

# Grass Roots Effort to Save Fatlips

Gemma Barnard, a Master's candidate in Heritage studies at Newcastle University, is leading a campaign to save Fatlips Castle. Gemma grew up in the Borders around Bedrule. She grew up with a view of Fatlips Castle. She often did and still does climb to the top where she enjoys the magnificent view of the valley where she was raised. What she no longer enjoys is the condition of Fatlips Castle. The roof is almost completely destroyed, water damage is beginning to show, parts are crumbling and she fears that before long there will not be much to look up and see.

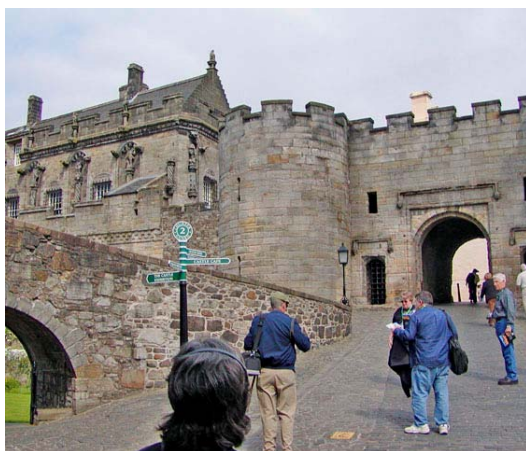
Gemma is campaigning for the restoration of Fatlips Castle. And she is doing so with a passion. She will talk to anyone who will listen. She is determined to make a difference. Gemma says "It is an icon in our community and it's a shame it's in its current state – it hardly has roof now. For my undergraduate degree, the subject of my dissertation was Fatlips Castle. So I have a strong interest in the castle and I will do anything I can to help in its restoration."

## Scotland! - Is there anywhere else?

By contributing writer Kim Trimble

So, we went to visit the Fatherland, or the Motherland, or "The Old Country," whichever you may prefer. Personally, I like to call it HOME. Scotland, what a country! Ancient, yet new. Old, but young. Vibrant! From the modern airport to the narrow winding streets of Edinburgh the entire place fairly drips with history. There is but one word to even come close to describing my feelings about the experience: WOW! Long have I dreamed of going to Scotland, and now that it's over I wonder if I dreamed the whole trip.

After twelve hours on planes and four hours waiting between flights we landed in Edinburgh, exhausted but so happy to be there, full of energy. Let's go. Scotland even *smells* wonderful. A quick shuttle to the hotel and we were ready for discovery. Since we could not check in for several hours we dumped the luggage and set out to find Scotland.



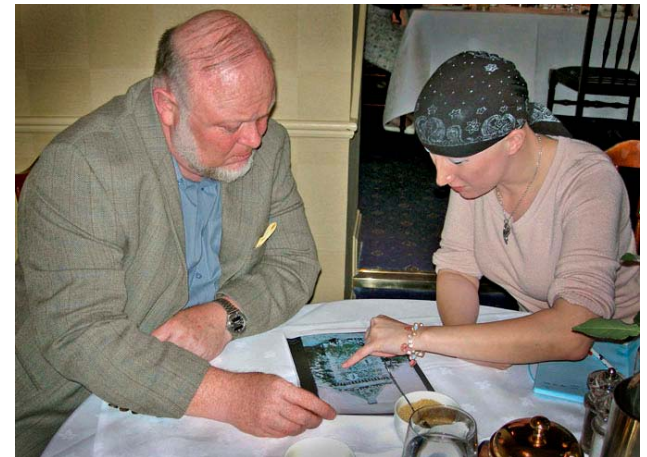
Uphill climb to Stirling Castle Photo by Kim Trimble

The architecture there is incredible, ancient next to contemporary. I was a tourist; I stood in the middle of the street and took pictures.

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The first thing that I noticed is that everything in Scotland is uphill. It doesn't matter where you are, wherever you want to go is uphill. Great exercise.

