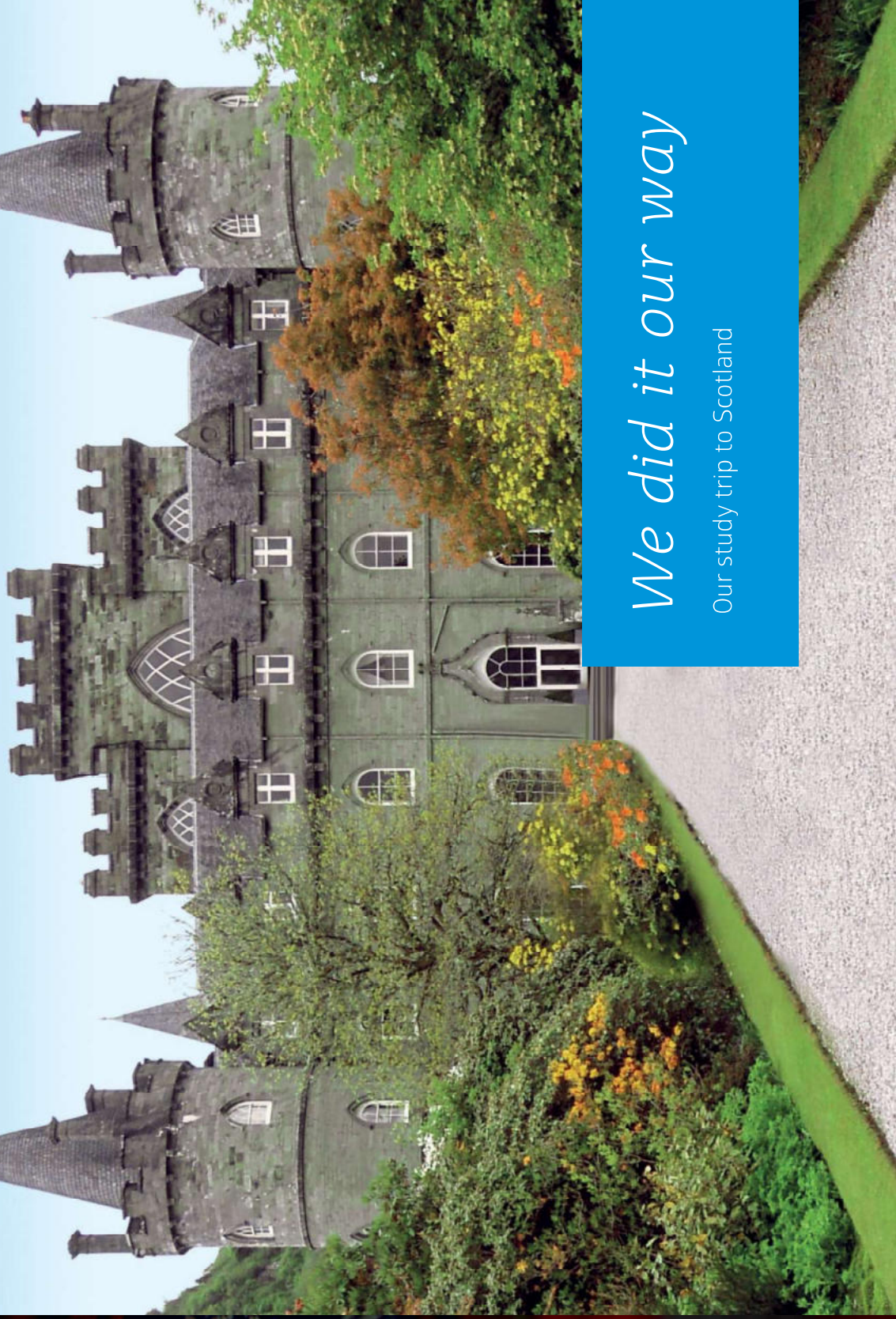




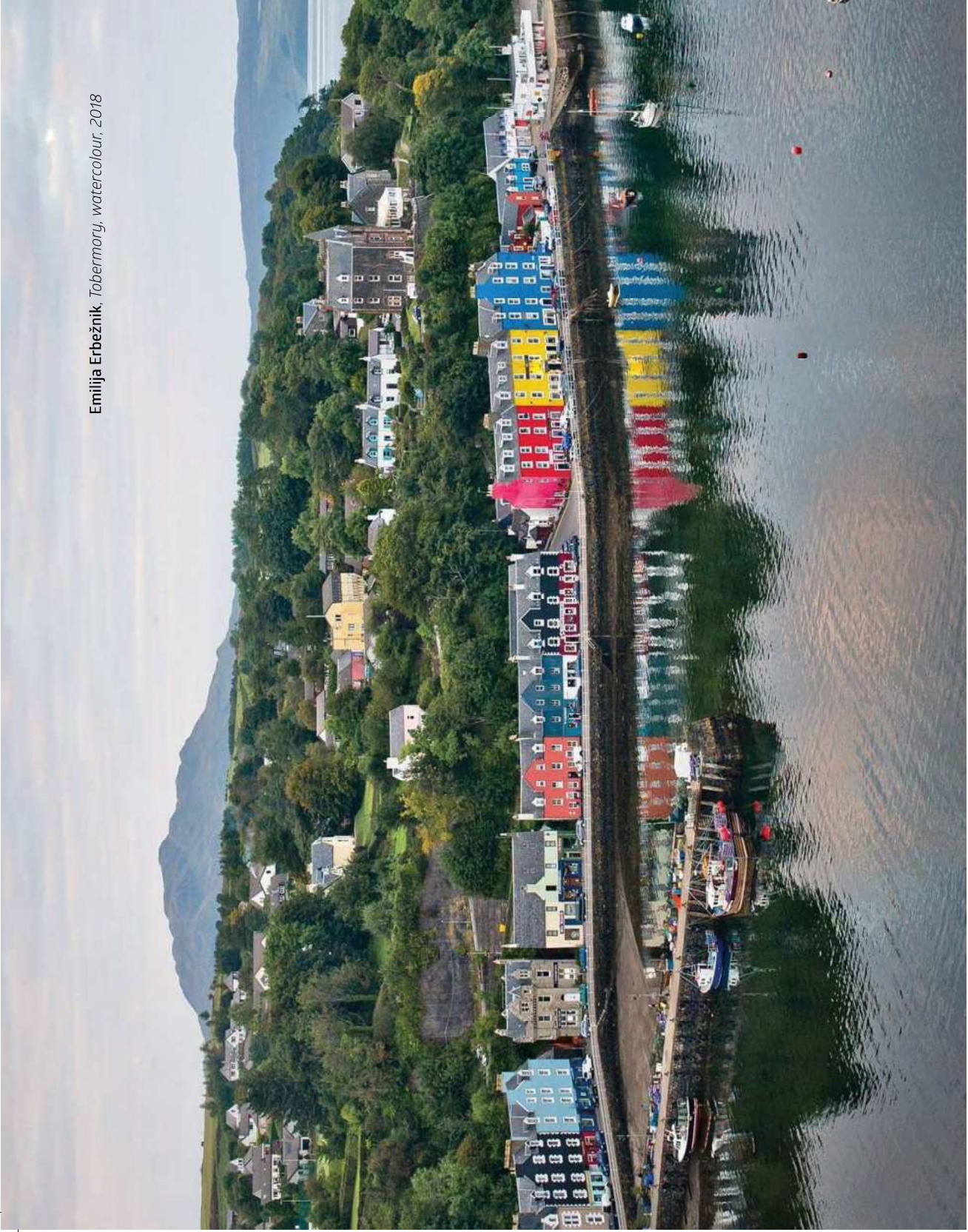
DVG  
Third Age University



*We did it our way*

Our study trip to Scotland

Emilija Erbežnik, Tobermory, watercolour, 2018



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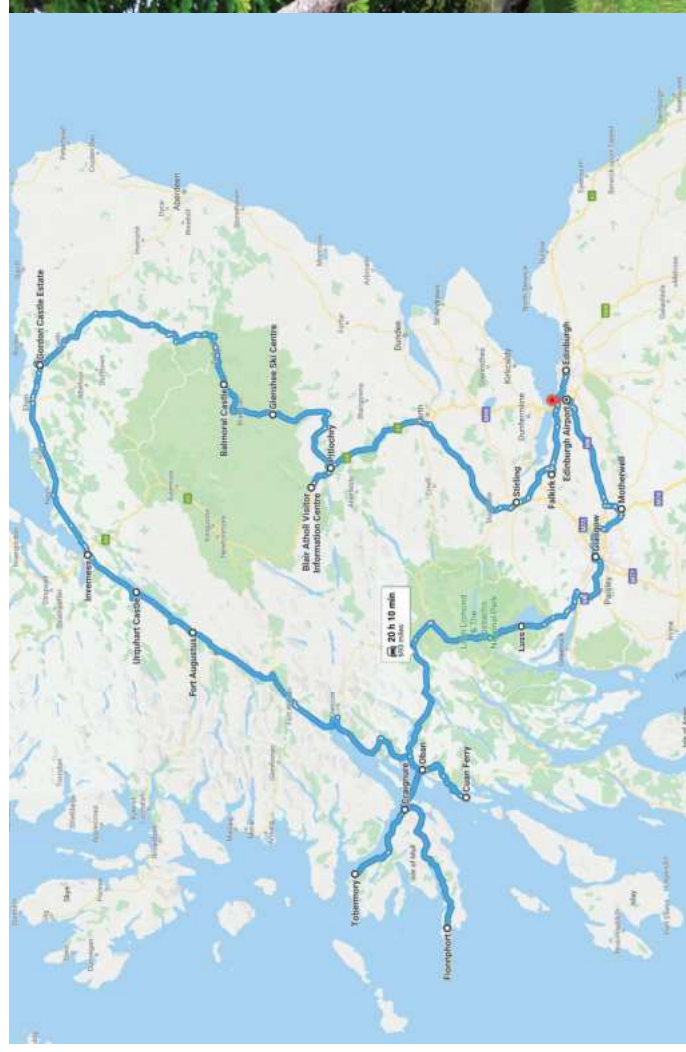
# OUR STUDY TRIP TO SCOTLAND

English language groups of the Third Age University at Dragomer, municipality, Log Dragomer, organized a seven-day study trip to Scotland in May 2018. English student Irena, with the help of Miha, Milojka and other students planned the itinerary and made the hotel, flight and park reservations for the study group. From time to time, the editor of the DVIIG website Miha junior was a great help with his ICT knowledge.

Each student prepared material for sightseeing and presented it on the way to the sightseeing destinations.

