

TCA VISITS SCOTLAND FOR THE HERITAGE TOUR & AGM

By Katherine Turnbull

Clan members had an exciting and memorable tour around the Borders and Heritage sites

Twenty-seven Turnbull Clan members from both Canada and the United States gathered this past June in the Scottish Borders to join Vice President of Events and tour host, Katherine Turnbull, for five days of exploring Turnbull heritage and Scottish history.

The tour, which ran from the 15-19 of June and was based in the city of Hawick, featured a blend of old sites visited during previous tours, as well as some new ones on the itinerary.

Blessed by the weather gods, we experienced beautiful sunshine and unusually warm temperatures throughout the tour.

Thursday began with a visit to the Lochcarron of Scotland Tartan Mill in Selkirk - the world's leading manufacturer of tartan. A tour of the mill gave insight to the long and arduous process from collecting the raw wool, blending, processing, dyes, the actual weaving of the tartan, quality checks, and then the finished products.

We then visited the Philiphaugh Estate - lands that were once part of the original land grant to William Turnbull by King Robert the Bruce. Starting with lunch at the Waterwheel Cafe, we were given a brief history of the land by Michael Steel, whose son Edward is the director for the estate, before having time to walk the grounds and to see the salmon viewing

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The group wearing their tour tops at the Turning of the Bull monument in Hawick



The Lochcarron Mills where many clan tartan cloths are made





Help Us GROW!

While membership dues are voluntary, we do need money to function and to fund activities that promote our clan heritage and family unity. These activities include the website, newsletter, our genealogical records, tent hosting at Scottish events, clan arms and heritage projects. We need your support to help fund the programs of Turnbull Clan Association.

Please consider making a donation.
WWW.TURNBULLCLAN.COM



Events organiser and Tour host, Katherine Turnbull presented with the stained glass memento created by Maurice Jackson

MORE ON THE 2023 HERITAGE TOUR & AGM

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A-MUIGH IS A-MACH (OUT AND ABOUT)



The Nova Scotian Turnbull Brothers Evan and Aaron, during a televised appearance on Canada's Got Talent Grand final in May. They hoped their act was enough to propel them to the top of the contest. After finishing third overall in the finale, they believe they can now go on to a bigger and brighter career.

Her character's name was Turnbull



Actress Penelope Wilton starred in 6 seasons and 2 feature films in the popular *Downton Abbey* franchise as Isobel Crawley (later, lady Merton) but did you know her character's name was Turnbull? Miss Isobel Turnbull was a daughter of Sir John

Turnbull, a physician and from an upper middle-class family. Her brother, Dr. Edward Turnbull, also practiced medicine.



The Turnbull high flyers, John, Caitlin, Richard and Kay in the basket of their hot air balloon, heading for Canowindra, central New South Wales, Australia

BULLSEYE

The Bullseye, is the Turnbull Clan Association Worldwide (TCA) newsletter published six times a year at: 5216 Tahoe Dr. Durham, NC 27713 U.S.A.

Editor: Kenneth Turnbull, Contributing Editor: Betty Turnbull.

All e-mail correspondence: editor@turnbullclan.com

Turnbull Clan Association Worldwide - www.turnbullclan.com

Officers: President - Walter Turnbull • Vice-Presidents - Jeff Trimble, Betty Turnbull, Katherine Turnbull, Kenneth Turnbull • Treasurer - Sandy Turnbull • Secretary - Brittany Turnbull •

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The Turnbull Clan Association Scholarship!

The successful applicant
for 2023 is Lilly Trimble



We are very excited to announce the Turnbull Clan Scholarship for 2023 has been awarded to Lilly Trimble

She will be using the money toward her highland dance competition expenses.

Lilly has been studying and performing Scottish Highland Dancing since she was eight, following in her Scottish mother's shoes.

She has won awards for her dancing, performing at various venues, including Highland games and had the privilege of performing in Scotland.

Earlier this year, Lilly took the overall trophy for her age group and her first Championship win at the Dunedin, Florida Highland Games.

She was also one of the two original recipients last year with the announcement for the \$500 Eleanor Turnbull scholarship award.

The scholarship award is offered to encourage members and their relatives to help with continuing education and/or learn more about Scottish tradition and their heritage.

Lilly says, "Scottish Highland Dance provides a lot of opportunity to meet people and travel and compete all over the country and world.

I am excited to be a part of Clan Turnbull and learn about family history and meet others that are a part of the Turnbull/Trimble Clan.

Dancing allows me to share this with so many people."

Congratulations, Lilly!



TOTALLY TURNBULL

Turnbulls are a proud and spirited clan with a rich history in the Borders of Scotland. TotallyTurnbull is here to help you share your passion for your Scottish heritage and Turnbull ancestry. Proceeds from sales help support projects for Turnbull Clan Association, including monument maintenance and the tent hosting fund.