I immediately started taking pictures of the buildings. Everything in America is so new by comparison.



Gemma shows Wally Turnbull, President TCA, some areas where potential damage could weaken Fatlips structure.

Fatlips was once a Turnbull stronghold and dates back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. It was restored and used as a shooting gallery and museum, but fell into disrepair in the 1970's. While restoration is a massive undertaking, Gemma believes that it is a possibility. She is committed to working with the current owner in raising funds and getting the work done. "Fellow campaigners, supporters and I would do the work and act on his behalf because restoring the castle would be huge task for one person alone," states a determined Gemma.

*"By the power vested in me, I now pronounce you an official Turnbull,"* Wally Turnbull says as he makes Gemma Barnard an honorary clan member. Gemma joined the Turnbull tour at Fatlips to talk about its history and disrepair and need for attention.



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## From the President

by Wally Turnbull

We like to save things. It is not difficult to get people to rally around the cause to save the \_ you fill in the blank. Saving the past is one way we fight change. Saving brings out the hero in us. By saving something that has been enjoyed by others for many years we not only give value to what is being saved we also give value to those who have saved it thus far for us to enjoy.



Fatlips needs to be saved for all of these emotional reasons but it also needs to be saved simply because it is worth saving. Fatlips, an icon of the Scottish Borders, has long stood prominently against the Teviotdale skyline. It is a landmark and a point of reference. It has been a favorite hiking and picnic destination for years. With Fatlips on one side, Ruberslaw on the other, and the Teviot running down the middle there is absolutely nowhere that is more Scottish.

The view from Fatlips across the Teviot Valley towards Ruberslaw and Bedrule is breathtaking. One can easily imagine the emotions of joy, pride, and responsibility of the ancient Turnbells as they guarded their lands from this fortified crag. They must have felt like Adam and Eve in their beautiful garden enjoyed as stewards of a sacred trust.

Today that stewardship trust belongs to all of us. Fatlips is part of the landscape and it is part of our heritage. It needs to be saved not just because we like to save things but because it is the right thing to do.

## Sharing and Caring

Please remember Yvonne Turnbull in your thoughts and prayers. During the past year Yvonne has lost her mother-in-law, step-mother, brother, aunt, two close friends and now, this month, her father.

### BULLSEYE - A Turnbull Clan Publication

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### Turnbull Clan Association

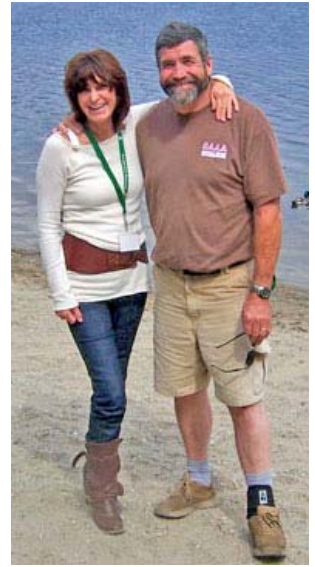
**Officers:** Wally Turnbull, President • Brian Turnbull, Vice-President  
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## Meet the Member

I was born Roberta Lynne Turnbull, but my grandfather thought I was a "bonnie" lassie, and the name stuck! My father, Robert Fenwick Turnbull, was the oldest of 6 sons born to Henry Wood Turnbull and his wife Gwendolyn Jane (Britton) in Blackhill, Consett, a small town outside Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England. My grandparents were hard working, both holding many jobs at once to support the large family of 8 during the depression raging in England. In April of 1929, when my dad



Bonnie with her cousin Jef Turnbull - Loch Lomond

was 17 and the baby not quite 2, they made the bold decision to move to America..... only to have the Great Depression hit in October! Now, we all know you can't keep a good Turnbull down, so with diligence, hard work, integrity, and luck, all 6 boys made a new beginning and a good life.