With a rented van for 9 people, we travelled a distance of 1100 km. Starting in Edinburgh, we travelled north to the seaside resort Cullen, from where we turned south to the island of Mull, proceeded onwards to Glasgow and returned to Edinburgh. We had sunny and warm summer weather for the entire trip, except one day when a planned visit to the island of Iona had to be cancelled due to heavy rain and wind.

*Olga Drofjenik*



## *My impressions from scotland*

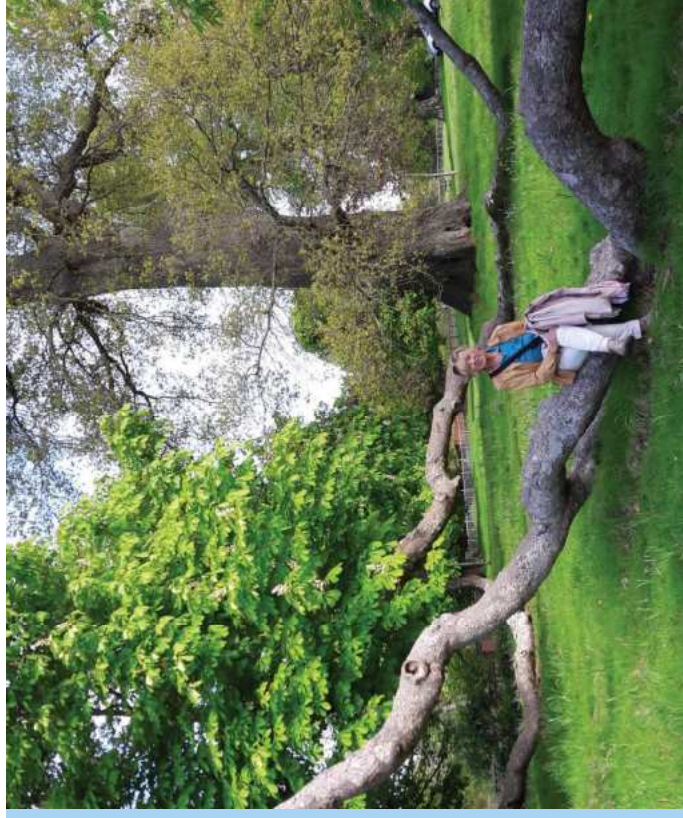
I knew that Scotland was a beautiful country, but our seven-day journey across Scotland exceeded all my expectations. All the way from the exceptionally beautiful Edinburgh to Glasgow, we admired the landscape with magnificent castles. Our eyes rested on wide ravines, pastures, rivers and lakes.

