On 11 February, Alex Harvey, a Past Chief of the Munno Para Caledonian Society, organised and compared a fundraiser for the Champion of Champions Highland Dancing Competition.

All 200 tickets were quickly snapped up. Performers from the Garrick Stewart School of Highland Dancing, the SA Pipes and Drums, Irish Dancers and singer extraordinaire, Sam Cunningham, accompanied by John Drake, provided continuous entertainment at no charge enabling the profit of $2,468 to go towards the shortfall of $11,000 still needed for the Competition.

The enthusiastic audience included Chiefs of the Royal Caledonian Society, Port Adelaide and Mount Barker, as well as many Past Chiefs, plus the Presidents of the State Committee and Salisbury Scottish Club.

The Championships will be held over Easter at ETSA Park Mile End. Volunteers are still urgently needed. If you would like to help, contact Highland Dancing Secretary, Senga Knox, on 8387 5831. Oh, and don’t forget to come and see the dancers, from as far away as Canada and Scotland. A great weekend of Scottish Highland Dancing is guaranteed.
Did Jacobites Nearly Win the Battle of Culloden?

As told by the victors, the defeat of Bonnie Prince Charlie and his Jacobite army at Culloden in April 1746 by the government redcoats was a conclusive one, with huge casualties amongst the Highlanders and few sustained by their better-equipped and more disciplined opponents. But recent excavations at the site of the battle seem to suggest that the conflict was a lot closer than the official account portrays.

There is evidence that the charge by the Highlanders came close to breaking the government line and rewriting history. The suicidal attack forced the Duke of Cumberland to turn his heavy mortars onto the crowded ranks to prevent a rout of his troops.

A large survey has been made using metal detectors and these showed, for the first time, the point at which the Jacobites hit the government front line. The research also uncovered, for the first time, the location where Cumberland’s dead soldiers had been buried. It shows that about 260 were killed — still far below the 1,000 casualties sustained by Bonnie Prince Charlie’s forces. The research work is part of the preparatory work for a new visitor centre at the National Trust for Scotland battlefield.

John Knox House Reveals New Secrets

Although a 500-year-old house on Edinburgh’s Royal Mile is known as “John Knox House”, there is no evidence that the religious reformer ever stayed there. It is just possible, however, that he preached from one of its balconies.

Originally built in the 1470s, when it was part of the early city wall, it later became a thriving medieval shopping arcade. Over the centuries, it has been considerably modified and eventually rose to seven storeys — high, even by Edinburgh standards at that time.

The house survived a number of attempts in the Victorian era to knock it down. It is now a popular tourist attraction but has been closed for the last eighteen months for the first phase of a £3.5 million redevelopment that will see it linked to the neighbouring Netherbow Arts Centre. During the recent work, staircases have been opened up and old medieval shop cellars dating back to the early 1500s are now open to visitors.

During the restoration, three “time capsules” from the 1840s were discovered full of scrolls and parchments recounting how well-known Edinburgh citizens had campaigned to save the building. It has been suggested that this was one of the first conservation efforts in Scotland.
Happy New Year to all our Members and Readers. This is the first issue of the Caledonian for 2006. The year 2006 marks the 125th anniversary of the founding of this Society, the first Caledonian Society in this State.

Over the years the Society has had its ups and downs but, that it is still a vibrant organisation 125 years after it founding is a mark of the good work and the ideals of our forebears being put into practice by the Society and its members since its inception. In that time there have been many changes, not only within the Society but, more importantly, in the world we live in.

Amongst its original Objects was the welfare of fellow Scots, both resident in this State and immigrants to South Australia. To some extent, it was a welfare Society along with many other such organisations. This role has largely been taken over by Central and State Governments.

The Society was totally or largely instrumental in establishing the Robert Burns Statue, now standing in the Library forecourt and the John McDouall Stuart statue on the corner of Victoria Square and King William Street.

It was instrumental in establishing both Scotch College and the Presbyterian Girls School (now Seymour College) and still retains close links with both these organisations. In the case of Scotch College, the Society has a permanent place on the Council of Governors. It is my privilege to represent the Society in this capacity.

During World War II, the Society was instrumental in providing considerable assistance to the War Effort. In recognition of this work, the Society was granted permission to add the prefix “Royal” to its name.

In 1884, the Society established a Pipe Band. This, too has had a chequered existence over the years but is now recognised as the longest continuously operating civilian pipe band in the southern hemisphere. I am sure Band members will agree that the highlight of the Band was its performance in the Edinburgh Tattoo in Edinburgh in 2001. The Band also performed in the Edinburgh Tattoo in Sydney in 2005 and has been invited to perform in Edinburgh again in 2007.

In 1925, the Council of the Society saw fit to erect a building on land it had acquired at 379 King William Street. Unfortunately, through a series of events, not the least of which was the serious state of disrepair into which the building had fallen, in no small part due to the presence of two large trees adjacent to the south west corner of the building that caused the foundations to fail with resultant severe cracking, the building had to be sold.

