



The Saltyre

November 2020

Message From The President

This month's message will be rather short as we have not been able to hold events for some time other than the Society BBQ. The Board members have begun meeting once a month for dinner at the VFW on Kruitoff Way in Fair Oaks. Dinner is before the Board meeting, members are welcome, and an RSVP should be sent to Chuck Jamison a week before hand if you wish to attend.

The Society has a new Vice President. Travis Chatters was selected from among those who threw their hats in the ring. As we have so little to do this year Travis has a very easy learning curve. Please welcome/congratulate Travis if you have not. Contact info may be found in the members area of our website.



The Investiture is postponed this year due to COVID. It is very likely that the Christmas party and Burns supper will be victims of the same scourge that is plaguing us.

I will be scheduling more Zoom meetings for those who wish to attend. The last one was successful and everyone who joined in had a good visit.

Please stay healthy and safe. Have an orange, a bit of chocolate, and wee dram every day to fend off scurvy, bad breath, and boredom.

All the best,

Bruce Locken

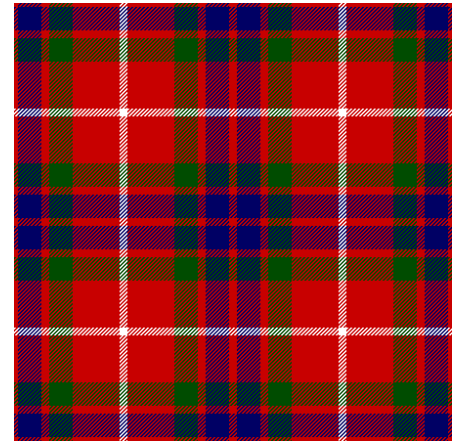


Clan Fraser

There are two theories on where the name Fraser comes from. The first is that the Frasers came from France and the name is derived from the French names Fresel, Freseau or Fredarious. The second theory is that the name Fraser comes from a Roman Gaul tribe whose badge was a strawberry plant – fraisier in French. Either way, the history books show the first Fraser in Scotland lived in Keith in East Lothian around 1160.

During the Wars of Scottish Independence, the Fraser clan fought alongside Robert the Bruce, and Alexander Fraser of Cowie even married Bruce's sister. During the 14th century Clan Fraser split into two clans – the Lowland Frasers of Philorth, and the Frasers of Lovat.

In 1544 in a dispute over chiefship of the Macdonald clan, hundreds of men were slaughtered. It is reported only five Frasers and eight MacDonalds survived. It is often referred to as the Battle of the Shirts, since it is believed to have been such a warm day that the warriors had to remove their heavy plaids in the heat and fight only in their shirts.



At the Siege of Inverness in 1562, Clan Fraser fought valiantly for Mary, Queen of Scots, alongside Clan Munro. The Stewart monarchy also reached out to the Highland Clan Fraser of Lovat for their assistance in regaining the throne.

Clan Fraser's organized regiment, the Independent Highland Company fought at the Battle of Culloden in 1745, and to this day a grave marker stands at the site where many of Clan Fraser's men gave their lives.

Clan Fraser has a long military history – a history which came full circle when the 17th Lord Lovat landed on a Normandy beach in June 1944 at the head of a Commando Brigade. Upon the realization he had landed back where the Frasers had come from, Lord Lovat ordered his personal piper to pipe the unit ashore. This could have spelled disaster for the Commandos; however, the nearby German soldiers reportedly did not fire on the group because they thought their leader, Lord Lovat, was mad.





Beaufort Castle, Frasers of Lovat

Towards the end of the 13th century, the estates in which Beaufort Castle was built passed from the Bissetts to the Frasers of Lovat.

Beaufort Castle (previously Dounie Castle) was besieged by the English in 1303. It was not until the following year that Edward captured the Scottish castle at Stirling. Even after the War of Independence was won, the Frasers were intermittently fighting the MacDonalds of Clanranald.



In 1544, it came to a head in the "Battle of the Shirts" between members of the Clan Fraser and Clans Ranald, Cameron and Donald. One of the bloodiest clan battles - only 12 men out of 1,000 combatants are said to have survived. The Frasers were defeated and Lord Lovat and his son were both killed. Fought on a warm day in July, the clansmen fought in their shirts - hence the name of the battle.

Simon Fraser, 11th Lord Lovat, did not support the Jacobite Uprising in 1715 but in 1745 he supported Bonnie Prince Charlie. At Culloden, Frasers of Lovat made up the largest Centre Regiment of the Front line, with 400 men under Simon's son, Charles Fraser of Inverallachie. Simon Fraser himself was too frail to take part in the battle and, after two years on the run, was captured and executed in London. The Fraser estates were forfeited and the castle was destroyed. Eventually the Fraser family recovered their lands and titles and a new family home was built on the site of Dounie Castle - and was named Beaufort Castle.

