

## OUR BEDRULE KIRK HERITAGE IS IN JEOPARDY

Wally Turnbull - Honorary Chief, Turnbull Clan

*The future of Bedrule Kirk? We need your urgent support to save it!*

*“Heritage ground zero”  
of our Turnbull clan . . .  
is in peril.*

Bedrule Kirk is a historic Turnbull landmark with a breathtaking view across the Rulewater Valley to Ruberslaw Mountain.

The kirkyard, which holds the Turnbull cairn and time capsule, is the resting place of many of our ancestors. The church sanctuary is a holy place where the power of the faith of our fathers is palpable.

The church interior is beautifully decorated with the arms of our forebears, the Bishop William Turnbull plaque, and magnificent stained glass windows, including the famous Turnbull Window.

The Church of Scotland is closing and selling off Bedrule Kirk and others because they have run out of funds to maintain them.

Bedrule Kirk is scheduled to be sold in July, with no guarantee of what will be done with it or even if it will be maintained unless it goes into the right hands.

The Bedrule community-based grassroots effort; **Bedrule Church Future** is raising funds to purchase the church and maintain it to be used for events in the community and beyond as a venue for weddings and similar special occasions.

This will ensure that the church will remain open to our clan family and visitors to appreciate the beautiful building and its interior.

The local **Bedrule Church Future** group is working with the Scottish Borders Council, who will continue to own and maintain the kirkyard, to upgrade the church building by running plumbing and communications lines suitable for group events.



Please help save Bedrule Kirk for future generations to visit, use, and cherish. We need to raise £35,000 (\$47,000) by July. This means that we must respond quickly and generously.

You may contribute through TCA or the **Bedrule Church Future** steering group. For those in the US or anywhere other than the UK it is best to donate through TCA. As an IRS recognized 501.c.3 organization, TCA will issue a USA tax deductible receipt. Those in the UK, please contact the **Bedrule Church Future** steering group. Funds will be held in escrow until the purchase is approved.

Please respond quickly and generously to help preserve this treasure of our heritage.

You may contribute online at:

<https://www.turnbullclan.com/save-bedrule-kirk>

**In the UK: contact Bedrule Church Future steering group, [office@ruberslaw.co.uk](mailto:office@ruberslaw.co.uk), +44 1450 870092.**





## Authors Corner

### Leonor Adriana (Turnbull)

*The captivating true story of an improbable dialogue that saved La Rochelle in World War II. A long-awaited English translation of this story of integrity, judgment, and determination.*

*Author Leonor Adriana Rosado-Bonewitz (Turnbull) was born in Mexico and educated in Mexico, England, Canada and the U.S. where she resides.*



*She majored in French with a minor in Spanish and has worked in the field of translation for over 45 years.*

*When she read the story of French Commander Hubert Meyer and German Admiral Ernst Schirlitz, she became so moved and inspired by their courage that in 2020, she embarked on the project of translating the book from French to English to welcome a greater number of readers to this inspiring history.*

After the Allied D-Day landings in June 1944, Paris was liberated in late August, and the rest of France was freed in the following weeks. However, two pockets of German occupation in Royan and



La Rochelle, both cities along the Atlantic coast, remained occupied for several months more.

By what perilous negotiations were two enemy officers able to avoid disaster in the besieged city? Two men of honour, French Commander Hubert Meyer and German Admiral Ernst Schirlitz, strove to see beyond the war toward reconciliation and the reconstruction of Europe.