Quick links: totallyturnbull.com

Totally Turnbull Zazzle: <https://bit.ly/3hlZPgD>



Again we congratulate two winners, who have tied as equal first to find the little bull. Bragging rights go to John Craig Turnbull in Seward, Alaska & Wendy Everett, Red Wing, Minnesota, USA
• Can you find the other hidden 'Bullseye Bull' in this issue?

TOTALLY TURNBULL

totallyturnbull.com

We now have a large selection of gifts and collectables available and in stock



Mens T Shirt
\$22.45
(18 colours)



Womens T Shirt
\$18.02
(4 colours)



Turnbull Arms Hoodie
\$46.10
(4 colours)

*The store often offers special discounts
Check in for current pricing*



Lambswool Stole
\$135.00



Clan Crest Turnbull or
Trimble Tote Bag
\$19.99



Turnbull Ladies
Tartan Scarf
\$34.95



Turning of the Bull
Key ring
\$5.85



Clan Turnbull
Scottish Proud Cups
11 oz \$21.50
15 oz + \$2.55
(10 colours)



Turnbull Poster Set
\$5.00



Turnbull Arms Coasters
\$10.29
(Per Stone Coaster)



Turnbull Crystal Decanter
\$45.00

HIGHLAND GAMES EVENTS



Have you ever considered hosting a Turnbull Clan tent at a Scottish Highland Games or Celtic Festival?

Stone Mountain Games - 2022

We can only grow with our presence at these events through our members volunteering to host tents! The festival season is about to begin and TCA would love to help get more people involved in hosting . . . and sharing our rich heritage!

With a little guidance and your own creative ingenuity, you will soon have a place known for your hospitality, knowledge of our heritage and decorating skills!

There is no better place to meet people searching for their roots, as well as family and friends!

We are looking forward to meeting many Turnbolls/Trimbles

Turnbull Clan Association will be represented at the following Scottish Games in 2023

6th -9th July - Grandfather Mountain Highland Games Linville, NC

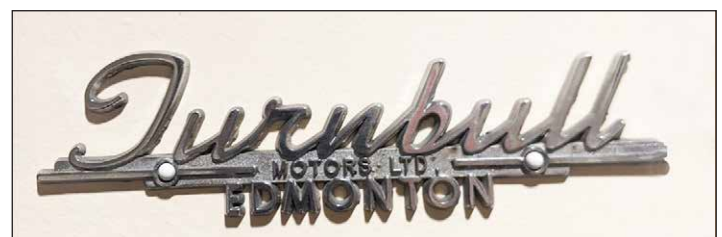
2nd - 3rd September - Caledonia Club of San Francisco Highland Gathering - Pleasanton, California

2nd - 3rd September - Virginia Scottish Games, The Plains, Virginia

8th - 10th September - Longs Peak Scottish Festival, Colorado

20th - 22nd October - Stone Mountain Highland Games, Georgia

*If you need more information or know of any other upcoming Highland Games where TCA can tent host, please contact Katherine Turnbull at the following:
kattturnbull01@gmail.com - TCA VP for Events.*



An old Canadian Car Dealer tag used this as an office nameplate. Submitted by Scott Turnbull

Celebrating something or an event to share?

How about submitting a photo of your celebration or an event that you'd like to share with the 2,500+ Turnbull Clan readers, please let us know. We'd love to share.

*You can send photos and information or stories of your adventures to the
editor@turnbullclan.com*



Turnbull Clan Association Worldwide

News from around the world

by Kenneth Turnbull - International News Editor

Australia - Inaugural Cairns Fashion Week a success

Far north Queensland city of Cairns hosted an inaugural Fashion Week planned over four years to materialise the celebration of local fashion which took place in mid-June. Jade Turnbull, founder and owner of Platinum Model Management was overwhelmed at the response. "We received over 450 applications from different areas of the industry and it wasn't just local, it was national too. It's not just an event, it's a destination," she said.



Photo: I. G. Gonzalez

UK - DJ's to Northumberland

A music and dance festival is set to "shake" Northumberland for the first time this summer with a nostalgic celebration on the 90's. The Shoe Shaker Fest is aiming to transport attendees back to the era of 1990s DJ stars who captivated audiences with their own bangers and remixes of chart toppers. Organised by Three Horse Shoes pub owner Kathie Turnbull, it will take place in a field next to Northumberlandia on the 5th August.



Australia - 46th Winton races



Queensland the Winton Motor Raceway held a historic race meeting in May, where crowds were wowed with a spectacular collection of cars. One such driver was Peter Turnbull, who built and started racing his first car in 1969. Now, 76 and 54 years later, he still loves the race track.

Scotland - Original letter seal used by Sir Walter Scott auctioned



being "art in miniature and craftsmanship at its finest". The seal from Abbotsford is believed to be from Scott's knighthood in 1820. Set in lapis lazuli, gold and amethyst, the seal features Scott's family crest. Sir Walter Scott wrote many letters from his desk in his Borders home. The rare seal sold at an auction for £13,860.