The Society continues to actively look for a new home — a building in which meetings can be held. The Band can practice and one that has at least two additional tenancies to help defray the expenses of the Society’s occupancy. Several buildings have been identified in the last two or so years but, for various reasons, none has ultimately proved to be suitable.

The Society is in a very healthy position, financially, and has a steady membership base. It is unfortunate, though, that we do not see many of our members at the functions run by the Society for their benefit. Looking back over the records, this is not something new, but it would certainly be a great Philip to the Society to have more of our members come along and support the hard work put into our social functions by your Council.

On the subject of our less than visible membership, the Editor, Ann Wickham, would particularly like to hear of some of the activities of members other than those who are regular attendees at the various Society activities. Drop her a line or send her an e-mail or even give her a telephone call and tell her of your goings on.

It is sad to report the deaths of three of our members or past members in this issue. But it is also very pleasant to be able to welcome a number of new members. One, in particular, together with her mother attended the Australia Day March in all that heat. Kathryn Powell has written an article about her experiences on that March. It appears on page 6. I was delighted to be accompanied by several members of the Society including Hamy Marcelin, Bev Hawthorn, Barbara Medhurst, Kathryn Powell and her mother. If I have missed anybody, please accept my apologies.

In the Sunday Mail of 26 February, there was a wee article about saving the Clipper “City of Adelaide” that I quote below: “An influential group in Scotland is making a last-ditch attempt to save the historic City of Adelaide ship from being demolished. The Scots Australian Council believes the world’s oldest surviving clipper—on a slipway near Glasgow—ought to be saved from proposed deconstruction and restored in Adelaide”

This once beautiful ship is the last of her kind, shown here in all her glory.

The City of Adelaide is arguably the oldest sailing clipper in the world and took thousands of emigrants from the UK to South Australia in the 19th century. Originally built in 1864, the “City of Adelaide” made 22 trips to Adelaide, carrying as many as 270 passengers on each. She was so fast that she cut the journey time for the 12,000 miles to Australia from 100 days to 65 - a record that still stands. It will ever be to our shame if this once proud vessel is broken up but time is very short for a last ditch rescue mission.

I encourage members to attend both our Band’s fund raising function on 18 March at the Port Club, Queen Street Alberton, and the Society’s joint Ceilidh with St Andrews Lodge on 25 March at the Illingworth Hall, Hampton Street South, Goodwood. Both offer very good value for money and promise to be lots of fun.

Last, but by no means least, we would love to see members, together with their children and grand children, at our latest venture in the form of Scottish Family Dance Classes in the Druids’ Hall, Cassie Street, Collinswood every Friday Night from 7.00 to 9.00. For the first term this is free and everyone will have an opportunity to join in. Activities include Scottish Country, Ballroom and Highland dancing — or just come along and watch.

Yours aye,

David Porteous — Chief
Between Ourselves

Congratulations to proud grand parents, Ron and Sue Layton. Daughter Katrya produced a daughter, Mia, on 28 August 2005. Son, Lachlan, is to be married to Hayley on 22 April 2006 at Westminster.

Vern Raymond has been in Flinders Private Hospital having suffered with heart problems but is now back home awaiting the results of further tests.

Condolences to June Laws on the passing of her husband, Arthur. Arthur was a member of the Society some years ago.

Condolences also to Maureen, wife of Alexander Ferguson who died at Alwyndor Nursing Home on December 29 2005 in his 90th year. Alex was a past member of the Society having joined in 1956, and was a drummer with the Pipe Band for many years.

Congratulations to Nadia Kossatz, daughter of members Rose-lee Bruce-Jones and Trevor Kossatz, who was married on 11 February 2006 at Cummins House. -more next issue

Congratulations also to John Freebairn and Susan Vigor who married in December 2005. They spent their honeymoon visiting friends and family in Dubai, France and Israel.

Director Grant Andrews is still recovering from his knee reconstruction, and more recently a cataract operation.

Heather McLachlan broke her ankle whilst delivering Neighbourhood Watch newsletters late last December. Not one to give in she has been seen at several Scottish functions in a wheelchair. She is now walking with a leg brace.

Borys Zachariv is now at the St Lois Nursing Home 21 Foster Street, Parkside. He has his own phone (8357 7807), and would love to hear from members.

Geoff Holden has recently celebrated his 70th Birthday with a small party for family and friends at son David’s home. His daughter Annette and granddaughter Erin came from Canberra for the occasion, and son Stephen drove from Hamilton, Victoria having fought in the Grampian bushfires until the time he left for Adelaide. Of interest was that one of Geoff’s grandsons turned 7 years old and Geoff turned 70 years on the same weekend. Erin, his granddaughter danced the Highland Fling and Andrew Pawson played the bagpipes. Geoff recited the Address to the Haggis to his guests without mishap.

Amy Gifford, will celebrate her 21st. Birthday on Saturday, 11 March. At age three months, she was the second Baby Life Constructors on their way back to Australia. They became engaged at the stroke of midnight on New Year’s Eve, in Ougadougou, Burkino Faso, Africa. Mel was brought up in Zimbabwe and Malawi, Africa, before attending boarding school and university in the UK. Her parents now reside in the UK. James and Mel are currently living in Adelaide and are both working in travel; James at Thor Travel and Mel for Kumuka.