**Available through Amazon**  
<https://www.amazon.com/dp/1611536936>

### 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.

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## Grandfather Mountain Highland Games update



*We at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games are fielding questions several times a week from all over the country in regard to support for the 2025 Highland Games, in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene.*

*The answer is a resounding yes!*

*Our roads and bridges are now in good shape and area lodging and restaurants are definitely open for business. The storm damage was extensive to be sure, but the degree of repair in the six months following the hurricane has been amazing.*

*Those who will be attending the 2025 Games will find the North Carolina High Country much like it was for the 2024 Games.*

*TCA is in a unique situation with regard to the membership of your clan and societies, nbin sending a clear message about attending in 2025 which will be both helpful to GMHG and TCA organization.*

*We appreciate your help. Thank you in advance for helping us get the word out and we are looking forward to seeing you at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games!"*

*Yours Aye - Steve*

### Did you know . . . People in Scotland

*'Caledonians... the last men on Earth, the last of the Free.'*

*According to the Roman historian Tacitus, these words were declared by Calgacus, leader of the native tribes resisting the Roman advance in Scotland. Recorded in one of the earliest surviving descriptions of Scotland, AD 79-83 . . . they give a name to the people of Scotland.*

### Share your travel adventure celebrations . .



*How about submitting a photo of your Scottish adventures to share with the world's Turnbull Clan readers.*

*Just send the photo or photos together with your information or stories of your experiences to the*

[editor@turnbullclan.com](mailto:editor@turnbullclan.com)

*Image: The marker stone of Robert the Bruce's heart, Melrose Abbey*



*We congratulate the winner who found the 'Little Bull'.*

*Bragging rights go to Dawn Wilke, Cincinnati Ohio, USA. Can you find the other hidden 'Bullseye Bull' in this issue?*



# Dunedin Highland Games . .

5th April, in Florida USA



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

**Turnbull Clan Association will be represented at the following Scottish Festivals & Games in 2025**

10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> July - Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, Linville, North Carolina. TCA clan gathering and AGM.

30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> Sept - Virginia Scottish Games, The Plains, Virginia

5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Sept. - Long's Peak Scottish-Irish Highland Festival, Estes Park, Colorado

6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> September Middle Tennessee Highland Games, Tennessee

17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Oct. - Stone Mountain Highland Games, Stone Mountain, Georgia

*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!*

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.



## THE NAME TURNBULL IS WELL KNOWN . . . BUT WHERE?

Scattered throughout the world, there are numerous places and identifying areas with the name of 'Turnbull'. So, we at TCA, are curious to learn about some of these out there, so we can have them compiled and published in the Bullseye.

Perhaps you may know of one or maybe even two, that you are able to contribute and share with the members?

Here is one example - One of these exists in Hawthorn, Victoria, Australia, where a William S. Turnbull as Mayor in 1927, had a suburban 'Turnbull Street' named after him.

What can you contribute and share with the members?  
You can make your submission to [editor@turnbullclan.com](mailto:editor@turnbullclan.com)

## TURNBULL CLAN ASSOCIATION IS LOOKING FOR NEW TENT HOSTS!

One of the most common questions asked of us is "Why isn't there a Turnbull Clan tent at an event near me?" Well, the answer is simply that we do not currently have a member who has volunteered to host in your area or at a particular event.

All clan tent hosts are members who have volunteered their time, funds, love of history and Scottish traditions to represent the Turnbull Clan Association at various events - mostly in the United States, though there are hundreds of Scottish festivals and highland games around the world each year.

We would love to see more of our members actively participating! Though there are hundreds of Scottish festivals and highland games around the world each year. We would love to grow our presence with more of our members actively participating!

If you are interested in learning more about how you can become involved with TCA at an event near you, please send us a private message or email our Vice President of Events, Katherine, at **kattturnbull01@gmail.com**

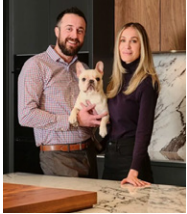




# Turnbull Clan Association Worldwide

## News from around the world

by Kenneth Turnbull - International News Editor



**Canada - Mid-century modern in Ottawa**  
Julie and David Turnbull of Rockcliffe Park in Ottawa decided to build their home as a blend of comfort, style and connection to nature with their version of mid-century modern design. Rockcliffe Park is best known for its stately, prestigious, conserva-

tive homes, surrounded by statuesque trees. "We wanted separate rooms, floors and zones for our two boys and ourselves, to enjoy together as a family." Building the 3,175-square-foot home was a challenge, said their Ottawa architect Christopher Simmonds, because the lot was located on a curve in the road and oddly shaped. Heritage Ottawa was satisfied with the design when Simmonds pitched the plans for the house. "We often have neighbours stop to chat when we're outside and they remark on how lovely the house is."

