

Francesca McCrossan, President

October 2020

# President's Message

Dear St. Andrew's Society,

Our October meeting took place, Monday, October 19th, and it was a robust and productive meeting. In advance of the members Meeting in November, we held an election for 2nd VP. I'd like to warmly welcome **Alex Sinclair**, our new 2nd VP. I'm looking forward to working with him to further our Mission, reach out to our members and have some fun along the way. Alex brings a wealth of experience in non-profits on both the Officer and Trustee sides, along with video and live event production experience and much more. I would like to warmly thank our Nominating Committee, **Marie Brady**, **Tony Becker** and **Laurien Fiddes** for all the hard work and professionalism they brought to the process. They were thorough and gracious, and the Society has benefited greatly from their hard work. And thanks to all of you who were there, via Zoom. It was a great turn out and I was very happy to see so many Members

*President's Message, continued on page 2*



# Scotland's Uniqueness in the World

By Irené Waldman, 1st Vice President

Hello Fellow Members, I trust you and yours are as well as you can be in this unprecedented time. I've appreciated the opportunity to converse with some of you on the phone over the summer. Please feel free to call me if I can ever be of service; even it's just to have a blether. Brian, James, Iona and I are back in the USA after a really pleasant journey home to Scotland. I feel very sad for the airlines right now. We flew on a 787 from London to SFO and while the aircraft has a capacity of 296 passengers, there were only 39 souls on board. Staggering really. We flew with British Airways and the service was incredible as you can imagine. Understandably we were not allowed to walk the plane which was on occasion challenging with the wee ones, but the service was great with very attentive attendants. Congratulations to British Airways!! Let's hope that they are making lots of money carrying cargo to see them through the next year or two!



On our flight we shared our cabin with 3 other people, of which 2 were red heads. And while we were flying from London it made me start to think about the uniqueness of the British Isles and Scotland specifically. Did you know that Scotland holds more red heads than anywhere else in the world?! Around 13% of the population is a redhead due to an ancient gene.

There's more to Scotland than you might think! From gorgeous scenery and rich history, to the culture and the personalities of the people who live there, the unique aspects of the nation

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## President's Message

face-to-face in the only way we can for the moment. To those of you who couldn't make it, please join us for the November meeting if you can. We will vote for open Officer and Trustee positions and the proposed Bylaw changes.

This month's newsletter is full of wonderful articles and stories. I want particularly to bring your attention to our Bard, **Jek Cunningham's** memories of "Guisin," the Scottish tradition that roughly parallels our Trick or Treating. I love the photo of the glowing turnips that are the Jack O' Lanterns of Scotland. **Irené Waldman** shares highlights and photos of her family's recent visit to Scotland, as they took a break from the stresses of the Covid crisis here. There are so many good articles, features and suggestions for online events to take part in and enjoy. The newsletter is the work of our excellent editor, **Gary Ketchen**, and we all enjoy the wonderful work he does.

These days we are all fatigued, and with no certain end to this crisis on the horizon, this is the time that tests our mettle. I know I find relief and joy listening to live stream music, having long conversations and Zoom chats with friends, and tending to my garden. I also am lucky enough to get away to Santa Cruz on the occasional weekend to spend time with my daughter. The photo of us modeling the most fashionable warm weather Covid wear was taken on a recent trip. I hope it makes you smile, if not laugh out loud. The Trustees and Officers of the Society are all thinking of you and wishing you good health and happiness. We will be checking in on our members as this crisis continues to see what kind of support we can provide for you. If you need anything, please reach out to one of us. We are always here to listen and help. Warm regards,



**Francesca M. McCrossan**  
President, St. Andrew's Society  
of San Francisco

### From The Bard — Jek Cunningham



### Scottish Halloween

When I was a boy we went guisin on Halloween. We dressed up in costumes we made ourselves, usually with some help from my mother. We would go from house to house asking "Are you needing any guisers?" When invited in we would entertain with a song or a poem. When I was a bit older, I would play a tune on my pipes. When we left we would be given money. A Tanner (sixpence) or, if we were lucky, a Bob (shilling). As part of the celebration, we would carve a bogle. A turnip was hollowed out, eyes, nose, and mouth carved and a candle placed inside.

When we had a party at my grandparent's house we would dook for apples. Apples were floated in a pail of water and the contestant, with their hands behind their back, would try to pick up the apple with their mouth. Once, Uncle Bill's false teeth got pulled out, stuck in the apple still in the water. An even messier game was when a scone was dipped in treacle and suspended on a string. The contestants, hands tied behind their back, had to take bites of the scone.

