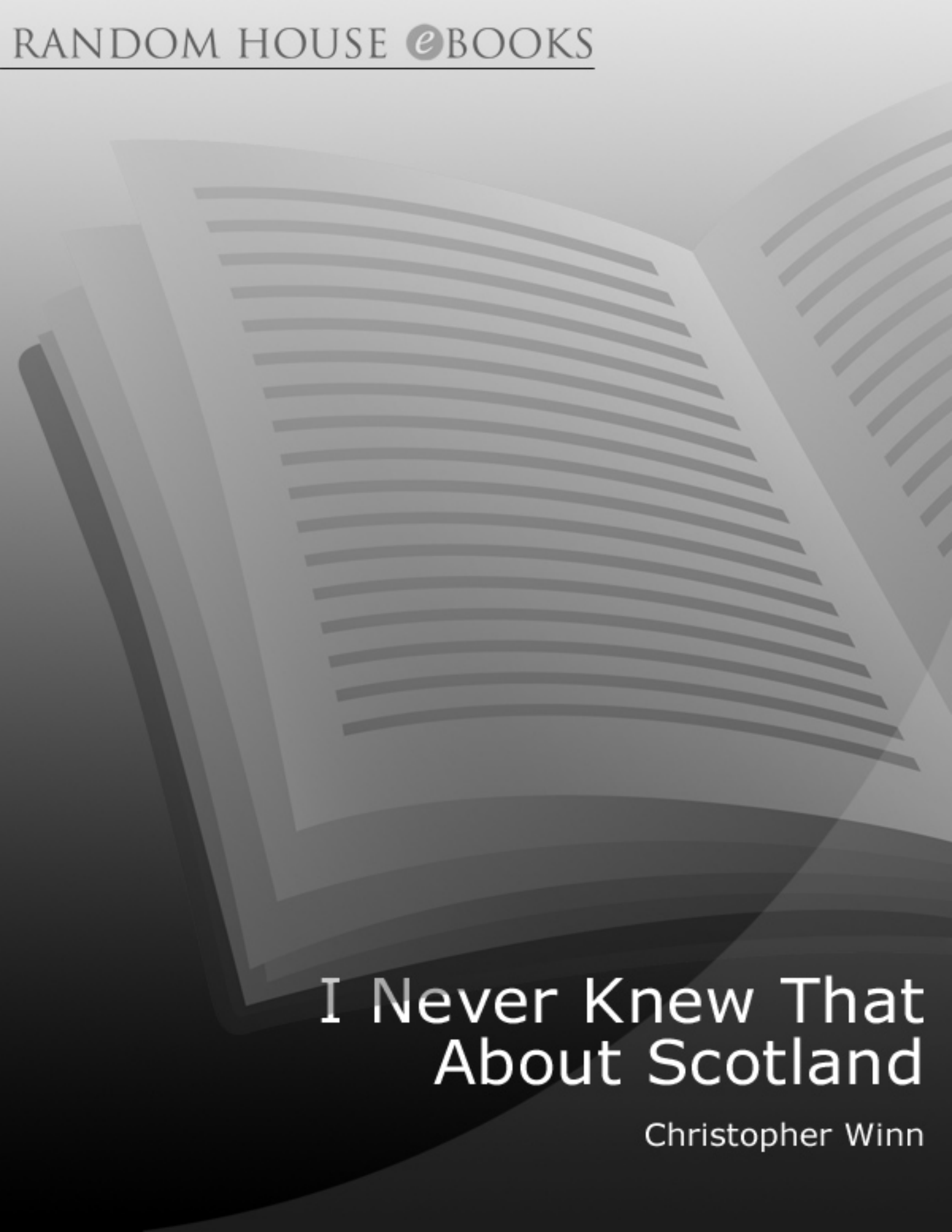


RANDOM HOUSE  BOOKS



I Never Knew That About Scotland

Christopher Winn

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About the Book

Seek out Scotland's secrets in this fascinating miscellany.