### Scotland - Extremely rare cutlery



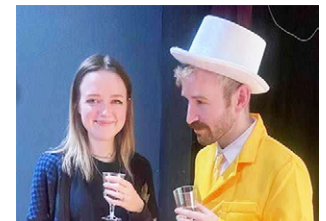
Cutlery expected to sell for around £20,000-£30,000, the 1902 cutlery set, soared to £175,200. An extremely rare set of silver cutlery designed by renowned Scottish architect and artist Charles Rennie Mackintosh has fetched a staggering £175,200 sold by fine art auctioneers Lyon & Turnbull at auction, nearly six times its estimated value. The set, which includes a soup spoon, dessert spoon, dinner fork and dessert fork, was originally commissioned by Scottish artist Jessie Newbery and her husband Francis "Fra" Newbery, close friends of Mackintosh and his wife, fellow artist Margaret Macdonald.

### Australia - He had an amazing surprise proposal in store for her



Elise Turnbull's boyfriend, Jacob Houston, told her they were going out to the outer suburban Eltham Little Theatre in Melbourne, to see an opera *The Mikado*, by Arthur Sullivan. What Turnbull, 27, didn't know was that the Eltham Little Theatre wasn't staging anything that night. Instead, Jacob Houston,

33, had rented the space and planned to propose to her. The whole staged plan went off magnificently. As for the future? Well, Houston says he'll have to think of something for their wedding day that tops the proposal. "I might have to hire an orchestra, or the Cirque Du Soleil," he says with a laugh.



### British Virgin Islands - The newest centenarian



age of 100. Minister for Health and Social Development Hon. Vincent Wheatley commented, "Mrs. Turnbull-Stoutt, like many of our centenarians, has played a vital role in shaping the Virgin Islands through her wisdom, hard work, and unwavering commitment to community and family." The Centenarian Grant forms part of the BVI government's broader strategy to support the wellbeing of seniors.

Mrs Esmie Estene Turnbull-Stoutt, the British Virgin Islands' newest centenarian, was recently awarded \$10,000 under the government's newly enhanced Centenarian Grant in recognition of reaching the

### UK - Major National Studios Award

Kris Turnbull Studios based in Belfast, have been named among the very first recipients of the SBID UK Interior Design Icons Award. This is a new accolade introduced by the Society of British & International Interior Design to honour studios that have consistently set the benchmark for excellence in the interior design industry. This inaugural honour recognises the most influential design practices across the UK who uphold the highest standards in creativity, conduct, and project delivery. It marks a meaningful moment in their unwavering commitment to excellence of their multidisciplinary teams.



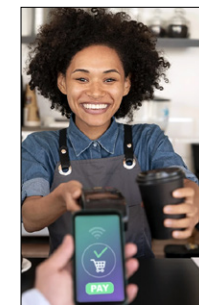
### USA - Audio system Statement - Copper grade connections



NVS Sound begins with Nathan who was born into a musical family, his whole life was live music. This innovative Turnbull system uses power cables made with pure copper conductors, Teflon insulation, a proprietary outer layer, and Furutech gold-plated connectors built to minimize internal vibration.

Designer Nathan Vander Stoep has displayed his Turnbull Audio system, initially launched at Capital Audiofest in 2024. It is the result of a 16-year journey that began with a decade as NVS Sound, a high-end sound system company. The story of

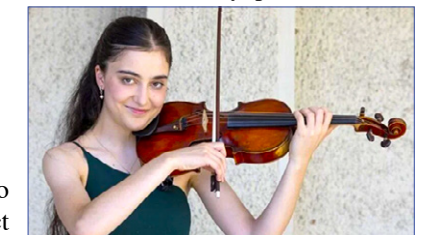
### South Africa - Retail pay innovation



An innovative payment solution TANGO is set to revolutionise the modern payment environment in the South African retail space, reports MoData.