For me the most wonderful day in Scotland was a visit to Highland games in Forchabes, where a number of performances took place: from the championship in the Scottish dance of doubles and groups to the weight for height, and camber tossing. We admired and listened to the bands of bagpipes. With virtuosos drumming and stammering with sticks, the youngsters played in routines in a strict rhythm.

Our group of women classmates from both English students groups and classmate Miha, our professor of English Olga and her sister Erika, we all felt the pulse of Scottish life and the beauty of Scotland. Most of the time we enjoyed sunny and warm weather. It was windy, rainy and cold only one day and we had to give up the trip to the island of Iona.

Thanks to the organizers for the excellent preparation and realization of the trip.

*Emilija Milka Erbežnik*



# Edinburgh

Edinburg is the second largest city in Scotland and its capital with the Scottish parliament that was re-established in 1997, when the Scots have achieved devolution from Westminster.

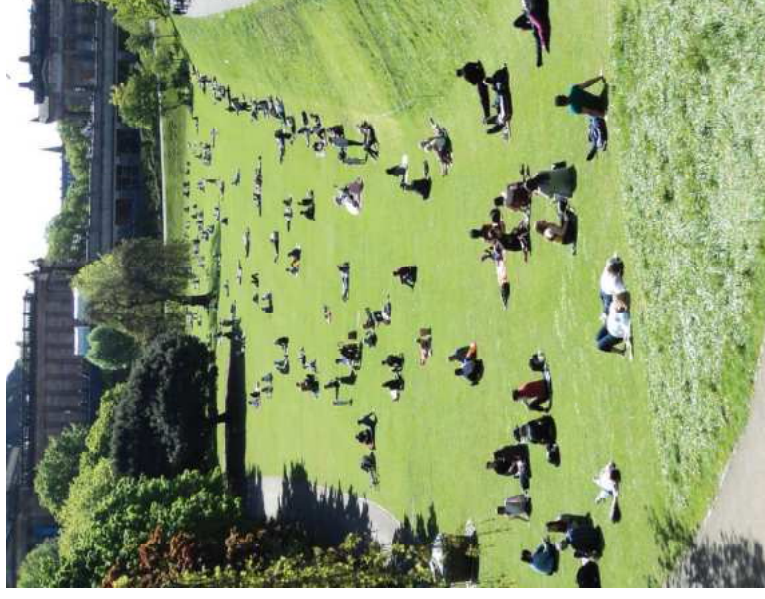
The original Scottish parliament of the independent Scotland had existed from the early 13th century and ceased to exist in 1707, when Scotland and England merged in Kingdom of Great Britain and the Parliament of Great Britain was formed in Westminster.

The city is indeed something special; on each step, we found the traces of the tumultuous Scottish history. The city conquers you with its squares, streets, small shops, pubs and cafes.

In addition to the beautiful architecture, a lot of space is dedicated to greenery and parks where the residents come together and relax.

Above the city on a volcano hill stands a mighty castle, visible almost from every point of the city. The castle has a long history.

Legends are told about it; its beginning dates back to the 12th century. Edinburgh castle is the second most visited landmark in the United Kingdom, right next to the Tower of London.



We stopped at the St Giles's Cathedral, the religious centre of Scotland for centuries. Its interior is full of historical and other creations that are worth seeing.

Royal Mile is the most popular tourist street in the old part of the town. There we admired beautiful small shops, cafes and restaurants. The street connects Edinburgh castle with Holyrood Palace.

The Palace is located near the volcano hill called Arthur's Seat, which was covered with yellow blossoming gorse and offered a wonderful view of the palace and the whole of Edinburgh. Holyrood Palace is the official residence of the British Monarchy in Scotland.

The New Town is located in the north of the old town. Young architect James Craig created it about 200 years ago. Throughout the city there are beautiful buildings: Register House, University Buildings, National Gallery, Royal Scottish Academy, St Andrew's Church and others.

We got the best impression of the city on walks through picturesque streets, squares and parks. On the way we could see many musicians in the traditional Scottish kilts. We also took a daily bus tickets and indulge in many pubs, bars and restaurants, serving

traditional Scottish food. In addition, don't forget! Edinburgh is the »birth place« of Harry Potter. Lovers of his books need to visit a small cafe The Elephant House, where writer J. K. Rowling wrote adventures about a young wizard, Harry Potter.

### *Darinka Pintar*





## *Falkirk wheel, Fort Augustus*

Falkirk Wheel is a rotating boatlift connecting the Forth and Clyde channel with the Union Channel. The wheel raises boats by 24 meters, which is about as much as the height of an eight-storey building. It was opened in 2002 and reconnects Glasgow with Edinburgh and The Irish Sea to The North Sea.

bicycle, and the ships must first fly through a couple of locks to descend from the canal to the aqueduct at the top of the wheel. The aqueduct could not be built up higher because it would otherwise threaten a historically important Antonine wall.

The plan for the renovation of the central Scotland channels and the re-connection of Glasgow with Edinburgh was led by the British Waterways organization. Among the several plans for the ship lift to connect the channels, the one on which the falconry wheel is now based has won.



The Falkirk Wheel is the only ship lift of its kind in the world and is considered a monument of Scottish engineering. Since 2007, Falkirk Wheel has also been featured on the front of the new 50-pound banknotes issued by the Scottish bank. We also stopped in the visitor centre, bought some souvenirs and had coffee. A few days later, we stopped at Fort Augustus on the Caledonian Canal.

The canal connects the Scottish east coast at Inverness with the west coast at Corpach near Fort William and uses three

lakes and three rivers on its way. There are many locks and stairs on the way from Fort Augustus to Fort William. We haven't seen all of them, but only those at Fort Augustus. We had luck. We could see three fishermen's ships which were going back home from North Sea to Oban on the Atlantic coast. We could admire the opening of the locks and raising of the ships to higher level.

*Majda Kupljen, Miha Lenaršič*



## Edradour distillery

On sunny Saturday we visited Edradour a "little model village", the major touristic attraction. It is located near Pitlochry. Edradour is famous as the smallest traditional distillery in Scotland and arguably the most unique. It stands alone as the last stronghold of handmade single malt whisky from a farm distillery still in production today.

Established in 1825, three men traditionally ran the distillery, but now there are just two.

We had a great tour of this small distillery. Our guide was very knowledgeable and informative and obviously keen to share his passion about the whisky. The tour began with whisky tasting under the instruction of the guide, how to drink it properly. We could take the "tasting glasses" home as a souvenir. Then we proceeded to watching the distilling process.

Only eighteen casks are produced each week. Aging of whiskey takes place in oak barrels, at least two years old and previously used for keeping wines. The colour and aroma of whiskey depends also on what was previously kept in barrels.