Guiding us through the highlands and the islands, the lowlands and the borders, bestselling author Christopher Winn unearths the adventures, firsts, birthplaces, legends and inventions that lie hidden in Scotland's romantic landscape. There is something here for everyone - a real treasure trove of love stories and ghost stories, tragedies and triumphs, villains and victors, as well as a ealth of compelling facts.

Packed with information that will surprise and even delight the expert, this beautifully illustrated book is glinting with hidden gems about this rich and majestic country.

About the Author

Christopher Winn has been a freelance writer and trivia collector for over twenty years. He has worked with Terry Wogan and Jonathan Ross, and sets quiz questions for television as well as for the *Daily Mail* and *Daily Express*. He also produces for theatre and has recently toured with Hugh Massingberd's play, *Ancestral Voices*, about James Lees-Milne. He is the author of *I Never Knew That About England* and *I Never Knew That About Ireland*, both published by Ebury Press.

Christopher Winn

I Never Knew That
ABOUT
SCOTLAND



ILLUSTRATIONS
BY
Mai Osawa



EMORY
PRESS

For Mum and Dad



Perkill Castle, Ayrshire

Preface

'... I feel a sort of reverence in going over these scenes in this most beautiful country ...' So wrote Queen Victoria in 1873 while travelling through Scotland on a visit to her beloved Balmoral. For many people, and for every Scot, Scotland is without doubt the most beautiful country in the world.

There is greater variety and contrast in Scotland than almost anywhere, from the glorious gold and purple heather moorlands of the Borders to the quiet blue and green rivers and woods of the southwest. From the brooding grandeur of Britain's highest mountains, magnificent and stark, to Britain's furthest west and furthest north, the bleak splendour and golden beaches of Scotland's islands, mystical and remote.

Then there are the cities: Edinburgh, 'Athens of the North', home of the world's largest arts festival; Glasgow, workshop of the world and city of culture; Aberdeen, the Granite City, sparkling and oil rich.

The images, the sights and sounds of Scotland are more instantly recognisable and distinctive than those of anywhere else on earth, from tartan and kilts to whisky and bagpipes, Edinburgh Castle and Eilean Donan. Scotland's history is more savage and romantic, her legends and her heroes more colourful and more tragic. William Wallace, Robert the Bruce, Mary Queen of Scots, Bonnie Prince Charlie.

Scottish engineering and ingenuity have built the world. Thomas Blake Glover, the 'Scottish Samurai', drove the industrial development of modern Japan. Major-General Lachlan Macquarie, the 'Father of Australia', turned that

land from a penal colony into a nation. Nine Governors of the original 13 American states were Scots. Canada is the true 'Nova Scotia'. Engineers such as Thomas Telford, the Stevensons, William Arrol and John Loudon McAdam created roads and bridges and harbours. Scottish inventors gave the world the telephone, the bicycle, television, the pneumatic tyre, radar, steam engines, penicillin, savings banks, logarithms and radar.

Scotland bestrides the world of literature; Walter Scott, Robert Burns, James Barrie, Arthur Conan Doyle, Robert Louis Stevenson, JK Rowling, John Buchan, Alastair Maclean.

Scotland may not be big, but her heart, like her landscapes, is mighty. So many different worlds in one small but captivating country. To explore and to discover all of these bewitching and unexpected Scotlands is truly an adventure and a delight.



The Counties of Scotland

I Never Knew That About Scotland is divided into the 33 counties that existed between 1889 and 1974, before the Local Government (Scotland) Act of 1973, which introduced new administrative regions, districts and islands. These vast new units, designed by bureaucrats for their own convenience, mean nothing in terms of history, tradition, loyalties or geographical orientation and hence are of no relevance to a book such as this, which takes its flavour from all of these considerations. The pre-1975 counties grew organically from ancient kingdoms and parishes, are instantly recognisable to most people in Scotland, and are of a manageable and human size.