Darren Turnbull, CEO of MoData, says: "At major industry events we attend, we see a growing focus on financial inclusion and the need for cheaper transaction fees. Among local retailers, we also see organisations under pressure to adapt to ever-changing consumer expectations and the emerging new technologies."

### Australia - Academy performance



On the 11th June A musical program will begin with a classical performance by Louise Turnbull at the Australian National Academy of Music at the Abbotsford Convent in Victoria. The program begins with Ernst's Polyphonic Etude No. 6, titled *The Last Rose of Summer* — a work that is both incredibly technically demanding and deeply musically rewarding. Louise Turnbull comments, "I'm thrilled to be performing such a diverse program — each work presents its own challenges and offers something deeply moving."



## HIS FATHER'S HERITAGE WISH . . .

*My father Paul Turnbull passed away three years ago in May. Growing up, he was always proud of his Scottish heritage and it is something he passed on to me. I finally managed to make the trip in January this year, as he had wanted to visit Fatlips Castle and The Turning of the Bull Monument.*

*During my time in Scotland I carried around a picture of him with me everywhere I went. Unfortunately, I managed to lose a tiny emerald from my hand-made Turnbull Motto on my way up to Fatlips castle. A friend sent me the possible meaning of it. So, I took it that my father was with me during that whole trip exploring Scotland. I can't wait to be back with my Mum next year and do it all again.*

*My friends comments . . . "Losing a tiny emerald from your pendant can be interpreted in various ways. Some people see it as a sign of change or a start of a new chapter in life. In many cultures, emeralds are associated with love, hope, and growth, so losing one might symbolise letting go of the past to make way for new opportunities.*

*Ultimately, the meaning is subjective and depends on your beliefs and feelings about the situation . . . Trust in your instincts."*

- Owen Turnbull



## Am I Scottish? TO BE FEATURED AT AUTHOR TABLE AT THE GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN HIGHLAND GAMES



*Award-winning author Betty Turnbull is pleased to be invited back to the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, North Carolina, as a featured author. She is particularly pleased to make available the newest release in the Papa and Billy children's book series, AM I SCOTTISH?*

*Am I Scottish?* is more than just a tale of ancestry; it is a heartfelt celebration of the global, multicultural influences that shape who we are. Through Billy's eyes, readers are reminded that no matter where we come from, we are all part of a broader story, and it's the shared experiences, struggles, and triumphs of all cultures that bring us together. Proceeds will go to the Highland Games relief fund for the repairs after Hurricane Helene.

If you are attending the games, please stop by and say hello. All five books in the series will be available at special games prices.

**Can't make the games? Visit [bedrulebooks.com](http://bedrulebooks.com)**



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

### Aldi Scotland launches their TAPS AFF canned tap water



*What is odd about this advertisement?*

To promote "the country's greatest resource," Aldi Scotland has launched canned Scottish tap water.

The new product, described as "pure brilliant and 100 per cent natural," is called 'Taps Aff' and "is packed with Scottish minerals and natural benefits". Taps Aff goes on sale, Monday, April 1, until stocks last.

*Yes . . . it was April Fools Day 2025!*

## Scotland's Turnbulls of the 1700's

James Turnbull was paid 2s.5d for 'sharpening Picks' as part of the work involved in constructing a boundary dyke in the area of Hassendean, central Roxburghshire -July 1774

William Turnbull paid £1.2s.6d 'for leading wood' to help in the repairs of fences and 'banking the water' of the river Teviot, at Hawick, Roxburghshire, in 1785

Robert Turnbull was one of five labourers paid for quarrying stones with which to build a stone dyke as a boundary division in upper Liddesdale, Roxburghshire -238 ½ days at 1 shilling per day-1793

## WHEN VISITING SCOTLAND . . .

Many 'Threads' users (*a social media app*) have urged tourists not to tell locals about their Scottish ancestry. In response to the question, one wrote: "Claim to be Scottish as they did an ancestry DNA test."

