

The River City Caledonian



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Volume 1, Issue 6

July-August 2011

Fun and Sun (but no backyard floods) in the Summer Break

Scottish summers can mean the threat of rain always on the horizon, and swarms of midges interrupting that scenic hike or pleasant picnic on the grass. In Richmond, we have to contend with heat and humidity, but we press on regardless. In that spirit, the annual Scottish Society Picnic was held at the home of Margaret Duckworth on Saturday, June 25th.

Luckily Margaret had recovered sufficiently from a broken arm caused by a fall back in April—and it's to be noted she suffered this injury in the line of Scottish Society duty—looking through her shed for items to contribute to our May yard sale!

The venue couldn't be beat—green foliage overhead, flowers blooming all around, enormous hostas spreading out from their pots all around the back yard. The weather was cooperative (for a change!)—temperatures

stayed in the 80s; though it was a bit cooler in the shade of a spreading Oak.

Though summer can be a tough time to attract a crowd, what with various vacations and other commitments, we had a fair sized crowd, who brought dishes to share, alongside the grilled burgers and hot dogs, and the yummy pulled pork barbecue supplied by David Tiller.

We had good fellowship and conversation; still, this year's picnic was not quite as eventful as last year's, when Margaret's above-ground pool decided forty years of life was enough. This year we did not witness an inland tsunami in North Richmond, though it certainly was the subject of conversation.

If you were unable to join us—we missed you, and hope you can make it next time. But don't wait until next summer to

see us—we'll be starting our programs back up in September (see the story below).

Until then, have a good summer!



Be thankful this is not a typical Virginia summer sight! (Those are nasty, stinging midges, by the way.)

Upcoming Society Activities

It has been tradition in June, July, and August to take a hiatus from our regular meetings. But you can rest assured (hopefully, resting in the shade or a nice, air-conditioned room!) that your Society board is still hard at work arranging the upcoming 2011-12 Society events. You will not want to miss a single one of the monthly meetings,

pub nights, or our annual Burns Dinner.

Plans are still being laid and right now are a bit fluid, but you will assuredly get to experience music, food, and educational programs—but you can't experience it if you aren't there!

As always, we value your input—what would you like to

see, hear, and/or take part in? Let us know if you have suggestions.

We look forward to seeing you in September! Check the September-October newsletter (coming at the end of August) for more concrete details of upcoming events.

Another quiz from www.scotland.org: how much do you know about Scottish popular music? Look for questions throughout the newsletter. Answer key on page 8.

Question 1: Name the Scottish song from the lyric:

"I never saw you look like this without a reason / Another promise fallen through, another season passes by you."
A. "Take Me Out" by Franz Ferdinand
B. "In a Big Country" by Big Country
C. "Dignity" by Deacon Blue

Quiz question 2: Name the Scottish song from the lyric:

"We were all in the news/ With our blue suede shoes/ And our dancing the night away"
A. "Shang-a-lang" by the Bay City Rollers.
B. "Young at Heart" by the Bluebells
C. "Wishing I was Lucky" by Wet Wet Wet



Member News

Birthdays:

Ruben Andrew (July 2), Robert Dejarnette (July 8), Robert Rappold (July 8), Amy MacKay (July 9), Barbara Evans (July 12), Elizabeth Deane (July 13), Cathy Maxwell (July 17), Kaski Lawrence (July 22), Dennis Saidat (July 25), Erik Dillon (July 26), Elsie Nisbet (August 7), Rosemary Day (August 13), Doug Elder

(August 18), Isabel Hodge (August 28)

Get Well Soon:

Best wishes go out to Debbie Calvo and Vance Smith, both recovering from surgery. Also, our best to Tim MacLeod (Batten), who is on the mend after an infection.

Thank you!

To Verda Little Jones, Fay King, Ralph & Anne Sebrell, Dennis Saidat, and David & Dani Tiller, for their cash contributions to our Programs, Events, and Charitable & Educational Funds.

To Jean Menzies Pleasants, who has renewed her membership as a Lifetime Member.

Recipe: Arran Potato Salad

Try a Scottish slant on a summertime favorite:

Ingredients:

10 waxy potatoes, diced
4 ounces (100g) shelled fresh peas (or frozen peas)
4 ounces cooked beetroot (red beets) diced
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
Two teaspoons chopped onion

One teaspoon chopped fresh parsley
Four tablespoons (60ml) salad dressing or salad cream
Fresh parsley to garnish

Method:

Boil the potatoes in salted water for ten minutes or until tender. Drain and pat dry. Cook the peas separately for about five minutes or until tender and then drain. While the vegetables are still warm, mix together and stir in the chopped parsley and onion and season with salt and pepper to taste. Fold in the salad dressing (or salad cream) to moisten, and garnish with sprigs of fresh parsley.