In the distillation of whiskey, water quality is also extremely important, and Edradour distillery uses magical water that surrounds the distillery.

turn cloudy. There is, amongst others, a non-chill-filtered 12-year-old malt, some of which goes into the "House of Lords" and "Clan Campbell" blends.

A variety of whiskies is available from the distillery. Only the Edradour 10-year whisky is chill-filtered, it's a process by which the esters and oils are removed, producing a cleaner look of the whisky, which when chilled or when ice is added does not

A visit to Edradour is an unforgettablely stimulating experience.

*Marinka Mojškerc*

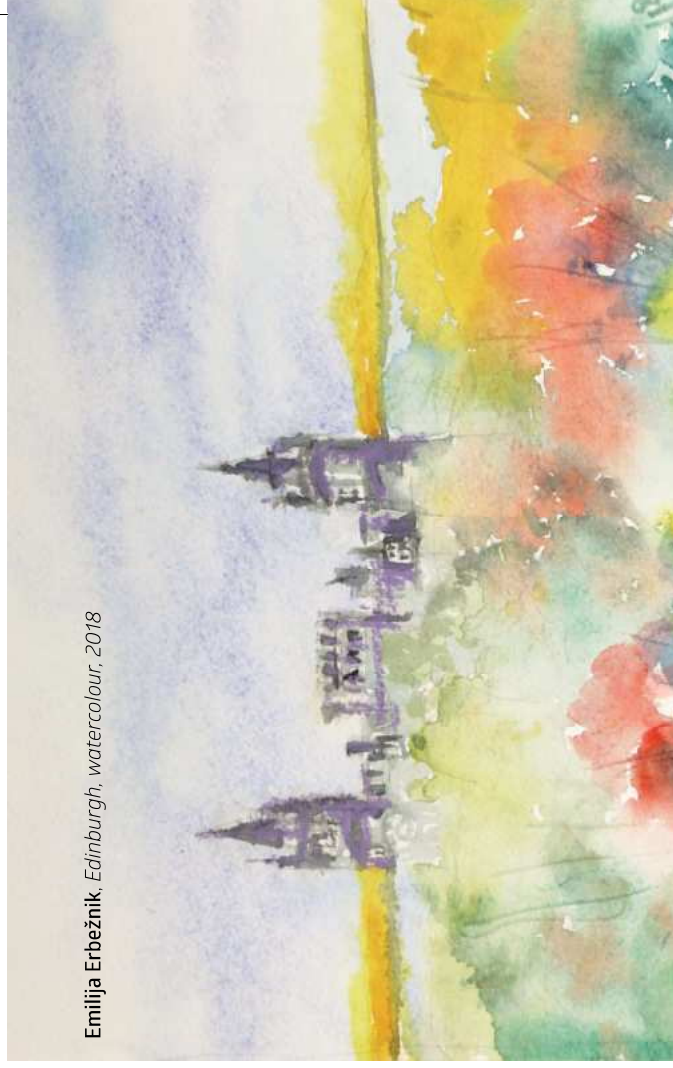
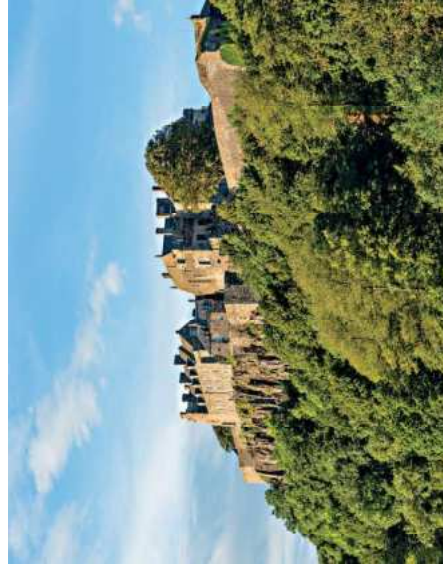


# CASTLES

Scotland is the land of castles. More than 3,000 of them form a part of its dramatic landscape. Therefore, no matter where you find yourself there is always a castle nearby. On our Scotland trip, we visited Inverary, Stirling, Urquhart, Balmoral, Blair Athol, and Scone castle.

## *Stirling Castle*

We caught a sight of Stirling castle only from outside. It is historically one of the most important castles in Scotland, equalled only by Edinburgh castle. The Castle stands on a high volcanic crag, and we enjoyed looking down to admire the plains and slopes below imagining the ancient royal gardens, oaks and tournaments grounds.



Emilija Erbežnik, *Edinburgh, watercolour, 2018*



With its most important strategic location in the country, the castle's key strategic purpose was to control the crossing on the river Forth to the east. It played a key role in the wars of independence. Nearby two of the most important battles in Scotland history - Stirling Bridge and Bannockburn, took place when the Scots won remarkable victories over the English army, one by "the Braveheart" (1297) and the other by King Robert Bruce (1314).

The castle was constantly adapting and new buildings were being added. The North gate is the oldest surviving building in the castle. The heart of Stirling castle is the spectacular palace, on the fashion of the European renaissance.

Several Scottish Kings and Queens had been crowned here including Mary Queen of Scots, barely a year old.

### *Scone Palace*

Scone Palace has an important place in history of Scotland. It was the original home of the Stone of Destiny, which was brought to Scone in 843 AD by the first monarch, King Kenneth Mac Alpin, who united the Picts and the Scots.

The origins of the stone remain a mystery. The Scottish kings were crowned upon the Stone until 1296, when the Stone was taken to Edinburgh. Later many Scottish kings were crowned in Scone (eg Robert the Bruce in 1306 and Charles II in 1651).



#### STONE OF SCONE

A replica of the stone upon which the Kings of Scots were crowned on Moot Hill until 1296 when Edward I took the stone to Westminster Abbey.

## *Blair Atholl Castle*

It is the ancestral home of the Clan Murray and was historically the seat of their chief. The Murray chiefs played an important role in support of William Wallace and Robert the Bruce during the Wars of Scottish Independence in the 13th and 14th century. The Murrays also largely supported the Jacobite House of Stuart during the Jacobite risings of the 18th century.



## *Balmoral castle*

The first home at Balmoral was built in 1390. In 1852 Prince Albert purchased the estate as a gift for his wife, Queen Victoria. The royal couple built an additional castle and it still exists today. The new structure was completed in 1856. Now, the 50,000-acre estate features 150 buildings in total. Balmoral is the private property of the royal family. In August Queen Elizabeth II. spends her summer holidays there. It's her favourite place her grandchildren say.



We could only see the dining room, where family portraits were displayed. We expected more than what we could see. The entrance into the ground floor was under construction, and we believe that May is not the time of flowering. There were no flowering bushes or flowers.