A second echoed: "Telling Scottish people that they the tourists, are more Scottish than Scottish people."

Many other responses involved incorrect pronunciations of places. From our cities to our villages, even locals can struggle to pronounce them right.

One Threads user stated: "Pronouncing Glasgow as *Glass-cow*."

A second agreed, singling out both Glasgow and Edinburgh as commonly mispronounced. Often, the name of the Scottish capital is pronounced as '*Edin-berg*' by those not from Scotland.

Another shared their irritation when tourists mess up their geography, commenting: "Referring to the UK in general as 'England'. You certainly don't want to say 'I love it here in England' when you're in Scotland."

*Scots love tourists, we love your excitement and every question you ask us. "We love to share our history and stories with you. The vast majority of us do not care about wrong pronunciation. Then again, most of us can't pronounce villages up in the Highlands ourselves."*

*"We also don't care if you are half or quarter Scottish, we just love the fact that you know about your origins and I can guarantee that most of us would help you find grave stones or information on where your family came from."*



## HISTORIC SCOTLAND AROUND THE BORDERS . . .

## A HISTORICAL VISION OF THE PAST AT GALLOWAY

*The Scottish Banner June 2025 - by permission Sean Cairney*

*An enormous pile of stones is all that remains of the ancient chambered cairn of Boreland in Knockman Wood, Galloway. These cairns were built around six thousand years ago by Neolithic farming pioneers to make the area their home.*



Visitors to the ancient, chambered cairn of Boreland in Knockman Wood, Galloway can now step back in time to see how the ruin once looked around 6,000 years ago. An enormous pile of stones is all that remains of the cairn built by the Neolithic farming pioneers who made the area their home but now an innovative new visualisation allows people to imagine what the cairn would have looked like in the past. Hundreds of photographs taken from drone have been used to create a 3D model of the tomb – a technique known as photogrammetry.

The full textured model of the site is used as the foundation for re-imagining the monument in its original state and how the cairn may have been used by those who built it. Working with professional archaeologist and artist Marcus Abbott, Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS), has also produced an online, viewed on the FLS website:

**<https://forestryandland.gov.scot/visit/forest-parks/galloway-forest-park/knockman-wood>**

### Vibrant ancient society

FLS Archaeologist Matt Ritchie said: “This visualisation allows us to imagine what this Clyde Cairn - a type of tomb characteristic of southwest Scotland – would have looked like when it was first built. The architecture suggests its use as both a tomb for the dead, where people placed the deceased in the chambers within the cairn, and a space for the living, where people could pay their respects within the forecourt. Archaeological studies of these chambered cairns can reveal only the bare bones of their story, leaving much to the imagination.

But they were built by a vibrant ancient society with beliefs, traditions and practices that would seem very strange to us today. Watching the video and seeing the cairn come to life will hopefully get visitors at the site – and those visiting online – curious and questioning whether the ceremonies that accompanied the placing of the dead in these monuments were small family affairs or large communal



*This innovative new visualisation allows us to imagine what the cairn would have looked like in the past.*

gatherings? Were there drums and chanting, dancing and trance-like states? Perhaps there were grand fire-lit feasts with songs, speeches and toasts? Or were there solemn torch-lit processions, arcane rituals and strange incantations?”

Of the cairns that survive across Scotland, some remain closed, their secrets hidden beneath huge mounds of stone, such as at Boreland in Galloway. Others bear the ravages of time, their features masked by rubble and collapse. Or have disturbed by treasure-hunters, their chambers ripped open and exposed. Many more have simply been lost over time. Matt added: “The reconstruction of Boreland really helps us appreciate and understand the remains of the chambered cairn as it survives today. It can be difficult to connect with these people and communities from so long ago, but their lands are our land and by re-imagining and appreciating these ancient structures that they left behind, their story is told and can connect us today with the lives of our ancestors.”

Archaeological studies of these chambered cairns can reveal only the bare bones of their story, leaving much to the imagination. They were built by a vibrant ancient society with beliefs, traditions and practices that would seem very strange to us today.