Yard Sale a Success, Looking Forward to More

Our May yard sale to benefit the Scottish Society was a great success. Thank you to those who contributed items and worked at the sale: Rosemary Day, Margaret Duckworth, Joseph Schaub & Melissa Johnson, Bruce & Kathleen Sutton, David & Dani Tiller, Sarah Slutzah, Andy Calvo, Maggie & Jerry MacKay, and Ian Baldwin. We do hope to have another sale on September 17th, so hang onto those items you no longer have any use for, but that someone else might, and contribute toward the September sale. Thanks to Bob Rudden for his contributions toward that next sale.

Remember that all of this is pure profit to the Society, and that the more successful the sale, the more money we can put toward our upcoming programs as well as providing scholarship and or charitable support.

Stay tuned for details on how and where to donate items.

Scottish Society Merchandise—

Just some of the great Scottish Society Merchandise available from Café Press! Go to <http://www.richmondscots.org>, click on “Store,” then click the “SSR Store” button.



U.S. Scottish Events

Summertime is typically a slow one for Scottish events in the Southeastern U.S. One of the biggest, though—the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games—will be July 7-10, Linville, NC. Others around the country:

July 2: Round Hill Scottish Games, Darien, CT

July 17-18: Elizabeth Celtic Festival, Elizabeth, CO

July 30-31: Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games & Clan Gathering, Seattle, WA

August 6: Cape Cod Scottish Festival, Yarmouth Port, MA

August 7: St. Andrews Society of Detroit Highland Games, Southfield, MI

August 7-8: Monterey Scottish Highland Games and Celtic Festival, Del Ray Oaks, CA

August 12-14: Colorado Scottish Festival and Rocky Mountain Highland Games, Denver, CO

August 28: Kalamazoo Scottish Festival, Oshtemo, MI

Good Reading: Alexander McCall Smith

You might already know Alexander McCall Smith for his *No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency* books. However, this prolific author has also written a handful of other series, two of which are set in Edinburgh.

The Sunday Philosophy Club series consists of 7 books featuring the brilliant Isabel Dalhousie, editor of the *Review of Applied Ethics* and sometimes amateur sleuth (or snoop). In the first book, *The Sunday Philosophy Club*, Isabel witnesses a young man's fatal fall from an upper balcony and decides to investigate. But don't expect a traditional "whodunit"; Isabel's "mysteries" are more concerned with character than action. A chance encounter with a heart transplant patient who sees visions that he believes belong to the heart donor, the question of whether an acquaintance's fiancée is marrying him for his money, and a painter's mysterious death on the Isle of Jura make up some of the other plots; At the heart of each are questions about the ethics of human behavior. But it's by no means like reading a textbook; McCall Smith displays great humor and a keen sense of character.

The *44 Scotland Street* series (now in 6 books) was originally written in serial form in *The Scotsman*, and details the lives of the often quirky denizens of an apartment building in Edinburgh's New Town. Lighter and more humorous than the Dalhousie books, it's hard not to get wrapped up in the lives of Pat (now in her second gap year), Matthew the feckless art dealer, handsome but conceited Bruce, Bertie the brilliant 6-year old who just wants to be a regular boy, Cyril the dog, and others. Both series are terrific reads.

Alexander McCall Smith was born in what is now Zimbabwe. He earned his Ph.D. in law at Edinburgh University before going on to an academic career. He currently lives in Edinburgh, and as an amateur bassoonist is co-founder and member of the Really Terrible Orchestra. He is also the author of two other series of fiction, collections of short stories, academic works, and over 30 children's books.

Quiz question 3: Name the Scottish song from the lyric:

"Gentlemen time please, you know we can't serve anymore/ Now the traffic lights change to stop, when there's nothing to go."

- "Nothing Ever Happens" by Del Amitri
- "I Don't Need a Lover" by Texas
- "500 Miles" by The Proclaimers

Have you paid your 2011-12 Society Dues? Please send your annual dues to treasurer Maggie Mackay if you have not already—we need your continued support to exist!