At various times over the years, some counties took the name of their county town. Angus, for example, was for a while known as Forfarshire, from its county town of Forfar. However, the ancient name of Angus, by which the area had been known for generations, soon re-established itself.

I have also bent the rules slightly when dealing with Scottish islands. Scotland has 787 islands, all of them distinctive and all very different from the mainland. For this reason I have removed the Western Isles from their parent counties and grouped them together in a chapter called The Hebrides. This chapter features stories from Lewis, which belongs to Ross and Cromarty, Skye, Harris, Eriskay, South Uist, Barra and St Kilda, all from Inverness-shire, and Mull, Iona, Jura, Islay and Staffa from Argyll.

The island groups that make up Orkney and Shetland are counties in their own right. Arran, Bute, Great Cumbrae and Little Cumbrae, Inchmarnock and Pladda together make up the county of Buteshire.

ABERDEENSHIRE

COUNTY TOWN: ABERDEEN

Aber Don - 'At the mouth of the Don'
(Celtic or Old British)



Drum Castle, with one of the three oldest tower house keeps in Scotland, is the oldest intact building in the care of the National Trust for Scotland

Aberdeen

'The one haunting and exasperatingly lovable city in Scotland'

LEWIS GRASSIC GIBBON

ABERDEEN, THE GRANITE City, is the old county town, SCOTLAND'S THIRD LARGEST CITY AND SECOND LARGEST FISHING PORT, a holiday resort and the CAPITAL OF EUROPE'S OIL INDUSTRY. When the sun shines after it rains, the whole city glistens like silver as the granite buildings, flecked with mica, sparkle in the light. The pale grey of the granite is agreeably softened with myriad green spaces and glorious

displays of flowers - DUTHIE PARK WINTER GARDENS are THE LARGEST IN EUROPE and Aberdeen has won the Britain in Bloom contest a record ten times.

Aberdeen has been a royal burgh since the reign of David I in the 12th century and the burgh records, dating from 1398, are the oldest in Scotland. There has also been an important harbour here since that time, and Aberdeen's Harbour Board, established in 1136, is THE OLDEST RECORDED BUSINESS IN BRITAIN. Aberdeen is also the home of THE WORLD'S OLDEST DOCUMENTED TRANSPORT COMPANY, The Shore Porters Society of Aberdeen, which was founded in 1498 and is still trading today. Aberdeen now has SCOTLAND'S LARGEST FISH MARKET.

In 1337, Aberdeen was burned to the ground by Edward III. When it was rebuilt it was divided into Old Aberdeen, around the cathedral precincts, and 'New' Aberdeen with the harbour and commerce.

Union Street, the main thoroughfare, runs for one mile (1.6 km) east to west over a series of viaducts above numerous deep watercourses. It was laid out in 1805 to link the north and south of the city and the name commemorates the union of Britain and Ireland in 1801. Although thronged with shops, Union Street has a pleasing uniformity to it thanks to the consistent use of granite and the restrained Georgian design of most of the buildings, and compares favourably with Edinburgh's Prince's Street.

Midway along Union Street is Union Bridge, which takes the road across the Denburn. It was built in 1805 and, with a span of 130 ft (40 m), is THE LARGEST SINGLE-SPAN GRANITE ARCH IN THE WORLD.

Housed in the Old Tolbooth on the north side of Union Street at its eastern end is the infamous Aberdeen Maiden, prototype for the French guillotine. This was used in 1562 to execute Sir John Gordon, a younger son of the 4th Earl of Huntly, in front of a weeping Mary, Queen of Scots.

Further east is the Mercat Cross, regarded as THE FINEST OF ITS KIND IN SCOTLAND. It was put up in 1686 in the marketplace on the site of the now vanished city castle. This was destroyed in 1308 by supporters of Robert the Bruce as they ejected the English garrison of Edward I. Their rallying cry of 'Bon Accord' is now Aberdeen's motto.



