

VOL. 37 NO. 4 | \$6.95 CDN/USA | JULY/AUGUST - 2023 | CELTICLIFEINTL.COM

CelticLife

INTERNATIONAL

Life in a Pipe Band!

INSIDE!

*Highland Games & Celtic Festivals
Kingairloch Estate, Summer Style
Katie Boyle, Newfoundland Ponies*



DISPLAY IN LIFESTYLES
UNTIL SEPTEMBER 2023



Rocks 'n Rivers

By

Keith Jack



Discover more at:

www.KeithJack.com

VANCOUVER, CANADA

© Keith Jack Inc. @keithjackinc

Sheila Fleet.

DESIGNED & MADE IN ORKNEY, SCOTLAND



NEW

Butterfly

COLLECTION

Delicate silver butterflies,
beautifully hand-enamelled
in Sheila's Red Admiral and
Common Blue colourways.



Scan this code to
explore Butterfly

ORKNEY | EDINBURGH | GLASGOW | ST ANDREWS

01856 861 203 | sheilafleet.com

Celtic Festival

and Gathering of the Clans

16th Annual
Jamestown Regional

Saturday, August 26, 2023

9 AM - 9:30 PM

Mayville Lakeside Park, Mayville, New York

Ceilidh Friday evening Aug 25th

6:30pm — 10pm



"TUATHA DEA"

Gatlinburg, Tennessee



2 GINGERS INN

Proudly Sponsors Both
Celtic Bands

1118 E. 2nd Street,
Jamestown, New York
(716) 294-3192

- ♦ 30 - Gathering of the Clans
- ♦ 8 - Pipe Bands
- ♦ 30 - Scottish Heavy Athletes
- ♦ 30 - Celtic & Craft Vendors
- ♦ Celtic Music
- ♦ All Kinds of Great Food
- ♦ Beer & Wine Garden
- ♦ Scottish & Irish Dancers
- ♦ Celtic & Craft Vendors
- ♦ Old Fashion Fiddle Session
- ♦ Kid's Area w/ Clan Hunt



Performing Saturday evening

MUDMEN

Purchase Your Tickets online at:

www.96thhighlanders.com/festival/Festival.html

More information can be found at

www.96thhighlanders.com

"SATURDAY"

From: CANADA

ALSO Performing Saturday:

"TUATHA DEA" / "EMERALD ISLE"

"CELTIC CREEK" / "STEP N TIME"

"WATERHORSE" / "BALLINLOCH"

"THE FIDDLE SESSION"

"SORRY NO PETS ALLOWED INSURANCE REASONS !!"

Plenty of shade trees and tents to escape the Sun & Heat !!



Merritt
WINERY



Your skin deserves the very best.
So does our planet.



Seriously Sustainable

Soaps and soaks with skin-loving ingredients.

C O D E X
L A B S TM

codexlabscorp.com @codexbeauty Made in Cork, Ireland
Traditional Irish soap cold-process for zero carbon footprint.

Saoghal Ceilteach Iris chinnidheach
air fhoillseachadh sia uairean 's a bhliadhna le

Dara Knot Inc.
10 Peter St
Markham, Ontario, Canada
L3P 2A4

Celtic Life International is an ethnic journal
published in Canada six times a year by
Dara Knot Inc.

Siobhán L. Covington, Publisher
Stephen Patrick Clare, Executive Editor
Rebecca Dingwell, Managing Editor
Chris Muise, Managing Editor
Caitlyn Elizabeth Mearns, Managing Editor
Carol Moreira, Senior Copy Editor

Celtic Life International Office:
Toll-Free: 888-215-6850
Email: info@celticlife.com
Website: www.celticlife.com

Subscriptions:
Toll-Free: 888-215-6850
Email: subscribe@celticlife.ca

Advertising:
Toll-Free: 888-215-6850
Email: info@celticlife.com

Please send review books and CDs to
160 Park Road, Beaconsfield, Quebec
Canada, H9W 2M8

Please return undeliverable copies of Celtic Life
International to: Dara Knot Inc.
10 Peter St, Markham, Ontario,
Canada, L3P 2A4

Publication Mail Registration:
No. 40050439 ISSN 1918-0497

Contributors
Lesley Choyce
Andrew Ferguson
Tom Langlands
Gary Maclean
Steve Melia

Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada

Canada

By its publication Celtic Life International does
not endorse the historical accuracy or the editorial
stance of materials submitted for publication.

We do reserve the right to edit all submitted
manuscripts prior to their publication.

© Celtic Life International, 2023



Fáilte

Geamannan Gàidhealach

Honestly now, who isn't roused by the sonic energy of the pipes and the drums, the sure swirl of the kilt, the tossing of the caber by agile athletes, or the allure of men clad in an array of tartans?

Hundreds of years old, Highland games remain alive and well, attended annually by millions around the world.

While the first reference to Highland games may be attributed to Scotland's King Malcolm III (1058 to 1093 AD) need to find a royal messenger (presumably a fast one), the Ceres Games in Fife - dating back to 1314 - are considered to be the oldest, and they are still held each summer. Dunoon, Scotland, continues to host the largest competitor event with the Cowal Games. The yearly Mey Highland Games may be small, but they boast Royal Patronage, and the Lonach Highland Gathering has enjoyed many celebrity visitors over the decades.

Regardless of age, race, religion, creed, sexuality, size, or status, competitors and spectators alike gather to celebrate Celtic culture each year, from Indonesia to the Czech Republic, Canada to Australia. The popularity of athletes competing in the heavy events, listening to stirring renditions of Scotland the Brave, and being mesmerized by the artistry of Highland dancers is no longer an exclusively Scottish experience. And though Highland games remain rooted in ancient customs, they continue to evolve, ensuring their relevance and inclusivity.

In 2018, Caithness, Scotland hosted the first ever adaptive Highland games, where para-athletes and wounded armed forces personnel from the U.K., the USA, Australia, and France took to the field of competition. Gender diversity is also on the rise with The Scottish Highland Games Association (SHGA) committing to providing more funding opportunities for female athletes. In Canada and the U.S., female participation is on a promising upward trend, and women-only events are starting to emerge as well. In 2022, Scotfest in Vancouver, British Columbia - celebrating its 90th anniversary - hosted an International Heritage Stage that included performances from close to home with the Dancers of Damelahamid - an Indigenous dance company from the Northwest Coast of Canada - alongside acts from around the world, including the Bhangra Highland Fusion dancers who blend energetic folk dance and music - originating from the Punjab region of India - with the agility and grace of traditional Highland dance.

Our July-August 2023 edition highlights Highland Games and Celtic Festivals. If you've yet to visit one of these terrific events, make this your summer to hitch up the kilt, throw on some tartan, and soak up some rich and robust Celtic heritage.

Sláinte!

Siobhán L. Covington, Publisher

www.celticlifeintl.com



TWITTER

Latest Celtic news
[@celticlife](https://twitter.com/celticlife)



FACEBOOK

Join CelticLife at
www.facebook.com/CelticLifeInternational



INSTAGRAM

See behind the scenes
[@celticlifeinternational](https://www.instagram.com/celticlifeinternational)



NEWSLETTER

Stay informed
www.celticlifeintl.com/newsletter



SUBSCRIBE

Don't miss an issue
www.celticlifeintl.com/subscribe



THE CELTIC MARKET

Visit www.celticlife.com

Inside!

Vol. 37 No. 3

49

Life in a Pipe Band



17

Katie Boyle tickles the funny bone

21

Mac an Tuairneir goes Gaelic

29

Tom Langlands takes a stroll around Kingairloch Estate

39

Cruising the Celtic lands of Croyde and Woolacombe

55

Competing as a heavy events athlete isn't as easy as it looks

19

One award-winning film director brings Wales to the big screen

25

Still endangered, a famed breed of horses is making a comeback

33

When the Celts Had Rome at Their Mercy

45

Summer style from Bretagne

59

Tips & Tricks for Highland games & Celtic festivals

9. First Word / **11.** De Tha Dol / **13.** Celts in the Community
69. The Celtic Chef / **71.** Dram / **82.** Folklore

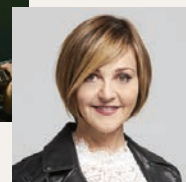
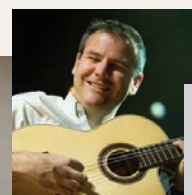
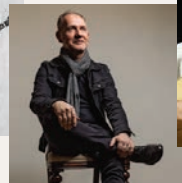
2023



Unama'ki
Cape Breton Island
October 6-14



TICKETS
AVAILABLE JULY 11
celtic-colours.com



*Hundreds of community events and
49 concerts including performances by:*

**NATALIE MACMASTER
& DONNELL LEAHY**

**BÉLA FLECK
& ABIGAIL WASHBURN**

IARLA Ó LIONÁIRD

TIM EDEY

HEATHER RANKIN

and many more...

2023
Celtic
COLOURS
INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Presented By



Roger Goeddey

One Irish-American shakes the family tree



To quote a great sailing man, “I am what I am...” Alas, while Popeye’s ages-old adage is accented with acceptance, and even (on occasion) resignation, it does beg the question, who or what am I?

Much like many other Americans, I am an amalgamation of various peoples - their history, customs, traditions, and genetics. However, what precisely makes up...me? I have investigated.

As a younger man, I was fascinated by Celtic culture, especially folk tales, heroes of bygone eras, and, of course, the music. Genealogy became an interest as well. I am, at heart, a history addict and uncovering my family’s heritage reaffirmed what I have long believed; if you don’t know where you come from, you won’t know where you are or where you are going.

My last name will likely make you think that my ancestry is German or Austrian. Indeed, that comes from my father’s side. My mother’s relations, however, are a whole different story. Her Celtic roots run deep, and I have been able to trace that side of the family to Ireland (County Mayo and County Galway to be specific) and Wales, with deeper roots still in Scotland. As I learned, we were a sept of the Melville Clan, with a connection to Archibald Campbell, the 3rd Duke of Argyll. In fact, my ancestry goes as far back as the Battle of Bannockburn, with family fighting on both sides - my mother’s side may have even had a hand in the killing of a distant cousin on my father’s side who was there fighting for the English!

I recently began researching my great grandfather Sylvester Melvin, a man I would have loved to have met. Sylvester lived to be 110

years of age and he worked until the day he died, farming and selling insurance. He even made it onto the “Ripley’s Believe It or Not” list of oldest Americans living at that time. He passed in 1962, and even until his dying days could remember the end of the Civil War, and the Pony Express riding through town announcing that President Lincoln had been shot. Apparently, he was friends with Ulysses S Grant. He was, I am told, a stubborn and resilient man.

A few years back, looking to get involved with the Irish fighting arts, I met Glen Doyle. Glen’s family had founded the Doyle System of stick fighting (Bataireacht in Irish), a discipline that has been handed down for generations in his family. As it turned out, Irish stick fighting has become my own unique way of carrying on my family’s Celtic heritage and, to some extent, our passion for craftsmanship.

I was fortunate to have grown up around my grandfather - an old-school woodworker who taught me how to use my hands and to build things.

I recall, some years back, helping my stepbrother clear a fallen tree, and I cut off one of the tree’s branches to make a fighting stick for my friend Alex.

And although the tree lost a limb that day, my family tree - and its Celtic roots - continued to flourish.

A few years ago, I started Puffin Stickworks as a side-hustle, hand-crafting shillelaghs for

others looking to pursue their passion for Irish stick fighting. To be honest, I never imagined that it would become successful, let alone significant, and yet - with a little help from social media - the orders keep coming in. All this, from a single limb.

Ironically, I lost a limb last year after a lengthy and challenging health issue. Like that branch from so long ago, however, I am committed to crafting something of myself. Admittedly, it hasn’t been a cake walk - more like a hop, actually - and there have been days when the reality of my new condition really hits home.

Knowing the trials and tribulations that many of my ancestors endured over the generations, however - especially the challenges they must have faced when emigrating to the New World - my troubles seem somewhat small in comparison.

Thankfully, it appears that I inherited my forebearers’ gritty DNA. The Celts were a tough people - stubborn, sturdy, strong - and the strands of those rugged and resilient roots continue to serve me well.

In time, I was able to get back on my feet (well, foot) and return to work. My stick making business continues to grow as I adapt to my prosthetic and become more mobile. And, perhaps most pertinently, I have begun to help others who have gone through, or are currently going through, a similar situation.

I like to think that both my grandfather and my great-grandfather would be proud.

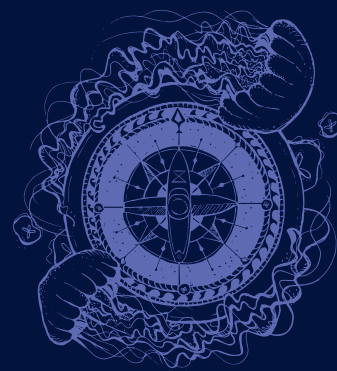
www.facebook.com/Puffinstickworks

BLUE JELLYFISH

♦ SUP ADVENTURES ♦

Celtic Colours Paddle, Hike & Music Tour

EMBARK ON A JOYFUL ADVENTURE



**Blue Jellyfish
SUP Adventures**

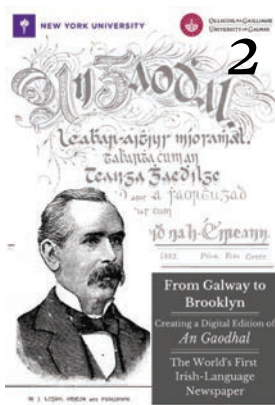
Canadian Paddleboarding
Adventures from Coast to Coast

info@bluejellyfishSUP.ca
bluejellyfishSUP.ca

1(905)334-7360



Hike the Highlands, paddle the Margaree & attend Celtic Colours International Festival at the height of fall colours on magical Cape Breton Island.
A fully guided, fun and unforgettable trip of a lifetime.



one

Water and Whisky

Some whisky aficionados will tell you to add a touch of water to your glass of whisky, with the goal of cutting down on that alcoholic burn sensation and enhancing the spirit's flavours. However, a recent study by researchers at Washington State University found that diluting whisky too much actually makes it lose those distinctive flavours. Based on the results of a sensory panel, whisky notes are still recognizable with an 80/20 whisky-to-water ratio. Add more than 20 per cent water, however, and you've gone too far.

two

Irish Language Newspaper

An Irish American newspaper called *An Gaodhal* was the first newspaper to be printed in the Irish language. By the late 19th century, the Irish language had declined in Ireland itself due to British colonial powers. However, it is estimated that more than 200,000 people spoke Irish in New York City at that time. The bilingual paper was printed in New York and, today, folks at New York University are teaming up with the University of Galway to train AI to read the Gaelic script. This would allow *An Gaodhal* to become digitized and accessible.

three

Long Distance Friendship

Despite being friends for 66 years, Christine Jackson and Ann Sprott have only met in person a handful of times. The pair became pen pals decades ago through their respective youth organizations: Jackson in the Girl Scouts of America and Sprott in Girls' Brigade in Scotland. Over time, the pair went from communicating through letters to phone and video calls. They've had three previous in-person visits and finally reunited this past April. Sprott flew to Alabama to see Jackson, who can no longer fly due to her Parkinson's disease.

four

Researching the Picts

A recent study suggests that modern Scottish, Welsh, and Northern Irish people are descended from the Picts of the early Middle Ages. The Picts are mysterious due to a lack of archeological evidence, but we do know they were an ancient people who lived throughout what is now eastern Scotland. For the study, researchers Adeline Morez and Linus Girdland-Flink sampled Pictish burials and extracted genetic material in order to compare them to other groups in Britain. Among other things, the analysis linked the Picts to the present population of Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

five

Cornish Language Leap

According to a researcher from the University of Exeter, interest in learning the Cornish language jumped during the COVID-19 lockdown. This is thanks in part to the boost in online education. Kensa Broadhurst explained her findings in the Proceedings of the Harvard Celtic Colloquium, which was published near the end of March. Broadhurst's research cites data that shows 217 Cornish language learners in 2021 compared to 74 in 2014. In order to maintain this boost, however, Broadhurst notes that more high-level teachers are needed.

six

Forest Restoration

Celtic rainforests (a.k.a temperate rainforests) across the British Isles have been progressively destroyed for centuries due to agriculture, development, and invasive species like rhododendron. The United Kingdom's Wildlife Trusts are now helping to restore these habitats, starting with the Isle of Man and Wales. The Manx Wildlife Trust will plant 70 acres of native tree species at the Creg y Cowin site in the village of East Baldwin. Meanwhile, the North Wales Wildlife Trust will plant almost 100 acres of forest on the Bwlch Mawr hill in Clynog.

Have an interesting tidbit to share with our Celtic community? Drop us a line anytime at info@celticlife.com



*Old Friends Genealogy provides
a Family Genealogy Notebook
for each ancestral line searched.*

Old Friends Genealogy

Kate and Mike Lancor

Specializing in Celtic Ancestry

- Let us help you “chase” your Irish or Scottish Roots!
- If you are planning a trip to Ireland or Scotland, let us pinpoint where your ancestors lived so you can “walk in their footsteps”.
- Our years of research experience allows us to create detailed family trees that “bust through brick walls” bringing you closer to your ancestors ~ or as we call them ~ “OLD FRIENDS”.
- It’s Personal ~ Your Family Legacy! Zoom consultations available!

Website: oldfriendsgenealogy.com

Email: oldfriendsgenealogy@gmail.com

Phone: 603-204-8409 (U.S.)



Cindy Kimove

Cindy Kimove is bringing competitive Highland dance to northern Canada. The dance instructor - who has been involved with the discipline since the age of three - has been running CK Dance Company in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, for the last few years. In October of 2022, Kimove also founded the Northwest Territories Highland Dancers' Association. She has about 30 keen dancers at her studio, but the students haven't had the chance to compete close to home. She decided to change that. The North of 60 Highland Dance competition and workshop is slated to take place at the beginning of August. "We have a full studio of dancers that would like to be competitive," Kimove told Cabin Radio recently. "We figured that instead of trying to force the dancers up here to travel just to see if they would want to be part of the competitive community, we will bring the community up to them." It's not just about competing. The event will be an opportunity for dancers to connect with other members of Canada's Highland dance community and hopefully make friends. It will surely be a historical event also, as North of 60 is believed to be the northernmost Highland dance competition in the world. Dancers and non-dancers alike are invited to participate in the midnight fling: a dance under the midnight sun. It is the kind of experience unique to the northern territories, and it could inspire more people in the region to take up the tartan.