Obituary of Past Chief Marion Johnson

It is with great sadness that we record the passing of Marion Johnson. Marion was chief of the Royal Caledonian Society for two years between 1987 and 1989.

Born in Scotland on 8 October, 1914, Marion migrated to Adelaide in 1955 with her husband, George, and three daughters, Ann, Jean and Maureen.

Marion was devoted to her community and quickly became involved with the Elizabeth South Primary as a teacher and later, at Smithfield Plains High School. She was a pioneer of co-educational classes for children with learning difficulties in South Australian schools.

Marion was also a founding member of the Lyell McEwin Hospital Board.

Through her interest in Girl Guides, Marion became the Regional Commissioner of the Salisbury and Elizabeth areas.

Marion was awarded the Rotary Citizen of the Year in 1982 for her contribution to the community, she was very proud of this award.

She will be sadly missed by the community, her daughters Ann, Jean and Maureen and her nine grand children and 21 great grandchildren.

Obituary of Alex Ferguson

Alexander Ferguson passed away on 29 December 2005 at Alwyndor Nursing Home after a long illness aged 80 years.

Alexander was born in Edinburgh, Scotland on 1st July 1926, and served with the Queen’s Own Cameron Highlanders. He saw service in India and the occupation of Japan.

He moved to South Australia in 1951 and worked for G & R Wills and later Paterson Lang and Bruce, both large wholesalers. He joined the Royal Caledonian Society Band in December 1956 as a side drummer and later joined the South Australian Railways Band.

Alexander is survived by his wife Maureen of 51 years and children Ross, Iain and Fiona and seven grandchildren.

Welcome to New Members

We have been a bit remiss of late in not welcoming our new members, so here is a list of members we have welcomed to the fold recently.

Christine Gates, Don Easton, David Williams, Greg Tansell, John Walker, Kathryn Powell, Carlien Young, Jeremiah Anderson, Des Ross, Robyn Knowles, Isabella McRae, Grant Taylor, Ben Calcraft, Lillian Barker and Silvia Parmiter

A big welcome to each and every one of you. I sincerely hope you will have a long and happy association with us. Please make sure you join us at some of our functions.

Interested in Learning Gaelic?

Ruthven Douglas teaches Gaelic at Radio 5EBI FM, 10 Byron Place, Adelaide. Beginners — 11.00 to 12.00, others 10.00 to 11.00 each Tuesday.
A Letter to All Members from the Membership Director

You are probably aware that our Society’s membership numbers have been slowly decreasing over the past few years along with those of many other organisations. Whilst we remain a fairly vibrant Society, capable of attracting reasonable numbers to our main events, there is almost certainly much more that we could do to build a larger participating membership.

Your Council and the Membership Committee, in particular, are considering ways in which we might possibly achieve this and we would benefit greatly from any ideas or suggestions that our existing members feel able to offer.

If you have any thoughts on for example ways of advertising the Society, new activities and events, or you would like to join the Membership Committee, please contact:

The Membership Director - Hamy Marcelin - Ph. 8332 3520; The Chief - David Porteous - Ph 8379 1943 or The Secretary - Darren Hewitt - Ph. 8258 1954 or E-mail — callies@bigpond.net.au.

Hamy Marcelin — Membership Director

Obituary of Arthur Laws


Having taken two degrees and a diploma, Arthur pursued a career in education, apart from a five year stint in the Royal Air Force during the World War II, during which he was Technical Officer.

Arthur married June after both of them were widowed, and upon June being offered a lectureship in Adelaide, Arthur urged her to accept.

Upon arriving in 1976, one of their first moves was to join the Royal Caledonian Society where June later became a Director and Junior Chieftain, with Arthur’s complete support. They were both very active in fund-raising and subscribed to the unit trust to finance the alterations.

Another of Arthur’s interests was sailing, and he and June had various boats moored at Hindmarsh Island where they had a holiday property.

As a founder member of Morialta Men’s Probus Club, and founder member of Athelstone Neighbourhood Watch and Campbelltown Historical Society, as well as travelling all over the U.K., Europe, Canada and America, Arthur led a full life.

Arthur and June’s descendants number twenty-six.