## *Inveraray castle*

It is an ancestral home of the duke of Argyll of the clan Campbell and an iconic must see attraction for every visitor. The castle has been standing on the shore of loch Fyne since 1400. A sketch of famous architect Vanbrugh inspired the impressive castle.

Only a part of the Castle is opened to visitors. Today Inveraray Castle is first and foremost a family home in which the present Duke of Argyll was growing up and now his children are. The contents of the Castle span many generations of the family and gives to visitors a glimpse of family heritage and the way its ancestors lived. The Argyll family have, over decades, chronicled the past in order to share it with future generations.

On the ground floor, we admired fascinating historical insights into the Castle; the state dining room amazed us by the opulence and colours of the hand painted interior. The paintings are of a quality unparalleled in Britain at that time.

Further exploration led us to the French influenced tapestry drawing room. A concealed door leads to an exquisite display of oriental and European porcelain in the china turret. In the ground floor, we





also marvelled at a magnificent armour hall with the highest ceiling in Scotland.

On the first floor gallery, we delighted in a compilation of paintings, the clan room devoted to the history and development and the Victorian room, where marriage between Princess Louis, the daughter of Queen Victoria and the 9th duke of Argyll took place.

In the basement, we wondered at the antiquated methods of cooking once used in the old kitchen.

We enjoyed most walking in the gardens, admiring rhododendrons and bushes we do not know the names, with their yellow and red leaves looking like flowers.

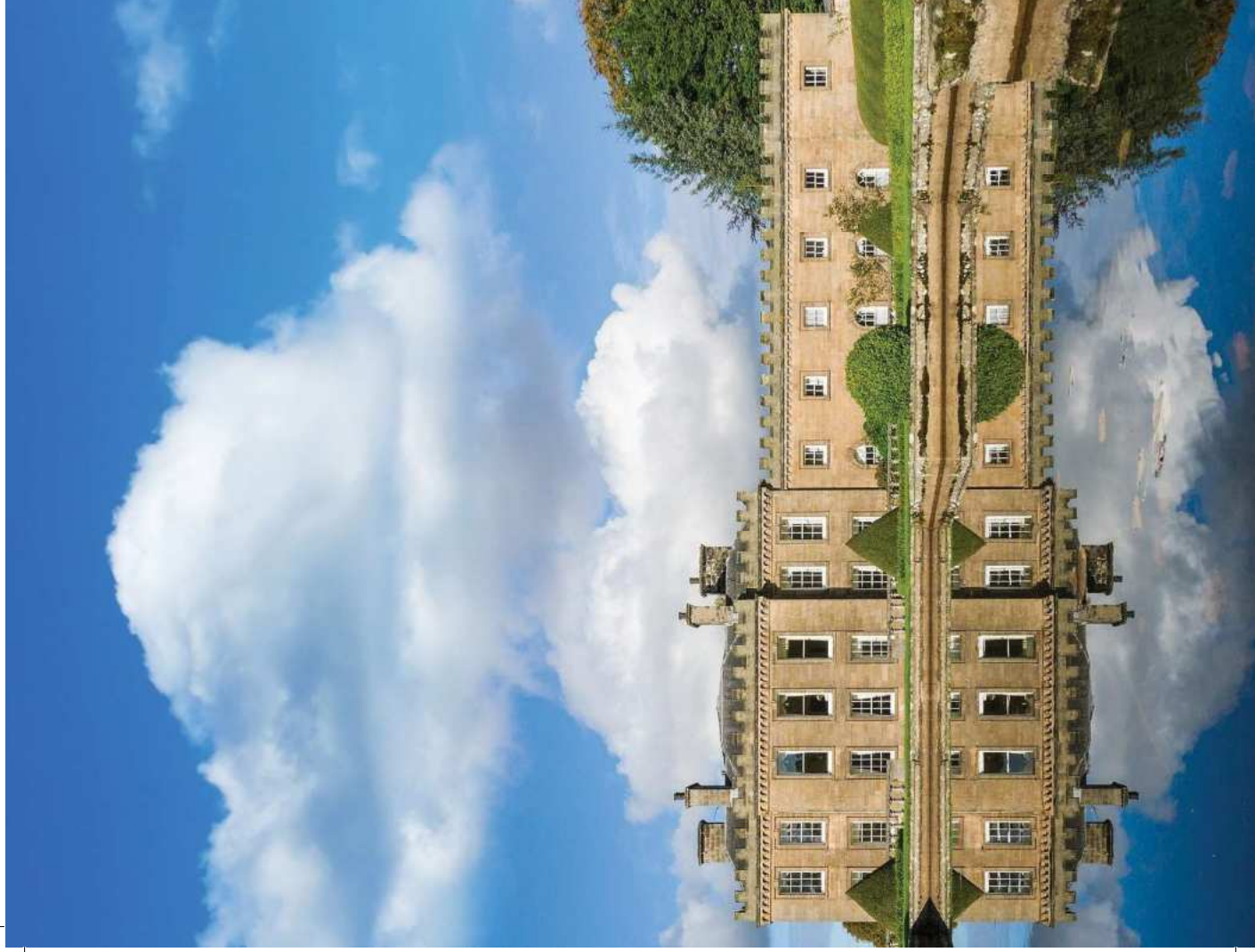
*Erika Dovnik Udovič*



## *Highland games – Gordon Castle*

Highland games celebrate Scottish and Celtic culture across the country every weekend from May to September.

On a lovely sunny Sunday, we visited Highland games in Gordon castle in Forchabers. The games are a spectacle like no other. The event is really worth seeing and a real family fun.



More than 10,000 people visited the games in Gordon castle. The games combine sport, fun, dance, playing the pipes, falconry, dog competitions, and various stalls with food, drinks and souvenirs. Many competitors and visitors wear traditional Scottish skirt - kilt. In the past only the nobles, soldiers, and officials used to wear kilts. Squared patterns (tartan) on kilts once represented individual families - clans. At first glance, the tartans look all the same, but they are different in colours, shapes, layouts and course of lines.

Highland Games would not be complete without the stirring and arresting sounds of the massed pipe bands. Pipers' bands and solo younger pipers competed in front of professional commissions. Pipes are a sound backdrop of all the games and they are staying in the ears even several days after the event.

Girls' dance tournaments were the main activity of the day. Highland Dancing is one of the oldest forms of dancing dating back to the 11th Century. I could see how afraid the girls were of their mums and their high expectations. Depending on their youth, girls have at least four dances and the most famous are The Fling and a beautiful Sword dance.

The Heavy Events are what the Games are all about. Athletic competition is central

to the celebrations. From about thirty disciplines, heavy athletes competed in five to six central ones. The most interesting are throwing stones, hammer, 56-pound weight for height and caber toss.