The Lovat Scouts was formed in January 1900 for service in the Second Boer War by Simon Joseph Fraser, 16th Lord Lovat, father of the World War II commando, Simon Fraser, 17th Lord Lovat.

In the 1990s, the Beaufort Castle and its estate were sold because of debt. The owner since 1995 is millionairess Ann Gloag, a Scottish business woman, and sister of Brian Souter.

Courtesy of Rampant Scotland



Gorse

Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*)

Common Gorse, known as Whin or Furze in Scotland, is extremely widespread, particularly in sandy, coastal soils and thin, upland soils. It begins sporadic flowering in late Autumn, continuing through the Winter, and going into full flower in Spring. Its evergreen, thorny and tough nature makes it an excellent windbreak and hedging plant, with the bonus of a somewhat coconut-like scent when in full flower.



As with the pea and bean family, Gorse fixes nitrogen in the soil, creating an environment in which other plants can establish and thrive, although it can be aggressive in ideal conditions and need burning off or cutting down to control spread.

In Scotland, crofters and farmers traditionally used it as a Winter feed for cows, ponies and other livestock, grinding it to a palatable consistency with a whin-stone, either themselves or at the local mill. It can also be used as a fuel, burning well with little smoking even when quite green.





Red Deer



Red Deer are Britain's largest land mammal. Fully grown males (stags) can weigh up to 425 pounds. Females (hinds) weigh up to 270. Deer living in open upland habitats tend to be smaller than those living in more wooded lowland areas

Red deer are a distinctive rusty red color in summer turning to a brown winter coat. Red deer have a short tail and a pale rump patch with no particular distinguishing features. Adults are not spotted.

Red deer have a large head with wide spaced brown eyes. The stags' antlers are the species' most distinguishing feature. They are highly branched and the branches increase with age with multiple points on each antler. The angle of the forward point from the main antler beam is about 90° (unlike the Sika). Antlers are cast during March/April and begin to regrow to be fully formed and clear of velvet in August/September.

Red deer hoof prints or 'slots' are unmistakably large and can be confused with sheep or goat marks. Slots may be distorted with the gait of the animal and/or soft ground. A stag's front hoof may measure 3 to 3-1/2 inches in length.

History, distribution & habitation of deer are a native species having migrated to Britain from Europe 11,000 years ago. They were used extensively by Mesolithic man as a source of food, skins, and tools (bones and antlers). However, the development of agriculture by Neolithic man cleared swathes of forest to make way for fields and this loss of forest



encouraged the decline of red deer populations, which became confined to the Scottish Highlands, south-west England and a few other small, scattered populations

The Normans protected red deer in parks and 'forests' (often devoid of trees!) for royal hunting, but this protection was lost during the Medieval period causing another decline in numbers in England. Victorian re-introductions of 'improved' stock (often inter-bred with larger related species such as wapiti), escapes from deer parks, natural spread, together with an increase in the Highlands and in forest and woodland cover since the early 20th century, mean that red deer are now widely distributed and are expanding in range and number.

While preferring woodland and forest habitats in England and southern Scotland, red deer can adapt to open moor and hills as they have in parts of Scotland and south-west England. Native stock are common in the Scottish Highlands, Dumfriesshire, Lake District, East Anglia and the south-west of England. Feral stock are present in the north of England, north Midlands, East Anglia, the New Forest, and Sussex.

Red deer graze on grasses and dwarf shrubs e.g. heather and bilberry. Woody browse, e.g. tree shoots, is taken when other food is limited during winter. However, grazing of tree shoots and agricultural crops puts red deer in conflict with farmers and foresters due to economic damage. Conversely, many country and forest estates can gain substantial revenue from recreational stalking and/or venison production. As well as being farmed for their venison red deer are also kept as ornamental park species in the UK. Whether in conflict or used as a resource, red deer populations require careful management to maintain health and quality and ensure a sustainable balance with their environment.

Breeding, behaviour & lifecycle

The breeding season, or the rut, occurs from the end of September to November. Stags return to the hind's home range and compete for them by engaging in elaborate displays of dominance including roaring, parallel walks, and fighting. Serious injury and death can result from fighting but this only occurs between stags of similar size that cannot assess dominance by any of the other means. The dominant stag then ensures exclusive mating with the hinds.