Alexander McCall Smith



University
of
St Andrews

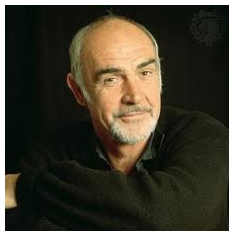


Quiz question 4: Name the Scottish song from

the lyric:

"Everything is open/ Nothing is set in stone/ Rivers turn to oceans/ Oceans tide you home."

- A. "New Shoes" by Paolo Nutini
- B. "Loaded" by Primal Scream
- C. "Driftwood" by Travis



Happy 600th, St. Andrews

2011 marks the 600th anniversary of the University of St Andrews in Fife, Scotland's first university and the third oldest in the English speaking world.

Over six centuries it has established itself as one of Europe's leading centres for education and research - and most recently, of course, it was the place where Prince William met his future wife.

The history of university education in Scotland goes back to the earliest days of the European Renaissance. Independently minded artists and thinkers were re-examining the Greek and Roman Classics which had begun to flow back into the West from the Muslim world, preserved in Arabic translations throughout Europe's Dark Ages.

In 1413 Pope Benedict XIII issued a Papal Bull awarding university status to the ex-

isting school at St Andrews Cathedral, making it the first university in Scotland and one of only 24 in the world at the time.

St Andrews is consistently judged as world-class for teaching and research and is consistently placed as the top university in Scotland. It is currently ranked as the third best university in the UK, according to annual league tables produced by The Times, Sunday Times and The Guardian. The Times Higher Education World Universities Ranking named St Andrews among the world's Top 20 Arts and Humanities universities in 2010. It has maintained strong links with leading academic institutions in the United States and Canada, including members of the Ivy League.

St Andrews has a diverse student body and cosmopolitan character due to

(from www.scotland.org)

more than 30 per cent of its students being from well over 100 countries - 15 per cent of the current student body coming from North America.

As part of a weekend of celebrations 600th anniversary, Historic Scotland have planned a series of events giving insight into the experience of medieval pilgrims and other historical figures over the centuries.

"St Andrews is now known around the world as the place where Prince William met his future bride, but it was also the central focus of Scotland's religious power for centuries and as such was the chosen location for Scotland's first university founded in 1413. This is a great opportunity to discover what led up to the founding of the University and the turbulent events that followed."

July and August in Scottish History

July 1, 1999: The reconvened Scottish Parliament was officially opened.

July 6, 1747: Native born Scot and American naval hero John Paul Jones was born in Kirkcudbrightshire.

July 7, 1814: Sir Walter Scott's novel *Waverley* was published.

July 11, 1274: Robert, the Bruce (later King Robert I) was born.

July 21, 1796: Robert Burns, Scotland's national bard, died in Dumfries.

August 6, 1881: Sir Alexander Fleming, developer of penicillin, was born in Ayrshire.

August 11, 1892: Poet Christopher Murray Grieve (who published under the name Hugh MacDiarmid) was born in Langholm

August 15, 1057: Scottish monarch, MacBeth, was killed in battle at Lumphanan.

August 23, 1305: Sir William Wallace was executed in London.

August 25, 1930: Actor Sean Connery was born in the Fountainbridge area of Edinburgh.

Celebrating the One o'clock Gun

(from www.scotland.org)

Its loud boom has startled many a visitor to Scotland's capital city. But generations of Edinburgh locals have set their watches by it. Now, Edinburgh's historic One o'clock Gun is set to celebrate its 150th anniversary.

The historic gun fires daily apart from on Sundays from Edinburgh Castle. It was first fired from Edinburgh Castle on June 7, 1861, and has continued ever since, six days a week, except during the two World Wars.

The Gun is timed to coincide perfectly with the Time-Ball, a large white ball which is raised above the Nelson Monument on Calton Hill that drops at exactly one o'clock. Together, the One o'clock Gun and the Time-Ball provide a time signal for shipping in the Firth of Forth and the Port of Leith. The Rt. Hon George Grubb, Lord Lieutenant and Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh said: "Edinburgh's One o'clock Gun is famous all over the world and this 150th anniversary is a very special milestone for the city. "People have been setting their clocks – and even ships' clocks – by the gun's firing for generations."

The gun was originally a 64-pounder cannon. It is now a L118 Light Gun. Commanding Officer of 105th Regiment Royal Artillery (Volunteers) Lieutenant Colonel Chris Huthwaite said:

"The One O'Clock Gun which is provided by the 105th Regiment at Edinburgh Castle is an intrinsic part of the City's fabric; which has been echoing across the urban landscape of Edinburgh for 150 years."

Edinburgh Castle hosts a permanent exhibition about the One O'Clock Gun. It was created by the One o'clock Gun and Time Ball Association in collaboration with Historic Scotland.