We watched the throwing hammer and probably the most spectacular Caber Toss. The competitors toss a large tapered pole called a "caber". Caber is a wooden pole, around 5.94 m in length and weighs approximately 79 kg, one end is slightly wider than the other.

The caber is stood up; its wider end up. The athlete hoists the Caber cupping the small end in his both hands. Once the Caber is balanced, the athlete runs, stops suddenly, pulls the caber so that the wider end hits the ground, the small end flips over. A judge calls the score as through looking at an imaginary clock, with a perfect toss being 12.00 with the small end of the Caber facing directly away from the athlete, who is standing at the 6.00 position.

*Irena Lenaršič*



## Isle of MULL

*Mull of Kintyre.*

*Oh mist rolling in from the sea,*

*My desire is always to be here.*

*Oh Mull of Kintyre.*

*Far have I travelled*

*and much have I seen.*

*Dark distant mountains*  
*with valleys of green.*

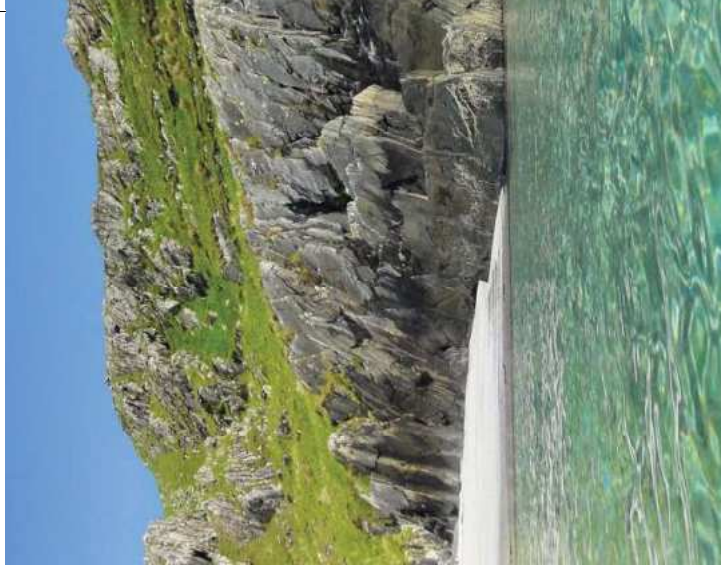
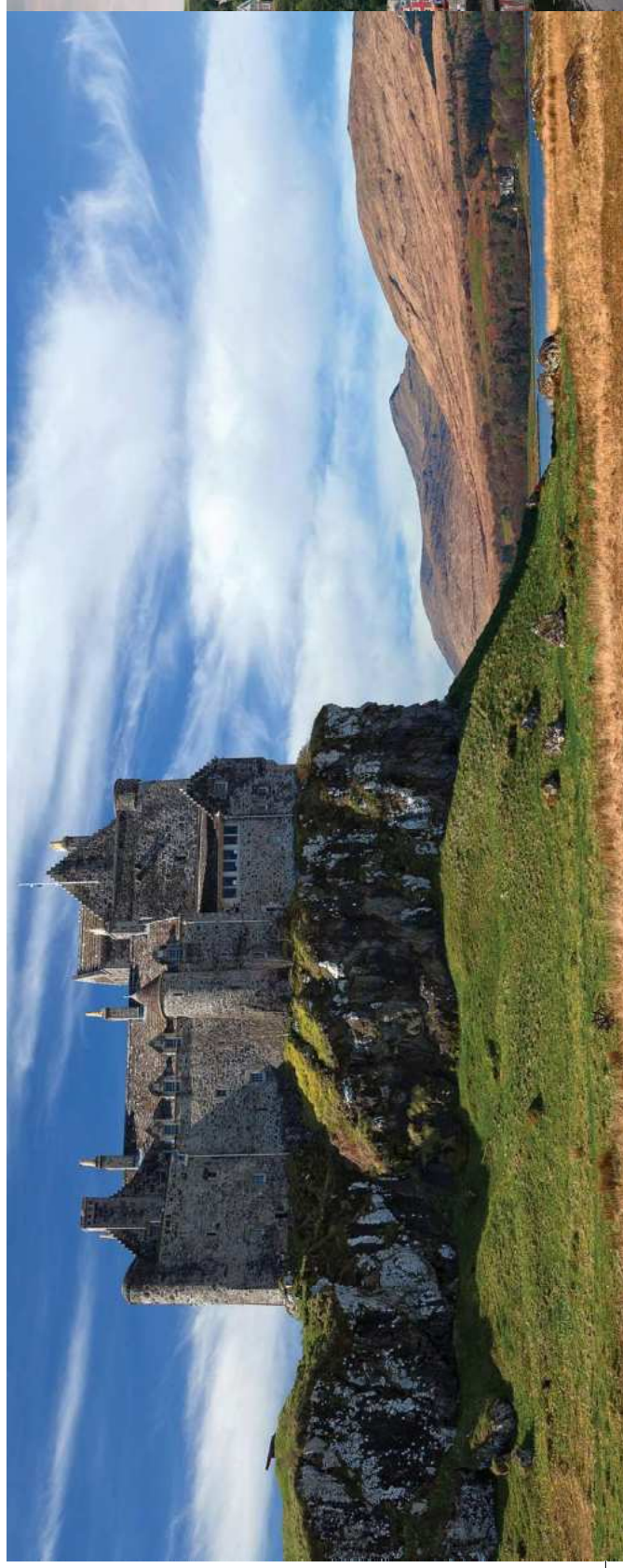
*Past painted deserts,*

*the sunsets is on fire.*

*As he carries me home to*  
*the Mull of Kintyre.*

(Paul Mc Cartney)

Scotland has beautiful islands and Mull is the fourth largest, with a coastline of 480 kilometres. We arrived at Mull on a cold rainy and windy. However, with little imagination and singing Paul Mc Cartney song Mull of Kintyre we could admire all its fascination: wild beaches, old abandoned castles, rocks all over, black melancholic landscape, some of over 250 different bird species, including the white tailed eagle, and we could also imagine rich sea life- minke whales, porpoises and dolphins.





Most of the population lives in Tobermory, built in 1788 as a planned settlement to support the fishing industry. In the 18th and 19th centuries, the population fell from 10,000 to less than 3,000 and the island economy collapsed. By the early 20th century, there were more sheep than people.

Now Tobermory, the capital, is a popular harbour for yachts. It has brightly coloured buildings along the waterfront so it is a popular destination for photographers. The population of Mull doubles in the summer because of many tourists that visit Mull each year.



Mull has several castles and a local church. On a promontory to the east lies Duart Castle, home of the chief of Clan Maclean. We had lunch in a nearby restaurant.