A noted Aberdeen landmark is the slender granite spire of ST NICHOLAS KIRK, which soars 195 ft (59 m) into the sky above Union Street. This replaced a wooden one burned down in 1874 and the tower beneath houses A CARILLON OF 48 BELLS, THE LARGEST IN BRITAIN. There has been a church here since at least as far back as the 12th century and St Nicholas was once THE BIGGEST PARISH KIRK IN SCOTLAND but was divided in two, East and West, at the Reformation. The West church was rebuilt in 1763 by James Gibbs, the East in the 19th century. Inside the East Church, in the south transept, is SCOTLAND'S ONLY MEDIEVAL BRASS, bearing an inscription to Sir Alexander de Irwyn, who died in 1457.

The granite from which most of Aberdeen is built comes from the RUBISLAW QUARRY, off Queen's Road to the west of

the city. With a depth of 465 ft (142 m) this was THE DEEPEST QUARRY IN BRITAIN and one of the biggest man-made holes in all of Europe. Granite from here went to make the Forth Bridge, Waterloo Bridge and the terraces of the Houses of Parliament in London, the docks at Southampton and Portsmouth and, further afield, Sebastopol docks and a temple in Japan. Rubislaw closed in 1970 and is now fenced off and partially flooded to a depth of 180 ft (55 m).

ABERDEEN FIRSTS

BRITAIN'S FIRST CHAIR OF MEDICINE was established at the University of Aberdeen in 1497.

In 1784, in Aberdeen's St Andrew's Cathedral, SAMUEL SEABURY was consecrated as AMERICA'S FIRST EPISCOPALIAN BISHOP and THE FIRST ANGLICAN BISHOP OF A DIOCESE OUTSIDE THE BRITISH ISLES. St Andrew's is the Mother Church of the Episcopalian Communion in America.

In 1825, JOHN MOIR of Aberdeen produced THE FIRST CANNED SALMON.

In 1868, *Thermopylae*, THE FASTEST SAILING BOAT EVER BUILT, was launched at Aberdeen.

While on tour in Aberdeen in 1897, MINNIE PALMER became BRITAIN'S FIRST WOMAN CAR OWNER AND DRIVER, when she took possession of a French Rougement.

The maze in Hazlehead Park was planted in 1935 and is THE OLDEST IN SCOTLAND.

In the 1970s, Aberdeen Football Club's Pittodrie became BRITAIN'S FIRST ALLSEATER STADIUM. It was also THE FIRST

STADIUM TO INTRODUCE DUG-OUTS.

Thanks to the oil industry, and the need to travel between the city and the oil rigs out in the North Sea, Aberdeen has THE WORLD'S BIGGEST AND BUSIEST CIVILIAN HELIPORT.

BORN IN ABERDEEN

GEORGE JAMESONE (1588-1644), BRITAIN'S FIRST PORTRAIT PAINTER. His father Alexander built Aberdeen's oldest residential building, PROVOST ROSS'S HOUSE, in 1594.

Robert Davidson (1804-94), chemist and electrical pioneer, educated at Marischal College. In 1839 Davidson built BRITAIN'S FIRST PRACTICAL ELECTRIC MOTORS, used to power a lathe and a small printing machine. He also designed an electric railway locomotive that ran for nearly two miles (3.2 km) at a speed of 4 mph (6.4 kph) on a stretch of the Edinburgh to Glasgow line in 1842, nearly 40 years before the first effective electric railway demonstration by Seimens in 1879.

SIR DAVID GILL (1843-1914), Astronomer Royal for Scotland, educated at Marischal College. In 1868 he took THE FIRST-EVER PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MOON.

'SCOTTY', the engineer from the first *Star Trek* series who spawned the much-quoted catch-phrase 'Beam me up, Scotty', claimed to be a native of Aberdeen in one episode.

Old Aberdeen

A Granite Cathedral, a Medieval Bridge and a Crown Spire

AFTER THE BUSTLE and activity of 'New' Aberdeen, the narrow cobbled streets and winding alleyways of OLD ABERDEEN, a mile to the north, seem eerily quiet, almost comatose. A pleasant walk past elegant 18th-century houses with high stone walls and scented trees leads to ST MACHAR'S, THE ONLY GRANITE MEDIEVAL CATHEDRAL IN THE WORLD, teetering on the edge of a small hill above a park.