New Zealand - Benefits on eating fruit and veggie skins

Now that produce is so costly, some think it makes sense to tuck into what we might have once thrown away. Always keen to get to the bottom of issues which may help Kiwis, 'Channel Seven Sharp' hosts asked Mission Nutrition's Claire Turnbull about the benefits of eating fruit and vegetable skins. "There are so many good things, you get extra fibre, vitamins, minerals and anti-oxidants," Turnbull said. "As well, you are reducing food waste which is good for the planet and good for your wallet." However, not all vegetables are created equal when it comes to eating the whole thing.



Canada - A new perspective on the gift of volunteers



Laura Turnbull has spent many hours caring for others as a volunteer. Recently she spent two months recuperating from knee surgery. The tables were turned and she has been well looked after through caring friends and volunteers. Meals have been provided and transportation offered Prior to this experience, she thought she knew a fair amount about the importance of volunteering. Little did she know how wonderful it feels to be the recipient of such kindness.

UK - Fundraising to walk the world for Mesothelioma

80 year-old Ray Turnbull has set himself the challenge of walking to raise money. He started in January 2021 and has now covered around 9,300 miles as well as clocking up the equivalent of approximately 12,948 miles with three million pedal turns on his exercise bike, despite his age. Ray has been fundraising for Mesothelioma research to combat the cruel cancer which robbed him of his wife, mum, and brother. All four had been exposed to asbestos at the former Washington Chemicals factory. Since Jean's death, Ray has raised more than £15,000 for research into the disease. Now he plans to take it easy for the rest of 2023, and add just enough miles to take his tally to 24,855 – the circumference of the Earth.



USA - Principal switching schools

The Principal of Bear Tavern Elementary School, Mr. Christopher Turnbull, will be transitioning to become the new Principal of Timberlane Middle School. He came to Hopewell Valley, New Jersey 8 years ago and during that time, he has been instrumental in transforming the culture and climate of Bear Tavern Elementary School. Before joining the HVRSD leadership team, he was an intermediate Principal in Lawrence Township Public Schools. He was also named NJPSA's New Jersey Visionary Principal of the Year.



Vashon-Maury Is. USA - Deliveries

A problematic situation reached breaking point last year, as there had been a steady increase in package deliveries to Vashon Post Office that had swollen to nearly 2,500 packages per day during the peak holiday season. Islander Ericka Turnbull's actions, in late February and early March, have resulted in at least one quick solution to some of the problems facing Vashon's understaffed post office. She made a significant reduction in Amazon's cap for the daily deliveries to the Vashon Post Office down to 500 packages per day. The overflow is now delivered by private companies.



THE 2023 HERITAGE TOUR SIGHTS & HAPPENINGS

Continued from Page 1 . . .

centre, a hydroelectric power station on the River Ettrick, and the field where the battle of Philiphaugh took place in 1645.

Next we returned to Hawick with a tour of the Borders Distillery - the first legal Distillery in the Borders since 1837 - where Turnbull Clan also has a cask aging that will be bottled in 2033 (*bottles are still available for pre-order!*). Finishing out the first day, everyone donned their 2023 tour T-shirts for a group photo at the Turning of the Bull Monument.

Friday dawned bright and exceptionally early, as the group travelled to Glasgow for a bespoke tour of the university that was founded in 1451 by Bishop William Turnbull with a charter from Pope Nicholas V and the support of King James II.

The group enjoyed strolling through the grounds and buildings of the fourth oldest English-speaking university in the world (*second oldest in Scotland!*) finding Easter egg Turnbull references, before settling into a catered lunch in the Turnbull Room.



At Stirling Castle entrance with the King Robert the Bruce Statue

The tour then departed Glasgow for Stirling Castle, where the group was at liberty to explore the former royal residence which played pivotal roles during the Scottish wars for independence.

To break up the two-plus hour journey back to Hawick, the coach made a surprise stop at Bannockburn, where the group posed for a photo at the great monument to King Robert the Bruce, which overlooks the fields where 709 years ago on the 23-24 June, 1314, the King of Scots led his armies to victory over King Edward II of England in the first war of Scottish independence.

The final stop of the day was a quick photo opportunity (*or for one in particular - a jump off a bridge and quick swim in the canal!*) at The Kelpies. The 98' horse head sculptures near Falkirk were completed in 2013, and represent the importance of the heavy horse in Scottish industry and economy.

Saturday was perhaps the day everyone had been waiting for - the climb up Minto Crags to Fatlips Castle. While some were unable to make the hike, those who did were rewarded with outstanding views over the Rule Valley, and the unique opportunity to go inside the castle and ascend to the parapet for an even better view.