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## Scotland's Uniqueness

are appealing to so many around the world. We have all heard of Loch Ness, but have you ever heard of Nessie's counterpart Morag?! She is the monster of Loch Morar, a very bonny freshwater loch in Lochaber, nestled in the Highlands of Scotland. It is the fifth largest loch by surface area in Scotland, and is the deepest freshwater body in the British Isles with a maximum depth of 310 meters / 1017 feet!



Another fun fact... You may also have seen Braveheart—Mel Gibson's Oscar winning classic movie about William Wallace, but did you know that it wasn't actually the freedom fighter's nickname?! Braveheart was actually the name of King Robert the Bruce, but Mel Gibson decided to use it for Wallace in his movie anyway as creative license!

Scotland's national animal is a Unicorn! Mythical creatures can be national animals too you know! If you have ever seen one, please do let me know! Lastly, did you know that Scotland has 790 islands of which the majority, 660, are uninhabited?



These are all extraordinary statistics for extraordinary times. I know that this pandemic is weighing heavily on everyone's shoulders. It is at times like this when we all need to come together more to provide a strong connection and support to each other. Should you honor me with your vote as President, and continue to show your trust in me, I will ensure that our cultural and philanthropic missions, in addition to the health and well being of our Members survive through this. We are all one clan... and as you know clans take care of their own!

With my best to you all, Irené.

## September 2020 Guest Performer



**Peter Daldry** was our guest performer at last month's member meeting. He joyfully played five songs that included: *Braes of Killiecrankie*, *Ye Jacobites*, *Welder and Plater*, *McPherson's Rant*, and *Flower of Scotland*.

For more information about Peter please visit: [peterdaldry.com](http://peterdaldry.com)

## Creative Archaeology— Finding the Present in the Past

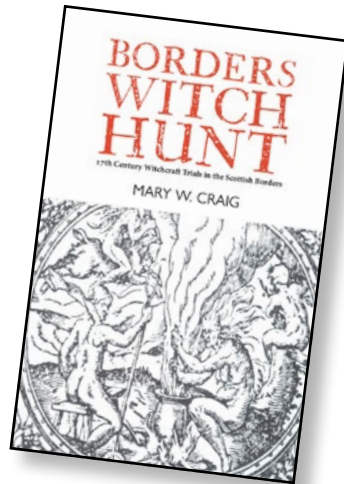


In this online event, hosted by Archaeology Scotland, Thomas Legendre takes us on a journey to Kilmartin Glen, exploring the prehistoric landscape through fictional writing. How do Neolithic sites become “personal” to us? How does the past become present, and the present past? Check out the video, [available on YouTube](#).

# Borders Witch Hunt

By Mary W Craig

The 17th century saw an increased number of cruel witch trials and executions. In this book, Scottish writer and historian Mary Craig takes up the torch to bring you the nitty gritty details of the trials themselves as well as exploring the role of women, both as accuser and the accused. It's a particularly juicy bite of Scottish social history. (£14.99, Luath Press Ltd) [luath.co.uk](http://luath.co.uk)



*This article was first published in the November 2020 edition of Scotland magazine.*

# The Seafood Shack

By Kirsty Scobie & Fenella Renwick

In 2016, Kirsty and Fenella had grown frustrated with the lack of opportunities to eat the incredible array of seafood landed in their northwest Highlands hometown of Ullapool. The story behind their award-winning, crowd-funded project 'The Seafood Shack'—and those of some local fishermen too—are told in this book, beautifully presented alongside more than 80 mouth-watering recipes and tips for cooking white fish, smoked fish and shellfish. (£20, The Kitchen Press) [kitchenpress.co.uk](http://kitchenpress.co.uk)



*This article was first published in the November 2020 edition of Scotland magazine.*

# Dark Travel and Spooky Places to Visit in Scotland

By Wandering Crystal



One of Scotland's most popular castles, Eilean Donan Castle was involved in the Jacobite Rebellion.

Scotland is a land of dark history, with some spooky and dark stories from times past. It's a place where mystical landscapes and abandoned castles have been left to ruin. The country is perfect for a dark history fan and lover of dark tourism in Scotland. If you want a glimpse into the country's sinister past, want to find haunted places in Scotland to visit, or enjoy dark travel and [spooky places to visit in Scotland](#) be sure to add these 15 dark and spooky Scottish sites to your itinerary.