*This reconstruction drawing imagines a nighttime ceremony outside the chambered cairn of the Giant's graves on Arran. Illustration by David Simon*



# AND THE TCA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ARE...

The TCA Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that this year's scholarships have been awarded to two recipients. Each will receive a \$500 scholarship.

Camden Turnbull of Huntsville, Alabama will be beginning his university studies at Auburn University in the fall, where he will be pursuing a degree in kinesiology and health science.

Camden tells us "When I was four years old, my family went to Hawick, Scotland to see the unveiling of the *Turning of the Bull* monument, which depicts William Wallace's famous act of courage and service of turning the bull to save the king. While I do not remember many details of this trip, I do remember hearing from an early age about the legend of the Turnbull name and the rich legacy of service that my name represented.

My grandparents and great-grandparents spent many years as missionaries in the country of Haiti. My father served over twenty-nine years in the US Air Force and later the US Space Force. Growing up I recall frequently seeing "service before self" modeled and encouraged. Every day I walked past literal signs hung in our home reminding me of this Turnbull value... One sign, which hung in our hallway, says "Do what is right, not what is easy". Walking past these signs each day, I didn't think much of this but looking back, these signs were just one of many ways my family modeled and encouraged service to others. To me, this is what it means to be a Turnbull."



**Camden Turnbull**

Wyatt Trimble of Huntsville, Alabama plans on pursuing his degree to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist.

Wyatt shares "My Turnbull heritage is an important part of who I am and continues to shape the person I strive to become. While I've been attending Scottish games for as long as I

can remember, it wasn't until a few years ago—after a family trip to Scotland—that I truly began to understand the depth of our heritage. Standing on the land where our ancestors once walked gave me a deep sense of pride and belonging. It was no longer just a family tradition; it became a personal journey to learn more about my roots and how they influence my life today.



**Wyatt Trimble**

Clan Turnbull represents more than just a name; it represents a legacy of resilience, leadership, and community. Whether through my education, my role as Assistant Captain of my hockey team, or my involvement in nursing student leadership, I try to embody the values that have defined our clan for generations. I believe that honoring our heritage means actively participating in it, carrying it forward with pride and purpose."

***Congratulations to Camden Turnbull and Wyatt Trimble.***

## SPECIAL WIN/WIN OPPORTUNITY

### Acquire a Case of Turnbull Clan Wine - Support the Bedrule Kirk Fund

**For the month of June only**, proceeds from donations for a case of Turnbull Clan Association Wine will go towards the saving of Bedrule Kirk Future Fund (see page 1).

The Turnbull Clan's own private-domain wine, crafted specially for our members in the renowned Sonoma Valley in California is available exclusively to Turnbull Clan members, a case of twelve bottles for a \$250 donation. You can choose to receive all red, all white, or a split case of six red and six white bottles. This wine can be shipped anywhere within the lower 48 United States directly from the vintner in Sonoma Valley, ensuring the highest quality.

This is an opportunity to serve your own Turnbull clan wine at your summer events AND know the you helped the Bedrule Kirk Future Fund (see page 1). It's WIN/WIN for everyone!

[www.turnbullclan.com/wine](http://www.turnbullclan.com/wine)



**This exclusive offering includes two exceptional heritage blends: a medium-bodied complex red and a vibrant, food-friendly white. You can choose to receive all red, all white, or a split case of six red and six white bottles.**

[www.turnbullclan.com/wine](http://www.turnbullclan.com/wine)