The somewhat truncated building we see today is the nave and west end of a 15th-century structure. The great west window, consisting of seven lancets of equal height, is spectacular and unique. Flanking the window are two towers with spires added in 1532. If you are lucky enough to find the cathedral open and awake, the interior is delightfully Romanesque in appearance, with lots of rounded pillars and arches. The colourfully painted heraldic ceiling is unexpected and in striking contrast to the slightly gloomy grandeur.



St Machar was a disciple of St Columba, and was told by God in a dream to leave Iona, go east, and found a church by a river shaped like a bishop's crook, precisely the shape

of the River Don at this point. A short walk north through woods, beside the curve of the river, takes you to THE LOVELIEST MEDIEVAL ARCH IN SCOTLAND, the BRIG O' BALGOWNIE, completed in the early 14th century on the orders of Robert the Bruce.

Back in the heart of Old Aberdeen, the area around King's College, established in 1494 as Scotland's third university, is slightly more lively. Now united with Marischal College as the University of Aberdeen, King's College was founded by the Chancellor of Scotland, Bishop William Elphinstone, who produced SCOTLAND'S FIRST BOOK OF LITURGY, the Aberdeen Breviary, in 1510. The only original building remaining is the Chapel, distinguished by a delicate crown spire, erected in the 17th century in honour of James VI. The interior is a splendid display of SCOTLAND'S FINEST SURVIVING MEDIEVAL WOODWORK, with a great oak screen, choir stalls, misericords, a pulpit out of St Machar's and a magnificent vaulted wooden roof.

Royal Deeside

*'Every year my heart becomes more fixed on this dear
paradise'*

QUEEN VICTORIA

THE RIVER DEE flows for 85 miles (137 km) from the Cairngorms to the North Sea at Aberdeen and is SCOTLAND'S FIFTH LONGEST RIVER. It is also SCOTLAND'S FASTEST-FLOWING RIVER and its source, the Wells of Dee is, at 4,000 ft (1,216 m), THE HIGHEST SOURCE OF ANY RIVER IN BRITAIN.

Queen Victoria first came to the area in 1848 and fell in love with the countryside. Prince Albert purchased the Balmoral estate for her and they made it into their summer home. The Royal Family have been coming ever since, hence the name 'Royal' Deeside.

Kincardine O'Neil

Kincardine O'Neil is THE OLDEST VILLAGE ON DEESIDE. It was here, in 1057, that Malcolm III 'Canmore' was handed the head of Macbeth, his father Duncan's killer, on a plate, after defeating him in battle near Lumphanan, just up the road. On a farmland slope just north of Lumphanan, there is a cairn ringed with trees which is said to mark the spot where Macbeth fell. It is a cold and sorrowful spot, hard to reach, and steeped in melancholy.

Ballater

Ballater is a lovely, small, stone town set amongst hills of pine trees and birch, mostly a 19th-century creation and benefiting as a resort from the nearby springs at Pananich and the presence of royalty at Balmoral. The station at Ballater used to be one of the most recognised in Britain, the backdrop to many a royal arrival or departure. Queen Victoria insisted that the railway should stop here and not be extended further west to Braemar, past Balmoral. The railway line is now closed, but the specially built Victorian wooden station, painted red and cream, must be the prettiest station in Britain, and has been beautifully preserved.



Birkhall

Two miles to the south of Ballater, hidden amongst trees on the west bank of the River Muick, is Birkhall, home of the Duke and Duchess of Rothesay, as Prince Charles and his wife are styled when in Scotland. Built in 1715, it was described by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother as 'a small big house or a big small house'. Prince Albert bought Birkhall from the Gordon of Abergeldie family in 1849 as somewhere for the Prince of Wales, later Edward VII, to stay while his parents were up the road at Balmoral. While Prince Edward was still young, the house was let to the Queen's physician Sir James Clark, who invited Florence Nightingale to come and stay. It was while at Birkhall that Florence, encouraged by Queen Victoria, planned her strategy to go and nurse the troops in the Crimea. Birkhall has been the scene of many royal honeymoons, including that of Prince Charles and Camilla in 2005.