- 1) **Glencoe** – Dark Tourism in the Scottish Highlands
- 2) **Gartloch Hospital** – Abandoned Asylums in Scotland
- 3) **Eilean Donan Castle**
- 4) **New Slains Castle Ruins** in Cruden Bay
- 5) **Stirling Castle's Dark and Spooky History**
- 6) **Skaill House**
- 7) **Overtoun Bridge** – Scotland's Suicide Bridge
- 8) **Culloden Moor** – Site of the Battle of Culloden
- 9) **Gilmerton Cove** – Edinburgh's Underground Chamber
- 10) **Scotland's Secret Bunker**
- 11) **Glamis Castle** – Spooky Haunting of Lady Glamis
- 12) **Witches' Well** – Witch History in Scotland
- 13) **Glasgow Necropolis**
- 14) **The Cave of Sawney Bean** – Scotland's Cannibal Family
- 15) **Edinburgh Vaults**

Crystal is a history fan with a fondness for dark history. Crystal travels to dark history sites, dark tourism sites and historic places sites, dark tourism sites and historic places around the world. Follow Crystal on her blog at [wanderingcrystal.com](http://wanderingcrystal.com).

# The Flying Scot: Interview with Jackie Stewart

Words by Bernard Bale



Sir Jackie Stewart wore a helmet painted with his clan's tartan colours. Credit: GP Library Limited/Alamy

## Away from the roar of F1, motor racing legend Sir Jackie Stewart talks about the country he loves.

### Where are your roots?

I suppose I should say, “wherever I park my car” but in reality I was born in Dumbuck, which is now known as Milton and I have been lucky enough to travel the world and have homes in Switzerland and near London. My roots always have been and always will be in Dunbartonshire, though.

### Did you go to a village school?

I did but it was a bit of a disaster area as nobody knew until I was in my 40s that I was dyslexic. It meant that when I went to Hartfield Primary School I was in a class of 54 and considered to be among the dunces. Dunces are not popular, so I didn't have many friends there. I supposed that everyone was right and I was just a dummy, whereas the truth was that I just could not read what was in front of me because of my dyslexia.

### How did you cope?

Much better for being in a village in Scotland. I don't know how kids in cities cope, but for me I just accepted that I was no good at education and compensated by getting into sport. I played a lot of football and was pretty good. Then I got into shooting and fishing and doing odd jobs with my dad who had raced cars and sold them too.

### Did you have ambitions to travel the world?

Not really. I was quite happy living in a Scottish village, surrounded by the most amazing countryside, but I think I was a bit unhappy with the way school turned out and looking back I wanted to prove something. I didn't have ambitions to be a professional sports person but I did want to be good at something. I didn't have a desire to get out of Scotland, far from it.

### Is it true that you represented Scotland at shooting?

Actually, that is true. With my grandfather being a gamekeeper for Lord Weir on his estate at Eaglesham, I was introduced to shooting and fishing from a very early age. My grandfather, father and brother were all good shots so it may have simply been in the genes. I won the major award at my first shooting competition and after that I was encouraged to take it further. I ended up shooting for Great Britain and Scotland at many major competitions and we were quite successful, actually.

### What did it mean to you to wear the Scottish badge?

I was just so proud and I knew it meant a lot to my family. I had been useless at school and to be good at something and have the great honour of representing Scotland was just amazing to me. I was still a young guy and there was probably more to come, but I had to change direction. To have your name

*Jackie Stewart, continued on page 6*

# Jackie Stewart

attached to your country though is something you cannot describe, it's something you feel.



**Dumbarton Castle overlooks the River Clyde.**  
Credit: Oksana Perkins/Shutterstock

## What made you walk away from it?

Shooting for my country and for Great Britain was exciting but it was still an amateur sport and something happened that made me realise I had to think about it as, 'it was great while it lasted'. My life changed when I got engaged and I certainly see that as one of the best decisions I have ever made.

## Your wife, Lady Helen, is also from Scotland, isn't she?

Yes, Helen and I met, by accident, at the legendary Dino's Radio Cafe in Helensburgh. It was an ice cream parlour and I was on a blind date. My date turned up and took one look at me. That wasn't Helen. The girl I was supposed to meet ran away so there I was, none too happy with myself. Helen and I got talking and that was it. I think I was about 17 but I knew that she was the girl for me and she has been, right to this very day. We saved up and got married in 1962. We have shared everything since then. Marrying a Scottish girl was perfect for me.



**Sir Jackie Stewart and his wife Lady Helen, after the former Formula One racing champion received a knighthood from the Prince of Wales.** Credit: Kirsty Wigglesworth/PA Archive/PA Images

## Are you especially proud of the Stewart tartan?

Very much so, I still wear it as much as possible and it helps to identify the clan, as well as promote Scotland. I am proud of it, that is why I used to have the tartan colours painted on my crash helmet when I was racing. I wanted everyone to know

who I was and where I came from. It created a lot of interest and still does. I am Stewart by name and Royal Stewart by heritage.