Vera Barber

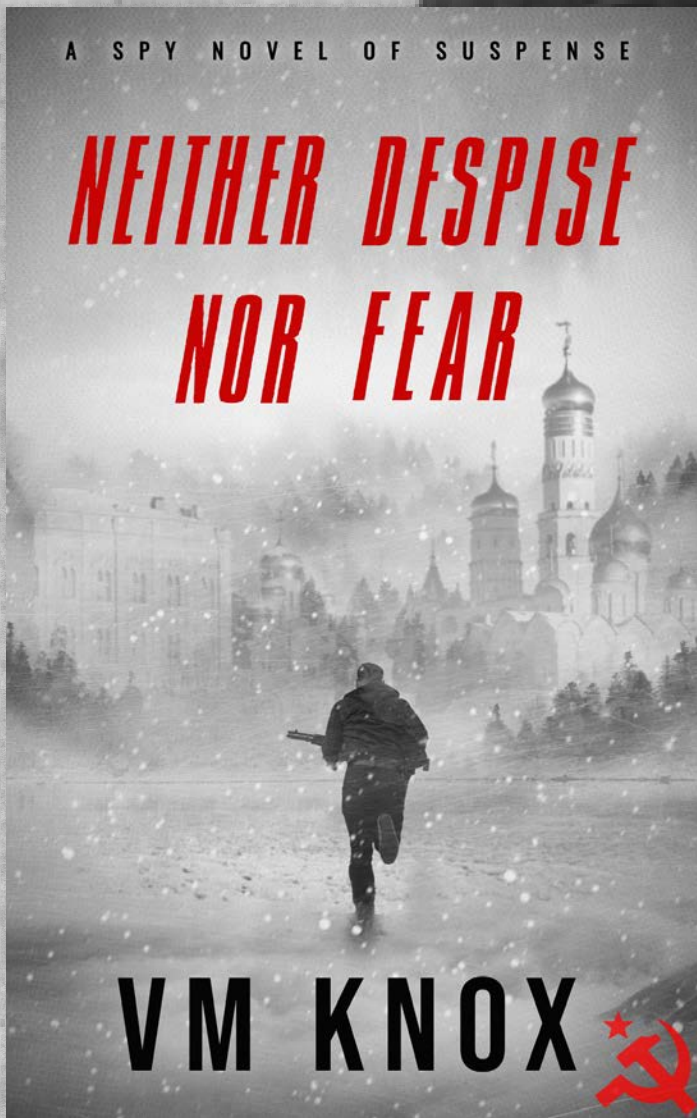
One woman has made it her mission to rescue hedgehogs on the Isle of Man. Vera Barber, known by locals as the Hedgehog Lady of Peel, has been helping the wee creatures since the 1980s. She finds injured ones and lets them rest and recuperate in her garage, safe from predators and the elements. Late last year, the Manx Wildlife Trust praised Barber's efforts and made a public appeal for donations of food and wood shavings to help Barber with her volunteer work. She is so well-known, in fact, that people will sometimes contact her directly when there's a hog in need. "If the hedgehog gets taken into the vet, they treat it and then ring me and say, 'have you got space for another one?' I usually say yes," Barber told the BBC recently. This past winter, she housed 15 animals - a far cry from the 53 she took on the winter prior. According to the Wildlife Trust, a combination of factors such as habitat loss, road casualties, and predators have contributed to the decline of the hedgehog population in the United Kingdom. A report from the British Hedgehog Society and the People's Trust for Endangered Species states that "three surveys show a loss of hedgehogs in rural areas nationally of between a third and three-quarters of the population in the last two decades." Fortunately, though, neither badgers nor foxes (both hedgehog nemeses) live on the Isle of Man. With the help of people like Barber, the small mammals have a fighting chance.



Denise Bayley

Denise Bayley has been working to make gymnastics more accessible for 35 years. The 65-year-old mother first began volunteering as a coach when her daughter was interested in becoming a gymnast. Bayley continues to volunteer today, and she is now the head coach of the Saltney Gymnastics Club in Wales. The club gymnasts have competed at national and international levels under her leadership. She has served as a mentor and support for other volunteers as well. Up until her retirement, Bayley worked nighttime shifts as a hospice nurse, but she is now completely dedicated to gymnastics and her dedication has paid off. Recently, Bayley was chosen out of five nominees for the British Gymnastics Awards Volunteer of the Year. "The opportunities to do gymnastics were never available to me growing up and it wasn't as easy to access anything," Bayley told the North Wales Pioneer. "I want the sport to carry on; I want children to have the accessibility to gymnastics that wasn't around when I was a child." Of their decision to recognize Bayley, award judges stated, "Denise has been generous in her leadership enabling the club to grow and create a legacy. The significant contribution to the community is so clear, and the impact she has had by empowering others is profound." The British Gymnastics Awards take place annually to celebrate the gymnastics community and spotlight those who have made the sport an uplifting and inclusive experience for all.

***“From the best-selling author of
The Clement Wisdom Novels comes a
thrilling new espionage series”***



1965 and Alistair Quinn is sixteen. Making a sudden and life-changing decision, he runs away from his prestigious North London school and heads straight for the bright lights of Soho. In a brothel there he meets a prominent politician and a Soviet KGB officer; one MI5 and the CIA hope to turn double agent. Recruited into MI5, he becomes embroiled in a high stakes mission of deception, treachery and death where no one is who they seem. Not even the closest relative.

Available in Kindle and paperback
from online book sellers

www.vmknnoxauthor.com

vmknnoxauthor@gmail.com

Time-Period Clothing

For one woman, starting a business was a happy accident



An American of both Scottish and Irish heritage, Jacquie Habenicht attended her first Highland games in July of 2000 - the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in North Carolina, an event which still exists today. Even 23 years later, she still recalls the emotions that she felt that weekend.

"I had this strange feeling of being at home listening to the bagpipes, surrounded by so much Scottish and Celtic culture," she says, noting that Celtic music was of particular interest to her.

Habenicht continued to attend Highland games, along with her husband, in the years that followed. At first, the couple purchased on-theme clothing to wear. Eventually, however, Habenicht wanted to make her own.

"I noticed that there were plenty of options for men with multiple kilt vendors. They also had all the accessories available. There were very few, if any, ladies' clothing vendors."

With the help of both her mother and her mother-in-law, Habenicht took up sewing.

"I wanted to learn how to make my own clothing, not only for games, but for everyday wear. After a few lessons, and a lot of trial by error, I began to make dresses and other garments."

Fellow festival attendees were impressed by the dresses - so much so that some even asked Habenicht to make clothing items for them.

"As more people asked us to make them either ladies' garments or leather goods, it blossomed into a business. We were asked

to come to games, and we started to grow exponentially. We have never really had a mandate other than to make quality goods."

As it turned out, "trial and error" was destined to be a running theme with Scottish Leather & Lassie Wear (now called Time-Period Clothing).

"We had to figure out how to make this work into our busy schedules, how to make it profitable, and what items were selling," explains Habenicht. "The other difficult component is that each event has a different feel to it and sometimes a different crowd depending on the location. The types of items we have for sale continue to fluctuate based on the market, what people want to buy and what costume items they need to complete the outfit they are working on."

For example, the popularity of the show Outlander led to increased interest in 18th Century clothing for women. The interest in that particular style has yet to wane, and thus Time-Period Clothing continues to work on 18th Century pieces to sell at upcoming events.

"While we do design some of our own goods, we also use styles from the past to create garments."

On top of Time-Period Clothing, Habenicht has another, regular full-time job. As a result, her main challenge is coming up with enough hours to dedicate to her craft.

"I am the sole person purchasing materials, designing certain aspects of our goods,

cutting, stitching, selling, scheduling events, and doing the accounting. It takes a huge amount of effort to want to put so much time into a business. Having the time to promote events, promote your items, and work on having more of a social media presence is a lot of work and I do not always get to that."

Time-Period Clothing reaches many of its clients through Highland games in the United States, as well as online. Its best-selling pieces of clothing include chemises, bodices, and Irish overdresses. Many of these products would traditionally be made from linen, but Habenicht leans toward using cotton. "We decided to go with a lighter weight fabric that is also easy to wash. Here in the southeastern U.S., it can be hot and muggy, so having something that is easy to wash was important to me."

Her dedication pays off when she runs into people wearing her clothing at Highland games or when she gets positive feedback and repeat customers. She doesn't see any major changes to the business in the near future. Down the road, however, "we will have to decide how we want to continue the business. It could go into a growth mode, or possibly reduce our travel and sell more on-line structure."

For now, Habenicht is happy to see people wearing her garments - whether it's for a Celtic festival, a Renaissance fair or just for fun.

www.timeperiodclothing.com

JUST FOR LAUGHS

OFF THE KERO PRODUCTIONS PRESENT

joanne mchally

the **prosecco express**

**"MASTER OF
NO-HOLDS
BARRED CRAIC"**

TIME OUT

★★★★★

**"A TRULY GIFTED
STAND UP"**

THE SUNDAY TIMES

★★★★★

**"JOYOUSLY
NUTS"**

THE EXAMINER

★★★★★



TOUR DATES

Ottawa

OCTOBER 1

Winnipeg

OCTOBER 4

Calgary

OCTOBER 5

Edmonton

OCTOBER 6

Victoria

OCTOBER 7

Vancouver

OCTOBER 8 & 9

↓ INFO + TICKETS ↓

HAHAHA.COM

Katie Boyle



Katie Boyle is an Irish comedian living in New York City, where she performs regularly at the New York Comedy Club, Stand Up NY, Eastville, and many more venues. She also hosts a podcast called *The Shift*, where she and her guests discuss sex and dating from an Irish perspective.

What are your own roots?

I am from Kildare, Ireland.

When and why did you first become interested in comedy?

I moved to NYC in 2014. I went to a comedy show in Brooklyn and saw a woman performing at a stand-up show. She was the only woman on the lineup and was the funniest comedian that night. I hadn't seen any women do stand-up before, although I also hadn't been to many comedy shows before that. So, I felt inspired to try.

Are they the same reasons that you continue to be involved today?

No. It is my full-time job now, and one that I love. When I started, I had no idea that I'd be living off it 8 years later.

How has your craft evolved over the years?

It takes years of performances to get fully comfortable on stage and grow the material. In that

time, I have learned how to speak slower, be more conversational, move on stage, deal with hecklers, and change Irish English to American English.

What are the challenges of the vocation?

It's not very secure. I must constantly be booking the next gigs and planning ahead and producing content to get fans to come to shows. So, I think being a businesswoman, on top of creating the comedy, is the hard part - especially when I just want to be creative.

What are the rewards?

I am happiest on stage. I have always loved having guests over and being a host and entertaining people so it's amazing that I get to do this as a job and meet so many new people and make them laugh. I also get to travel and see parts of the world I wouldn't have if I didn't do comedy.

What have been some career highlights to date?

I filmed a special at New York Comedy Club that comes out soon.

Is your comedic process more 'inspirational' or 'perspirational'?

Both. I watch other comedians to get inspired, but as my comedic style is conversational, I write on stage - in the moment.

What makes your work unique?

I am an Irish woman, and I don't withhold. I'll do comedy about anything - from sex to family to Irish versus American culture.

What makes a good joke/bit?

Honesty. I think the funniest thing is the truth. Most people don't say the deep dark truth of what they think and, if it's not harmful, it's probably hilarious.

What motivated you to start the podcast, and what has the response been like?

I started it because Des Bishop asked me to co-host and then gave me the full reigns when he left. The response has been so much better than I thought - I was afraid to openly talk about sex and shame and, ironically, felt shame for talking about it at the start. The support of listeners, however, made me feel like I was doing the right thing.

What's on your comedic agenda for the remainder of 2023?

Have a bigger fan base so I can tour more. I'd love to have a stand-up set on TV or a streaming service, but what comedian wouldn't? So, that can be a goal for 2023, 2024, 2025 and forevermore.

JUST FOR LAUGHS

& OFF THE KERB PRODUCTION PRESENT

DARA O'BRIAIN

*So... Where
Were We?*

ALL NEW SHOW

ST. JOHN'S - SEPTEMBER 5
MONCTON - SEPTEMBER 6
HALIFAX - SEPTEMBER 7
TORONTO - SEPTEMBER 8

OTTAWA - SEPTEMBER 10
EDMONTON - SEPTEMBER 13
CALGARY - SEPTEMBER 14
VICTORIA - SEPTEMBER 15
VANCOUVER - SEPTEMBER 16



↓ INFO + TICKETS ↓

HAHAHA.COM

Keith Kopp

One award-winning film director brings Wales to the big screen



Keith Kopp has always been fascinated with film. Born in southern California and raised on the outskirts of Portland, Oregon, he spent much of his young adulthood sitting in front of the big screen taking in the “magic” of film.

“We lived close to a three-dollar cinema and my parents would take me there every weekend,” Kopp tells Celtic Life International via email. “Sometimes we would see as many as three films over two or three days.”

In high school, Kopp - who is of Scottish and German descent - began performing on his own, first through an improv troupe and later in drama class. It was also at that time that he would get his hands on his first camera.

“It started to feel like a calling as much as a passion,” he notes.

Now an award-winning film director, Kopp splits his time between Bath, U.K. and Carmarthenshire, Wales.

And while the reasons he first fell in love with film still hold true, today he has a better understanding of the kinds of stories that he wants to tell - intimate, gritty, and small in scale.

“Films about humans that feel real,” he says, citing Ingmar Bergman, John Cassavetes, and Noah Baumbach as his biggest inspirations.

Over the course of his career, Kopp has worked as film director on a number of shorts, including his 2014 release *Gage*. It was during the production of *Gage* that Kopp acquired personal mentorship from American filmmaker Gus Van Sant, whose directorial career has brought audiences several cinematic powerhouses,

including *Good Will Hunting* (1997) and *Elephant* (2003).

And though he has earned an array of awards, Kopp insists that the biggest reward remains the art of filmmaking itself.

“The creative endeavor allows me to fulfill something that is hard to articulate and yet speaks to the soul.”

“To see my story on the big screen brings a real sense of creative satisfaction. I also get to meet other people who tell wildly different stories and yet have the same impulse to entertain people. Finally, films take me, and audiences, to places that they or I would never get to know otherwise. I mean, I have been to a nightclub in the basement of the Zimbabwean Embassy, opulent English manor homes, and houseless camps in the Pacific Northwest just to name a few experiences.”

Kopp recently released his debut feature length film *Translations*. Described as a Welsh romance drama, the story explores the complex love between two people - Stef, an agoraphobe and translator, and Evan, the best friend of her late brother - as they each wrestle with mental health issues.

“A lot of my work is about how people deal with, and are affected by, trauma. *Translations* ask the question about what your mental health is worth to you? I made this film because I have

experienced isolation and captivity like the character Stef. She must decide to either allow her fear to consume her or to come to terms with it.”

Kopp worked on *Translations* with writer, Laurence Guy. The story became fully realized once the pair met Welsh actor Kate Morgan-Jones (who plays Stef), a graduate of the Royal Welsh College of Drama and Music.

“When I first came to the United Kingdom, I was really quite taken by Wales,” says Kopp. “The culture, landscape, language - and the kindness of the people - made me fall in love with the country. I knew that one day, the right film would be set here. I find it interesting how Irish and Scottish cultures are highlighted elsewhere around the world and how little Wales is mentioned. I thought it would be cool to bring Wales to these places.”

So far, response to the film has been positive.

“People sense how genuine our little romance drama film is, and some have really gone out of their way to help us.”

Kopp says that he has no plans of slowing down. With the U.K. theatrical release of *Translations* only just gearing up, he already has a number of projects on the horizon.

“I am developing a thriller TV series set in Wales that I am planning on pitching, and I have two other feature films on the go as well: a drama and modern western that are at different stages.”

www.kwkopp.com



OBRIEN CELTIC GIFTS 

A division of OBRIEN DIARIES Ltd.



Specialist Designers & Manufacturers
of a Range of Quality Celtic Paper Products

For Your Desk...

...Celtic Journals and Notebooks

For your Wall...

Framed or Ready to Frame,

***...Old Ireland Maps, The Irish Proclamation,
Irish Emigrant Trail & More***

22-25 Westlink Estate Dublin 10 Ireland

Tel +353 1 6266722 Fax: +353 1 6268477

email: sales@obriencelticgifts.ie www.obriencelticgifts.com

A portrait of a man with a full beard and long hair tied back, wearing a blue blazer over an orange t-shirt. He is looking directly at the camera against a grey background.

Marcas Mac an Tuairneir



Multi award-winning poet, musician, author, artist, and activist Marcas Mac an Tuairneir (Mark Spencer Turner) has been involved with the preservation and promotion of Gaelic culture and language for years. Recently we spoke with him about the challenges and rewards of his passion.

What are your roots?

I am originally from York in the north of England. I was born into the Irish Diaspora community there, so I don't really know how I sit with my Englishness. I don't suppose I need to worry about it too much, as I have lived in Scotland all my adult life. I came to Aberdeen as a student, and I have been based in Edinburgh since 2018.

Your Irish background - would that be your grandparents?

Yes, two of my grandparents, one on each side. My maternal grandfather was born in Kinsale in County Cork, in Charles Fort, a British military base that was later bombed by the IRA. And then my grandma was born in Dublin, although her family originated in County Wicklow. Growing up I felt more affinity to my Irish background and spent most of my summers there. I did study there as a student as well. So, I feel that I have a foothold in many different places around this Atlantic archipelago.

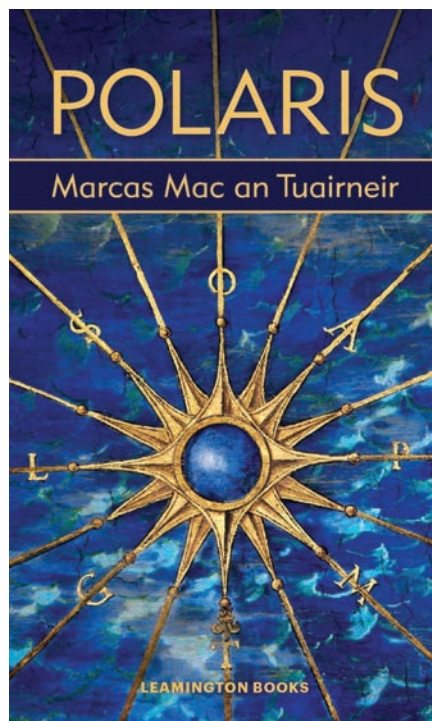
Was it those visits that stirred your initial interest in the language and the culture?

I think so. One of my earliest memories was just being fascinated by the language, seeing the visual bilingualism on the signage and in the shops and realizing that there was another language spoken there apart from English. Also, my parents were very much into tradi-

tional music and folk music, so I was brought up going to concerts and ceilidhs and things like that. At that time, the 1990s, there was a real sense of pride in the Irish identity - a very different experience from that of my grandparents, who were forced to decide on their own citizenship. With the creation of the Irish Free State, they were forced to choose between their new Irish passports or their British passports. Their experience was one of being brought up with signs like no blacks, no dogs, no Irish - there was a certain amount of prejudice. For us, being second and third generation, the 1990s was an important time in that it allowed us to retain and celebrate those aspects of our identity. I am very fortunate that my relationship with Ireland has been a very positive and creative one, and language has been at the root of that. I did study some Irish at university, but I am by no means fluent. But I do manage to still work kind of within the Irish linguistic domain through collaboration, whether that is musical or literary.

Are they the same reasons that you remain involved with the preservation and promotion of the culture today?

I chose to attend Aberdeen University because of their Celtic Studies program, and they instilled in me the understanding of the importance of every speaker of this language and that it is a language for today and it is





our job is to take it forward. Today, I believe that the public use of this language is still a political act, and that slotted in very well to my experience as a member of the LGBTQ community. I was brought up under section 28 where I was unable to give blood or to get married, and I was able to see the parallels between the oppression of language and sexuality. What started as an investigation of heritage and culture quickly became a reason for living. It gave me a cause, and that has remained my cause, and I am politically engaged with the language and that has given me the platform to speak about these ideas through creativity.

From your perspective, why is it important to preserve and promote this culture and these languages through art?

Using languages through the arts can be enjoyable. And it is easier to engage with - perhaps as it is less confrontational and more open-ended - and allows others to participate with it on their own terms and find their own commonalities or contrasts. Whereas political movements can be more didactic, and it would be an absolute disgrace if the language and its culture is allowed to die in the contemporary era without adequate government support. The only way that we, as speakers, can ensure its survival is to continue using it in as many ways as we can. In that way, art presents greater opportunities for dialogue and for change.

