



*Mackintosh at the Willow in Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow*

*Discover NTS's Newest Addition to Its Portfolio of Properties and More From Our Partners at the National Trust for Scotland on page three*

# Scottish Heritage USA

## NEWSLETTER MARCH 2024

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One of the many benefits of being a member of Scottish Heritage USA is the Scholarship Program. We want to invest in the next generation of American Scots so that their children and grandchildren will come to cherish and appreciate their Scottish roots as much as we do. Our Scholarship Program involves providing tuition to those students with a keen interest and / or talent in a particular discipline, who might not be able to otherwise afford an immersive experience. This could be piping, drumming, fiddling, or dancing. Regardless, we will strive to assist that student toward his or her goals.

We will be awarding several "Scottish Heritage USA" scholarships to students at the North American Academy of Piping and Drumming as well as the Jink and Diddle Scottish Fiddling School. Additional schools and/or experiences will be forthcoming as we get requests. We will allow each school to choose the students worthy of the scholarship based on its knowledge of a particular situation. However, each student will receive a suitable for framing Certificate from Scottish Heritage USA stating that the scholarship is from our organization.

Your board's Scholarship Committee is in the process of determining how many scholarships at each school will be awarded and will announce the process for applications on our website and in the newsletter as soon as details are finalized with each academy. Please stay tuned for more information.

*This article is contributed by Betty Johnson who serves on the Board of Directors of Scottish Heritage USA, chairs the Scholarship Committee and produces the Cultural Village that SHUSA sponsors annually at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.*



If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to the Scholarship Program at any time, email [admin@scottishheritageusa.com](mailto:admin@scottishheritageusa.com), make an in-person donation at our table at one of the events we are sponsoring (see listing on next page), or call the Scottish Heritage USA office at 910-295-4448.



*Olivia Bishop from McKinney, TX, received a 2023 Pete & Mary Hamilton Dance Scholarship from Scottish Heritage USA, Inc. for Highland Dancing at The School of Scottish Arts.*

# JOIN US AT THESE EVENTS & GAMES 2024

We hope to see you at these upcoming games and events that Scottish Heritage USA is attending as a supporting sponsor:

**April 5-6: NYC Tartan Week** – Bryant Park events including Tartan Day Observance on April 5 and Pipes and Drums at Bryant Park in New York on April 6.

– [www.nyctartanweek.org](http://www.nyctartanweek.org)

**May 4: Savannah Scottish Games** in GA– [www.savannahscottishgames.com](http://www.savannahscottishgames.com)

**May 24-25: Gallabrae – Greenville Scottish Games** in SC- [www.gallabrae.com](http://www.gallabrae.com)

**July 11-14: Grandfather Mountain Highland Games** – [www.gmhg.org](http://www.gmhg.org)

**Oct 4-5: Scotland County Highland Games** in Laurinburg NC- [www.carolina-highlandgames.com](http://www.carolina-highlandgames.com)

**Oct 18-20: Stone Mountain Highland Games and Scottish Festival** in GA– [smhg.org](http://smhg.org)

## THE DUNROSSIL DIARIES

Last time I mentioned I was going over to London for the memorial service for Donald MacLaren. The service itself was absolutely beautiful, in a 900-year-old historic church, and it was good to see his brave widow, Maida, and so many other friends and colleagues on the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs. Still, inevitably a sad occasion. If that wasn't chilling enough, I then watched my daughter row on the Thames in subfreezing weather before catching Covid on the flight home.

January, of course, is all about warming up again to the point of burning, or Burnsing. A month's worth of good whiskey was consumed over two great Burns suppers here in Texas, with over 250 of my fellow Texans. In each I enjoyed addressing the haggis and shamelessly pretending I can sing. "Ye see yon birkie ca'd a lord, wha struts and stares and a' that..." Indeed.

February and March are much less embarrassing for my poor family, but then April comes along and I'll be at it again. The San Antonio Highland Games over the weekend of April 6 will be one to remember this year, as we will be hosting the Loch Lomond clans for their second ever Clan Battle Games. A large and distinguished group of Colquhouns, Buchanans,

Grahams, Hunters, MacEwens and MacFarlanes will be descending on the Alamo City, preparing to do battle over four days. Then I will sneak away up to Alexandria, Virginia for the Washington D.C. National Tartan Day, which will feature a short seminar and an award ceremony. I can't make it to NYC for their Tartan Week parade because it clashes with the San Antonio event, but I gather Lord Charles Bruce will be there, representing the Standing Council. Scottish Heritage USA is sponsoring NYC Tartan Week's events at Bryant Park and will be well represented by board president Peter Wilson and board member Bruce Hamilton at events on April 5-6.

Charles, by the way, gave an excellent presentation at the Scottish North American Community Conference in December, talking about the Heirs Project. His remarks were followed by our youngest Chief, Alasdair Morrison, a student at Glasgow University, and an heir, Angus Kincaid.

Both did a fine job talking about the process of learning their chiefly responsibilities and I was proud of them both. If they're anything to go by, our Scottish heritage is in good hands moving forward!