### Coming Events — 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 18 March</td>
<td>Our Band’s Family Cabaret Night at the Port Club, 9 Queen Street, Alberton. Doors open at 7.00 pm. See advertisement on page 2 of this issue for full details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 20 March</td>
<td>Commonwealth Day Celebration at Pulteney Grammar School in the presence of the Governor’s Deputy, Bruno Krumins AM. Commencing at 5.30 pm. Cost $22.50, including refreshments. Dress Lounge Suit of Highland. Enquiries to Lennox Pawson 8379 1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 25 March</td>
<td>7.30 pm — Joint Ceilidh with St Andrews Lodge of Freemasons at Illingworth Hall, Hampton Street South, Goodwood. See insert for details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 15 April</td>
<td>South Australian Highland Dancing Championships at ETSA Park, 155 Railway Tce Mile End. Commences at 8.30 am. Cost $10.00 per person per day. Two-day passes $15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 16 April</td>
<td>Champion of Champions Championship of Australia at ETSA Park, 155 Railway Tce Mile End. Commences at 8.30 am. Cost $10.00 per person per day. Two-day passes $15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 23 April</td>
<td>St George’s Day Celebration conducted by the Royal Society of St George 10.30 am Service in St Peter’s Cathedral, North Adelaide. 12.30pm Lunch at a venue to be advised. Enquiries to Daphne Bone 8383 6318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 30 April</td>
<td>12.00 pm — Family Barbecue at the north end of Hazelwood Park. Bring your own food and drinks, chairs etc. BBQ’s provided. Come and enjoy the company of other members. No cost. Dress casual. No need to book, just come along.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 1 July</td>
<td>11.00am Tartan Day March. Tartan Night Celebrations at Port Adelaide Hall. Starts 8.00 Cost $12.00. BYO drinks and a basket supper to share</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 22 July</td>
<td>Christmas Luncheon at Chateau Barossa. Meet in Lyndoch 11.00am with lunch at 12.00pm Cost $19.00 per person. Dress Highland please. Maximum of 20 persons so book early. Enquiries to Bill Macneil-Sadler 8296 5746</td>
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</tbody>
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Australia Day March  From member — Kathryn Powell

On January 26 2006 the traditional Australia Day March was held, and the many different peoples that make up the Australian nation and its history walked proudly form Victoria Square to Elder Park.

This year it was a very Australian sweltering hot day. The Scots and those of Scots descent were part of the march and we were heralded by the music of the Mt Barker Caledonian Pipe Band. Their beautiful, distinctive sound led the way for members of the Scottish contingent, including several members of the Royal Caledonian Society and the Port Adelaide and Mount Barker Caledonian Societies. Our group was small but made their presence felt with traditional dancing along the way despite the hot weather and warm kilts.

All looked forward to the ice creams and/or drinks to be had at Elder Park.

The Society Chief, David Porteous took advantage of opportunities to distribute the national flag of Scotland, the Saltire to bystanders and promote all things Scottish to the many people who had come out to watch the parade.

This was the first year the Scots had their own designated place in the March rather than being part of the “miscellaneous” crowd and there was a great festive mood.

All you unseen members, please join in some of our activities and make yourselves known — Australia has a long history of contribution from the Scots and it is one to be proud of.

St Andrews University Founded in 1412

St Andrews University is first mentioned in documents of 1410, but its birth is usually assigned to the charter given to Bishop Henry Wardlaw in 1412, endorsed the following year by Pope Benedict XIII. This was Scotland’s first university and had Warlaw as its Chancellor, while Laurence of Lindores became it’s first Rector and Dean of Arts.

The university, built in Scotland’s ecclesiastical centre, would be expanded in 1450 with the addition of St Salvator’s College, then St Leonard’s College in 1512, and St Mary’s in 1538.

Proclamation of Charles II as King

On 4 February 1649, Charles II was proclaimed King in Edinburgh following his father's execution in London.

In a letter dated 7 February, of that year, Robert Baillie wrote to William Spang, Minister of the Scots Kirk at Veere in the Netherlands,

“We proclaimed on Monday last the Prince King of Britaine, France and Ireland. . . The first necessare and prime one (as all here have without exception conceive) doth put his Majestie and his people both in a hopeful proceeding and his Majestie’s joyning with us in the Nationall Covenant, subscribed by his grandfather King James, and the Soleme League and Covenant, wherein all the well-affected of the three kingdoms are entered, and must live and die in, upon all hazards; if his Majestie may be moved to joyn with us in this one point, he will have all Scotland ready to sacrifice their lives for his service.”

Hogmanay

Hogmanay (31 December) and New Year’s day (1 January) are so closely associated with Scottish tradition that it may surprise you to learn that before 1600, in Scotland, the New Year officially started on March 25 (Lady Day). In 1599, James VI, King of Scots, and his Privy Council, a powerful legislative and administrative body, useful to the King because it was more easily influenced and controlled than the Scottish Parliament, resolved to bring Scotland into line with other countries.

“The Kingis majestie and Lordis of his Secret Counsell understanding that in all utheris well governit communis welthis and cuntreyis the first day of the yeir beginis yeirlie upon the first day of Januare, commounie callit new yeiris day, and that this realme onlie is different fra all utheris in the compt and rekening of the yeiris . . . his Majestie with the advise of the Lordis of his Secret Counsell statutis and ordanis that in all tyme cuming the first day of the yeir sal begin yeirlie upon the first day of Januare . . .”

From the Register of the Privy Council, 17 December 1599

The change reflected the adoption of the Gregorian calendar by European states in the 1580’s and shows the Scots international outlook. England did not change the official start of the legal year to January 1 until 1752.

Clan Crests are a unique symbol of individual clans. Their origin stems from the medieval European traditions of heraldic symbolism whereby individuals could be identified by the wearing of ‘arms’. The crest itself can be any object and is almost always facing to the left unless described otherwise. The crest is a component of the full coat of arms and sits atop the helmet and beneath the motto and escrol.