What are your thoughts on how we, as a community, can better engage young people with the culture and language?

Online engagement - Spotify, YouTube, language apps, social media, and the like - are

all valuable ways to promote the language and culture. We have seen an uptick in the use of Gaelic on Facebook and Twitter and TikTok as these minoritized communities create space and online networks. The problem, for me, is the homogenization of Celtic cultures. This is a colonial thing, where aspects of Irish, Scottish, Welsh, Breton, and Cornish cultures are cherry picked and re-framed in a way that is palatable and enjoyable for English speaking audiences. What is lost is the specificities of each language and each culture. Yes, we are linked by a common ancestry, however these are different, specific, special cultures.

In a way, that is understandable.

Yes. There is a colonial aftershock, a kind of protectionism that communities, particularly native-speaking communities, build up around their language after centuries of oppression - often violent oppression. Celtic culture, as we know it today, really only goes back a few hundred years to the Jacobite era or maybe medieval times or perhaps the Renaissance. Many Gaelic songs that we know and love, however, are from the 20th century.

Has it been watered down over time?

Yes and no. There is a lot that we can learn from the Indigenous peoples of the Americas. Within a post-colonial academic framework, they have been very proactive in terms of preserving and promoting their culture. We are starting to look at Gaelic culture in

both Scotland and Ireland, and in the Isle of Man also, within that framework. Look - it is always going to be problematic if we frame Gaelic solely as the victim of history, and I don't think that that helps the Gaelic-speaking community, both historically or in the contemporary era. I don't know whether reparations are going to be the way forward for us, but one positive thing that has been happening in recent years is a revival of community trust. In the Hebrides, for example, where the communities are managing to buy back the land and placing it in community ownership - a really positive step, and something that may or may not have been inspired by the trajectory of Indigenous peoples elsewhere. There are a lot of things that we can learn from other cultures.

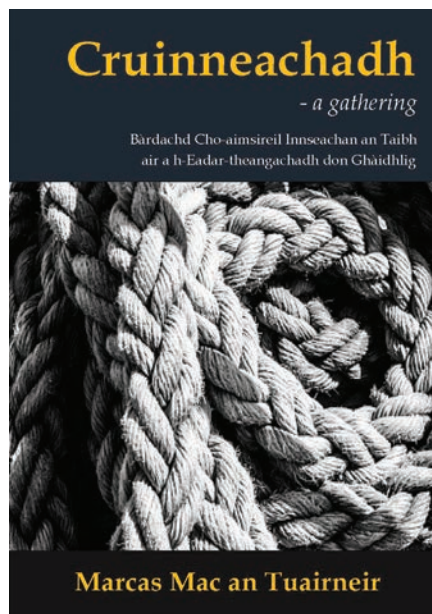
We have seen some political movement in recent years.

Yes. In Scotland we now have the Gaelic Language Act, and we are now looking towards the Scottish Languages Act, which places Gaelic in the context of Scots, and which acknowledges that Scotland is a multilingual state. Thus, we all must coexist alongside each other, and we all deserve legal recognition and policies and provisions that recognize the uniqueness of our languages.

You will continue to be involved?

It was a huge honour to be nominated as Gaelic Singer of the Year in 2022 and to be on the shortlist for Scottish Poetry Book of the Year. I am encouraged by these things and continue to surround myself with my tribe who have a similar approach to creativity and the language as I do. I hope to keep fostering those links and those collaborations. I am acutely aware that the best work that we can do is work that we achieve together. You know, there are benefits to being a minoritized community. You don't often see it framed that way, but it is a highly networked group and there is a real sense of solidarity there, a desire for collaboration. So, what I would say is to take inspiration from that and ride the crest of the wave, because the time is now. And if we look back 20 years, it has never been better than it is now. And by engaging now we can show that there is a need and a worth in what we are doing - ensuring the future growth of both the language and the culture.

www.marcasmac.scot



the cottages Ireland



**Three hundred year old cottage charm, the sound
of the sea, six miles of sandy beach... and you!**

*Six unique five-star whitewashed thatched cottages in a private hamlet-like setting
on the beach.* Perfectly located to explore the vibrant beat of Dublin's heart or the
World Heritage Site of 'Bru na Boinne' in the heart of the Boyne Valley, birthplace
of Ireland's Ancient East. *25 Minutes from Dublin Airport.*

info@cottages-ireland.com

00353 41 9828104 • www.cottages-Ireland.com

  @thecottagesIreland

Winner of the 'Best beach holiday home in Europe'

The Newfoundland Pony

Although still endangered, a famed breed of horses is making a comeback. Story and photos by Rebecca Dingwell.



Queenie

Even on a rainy afternoon in Nova Scotia, the Newfoundland Ponies on Lisa Partridge's farm, P&P Pastures Homestead, are eager to greet. There are several Newfoundland Ponies on site - a 200-acre property in the town of Lunenburg on the province's plush South Shore - including a new foal named Lorimer. He sniffs at a camera lens with curiosity while his mother, Fancy, remains nearby. Queenie, a pregnant mare, grazes in the same paddock along with Sass. Kitchen Party nibbles on my raincoat sleeve. Elsewhere, a male yearling named Kiaron shares his space with an adult stallion, Scrunchion. Little Buddy, Drifter, and Loaf (a Newfoundland Pony mix) round out the Newfoundlanders currently in Partridge's care.

Seeing these animals offers hope that an endangered breed might once again thrive. After all, the Newfoundland Pony is tougher than it looks.

Anyone who has spent a winter in Newfoundland and Labrador well knows what early settlers learned long ago: while it is a beautiful place, it is not for the faint of heart.

According to Andrew F. Fraser's comprehensive book on the Newfoundland Pony (first published in 1992), these animals were hardy, strong, and adaptable. They were also essential. Ponies first came to the province in the early 1600s when John Guy imported Dartmoor and Exmoor ponies. By the 1930s, ponies outnumbered larger horses in New-

foundland by more than 3,000.

"Ponies were as members of each working family," wrote Fraser. A veterinarian and biologist who grew up in Scotland, Fraser made Newfoundland and Labrador his home for the latter part of his life. He noted that "for life in Newfoundland, with its hard environment, these horses could not be soft." That is not to say that the ponies were aloof, however. Their trusting and friendly disposition is part of what made them appealing to humans as well.

"The Newfoundland Pony is our living heritage," says Libby Carew, board member and councillor-at-large for the Newfoundland Pony Society.

"That is something that we never want to lose, and it is something that we need a lot more people involved in helping us preserve."

Fraser helped to form the Newfoundland Pony Society (NPS), which was officially recognized as a non-profit in 1981. Although he passed away in 2011, the society lives on. Based in St. John's, NL, the NPS is responsible for the protection and preservation of the Newfoundland Pony. "What we are trying to do now is really advocate for the pony so that it can survive here and be here for future generations to enjoy," notes Carew.

When we picture a pony today, we probably imagine a cute little animal with a child on its back at a county fair. It is easy to forget the days when our equine companions were first and foremost workers: our allies in survival. They worked the land and provided transportation. The human/equine relationship goes back many centuries, and as Fraser wrote, "No greater race of horsepeople inhabited ancient Europe than the Celts."

Horses and ponies are still used in competition as well as for leisure and companionship, but since humans shifted from our reliance on animals to a reliance on machines like motor vehicles, we have neglected to protect some of our old friends. Friends such as the Newfoundland Pony.

"The Newfoundland Pony is referred to as the working engine of rural Newfoundland," shares Carew. "Most families had a Newfoundland Pony, and the pony was involved in day-to-day life."

Newfoundland Ponies pulled ploughs and mowing machines, and they carted caplin and seaweed from the beaches so it could be used as fertilizer. Of course, the ponies were also employed for travel and recreational riding.

"The Newfoundland Pony was used for midwives to get to one community or another, and many a bride was brought to her wedding day," adds Carew. "A pony would have pulled the carriage to get to the church, so they are quite an important part of our fabric."

While thousands once inhabited the island of Newfoundland, the Newfoundland Pony currently exists in mere hundreds.

The Newfoundland Pony Society estimates that there are now 500 of these ponies worldwide. (This number is imprecise, since NPS counts on owners to report ponies to the registry, as well as to report their deaths.)

Multiple factors led to the breed's decline. Modern farm equipment and all-terrain vehi-



Lorimer



Kitchen Party

cles, for instance, took on jobs once occupied by the Newfoundland Pony. “ATVs don’t need farrier services. You don’t need to feed them,” explains Carew. Additionally, the province brought forth anti-roaming animal by-laws in the 1970s. Up until that point, ponies had been permitted to run freely in the summer months. The new regulations caused pastureland to become more expensive, and anyone who wanted to own ponies would have had to pay for fences to keep them contained.

“That’s when horse traders hit the province and, I guess, took advantage of a bad situation.”

Many ponies were sold at auction and slaughtered. By 1992, there were less than 150 Newfoundland Ponies of breeding age. The possibility of extinction loomed. In 1996, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador passed the Heritage Animals Act, which mandated NPS to maintain a registry of Newfoundland Ponies. These days, volunteer Kelly Power-Kean is responsible for that registry.

“We do offer a DNA testing grant to anybody who suspects that they do have a Newfoundland Pony,” says Power-Kean.

Unlike some horse breeds, the Newfoundland Pony does not have a uniform appearance. By way of example, look at Lisa Partridge’s ponies: Scrunchions has a long, flowing mane and he doesn’t have that stereotypical “stocky” build. Buddy, on the other hand, is much smaller and has more resemblance to a Welsh Mountain Pony. Such differences once contributed to the myth that Newfoundland Ponies were simply “mutts.” In fact, the historic breed has its roots in the British Isles. It descended from various types of the Mountain and Moorland ponies, including the Dartmoor and Exmoor. A proper

equine enthusiast could pick out the telltale characteristics of a Newfoundland Pony, such as its narrow chest and close-set forelegs.

“The Newfoundland Pony is a walking genetic time capsule,” explains Emily Aho, the executive director of the Newfoundland Pony Conservancy Center in Fitzwilliam, NH. She pushes back against efforts to “modernize” or alter the breed in ways that would be to its detriment. “Nature knows better than we do,” she says.

Aho fell into Newfoundland Pony conservation by chance after buying a Newfoundland Pony mix named Tansy. It was her first

experience with the breed, but it would not be her last. “They take you down a trail. That’s what they did to us - they took us down this trail and we are still following them.” Today, Aho educates people on the pony’s history, as well as teaching them how to responsibly breed and care for them.

According to the Newfoundland Pony Society website, at least 19 Newfoundland Pony breeders are scattered throughout Canada and even the United States. People like Aho and Partridge connect with other breeders and often work together: Partridge’s Drifter and Sass, for example, are “on loan” from Minnesota for breeding. The majority of Newfoundland Ponies currently live outside of Newfoundland and Labrador, and so when Partridge sells a pony, she prioritizes Newfoundland buyers. Aho’s Conservancy Center also advocates for the breed to live in its homeland.

“We are all about ponies in Newfoundland. We want that to grow. It was the island that made that pony.”

Back on The Rock, the Newfoundland Pony Society is working to restore habitat for the pony. In 2018, the Society secured a 50-year lease from the provincial government for 25 acres of Crown land. They kicked off a fundraising campaign the following year, with the goal to create the Newfoundland Pony Heritage Park and Pasture. Last summer, NPS opened the pasture in Hopeall, NL. More than 700 visitors came to see the ponies staying there. NPS is continuing to fundraise, and the hope is that - eventually - the pasture will be home to a small breeding program. “There’s something that’s good for the soul - just being around these animals,” says Carew.

Twenty-six Newfoundland Pony births were recorded in 2022. As of June 2023, about 14 have been born this year, with others still on the way. These numbers, at first, seem to pale in comparison to the population that once inhabited Newfoundland. However, nothing can be done about the past. The foals represent the future. In speaking with people about the Newfoundland Pony, the overwhelming takeaway is a feeling of optimism: despite the hurdles, there are still a great deal of people who love, admire and advocate for the breed.

“We could not have survived without them,” says Carew. “We feel, as the Pony Society, we owe them a debt that we can never repay.”

www.newfoundlandpony.com



Rebecca Dingwell

Micro-Group Tours of Scotland & Ireland

IT'S CELTIC TIME!



ANCIENT SCOTLAND

\$3,166*



- Orkney Islands
- Stenness & Brodgar
- Skara Brae
- Sheila Fleet
- Kilmartin Glen
- Shopping & Whisky
- Medieval St Andrews



OUTLANDER IMMERSION

\$3,293*



- Gwyllyn the Bard
- Castle Leoch
- Craigh na Dun
- Culloden Battlefield
- Clava Cairns
- Lallybroch
- Period Costumes



OUTLANDER REDOUX

\$2,978*



- Jacobite Steam Train
- Isle of Skye
- Eilean Donan Castle
- Glencoe
- Rosslyn Chapel
- Preston Mill
- Glencorse Old Kirk

Includes: All accommodations (8 nts), 2/3 dinners, entrance fees, Scottish Guide/Driver in a 9 pax van

Escape to the Wildside

Indulge in Outlandish Fantasies



Book Now

+1 720 320 4943



More Information

www.celtictime.com

It's Celtic Time! is a division of A Happy Place Travel

*prices starting at

*Our award-winning photojournalist
Tom Langlands takes a stroll around
Kingairloch Estate*





The 14,000-acre Kingairloch Estate lies on the west side of Loch Linnhe and forms part of the Morvern Peninsula - the most southerly of Scotland's West Highland peninsulas.

On the day I travelled there by car the Corran to Ardgour ferry crossing that would have delivered me within a few miles of my destination had experienced technical problems and wasn't running. My heart sank at the prospect of a 90-minute detour via Fort William. In reality, the additional time spent travelling on mostly single-track roads served only to reinforce the remoteness and beauty of this corner of Scotland.

The Morvern Peninsula has a history that

includes a Viking settlement at its southern tip and, by the 15th century, a Clan Maclean of Kingairloch stronghold at Glensanda Castle. By the end of the 17th century fortunes had changed and most of the former Maclean lands were now in the possession of the Campbells. The Macleans were supporters of the Stuart claim to the throne, and many fought and died on the battlefield at Culloden after which the remnants of the clan on the Morvern Peninsula established a new settlement on lands that now form part of the Kingairloch Estate. These were difficult times and, in 1812, the majority of the population - some 500 persons - headed by Sir Hector Maclean (7th Baronet of Morvern



and 23rd Chief of Clan Maclean) emigrated to Pictou, Nova Scotia in search of new beginnings.

Sitting in the office of estate manager Kevin Masson and looking out over fields of sheep to Loch a' Choire and beyond to Loch Linnhe with its backdrop of Grampian Mountains, it is difficult to imagine anything other than an idyllic, peaceful environment.

Kingairloch Estate was acquired in 2022 by Gaëtan and Bénédicte Hannecart and their four daughters, a family from Belgium. The family has a long-established track record in property development with a specific emphasis on communities and social cohesion. It is that "sense of place" that attracted them to this corner of Scotland, to provide somewhere where they could relax as family and with friends. As Masson explains, "This is a working estate and farm. It is not a hotel although we welcome those who wish to holiday in any of the 10 cottages that are available to rent. From the outset the new owners established four guiding principles that exemplify their approach to their custodianship of the estate." Those principles are highlighted within each of the estate's rentable properties and are pinned in a prominent position on the wall of Masson's office:

Hospitality: To be a friendly, unique place for our family, friends and guests to enjoy in a leisurely way.

Activities: To offer our guests many outdoor activities in this beautiful part of Scotland.

Environmental Stewardship: To invest in the preservation and improvement of the scenery, the strengthening of wildlife and biodiversity, and the architectural harmony of the buildings.

Community Engagement: To engage and involve the local community and be respectful of Highland traditions.





Masson has a degree in geology and has worked within the oil industry across the world, including 16 years on offshore sites. He is quick to add, "I grew up in the Cairngorms, spent 17 years as a mountain rescue volunteer and have enjoyed a work balance that has always included working on Highland estates. I have a passion also for helping develop community resilience projects - a necessity within the fragile communities of the Highlands."

Rebecca Mackellar is the Holiday Cottage and Administrative lead and, along with her partner Sandy, looks after the farm. The day I first met her she was in a field helping deliver spring lambs. Her passion for the area is obvious, "I have lived here for over 20 years and my father ran the farm before me. This is my home, and it is the landscape and the animals that make this place special." The estate is currently home to 130 Cheviot sheep, 10 Dexter cows - the smallest breed of British cattle — one Aberdeen Angus bull, and six Highland cows. For Mackellar it's about quality and sustainability, "When crossed with the Aberdeen Angus bull the Dexter cows produce a larger, native hybrid with exceptional quality beef. Likewise, the free roaming Highland cows produce high quality meat while the sheep and lambs form a large part of what we produce, providing an essential source of income." As well as managing the estate Masson is responsible for the red deer stalking that provides game hunting opportunities, controls a burgeoning head of red deer, and provides a source of venison. In addition to shooting, some limited freshwater angling is available and

sea loch fishing is on the doorstep. Other sources of income include rent from property, three hydro-electric stations that supply energy to the national grid, and a small amount of commercial forestry.

The main property on the site is Kingairloch House. Although altered many times over the years, the original building was constructed by the Macleans of Kingairloch and can trace its origins to the late 17th century. To the rear of the main house lies a late 19th century/early 20th century walled garden of considerable character. In the early 2000s - under previous owners - an application to convert the walled garden into an indoor swimming pool stirred the ire of Macleans around the world, especially those in Nova Scotia who were descendants of the Kingairloch immigrants from 200 years ago. Worldwide objections to the proposals were received and permission was refused. Today, the walled garden is being restored to its former glory by Richard Van de Peer who is also responsible for the Kingairloch House policies and parklands. The day I caught up with him he was digging forkfuls of seaweed collected from the shore into vegetable plots - a method of fertilizing soil that has been used for centuries in coastal locations. With a background in environmental science and ecology along with experience gained working for the Soil Association, Van de Peer is equally passionate about his role at Kingairloch, "It's about understanding and caring about what we eat and how we cultivate things. Here we grow everything from seed using only natural means to fertilize the land and to maintain good soil quality. We intend

to add a small orchard and to construct a large, sensitively designed greenhouse along one wall to further increase the range of foodstuffs and plants that can be grown." With an emphasis on sustainability, it is a source of pride that meat, fruit, and vegetable "food miles" are restricted to no more than one mile from source to table with all the produce of the estate being available to those who visit as well as those living and working there.

The garden now produces vegetables almost all year round and it was a joy to witness the old place being brought back to life in such a meaningful way. Plans to reopen a Boathouse Restaurant on the Loch a' Choire shoreline are at an advanced stage. This will facilitate the creation of a high-quality, locally inspired menu utilizing the best produce of land and sea. Incurring minimal 'food-miles' will further enhance Kingairloch's produce-quality and sustainability credentials.

During my time at Kingairloch I saw red deer, golden eagles, wild goats, and coastal otters, as well as a plethora of birdlife unique to this type of environment.

The cottages for rent are all unique in what they have to offer with several enjoying stunning lochside views and the likelihood of waking in the morning to see red deer outside the windows. The small, white-walled, mission church on the shoreline is a place of peaceful contemplation and would make an idyllic setting for a wedding - something Masson would happily consider. As a former Balmoral Estate bagpiper, he even suggested he would be happy to pipe for such an occasion.