## FOR THE YOUNGER TURNBULLS . . .

Issue 3

## Bitty Bulls



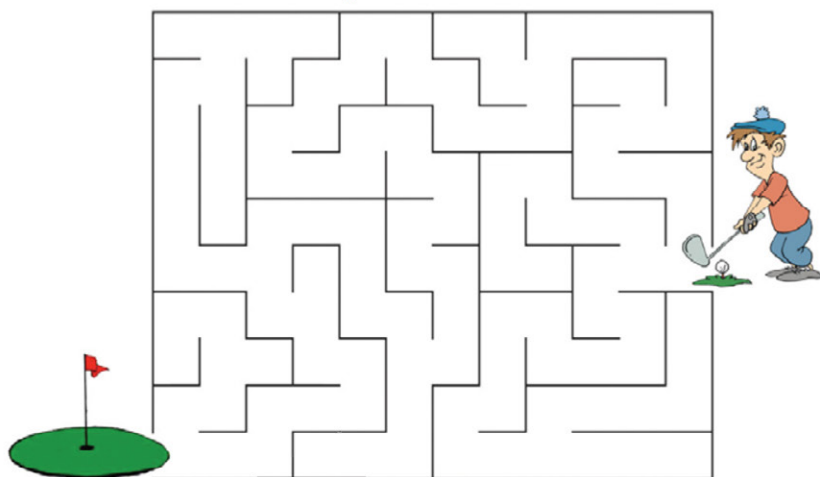
Hi kids! We still need your help. Our little bull needs a name. Please send name suggestions to [bittybulls@turnbullclan.com](mailto:bittybulls@turnbullclan.com).

Please include your name, address, and age.

The author of the winning name will receive a plush bull! Can't wait to hear from you!



## Help Dad Golf



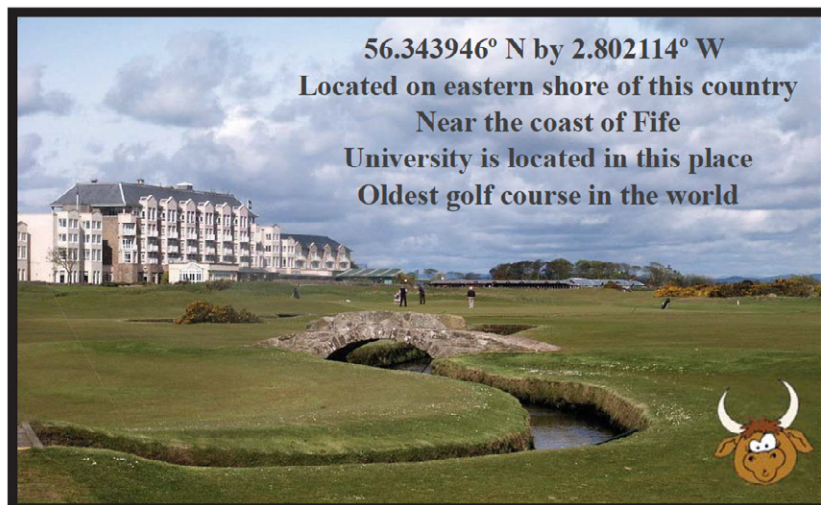
## In a Nutshell

Gowf, or golf was a game played on the eastern coast of Scotland in the Kingdom of Fife in the 15th century. The game first used sticks to hit pebbles around natural sand dunes and rabbit runs. By 1553 the clergy at St. Andrews Cathedral allowed the public to play the game around the grounds of the church. Formal rules of the game were drafted around 1744 and by 1764 the eighteen hole course was constructed around St. Andrews. By this time sticks and pebbles had changed to beechwood, apple wood, or iron club heads attached to ash or hazel wood shafts. Balls were made from tightly pressed bundles of feathers wrapped in a stitched horse hide sack.

## Did You Know?

Argyle socks have been worn in Scotland since at least the 17th century. The argyle pattern came from the tartan of the clan Campbell of Argyle, Scotland. Argyle, or the pattern of diamonds arranged in a diagonal checkerboard is still a popular choice to wear today, especially among golfers.