The tour was also joined this day by local historian and guide, Mark Nicol, whose YouTube channel is quite popular, and should you ever be in the area, he is well worth the investment! Check at: [discoverscottishborders.com](https://www.discoverscottishborders.com). Then it was off to explore the old Minto Kirkyard - set in amongst the trees near Minto Golf Club, several Turnbells are eternally at rest there. While the original kirk

was demolished when the "new" one was built nearby in 1830, you can still see where the structure would have stood. With some time left before lunch, we trekked over to Minto Church to explore the grounds.

The Turnbull Clan then returned to the Auld Cross Keys in Denholm for an incredible 3-course luncheon - we absolutely love returning to this gem and highly recommend it. The afternoon was then spent in Melrose, where we explored the abbey and museum, and paid respects to the resting place of King Robert the Bruce's heart (*in case you're wondering, the rest of him is interred under the alter at Dunfermline Abbey in Fife, but he always said that Melrose had his heart*).



On the bus and heading for the next stop on the Heritage Tour

While Sunday was scheduled to start a bit later, one of us (*Canada Tom, I'm looking at you!*) caused a minor frenzy when he was not at the coach stop and caused the group to worry what may have happened to him. Turns out, he just misread the time sheet! When all were finally accounted for, our coach and its trusty driver, Peter, headed off to Bedrule for a late morning service with Reverend Rachel Wilson (*whose husband, Graeme, by the way, does incredibly interesting and informative wildlife education walks! Find him on socials: GW Ecology*).

A video of that morning's lovely service, in which Rev. Wilson makes several references to the Turnbells (including Bishop William Turnbull) can be found on the YouTube channel for Hobkirk and Southdean with Ruberslaw Churches. The Turnbull window at Bedrule Church, donated by Wally and Betty Turnbull and dedicated on the last TCA visit in 2019, recently underwent some minor repairs by the artist, Maurice Jackson, after an unfortunate incident with a projectile while the yard was being mowed. The window was repaired flawlessly, however some leftover pieces were used to artfully create a suncatcher featuring the Turning of the Bull, and Rev. Wilson presented this unique piece to Turnbull Clan as a gift on behalf of Mr. Jackson.

Following services, the incredibly generous elders of the church invited us to join them in the Bedrule community hall for refreshments while Roger Curtis, from Historic Environment Scotland, discussed his research on the project of the 12 Towers of Rule and the excavation that took place at the site of the former Bedrule Castle. Afterwards, Mr. Curtis led some adventure seekers through a field of tall grass to the site of the former Turnbull castle, overlooking the River Rule, and described how the structure may have looked and it's layout.

We would like to thank Jane Bower, of the Scottish Borders National Park Project, for coordinating this meeting with Mr. Curtis.

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A SELECTION OF IMAGES ON THE HERITAGE TOUR

Images submitted by Katherine Turnbull



Amongst the barrels at the Borders Distillery in Hawick



At the front entrance to the University of Glasgow



Fiona, Alan and Katherine Turnbull - administrators of the Turnbull-Trimble-Trumble DNA and Genealogy Research Project meet in person for the first time



The main gate at Univ. Of Glasgow



Overall view from the parapet on Fatlips Castle



A short stop-off at 'The Kelpies'



Lining the parapet of Fatlips Castle



Exploring the site of the former Bedrule Castle.



On the crest and at the base of Fatlips Castle



Old Turnbull factory name - 1911



Roger Curtis from the Historic Environment of Scotland gives a presentation on the 12 Towers of Rule project and discussed findings during the Bedrule Castle excavation.



Old Turnbull factory for sale



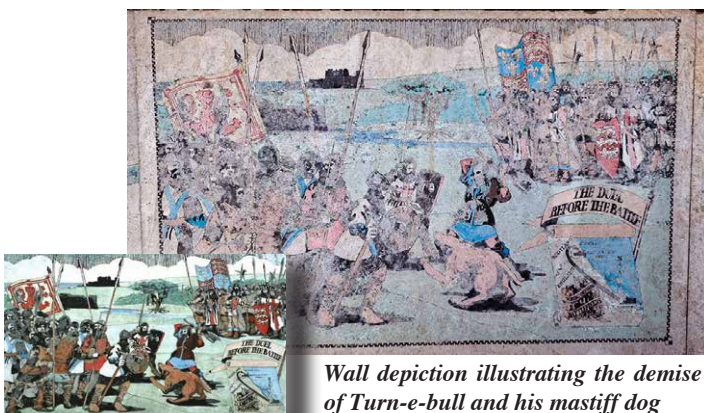
Tour group at Bannockburn at Bruce Monument

MORE OF THE 2023 HERITAGE TOUR SIGHTS & HAPPENINGS

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By afternoon, it was time to load back up and skip down the road to Jedburgh, where members had the opportunity to visit the abbey, castle jail, or grab lunch (*or a pint!*) and enjoy the fantastic weather. Five days seemed to pass quickly, and before we knew it, Monday had arrived and we were back on the coach for our final day of exploring. First stop - Halidon Hill. A bit off the beaten path, the Battle of Halidon Hill took place on the 19 July, 1333 on a field overlooking the North Sea and the now sprawling town of Berwick-Upon-Tweed.