Ruth Parsons, Chief Executive of Historic Scotland said: "It is wonderful to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the One o'clock Gun, which is not only an iconic Edinburgh institution, but is a global attraction, celebrating Edinburgh's maritime history and heritage."



Firing of the One O'Clock Gun

Quiz question 5: Name the Scottish song from the lyric:

"Electrical banana/ Is gonna be a sudden craze/ Electrical banana/ Is bound to be the very next phase."

- A. "Why Does it Always Rain on Me?" by Travis
- B. "Reflections of My Life" by the Marmalade
- C. "Mellow Yellow" by Donovan



Guard at Edinburgh Castle

Quiz question 6: Name the Scottish song from the lyric:

"Well I don't know why I came here tonight/ I got the feeling that something ain't right."

- A. "Morning Train" by Sheena Easton
- B. "Vienna" by Ultravox
- C. "Stuck in the Middle" by Gerry Rafferty

The Darien Scheme

(text taken from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darien_scheme)



This July 14 marks the anniversary of one of the greatest economic disasters in Scottish history, the Darien Scheme.

The late 17th century was a difficult period economically for Scotland. The country's economy was relatively small, its range of exports limited, and Scotland was in a weak political position in relation to the great powers of Europe. With several ruinous civil wars in the late 17th century the 1690s also saw several years of wide-scale crop failure, which brought famine and led to this period being referred to as the "ill years." This only helped to further exacerbate the deteriorating economic position of Scotland. In response, a number of remedies were enacted by the Parliament of Scotland: one of which involved the Company of Scotland's charter to trade with "Africa and the Indies".

The Company of Scotland now became involved with the Darien scheme, an ambitious plan devised by Scottish trader and financier William Paterson to establish a colony on the Isthmus of Panama in the hope of establishing trade with the Far East and the mineral rich European colonies of the west coast of the Americas.

The Company of Scotland raised subscriptions in Amsterdam, Hamburg and London for the scheme. The Government of King William III, however, was opposed to the idea. It was at war with France and did not want to offend Spain which claimed the territory. It was also under pressure from the English East India Company, who were keen to maintain their monopoly over English foreign trade. It therefore forced the English and Dutch investors to withdraw. Next, the East India Company threatened legal action on the grounds that the Scots had no authority from the king to raise funds outside the English realm, and obliged the promoters to refund subscriptions to the Hamburg investors. This left no source of finance but Scotland itself.

Returning to Edinburgh, the Company raised 400,000 pounds sterling in a few weeks (equivalent to roughly £40 million in 2007, with investments from every level of society, and totaling roughly a fifth of the wealth of Scotland. Paterson – virtually penniless – had been given £25,000 to buy stores but when £8000 went missing, the company took back his stock and expelled him from the Court of Directors.

The first expedition of five ships set sail from Leith on 14 July 1698, with around 1,200 people on board. The journey round Scotland while kept below deck was so traumatic that some

colonists thought it comparable to the worst parts of the whole Darien experience. Their orders were *to proceed to the Bay of Darien, and make the Isle called the Golden Island ... some few leagues to the leeward of the mouth of the great River of Darien ... and there make a settlement on the mainland.* After calling at Madeira and the West Indies, the fleet made landfall off the coast of Darien on 2 November. The settlers christened their new home "New Caledonia".

Agriculture proved difficult and the local Indian tribes, although hostile to Spain, were unwilling to buy the combs and other trinkets offered by the colonists. Most serious was the almost total failure to sell any goods to the few passing traders that put in to the bay. The stifling atmosphere, along with other causes, led to a large number of deaths in the colony. Eventually the mortality rate rose to ten settlers a day. Although local Indians brought gifts of fruit and plantains these were appropriated by the leaders and sailors who largely remained onboard ship. There was a lack of food mainly due to a high rate of spoilage caused by improper stowing; at the same time King William had instructed the Dutch and English colonies in America not to supply the Scots' settlement so as not to incur the wrath of the Spanish Empire. After eight months the colony was abandoned in July 1699, apart from six men who were too weak to move. Deaths continued on the ships, those who managed to survive the journey and returned home found themselves regarded as a disgrace to their country and even disowned by their families.

Only 300 of the 1,200 settlers survived and only one ship managed to return to Scotland. A desperate ship from the colony that called at the Jamaican city of Port Royal was refused assistance on the orders of the English government, which feared antagonizing the Spanish.