Kingairloch is a special place of outstanding beauty but what struck me most of all was a sense of belonging - a team of individuals that felt like a family with a deep connection to the land. The sense of community resilience that Masson had referred to was evident everywhere.

Story by Tom Langlands
Images courtesy of Tom Langlands Photography and Kingairloch Estate

www.kingairloch.co.uk
www.tomlanglandsphotography.com

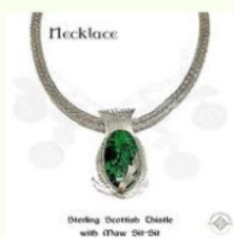
SCOTI CREATIONS



TRAVEL BACK IN TIME

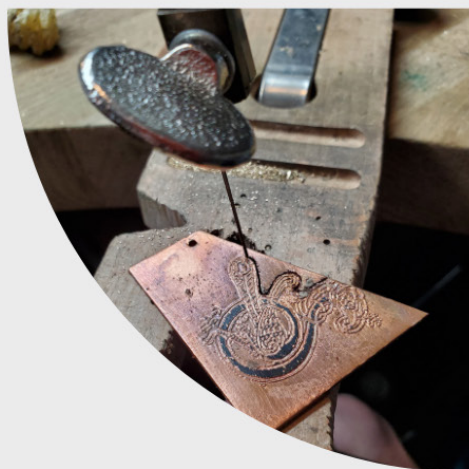
STEP BACK INTO THE WORLD OF
CELTS, PICTS AND VIKINGS
WITH OUR EXTENSIVE COLLECTION
OF HANDCRAFTED JEWELRY.

CONNECTING YOU TO YOUR HERITAGE.



Please visit our website
to see our
schedule of events

www.scoticcreations.com



www.scoticcreations.com

www.etsy.com/shop/scoticcreations

When the Celts Had Rome at Their Mercy

*A small group of ragtag soldiers once took
on the greatest army on Earth.
Story and photos by Steve Melia*



Capitoline Hill

Amongst the European countries with a Celtic heritage, one of the most important – Italy – is almost unknown outside its own borders. This airbrushing from history is not new and may have even been deliberate. It followed a dramatic event around 390 BC, which threatened to strangle the Roman empire at its birth, and involved a Celtic people, the Senones, and their leader, Brennus. I briefly crossed their territory around Ancona at the end of my cycle ride across Europe last year, but I arrived on a Monday, when the museum I had hoped to visit was closed. So, recently, I set out again, this time by train, to follow the trail of the Senones and their legendary leader.

The question of where the Celtic peo-

ples and their languages first emerged is uncertain, but some recent evidence points towards central France. The Senones who attacked Rome lived in northeast Italy, but people called Senones also lived in Gaul, around the modern town of Sens, where a golden statue of Brennus stands outside the town hall. Were they branches of the same people? Did they move between the two? The evidence I had read was unclear and I hoped to learn more.

My journey began on the train through the Channel Tunnel to Paris Gare du Nord, with its scruffy interior and majestic Greco-Roman facade. I stopped in Paris to stay with my old friend Sylvain and visit the National Archaeological Museum in the chateau

of Saint-Germain-en-Laye in the western suburbs. We boarded the RER, the regional metro, in the centre of Paris, where it runs underground until it emerges on a viaduct, rising above the River Seine towards the chateau and its park overlooking the valley.

Napoleon III commissioned the museum in the 1850s to showcase the Celtic origins of France, a key element of his nationalist agenda. When it opened in 1867 its refurbishment was incomplete and the few Gaulish displays disappointed him. The public was more impressed, flocking there in their thousands, and today it houses the biggest Gaulish collection in France.

Whether the disparate peoples of early Gaul recognized a common identity we do not know, but sometime between the early and late Iron Ages their objects began to display an unmistakably Celtic style.

Interestingly, it was the same style I had seen in the British museum earlier this year. Amongst the weapons, human remains, and statues of deities, were many objects made for mundane purposes, cast into weird and wonderful forms. The lynchpin of a chariot's axle stares at the viewer with a face part-human, part-animal. The mouths and tails of interlocking monsters form a circular bronze cast, of unknown purpose, buried with the charioteer. There is none of the realism we find in Greek and Roman art, but does that make it more primitive? An information board compares the style to Cubism in the



Sacred Goose – Capitoline Museum

early 20th Century.

According to Roman writer Livy, during the 5th Century BC, when Rome was still a fledgling city state, Gaul had grown so rich and populous that it was becoming difficult to govern. King Ambigatus asked his two nephews to lead the surplus populations of several tribes to “such homes as the gods might assign to them.” One group headed east: the other climbed over the Alps into Italy. We still don’t know how much truth lies behind that story, but whatever the sequence of events, within a couple of centuries several Celtic peoples were occupying northern Italy, which is where I was heading next.

The railway through the Alps follows river valleys where possible, and tunnels through the more difficult sections. It is hard to imagine how ancient peoples made their way through those mountains with animals and supplies to feed thousands of people. You might have heard of Hannibal’s epic journey through the Alps with his elephants; his Celtic allies had been there first and probably guided his army.

Between Bologna and Florence, the railway crosses the Apennine mountains. It mostly runs through tunnels, emerging only occasionally to give a brief glimpse of the peaks, not as high as the Alps, but still dusted



with snow.

By the 4th Century BC, the Celts of northern Italy had expanded their territory, but remained on the opposite side of the Apennines from the city state of Rome. Then, the Senones - the “last to come” - found the land they had settled insufficient. Their leader, Brennus, led an army across the Apennines to seize more. Livy and Plutarch both mention a disgruntled man, Arruns, who led the

Celts to his home town of Clusium (Chiusi today), to take revenge on his brother for seducing Arruns’ wife.

As the Celtic army approached, the Clusians appealed to Rome for help. The Romans were reluctant to send troops at first. Instead, they sent three patrician brothers, the Fabii brothers, to negotiate with the Celts. The Fabii were not known for their tact or diplomacy. They took offence at a “haughty answer” and took up arms, joining the defending army and killing a Celtic chief. This outrage, “contrary to the law of nations,” transformed the conflict. From now on, the Celts directed their anger towards Rome.

To begin with, they sent ambassadors to the Roman Senate, asking them to hand over the Fabii brothers for punishment. The Senate sympathised with their arguments but felt unable to hand over “men of such high rank.” The scene was set for war.

The two armies met by the River Allia, 15 km north of Rome. Livy is contemptuous of the Roman leaders who showed “as much disregard of the gods as of the enemy.” Unusually for a Roman writer, he credits Brennus with shrewder tactics, leading to a total victory. As the Roman troops tried to flee across the river, their heavy armour weighed them down and many of them drowned. The survivors scattered across the countryside; one group made it back to Rome, where they took refuge on the Capitoline Hill.

By the entrance to Rome’s Termini station stands a section of the Severan Walls, built just after the departure of Brennus’s army. Before then, all that stood between the Celts and the city of Rome were earthen ramparts with gates left open in the panic. Within the ramparts, the strongest fortifications surrounded the Capitoline Hill, which





Detail from Civitalba Frieze - Ancona Museum

also housed the city's most sacred sites. The youth of military age was instructed to join the soldiers there, leaving everyone else to flee or die.

Today, a colossal monument to Italian reunification dominates the northern approach to the Capitoline Hill. Behind it, a wide flight of steps leads up to the Capitoline Museum, where I met Curator Eloisa Doderro. In my last article I described the parade of the captured King Caratacus, 460 years later. The splendour that he would have seen

did not yet exist. In Brennus's time, the population of Rome was no more than 40,000. Eloisa led me behind the museum, where we looked down over the archaeological park. The Forum and some of the temples would have existed back then, she explained, but houses, built of wood or volcanic stone, would have covered most of the site.

The surviving accounts of the siege are a mixture of history and legend. Several of them mention the old patricians, who agreed to sit in their homes, awaiting their



Casting with Sea Monsters -
Musée d'Archeologie Nationale

fate. Livy describes a Celtic warrior, who was fascinated to find one sitting motionless in his courtyard. As he stretched out a hand to stroke the old man's beard, the old man struck him with his staff. At this, "the barbarian flamed into anger and killed him, and the others were butchered where they sat."

Archaeological evidence has confirmed Livy's observation that damage to the city was limited. When the Celts found the Capitol well defended, they settled in for a long siege. Their lines proved surprisingly porous, however, with tales of intrepid messengers, scaling the hill and returning the same way. When the Celts discovered one of these routes, they decided to use it for a night-time attack. They climbed so silently that "even the dogs noticed nothing" until the sacred geese in the Temple of Juno cackled a warning, alerting the defenders, and saving the Capitol. In the 18th Century, the legend attached itself to two bronze sculptures, displayed in the museum. They are supposed to represent the sacred geese, but they look more like ducks to me.

After seven months, with both sides suffering from hunger and disease, Brennus agreed to a Roman offer of 1000 pounds of gold to end hostilities. As the Celts began to weigh the gold, the Romans complained that they were using heavier weights. At this point Brennus threw his sword onto the scales with a cry which would echo throughout history: *Vae victis!* Woe to the vanquished!

The Celts then withdrew from Rome. On that point all the ancient sources agree, though they disagree on what followed.

Some claim that an exiled Roman leader raised another army to intercept them, killing Brennus and retrieving the ransom. Modern historians treat those accounts with



Gaulish warrior
- Musee d'Archeologie Nationale

scepticism. Whatever happened, we know the Senones settled in the Marche region around Ancona, on Italy's east coast, which was my next destination.

The train from Rome to Ancona passes through the Apennines once again, only this time, there were fewer tunnels and more views of the mountains. The hilltop town of Trevi, midway between the two, was particularly spectacular. In the mountains near Ancona archaeologists from the Nineteenth Century onwards have found evidence of Celtic settlement, which is now displayed in Ancona's National Archaeological Museum.

The museum is housed in a renaissance palace perched on a hill with panoramic views over the bay and the ferry port. After my disappointment last year, it was deeply

satisfying to walk through its open doors. What a contrast to the crowds of Rome. In three and a half hours I spoke to several staff but saw no other visitors.

Director Diego Voltolini showed me the collection, which fills three rooms. We discovered that we could communicate best in French, which reminded me of where my journey began. I asked him whether he believed the French and Italian Senones were branches of the same people and his reply was one I had not heard before. We only know the names of these ancient peoples through Roman or Greek writers, he said. They sometimes misunderstood what they heard, so the fact they used the same name for two peoples doesn't necessarily mean they were connected. Alas, perhaps that

golden statue in Sens owes more to legend than history.

The star items of the Senone collection are golden adornments from the tomb of a high-status woman, nicknamed the "Princess of Montefortino di Arcevia." There were also elaborately decorated weapons, including a bronze helmet with a frame on top, designed to hold feathers. The collection was more eclectic than other Celtic hoards I have seen, with imports and influences from Greece and surrounding peoples, but some of the objects were clearly Celtic. They arrived abruptly in the region during the 4th Century BC, which corroborates the ancient accounts of Senones settling here after the siege of Rome.

Eventually, of course, the Romans rebuilt their army, learned lessons, and went on to conquer the whole of Italy. It took them a hundred years to subdue the Senones, but the memory of their humiliating defeat would last much longer. It would leave their writers, and many modern readers, with a warped stereotype of the Celts as wild, uncivilized barbarians.

On my way back to the staircase, I was delighted to see another world-famous object. The Civitalba Frieze is a collection of terracotta figures depicting Celtic warriors recoiling in fear of the gods, whose wrath they have provoked. Some experts think it might commemorate another Celtic attack, on the Greek temple of Delphi, a century later. It was a fitting end to my journey through Italy because Greece, and Delphi, is where I was heading next.

www.greentravelwriter.co.uk



Steve at Roman Forum Site

A couple is seen from behind, embracing on a grassy hill. The woman is wearing a green jacket and a grey beanie, while the man is wearing a black vest over a red shirt and blue jeans. They are looking out over a large body of water, likely a bay or fjord, with a small town visible on the far shore. A vibrant rainbow is visible in the sky on the left side of the frame. The sky is filled with large, white clouds, and the overall atmosphere is romantic and scenic.

Fill your heart with **Ireland** 

What fills your heart?

Speak to anyone who has been to Ireland and they'll always have something special to say. That's because these lands have a unique way of leaving your heart feeling truly full. It could be the warmth of the locals, often said to be the friendliest in the world. It could be the fun of an impromptu music session in a cozy Irish pub. Or it could be the heart-stopping drama of our coastline, with its jagged headlands and soaring sea cliffs. Whatever it might be, isn't it time you found out?

Fill your heart with Ireland.

Ireland.com



Baggy Point and Beyond

*Lesley Choyce cruises the U.K.'s Celtic lands of
Croyde and Woolacombe*



After the publication of my 2022 book *Around England With A Dog*, I began to falsely believe that I really knew England – geographically at least, and even somewhat intimately from our thousands of kilometres of travel around the kingdom by the sea. Along with my wife Linda and our dog Kelty, I had inspected Celtic corners hither and yon and knew my way from Eastbourne to Penzance, Grimsby to Scarborough, or any other stretch of English coast you could name.

Alas, notions of literary grandeur quickly faded when my dog/travel book was soon toppled from the Amazon bestseller list (Travels with Pets category) by Nala's World (about a cat), Life with Pigeons (self-explanatory) and even East Coast Trees and Shrubs (since when was a shrub a pet?). A close study of my dog-eared 2008 copy of Collins Superscale Britain with its 240 pages of maps the size of dining room tablecloths also brought me down a notch or two when I had to admit to the map and myself that I had become only mildly acquainted with coastal Britain and certainly not the heartland heaths beyond the scent of salt air.

So, the sad truth is, I won't really get to see all that much of England before I die, but I will have done my best. And I believe that was at least part of my motivation to prompt Linda and I to venture across the pond from Nova Scotia yet again and experience whatever there was to explore on the Southwest Coastal Path from Croyde Bay to Woolacombe.

I have learned my lesson about late night driving after a daytime flight from Halifax to Heathrow and ending up in crappy M highway hotels in Reading, so now we regularly bed down at the Aerotel right in Heathrow. The room is the size of my walk-in closet at home and there are no windows, but we arise the next morning rested and ready to ride without emotional baggage.

The reward was a fine lunch at a little take-out food stand high above Croyde Bay called the Beach Café. Even though the cold winds were whipping in from the Atlantic, it felt like a picnic to sit on the hood of our rented car and sip dark roast coffee and a delicious gourmet BLT served up by a couple of dreadlocked young entrepreneurs. They even brought a silver tray of food to our car like in the old California days.

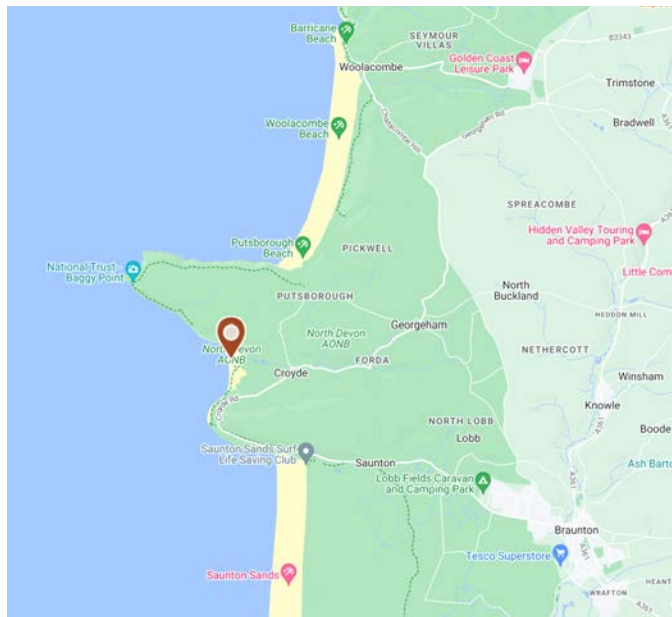
We were on our way to hike Baggy Point but first wanted to check out the famous surfing beach at Croyde Bay. Croyde is supposedly a Celtic name for the Viking scoundrel Crydda who made the usual pillaging holiday here a long, long time ago. But it may also have derived from an old Cornish word meaning “curd.” And I am happy to leave the solving of this riddle to linguists bivouacked in old austere English universities.

Nonetheless, gazing out on the sheltered cove of Croyde Bay where some wannabe surfers in a surf lesson were splashing about in the small clean waves, I couldn't help but envision a Viking ship charging ashore here on a fierce ocean swell with a lustful crew ready to boldly claim this corner of the seafaring world for their own.

The town of Croyde gets a nod in the famous Domesday Book of 1086, noting that the place had 100 sheep and 11 cattle and certainly there must have been at least a handful of humans around to mind the beasts. Today the population is 614 although that must swell to at least double that in the summer.

According to stayindevon.co.uk,

“The unspoilt charm of Croyde is perhaps a surprise considering its fame as a top surfing resort. The village has a certain old-world feel, where thatched colour-washed cottages and traditional village stores rub sandy shoulders with hip surf shops, restaurants and a great ice cream parlour.”





Baggy Point Trail

I admit that is a funny mix of qualities, sandy shoulders notwithstanding, but it was a great place to tromp through to get to the less hip, less glamorous Baggy Point trail.

Why Baggy Point? you might logically ask since we were bypassing so many of the more famous tourist locales. The answer of course is that it looked like a most interest-

ing headland, a phallic peninsula jutting out into the sea where almost no one lived. Once out of town, we found the trail rugged, steep, and much to our liking.

Constance and Florence Hyde generously donated Baggy Point to the National Trust in 1939 and the trail today is well maintained. They charge to park but otherwise you can

trek oceanward without fees.

At first, we were a bit shocked to see that a recent fire had scorched a large swath of the magnificent headland. Before our arrival, someone's barbecue had gotten out of control and ravaged the land. According to the BBC, "It destroyed the habitat of several species of reptile, small mammal and butter-



Croyde Bay



Beach Cafe

fly, as well as nesting sites of many types of seabirds.”

Fortunately, the fire was somewhat contained, rampaging over only twenty acres of the headland, and leaving the rest unscathed. Once past the charred shrubs we climbed higher and further west until we rounded the tip of the peninsula to find a magnificent view of Woolacombe Beach on Morte Bay and the tiny village of Putsborough tucked into the southern corner.

You probably see any number of photos in travel magazines with people staring out across oceans from high promontories. Well, I am one of those people. Here in Devon, just a tad above 51 degrees latitude, Linda had to wait patiently for me as I gazed out across the Atlantic, imagining that I could see all the way to the other side which in this case was the coast of Labrador, a mere 3,600 kilometres away as the crow flies, if a crow ever decided to embark on a journey from this rocky shore to that rocky shore. It was, of course, a wind-whipped moment, with my red windbreaker flapping in the breeze like a demented flag and me lost in reverie, which is always a great moment in any travels but does require the patience of a loyal spouse at times.

Onward from there, rounding the westernmost point, we walked a narrower diminished trail across lush fields of long grass, dodging the ever-present sheep droppings until we had yet another spectacular view of the Woolacombe beach. We realized we’d have to soon get our feet into the pebbly sand down there and hike its full 3.2 kilometres. You can walk there on the legendary Southwest Coast Trail, of course, but it was late in the day. We found a path less travelled across undulating sheep fields back into Croyde, past the National Trust parking lot and one or two highly touted tea rooms, which we snubbed, arguing that at this time of day, beer would be the preferred beverage. Perhaps the Black Horse would be open for us weary, gazed-out hikers.