Historian and genealogist, Fiona Turnbull, gave a dramatic account of what happened there on the ground we stood nearly 690 years before, where it is believed that a huge Scotsman by the name Turnbull - possibly the William Turnbull who was granted the lands at Philiphaugh - challenged a knight from Norfolk to single combat before the battle commenced. Sir Robert Benhale first dispatched Turnbull's great mastiff dog which had followed him into battle, and then Turnbull himself.



Wall depiction illustrating the demise of Turn-e-bull and his mastiff dog

Overlooking Halidon Hill battlefield - Inset: An earlier image of the fight

After we had some time to soak in the importance of the events this land had seen (*and had enough of the cold winds from the North Sea!*), we were back on the coach heading south, passing along the way the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, which some members explored earlier the previous week prior to the tour.

We made our next stop in Alnwick, England where we met Mark Turnbull, whose family-owned butcher shop and food hall is now in its 6th generation of Turnbull leadership.

Turnbull's Northumbrian Foodhall should be on a must-see list if you are travelling through the area. So many locally sourced items and takeaway food options, including award-winning pies and pastries - not to mention, their own Turnbull's beer! As the afternoon drew closer, we bid farewell to Mark and his marketing manager, Matthew Slack, and we were back in the road for our final tour stop - the Housestead's Roman Hill Fort and Hadrian's Wall in Northern England.



Hadrian's Wall at the Housestead's Roman Hill Fort

Construction on the fort began around AD 124, with the wall following two years later, when the area was part of the Roman province, Britannia. We had absolutely amazing weather to explore this UNESCO world heritage site that has survived for nearly two millennium. Before long, it was time to return to Hawick, where staff at Mansfield House Hotel were preparing for our AGM dinner.

We were pleased to be joined that evening by honoured guests Barrie Turnbull and Debbie (*Turnbull*) Irvine - son and daughter of the late, great Turnbull matriarch, Myra Turnbull, Mark Nicol, and our coach driver - Peter Robertson, with his wife, Elspeth.

The AGM was broadcast live around the world via Zoom, and featured Vice President, Jeff Trimble's reports on the whisky project and financials, a reading of the Flowers of the Forest by Teeq Hill, and a DNA project presentation by Fiona Turnbull, who did her best Robert Louis Gates impression of Finding Your Roots with some exciting family discoveries - including revealing that Vice President, Katherine Turnbull, and tour member, Richard Dalton, are 4th cousins!

While the five days we spent together in the Scottish Borders seemed fleeting, the memories, experiences, and new friends will last a lifetime.



Katherine Turnbull and Fiona Turnbull

In closing, I would like to thank the Turnbull Clan members who made the journey to Scotland to experience all that this amazing country has to offer and making my first tour as host a success. To Wally and Betty Turnbull, who hosted previous Turnbull tours and whose advice and guidance was invaluable. To Peter Robertson of Lauderdale Coaches - our wonderful coach driver who ferried us to our daily destinations and humoured my on the fly, last minute site additions.

To Fiona Turnbull, for her Turnbull stories, facts and dedication to the DNA and Genealogy research project, as well as her dramatic retelling of the duel before the battle at Halidon Hill! To Mark Nicol, for his knowledge of local histories. And to Mansfield House Hotel and Auld Cross Keys for their incredible hospitality. If you didn't make this tour, I hope that you will be at the next one.

MORE SELECTIONS OF IMAGES ON THE HERITAGE TOUR



The Minto kirkyard under restoration



Turnbull relief at Glasgow University



At the Lochcarron Mills showing off the three Turnbull tatrans



Tom Turnbull, Kate Coleman, Anna Coleman-Hulbert, Heather Turnbull, Priyanka Sheth and Richard Dalton



Jeff and Sue Trimble



The Turnbull's Northumbrian Foodhall in Alnwick, England



Barrie Turnbull, Debbie (Turnbull) Irvine, Katherine Turnbull and Jeff Trimble



Bob Hill with Xane and Teeq Hill - Katherine Turnbull with Richard Dalton - Ben and Rhonda Jennings - Richard and Carol Turnbull

A NEW 'WARRIOR' IS EMERGING IN THE TURNBULL CLAN

Jordan Newman, aka Jordan "Not Human" Newman crosses another threshold this American summer, as he is listed for the first time on the Bellator Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) main card of events a big step toward his goal of being the World Champion.

Jordan has risen rapidly as a professional MMA fighter since his graduation from University of Wisconsin, Whitewater in 2018. His current pro record is 5 wins with no losses and no draws.