Despite being sexually mature before their second birthday in productive





woodland populations, only stags over five years old tend to mate. In woodland populations, hinds over one year old give birth to a single calf after an eight-month gestation, between mid-May to mid-July. Puberty may be delayed until three years old in hill hinds, which may give birth only once every two or three years.

Some Scottish hill populations suffer heavy infant mortality at and shortly after birth and during their first winter. Lifespan can be, exceptionally, up to 18 years.

In woodland red deer are largely solitary or occur as mother and calf groups. On open ground, larger single sex groups assemble, only mixing during the rut and in the Highlands of Scotland, large groups may persist for most of the year. Red deer are active throughout the 24 hour period but make more use of open spaces during the hours of darkness in populations experiencing frequent disturbance. Peak times of activity are at dawn and dusk. In the Highlands of Scotland red deer use the open hills during the day and descend to lower ground during the night.





The Flying Scotsman

Thousands Celebrate The Flying Scotsman's Return To Scotland

Published 15 May 2016

Steam enthusiasts turned out in force to watch the engine cross the distinctive red bridge that has carried trains over the Forth since 1890. The locomotive, which has undergone a 10-year, \$5.25 million restoration, travelled from Edinburgh to the Borders and back along the reopened Borders Railway. Large scale events were also held in Galashiels and Tweedbank.



The Flying Scotsman crosses the Forth Bridge

Designed by sir Nigel Gresley and built in Doncaster, South Yorkshire, in 1923, the Flying Scotsman pulled the first train to officially break the 100mph barrier in 1934. The British Empire Exhibition made Flying Scotsman famous, and it went on to feature in many more publicity events for the LNER. In 1928, it was given a new type of tender with a corridor, which meant that a new crew could take over without stopping the train. This allowed it to haul the first ever non-stop London to Edinburgh service on 1 May that year, reducing the journey time to eight hours.

In 1934, Scotsman was clocked at 100mph on a special test run—officially the first locomotive in the UK to reach that speed. The test run proved to the LNER's directors that steam power could provide high speeds, negating a plan for the company to use diesel power on its high-speed services.



The National Railway Museum in York bought the locomotive for £2.3m in 2004 before work got under way on its decade-long restoration two years later.

Around 800 people watched as the train left Edinburgh shortly before 11:00 BST on Sunday and hundreds more lined the route to get a closer look at the engine. After a return to Waverley, the Flying Scotsman headed to Fife with a new group of passengers on board. The Flying Scotsman's visit was arranged by excursion operator Steam Dreams, which said it had been working with Network Rail for months to ensure it went ahead smoothly.



The Flying Scotsman on the Borders Railway near Stow



The Flying Scotsman passes Holy Island, Berwick-upon-Tweed

Flying Scotsman is safely tucked away in East Lancashire while the 2020 tours program is on hold due to coronavirus. You can find out about Flying Scotsman's planned trips on the Scotsman on the Tracks page, but please be aware we do not currently know which trips are going ahead or when normal service will resume.

Courtesy of

<https://www.railwaymuseum.org.uk/flying-scotsman>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-south-scotland-36292974>



Sean Connery



Thomas Sean Connery was born in the Fountainbridge area of Edinburgh on 25 August 1930, the son of a Catholic factory worker and a Protestant domestic cleaner.

His father's family had emigrated from Ireland in the 19th Century; his mother traced her line back to Gaelic speakers from the Isle of Skye.

The area had been in decline for years. Young Tommy Connery was brought up in one room of a tenement with a shared toilet and no hot water.

He left school at 13 with no qualifications and delivered milk, polished coffins and laid bricks, before joining the Royal Navy. Three years later, he was invalided out of the service with stomach ulcers. His arms by now had tattoos which proclaimed his passions: "Scotland forever" and "Mum & Dad".

In Edinburgh, he gained a reputation as "hard man" when six gang members tried to steal from his coat. When he stopped them, he was followed. Connery launched a one-man assault which the future Bond won hands down.

He scraped a living any way he could. He drove trucks, worked as a lifeguard and posed as a model at the Edinburgh College of Art. He spent his spare time bodybuilding.

The artist Richard Demarco, who as a student often painted Connery, described him as "too beautiful for words, a virtual Adonis".

A keen footballer, Connery was good enough to attract the attention of Matt Busby, who offered him a £25-a-week contract at Manchester United.



But, bitten by the acting bug when odd-jobbing at a local theatre, he decided a footballer's career was potentially too short and opted to pursue his luck on the stage. It was, he later said, "one of my more intelligent moves".