And so it was on the following day, with rain splattering cheerlessly on our windscreen, that we drove again to Croyde, stopping for coffee from the dreadlock crew on the cliffs and then meandering towards Putsborough on hobbit trails ill-suited to even the most modest rental cars. Putsborough is technically a hamlet (defined as “a small village without a church of its own” by Dictionary.com), dating back to at least the 1300s but it too is also considered a worthy

surfing destination today to ambitious wave warriors.

It was raining in Putsborough, so we retreated inland on some twisty, narrow, white-knuckle laneways to Pickwell, turning the wrong way to Nethercott and then regrouping and doubling back from Bradwell and Dean Cross until we finally located the desired rain-polished town of Woolacombe. We parked out of town on a hillside road with parking spaces aplenty, high above the soggy but sought-after ribbon of sand.

Armchair linguist that I am, I had noticed a number of towns and place names in England ending in “combe” or “coombe” and wondered if that meant anything in particular. And, of course, it does. If you are willing to trust the latest form of artificial intelligence, 1136 place names in the U.K. end in “combe” (many here in the southwest), so it must be quite significant to those old-time place-namers. In fact, it probably comes from Celtic “kumbos” which seems to be a reference to a cup. But generally, it is small valley or often referred to as a “hollow” although to some who are more precise with their terminology, it’s a little valley without a stream or river. (Kind of like the hamlet without a church.)



The ever-popular Domesday Book notes that the town was once called Wolnecoma, which literally meant “Wolves Valley.” I don’t think there are many wolves there today, but cows seem to be popular enough to have several statues strategically positioned in the amazing dunes. The beach or “sands” were privately owned by the Chichester family since it was given to them by Henry I in 1133. I would like to have been a fly on the wall during that presentation when the king asked a worthy aristocrat something like, “Would you like to own a really long empty beach in the southwest of our dear kingdom?” Fortunately, the last in line of this lucky family donated the whole stretch to the National Trust in 1949, figuring that 400 years was long enough for any clan to own the chunk of pristine coastline.

Like Saunton Sands, Woolacombe saw thousands of US military men practicing their landing skills here leading up to D-Day as the beach closely resembled that of Omaha Beach in Normandy.

Well, our arrival at Woolacombe coincided with a typical drizzly morning that was predicted to clear by noon, so we left our car on the windy hillside parking lot and did some acrobatic slipping and sliding down grassy slopes towards the sea. We hiked more gracefully through the dunes and out onto the wide flat sand as the clouds parted suddenly but all too briefly. Linda began her signature 10-kilometer seaside run while I practiced my rambling and gazing which was promptly interrupted by more and heavier rain.

An hour into the ordeal, it was clear that the skies wouldn’t clear, and I recalled

what a man had told me back at the Black Horse: “It’s a rare but noteworthy day when the weather predictions are accurate hereabouts.”

He had said this with a certain amount of pride in his voice and his words echoed in my head as my jeans sucked up as much precipitation as possible and the droplets cascaded off my hair onto my sodden running shoes.

TripAdvisor labelled Woolacombe the “best beach in England” and the “fourth best beach in Europe” in 2015, but now there were only the ever-present dog-walkers and their bounding spaniels chasing rubber balls into the stormy surf of the Atlantic. “Nothing quite like a good walk in the rain,” one cheerful local said to me as he passed with his

yapping corgis. I perhaps grunted but wished him well and turned around to retreat north, admitting defeat-by-weather and wanting to get out of the damn rain.

Because I was cold and wet, the cows didn’t quite cheer me up in the way that children would light up on a warm summer day when clamoring on the back of an inanimate bovine, but I thought the artwork was unique and colourful and should not be missed by anyone passing this way.

It was about then that my soaking wet wife met up with me and I handed her the keys to our rental car. I encouraged her to race up the steep hillside and to the farther end of the high road to retrieve the car and drive it to where I would emerge from the unhappy upward path to the pavement. (She often says she doesn’t mind the rain as it cools her down while running.)

Once I had stormed the soggy hillside and found level ground, there she was, tooling the car my way and flashing the headlights. Oddly enough, as we were heading back towards town with steamed up windows, we discovered that the tiny cliff-perched Porthole Café was open and serving up sustenance to other rain-soaked hikers. I braved the elements once more and purchased a hot cup of Devon roasted Voyager Fat Roc coffee and a green falafel pitta. Planting myself back down in the driver’s seat for the drive home, I forgave the inhospitable elements of the English coast and consoled myself with the fact that roadside English cuisine had come a long way since the days of invading Vikings.

www.lesleychoyce.com





SKYESKYNs
ISLE OF SKYE



FULLY TRACEABLE,
HANDCRAFTED SHEEPSKIN
LUXURY WITH A CONSCIENCE

Discover our new Tùs (or "source" in Gaelic) collection:
Beautiful handcrafted sheepskins, tanned with tree bark
and sourced straight from the farms, so we know
everything about them.

Experience the luxury, embrace sustainability.

Lovingly made on the Isle of Skye in Scotland

skyeskyns.co.uk

I grew up in the Western region of Brittany, the Finistère - or "the end of the earth" - in the countryside surrounded by nature and very close to the sea, not far from the city Brest where I studied design before carrying on with my fashion studies in London.

After seven years in London, three years in Bratislava, and three years in Rennes, I am now back in the Finistère, living a stone's throw away from where I was raised, in a small town called Dirinon.

I had the good fortune to have grown up surrounded by art and culture, and to have traveled to many places all over the world. When I was seven, I joined the local Breton dance group and started to wear the traditional costume and to discover the vast diversity of Breton clothes - the fabrics, the techniques, etc. By the age of 11, I was endlessly drawing and designing outfits and decided to make it my life's work.

I learned early on to be very specific about what I wanted to do and how to do it - defining my creative identity and my style, and focusing on what drives me to create: my Celtic heritage. Naturally, over the years, my work evolved, and it is now more wearable and practical, with an emphasis on comfort.

My creative process is definitely inspirational; I always get many ideas, whether I am researching museum archives, going through old photographs or visiting an exhibition...but I also find inspiration in everyday life here in Brittany; nature, architecture.

What makes my work unique is its work-wear chic style, with every garment being both comfortable and elegant - an oversized aesthetic offering a total freedom of movement, yet always stylish. It is the confluence of Celtic Brittany's past and a modern and universal wardrobe.

Clothes should highlight the woman, her character, her attitude, and her identity through movement. The garment must adapt to one's body, not the other way around, to keep a sense of freedom. Comfort and elegance are thus essential to feel great, confident and fulfilled.

Seeing my designs worn is always very rewarding, especially when the women feel confident and at ease in my pieces. It is gratifying to know that I have achieved my main ambition of empowering women and helping them to feel fulfilled. Working with local partners - whether seamstresses, photographers, etc. - and emphasizing their craftsmanship is another very satisfying aspect of the work.



*Nolwenn
Faligot*
www.nolwennfaligot.fr







Carbony™ Celtic Winds are innovative musical instruments that offer the advantages of modern carbon fiber technology with time tested designs.

We put tradition on the leading edge. Order one of our whistles, flutes, or bagpipes today at www.Carbony.com.

carbony™
CELTIC WINDS



A photograph of an elderly man with a white beard, wearing a maroon jacket, a striped tie, and a black pipe band cap with a feather. He is playing a bagpipe. The background is blurred, showing other people in similar uniforms and a street scene.

Life in a Pipe Band!

The sonic sum is greater than the parts. Celtic Life International Senior Editor Chris Muise tells us more.



Paula Braiden

One of the perks of working with Celtic Life International is getting an opportunity to see the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo each year. If you've never experienced a tattoo, it comes highly recommended; the feats of talent from across the world are a marvel to behold - especially the intricate, regimented performances of the various pipe bands that ply their trade on the tattoo stage.

Of course, a tattoo isn't the only place to see a pipe band in action. You will also witness them marching at local parades, at Highland Games weekends, or more solemn affairs such as memorial services and funerals.

But what most of us see is a small fraction of what life in a pipe band is like; the polished final product of years - and entire careers - worth of blood, sweat, and chanter maintenance. Being part of a pipe band isn't just a few days of the year; it takes up the entire calendar. And the field is more varied than you might imagine.

"It really does depend on the individual, what they want, and that will in some way tailor the kind of choice they make in a band," says Iain MacDonald, who plays bagpipes in the 78th Highlanders, Halifax Citadel pipe band, despite the challenge of living in Regina, Saskatchewan. "Sensible, right? My wife and I

both play. I have played with the band since 2016. We started performing with them because our daughter was a longtime member of the band. She went to university out there and was involved with the band for 10 years.

"It is a little bit expensive," acknowledges MacDonald. "It's not like we are coming to band practice every weekend, you know? We come through the winter, and the onus is on us to learn the tunes and have our instruments going and be ready to step in, which is not easy at all. But it is super worthwhile. It's a great group."

The Halifax Citadel band is only part of MacDonald's piping itinerary.

"That's the away game. Locally, I was pipe major of the grade two band here in the City of Regina pipe band for 30 years. I stepped down from that last year, but I still am the director and - as of this year - also pipe major of the youth pipe band at the Conservatory of Performing Arts."

Despite his Nova Scotia connections, you won't have seen MacDonald performing at the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo, because according to him, tattoos tend to host non-competitive pipe bands, where as the 78th Highlanders are in it to win it.

"In a competing band, you are trying to you compete against other bands at the same

level for prizes and awards, and it is all about your focus on refining sets of music that apply to that competition. Not to offend anyone, but generally, non-competing bands are not as high quality, not as high a level. So, you can be a more casual amateur player in a non-competing band and learn some parade tunes



Norm Crerar



96th Highlanders

and a couple of show tunes, and then go play at the tattoo.”

The 78th Highlanders are a grade one pipe band, meaning that they are ranked among the best.

“Pipe bands are graded according to skill level, and in North America - generally speaking - the grades are one to five, with one being the highest grade and five being kind of the entry-level grade,” explains MacDonald. “In a grade five band, you would have maybe a mix of youth and adults who play a few tunes on the pipes. Maybe drummers have a few scores. What you are trying to do is play, together, a basic set of marches. As you move up in the grades, the requirements for music become harder and more complex and the expectation for delivery becomes more demanding.”

“The highest level - grade one - is very high now. I have been a member of a grade one band in every decade for 50 years at one time or another, but the difference between a grade one band in the 1970s and a grade one band in this year are very different things. Way harder.”

This piping power surge is the result of small technological and skill-based improvements over the years. As equipment and practice methods evolve, it becomes a tide that raises all ships.

“Compare it to something like the Olympics, and how the times keep coming down,” says MacDonald. “The shoes are better, the

clothing is better, the tracks are more refined. The training is better, and then improvements are made. One group kind of pushes another, and gradually the standard rises.”

Paula Braiden is another competitive pipe band player, who grew up in a pipe band family in Londonderry, Northern Ireland.

“I lived there with my parents and my brother and sister, and my parents were involved in the pipe band world, so naturally, pipe band music was played in our home,” Braiden tells Celtic Life International over a Zoom call from her home in Magherafelt. “One played the tenor, and one played the snare drum. So, my brother and I followed the footsteps of our parents.”

“I was a natural musician, and I had the beat from a very young age. I would have been able to stand and tap my foot to the music. So, it was very early that my parents saw that musicality in me. But my passion for being a drum major outweighed anything else.”

You’d be forgiven, based on the title, to assume that Braiden plays drums. However, while pipe bands do feature tenor and snare drums, a drum major plays neither.

“A drum major is not a person that plays the drums,” she explains. “I’m the person at the front of the band that leads a band with a mace. My role is to call the tempo of the band with the percussionist and the pipers, and to ensure that the band plays the tune to the speed of my command.”

“You’re throwing the mace, you’re putting it around your neck, and you’re giving a performance of your skills. So, whilst the band’s playing, the pipe major would be in charge of the actual notes and the musicality within

that. But it would be up to the drum major to pick that tune and to give that command to play that tune.

“You definitely do have to have some stamina, and you have to work hard and practice and build up your strength, especially your upper body strength.”

Braiden is a drum major of some acclaim, having won her first world championship in 1997, at only 14 years of age. She’s travelled the world showcasing her swirls, including a 10-show stint in Moscow, where she was in such high demand, the event-holders were willing to facilitate her in case she gave birth to her first child while she was there.



Iain MacDonald



"The World Pipe Band Championship falls in the middle of August, and I was due to give birth at the end of August," Braiden, who was carrying her son Findlay at the time, recalls. "I travelled to Scotland with my maternity bag and had the hospital prepared that I was coming just in case. I left there in the middle of the after party and flew straight to Switzerland to do another week for the Orange Tattoo. That's with (now) two young children at home, and a husband that has the same love as I. He's a piper, so he very much picks up that slack whenever I am away working and following that dream of showcasing our skills to different communities, different countries."

One of Braiden's most recent applications of her craft has been in founding The Force. No, not the kind that the Jedi use; The Force is an organization Braiden started, made up of exclusively world-class drum majors.

"It is important to, I suppose, showcase and highlight the team that exists," she explains. "We are all champion drum majors. They would have been all past pupils of mine, so I've taught every single member in the team. I'm currently in talks with Mark Riley with the Washington Tattoo, so we hope to be over there right up until 2026."

But it's not just the top-tier, competition-level pipe bands out there. Lots of smaller, local groups of cultural custodians and hobbyists exist too.

And although they may not perform at the same level as a grade one band, they are still doing important work in their communities.

Norm Crerar, now 83, didn't pick up the pipes as a child. In fact, he spent most of the first 65 years of his life with canoe paddles or ski poles in his hands. He stumbled upon the pipes while planning for a 200-mile Voyageur Canoe Brigade.

"I found out that, holy crap, it costs money to hire a piper," Crerar exclaims. "It's going to cost us \$150 a day plus transportation. We can't afford that. There were only nine notes on the bagpipe. I said, 'God, I think I can handle that.' So, I started taking lessons in 2005 – I was 65 at the time.

"By the time I got to the spring of 2006, I could squeak out Amazing Grace. It was awful, but I don't think people cared because the pipes are so loud that they all plug their ears anyway."

Crerar quickly climbed to a leadership position in his local pipe band society, at least in part because he was simply willing to volunteer his time. You don't get into pipe bands to make a lot of money, at least not at the more local level, he warns. In fact, it'll likely cost you for the privilege.

"A piper or a drummer in the band is probably a couple thousand dollars by the time you get a couple of shirts, the kilt, and the Bonnie Prince Charlie jacket," he explains, adding that any money his pipe band receives for their services goes exclusively towards upkeep, operational costs, or grants which they award to the community.

Douglas Clark, president & business manager for the 96 Highlanders Pipe and Drums Inc out of Jamestown, NY, has one more use for any money that comes in; their own tattoo, which – unlike most pipe bands – the 96 Highlanders put on themselves.

"In 2005, we started going to festivals," recounts Clark, who also plays snare bass and

tenor drums. "That same year, we started the Jamestown Regional Celtic Festival, and now this is our 16th year. I think we are one of the only pipe bands in North America that I know of – and I could be wrong – that hosts our own festival."

If the math on those dates don't seem to work out, you have to remember to factor for the lost years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, the lockdowns impacted pipe bands quite hard, almost across the board.

"Unfortunately, since Covid-19, we have lost four festivals just in this immediate area," admits Clark. "They have gone under. Covid wiped them right out. Luckily for our festival, we had money in the bank. Some festivals were running on a shoestring. Once they got caught in the pandemic without any income, it didn't help them at all."

Covid-19 also didn't help with the eternal struggle to keep new, young blood in the ranks, according to Crerar.

"Of ten people you bring into the band, if one stays, you are probably lucky," he says, adding that his experience in the skiing business helps him raise the funds needed and onboard new talent, but that other pipe bands don't always have the same sales experience he does, to their detriment.

"The old way of learning pipes was to take the first two bars and play that over and over until you could play that, and then you added the next two and then you play the four bars and then you had the next two and so on through the whole tune. That's how some of the older pipe majors learned. So they said, 'if it's good enough for me, it's good enough for you.' And that's the way they still teach, which is frustrating.

"I was in the ski business for 65 years, and I taught forever. I am still teaching, in fact. There's new technology now, and new understanding of how people learn. How do you get more skiers skiing more often? That's it. That's all there is. And unfortunately, the people that run the popular pipe bands are not necessarily businesspeople.

"We had a junior band here at one time, and it was really great. We got 15 kids in this thing. But honestly, God, it's a really bad investment, because unless you've got a lot of time and a big city to keep populating it with younger people, then if they started at 12, by the time they're 16, 17, 18, they are gone."

Social changes are affecting growth in pipe bands too.

"In the 60s, there were way more kids – the baby boom," says Iain MacDonald. "In our area here, there used to be something like six junior bands in Saskatchewan, between

Saskatoon, Regina, and Moose Jaw. Now there are two, and numbers are fairly small for both.

"It's a lot of work to keep them going because, number one, you don't have the same sort of family interest. Number two, it's just harder to engage kids in anything. It is harder to get volunteers. And then on top of that general trend, you drop something like Covid-19 and it has become very difficult."

"One thing every pipe band dreams of is introducing it to younger generations of kids," adds Clark. "Because without that youth in your pipe band, they are going to phase out."

This isn't to say pipe bands are doomed; it's just going to take dedication and modernization to help lift it out of this current rut. MacDonald has seen gains in adopting Zoom and other telecom solutions made necessary during the pandemic.

"We did projects with both bands on Zoom, and we actually worked to engage new members on Zoom, because they could come to band and get a hold of the music and practice without feeling like they were like under a lot of pressure," he explains, adding that his pipe band also raised money for food banks, which too helped keep members engaged during the pandemic. "You don't have to play on Zoom, right? You have your mic off. So, we were able to integrate some new people into the band, and also to keep the kids going when we're able."

Covid also had a positive influence on membership, at least in Braiden's part of the world.

"People are looking for a hobby, looking how to channel that maybe uneasiness or unrest into something you proactive, and piping and drumming and being a drum major is very valuable within our community. As soon



as my son Findlay was old enough to walk, he was able to mark out the time with his feet, just like I was when I was a child. I am extremely excited about his future within the pipe band world."

Braiden believes one of the best things pipe bands can do to attract new blood is to highlight the numerous different paths one can explore while a part of one.

"There's such a variety with pipe band music that you can venture into, so it's about channeling that into what actually touches your soul. You can call it a pipe band, but it's not just about putting on a kilt and holding a set of bagpipes or putting on a drum. There's lots more to it. It's about being a part of a team. It's about learning an instrument, and about learning how to read notes, and how to

be part of a team together, and to produce a show at the end of it."

"Pipe band is a place where people find acceptance in this thing that they do, and it should be engaging and fun," says MacDonald. "You meet friends who do it in that area. You get to hear different bands who do it in that area. You expand your friend group, and you always learn from the travel experiences too, as you get to hear other people, many of whom are more evolved on their instrument than you are. That is one of the great benefits."

And if you still don't think joining is for you, at least make some time to get out and see a pipe band perform when you can. Hopefully, with a better perspective of just how much goes into being part of one, you can appreciate the display of skill that much more.



stone mountain scottish festival & highland games

attend "the friendly games."

The SMHG Board of Directors and our family of volunteers wish to welcome you to our 51st presentation of the Stone Mountain Scottish festival and highland games. Come meet your fellow clansmen along with our Honored guests and many old friends as we gather in this picturesque setting so rich in heritage.