The crest borrows items from the arms;— the crest, wreath motto (and crown, cap, coronet etc). Traditionally, a Clan Chief issued his followers with a metal Clan crest badge. This was attached to the clothing by means of a leather belt. When taken off the belt, it would be coiled around it and this forms the origin of today’s crest image. If any member would like their Clan Crest displayed let Ann Wickham know.

Society Web Site
All things being equal, the Society will have its own web site by the end of March. The Address — www.rcs.org.au

Proclamation of Charles II as King
Traffic Ban for Edinburgh’s Royal Mile

The Scottish Executive has approved plans by Edinburgh City Council for a total ban on traffic in a central stretch of the Royal Mile. The High Street between Cockburn Street and St Giles Cathedral (seen above) on Parliament Square will be closed to all through traffic from next week. The ban is initially to allow the street to be re-cobbled (yes, the ancient thoroughfare is still surfaced with cobblestones) but by the time that work is completed, in about 15 months, a permanent ban will have been approved. Traders have welcomed the creation of this new pedestrian zone, but the road works could well mean a bleak trading period for shop owners. Also, of course, the traffic will have to be diverted to other roads, causing congestion there.

Burns Manuscript Pages Back Together

It was fitting that in the week of the anniversary of the bard’s birthday celebrations, that the original manuscript pages of Robert Burns’ poem “Holy Willie’s Prayer” should be brought together again for the first time in over 100 years. The two pages had parted company some time in the 19th century. But Burns House in Dumfries, which already had the second half, bought the first part from a private collection last month for £6,000. The two pages have been put together in a frame in the museum where Burns spent the last years of his life. The poem is a savage critique of a church elder, Willie Fisher, who had criticised Burns’ friend Gavin Hamilton, for working on a Sunday. It satirises the hypocrisy and womanising of the clergyman.

A namesake of Robert Burns has been appointed to organise celebrations to mark the 250th anniversary of the poet’s birth. Allan Burns, director of Diageo Scotland, will spearhead the 2009 Year of the Homecoming events.

Mr Burns said he was delighted at his appointment and looking forward to commemorating the poet.

Queen Victoria Visits Scotland

The second visit of a British monarch to Scotland was in 1842 when Queen Victoria and Prince Albert disembarked at Leith. They so enjoyed their exploration of Perthshire that they returned annually. In 1852 they built Balmoral Castle.

The Queen’s Scottish memoirs and her paintings of the scenery were extremely popular and her love of Tartan ensured publicity and a healthy business for the tweed industry.

Government Health Warning About Haggis

The Scottish Executive chose the week in which more haggis is consumed than in any other, to include Scotland’s national dish in a list of restricted foods for young children, alongside chicken nuggets, burgers and hot dogs. The advice was met by howls of protest from the champions of the “great chieftain o’ the pudding race”.

The healthy eating guide, however, recommended that haggis — warm reekin rich or not — should be eaten “only once a week”. Frankly, if the majority of Scottish nursery-age children get haggis once a year, they should consider themselves lucky!

Producers of haggis concede that it is high in salt and fat but point to the natural ingredients — oatmeal, protein and iron. When eaten with “neeps and tatties” (turnips and potato), it is a good healthy meal. However, producers rejected a government proposal to reduce the salt content, suggesting that the Scottish Executive should be involved in educating consumers and not dictating to manufacturers what should be in their haggis.

Holyrood Bird Home to Roost

The ornate Dunkeld Lectern, which was gifted to Scotland by the pope in 1498 and subsequently plundered by an English army from Holyrood Abbey (illustrated here) in Edinburgh, is returning to Scotland. For over 400 years the Church of England had claimed ownership of the 5½ feet high lectern, which has a representation of an eagle at the top. But as a result of “diplomatic” negotiations in recent years, the Church of England has agreed to the “permanent loan” of the national treasure. It will go on show later this year at the National Museum of Scotland.

Australian of the Year

The words to Australia’s national anthem were written by a Scot who had emigrated to Australia in the 19th century. The links between Scotland and Australia were further highlighted recently when Professor Ian Frazer was declared “2006 Australian of the Year” for his work in immunology and cancer research, including links between papilloma viruses and cancer. His team has developed a vaccine to prevent these viruses in order to reduce the incidence of cancer. Ian was trained as a renal physician and clinical immunologist in Edinburgh, before emigrating to Melbourne in 1980.

In 1985, he moved to Brisbane to take up a teaching post with the University of Queensland where he is now head of the Centre for Immunology and Cancer Research, a research institute of the University at the Princess Alexandra Hospital.
A Short History of the Bagpipe

Bagpipes are not unique to Scotland. Various forms of bagpipe have evolved in countries as diverse as India, Russia, North Africa, and a number of countries in Europe (Ireland, Finland, Germany, France, Spain) and the Middle East. It was probably introduced to Scotland either by the Roman legions or by the Irish.

The Scottish bagpipe is unique in having three drones, and also by being used for military music by Scottish regiments.