### Answers to This Month's Quiz

- #1. Dundee
- #2. "Je Suis Prest" or I Am Ready.
- #3. The gannet
- #4. A Gaelic harp
- #5. Glasgow
- #6. Sherlock Holmes

- #7. When the hare is losing its white winter coat and the white mingles with its incoming brown summer hairs, its coat can take on a bluish tint.
- #8. A mixture of potatoes and onions cooked slowly in a pan with meat pieces.

**Bonus:**

**Smoked Haddock**

# NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND'S NEW OFFERINGS

**National Trust for Scotland's Ali MacLeod spills about the value of partnerships, the newest addition to the Trust's portfolio of properties, and more...**

**Q:** *The National Trust for Scotland partnership is a key part of Scottish Heritage USA's mission to support Scottish culture, heritage and conservation. What has the partnership with our organization meant to NTS?*

**A:** Working with Scottish Heritage USA, both directly and through the National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA, is very important to our charity. Not only has Scottish Heritage USA donated vital funds to enable us to protect and promote the incredible built, natural and cultural heritage in our care, you have helped us to access many opportunities to talk about the places and spaces we care for and why they are important. It is of huge importance to us that Scottish Heritage USA helps us to connect Scots in the US – whether those Scots are of birth, ancestry or inclination – with their history and heritage, and help us to offer an opportunity to connect.

**Q:** *Membership through Scottish Heritage USA with the National Trust for Scotland brings free access to your many historic, botanical and heritage sites to our members, as well as supports ongoing operations and programs. Can you tell us about NTS's latest addition of the Mackintosh at the Willow in Glasgow's Sauchiehall Street?*

**A:** This is a very important and exciting acquisition for our charity, ensuring that the wonderful Mackintosh and MacDonald designed tearooms on Sauchiehall Street, in Glasgow, are saved and open for all to enjoy. Mackintosh at the Willow dates to 1903 and is the last remaining original of the several tea rooms designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh and his wife Margaret Macdonald for Glasgow entrepreneur Miss Catherine (Kate) Cranston. Early patrons of the tea rooms had never seen anything like these designs before – they quickly became a popular setting in which to socialize, particularly for women. The tea rooms are one of Glasgow's most important contributions towards modernism and they were highly influential in Europe from the moment of their opening.

As many will know, Mackintosh at the Willow was purchased and restored by the Willow Tearooms

Trust between 2014 and 2018, supported by many generous donors. The restoration resulted in one of the most spectacular heritage attractions in the city. While a tremendously popular visitor attraction, the continuance of the site faced jeopardy following the disruption caused to Sauchiehall Street by the second fire at the Glasgow School of Art and the COVID pandemic. Enabled by support from our members and donors, we were able to step up when needed and we are delighted to have secured the property, its heritage, and the wonderful experience it delivers. Members are welcome to enjoy free access to the terrific exhibition – and we hope they will also enjoy tea in the special and sumptuous surrounds!



**Q:** *Your popular, award winning podcast Love Scotland is coming up to its 8th season. What stories will the new season bring us?*

**A:** We're running a greatest hits package at the moment while work gets underway on the next season, where we'll be focusing on the kings and queens of Scotland, the story behind the Mackintosh at the Willow and few surprises too. You can listen to the podcasts on our website at [nts.org.uk/stories/for-the-love-of-scotland-podcasts](https://nts.org.uk/stories/for-the-love-of-scotland-podcasts), or subscribe to the series wherever you get your podcasts.

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## NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND cont...

**Q:** What is NTS doing to make heritage more fun and engaging for younger visitors?

**A:** We are always thinking of new ways to share our places with young people and to provide inspiring visits for everyone. Through our programme of events, our properties provide families with many reasons to visit and young people with plenty of opportunities to make memories, exploring our places on our Easter Egg trails, taking a spooky tour at Halloween, running about in playparks, or just enjoying fresh air in our beautiful countryside. We know that building a special connection when people are young means they come back to us again and again. We also work with schools and other education providers to welcome young people and help deepen their knowledge and understanding of our places and the stories that can be discovered there. Hearing our places full of fun and laughter is brilliant.



Left, archeology tools used at NTS sites such as Culloden.



Ali MacLeod



NTS's Ali MacLeod, on her work: I love the variety of my job – everyday! Given the scale and scope of heritage in the care of our charity, on any given day I can be speaking to colleagues about castles or climate change, conservation of artworks or creation of new carparks, archaeology at Culloden battlefield to restoration of thatched roofs at Robert Burns Birthplace Museum. Through NTS, everyone who loves Scotland has an opportunity to be part of the care of its past and continued enjoyment of its places.

## SCOTTISH KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

1. In which city are the McManus Galleries ?
2. On the popular Outlander TV series, what is the /Fraser clan motto?
3. What is Scotland's largest seabird?
4. What is a clarsach?
5. Where was the first Chamber of Commerce in Britain founded?
6. What is the name of the famous fictional character created by Sir Arthur Conn Doyle?
7. Why is the blue hare so called?
8. What are stovies?

**Bonus:** What is the main ingredient of Cullen skink?

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