Enjoy:

Exhibits
Demonstrations
Highland Games
Children's Games
Gathering of Clans

Pipe Bands
Scottish Dancing
Scottish Shops & Foods
Scottish Harping & Fiddling
Scottish Musical Entertainment

Atlanta, Georgia and Stone Mountain Park Meadow

October 21st & 22nd, 2023

Adult \$25 (Sat or Sun) | Children under 12 free.*

*With adult ticket entry. Park vehicle entrance fee required in addition to event tickets. No pets allowed.

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Presented by
Stone Mountain Highland Games, Inc.
P.O. Box 384 • Marietta, GA 30061
(770) 521-0228 • www.SMHG.org



Gettin' Heavy

Competing as a heavy events athlete at a Highland games isn't as easy as it looks



Maybe you've heard about us. In some circles we are known as "heavies," in some others as "throwers," and to still others, we are simply known as Highland Games athletes. Regardless of the name, we are some of the strongest and most agile men in the world.

A Highland games athlete is a blend of strongman, track athlete and weightlifter. We must be able to throw large, heavy objects a long way - and be crazy enough to try. The timid, weak, and frail need not apply.

The Highland games date back hundreds of years to Scotland. The clans had battled enough and realized that they were losing all the best warriors to settle their arguments. So, they came up with a sporting way to decide a victor without death. Today, the games have evolved into seven heavy events, and combine a mixture of movement, strength, power, and coordination to determine the overall best athlete. We no longer compete to settle arguments, but for prizes, money, and honour.

Most of the athletes in my sport are very large, powerful men. There are exceptions to every rule, but not many in this sport. You must be big to move big things fast and far. While I am about six-foot-four, 290 pounds, in this sport there are even larger: my buddy Jumbo is six-foot-seven and a "lean" 340 pounds. And although I have broken the Alabama and Florida records in the deadlift, going over 700 pounds, that merely qualifies you to play in this crowd. Five hundred-fifty-pound front squats, 400 inclines - while being able to dunk a basketball - are the norm. So, if you're planning on stepping on the field of honour and tossing something, you have to be more than strong: you have to be fast, explosive strong.

Perhaps you have seen the world's strongest men competitions on TV. We are their cousins, the world's most agile strongmen. Some of the athletes try to cross over, but it is just a daunting task to be proficient in seven events at one time. I'd like to tell you about them, and what I do to prepare for each one.

Stone Throw

The first event in the games is the stone throw. One legend has it that at a game in Scotland, the athletes could not find a stone of the proper size, so they threw a cannon ball. This event has since evolved into the modern shot put that is now an Olympic event. But in the Highland Games, there was no such evolution; we still use a stone that is at least 16 pounds, although many times they are much heavier. When



training for this event, I like to have a big incline bench press. I'm not confident unless I am blasting up over 350 pounds, but I have done well over 400. I then have to harness that strength and use it to launch that stone. Yes, I have already had my rotator cuff reattached and my labrum sewn back into one piece - I am on a first name basis with my orthopedist. This is a big boy sport.

Fifty-Six Pounds - Distance

After the stone throw, we get the 56-pound weight for distance. This is simply a block of steel with a ring attached to it for a handle. Nobody is ever ready to pick up this imposing beast and try to dance with it. The athlete will spin like he has a discus and toss the implement. The best can manage over 45 feet; the average person, less than 10. Most intelligent people pick it up and set it down, muttering as they walk away. Big is the order of the day here; you just don't play with something this big without some serious hind end. There is nothing in the world like this event, and nothing in your workout can prepare you for it. A word to the wise: keep your health insurance paid up if you think you're ready to rumble with the 56. This bad boy cost me a year with a torn quadriceps.

Twenty-Eight Pounds - Distance

The third event is a 28-pound weight throw - very similar to the 56 toss, but half the weight. The goal is to see who is still strong, as well as fast. Distances over 90 feet are seen here by the big guns. After you dance with the 56, a measly 28 feels like a walk in the park. This is where all my footwork drills pay off. I must have fast feet and get speed in order to make the weight fly. A big guy who lumbers around just won't cut it.

Scottish Hammer

The final event of the morning is the Scottish hammer, which is a 22-pound weight attached to the end of a 50-inch stick. The feet remain stationary, making this event a test of the athlete's core and upper body strength. With his back to the field, the athlete grips the implement with two hands. He winds it around and around his body to gain momentum, and then hoists it up and over his left shoulder using just his abdominals, shoulders, and arms. Try to imagine it: while holding this 22-pound weight-on-a-stick, you must stay relaxed enough to let your arms hang long and loose. Gaining speed with each



wind, you explode with power to drive it over a hundred feet. That's right, we're going to make 22 pounds fly over a hundred feet, all while keeping our feet firmly planted on the ground. This event is truly the core workout from hell: I tore my hamstring so badly that it bruised all the way into my shoe.

Recharge...for the Caber Toss

After the morning's events, the boys get to sit down to have lunch and rest. We are provided drinks and some light fare, but this is no time to sit and eat big and get lethargic. The crowds are now really gathering, as they know that after lunch, it is caber time - the signature event of the games. The big men warm back up again and prepare to perform an athletic feat with a tree which, until recently, was in someone's yard. Usually a cedar, the big guys will use a caber that is about 20 feet long; it has the small end smoothed out for the athletes' hands. With the limbs and bark shaved off, it can weigh up to 150 pounds. Do you remember all those times they told you to lift with your legs, not your back? Well, this is where we break that rule. Athletes lift the caber from the bottom, balance it on end, and then run and toss it forward into the air, end-over-end, for accuracy. This is not a distance or height event; instead, we are trying to make the caber go straight up and over when we turn it. If the stick falls to one side or the other, it is less than perfection, and judged accordingly. Expect to pay the price, as your chiropractor will soon be a familiar face to you. A lower back operation and 12 epidurals are proof that this one wore on me a little. Nothing could prepare me for trying to run with a tree but loving to dead-lift helped. It is an amazing thing to have pulled over 700 pounds in the dead and still feel like you don't have enough power. Completing the day are the two height events. Both are contested on what looks like football goalposts, except that the cross bar is adjustable.

The Sheaf

We toss the sheaf first - an event evolved from the days when we filled the barn with hay. This sheaf is a 16-pound burlap bag filled with twine. The athlete first sticks that bag with a three-tine pitchfork, then uses his lower back and torso to toss it up and over the bar. Our technique takes years to perfect and requires a relationship with the fork (I love my fork, and it loves me back by making that bag go up and over the bar). I have really come to relish this event, holding the world record

in every age group as a Master. To train, I use some Olympic lifting - snatches earn you the quick, explosive power needed here. But be warned: many a bicep tendon has left for the day in the sheaf. I have suffered several partial tears myself, turning my entire arm purple.

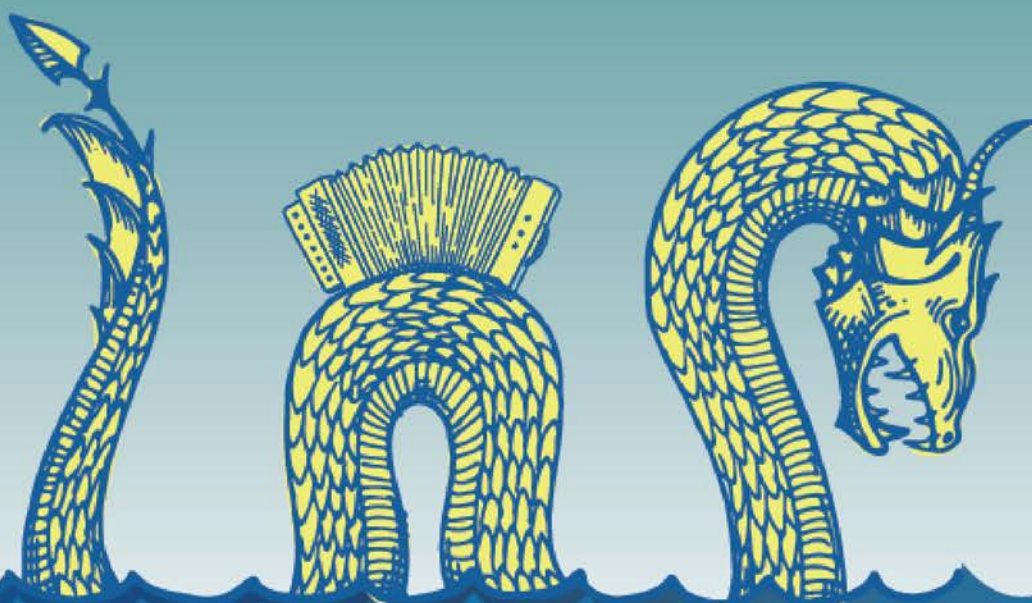
Fifty-Six Pounds - Height

The last event of the day is the 56 for height. That same block of steel from this morning is now going to be contested to see how high we can throw it. By the time I get to this event, I have been on the field for hours. I am running on fumes and have to go up against gravity with the brute again. The weight never changes, it is always the same, brutal 56 pounds. This is a pure display of lower back mojo and power. With one hand, athletes let the implement swing down between their legs. Then, using their lower back and shoulders, they launch it up and over the bar. Squatting 700+ pounds took me up well over 16 feet in this event. You'd better be big, and you'd better be nasty strong, because bold talk and bravado are not going to make this thing fly high. Poseurs can stay safely to the side. You can imagine the lower back and hamstring maladies that come with this fun: the posterior chain will be taxed for every ounce of power in the tank.

The Tally

With the day now complete, the points are added up and the places, announced. The winner gets a weapon of death: a sword worthy of Conan is awarded in honour of this day to one lucky and hard-working contestant. Not many men in this world win a Highland Games day (let alone one event), but I can tell you this: I don't care what is happening anywhere in the world; for that moment, you're a king. It is rare air, and to be celebrated and digested. As the spectators fade away, the evening creeps in. I begin to decompress and unwind from the day. There was so much living done in those eight hours, it takes a long time to go over it all. I love that time. I start to relax and the pain of each event begins to set in like rigor mortis. Bags of ice are strapped to my body as I quietly revel in the glory and honor of a day well-fought. I am feeling great and terrible at the same time. Alone with just my thoughts and hurt, I ask myself, "So you wanted to be a Highland Games athlete?"

Story by Myles Wetzel



REJIGGED FESTIVAL

A CELEBRATION OF CELTIC MUSIC & DANCE

3 Concerts & 15 workshops • Attend In-Person or Join Us Online!

6 Hearts • Jake Blount • Nic Gareiss • Tim Edey
Simon Harmer • Caitlín Nic Gabhann & Ciarán Ó Maonaigh
...plus more to be announced!

OCTOBER 19-22, 2023 | HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

www.rejiggedfestival.com



Tips & Tricks!

Whether you are new to Highland games and Celtic festivals or a seasoned attendee, there are always ways to make your experience more enjoyable. Here are a few ideas on how to get the best out of the festivities, especially if you are bringing the wee ones.

- Check the event's website before going in case they have an online and/or downloadable program, guide to parking and amenities, map, etc.
- Arrive early. Parking can be dicey at some festivals and occasionally, you might have to take a shuttle bus from the parking lot to the festival site.
- Bring a backpack. For anything that won't fit in your sporran, a backpack is essential, allowing you to keep your arms free for food, selfies, dancing, shopping, etc. Pouches on your kilt belt are also handy for phones and such.
- Hydrate. Yes, you will be able to buy beverages, but you will wait in line for them. Sun, excitement, walking, and dancing can really take it out of you so bring a bottle of water!
- Wear sunscreen and bring a hat. Even if the festival is in the fall (with presumably cooler weather) you will want these.
- Dress in, or at least bring along, layers. Weather at festivals can change dramatically and you should assume that you will want to stay well into the evening for concerts when it will be cooler. A pack-able windbreaker or rain jacket is a great idea.
- Bring cash. Lots of vendors will take cards, but cash is still handy and won't fail you if the merchant's connection is down. It may also be needed for buying food tickets.
- Speaking of food, bring small snacks such as energy bars, fruit, and nuts. Festival food is great fun, but sometimes waiting in line isn't. Or you may be a parent with picky eaters. Or you may need a pick-me-up after an evening concert when the food vendors have shut down.
- Wear comfortable shoes. We have mentioned lines already, but there is also a lot of walking and standing during performances. And remember, there will be crowds - open-toed shoes and flip-flops won't keep your toes from getting crushed. Sneakers or ankle boots are the ticket.
- Make sure your devices are fully charged and have room for photos and videos.
- Bring a spare pair of hose. This is always good advice for pipers. Hose can get dirty or sweaty after a long sunny day.
- Bring ear plugs - these days this is a common concert-goer's precaution. And no, we don't necessarily mean you will need them for pipe bands. Most pipe band performances will be in open areas where the sound can dissipate. However, folk- and pub-rock acts inside venues may have some pretty loud amps punching out the tunes.
- When shopping, you can use your camera (with the merchant's permission) to take shots of products you like or the merchant's name and information. This can help you remember where you saw "X" so you can go back and get it before leaving the festival.

14th Annual

Bitterroot Celtic Games & Gathering



August

19 & 20, 2023

Daly Mansion - Hamilton, Montana

Tickets available on-line or at the gate.

www.bcg.org



The College of Piping ~ Highland Storm

July/August 2023 - Summerside, PEI

www.collegeofpiping.com

An exhilarating evening of Celtic music and dance, Highland Storm showcases stunning displays of Highland and step dancing, accompanied by the breathtaking sounds of pipes and drums, the haunting melodies of beautiful traditional songs, and the fire of the fiddle. Audiences will be transported back over 250 years to a pivotal time in Prince Edward Island's history, when 3 ships - the Annabella, the Edinburgh, and the Falmouth - arrived in Canada, having carried families from their homeland in Scotland with little more than the clothes on their backs. Recounting the first year of settlement, and the challenges of clearing land, cutting wood, building shelter, and surviving winter, Highland Storm shares the experience, strength, and hope of first-generation Scottish immigrants. Directed by Peter Gallant and featuring fiddler Gilbert Arseneault and vocalist Christine Gallant, the stunning spectacle includes performances from The College of Piping's instructors and students.



Glasgow Lands Scottish Festival

July 15, 2023 - Northampton (Florence), MA

www.glasgowlands.org

The Glasgow Lands Scottish Festival - a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and preserving Scottish culture - celebrates its 28th anniversary this July. Over the past two decades, the annual gathering has become one of the most notable Celtic events in Massachusetts, earning its place as the only Scottish festival within the state and the second largest in New England. Visitors won't want to miss this year's celebrations, which include a Highland Pipe Band Competition featuring over 20 bands, a Highland Dance, and Heavy Athletic Competitions showcasing several world record-holding athletes. If you are in a toe-tapping mood, head over to the Celtic Pub Tent for some of the best in Scottish music, headlined by popular quintet Albannach, Celt-rockers Enter the Haggis, Screaming Orphans, Sarah the Fiddler, and Charlie Zahm. Be sure to check out one of the many vendor booths for Celtic-inspired merchandise and food, or head over to the Clan Village to show off your Celtic pride. Also on tap are children's games, the Pioneer Valley Harpers Guild, spinning and weaving, sheep herding, and - again this year - whisky tasting! A day-long event that is fun for the whole family!



Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games & Clan Gathering

July 22 & 23, 2023 - Enumclaw, WA

www.sshga.org

The Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games Association has worked tirelessly to provide Pacific Northwest residents with an authentic Scottish experience through music, dance, athletic competitions, and education for over 75 years. Their first festival (then called the Seattle Scottish Highland Games) was held in 1947. The event evolved, eventually changing its name to the Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games and Clan Gathering, and settling into the community of Enumclaw, Washington. This July, the annual event celebrates its 76th year, bringing together thousands of people for a weekend of cultural celebration, education, and preservation. Competitions begin each morning with Scottish Athletics, West Coast Drum Corps, and individual piping and drumming. Featured musical artists - including Celt-rockers Tempest, Elias Alexander & Trad Band, Golden Bough, Colin Grant-Adams, Men of Worth, and Celtic trio Brother - will perform across five musical stages. In addition, visitors are encouraged to check out Clan tents and ancestry lectures, a Celtic Kennel, and the popular Celtic marketplace and Hall of Vendors, which offers up the finest in Scottish fare and wares.



Glengarry Highland Games

August 4 & 5, 2023 - Maxville, ON

www.glengarryhighlandgames.com

Since 1948, the Glengarry Highland Games has welcomed over one million visitors to one of North America's premier Celtic festivals. Home of the North American Pipe Band Championships, and host of a spectacular Tattoo and concert, the annual gathering has welcomed some of the world's finest Celtic entertainers to its stage over the years. The moving massed pipe band performance at the end of the Games sees over 1000 pipers and drummers playing together on a field ringed with an awestruck audience. Along with traditional events - heavyweights, Highland dancing, Scottish fiddling - the festival has introduced several new attractions, including a Tug of War, a Kilt Run, a Harp Workshop, a Wee Bairs Area, and much more. This year, the Games will salute the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) on its 150th Anniversary, and showcase the award-winning Celtic rockers The Derina Harvey band at the Friday night Tattoo. Hometown hockey hero, former NHL star John Wensink is this year's Guest of Honour. Fun for the whole family!



Iowa Irish Fest

August 4-6, 2023 - Waterloo, IA

www.iowairishfest.com

Sláinte! Dust off your kilt because Iowa's premier Irish cultural event is returning to downtown Waterloo August 4-6. A jam-packed, three-day event bursting with culture, music, and family fun, the Iowa Irish Fest is one of the most highly anticipated annual events in the Cedar Valley. Attendees will enjoy some of the world's best Celtic bands, including headliners Gaelic Storm and Scythian, with a special event scheduled for Saturday night. Along with live music, visitors will enjoy authentic food and drink from street vendors, cheer on family members and friends in the Highland Games, participate in workshops celebrating Irish dance, instruments, language, culture, and much more. Military and first responders will be admitted to the fest at no charge with proof of service. Tickets are now available via the event's website and be sure to check their social media outlets for ongoing updates.



AN RÍ RÁ Montana Irish Festival

August 11-13, 2023 - Butte, MT

www.mtgaelic.org

An Rí Rá Montana Irish Festival returns this August 11-13 at the Original Mine Yard in Butte. A world-renowned event of Irish culture, music, and dance, the three-day gathering features entertainers from all over the United States and Ireland, as well as regional Irish performance groups and dancers. Now in its 20th year in Butte, the festival also offers cultural and educational activities, and music from the likes of Reverie Road, The Jeremiahs, Pádraig Allen and The McLean Avenue Band, Trinity Irish Dance Academy, Tiernan Irish Dancers and Dublin Gulch. Guests are welcome to enjoy food and crafts from vendors and wash down a pint at the beer garden. Take part in the most Irish weekend found anywhere in the Pacific Northwest in the most Irish city in America! Admission is free, with activities for all ages!



Fundy Sea Shanty Festival

August 11-13, 2023 - St. Martins, NB

www.fundyseashantyfest.com

Ahoy! The Fundy Sea Shanty Festival - the only event of its kind in Atlantic Canada - takes place this August in St. Martins, one of New Brunswick's most picturesque, and historical destinations. The village will open its doors for three days welcoming sea shanty acts from across Canada, the US and Europe. Fans will experience live performances in a natural amphitheater rimmed by spectacular red rock cliffs, and bump into the over 40 performers throughout the village over the weekend. Maritime and First Nation history, arts, dance, food and drink can be explored through talks, workshops and classes which are available to all. Some of the area's finest food purveyors and craft brewers will be on hand and the weekend will be a shopping event all its own at village boutiques and The Harbour Bazaar, a free crafts fair featuring artisan's wares with pop up musical acts, book signings, demos, workshops and kids' activities. Attendance is limited so book now.



Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games

August 11-13, 2023 - Fergus, ON

www.fergusscottishfestival.com

The Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games is one of the largest ongoing three-day events celebrating, promoting, and honouring Scottish heritage in Canada. With an average annual attendance of over 20,000, the yearly gathering - which celebrates its 78th anniversary in 2023 - showcases the four pillars of traditional Scottish culture: Highland Dance, Heavies Competitions, Pipes and Drums, and over 50 Clans. This year the gathering will host the World Heavy Events Championship. Other activities on the weekend agenda include a tattoo, a downtown parade, whisky and tea tents, traditional artisans and food, a Highland pub, and the always-popular McKiddies area for the wee ones! Visitors of all sorts can enjoy the very best of Scotland... without the airfare!



The Bitterroot Celtic Games & Gathering

August 19 & 20, 2023 - Hamilton, MT

www.bccg.org

The Bitterroot Celtic Games & Gathering returns this summer for its 14th year. Held annually on the third weekend in August at the historic Daly Mansion, the two-day festival is the largest cultural event of its kind in Montana. All weekend, guests will enjoy live music on the main stage with performances from Aoife Scott, Blaggards, House of Hamill, and Swagger. Also on the agenda are pipe and drum competitions, Highland and Irish dance performances, a Clan Tent Village, and a daily Grand Parade of Clans and bands. Adult Highland Games competitions are scheduled throughout the grounds on Saturday. A Scotch, Irish whiskey, and mead tasting will tee-up the Saturday night Ceilidh, while a Celtic Tea will take place on Sunday. Also on Sunday, the young ones are invited to participate in Junior Highland Games while all are welcome to participate in the Bonnie Knees contest, a Skillet Toss, a 'Beards & Braids' competition, and traditional Tug o' War contests. Guests can browse vendor stalls to sample traditional foods and wares. The Daly Mansion will also be open for self-guided tours for the weekend. There is something for everyone at this wonderful, family-friendly event.



Jamestown Regional Celtic Festival & Gathering of the Clans

August 25 & 26, 2023 - Mayville, NY

www.96thhighlanders.com

Beautiful Mayville Lakeside Park in Chautauqua County in upper New York State is once again set to host the Jamestown Regional Celtic Festival & Gathering of the Clans this August. Along with presenting the largest pipe band selection for a one-day event in western New York, the annual gathering will feature a Scottish Gathering of the Clans, the New York State Heavy Men and Women's Scottish Athletic Championships, Scottish and Irish dancers, beer and wine gardens, an old-fashioned fiddle session, Celtic and craft vendors, as well as a Kid's Area - complete with a Clan Hunt - that will keep the wee ones engaged and entertained. Live musical acts are sure to keep toes-a-tappin' throughout the day and will include a performance by Canadian Celt-rockers The Mudmen and, from Tennessee, Tuatha Dea - both are festival favorites. A family-friendly festival, Celts and non-Celts from all walks of life are welcome to attend. Tickets can be purchased at a discount on the event's website.



Canmore Highland Games

September 2 & 3, 2023 - Canmore, AB

www.canmorehighlandgames.ca

Canada's Rocky Mountains serve as a stunning setting for North America's most scenic Celtic festival, the Canmore Highland Games. Celebrating 32 years in 2023, the annual gathering pivots on three core events; the Taste of the Highlands, the Canmore Highland Games, and the Canmore Ceilidh. Guests are welcome to sample spirits of all sorts, take in the Heavy Athletics, watch the piping and drumming competitions and Highland dance displays, partake in a traditional tug-of-war, please the palate with an old-school Scotch tasting, enjoy sheepdog and classic British cars demonstrations, and browse an array of vendor wares and fares. Live music is also on the weekend agenda, including a showcase performance by the renowned band Celtica Nova. A grand time is sure to be had by Celts of all ages and backgrounds and, as always, the Canmore Highland Games is a family-friendly event.



Celtic Classic Highland Games & Festival

September 22-24, 2023 - Bethlehem, PA

www.celticfest.org

Celebrating 36 years in 2023, the Celtic Classic is the largest free Celtic festival in North America. As the host for the U.S. National Highland Games Championship, this year's gathering will feature the top ten U.S. professionals, grade three and four pipe band competitions, and more than 40 vendors. Celtic Heritage Hollow is a family-friendly venue with a Clan Village, lectures, demonstrations, and children's activities. Opening ceremonies will include a traditional Showing of the Tartan Parade which will wind its way through Historic Downtown Bethlehem, concluding on Highland Field. Visitors will also enjoy five stages of live musical performances, featuring the likes of Tempest, Cassie and Maggie MacDonald, On the Lash, Glengarry Bhoys, Gerry Timlin, Dave North Trio, The McKrells, and more. Along with traditional fish & chips, colcannon, haggis, food merchants will serve up their own special Celtic twists on bratwurst, ice cream, corn on the cob, poutine, grilled cheese, and other yummy treats.

16th Annual

MAINE CELTIC CELEBRATION



July 21-23, 2023

BELFAST WATERFRONT, MAINE, USA



CELTIC MUSIC • CHEESE ROLL
HIGHLAND HEAVY GAMES • DANCING
STORYTELLING • DOG SHOW • BEER TENT
WORKSHOPS • FIREWORKS
AND MUCH MORE!

MAINECELTICCELEBRATION.COM



Summer 2023 Highland Games & Celtic Festivals!

July Events

Feis a' Chidsin! KitchenFest
June 30 - July 8

Aberdeen Highland Games
July 1

Embro Highland Games
July 1

Gathering of the Clans
July 1

Luss Highland Games
July 1

Penticton Scottish Festival
July 1

Sterling Renaissance Festival
July 1 - August 13

Antigonish Highland Games
July 2 - 9

ScotDance Canada Championship Series
July 2 - 6

Kenmore Highland Games
July 5

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games
July 6 - 9

West Cork Literary Festival
July 7 - 14

Almonte CeltFest
July 7 - 9

Kincardine Scottish Festival
July 7 - 9

Newfoundland and Labrador Folk Festival
July 7 - 9

The Saline Celtic Festival
July 7 - 8

Athena Scottish Games
July 8

Forres Highland Games
July 8

The Famous Alva Games
July 8

Skagit Valley Highland Games
July 8 - 9

Earagail Arts Festival
July 8 - 23

Harpenden Lion's Club Highland Gathering
July 9

Fleadh Cheoil na Mumhan
July 10 - 16

HebCelt Festival
July 12 - 15

Cambridge Scottish Festival
July 14 - 15

Portland Highland Games
July 14 - 15

Cleveland Irish Cultural Festival
July 14 - 16

Orillia Scottish Festival
July 14 - 16

Inverness Highland Games
July 15

Lochcarron Highland Games
July 15

Minnesota Scottish Fair Street Festival
July 15

Loch Lomond Highland Games
(Dates TBA)

Tomintoul Highland Games
July 15

Arizona Highland Celtic Festival
July 15 - 16

Camp DalFest
July 15 - 16

Elizabeth Celtic Festival
July 15 - 16

Monterey Scottish Games and Celtic Festival
(Dates TBA)

Badger State Feis
July 16

Glasgow Lands Scottish Festival
July 16

Stonehaven Highland Games
July 15

Catskills Irish Arts Week
July 16 - 22

The Swannanoa Gathering
July (ongoing)

Galway International Arts Festival
July 17 - 30

Inveraray Highland Games
July 18

Festival de Cornouaille
July 19 - 23

Mull Highland Games
July 20

Maine Celtic Celebration
July 21 - 23

Speyfest 2023
July 21 - 23

Balquhider, Lochearnhead and Strathyre
Highland Games and Gathering
July 22

Taynuilt Highland Games
July 22

Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games and
Gathering
July 22 - 23

Le Celti Cimes
July 22 - 28

Scoil Alca - Summer School
July 22- 29

Interceltic Festival of Aviles and Region
July 22 - 30

Fiddler's Green Festival
July 23 - 26

Arisaig Highland Games
July 26

Durness Highland Games
July 28

Buffalo Irish Festival
July 28 - 30

Dayton Celtic Festival
July 28 - 30

New Brunswick Highland Games Festival
July 28 - 30

Mary from Dungloe Festival
July 29 - August 7

Okanagan Military Tattoo
July 29 - 30

St. Andrews Highland Games
July 30

O'Carolan Harp Festival
July 31 - August 7

August Events

Killin Highland Games
August 2

Montelago Celtic Festival
August 3 - 5

Dornoch Highland Games
August 4

Balaglava Eisteddfod Society
August 4 & 5

Detroit Highland Games
August 4 & 5

Glengarry Highland Games
August 4 & 5

Dublin Irish Festival
August 4 - 6

Festival Interceltique Lorient
August 4 - 13

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo
August 4 - 26

Aboyne Highland Games
August 5

Brodrick Highland Games
August 5

Spokane Scottish Highland Games
August 5

Bridge of Allan Highland Games
August 6

Colorado Scottish Games
August 5 & 6

Dundonald Highland Games
August 6

Iowa Irish Fest
August 4 - 6

Goderich Celtic Roots Festival
August 7 - 13

Isle of Skye Highland Games
August 9

Feakle Festival
August 9 - 14

Guinness Irish Festival
August 10 - 12

Lunenburg Folk Harbour Festival
August 10 - 13

Aberfeldy Show and Games
August 11 & 12

Sparta Celtic Festival
August 11 & 12

An Ri Ra Montana Celtic Festival
August 11 - 13

Fergus Scottish Festival
August 11 - 13

Irish Fair of Minnesota
August 11 - 13

Irish Fest LaCrosse
August 11 - 13

The Piper's Gathering
August 11 - 13

Fundy Sea Shanty Festival
August 11-13

Festival des Filets Bleus
August 11 - 15

Abernethy Highland Games
August 12

Bute Highland Games
August 12

CNY Scottish Games and Celtic Festival
August 12

North Berwick International Highland Games
August 12

National Heritage Week
August 12 - 20

Piping Live!
August 12 - 20

Perth Highland Games
August 13

Saskatoon FolkFest
August 17 - 19

Milwaukee Irish Fest
August 17 - 20

Glenisla Highland Games and Friendly Society
August 18

World Pipe Band Championship
August 18 - 19

Helmsdale and District Highland Games
August 19

Maine Highland Games and Festival
August 19

Nairn Highland Games
August 19

Stirling Highland Games
August 19

Bitterroot Celtic Games and Gathering
August 19 - 20

Crieff Highland Gathering
August 20

Masters of Tradition Festival
August 23 - 27

Argyllshire Gathering Oban Games
August 24

Cowal Gathering
August 24 - 27

Tonder Festival
August 24 - 27

Peoria Irish Festival
August 25 - 27

Glenurquhart Highland Games
August 26

Irish Hooley Music Festival
August 26

Jamestown Regional Celtic Festival and
Gathering of the Clans
August 26

Lonach Highland Gathering and Games
August 26

North Lanark Highland Games
August 26

Strathardle Highland Gathering
August 26

Maryland Renaissance Festival
August 26 - October 22

North American Festival of Wales
August 30 - September 3



SAVE THE DATE

AUG. 4-6, 2023

Presented by Veridian Credit Union



IOWA IRISH FEST

DOWNTOWN WATERLOO

IOWA'S BIGGEST IRISH CELEBRATION



- Live Music on Seven Stages
- Family Fun & Learning Area
- Irish Cultural Area
- ShamRock N' Run
- High Nelly Bike Rally
- Workshops on Irish Dance, Music, Language & Culture
- Whiskey Tasting
- Food & Drink
- Celtic Vendors
- Highland Games
- Outdoor Catholic Mass on Sunday
- Celtic Cruise Motorcycle Ride
- And So Much More!

PURCHASE TICKETS AT

IOWAIRISHFEST.COM



**DOWNLOAD
OUR APP!**



Available on the
Apple App Store &
Google Play Store





THE CELTIC CHEF with Gary Maclean

Grilled Scottish Lobster

Scottish lobster is renowned around the world for its sweet and delicate taste. Landed by local lobstermen, the premium seafood has been a boon to the country's coastal communities for centuries. Using creels and pots designed to catch the lobster without harming them, they can be released back into the ocean if they are too small or if they are female and carrying eggs. The best time of year to enjoy them is during the summer months, from May to September. Its delicate flavour and texture make it a popular ingredient in a wide range of dishes, from salads to soups to pastas. I go through dozens of lobsters each week, caught not far from the restaurant by one boat. It is a real treat and surprisingly easy to cook and prepare so give it a go.

Lobster Ingredients

2 x 500 to 600g / 1lb 2 oz to 1lb 5 oz lobster
125ml / 4fl oz white wine
1 carrot
½ leek
1 medium onion
1 lemon
6 white peppercorns
Small bunch parsley
1 bay leaf

Lobster Instructions

Pop the lobsters into the freezer, putting them to sleep before they are put into the pot - when asleep they give a better and more tender meat as they do not tense up when hitting the water. Fill a large pot to $\frac{3}{4}$ with water and bring to a simmer. Add all other ingredients and infuse for 10 minutes. Add lobsters to the pot and cook at a gentle simmer for 5 - 6 minutes. Take off the heat and allow lobster to cool in the liquor. Once cool remove from liquid, take off claws and split lobster in half. Clean out the head cavity, making sure to get the sack out from behind the eyes. Remove the waste track that runs down the tail as well. Remove the meat from the tail and thinly slice and pop back in. Remove meat from the claws and place in the cleaned cavity of the head.

Salsa Ingredients

2 red onion, finely diced
4 clove crushed garlic
Splash white wine vinegar
100g / 3 ½ oz ripe cherry tomatoes
Small bunch basil leaves, shredded
Small bunch coriander, shredded
Salt and pepper
Good oil

Salsa Instructions

Heat medium sized pan with tablespoon of oil. Add shallot and cook for 2-3 minutes without colour. Add garlic and cook for 30 seconds then deglaze pan with the white wine. Add the $\frac{1}{4}$ -ed cherry tomatoes and cook for 5-6 minutes until they start to break down. Add the shredded basil and coriander. Check seasoning and serve spooned.

Finishing Touch

Preheat your grill, as hot as it will go. Place your halved lobsters onto a tray, drizzle with a little oil and pop them under the grill until they are nice and hot. You can either spoon your salsa on top or on the side.

Biadh math! Gary • www.garymacchef.com



There is a reason why we are the only Canadian retailer ever short listed for World Whisky Retailer of the Year (and two time Runner Up)... we have great taste!

Always on the hunt for cool new single casks, here are a few of the latest and greatest!



kensingtonwinemarket.com
@KensingtonWM



We are most welcome to wholesaler, Ebay and Amazon sellers.



Best Customer Service.
20 YEARS EXPERIENCE

www.bagpipers.eu

ukexpo@bagpipers.eu



Rosebank Rising



To many an aficionado there has never been a finer Lowland single malt than Rosebank. The spirit - true to traditional Lowland style - was triple distilled, and made from unpeated malt, giving the whisky a delicate, floral, and fruity character. The reasons for its closure in 1993 never satisfied curious anoraks, even though its reputation and popularity grew in the decades that followed.

Nearly a third of all of Scotland's distilleries closed in the 1980s and 1990s, beginning in the annus horribilis of 1983. Some distilleries were shuttered forever, while a few others were more fortunate, reopening in the late 90s and in the first decade of the new millennium as the industry recovered. Rosebank was one of the last distilleries to silence its stills (1993), but 30 years after going into mothballs it is set to rise like a proverbial phoenix from its ashes in the months ahead.

Rosebank Distillery first opened its doors in 1840, near Falkirk, along the Forth-Clyde Canal. But local legend insists that a distillery known as Rosebank was operating at the hands of the Stark brothers on-or-near the present site in 1798. That may be the same Rosebank Distillery which a James Robertson was apparently running in 1817. Though it may have a more ancient heritage, the current Rosebank Distillery didn't legally open until 1840.

Rosebank as we know it was built by James Rankine, who had previously purchased the maltings belonging the Camelon Distillery on the other side of the canal. Curiously, there are records indicating that the Stark family connected with Rosebank was running Camelon in 1827. Rosebank was quickly a roaring success and expanded its operations in 1845. In 1961, it acquired the site of the old Camelon Distillery, demolishing it to make way for a new malting plant.

The facility operated almost continuously (save for the war years) right up until 1993, when its production was deemed redundant by its owner UDV, a forbearer of Diageo (the world's largest drinks company). UDV owned three Lowland Distilleries at the time, Bladnoch, Glenkinchie, and Rosebank, and it only needed one of them.

Rosebank was a highly regarded malt, so why did they close the only of the three distilleries that made a traditional, triple-distilled Lowland single malt?

A few years before the closure, in 1988, UDV selected six of its 30-odd distilleries to be marketed as The Classic Single Malts of Scotland, and to represent the Lowlands they selected Glenkinchie. The oldest and least likely explanation I recall hearing is that they gave preference to Glenkinchie because its name sounded more Scottish. A more plausible explanation surrounds the Forth & Clyde canal, which was

in a desperate state by the early 1990s. Why build a brand and tourist attraction next to a stagnant canal?

The reasons given by the UDV at the time pertain to road access to the site, and the estimated £2m tab to repair the distillery's effluent plant.

Whatever the reason, the distillery sat silent for decades. Persistent rumours of its imminent reopening were just the product of wishful thinking on the part of whisky enthusiasts.

As time passed, and interest in single malt grew, more and more attention came to be paid to silent distilleries like Rosebank.

The whisky had many devoted admirers, but never quite gained the same cult status of other closed distillery malts like Brora and Port Ellen. As its fame slowly grew, its buildings were mostly sold off or repurposed, and hope seemed lost that it would ever reopen.

Then, in 2017, Ian MacLeod Distillers, owners of Glengoyne and Tamdhu, shocked the whisky world by announcing they had acquired the site of the old Rosebank Distillery, and that they would be bringing it back to life. It has taken six years, longer than they had originally hoped, but Rosebank will soon begin producing spirit again. It will be years before the spirit from the restored Rosebank distillery will legally be whisky, and years more until it has the maturity to satisfy fans of the Rosebank of old. However, there will be a visitor center and a place for fans of the whisky to pay homage.

It is still possible to purchase bottles of Rosebank produced before the stills fell silent. Ian Macleod has released a couple of official bottlings since taking over, but they don't come cheap. The most recent release of Rosebank 31 Year retails for nearly \$4,000.00.

Independent bottlings are increasingly rare, but are still trickling out, and a bit more affordable than the official bottlings. Elixir Distillers has nearly depleted their stocks of their "Rosebank the Roses" releases. The most recent release, Rosebank 21 Year (it was put in to glass a decade ago) Unity is retailing for about \$2,000.00 in Canada, and is sold out in the U.K., where it is selling at auction for double that!

www.rosebank.com

www.kensingtonwinemarket.com



Albannach



Enter the Haggis

28TH ANNUAL GLASGOW LANDS SCOTTISH FESTIVAL

LOOK PARK, NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

JULY 15, 2023 - 9 A.M. - 5 P.M. • ENTERTAINMENT UNTIL 8:30 P.M.

Heavy Athletics, Pipe & Drum Competition,
Massed Bands, Clan Tents, Historic Highlanders, Scottish Food and vendors,
beer and whisky tasting, harpers, weavers, water spray park.