References to forms of bagpipe date right back to the Greeks 2500 years ago, and the Romans used it 1900 years ago. The first British reference is a Northumberland pipe around 1200, and it was around this time that the instrument became very popular right across Europe. Most of these bagpipes, including the Scottish ones were similar, and had two tenor drones by 1500. The Scottish instrument developed its third drone, a bass drone, around 1700, and from then on the music for the bagpipe tended to be martial, as its main use was by Scottish soldiers.

The Scottish Highland Bagpipe?

Today's bagpipe has the following parts:

- A mouthpiece used to blow up the bag;
- A chanter, which is the bit used to play the tune (it has 9 notes)
- Three big drones, each of which plays a single constant note (two treble, drones and one bass).
- A leather bag held under the arm and filled with air by blowing into a pipe to the pipers mouth. The piper fills the bag with air, which causes the drones to skirl constantly, and the tune is played on the chanter.

There is much scope for decoration of the bagpipe. The leather bag may be covered with a decorative velvet or Tartan cover. And the drones, which are made from quality polished hardwood, can have very decorative silver mountings. Tartan or cord can be added to further embellish the instrument.

Why has it evolved this way?

The answer seems to be, “because it has”. Because ancient people probably liked the idea of a continuous sound, the air bag enabled that to be accomplished. Its loud volume is a function of its being developed as an outdoor instrument for use in battle. In fact, the recruitment of Highlanders into the British Army in the 18th century was probably what enabled the bagpipe to survive until today. The martial music has developed into the music used by the pipe and drum marching bands of today.

Martial Music

The sound of the bagpipe does carry — it is said to carry around 6 miles. Also, the skirl of the pipes, with their high penetrating notes, could be heard above the noise of battle.

Down through history there are records of the bagpipe in battle:

- In a great clan fight at Perth in 1396, “Clans stalked into the barriers to the sound of their great warpipes.”
- At the Battle of Harlow in 1411, the Highland army advanced to the sound of the pipes.
- At the Battle of Inverlochy in 1431, bagpipes were again heard. In 1549,
- At a battle near Edinburgh, the Scots “encouraged themselves to arms by the sounds of their bagpipes.”
- Lord Lothian, in 1641, writes: “we are well provided of pipers.”
- In 1651 at Stirling, Patrick Mor MacCrimmon, the “prince of pipers” played for Charles II.
- During the Jacobite rebellion of 1745, the Highland Army conscripted every piper they came across.
- Even the Duke of Cumberland had pipers in his army at Culloden, though he seems to have been unclear what a bagpipe was, saying “What are these men going to do with such bundles of sticks? I can supply them with better implements of war.”
- Carrying a bagpipe was considered to be as much a crime as carrying arms during the Jacobite rebellion when it was classified an “instrument of war”.

Classical Bagpipe Music — Piobaireachd

The MacCrimmon family are often credited with the development of "bagpipe music" — Piobaireachd (pronounced Piobroch which just means “piping” in Gaelic) now refers to the great classical music of the bagpipes.

Piobaireachd consists of a basic theme (the ground) with variations on it. The ground is usually played slowly, and based on the pentatonic scale. The variations on the ground start comparatively simply, but get more complex and more difficult to play as they progress. Having wound its way through these increasing complexities, the Piobaireachd ends by going back to the original slow ground. The whole cycle may take from 10 to twenty minutes.

A Piobaireachd would usually be composed for a particular occasion and that occasion would be re-lived each time the tune was played.
Rabbie Burns

For the many that missed the Hon. Dorothy Kotz’ address at the Burns Statue on 29 January, here it is.

Robert Burns more commonly known as Rabbie Burns, was also known as Scotland’s favourite son, the Ploughman Poet, the Bard of Ayrshire or as we now refer to Rabbie Burns as the Immortal Bard of Scotland.

He was born in Alloway, South Ayrshire, Scotland, the son of William Burns, a farmer of small means but a man of considerable force of character and self-culture. Rabbie Burns’ youth was lived in poverty, hardship and severe manual labour which left its traces in a premature stoop and weakened constitution. He had little regular schooling, and received much of what education he had from his father, who taught his children reading, writing, arithmetic, geography and history, and also wrote for them A Manual of Christian belief. He also received education from a tutor, John Murdock, who opened an "adventure school" in the Alloway parish in 1763 and taught Latin, French and math to both Robert and his brother Gilbert.

With all the Elder Burns’ ability and character he was consistently unfortunate, and migrated with his large family from farm to farm without ever being able to improve his circumstances. In 1781, Robert went to Irvine to become a flax-dresser, but history tells us that as a result of a few wee drams to bring in the New Year with his fellow workers, the shop caught alight and was burned to the ground.

In 1783, he started composing poetry in a traditional style using the Ayrshire dialect of Lowland Scots. In 1784, his father died, and Robert with his brother Gilbert struggled to keep the farm and finally had to move out to Mossgiel.