Word of the first expedition did not reach Scotland in time to prevent a second voyage of more than 1,000 people. Disease and conflict with the Spanish ended this second foray.

The failure of the Darien scheme has been cited as one of the motivations for the 1707 Acts of Union. According to this argument, the Scottish establishment realized that it could never be a major power on its own and that if it wanted to share the benefits of England's international trade and the growth of the English Empire, then its future would have to lie in unity with England.

Quiz Question 7: Name the Scottish song from the lyric:

"Once in a lifetime/ You live and love/ Once in a lifetime/ You die."

- A. "Caledonia" by Dougie Maclean
- B. "Black-eyed Boy" by Texas
- C. "Protect and Survive" by Runrig

Quiz question 8: Name the Scottish song from the lyric:

"I walk into an empty room/ And suddenly my heart goes 'boom'"

- A. "Baker Street" by Gerry Rafferty
- B. "There Must be an Angel" by Annie Lennox
- C. "Many of Horror" by Biffy Clyro

Clan Profile: Clan Gunn

Back to the far north for this issue's profiled clan.

The Clan Gunn claims direct descent from Gunni, grandson of Sweyn Asleifsson, the "Ultimate Viking" and hero of the Orkneyinga Saga. Clan Gunn is also descended from the Norse "Jarls", or Earls of Orkney through Gunni's wife Ragnhild, who was granddaughter and eventual heiress of St. Rogvald, Jarl of Orkney. Through Ragnild's father Erik Staybrails, the senior heir of Moddan of Dale, the Clan also descends from the ancient Celtic Mormaers or High Stewards of Caithness. The princial Gunn lands were acquired through Ragnhild who inherited great estates in Caithness and Sutherland in 1198 on the death of her brother Harold Ungj, Jarl of Orkney and Caithness. These lands were inherited by Snaekoll Gunni's son, the second chief of the Clan.

By the thirteenth century the Gunns were at the height of their powers and appear to have possessed the whole of Caithness. Little is known of the Clan during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. There is, however, some interesting evidence to indicate that Sir James Gun, Chief of the Clan Gunn, may have accompanied Henry Sinclair of Orkney on his reputed expedition to the New World, some ninety years before Columbus claimed to have discovered America. An effigy of a mediaeval Knight

in armour, reputed to be Sir James Gun is cut into a rock face at Westford, Massachusetts.

During the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries there were many skirmishes between the Gunns and their neighbours the Sinclairs, the Keiths and others who had obtained grants of land from the Scottish kings who were anxious to increase their influence over the fringes of their kingdom. As a result the Gunns were gradually disposed of their lands in the more fertile parts of Caithness. By the mid fifteenth century Gunn of Ulbster, Chief of Clan Gunn and Crouner of Caithness held his main lands at Ulbster and Clyth. He established his main seat at Halberry Head on the East Coast of Caithness, a mile south of Snaekoll, Gunni's son's Castle at Bruan.

With a view to ending the long standing conflict between the Gunns and the Keiths, a reconciliation was arranged to take place at the Chapel of St. Tears near Ackergill Tower, owned at the time by the Keiths. Each Clan had agreed to bring twelve men to the parley but the Keiths treacherously brought two men on each horse and overcame the Gunns. A son of the Chief of the Gunns escaped and later wreaked vengeance on the Keiths by killing the Keith chieftain as he drank to his Clan's victory in the Castle of Dirlot near Westerdale.

In 1978 the Earl of Kintore, Chief of Clan Keith, and Iain Gunn of Banniskirk, Commander of the Clan Gunn signed a Treaty of Friendship between the two Clans at the site of the Chapel, thus bringing to an end a five hundred year old feud.

With the death of the Crouner and his sons at Ackergill, the Clan split into three main branches

James, (Saumas) the Crouner's eldest son survived the battle, and settled in Kildonan, Sutherland where he obtained lands from the Earl of Sutherland. Robert the second surviving son established his line in Braemore in the Southern heights of Caithness as Robson or Caithness Gunns. John the third surviving son, settled in Cattaig in Strathmore in the higher reaches of the River Thurso near Westerdale.

From that time, the majority of the Clan occupied the highland regions of Caithness in what are now the Parishes of Latheron, Halkirk and Reay.