Lochnagar

Views from Ballater are dominated by the three peaks of 'dark Lochnagar', which rises to a height of 3,786 ft (1,154 m) and is now part of the Balmoral estate.

*England, thy beauties are tame and domestic
To one who has roamed over mountains afar
Oh! for the crags that are wild and majestic,
The steep frowning glories of dark Lochnagar.*

Lord Byron whose mother was a Gordon spent school holidays at a farm called Ballaterich, to the east of Ballater, while he was a child growing up in Aberdeen. The words of his famous poem attest to his love of the place. Written in 1807, 'Dark Lochnagar' was set to music by Beethoven, and Queen Victoria was heard to say that she was inspired to come to Deeside after reading Byron's poem.

Balmoral

The Balmoral estate was leased by Queen Victoria in 1848 after the previous owner of the lease, Sir Robert Gordon, brother of the Prime Minister the 4th Earl of Aberdeen, died choking on a fish bone. The Queen bought the estate outright in 1853 and rebuilt the castle to a design heavily influenced by Prince Albert and carried out by William Smith. Today the present Queen spends most of August at Balmoral and, by tradition, invites the Prime Minister of the day to join her for some of that time - being invited to Balmoral can be something of an ordeal for those not suited to hearty outdoor pursuits. The grounds and the castle ballroom can be visited when the Royal Family is not in residence.



Crathie

A short walk away from Balmoral, across the River Dee, is CRATHIE CHURCH, where the Royal Family attend Sunday service. So familiar from a million news-reels, it is much more substantial than it appears on the television.



There has been a centre of worship in Crathie since the 6th century, and the remains of a 14th-century church can be seen across the road in the water-meadows. In the old graveyard next to it are buried many local people who served at Balmoral, including Queen Victoria's ghillie (highland servant) and confidant John Brown (1826-83).

The present church was designed by Marshall Mackenzie, the architect of the Marischal College in Aberdeen. Queen Victoria laid the foundation stone in 1893. The interior is noble indeed for a country Scottish church, with soaring pillars of pale grey granite, beautifully carved woodwork, a fine apse and numerous features donated by various members of the Royal Family over the years. Pride of place goes to the magnificent communion table of white Iona marble given by George V in memory of Edward VII. A cross is cleverly picked out in the light green veining on the central panel.

Braemar

Braemar sits at a height of 1,100 feet (335 m) and is officially THE COLDEST PLACE IN BRITAIN, on two occasions the

site of THE LOWEST TEMPERATURE EVER RECORDED IN BRITAIN – minus 27.2°C (minus 17°F) in 1895 and 1982, and with an average temperature of 6.4°C (43°F).

Malcolm Canmore camped at Braemar in 1057 before his defeat of Macbeth at Lumphanan, and is thought to have held the first Braemar Games as a means of determining which were his most accomplished soldiers. In 1715, the Braemar Gathering was used as a front by the 6th Earl of Mar to assemble his troops and raise the standard for the first Jacobite uprising. A stone commemorating the event stands opposite the Invercauld Arms Hotel at the entrance to the village which stands on the spot where the standard was raised. After the 1745 Jacobite uprising such gatherings were banned for a while, along with other Highland customs such as the speaking of Gaelic and the wearing of kilts. The Games were revived in their present form in 1832 by the Braemar Highland Society, SCOTLAND'S OLDEST FRIENDLY SOCIETY, and they gained royal approval in 1848 when Queen Victoria attended, a tradition maintained by Queen Elizabeth II to this day.