On a part of our journey on Mull we had a special tourist guide - the Scottish Highlands cattle.

*Vanja Vidmar*



## LUSS

On the way back to Glasgow we stopped in the picturesque village of Luss, which lies on the west bank of Loch Lomond in Trossach National Park. Its original name (historical) is "Clochan dhu" or dark village. Today, Luss is a beautifully preserved and decorated village that has many souvenir shops. It is located just off the main road, so many tourists visit it.

Several marked footpaths pass through the village. We went on a short walk. We looked at the beautifully decorated houses in the village, visited some souvenir shops, stopped in the shop with locally processed and smoked salmon.

Luss Parish Church made a powerful impression on us with its old cemetery. Church building was constructed in 1875. There has been a church on this site since 510 AD. It's very popular for weddings.

*Darinka Pintar*





# Glasgow

Glasgow is Scotland's largest city and its business capital. It was the second biggest city in Great Britain in its golden age with more than one million inhabitants. Now about six hundred thousand people live in Glasgow. There are many cities in close surroundings, like Paisley, East Kilbride, Clydebank, Coatbridge, Motherwell etc. which are almost connected with Glasgow. The river Clyde divides the city into two halves and after about 30 kilometres, it flows into Atlantic Ocean.

Glasgow Gaelic name is Glashu meaning Green Glen (zelena dolina) The city was founded by St. Saint Kentigern (in Gaelic St. Mungo), who established religious community about 1600 years ago. Glasgow wasn't as important city in the past as cities that lie on the eastern Scotland's coast and that were trading with Scandinavian Countries, Netherlands and Germany.

The city became important after America had been discovered. Due to the growing trading Glasgow developed very fast: sugar, rum, tobacco from Caribbean Islands and cotton from the USA were imported and then exported forward to continental European countries. Trading and later Industrial Revolution made Glasgow important for Scotland and British economy.



Glasgow as business capital has important manufacturing sector like heavy engineering (shipyards, railroad vehicles industries), chemistry, textiles, financial industries etc., as well as new growth sectors such as software, biotechnology and other in researching narrowed sectors. Glasgow once had more cinemas than any



other city in the world outside the USA. During the 1930s there were 114, hence Glasgow's nick name Cinema City.



We visited Glasgow on the last day of our traveling in Scotland. We slept in the city Motherwell, which is one of the satellite cities around Glasgow. We took a train from Motherwell to Glasgow. In 25 minutes, we arrived to Glasgow's Central Railroad Station.

Its architecture reflects the prosperity brought by the Industrial Revolution, when Glasgow became known as the Second City of the British Empire.



Unfortunately, we didn't have enough time to see all its sights. We just went sightseeing  
Georges square with statues of British emperors, one of them is Queen Victoria on horse.

Then we walked back to the Central Station and we used the pedestrian zone street. There were some musicians, one piper and some artists. We left the city after three hours and returned to our van.

*Miha Lenaršič*

# ABOUT SCOTLAND

Scotland is a constitutional monarchy, with the capital Edinburgh. It covers 78,800 square kilometres and has a population of around 5, 2 million. Official languages are English and Gaelic. The country can be divided into three areas – lowlands, Highlands and the islands. The lowlands are known for their fertile farmland and thick woodlands, the Highlands for their towering mountains, sweeping moorland and deep lochs, and the islands for their compact wild landscapes, beautiful beaches and far-reaching sea views.

Mention Scotland and most of us think of whiskey, tartans and bagpipes. However, Scotland's history is far richer, and its contribution to the world far more significant.



## *Ancient Scotland*

was densely forested and inhabited by people who were at first hunters and later became farmers. Remains of their houses and fields, ceremonial sites and burial tombs are scattered across Scotland. From that time, the most magnificent Neolithic monument, the Calanais Standing Stones, is well preserved on the Isle of Lewis. It is believed to be 5000 years old, constructed long before Stonehenge was conceived (3100 -1100 BC).

Over Shetland sprawls an extraordinary settlement site from more than 4000 years ago.

The last period of Ancient Scotland saw the invasion of Romans (79 AD), defeat of a confederation of tribes, called the Caledonians who were, under the leadership of a man, who is the first "Scot" named in the Scot's annals. In the Roman times, 16 tribes inhabited Scotland. Those in the North, referred to as Picts, by the Romans, strongly opposed Rome throughout the three centuries of attempted conquest. The Southern tribes – Britons came more fully under the Roman yoke, tolerating the invader.

Calanais Standing Stones





Jarishof, Shetland



Jarishof, Shetland

## Dark age Scotland

witnessed the final years of Romans, who left behind the defensive Antonine wall, their Empire's most northerly frontier; the invasion of the Gaels who brought with them a new language and the coming of Columba who spread a new religion Christianity. St. Columba founded his monastery on the island Iona around 563 and through centuries the island remained the symbolic centre of Scottish Christianity. After his death in 597, there were many Viking raids on Scotland. Around 843 the Gaelic king became the king of the Picts,

Scotland's oldest indigenous people.

The new kingdom was called Alba, with a Pictish base and dominated by Gaelic culture. Later the name changed to Scotia. The Scottish clan system became firmly established in the Highlands. The clans were like tribes and were made up of family members and people who had a loyalty to the clan's chief. Clan members could be distinguished by the clothes they wore – the origins of what we now know as the Scottish clan tartan! In Dark Age Scotland the Angles, a pagan Germanic race were firmly established in the north east of the land, now named England.



The Monastery, Isle of Iona

## Medieval and renaissance period

Scotland was transformed from a Celtic kingdom to a feudal state, with a great Norman influence, described also in Sir Walter Scott novel Ivanhoe. In those times, the Angles violently attacked

Scotland to occupy it and the Scots strongly resisted aiming to free Scotland from English domination and achieve their independence. Scotland was briefly occupied. William Wallace, a fearless soldier, we know him as the Braveheart, defeated the English at Stirling bridge in 1297 and re-established Scotland's independence. He was appointed Guardian of Scotland, but eight years later, he was betrayed, captured, cruelly tortured and executed.

Robert the Bruce, crowned at Scone (1306), learned how to fight the Angles from



Braveheart. Bruce defeated the Angles at Bannockburn near Stirling (1314) and thus assured Scottish independence. In 1320, the world's first documented declaration of independence, the Declaration of Arbroath, led to the legal recognition of Scottish sovereignty by the English Crown.

After Bruce's death, the war with England continued. In the middle of the 14th century, the Steward dynasty came to the throne and ruled Scotland for three centuries. Their ruling is distinguished by greater prosperity from the end of the 14th century through the Scottish Renaissance to the Reformation. In 1413, Scotland's first university, St Andrews was founded, followed by Glasgow (1451), Aberdeen (1494) and Edinburgh University (1583).