Jordan is the grandson of Virginia Turnbull Newman who lives in Minnesota. She is the great great-granddaughter of John Turnbull from Roxburgh, Scotland and Ellen Reid from the Campbell Town Argyle Region of Scotland. John was born on the Isle of Skye and moved to Lowville, Ontario Canada.

Ginny's grandfather, Robert Turnbull attended Toronto Medical University and took his training at the Toronto General Hospital. Shortly after graduation he moved to Minnesota and obtained his medical license in 1901. He and his wife settled in Northern Minnesota (*Fosston*) where he travelled many miles, via horse and buggy to take care of his patients even during the coldest of winters.

Jordan has been wrestling since age 4. He attended high school at St. John's military Academy in Delafield, Wisconsin, where his excellence brought fame to himself and his school. At college level, he earned many accolades including two NCCA championships in 2017 and 2018; Three times All American, several State and Regional Championships; earned a spot on the Scholastic Honour Roll and National Wrestler of the Year by two organizations in 2018.

When not training for MMA, Jordan manages the South Shore Askren Wrestling Academy in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. There he uses his mastery of sport



of wrestling to train and develop the skills of mostly middle and high school wrestlers. He is a highly respected and sought-out coach and many of his wrestlers have achieved high ranking and championships in their sport.

Grandmother, Ginny, feels great pride in her 27-year-old Jordan, not only for his achievements in the ring, but for the loving, caring, grounded, considerate and family-devoted man he has become.

OUR FATLIPS CASTLE & HISTORIC NORTHUMBERLAND COAST VISIT

My wife Carole, cousin Madeleine on my mother's side and myself (Steve) made a trip to Scotland on our long-awaited visit to Fatlips Castle and to learn a little bit of our Turnbull history. Margaret my mother's maiden name, was Turnbull.

Although our prime reason was visiting Fatlips Castle, it was to also learn more about our Turnbull heritage and see at first hand the castle itself. It gave us an opportunity to visit the borders region where the clan lived. We were extremely fortunate with the weather, sunshine every day, although a tad chilly.

We started in Hawick to see the 'Turning of the Bull' statue and weren't disappointed. We also tried to find out more about our Turnbull ancestry from the towns 'Heritage Hub', but unfortunately there wasn't very much on record, although they did carry out some investigations and emailed a bit of information a few days later.



Undaunted, we went in search of Fatlips Castle, following our trusty 'sat nav' directions.

Although we missed the access track a couple of times, we knew we were in the right area, because we could see the castle through the trees at the top of the hill. Minto Crags.



We parked and started the ascent, which wasn't too bad, and finally reached the castle at the crest. We were all impressed with the beauty of the area and the views from Fatlips across the wide landscape below. Both Madeleine and I felt that we had honoured our past heritage with a sense of pride.

The building itself is quite imposing and a bit larger than I had imagined and although not being able to enter, there was still a sense of place for us. It wasn't just a 'tick the box' moment for us, nor emotional, but we are glad we made the effort. A great and fulfilling experience.

Whilst we were in the area, we travelled to the Northumberland coast and visited both Bamburgh Castle, one of the most important Anglo-Saxon archaeological sites in the world and Holy Island, where Lindisfarne Castle is now listed as a 'Grade I' heritage site (*the top of the list for protection and preservation*). It was interesting to see the defences both castles had in order to fend off Scottish raiders!

Lang may yer lum reek, Steve Bond

Ed. As a footnote, In mid 793, Vikings arrived and attacked the monastery at Lindisfarne on the coastal Holy Island, some 20 kilometres south of the Scottish border, thus signalling the beginnings of the Viking Age in UK.

OLDEST TRUE TARTAN ON DISPLAY FOR THE FIRST TIME

Article: V&A Dundee Museum



Peter MacDonald, head of research and collections with the Glen Affric tartan

New scientific research has revealed a piece of tartan found in a peat bog in Glen Affric around forty years ago can be dated to circa 1500-1600 AD, making it the oldest known surviving specimen of true tartan in Scotland.

The Scottish Tartans Authority commissioned Dye Analysis and Radiocarbon testing on the woollen textile to prove its age.

The first investigation was dye analysis carried out by analytical scientists from National Museums Scotland. Using high resolution digital microscopy, four colours were visually identified for dye analysis: green and brown and possibly red and yellow.

The dye analysis confirmed the use of indigo/woad in the green but was inconclusive for the other colours, probably due to the dyestuff degradation state. However, there were no artificial or semi-synthetic dyestuffs involved in the making of the tartan, which pointed to a date of pre-1750s.

Further clarification on the age of the tartan involved radiocarbon testing at the SUERC Radiocarbon Laboratory in East Kilbride. The process involved washing out all the peat staining, which would have otherwise contaminated the carbon content of the textile.

The Radiocarbon testing results identified a broad date range between 1500 and 1655 AD, with the period between 1500 and 1600 AD the most probable. This makes it the oldest-known piece of true tartan found in Scotland.