## How did you come to live at the 'Scottish Embassy' in London?

That was a joke. When my dear friend Jim Clark—the greatest driver I ever raced against—was also in London, we shared a house. It was early in our careers. We jokingly called it the Scottish Embassy as neither of us really wanted to be away from Scotland.

## You are a legend of motor racing having won World Championships and countless other titles, do you have any outstanding memories?

All of them really, but a few things spring to mind. Every driver wants to win the Monaco Grand Prix and I did that four times. It is not only a great race but afterwards you were a chief guest at an amazing dinner and in my day you sat next to Princess Grace. Racing at Indianapolis was an amazing experience too. I raced in my first Indy 500 in 1966 and I was ahead with eight laps to go. The engine failed and I actually pushed it part of the way home. I ended up sixth but they gave me a Rookie Award anyway. Then there was the time I was in a bad crash in the Belgian Grand Prix. I was injured and soaked in fuel so my clothes were removed. For a while I was naked in the back of a trailer full of straw. Some nuns came along, took pity on me and got me dressed! An outstanding memory.

## Do you get to recommend Scotland on your travels?

All the time and I always have done. When you are proud of your country you want as many people as possible to see it and enjoy it. I tell people about Scottish history and culture and recommend different parts of Scotland that they must see. The real joy is that you know they will love it. I often talk about visiting Fife, traveling through and up to the Cairngorms National Park, seeing the lochs and the coastline. I love it and I want people to see what I am so proud of.

*This article was first published in the November 2020 edition of Scotland magazine.*



**Saturday October 31st.**

Our theme will be Celtic traditions of 'Samhain,' as practiced in Ireland, Scotland, etc. for many thousands of years, as well as the modern descendant we generally call Hallowe'en. There will be spooky tunes, songs, Seanchai stories that evoke the season, ghosts, pirates, banshees, witches, faeries, elves, etc.

**For additional details including a complete list of performers and times visit our Facebook Event Page**

**Come join us for a great day of Craic on Hallowe'en!**

**Watch on either: YouTube Live or Facebook Live**

**The International Samhain Celebration**

US West Coast (UTC-7 time zone)

**Saturday, October 31st, from 1:00 PM DTM - 5:30 PM DTM**

Europe, (UTC+1 time zone)

**Saturday 2020-10-31 21:00 through Sunday 2020-11-01 01:30**

England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland, (UTC+0 time zone)

**Saturday 2020-10-31 20:00 through 00:30 Sunday morning.**



*Virtual Event*

**Global Words of Wisdom on...  
Employees Working From Anywhere**

Global Words of Wisdom will be presented in a 2 part series. The first to be held on November 18th and the second in January 2021 (exact date TBD)

**Part 1** will discuss the international tax, HR, employment law and payroll implications of having a workforce 'working from anywhere' in the wake of COVID-19

**Part 2** will discuss the 'new normal' for international assignees between the US and UK, looking at that all important preparation: accommodation, relocation and immigration.

Please join us on **November 18th** for what promises to be an informative panel discussion.

**For more information and registration details please visit [babcsf.org](http://babcsf.org).**



**Celtic Music Online**

Each week on **Celtic Songlines**, join host David A. Reynolds and explore the timeless sound of traditional, ancient and contemporary music from around the Celtic world, featuring artists celebrating the traditions of Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England and other Celtic lands.

Tune in at KDRT 95.7 fm or stream at **KDRT.org** Tuesdays from 11:00 a.m. to Noon with replay Wednesday evening from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.



We are pleased to share that registration for **Celtic Arts Winter School 2021** is now open! Due to the world health crisis, next year's program will be presented virtually. While there are many changes that come along with that, we're confident our world-class instructors will still be able to deliver the same personalized experience that our students appreciate. We hope you can join us next February—and in the meantime, we highly encourage students to register early, as space is limited!

### Winter School 2021 Schedule

- Highland Pipes, February 6–10
- Drums, 3 February 6–8
- Highland Pipes Extended Session, February 11–12
- Smallpipes & Fiddles, February 13–17
- Smallpipes & Fiddles, February 13–15
- Guitar & Keyboards, February 13–14

Scholarship funding is available, and all applications are due on **November 1st, 2020**. Learn more about scholarship opportunities here.