Mossgiel was a further failure and in desperation to better himself, he started to think of travelling to Jamaica as a bookkeeper on a plantation. He was dissuaded by a letter from Thomas Blacklock, and at the suggestion of his brother published his poems in the volume, Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish dialect, in June 1786, Robert Burns was then 27. This edition was published by a local printer in Kilmarnock and contained much of his best work, including “The Twa Dogs,” “The address to the Deil”, Halloween” The Cottars Saturday Night” The Mouse” The Daisy” and many more, most had been written at Mossgiel. The success of the work was immediate, the poets name rang out over all Scotland, and he was induced to go to Edinburgh to oversee the issue of a new edition.

By 1790, he was writing at his best and produced Tam O’ Shanter. About then, he was requested to furnish words for The Melodies of Scotland. He responded by contributing over one hundred songs. He made major contributions to George Thomson’s A Select Collection of Original Scottish Airs for the Voice, as well as to James Johnson’s The Scottish Musical Museum.

It is arguably put that his claim to immortality chiefly rests on these volumes which place him in the front rank of lyric poets. Two hundred and ten years after his death we are still talking about the man, still reading his works, listening to and singing his songs. Rabbie Burns remains immortal as long as we reflect and remember the Bard of Scotland.

Robert Burns lived for only 37 years which makes his life and his achievements all the more remarkable.

The genius of Burns is marked by spontaneity, directness, and sincerity, and his variety is marvellous, ranging from the tender sincerity, and his variety is marvellous, ranging from the tender
to the blistering satire of Holy Willie’s prayer and The Holy Fair.

His life is a tragedy, and his character full of flaws. But as he so eloquently tells us in his own verse, “A mans a man for A’ that”.

Hon. Dorothy Kotz MP JP

Alternate meanings

Winners of the Washington Post’s readers contest to supply alternate meanings for various words:

Coffee (n.), a person who is coughed upon.
Abdicate (v.), to give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.
Esplanade (v.), to attempt an explanation while drunk.
Willy-nilly (adj.), impotent.
Lymph (v), to walk with a lisp.
Gargoyle (n.), an olive-flavoured mouthwash.
Flatulence (n.) the emergency vehicle that picks you up after you are run over by a steamroller.
Rectitude (n.), the formal, dignified demeanour assumed by a proctologist immediately before he examines you.
Stewart or Stuart?

There is sometimes confusion over the spelling of the monarchical dynasty founded by King Robert II (1371-1390). He was the son of Marjorie Bruce (daughter of King Robert the Bruce) and Walter, the High Steward of Scotland. History books refer to his descendants as the Stewart dynasty — derived from the High Steward title. But the spelling of the name as “Stuart” often gets people confused.

An example of the problem arose recently when the Scottish Executive’s curriculum advisory service, Learning and Teaching Scotland, withdrew part of its online teaching resources after receiving complaints from teachers that it had used the “Stewart” spelling instead of “Stuart”.

For a while, the page came up “not found” on their Web site. Most of us had always used the spelling “Stewart” for the earlier monarchs in that dynasty but “Stuart” from the time of Mary Queen of Scots, who is said to have adopted that spelling when she lived in France where the letter “w” was unknown. Her descendants, in particular Bonnie Prince Charlie (Prince Charles Edward Stuart [left]) are usually referred to with that spelling.

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Prof. Tom Devine, a leading Scottish historian, commented that spelling was a matter of usage and that a “correct” version was unlikely to be agreed. He observed, however, that historians focusing on the Jacobite period usually opted for “Stuart” — but not always. The Learning and Teaching Scotland is now asking for feedback on the subject.
The Battle of Flodden Field

The Battle of Flodden Field was a disastrous and unnecessary confrontation for Scotland. James IV of Scotland was married to the sister of England's King Henry VIII and a treaty of friendship existed between the two countries. The auld alliance between Scotland and France had been recently renewed. Following English attacks upon Scottish ships by Henry VIII, James IV immediately declared war, with nothing to gain and ties to both England and France neutralised. With the whole nation behind him, James amassed twenty thousand men with ease, both Highlanders and Lowlanders. His fleet set sail and his army crossed the border into Northumberland with the intention of drawing upon England’s numbers in France.

Norham Castle was among the places captured before confrontation for Scotland. The Scots took the advantageous high ground. With slightly fewer numbers but superior equipment and artillery, the English moved around the Scots on their west and opened with cannon fire. They struck their target with great success, which the Scots could not match.

James dropped strategic tactics and ordered all to attack. Initially gaining the upper hand, the Scots were again thwarted by England’s superior equipment, the long halberd with its axe, hook and spike bloodier than the spear in hand-to-hand conflict.

English losses were heavy but the dead Scots numbered between five and ten thousand. It is said that 'the slaughter struck every farm and household throughout lowland Scotland'. There was an unusually high number of aristocracy who came down into combat that day and among the slain were dozens of lords and lairds, at least ten Earls, some abbots, an archbishop and the King himself.

Chief Donates Clan Lands

The Macneils of Barra have lived on that island for over 1,000 years and a 9,000 acre crofting estate on Barra has belonged to the Clan Chief for generations.

But now the 46th chief of Clan McNeil, who is a 74-year-old American law professor, has transferred the property to the Scottish Executive. They will manage the land until a community takeover is organised.

The Executive already owns land on Barra and the neighbouring island of Vatersay so the arrangement could see 16,000 acres in total passing to public ownership.