The Falkirk 'tartan' (inset) dating from the early third century AD, is actually a much simpler check pattern woven using undyed yarns.

The Glen Affric tartan, which measures around 55cm by 43cm is due to go on display for the first time at V&A Dundee's Tartan exhibition opening on Saturday 1 April.

The piece will be the oldest exhibit among more than 300 objects. The exhibition examines tartan's universal and enduring appeal through iconic and everyday examples of fashion, architecture, graphic and product design, photography, furniture, glass and ceramics, film, performance and art.

Peter MacDonald, Head of Research and Collections at The Scottish Tartans Authority, said: "The testing process has taken nearly six months but the effort was well worth it and we are thrilled with the results!"

"In Scotland, surviving examples of old textiles are rare as the soil is not conducive to their survival. As the piece was buried in peat, meaning it had no exposure to air and was therefore preserved.

"The tartan has several colours with multiple stripes of different sizes, and so it corresponds to what people would think of as a true tartan.

"Although we can theorise about the Glen Affric tartan, it's important that we don't construct history around it. Although Clan Chisholm controlled that area, we cannot attribute the tartan to them as we don't know who owned it.

"The potential presence of red, a colour that Gaels considered a status symbol, is interesting because of the more rustic nature of the cloth. This piece is not something you would associate with a king or someone of high status; it is more likely to be an outdoor working garment.

John McLeish, Chair of The Scottish Tartans Authority, said: "The Glen Affric tartan is clearly a piece of national and historical significance. It is likely to date to the reign of James V, Mary Queen of Scots, or James VI/I. "There is no other known surviving piece of tartan from this period of this age. It's a remarkable discovery and deserves national attention and preservation. "It also deserves to be seen and we're delighted that



it is to be included in the Tartan exhibition at V&A Dundee." James Wylie, curator at V&A Dundee, said: "We knew The Scottish Tartans Authority had a tremendous archive of material and we initially approached them to ask if they knew of any examples of 'proto-tartans' that could be loaned to the exhibition.

"I'm delighted the exhibition has encouraged further exploration into this plaid portion and very thankful for The Scottish Tartans Authority's backing and support in uncovering such a historic find.

"To be able to exhibit the Glen Affric tartan is immensely important in understanding the textile traditions from which modern tartan derives, and I'm sure visitors will appreciate seeing this on public display for the very first time."

'Tartan' at the V&A Dundee opens on Saturday 1st April until 14th January 2024.

"To be able to exhibit the Glen Affric tartan is immensely important in understanding the textile traditions from which modern tartan derives, and I'm sure visitors will appreciate seeing this on public display for the very first time."

The Twelve Towers of Rule *Report sent by Professor Jane Bower, FRSE, Project Manager, 12 Towers of Rule programme*

ARCHAEOLOGY - FUNDING BOOST FOR RESEARCH GATHERING



The history of Rulewater and adjacent districts extends over the parishes of Hobkirk, Southdean, Bedule and Cavers. But for now, the focus is on the sites of towers built in the 16th Century and some of the associated events and happenings that went on there.

One of our areas of work is gathering information on the series of raids of the 1540's, when English forces and other paid troops laid waste to parts of Rulewater and Teviotdale, in a campaign sometimes called '*the rough wooing*'. One particular raid was that led by the Earl of Hertford in 1545, where much of the northern part of the valley was burnt.

While most of this Heritage in Rulewater is now below the ground, a more extensive resource of late medieval remains is still visible in parts of Southdean Parish. We aim to investigate the accessible sites and build up a better picture of their history and evolution.



Barnhills Tower, situated at the foot of Minto Crags is included as one of the Twelve Towers research sites

Work is ongoing to do surveys and digital modelling of the accessible sites, allowing better interpretation and understanding for visitors and local people.

Archaeology Scotland will shortly be carrying out more surveying and exploratory excavation in Rulewater Valley in early summer, and Roger Curtis of Historic Environment Scotland has found several more previously unidentified sites in the Valley by screening Lidar images now publicly available on the National Library of Scotland website.

We hope that with the growing amount of information from archaeological and archival sources which is being assembled, it will be possible to put together these pieces of the

jigsaw and get a better picture of everyday life and relationships in this rural Borders community and its links with the wider world of the late mediaeval period.

The Teviot Valley's Twelve Towers of Rule heritage project has recently (*March*) received a major boost with funding announcements by the Society of Antiquities of Scotland (*SOAS*) and Scottish Borders Council (*SBC*).

SOAS has awarded £2000, while the Community of the Twelve Towers of Rule - essentially Denholm & District and Hobkirk community councils - received £2000 from SBC's Teviot & Liddesdale Area Partnership's neighbourhood support fund.