Raised by my father and grandparents in Pittsburgh, PA, I was fortunate to attend Mt. Lebanon High School, known for its excellence in academics, sports, and fine arts. I earned a scholarship to Saturday art classes at Carnegie Mellon, attending from 5th through 12th grade. Learning to sew at age 10, I started by making clothing for my dolls, but by 6th grade, I was making many of my own clothes. While my peers were watching Bandstand, I was hooked on old movies.....fascinated by the clothes! I attribute my background in art, my love for old movies, and my ability at clothing construction to ultimately leading me to becoming a Costume Designer for television. Starting in 1985, I assisted on several TV shows until given a break to design "Townies", starring Molly Ringwald, Jenna Elfman, and Lauren Graham. My favorite job of all time was designing "Dharma & Greg," not only because of the visual diversity of its characters, but because I actually made an impact on fashion. This last year, I designed a show called "The Class" for CBS. We were hopeful, but ultimately, we were not picked up for a second season. My profession has its ups and downs, but I can honestly say, I love what I do, and I'm glad my grandmother taught me to sew!

I live in Los Angeles. I was married for over 20 years to Jim Nipar, a recording engineer who recorded some great music legends; Ringo Starr, Joe Walsh, Rita Coolidge, to name a few. I have a daughter Brooke 28, who lives in NYC. ([www.brookenipar.com](http://www.brookenipar.com)) She is a photographer, the photo editor for Missbehave Magazine, and my pride and joy. I love to garden, cook, dance, hike, see films, theater and ballet...and will always maintain my rock n roll spirit.



## UPCOMING GAMES & EVENTS

### USA Games – Attend one in your area!

**August 4** St Andrew's Society of Detroit Games Livonia, MI  
 Spokane Highland Games Spokane, WA  
**August 6** Celtic Harvest Festival Houston, TX  
**August 11-12** CO Scottish Festival & Rocky Mountain Highland Games Denver, CO  
**August 11** Central New York Scottish Games Syracuse, NY  
**August 18** Olympia Scottish Games Festival Olympia, WA  
 Maine Highland Games Portland, ME  
 Amherst Scottish Festival & Games Amherst, NY  
**August 18-20** Lewisburg Celtic Legends Lewisburg, PA  
**August 18-19** Celtic Feis Geneva-on-the-Lake, OH  
**August 25** Quechee Scottish Festival Quechee, VT  
 Long Island Scottish Games Old Westbury, NY  
 Kalamazoo Scottish Festival Galesburg, MI  
 Cortland Celtic Festival Cortland, NY  
 Celtic Highland Games of the Quad Cities Davenport, IA  
**Aug. 31- Sept. 2** Wisconsin Highland Games Waukesa, WI  
 For a complete list of games worldwide visit:  
<http://www.usscots.com>

### Canada – Attend one in your area!

**August 3-4** Glengarry Highland Games Glengarry, ON,  
**August 6** Montreal Highland Games Montreal, QC  
**August 9-13** The Hector Festival Pictou, NS  
**August 10-12** Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games Fergus, ON  
**August 17-18** Saskatoon Highland Games Saskatoon, SK  
**August 25** North Lanark Highland Games Almonte, ON

### Scotland

**August 4** Dundonald Games, Kilmarnock  
 North Berwick Highland Games, North Berwick, Edinburgh  
**August 5** Bridge of Allan Highland Games, Stirling  
**August 9-12** The Border Gathering, Dumfries  
**August 12** Perth Highland Games, Perth  
**August 19** Crieff Highland Gathering, Crieff, Perth  
**August 26 – 27** Falkirk Wheel Highland Games, Falkirk  
 For a complete list of Scottish Games visit:  
[http://www.albagames.co.uk/Highland\\_games2000.htm#Games](http://www.albagames.co.uk/Highland_games2000.htm#Games)

### Australia

**August 25** Toukley Gathering of the Clans NSW, Australia



Derick Bonewitz (right) says: The most amazing coincidence occurred. The only other person at the dinner in Denholm (Scotland trip 2007) to wear the same tartan as my rental outfit (National Scotland tartan) was Derek Turnbull. Not spelled the same, but close enough.