The islands have a population of 1,300 and have 440 crofts and two working quarries. Many local people see the transfer as a great opportunity but the transition could be a slow one as there is no pressure on the residents to take up what others see as a challenging prospect.

Whuppity Scoorie — Lanark’s Rite of Spring!

Spring comes to Lanark officially on Saturday, March 1, when youngsters take part in the ancient custom of "Whuppity Scoorie". They gather before 6.00 pm, assembling at St Nicholas church, then as the wee bell rings, they run round it waving balls of paper around their heads. It is no longer a race, for safety reasons, but at the end, the children scramble for coins thrown by members of the Royal Burgh of Lanark Community Council that organises the event. Its origins are vague. Some say it is a remembrance of days when miscreants were whipped round the cross then "scoored" in the Clyde, and it is supposed to reflect curfew changes as spring replaced the dark winter nights. Whatever its origins, generations of children have taken part and made sure that this part of Lanark's past endures.

The Community Council has written to schools asking them to tell the children about it and encourage them to join in. South Lanarkshire Provost Sam Casserly is expected to be among the guests there on Saturday evening.

Ewan MacKenzie — (submitted by member Ben Calcraft)

A Fountain Fit for a King

Britain’s oldest surviving fountain has undergone a four-year restoration. The King’s Fountain is back in its rightful place — in the main courtyard of Linlithgow Palace. During the work the ornately carved fountain (commissioned by King James V in the late 1530s) had to be removed to near Maidenhead in Berkshire where "restoration" work in the 1930s using concrete was removed. Designed to resemble a crown, with a large number of symbolic figures ranged around it, the fountain was created to impress visiting monarchs and dignitaries with the opulence of King James’ court. The fountain escaped damage in 1607 when the North Range of the Palace collapsed but it needed some repair to allow it to operate for a visit by King Charles I in 1633. When the palace burnt down in 1746, the fountain also suffered, perhaps because it was seen as a symbol of the Stewart monarchy. During the current renovations, as much of the original stonework as possible was retained and new high-quality stone carvings were made to replace those which were no longer viable. The result is a bit of a patchwork of old and new at the moment, but in time the new stone will mellow.
History of the Flag: 1606-1801

When King James VI of Scotland ascended to the English throne, thereby becoming James I of England, the national flags of Scotland and England (on land) continued to be, respectively, the red St George's cross and the white St Andrew's cross. Confusion arose, however, as to what flag would be appropriate at sea. On 12 April 1606 a proclamation was issued: "All our subjects in this our isle and kingdom of Great Britain and the members thereof, shall bear in their main top the red cross commonly called St George's Cross and the white cross commonly called St. Andrew's Cross joined together according to a form made by our heralds and sent to our Admiral to be published to our said subjects."

This is the first known reference to the Union Flag. Although the original design referred to has been lost, it is presumed that it was the flag which, with the addition of the St Patrick's cross, forms the basic design of the British Union Flag today.

It is interesting to note that the new flag was not universally popular nor accepted. The English were not overly pleased at the obscuring of the white field of the St George's flag. The Scots, with more justification, were upset at the fact that the red cross was laid over the white. The Scots proposed a number of alternative designs. These included: the St George's flag with the St Andrew's flag in the canton; The St George's flag with a St Andrew's flag in each quarter. In this bizarre design the white cross of the St Andrew's flag does not extend to the corners of the flag; The St George's flag with a St Andrew's flag in the centre. None of these are very convincing designs and none were ever used.

Scottish variant

The Scots did, however, use an ingenious design in which the white cross of the St Andrew's flag was brought forward to overlap the red cross. This flag even seems to have achieved some limited official sanction. When the king visited Dumfries in 1618 he was hailed as the king under whose banner "the whyte and reid croces are so proportionable interlaced." The word interlaced is held to be significant as it implies the use of the 'Scottish' version of the Union Flag.

The design of the Union Flag that preceded the current version was established by a royal proclamation of 12 April 1606. However, it was for use only at sea in civil and military ships of both Scotland and England. In 1634 its use was restricted to the king's ships. The flag went out of use in 1649 when England became a Commonwealth but was restored for use in the king's ships after the restoration in 1660. The flag became 'the ensign armorial of the United Kingdom of Great Britain' as one of the provisions of the Act of Union in 1707, when the kingdoms of England and Scotland were united.

Scots Humour

A Scot was shipwrecked and finally washed ashore on a small island. As he regains consciousness, he sees a beautiful unclad nymph standing over him.

She asks, "Would you like some food?" The Scot croaks, "I havnae eaten in a week and I am awfy hungry!"

She disappears into the woods and quickly comes back with a heaped helping of haggis. When he has choked it down, she asks, "Would you like something to drink?"

"Oh, aye! That haggis has made me awfy thirsty!" She goes off into the woods again and returns with a bottle of 75-year-old single-malt Scotch whisky.

The Scot begins to think he is in Heaven when the nymph leans closer and says, "Would you like to play around?"

The Scot replies "Oh, lassie, don't tell me ye huv got a golf course here too!"

What HAVE you done!