Together with £1000 committed by the Campaign for a Scottish Borders National Park (*CSBNP*) the extra funding will allow Professor Richard Oram, an expert in medieval and environmental history at the University of Stirling, to pull together diverse records held in various archives to create a better understanding of the economy, society and culture of the Rule Valley right up to the time it was destroyed.

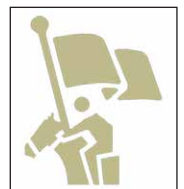
Professor Jane Bower, the CSBNP chair added, "It is terrific to have the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland come on board alongside so many of our other supporters. We can now commission a review of archival records to complement our recent archaeological findings, providing an important piece of the jigsaw to build up a picture of this late medieval Borders community."

The Campaign for a Scottish Borders National Park and partners are exploring the life of the rural community of Rulewater in Teviotdale in the late mediaeval period before the 1540's raid by the English.

Two of the project partners, Archaeology Scotland and Roger Curtis of Historic Environment Scotland, are already carrying out survey and exploratory excavation of the structures central to the everyday lives and relationships of the community.



ARCHAEOLOGY
SCOTLAND



SCOTTISH INVENTIONS – PENICILLIN, ALEXANDER FLEMING

Researched and compiled by Kenneth Turnbull

Scottish entrepreneurs, geniuses and eccentric inventors and their ability to think outside the square, have helped to change our everyday lives throughout the world for the better. Here is another example of Scottish ingenuity with imaginative foresight that ultimately influenced the developing world.

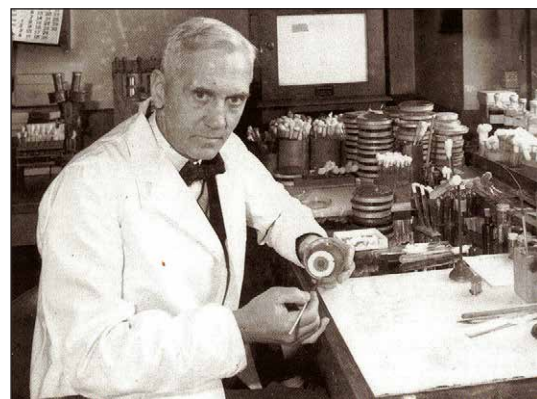
A small town in East Ayrshire named Darvel, is known for the ancient Scots monolith, 'Dragon Stone' but it can also lay claim to several Scottish inventions, including the manufacturing of lace and muslin cloth, as well as the significant life-giving invention of penicillin, the world's first and most widely used antibiotic.

The inventor, Alexander Fleming discovered and named it with the intention to use it as a medicine in the early years of the 20th century.

In 1914, he enlisted as a medical officer, working in field hospitals in France and became very interested in and upset by the germs that infected soldiers' wounds, causing their deaths, even after successful surgeries.

Then in 1928 as a physician, he stumbled upon a mould (mold) on poisoned blood with a clear substance surrounding it . . . with no germs. His discovery marked the completion of his studies into developing an effective anti-bacterial medicine. He presented medical papers on his discovery and its potential. But he did not have the skills to isolate penicillin and turn it into a medicine. This was eventually achieved by the second world war.

Today it is hard to estimate the number of lives saved through his discovery. It has proven to be an extremely effective treatment for many diseases including blood poisoning, diphtheria, pneumonia, scarlet fever and many contagious diseases.



Alexander Fleming at work in his laboratory

MEET YOUR TURNBULL COUSINS . . .

HERITAGE VISIT TO SCOTLAND AND A MEETING WITH FIONA

TCA member Ian Turnbull made a recent visit to Edinburgh, Scotland and several other Scottish towns with his daughter Fiona, along with her husband Dieter and their children, Oscar 16 and Ruby 13.

The visit included Rosebank Cemetery to view the tombstone of his great-great grandfather Alexander, who was once the Manager of the Leith Glass Works in Edinburgh.

One of the main products of the glass works was bottles, crucial to the busy wine trade of Leith in the 18th and 19th centuries. Ian also visited the St. Cuthbert's Church where most of his Scottish ancestors were baptized, married and death registered.

It was Alexander's bachelor son James Thomson Turnbull who emigrated arriving in Adelaide, South Australia on 13th August, 1856, just 20 years after the founding of Adelaide.



Ian and Fiona Turnbull at the Ben Nevis Inn

His brother George Mathieson Turnbull followed four years later, arriving on 14th October 1860. George Turnbull, Ian's great grandfather became a very early manager of the National Bank branch in Mount Gambier, a city in the south east of South Australia.

Ian was grateful that the historian, Fiona Turnbull and

TCA DNA Administrator, who drove from Oban to Fort William to have dinner with him and his family at a restaurant recommended by her, called the Ben Nevis Inn, which was a superb experience.

Well armed with his 'Borders Tales & Trails' guide book, he also made the trip to Hawick and viewed the "I saved the King" memorial.



Ian Turnbull and daughter Fiona at the Rosebank Cemetery at their family gravestone