John Brown, Ghillie and Friend

John Brown was born on a farm at Crathie in 1826 and was already employed at Balmoral by the time it was purchased by Queen Victoria. After Prince Albert died the Queen spent much of her time in mourning at Balmoral and came to rely heavily on the strength and sound common sense of Brown, one of the few people who could get through to her in her grief. This upset the somewhat stuffier element amongst her courtiers and politicians who heartily disliked their monarch being influenced by a 'low-born' servant. After the Queen's death, Edward VII, who had been

on the end of many a tongue-lashing from the upright ghillie, gained his revenge by expunging all memory of John Brown from Balmoral, destroying any photographs and trinkets he could find. The statue of Brown that Queen Victoria had erected in his memory outside the garden cottage where she would retire to write, was smuggled out of harm's way to a remote part of the estate behind the dairy, where the King was unlikely to come across it. A pleasant hour or two can be had exploring the grounds of Balmoral trying to find it.

In the summer of 1881, ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON came to stay in a cottage to the south of Braemar and began writing *Treasure Island*.

Braemar boasts BRITAIN'S HIGHEST 18-HOLE GOLF COURSE and is THE HIGHEST PARISH IN BRITAIN, containing within its borders three mountains over 4,000 ft (1,216 m) and 24 Munros - a Munro being a Scottish mountain over 3,000 ft, or 914.4 m ([see Angus](#)).

Craigievar

Disney's Inspiration

OUTSTANDING AMONG ABERDEENSHIRE'S many ravishing castles is Craigievar, regarded by many as the loveliest and most perfect castle in the world. Set in lush gardens on a hillside south of Alford, it was built all of a piece from 1600 to 1626 by William Forbes, a Baltic merchant trader known as 'Danzig Willie'. The castle is as comfortable inside as it is satisfying outside, with twisting, narrow stairways leading to light, warm, wood-panelled rooms, all of a sensible size and all with wonderful views. Outside, the rough, pale pink

walls are haphazardly pierced with deep-set windows, some tiny, some huge, and the eye is drawn ever upwards to where the stark, massive keep erupts into a joyous explosion of turrets and pinnacles, balustrades, gables and corbels. There is simply nowhere else like it, and if you think it looks like something out of a fairytale you are not alone - Walt Disney is said to have drawn the inspiration for his magical castles from Craigievar.



Fraserburgh

Scottish Samurai

FRASERBURGH, EUROPE'S BIGGEST shellfish port, sits on the Buchan coast at the northeast tip of Aberdeen-shire, where the Moray Firth meets the North Sea. It was founded in the 16th century by Sir Alexander Fraser. He constructed a harbour in 1546 and a castle on Kinnaird Head in 1572. In 1787 the castle was converted into SCOTLAND'S FIRST LIGHTHOUSE. Still a vital navigational aid today, the lighthouse is now operated automatically, but the keeper's residence has been preserved as a home for the Museum of Scottish Lighthouses.

Fraserburgh's most famous son is THOMAS BLAKE GLOVER (1838-1911), the 'Scottish Samurai'. At the age of 21, while working for the Jardine Matheson trading company, he found himself in Japan, which was just emerging from 300 years of isolation from the West and eager to expand into an industrial power. Seizing his opportunity, Glover began selling arms and ships from Scotland to the Japanese, at the same time arranging for young Japanese to be smuggled out to Britain to be educated. He brought the first steam locomotive to Japan, developed coal mines and helped to found the Mitsubishi shipyards, the first of the great manufacturing concerns upon which industrial Japan is based. His picture still appears on the label of Kirin Beer, which grew out of a brewery he started. Thomas Blake Glover was a Founding Father of modern Japan and THE FIRST NON-JAPANESE PERSON TO BE AWARDED THE ORDER OF THE RISING SUN. He settled in Nagasaki and, in 1863, built himself a house overlooking the harbour. Glover House is still there and is the setting for Puccini's *Madame Butterfly* - Glover married a Japanese girl called Tsura who wore kimonos decorated with butterflies, and the composer used the story of Glover's life as his inspiration.