## Where in the World is Bitty Bull?



56.343946° N by 2.802114° W

Located on eastern shore of this country

Near the coast of Fife

University is located in this place

Oldest golf course in the world

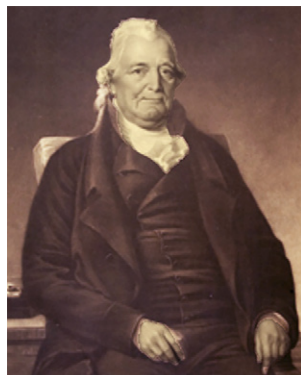
Do you know where Bitty Bull is vacationing?  
Send your answer to [bittybulls@turnbullclan.com](mailto:bittybulls@turnbullclan.com)



# SCOTTISH INVENTORS: JOHN BROADWOOD – THE GRAND PIANO

*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 has ultimately influenced the developing world.*



**John Broadwood - 1732- 1812**

At the age of 29, Scottish cabinet maker John Broadwood from Berwickshire, travelled to London from Scotland seeking work and was employed as an apprentice for the Swiss harpsichord maker Burkat Shudi. Shudi was one of the greatest instrument makers at the time.

In 1765, nine-year-old child prodigy Amadeus Mozart had been sent to London to play a Shudi harpsichord. However, Shudi was more impressed by his young apprentice, Broadwood. So much so, that he made Broadwood a partner in the business. John married Shudi's daughter Barbara in 1769 where they produced four children. Sadly and tragically, his young first wife died. After Shudi senior's death in 1773, Broadwood eventually married Mary Kitson in 1781. His second marriage bore him six children, resulting in a sizeable family to help keep the piano business

going. John Broadwood took control of the company from his brother-in-law in 1783.

Broadwood set about improving piano design, shifting from the traditional box shape, or square design to a new model, a prototype grand piano, which he perfected around 1777. Along the way Broadwood patented the foot-pedal for modulating the sound, doing away with the clumsy levers that were then in use. He further improved the tonal quality of pianos with such innovations as the bass bridge.

Broadwood became so successful that he abandoned the manufacture of harpsichords altogether to focus solely on his pianos, which were sold throughout Europe. In 1794, he extended the range of the instrument to produce the first six-octave grand piano. The music world was hugely impressed, and continued to favour this piano after Broadwood's death. Among the firm's clients have been some of the greatest piano composers and players ever; including Mozart, Haydn, Chopin, Beethoven and Liszt. Broadwood is also credited, together with Robert Stodart, founder of another famous firm of piano makers Americus Backers to perfect the 'English Grand Action' which remained in use by many makers virtually unchanged in Broadwoods' case, for over 100 years.

John Broadwood & Sons is the oldest and one of the most prestigious piano companies in the world. Many of his descendants were involved in pianoforte manufacturing in England. Others emigrated to Australia, where Broadwood descendants still live. The company holds the Royal Warrant as the manufacturer of grand pianos from King George III (late 1700's) continuously through to Queen Elizabeth II.



**1791 Broadwood Grand Piano**

**Turnbull - Trimble - Trumble**  
 Connect with others . . . join the DNA project

## Discover your Turnbull heritage through genealogical research!

*Are you a member of the Turnbull Clan or have Trimble, Trumble, or Turnbull roots? Dive deeper into your family history by joining the Turnbull-Trimble DNA and Genealogy Research Project!*

Through Y-DNA, mtDNA, and autosomal testing, we aim to establish connections between family lines, uncover ancestral origins in Scotland, and break through long-standing genealogical brick walls.

The project, as directed by Turnbull historian and genealogist, Fiona Turnbull, along with Katherine Turnbull and Alan Turnbull, is hosted on [Family Tree DNA](#), and includes members from around the world!

If you've taken a DNA test with another company, you may be able to upload your results to Familytreedna.com and become a member of the project!

*By participating, you can:*

- \* Connect with others researching their Turnbull heritage
- \* Discover family connections through DNA testing
- \* Contribute to mapping out the Turnbull-Trimble family story

Join the journey today and help preserve our shared history for future generations!

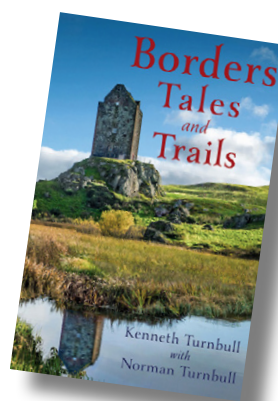
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