(from www.clangunnsociety.org)



**Iain Gunn of Banniskirk
Commander, Clan Gunn**

Quiz question 9: Name the Scottish song from the lyric:

"I've looked at the ocean/
Tried hard to imagine/
The way you felt the day you sailed/
From Wester Ross to Nova Scotia"

- "This is the Life" by Amy Macdonald
- "Boston Tea Party" by the Sensational Alex Harvey Band
- "Letter from America" by The Proclaimers

Quiz question 10: Name the Scottish song from the lyric:

"I wish I was the brakeman/
on a hurtlin fevered train/
crashin head long into the heartland/
like a cannon in the rain."

- "American English" by Idlewild
- "Fisherman's Blues" by the Waterboys
- "Suddenly I See" by KT Tunstall

**THE SCOTTISH
SOCIETY OF
RICHMOND,
VIRGINIA**
P.O. Box 1264
Glen Allen, VA 23060

Visit us on the Web. And don't forget: You can order Scottish Society logo gear from our website—caps, shirts, mugs, bags, and more!

<http://www.richmondscots.org>



**Visit our Facebook page,
too!**

Quiz Answer Key:

- 1.B
- 2.A
- 3.A
- 4.C
- 5.C
- 6.C
- 7.C
- 8.B
- 9.C
- 10.B

How you rate:
0-3: Oh dear, you failed to even make the Top 40.
4-7: Not bad; keep trying and chart success could be yours.
8-10: Congratulations! You're a real chart topper.

Scotland's Jazz Festivals: Edinburgh Jazz and Blues

Festival
Lagavulin Islay Jazz Festival
Glasgow International Jazz Festival
Kirkcudbright Jazz Festival
Callander jazz and Blues Festival
Aberdeen Jazz Festival
Dundee Jazz Festival
Lockerbie Jazz Festival

The Scottish Society of Richmond was founded in 1978 for the purpose of sharing ideals of Scottish heritage. It provides a gathering place for those with an interest in Scotland, educational programs and events on Scottish themes, as well as scholarships and awards for those studying Scottish arts and culture.

The Society meets the 3rd Thursday of each month, September through May, 7:00 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church (903 Forest Avenue, Richmond).

Scotland: Home of ... Jazz?

(from www.scotland.org)

Scotland is bursting with talented jazz and blues artists and plays host to vibrant festivals in some unusual, and offbeat locations.

From large scale events in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee to the 'best wee jazz festival in Scotland' on the island of Islay, each showcases the cream of Scottish and international talent.

World-class festivals attract world-class artists. Past guests include American stars Roy Hargrove, Dick Hyman, the Manhattan Ragtime Orchestra, Bad Plus and Lightning' Willie. Denmark's Ibrahim Electric and Sinne Eeg. France's Les Doigts de l'Homme and Norway's Froy Aagre Quartet, to name but a few.

Here's a small selection of some of the highlights of Scotland's eclectic jazz festival calendar.

Glasgow

The Glasgow International Jazz Festival celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. Founded in the years before the city's inauguration as European City of Culture in 1990 it is one of the many

musical reasons why Glasgow also achieved UNESCO: City of Music status back in 2008. It features more than 500 performers in 80 gigs at 24 venues around the city. It has played host to some of the greatest jazz and blues stars in history. The list includes; Miles Davis, Herbie Hancock, Dizzie Gillespie, Tony Bennett, BB King and Nina Simone.

This year the Glasgow Jazz Festival is going to have Cleo Laine, Michel Legrand, Courtney Pine, Lee Konits, Tomasz Stanko, the Ryan Quigley Big Band, Martin Taylor and Carole Kidd.

Edinburgh

The Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival is Britain's largest jazz festival. Now in its 33rd year, the festival is renowned for its diverse mix of artists and venues and is much loved by locals and visitors alike. With performances in mixed venues – from intimate salons, to vast concert halls, street parties and parks. It hosts all styles from traditional to the avant garde, from established artists to rising stars.

Priding itself on its cutting edge programme, festival goers can expect to see new collaborations and world premieres.

Islay

From the largest to one of the smallest. The Lagavulin Islay Jazz Festival is truly unique with the whole of the Hebridean island as its stage. Reviews of previous festivals have raved about the 'intoxicating' ambience. There are 17 concerts over three days, ranging from a barbecue on the beach at Port Charlotte to the sounds of a saxophone quartet, modern jazz in a traditional stag's head-adorned room at Islay House, a concert in the aromatic sheds at the Bunahabhain distillery, or a walk out to the hide at Gruinard to watch some of the island's rare bird species. Previous years have seen performances from award-winning jazz vocalist Niki King, Scottish saxophonist Laura Macdonald and collaborations between Norwegian musicians Frode Haltli (accordion) and Trygve Seim (saxophonist).