In 1953, he was in London competing in the Mr Universe competition. He heard that there were parts going in the chorus of a production of the musical *South Pacific*. By the following year, he was playing the role of Lieutenant Buzz Adams, made famous on Broadway by Larry Hagman.

American actor Robert Henderson encouraged Connery to educate himself. Henderson lent him works by Ibsen, Shakespeare and Bernard Shaw, and persuaded Connery to take elocution lessons.

Connery made the first of many appearances as a film extra in the 1954 movie *Lilacs in the Spring*. There were minor roles on television too, including a gangster in an episode of the BBC police drama *Dixon of Dock Green*.

In 1957, he got his first leading role in *Blood Money*, a BBC reworking of *Requiem for a Heavyweight*, in which he portrayed a boxer whose career is in decline.

It had been made famous in America by Hollywood legend Jack Palance. When Palance refused to travel to London, the director's wife suggested Sean. "The ladies will like him," she said.

A year later, he was alongside Lana Turner - proper Tinsel Town royalty - in the film *Another Time, Another Place*. Her boyfriend, the mobster Johnny Stompanato, reacted badly to rumours of a romance.

He stormed on set and pulled out a gun. Connery grabbed it from his hand and overpowered him, before others stepped in and kicked him off set.

And then came Bond. Producers Cubby Broccoli and Harry Saltzman had acquired the rights to film Ian Fleming's novels and were looking for an actor to portray 007.

Richard Burton, Cary Grant and Rex Harrison were all considered, even Lord Lucan and the BBC's Peter Snow.

It was Broccoli's wife, Dana, who persuaded her husband that Connery had the magnetism and sexual chemistry for the part.

That view was not originally shared by Bond's creator, Ian Fleming. "I'm looking for Commander Bond and not an overgrown stuntman," he insisted.



But Broccoli was right, and Fleming was wrong. The author quickly changed his mind when he saw him on screen. He even wrote a half-Scottish history for the character in some of his later works.

A director friend, Terence Young, took Connery under his wing, taking him to expensive restaurants and casinos; teaching him how to carry himself, so the slightly gauche Scot would pass as a suave and sophisticated secret agent. Connery made the character his own, blending ruthlessness with sardonic wit. Many critics didn't like it and some of the reviews were scathing. But the public did not agree.

The action scenes, sex and exotic locations were a winning formula. The first film, *Dr No*, made a pile of money at the box office. Even abroad it was hugely successful; with President Kennedy requesting a private screening at the White House.

More outings swiftly followed - *From Russia with Love* (1963), *Goldfinger* (1964), *Thunderball* (1965) and *You Only Live Twice* (1967).

It was exhausting and occasionally dangerous. At one point, he was thrown into a pool full of sharks with only a flexi-glass screen for protection. When one of the creatures got through, Connery beat the hastiest of retreats.

There was other work, including Alfred Hitchcock's *Marnie*, and *The Hill*, a drama about a wartime British Army prison in North Africa.

But by the time *You Only Live Twice* was completed, Connery was tiring of Bond and feared being typecast. He turned down *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*, with the role given to Australian actor George Lazenby, whose career never recovered.

Saltzman and Broccoli lured Connery back for *Diamonds Are Forever* in 1971, meeting the actor's demand for a then record \$1.25m fee. Connery used it to set up the Scottish International Education Trust, supporting the careers of up-and-coming Scottish artists. The film had mixed reviews, with some critics complaining the film relied too much on camp humour, a theme that would continue and develop under his successor, Roger Moore.

Connery starred in the Rudyard Kipling tale *The Man Who Would Be King* alongside his great friend Michael Caine, but most of the next decade was spent in supporting roles, such as in *Time Bandits*, or as part of an ensemble cast in films like *A Bridge Too Far*.

Having lost a lot of money in a Spanish land deal, he accepted a lucrative offer to play Bond again, in *Never Say Never Again*. This time 007 was an ageing hero; older, wiser and self-deprecating but ultimately still as hard as nails.



The title was suggested by Connery's wife, who reminded her husband he had vowed "never to play Bond again". He continued to play other parts, winning a Bafta for his performance as William of Baskerville in Umberto Eco's *The Name of the Rose*.

A year later, his performance as a world-weary Irish beat cop, albeit with a definite Scottish accent, in *The Untouchables*, won him an Oscar for best supporting actor.

In *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, he played Harrison Ford's father, despite being only 12 years older. And there was a knowing nod towards James Bond alongside Nicolas Cage in *The Rock*, where he was a British secret agent kept imprisoned for decades.

There was box office success for *The Hunt for Red October*, *The Russia House* and *Entrapment*; although *First Knight* and *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* failed to take off.