ENTERTAINMENT IN THE CELTIC PUB TENT FEATURING: ALBANNACH,
ENTER THE HAGGIS, SARAH THE FIDDLER, CHARLIE ZAHM
AND SCREAMING ORPHANS • RAIN OR SHINE.

For information:
visit our Facebook page or
www.glasgowlands.org
glasgowlands@hotmail.com

We are a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

Co-Sponsored By:



Live at the Scott MacAulay
Performing Arts Centre

Tickets \$40 all in



Directed by Peter Gallant

An exhilarating evening of Celtic music and dancing.

There's a Storm coming!

Summer 2023

July 13, 20, 21 & 27

Aug 3, 4 & 5

619 Water St. East, Summerside, PE C1N 6J4
902-436-5377 collegeofpipin.com

CELEBRATE CELTIC CULTURE IN THE CANADIAN ROCKIES!

32nd Annual
Canmore Highland Games
September 2-3, 2023



Advance tickets and information at canmorehighlandgames.ca



**VIRGINIA SCOTTISH
GAMES**

Sept. 2 & 3, 2023

www.vascottishgames.org





August 11-13, 2023

Butte, Montana

www.mtgaelic.org



An Ri Ra is back and better than ever in 2023! Check out the line up at this year's festival! With world class music, dance, and educational opportunities there is something for everyone! More info at www.mtgaelic.org

2023 An Ri Ra Montana Irish Festival Raffle
1ST Prize \$2,000 cash • 2ND Prize \$1,000 cash • 3RD Prize \$500 cash
\$5.00 each or 6 for \$25.00 donation

Drawing will be held on Saturday August 12th, 2023 at the Original Mine Yard. Need not to be present to win. All proceeds benefit this festival. Contact info@mtgaelic.org

Pants Optional!

Breakout the Kilt!

September 22-24

Historic Bethlehem, PA

- U.S. National Highland Games Championship
- 5 stages of Celtic performers
- Celtic merchants & Clan area
- Grade 3 & 4 pipe band competitions
- Showing of the Tartan Parade



22nd NIAGARA CELTIC HERITAGE FESTIVAL & Highland Games

September 16 & 17, 2023

Niagara County Fairgrounds

Located 1/2 hour from Niagara Falls, NY, guests are immersed in the traditions and pageantry of Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, Isle of Man, Brittany & Galicia. Join us and experience Celtic culture in an amazingly memorable way.



**Five
Regions
to explore**

**Five
Music
Stages**

**Forty+
Music
Acts**

**Two
Event
Fields**

**Seventy+
Vendors**

*Enjoy a weekend of
Family Friendly Fun!*

**Highland Games • Food & Drink • Animals • Clans
Pipe Bands • Pageantry & Ceremonies • Artisans
Special Events • History Groups • Storytellers
Kids Wee Folk Shire • Competitions • Attractions**



View Lodging on our website



Find it all and more at

NiagaraCeltic.com

Plan ahead for next year: Sept 14-15, 2024



**NORTHERN WATERS
KNITWEAR
& TARTAN SHOP**

**FINEST CANADIAN CRAFTS - JEWELLERY
CELTIC POTTERY - YARN- MOHAIR SOCKS
CELTIC BLANKETS - SHEEPSKIN SLIPPERS
ARAN KNIT SWEATERS - KILTS & ACCESSORIES
CAPES - SCOTTISH & IRISH PRODUCTS
FIRST NATION & DEERSKIN ITEMS**



**HOME OF THE 100% BRITISH WOOL
SWEATERS & ACCESSORIES
SHOWCASING OVER 250 ARTISTS &
ARTISANS**

VICTORIA ROW
150 RICHMOND ST
CHARLOTTETOWN, PEI
(902)566-5850

PIER 20
1209 MARGINAL RD SUITE 115
HALIFAX, NS
(902) 406-2050

HISTORIC PROPERTIES
1869 UPPER WATER ST
HALIFAX, NS
(902)405-0488

**1-800-565-9665
WWW.NWKNITWEAR.COM**

Leslie's

Field Guide to Ireland

BEST SELLER!

"The author provides a lucid summary of the country's history and traditions..."

– *Kirkus Reviews*



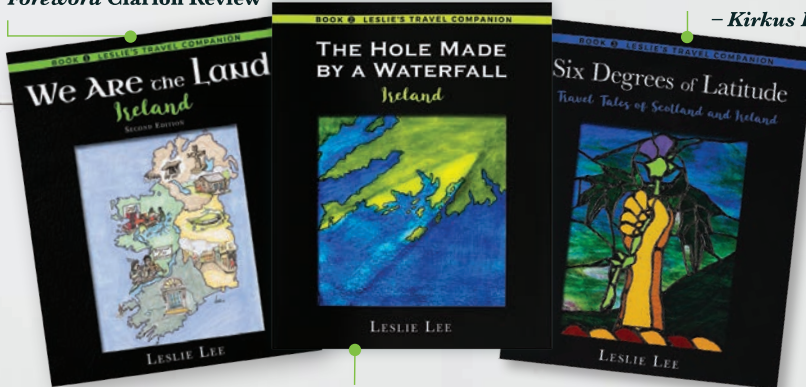
CELTIC TRAVEL TRILOGY

"We Are the Land is a unique and evocative Irish travelogue. It's an inspiring guide for making the most of any trip."

– *Foreword Clarion Review*

"More than merely a travelogue, this is a meditation on belonging and on Scottish ancestry."

– *Kirkus Reviews*



"Abundant sketches are used to depict both large and small details of the trips, from maps of visited locations to crumbling castles, pub musicians, and regional dishes. These illustrations are whimsical complements to Lee's enchanting descriptions of dramatic landscapes, simple and extravagant meals, and spontaneous interactions with local people."

– *Foreword Clarion Review*

Books, maps, greeting cards & gifts available at leestudiotc.com



walk in the footsteps of your ancestors

family genealogy tours
designed exclusively for you

full genealogy research

private luxury heritage tours

visit your ancestral townland
& national heritage sites

Find us on



www.myirelandheritage.com

info@myirelandheritage.com | +00 353 1 689 0008



Hi my name is Cat and I'm the Irish illustrator Nine Arrow.

With my work I want to show how fun it is to (re)discover the Irish language. To discover its sounds, its idioms, its unique way of expressing everything from colors to how it captures the beauty of Ireland's natural habitats. I want to share the 'saibhreas na gaeilge' - 'richness of Irish' in my work and creations. I hope to spotlight the vibrant history and future the Irish language has to offer.

You can learn more about my work online at:

Website - www.ninearrow.com

Instagram - [nine.arrow](https://www.instagram.com/nine.arrow)

Facebook - [Nine Arrow](https://www.facebook.com/ninearrow)

NINE ARROW

Ealaín agus féiríní chun an Ghaeilge a cheiliúradh

Art and gifts to celebrate the Irish language



www.ninearrow.com



Scottish Heritage USA, Inc.

Founded 1965

We are a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and enrichment of Scottish traditions, history and culture and fostering strong ties with the people and places of Scotland

Membership Benefits

- Enable support for scholarships in piping, drumming and Highland dancing
- Provide grants for historical treasures owned by the National Trust for Scotland
- Include subscription to "SCOTLAND" magazine (6 x Year)
- Include subscription to the National Trust for Scotland magazine (3 x year)
- Include the Scottish Heritage USA e-Newsletter (10 x year)
- Grant you FREE admission* to all (over 70) National Trust for Scotland properties
- Include reciprocal membership to the National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA

* Also FREE admission to National Trust sites in England, Wales & Northern Ireland.

** AND Free admission to sites owned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, USA



Irish Studies Program



Fairfield
UNIVERSITY

College of Arts
& Sciences

fairfield.edu/irishstudies

FAIRFIELD, CT

Visit us at
Joan Harriss Cruise Pavilion
74 Esplanade
Sydney, Nova Scotia



Carrying brands from Scotland
Ireland and local makers

Pictured:

Jack Murphy Raincoat, Ireland
Glen Appin Overnight Bag, Scotland

Our traditional handmade kilts
are made in house by us



76th Annual Pacific Northwest
SCOTTISH HIGHLAND GAMES
 AND CLAN GATHERING
 July 22 and 23
 Enumclaw, Washington



FESTIVALS & EVENTS ONTARIO

THE GLENGARRY HIGHLAND GAMES

August 4 & 5, 2023

- The North American Pipe Band Championships™
- Piping & Drumming
- Highland Dancing
- Fiddling
- Heavyweight Events
- Games Tattoo
- Tug of War
- Concerts

Saluting the 150th Anniversary of the RCMP

There's nothing else like it!
 The Best In Celtic Entertainment

FRIDAY NIGHT TATTOO HEADLINERS
 THE AWARD-WINNING CELTIC ROCK
 DERINA HARVEY BAND

GlengarryHighlandGames.com
 (613) 527-2876 | Maxville, Ontario

NH SCOT™

GET YOUR SCOT ON

New Hampshire
Highland Games and Festival
September 15 - 17
 Loon Mtn Resort
 Lincoln, NH

NHSCOT.ORG/BUY-TICKETS

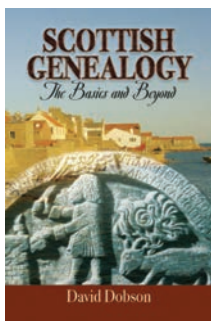
62nd
SCOTTISH GATHERING & HIGHLAND GAMES

SALADO TEXAS

NOVEMBER 10-13, 2023

saladoscottishfestival.com
Proceeds Benefit Salado Museum & College Park - A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

SCOTTISH ROOTS



Scottish Genealogy: The Basics and Beyond By David Dobson

While this publication identifies the major sources and repositories for those just getting started on their research, what makes this book stand out from all the rest is its focus on the other, less commonly used, sources that will allow researchers to advance their research. For each research topic—including statutory registers, church records, tax records, sasines and land registers, court records, military and maritime sources, burgh and estate records, emigration records, and much more—Dr. Dobson has compiled an extensive list of the publications and archival

records that most researchers have not heard of. It would take years for any other individual to compile such a far-reaching bibliography and compilation of relevant records in Scottish archives. David Dobson was born in 1940 in Carnoustie, Scotland. Most of his working life was spent at Madras College, St. Andrews. He has been an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Aberdeen, the University of Edinburgh, and at present, at the University of St. Andrews. He is the author of more than 200 books, including *Scottish Emigration to Colonial America, 1607-1785*, *Scottish Trade with Colonial Charleston, 1683-1783*, and numerous historical and genealogical source books. He now lives in Dundee and is working on further source books.

xiv, 158 pp., indexed (main index & surname index), illus., paper. 2021 ISBN 9780806321134. #1459. \$25.95



3600 Clipper Mill Rd., Suite 229, Baltimore, MD 21211

U.S. customers, please order from www.genealogical.com • Canadian customers, please order from Amazon.ca • British Isles customers, please order from Amazon.co.uk



PURE FRAGRANCE OILS

created to calm & captivate from dawn till dusk

SAORPERFUME.COM



WWW.OIDEASGAEL.IE

Ireland's language and culture



Tel: +353 (0)74 97 30 248
oifig@oideasgael.ie
Co. Donegal, Éire

Irish Language (all levels),
Hill Walking, Archaeology,
Environment, Photography,
Painting, Tapestry
Weaving, Flute & Whistle,
Bodhrán, Harp



Join the Tartan Clan

Over 500 Clan & Family Tartans



Visit us in store, shop online or at an event

We also offer a measuring service for our tailored garments virtually via video call, in store & at our pop-up events. Book an appointment online.

Edinburgh Store
10 Queensferry Street
Edinburgh
EH2 4PG

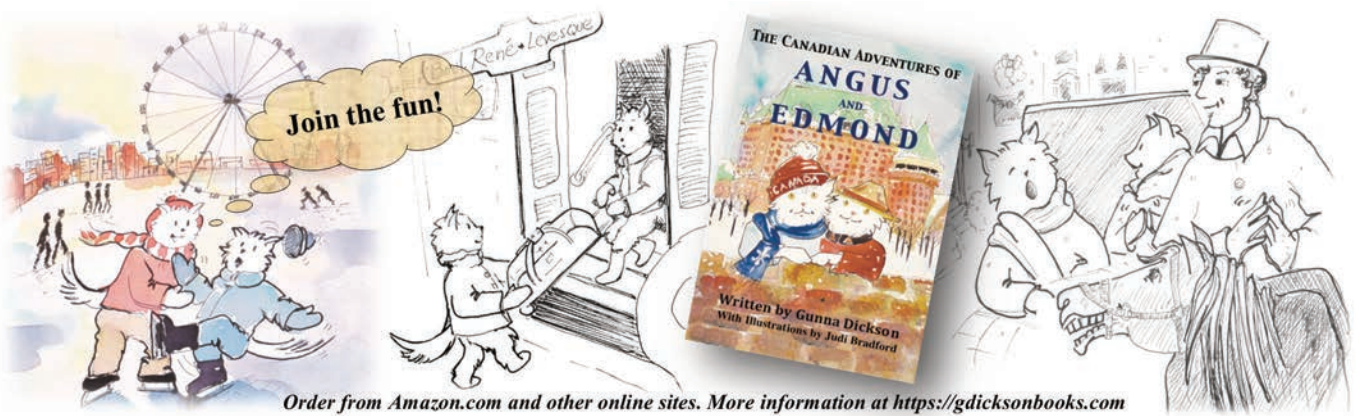
Albany, NY Store
678 Loudon Road
Latham, NY
12110

Events
Pop-Up Stores &
Highland Games in
the UK, US & Canada

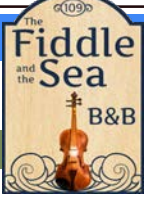
Full details of our locations & events



WWW.SCOTLANDSHOP.COM | +44(0)1890860770 | INFO@SCOTLANDSHOP.COM



Order from Amazon.com and other online sites. More information at <https://gdicksonbooks.com>



The Fiddle and the Sea B&B

AN FHIDHILL AGUS AN FHARRAIGE, B&B


Ensuite rooms. Near sandy beaches on the warmest waters in eastern Canada.

Experience the living Celtic Culture

109 High Road, Port Hood
Nova Scotia, B0E 2W0

902-631-5980

contact@thefiddleandthesea.com
www.thefiddleandthesea.com



Scottish Leather & Lassie Wear Presents:

Time-Period Clothing

Jacqueline Murdock Habenicht
phone 704-650-6842
lassie@timeperiodclothing.com
Charlotte, NC

Hand made time-period Scottish inspired leather goods and clothing.
www.scottishleather.com





SEVEN by SEVEN Restaurant

AWARD WINNING DINING

RANS 2023 BEST RESTAURANT

IN CAPE BRETON

COCKTAIL FLIGHTS

MOCKTAILS & MILKSHAKES





272 Charlotte Street, Sydney NS | (902) 562 2828



Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games

AUGUST 11-13, 2023

PIPES & DRUMS • HIGHLAND DANCE
HEAVY EVENTS • CLANS & HERITAGE

fergusscottishfestival.com



GLASS TIGER



Outlander star
RICHARD RANKIN












Illustrations by Renowned Irish Cartoonist John Kennedy

johnkennedycartoons.com



In the fourth installment of an ongoing series, Caitlyn Elizabeth Mearns explores folklore from the Cornish sea...



Folklore

It is a Sunday morning, one that is not unlike the many Sunday mornings that have come before it.

Swarms of faithful parishioners gather quietly at St. Senara's Church, waiting for the service to begin. From beyond the church walls, waves crash against the Penwith cliffs - a sound only accompanied by the creaking of pews and the moving melodies of the church choir.

This particular Sunday is unlike the ones have come before it, however. Standing at the entrance of the church is a young woman with green eyes and an otherworldly beauty. She is unfamiliar, new. All the seated churchgoers cannot take their eyes away from her, in part because newcomers are uncommon and in part because of her unintelligible beauty.

It is said that no one person's attention

was captivated more by that woman than that of Mathy Trehwella, a handsome young tenor in the church choir.

So begins the popular Cornish folktale "The Mermaid of Zennor."

And though it is not the only mermaid tale to come from Cornwall, it is arguably the most renowned.

First brought into the literary canon by folklorist William Bottrell in 1873, "The Mermaid of Zennor" continues in the way that many other traditional mermaid stories do. The mysterious woman appears again and again at the church, catching the eyes of many, but mostly those of Mathy Trehwella. After several visits, Mathy succumbs to

her lure and follows her out of the church. It would be the last time anyone would see Mathy Trehwella.

The story doesn't end there. Several years later, a ship is anchored off Cornwall's Pendower Cove. The captain of the ship hears the voice of a woman, calling to him and begging him to raise the ship's anchor. The woman - who, we learn, is a mermaid - says the anchor is pressed against the door on her home making it impossible for her to get to her children and husband, Mathy. The captain, knowing of the mystery of the missing Mathy, questions the woman about her husband. This is, indeed, the Mathy Trehwella, who had disappeared so long before.

The traditional tale has had such a profound impact that St. Senara's Church is home to the Zennor Mermaid Chair, which depicts the image of the mermaid on its side. It is said to be one of the biggest tourist attractions in Cornwall today.

This isn't the only mermaid of Cornish folklore, of course.

Another popular tale - "The Mermaid of Padstow" - takes place at the now infamous sandbank at the estuary of River Carmel. Known as the "Doom Bar," the sandbank caused many shipwrecks over the centuries.

It is said the Doom Bar is the result of one mermaid's revenge. The story follows a young sailor out hunting for seals who comes across a beautiful woman to whom he quickly proposes. Having no interest in the man - and because she is a mermaid - she thwarts his request. Angered by rejection, the young sailor pulls out his pistol and shoots the mermaid.

In her final moments, the mermaid places a curse upon the harbour, telling the young sailor that from that moment on it would be completely unusable. A great storm began, and the Doom Bar was created - sailors remain wary of the area to this day.

In the "Mermaid of Lamorna," a young mermaid sits on a rock at sea, combing her hair while she sings. Her song - both beautiful and terrifying at once - lures sailors and fishermen to her and is the cause of both storms and shipwrecks. "The Mermaid of Seaton" tells the story of a flirtatious mermaid who gets caught in the net of a young and distracted sailor. Enraged, the mermaid creates a massive and destructive sandstorm, turning the whole village - from Looe to Seaton - into sand.

To this day, Cornwall remains deeply connected to the tragic sea creatures. Should you ever be in the area, take a deep look out at sea. You might just see them. And, amidst the crashing of waves, you might even hear the lure of their song.

UNITE OUR WORLD



OKANAGAN
MILITARY
TATTOO
10TH ANNUAL



Tickets available at
ticketseller.ca
1.866.311.1011

KIDS are FREE*

*One FREE kids ticket with purchase of one adult or senior ticket

July 29 & 30, 2023

Kal Tire Place | Vernon, BC Canada

Canada

BRITISH
COLUMBIA
Supported by the Province of British Columbia

TOURISM
vernon

okanagantattoo.ca f t i y



Magical Celtic Lands are waiting for you
Now is the perfect time to plan your escape

Luxury Vacations

Ireland, Scotland, England, Wales

Sheenco Travel will customize your dream vacation
Call now to make your dreams come true

Toll Free: 888-674-3244



Take control of your life with your own
Home Based Luxury Travel Business.
Call now to find out more about Franchising with Sheenco Travel.

www.sheencotravel.com
www.sheencotravelfranchise.com