BORN IN ABERDEENSHIRE

ALEXANDER GARDEN (1730-91), the botanist after whom the flower Gardenia was named, was born at Birse. He lived most of his life in South Carolina, studying the flora and fauna of Cherokee country, and was responsible for introducing THE FIRST ELECTRIC EEL TO BRITAIN.

PETER WILLIAMSON, or 'Indian Peter' (1730-99), was born at Hirnley farm, near Aboyne on Royal Deeside. While visiting his aunt in Aberdeen he was kidnapped and shipped off to

America, a fate that was not uncommon for unwary children in the 18th century. He settled down and made a life for himself in America but, in 1754, he was again kidnapped, this time by Cherokee Indians. Impressed by his physique they did not kill him, as was customary, but kept him as a slave. After many adventures, including capture by the French, he finally escaped back to Scotland and settled in Edinburgh. He soon became something of a local legend, often to be seen walking the streets in full Cherokee garb. In 1770 he introduced the first 'penny post' to Edinburgh, and the knowledge gained from providing this service enabled him to produce the first Edinburgh Street Directory. Indian Peter's story served as inspiration for the 1970 film *A Man Called Horse*, starring Richard Harris.

BERTIE CHARLES FORBES (1880-1954), the financial journalist and publisher who founded *Forbes Magazine* in 1917, was born in New Deer and emigrated to New York in 1904. Originally buried in New Jersey, his body was brought back to Scotland in 1988 by his son Malcolm and reinterred in the churchyard at New Deer. Bertie Forbes's grandson Steve Forbes ran for President of the United States in 1996 and 2000 on a flat tax platform.

Well, I never knew this

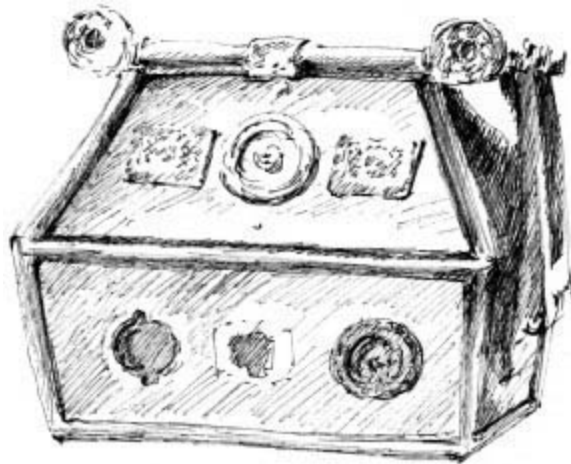
ABOUT

ABERDEENSHIRE

BUCHAN NESS, a rocky peninsula with a lighthouse, off the village of Boddam, 2 miles (3.2 km) south of Peterhead, is SCOTLAND'S MOST EASTERLY POINT.

The great treasure of MONYMUSK PRIORY is a small, 8th-century wooden box, covered in silver, bronze and precious stones, and containing a bone relic of St Columba. Known

as the Monymusk Reliquary, it was a powerful talisman for Scotland's royal armies and was paraded in front of Robert the Bruce's troops before the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. It can now be seen at the Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh.



The picturesque conservation fishing village of PENNAN, on Aberdeenshire's north coast, found fame in 1983 as the setting for Bill Forsyth's cult film *Local Hero*, starring Burt Lancaster. The iconic red telephone box used in the film was only a prop, but the village does possess its own red telephone box, located not far from where the prop stood, and fans of the film seem quite happy to take photographs of this.

The BP pipeline for transferring North Sea Oil from Cruden Bay to Grange-mouth, was opened in 1975 as BRITAIN'S FIRST OIL PIPELINE. Today some 2.5 million gallons of oil are pumped ashore every day through the pipeline, that runs unseen for 130 miles (209 km) under the golden sands of the bay.

Aberdeen's MARISCHAL COLLEGE is THE SECOND LARGEST GRANITE BUILDING IN THE WORLD, after the Escorial in Madrid.