We encourage students to **register online**. If you have questions, please feel free to send an **email** ([celticarts@mg.celticarts.org](mailto:celticarts@mg.celticarts.org)). If you would like to register over the phone, please give us a call at 360-416-4934 from 8:00am-12:00pm. While we are available to answer questions over the phone, limited in-office staffing may result in it taking longer than usual for us to get back to you, and therefore we highly encourage email communications. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

We'll hope to see you at Winter School!

Best,

**Lindsay Van Houten**

Program & Event Manager, Celtic Arts Foundation

*P.S. Be sure to let your Celtic musician friends far and wide know that Winter School is happening online this year. With the virtual format, we're hoping to reach even more new students!*

## Trusted Partners

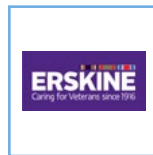
A list of St. Andrew's Society's partner organizations, businesses and retailers.



**The Caledonian Club of San Francisco**  
312 Maple Avenue  
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**AmeriCeltic**  
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**The Erskine Home**  
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**John Muir Association**  
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[johnmuirassociation.org](http://johnmuirassociation.org)



**The Peninsula Scottish Fiddlers**  
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[thefiddlers.com](http://thefiddlers.com)



**Grace Cathedral**  
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[info@stevensonmuseum.org](mailto:info@stevensonmuseum.org)  
[stevensonmuseum.org](http://stevensonmuseum.org)



## Meeting & Events Schedule

Date	Event / Topic	Location / Notes
<b>2020</b>		
Mon. Oct. 19	Member Meeting .....	via ZOOM Video Conference
Mon. Nov. 16	Member Meeting .....	via ZOOM Video Conference
<b>TBD</b>	<b>157th Annual St. Andrew's Banquet &amp; Ball .....</b>	<b>TBD, SF</b>
Mon. Dec. 21	No Meeting due to December 31st. Hogmanay Celebration	
<b>Thur. Dec. 31</b>	<b>Hogmanay Celebration.....</b>	<b>1088 Green St., SF</b>
<b>2021</b>		
Mon. Jan. 18	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD) .....	1088 Green St., SF
<b>TBD</b>	<b>Annual Robert Burns Supper.....</b>	<b>TBD, SF</b>
Mon. Feb. 15	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD).....	1088 Green St., SF
Mon. Mar. 15	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD).....	1088 Green St., SF
Sat. April 3	Tartan Day Scottish Faire at Ardenwood .....	Fremont, CA
Sat. April 17	John Muir Day / Earth Day celebration.....	NPS - Martinez, CA
Mon. April 19	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD).....	1088 Green St., SF
Mon. May 17	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD).....	1088 Green St., SF
Mon. June 21	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD).....	1088 Green St., SF
Mon. July 19	No Meeting (Summer Recess)	
Mon. Aug. 16	No Meeting (Summer Recess)	
<b>TBD</b>	<b>Caledonian Club's 156th Highland Games &amp; Gathering.....</b>	<b>Pleasanton, CA</b>
Mon. Sept. 20	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD).....	1088 Green St., SF

## About Us

### The Saint Andrew's Society of San Francisco

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San Francisco, CA  
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415-885-6644  
www.saintandrews  
societysf.org

Gary Ketchen,  
Newsletter Editor

### Membership Meetings

Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of the month, at 7:30 P.M. Light supper served before the meeting. (Free valet parking is provided for members' meetings. MUNI: one block east of Hyde St. cable car).

### Officers of the Society

Francesca McCrossan,  
President  
Irené Waldman Costello,  
1st VP  
Alex Sinclair,  
2nd VP  
Jek Cunningham, Bard  
Kristy McKeating,  
Secretary  
Susan Goodier,  
Executive Administrator  
Roger Weed, Librarian  
Laurien Fiddes, Chaplain  
Brian Cooper, Piper  
Bill Jagers, Herald  
Fred Rutledge,  
Foundation Chair

### Trustees

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Chairperson  
Jaeame Koyil  
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Jean Allen  
Brian Costello  
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David Campbell  
Jean Allen  
Marilyn Van Story

### Board of Student Assistance

Kitty Lenhart,  
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Kristen Ferguson  
Marilyn Van Story  
J. Robert Logan  
William Cummings, Sr.  
William Cummings, Jr.  
Jean Allen

### Envoys

Brian Costello, BABC  
Roger Weed, Caledonian Club of SF  
Roger Weed, John Muir Association  
David Walker, University of Edinburgh



**The Saint Andrew's Society  
of San Francisco**  
1088 Green Street  
San Francisco, CA 94133-3604

Recipient

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