The life of **Mary**, Queen of Scotland has all the ingredients of a great novel: thrice married and widowed, barely saw her son, miscarried twins while prisoner of her own lords and executed when she was just 44 years old.

Her son, James VI, the king of Scotland, became James I of England, after the death of Elizabeth of England in 1603, assuming the title King of Great Britain. However, the unions of the crowns brought no peace to the nation. Conflict between the King (who declared himself as the supreme

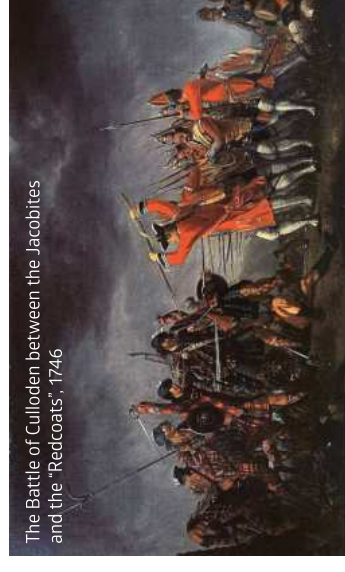


A painting of an illegal covenantors' meeting, *Covenanters in a Glen*, by Alexander Carse

the population of Scotland and about 36 times as much wealth, but there were four Scottish universities (St. Andrews, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Edinburgh) against two English!

The Act brought great division in Scotland. In 1745 Charles Edward Stuart, or 'Bonnie Prince Charlie' led the Jacobite uprising with the support from many Scottish clans to reclaim the thrones that his grandfather, once king of England, Ireland and Scotland, had lost in 1668. Despite their early victories, they were defeated at the Battle of Culloden in 1746.

Following the battle, the British government was determined to bring the Highlanders under their control and harsh laws were passed to eradicate all aspect of Highland culture, including the Gaelic language and traditional clothing. The London government even tried to change the name of Scotland into North Britain.



The Battle of Culloden between the Jacobites and the 'Redcoats', 1746

head of the Presbyterian Church) and the covenanters (who strongly opposed to it) led to almost a century of their persecution.

The conflict is known as the Killing Time on the account of the untold numbers of covenanters who were hunted and killed like animals and many immigrated to the USA. The most infamous event was "the massacre of Glencoe" (1692) when all members of Clan Donald were murdered by Redcoats. Walter Scott's novel *Old Mortality* is a fairly accurate account of the history of the Killing Time.

## *Eighteenth century Scotland*

witnessed the creation of The United Kingdom of Great Britain approved by the Scottish Parliament (1707). Just 150 Scots (dukes, marquesses, earls, viscounts and lords) out of a population of over 1 million Scots, voted to enter the Union with England. At the time of the union of 1707, England had about five times

In that period, the Highlands clan system ended and the so-called clearances took place. Rich landowners started raising sheep or cattle and abandoned the traditional farming, which made many a tenant landless. The first great wave of clearances took place between 1785 -1820. Many Highlanders had to immigrate (to Canada, Australia, New Zealand) or move to the industrial rising towns like Glasgow and Dundee in search of work. Tens of thousands left their homes and the Highlands were left depopulated.

Despite those uncertain times, the 1700s also saw the beginning of one of the greatest periods in Scotland's history – the Scottish Enlightenment. Among the Scottish thinkers and scientists of the period were: David Hume, Adam Smith, Joseph Black, and James Hutton and the bard Robert Burns. The enlightenment period also saw Scotland give to the world a remarkable number of "firsts", including the first steam engine, the first post office and the first savings bank. For a small country, Scotland's contribution to the world has been immense

### *Industrial and twentieth century Scotland*

(1850 – 1950) witnessed Industrial Revolution, experienced the flowering of cotton, jute and woollen industries.

coal mining, iron, steel and ship building industries and the first locomotive powered line opened. The working class emerged, fought and achieved better working conditions. In spite of industrial growth, there were no jobs enough and between 1841 and 1931, about two million Scots immigrated to the USA, Canada and Australia and 750,000 relocated to England. In the 21th century as many Scots lived in Canada and America as the 5 million remaining in Scotland. After the World War Two the "old industries" steeply declined and rose again when the crude oil was found in the North Sea and new industries developed.

### *Scotland today*

In 1997 Scots achieved a form of independence from Westminster and the new Scottish parliament was elected, the first to sit in 292 years.

In 2014 a referendum on Scottish independence from the United Kingdom took place. It reached high turnout

84,6%, of those 55% people voted against independence. Scots' centuries long striving for independent kingdom failed. After Brexit referendum, in which 52% of British voted for leaving the EU, the idea of independent Scotland was revived. The Scottish Government proposed holding a second

referendum on Scottish independence in March 2017, but the UK Parliament and Government has not agreed to this request to date. Scotland's government most probably delayed the referendum plan until after the Brexit process will be finished. However, Scotland has retained its national identity, despite "the global village" of today. It never became North Britain and it won't become North-West Europe either. It remains emphatically Scottish, with cultural identity forged over thousands of years.

### *Olga Drofenik*



The Scottish Parliament

Urquhart Castle, beside Loch Ness in Highlands



# Legendary Scottish writers



Robert Burns (1759-1796) is a national poet, celebrated annually on 25th January. He is remembered for many famous poems including Tam O'Shanter, Address to a Haggis and Auld Lang Syne.

*"But pleasures are like poppies spread,  
You seize the flower, it's bloom is shed;  
Or, like the snow-fall in the river, A  
moment white, then melts forever."*



Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832) was a romantic poet and novelist whose work includes well-known novels as *Ivanhoe*, *Waverley*, *The Heart of Midlothian* and *Quentin Durward*.

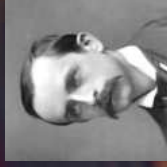
*"For success, attitude is equally as  
important as ability."*



Robert Luis Stevenson (1850 - 1894) is famous for his works *Treasure Island*, *The Master of Ballantrae*, *Kidnapped* and *The Strange case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*.

*"Don't judge each day by the harvest  
you reap but by the seeds that you  
plant."*

*"We must go on, because we can't turn  
back."*



JM Barrie (1860 - 1937) is novelist and playwright, best remembered today as the creator of Peter Pan, an ageless boy and an ordinary girl named Wendy who have adventures in Neverland.

*"You can have anything in life if only  
you will sacrifice everything."*



Sir Conan Doyle (1859-1930) is best known for the 60 stories he wrote about Sherlock Holmes.

*"The lowest and vilest alleys in London  
do not present a more dreadful record  
of sin than does the smiling and  
beautiful countryside."*

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