## Effort to Save Fatlips

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The BBC recently called Gemma “a local hero.” She says, “The next step in my campaign is to get even more support. People have contacted me, and have sent photos of the castle, and others have asked me about visiting it.” Gemma climbs up to Fatlips on a weekly basis just to check on her beloved landmark. Gemma has established a website where you can have your name added to the growing list of those who care about Fatlips. She asks that as many as possible sign up now. The more names she has, the stronger her cause. This is a significant part of Turnbull history in the Borders. For more information and to add you name to those who want to see Fatlips restored go to <http://www.rulewater.com/friendsoffatlips.htm>



Left: an old photo of Fatlips with roof in tact. Right: June, 2007 showing the current state of disrepair of the roof. Water and weather damage are taking their toll on this historic monument and icon of the Borders. (right: Photo by Kitty Turnbull.)



Bullseye, September, 1980: **"HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the U.S .Branch.... August, 1980, we became one year old.. To borrow a phrase, "You've come a long way baby".** (And just look as us now!)

**Happy Birthday**



Adrienne Black, Mary K. William Ledgerwood, Janet Schwierking, Dollar, Rowena Turnbull Adriana Rosado Bonewitz, Peter William Magrecki, Kathie Shilipetar, Rule, Mary Regina Turnbull, Cynthia John R. Turnbull, Jr., John C. Parham, John Turnbull, III

Turnbull, Gregory Turnbull, Glenice Biernat, Paula Turnbull, Eleanor Jane Turnbull, Kenneth M. Turnbull, Louis Todd Marot, Jimmie Jean Bowman, Jan Swinton,



## Scotland...Is there anywhere else?

(continued from page 1)

The cobblestone streets wander carelessly, winding their way through the city. Shops of every sort abound and the folks are friendly and eager to assist visitors in finding their way around.

Officially the tour started with a welcome reception at the Apex International Hotel. We were all introduced, then after spending a couple of hours getting to know one another went to our rooms for a night's rest before the whirlwind began.

The following week was a blur of activity with not a moment wasted. There were close to fifty Turnbells from around the world that joined the tour. By the second day, it was as if we'd known each other for ever. A family reunion extraordinaire.

Exploring Scotland in a week is an impossibility, yet with Betty Turnbull's careful choreography there isn't much that was missed. We traveled in luxury, nice new tour buses. There were wonderfully knowledgeable guides. For me it was the perfect introduction to the Scottish landscape.

Some of the highlights include a tour of Stirling Castle on Monday. Stirling Castle is highly significant to Scottish history. It is a magnificent structure that reflects the architecture of the time. Huge and impressive it makes one wonder how the folks of the time accomplished such construction.



The weaving of tartan at Lochcarron Mill. Photo by Kim Trimble

We also toured Lochcarron Mills and watched tartans being woven and finished. It was fascinating to watch the fabric flow from the looms, the tartan emerging before our eyes.

The really interest part though was the room where several women inspected the cloth and repaired any flaws. It's meticulous work that requires a trained eye and fine skill with the combination sewing needle crochet hook tool that is used for the repairs. (I'd go blind). We had a grand time in the shop at the mill buying up all the Turnbull merchandise on hand. There where some beautiful blankets in our ancient hunting tartan.



Back left to right: Dawn Day, Australia, Cynthia Parham, Louisiana, and Isabell Bannister, Canada listen as a Lochcarron seamstress describes the tedious work of repairing tartan. Photo by Kim Trimble

After Lochcarron we went on to the Hawick Heritage Hub where the statue of "Turning of the Bull" will be placed in the spring of 2009. This will be a magnificent piece of art that will reflect our history and heritage so well.. If you haven't seen the image of the statue look go to [www.turnbullclan.com](http://www.turnbullclan.com). It is posted there.

