an 8,000 ton ship bound for New Orleans and carrying 28,000 cases of malt whisky, ran aground on a sandbank in dense fog at Rosinish Point on the Hebridean island of Eriskay.

The islanders acted swiftly to rescue the crew as the ship threatened to sink, returning just as swiftly to rescue the cargo once they realised what it was and on hearing from the customs officers that the ship's owners were sending a salvage team. Most islanders believed that they had the right to benefit from the unexpected windfall, especially at a time of rationing and shortages. No-one considered it theft or looting as once the cargo was in the water it was a bounty available to all. The result was a near-farcical episode of hide and seek with rescued bottles concealed in all sorts of ingenious places as the islanders and government agents tried to

get the better of each other in a battle of wits that has passed into local legend.

## **Dynamiting whisky**

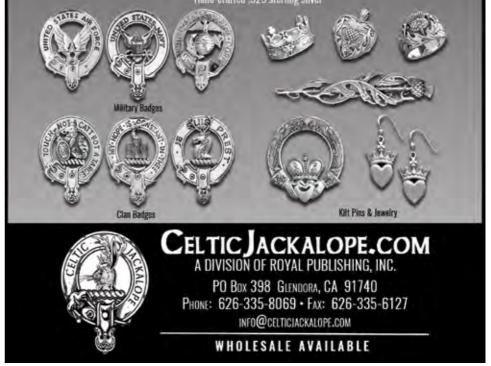
There were consequences for those caught red-handed were convicted and fined at Lochmaddy Sheriff Court. Meanwhile, with thousands of bottles still on board the *SS Politician*, she was blown apart to prevent any further 'salvage' attempts.

"Dynamiting whisky. You wouldn't think there'd be men in the world so crazy as that," said one islander at the time. A few years later Compton MacKenzie wrote the book that captured the spirit of the confrontation and it was translated into a 1949 film Whisky Galore! that, to this day, is a permanent feature in any list of top 10 Scottish films. In America is was released as Tight Little Island, in France it was Whisky a GoGo and a modern version of Whisky Galore! Was released in 2016. The SS Politician became the SS Cabinet Minister, and Eriskay became Todday for the fictional version of events which loosely follows what actually happened on February 5, 1941, portraying the islanders as heroes and customs officers as villains. In 1987, eight newly recovered bottles of whisky were sold at auction for £4,000. In 1989 a salvage company raised the finance to dive on the wreck of the SS Politician but only succeeded in finding a further 24 bottles.

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# Edinburgh's own Whisky Trail

S cotland is rightly famed for its wonderful whisky distilleries, the highest concentration of which is found in the Highlands, drawing thousands of visitors each year. But did you know that Edinburgh has had its own vital part to play in the Scotch whisky industry, and continues to do so today? The fascinating story of Monks, Kings, smugglers, 'gaugers' and whisky barons is around every corner of our city, so this Whisky Month, we salute the city's whisky-infused past!

# **Holyrood Palace**



After the construction of amazing Holyrood Palace, King James VI was clearly in need of a stiff drink; hence his treasurer's accounts from 1506 contain one of the earliest written references to Scotch Whisky: 'For aqua vite to the King. . .' and 'For ane flacat of aqua vite to the King'. 'Aqua Vitae', meaning 'Water of Life' was the ancient name for whisky, which was distilled at the time as a medicine.

## **The Tron Kirk**



As the 18<sup>th</sup> century drew to a close, high taxes on whisky production meant that illicit whisky industry by 'smugglers' dwarfed licensed distilleries by a factor of 50 to 1. Illicit stills were all over the city, with their smoke disguised by the thick sooty chimney smoke that characterised the era. One such distillery was discovered in the lower cellar of this Royal Mile landmark – not a very reputable sideline for a place of worship! Bridge. Ballantine's reputation soon grew, as did his success. He soon moved to smarter premises in nearby Candlemaker Row, then later to a prestigious location just off fashionable Princes Street. Today, Ballantine's is the second biggest selling Scotch whisky worldwide.

**The Usher Hall** 



The advent of mass distillation in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century 'ushered' in the era of the blended whisky. This new, more palatable spirit proved a runaway success, and Andrew Usher was one of the most successful blending pioneers. It was he who donated the  $\pounds100,000$  to build this fine music hall, though it was not completed until more than a decade after he died. Despite being built upon the proceeds of Scotch whisky, the hall did not have a bar until the 1980's!

# The Port of Leith



The Port of Leith, which can be viewed from Calton Hill, was once the thriving hub of the whisky industry. Having always been one of Scotland's busiest ports, in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Leith became home to a high concentration of whisky broking, blending, warehousing and bottling businesses, and home to many of the biggest names in whisky of the day. The old bonded warehouses can still be seen today, and the area is home to the Scotch Malt Whisky Society.

The Scotch Whisky Experience



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# **Australia & New Zealand**

Wednesday 11<sup>™</sup> July Canberra Southern Cross Club Thursday 12<sup>TH</sup> July Bendigo Ulumbarra Theatre Friday 13<sup>TH</sup> July Chelsea Heights Hotel Saturday 14<sup>™</sup> July Doncaster Shoppingtown Hotel Sunday 15<sup>TH</sup> July Newcastle Wests New Lambton Wednesday 18<sup>TH</sup> July Sydney Factory Theatre Thursday 19<sup>™</sup> July Dapto Leagues Friday 20<sup>TH</sup> July Rooty Hill Rooty Hill RSL Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July Campbelltown The Cube Sunday 22ND July Revesby Revesby Workers Club Tuesday 24<sup>TH</sup> July Melbourne The Palms at Crown Thursday 26<sup>TH</sup> July Kingsford The Juniors Friday 27<sup>TH</sup> July Castle Hill RSL Saturday 28<sup>TH</sup> July Tweed Heads Twin Towns Sunday 29<sup>TH</sup> July Chermside Kedron-Wavell Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> August Perth Astor Theatre Thursday 2<sup>ND</sup> August Adelaide The Gov Saturday 4<sup>TH</sup> August Auckland Powerstation Get your tickets now from metropolistouring.com www.baycityrollers.com twitter.com/lesmckeownuk facebook.com/lesmckeownuk **Be There! Share the Magic!** 

Cowgate



Many of the whisky industry's most famous brand names started out as licensed grocers who began to blend whisky in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. One such was George Ballantine, who opened his first shop in the bustling trade district of Cowgate, which is situated under South Set up in 1987 to educate visitors to Edinburgh about the joys of Scotch whisky, the Scotch Whisky Experience is still going strong, and is now home to the world's largest private collection of Scotch whisky, which has been called one of the '7 Wonders of the Scotch whisky world'. It is held in a glittering vault that can be viewed as part of the attraction's tasting experiences. the Scotch Whisky Experience has also just introduced 'Whisky Adventure' where you can see all these whisky trail sights and many more.

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