And he turned down the role of Gandalf in *The Lord of the Rings* in 2006, declaring himself tired of acting and sick of the "idiots now making films in Hollywood".

He was briefly considered for the role of the gamekeeper in the 2012 Bond film *Skyfall*, but the director, Sam Mendes, wisely felt it would be distracting to have a previous 007 appear with Daniel Craig.

Always hating the Hollywood lifestyle, he preferred to play golf at his homes in Spain, Portugal and the Caribbean with his second wife, Micheline Roqubrune, an artist he had met in Morocco. His previous marriage, to the Australian actress Diane Cilento, had ended in 1975. They had one son, the actor Jason Connery.

Despite his exile, he retained a full throated passion for Scotland, despite once misguidedly endorsing a Japanese blend of whisky. He attributed his short fuse and his "moodiness" to his Celtic genes. "My view is that to get anywhere in life you have to be anti-social," he once said. "Otherwise you'll end up being devoured."

A long overdue knighthood, finally awarded in 2000, was reportedly held up by the Labour government because of his support for Scottish independence.

In truth, his Bond is now a museum piece; the portrayal of women impossibly dated. The action scenes are still thrilling, but the sex too often bordered on the non-consensual. Thankfully, it's been a while since 007 slapped a woman on the backside and forced a kiss. But Connery's performance was of its time, enjoyed by millions of both sexes and gave the silver screen a 20th Century icon.

He leaves behind him a body of work that any actor would be proud of and, not least, a vacancy for the title "Greatest Living Scot".

<https://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-13087132>



Flowers of the Forest

Herman Chambers.....	1930-2020	Felix D. Othon	1929-2007
Clyde Le Roy Scott	1938-2019	William Arnold Butler	1943-2006
Malcolm MacClenaghan.	1924-2019	George Santrizos	1914-2005
Alex Doig	1938-2019	Daniel Stephens	1911-2003
Gordon Scott	1946-2019	David F. McGeary	1940-2002
Alasdair Harding.	2018	Leroy Coulter Pierson	1913-1999
Walter (Skip) W. Hastings	1945-2018	Rev. J.P. Edwards III	1925-1997
Calvert Lawton Crawford	1933-2018	Watson Burns	1996
William Leroy Wilson	1929-2017	James McCracken	1920-1994
Gary D. Stevenson	1949-2017	Alexander W. McTavish	1906-1992
David Mercer	1935-2016	Rev. Howard Perry	1921-1989
Charles Preston Thomson	1940-2015	Wallace Gibson Holt	1919-1989
Donald Calavan-MacRae	1932-2013	James C. C. Wallace.	1926-1989
Edison Alva McFarland II –	1925-2012	Angus Murray	1984
Moton Bryant Holt	1929-2012	Robert Jeffreys	
James C "Jim" Richey	1931-2009	Alec Cowan	
George W. Burns	1925-2008	Tom Ross	
George Eric Martin	1921-2008	Bob MacDonald	
BG Harry McIvor Nicolson	1920-2008	Larry Cameron	
		Shakey Johnson	
		Frank M. Clark	
		Richard Russo	

The Society plants trees in Scotland on behalf of departed brothers of the Society. This is done as a remembrance and contributes to the replanting of the Great Caledonian Forest. Any time you wish you may donate via this link:

<https://treesforlife.org.uk/plant-trees/grove/5067/>



Charitable giving may help you minimize taxes while supporting the causes that are meaningful to you. Please consider making a donation to the Society when estate planning.



<u>Society Board</u>	<u>Calendar</u>	<u>Society Finances</u>
<u>President</u> <u>Bruce Locken</u> <u>Vice President</u> <u>Treasurer</u> <u>Thomas Melton</u> <u>Secretary</u> <u>Chuck Jamison</u> <u>Directors of the Board</u> <u>Chuck Meng</u> <u>Doug Walters</u> <u>Ed Moore</u> <u>James Morgan</u>	<p>*****</p> <p>ALL EVENTS AFTER THE BBQ ARE TENTATIVE DUE TO COVID-19</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Investiture postponed Arden Hilton, West</p> <p>Christmas Party TBD</p> <p>Burns Supper 2021 TBD</p> <p>Spring Tea March 2021</p> <p>Dining In/AGM, June TBA North Ridge Country Club</p> <p>Halfway to Burns Day July TBA</p> <p>Board meetings temporarily being handled online.</p> <p>8890 Roediger Lane, Fair Oaks, 7pm</p>	<p>No changes to report</p>

<https://saintandrewssocietyofsacramento.wildapricot.org>

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