One of the many highlights of the trip was the visit to Bedrule. There we participated in a short but very moving Kirk service during which Wally gave his personal testimony and brought a tear to my eye. Thank you, Wally, for sharing with us. Then after a short hike to the site where the Turnbull Castle once stood my brother, Bill, raised the Turnbull Flag to fly proudly once more in its proper place. With a piper piping it was an awe inspiring moment. We had a picnic lunch that was eaten indoors due to the well known Scottish "mist."



Bill Trimble raises the flag. Photo by Kim Trimble



Ned Dairiki introduces himself to Scottish "cousins" at the banquet. Photo by Kim Trimble

The annual banquet was wonderful. By then we were all fast friends so mingling was liberally practiced. Great food, great company, great entertainment. If you've never had Scottish Scotch Broth you've missed out on something yummy. (continued on page 5)



## Memories...

*What was most memorable about your trip to Scotland?*

By Jim Olson



*Jim Olson proudly wears the Turnbull hunting tartan during the June AGM trip.*

There were a lot of highlights with the trip, but my No. 1 trip highlight would probably be the flag raising at the site of the former Bedrule Castle.

When I first started my family history research I remember reading about the castle in a book I had found at the University of Minnesota that described ancient Scottish castles and sites where castles had existed.

I had also read about the exploits of the Turnbull family members on the borders. When I visited the Bedrule church in 1974 with my wife and two oldest children I was able to point to the field by the church and tell them – “Well, that’s where the Bedrule castle used to be.” I came back again in 1985 and did the same with my youngest daughter and my oldest grandson. And now, in 2007, I got to walk to the site and participate in the flag raising. We displayed the Turnbull flag along with the Stars and Stripes on July 4th this year.

It was really hard to think of highlights of this trip because we enjoyed the entire time so much and the whole trip was a total delight: getting to know the wonderful relatives we didn’t know we had, learning from local people about Turnbull history and genealogy, seeing it come alive in the places we



*Alex, Girija and Fred Turnbull*

visited and eating the wonderful food with “the full Scottish breakfast” and the “wee dram.”

Fred really enjoyed the two days we spent in Bedrule Kirk and the trip to Fatlips Castle in Minto. These two visits were the most meaningful to him as they connected him with his Turnbull ancestry. For Girija, it all came together on our trek to Fatlips, where we hiked through green fields with sheep and cows, and the flower covered forests to the castle on the hill, and then looking out at the beautiful countryside. It was like walking into the past and I will never forget it.

Fred, Girija and Alex Turnbull

## Scotland...Is there anywhere else?

*(continued from page 4)*

After the banquet Wally presented each of us with a Turnbull flag that was flown over the Turnbull Castle site.

On Thursday we visited Fatlips Castle. The castle is perched atop a hill and it took quite a hike to reach it. Some of us that were less adventurous, or maybe more so, were privileged to ride across the open fields in a 1940’s vintage Land Rover and a couple of our brave lads climbed up into the castle itself to fly the Turnbull Flag.

Glasgow University was our destination on Friday. Founded in 1451 by Bishop William Turnbull, the university was an important stop on the tour. It is a grand old place with stunning architecture and stained glass windows. A small Kirk service was held for us in the chapel and two of our own fine young ladies did scripture readings and the university choir stayed on after school let out for the summer just to sing for us. Needless to say, they were absolutely marvelous. Lunch was served and some of us were privileged to dine in the Turnbull Room.



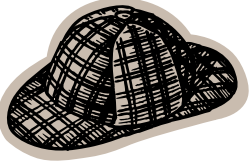
*Edinburgh Castle as seen from Grassmarket. Photo by Kim Trimble*

The entire trip was so marvelous it would be difficult to select a favorite part. However, I think it was the Scottish people themselves that shine above all landmarks. We were welcomed everywhere we went. Folks went out of their way to make sure that we enjoyed our time in Scotland. I especially liked walking the cities and towns listening to the locals discuss whatever was important at the moment. The school children were the best with their happy chattering in the delightful Scottish brogue.

There are many many things that have been left out of this article simply due to lack of space and difficulty to know what to write about. My feelings on the subject are these; I dearly want to go back to Scotland, as soon as possible and for as long as possible. Scotland. Home. Fortuna!



*Kim Trimble*



## Introducing CD!

We are pleased to introduce a new feature called CD. It is not however, about music, it is about discovery. CD is short for "Clan Detectives," a new feature intended to surprise and add to the wealth of information we receive with each Bullseye. Clan Detectives will open the door to learn how far and wide the Turnbells have spread through the ages and what marks they have left. "How did this idea come to be?" you may ask. This is a product of the marvelous journey of discovery with the TCA group tour to Scotland this past June. Once you've tasted the delights of uncovering clues to mysteries, you want to continue on that path to see what else you can unearth. While searching for information on an upcoming CD article, this detective came upon the following information.

"The Alexander Turnbull Library is a 'library within a library.' Established in 1920 after Alexander Horsburgh Turnbull gifted his collection to the nation in 1918, its collections and services are now housed within the National Library building. The Turnbull Library collections are based on Turnbull's personal collection of books, manuscripts, photographs, paintings and sketches. Over time the collections have been built through donation, bequest, legal deposit, and targeted purchasing to contain millions of items."



*National Library of New Zealand, home of the Alexander Turnbull Library*

Where is this library? In Wellington, New Zealand. Who is Alexander Turnbull and what does the collection consist of? That and more is what every Turnbull detective can find out!

For more information go to: [www.natlib.govt.nz/atl](http://www.natlib.govt.nz/atl). You can also view images of photos and items included in the museum at: <http://images.google.com/images>; Keywords: Alexander Turnbull Library.

Until the next "how interesting,"

A. clan detective

Contributions to this column are welcomed at [detective@turnbullclan.com](mailto:detective@turnbullclan.com)

## Now Open for Business

Last month the Bullseye introduced you to the opening of [Turnbullshop.com](http://Turnbullshop.com), an online store providing the most extensive range of products dedicated to the Turnbull clan. Ross Turnbull Irvine is the power behind this endeavor. Grandson of TCA founder John F. Turnbull, Ross hopes to fulfill his grandfather's dreams of uniting Turnbells worldwide and making it easy for them to find quality products designed just for them. John F. Turnbull designed the Turnbull tartans that are now the officially registered tartans.



*Ross Turnbull Irvine launches Turnbullshop.*

"We only retail products of the highest quality, many of which bare the names of leading manufacturers including Lochcarron of Scotland," says Ross. "Our site contains a wealth of information on the tartans themselves and has frequent news updates on coming events, new products and general Turnbull banter."

The shop includes for retail not only traditional tartan products (created from the Ancient, Hunting and Dress Turnbull tartans) and the associated accessories but also a home accessories range, original official Turnbull's whisky memorabilia, art prints, Turnbull's whisky glasses and much more.

However, this special service and value for money is not limited to Turnbull products. We can source and have tailor made products incorporating any other tartan (over 6000) currently available. We are also developing a range of lambswool and cashmere garments for sale to our customers at great prices.

Turnbullshop will also include information interesting to Turnbells with a section exclusively promoting the TCA and inviting all our customers not currently members to join up. In addition, Turnbullshop is donating 2.5% of its gross sales to TCA to be used for Turnbull activities worldwide.

Future ranges include a children's range of tartan accessories expertly tailored but very affordable for fast growing children - due for launch pre-Christmas 2007, a range of solid silver and gold jewelry incorporating the newly granted coat of arms hand-crafted in Hawick by our famous jeweler - and exclusive to turnbullshop - due for launch pre Christmas 2007, and an exciting range of high fashion designer tartan clothes designed by Deborah Turnbull Irvine - due for launch spring 2008.

Contact details are:

Web: [www.turnbullshop.com](http://www.turnbullshop.com), Email: [info@turnbullshop.com](mailto:info@turnbullshop.com)

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