



CAPE CALEDONIAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE CAPE TOWN CALEDONIAN SOCIETY



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INCLUDED IN THIS EDITION

From the desk of the Chief

Scottish History corner

Did You Know

History of The Clans

News of Members

Birthdays in May

Items for sale/wanted

Pipe Band

Highland Dancing

Country Dancing

Piper for Special Occasions & Events

Kilt Maker

Forthcoming Events

FROM THE DESK OF THE CHIEF

Next month, on Sunday 24th May, our Society will gather at Gardens Presbyterian Church for the Kirkin O' the Chief, one of the important occasions in our annual calendar.

The word *Kirkin* comes from the old Scots word *kirk*, meaning church. Traditionally, a Kirkin is a service of thanksgiving and blessing, bringing people together in faith, fellowship, and shared heritage. Over time, many Scottish societies and clans adopted the custom as a way of marking continuity and community.



For those of us living far from Scotland, such traditions take on added meaning. They remind us of the enduring character of the Scottish people: resilient, proud of their heritage, and committed to community wherever they may be in the world. Here in Cape Town, we are fortunate to continue those traditions in a spirit of friendship and fellowship.

The Kirkin O' the Chief is therefore not simply a ceremony, but an opportunity to come together as a Caledonian family, to give thanks for friendships old and new and to look forward to the year ahead.

All members, families, friends, and guests are warmly invited to join us on Sunday 24th May at 10:00am at Gardens Presbyterian Church. The service has a distinctive Scottish flavour, with Society members being piped into the church and, as part of the service, the presentation of the Chief and Society Office Bearers, prayers for Scotland, South Africa, and the Society, together with a pipe solo or two.

As the new Chief of the Society, I look forward to sharing this special occasion with you.

The Kirkin will be followed by the Chiefs at Home in the church hall, so please allow time in your Sunday planning for joining us after the Kirkin.

Please allow extra travel time as there may be road closures in places due to the Cape Town Marathon

SCOTTISH HISTORY CORNER (continued from previous editions)

Robert the Bruce died in 1329 at Cardross, probably after a long and debilitating illness often later described as leprosy, though modern historians debate the diagnosis. He had spent his final years consolidating the independence he had fought so hard to secure.

He was succeeded by his only legitimate son, David II, who was just five years old. As a child king, David could not rule personally, so government passed to a regency led by senior nobles. Medieval kingdoms were always vulnerable during minorities, and Scotland was no exception: rival factions emerged, ambitious nobles manoeuvred for influence, and England watched events closely for an opportunity to intervene.

That opportunity came through Edward Balliol, son of John Balliol. John Balliol had been chosen king in 1292 during the Great Cause, when Edward I of England was invited to arbitrate the Scottish succession dispute. Edward then treated Balliol as a subordinate ruler, repeatedly humiliating him and interfering in Scottish affairs. When Balliol resisted, Edward invaded Scotland in 1296, defeated him, stripped him of power, and carried him off to England. Although removed from power, the Balliol claim to the throne did not disappear. His son Edward therefore represented an alternative royal line, attractive to those nobles who opposed the Bruces or hoped to profit from English backing.

In 1332, with support from a group known as the “Disinherited” (nobles who had lost lands after Bruce’s victories) and with encouragement from Edward III of England, Edward Balliol invaded Scotland. He won a dramatic victory at Dupplin Moor and briefly had himself crowned king. The young David II and his queen, Joan of the Tower, were sent to safety in France, where the Auld Alliance again proved invaluable. Balliol’s hold on power, however, was weak, relying heavily on English arms rather than broad Scottish support.

Scottish resistance gradually regrouped under loyal leaders such as Sir Andrew Murray. Through years of campaigning by David, Balliol’s position in Scotland weakened, and David II was able to return to Scotland in 1341 and begin ruling in his own right. However, the kingdom remained caught in the wider Anglo-French struggle of the Hundred Years’ War and in 1346, honouring the alliance with France, David invaded England, where he was defeated and captured at the Battle of Neville’s Cross. He spent eleven years as a prisoner in England before eventually being released for a large ransom.

David II died childless in 1371, ending the direct Bruce line. The crown then passed peacefully to his nephew Robert Stewart, who became Robert II, the first monarch of the Stewart dynasty. This was a major turning point, for the Stewarts (later spelled Stuarts) would rule Scotland for centuries and eventually inherit the English throne as well.

DID YOU KNOW

Since the Middle Ages, many Scottish monarchs have used the Unicorn in their coat of arms. Kings favoured the mythical beast as they considered it to be the representation of power.

After James II embraced the legend of the fabled creature during his reign in the 15th century, he officially made it Scotland’s national animal to show Scottish Kings’ nobility. Medieval legend also suggests that only a King could hold a Unicorn captive, which is why the Unicorn symbol is often covered in chains.

Interestingly, the royal Scottish coat of arms originally had a Unicorn either side of it. However, once King James VI became James I of England, he replaced one of the Unicorns with the English Lion to symbolise unity of the two countries.

The Unicorn also features in the Clan Crests of Clan Cunningham, Oliphant, Ramsay and Stewart of Appin.

HISTORY OF THE CLANS. This month I highlight Clan Chisholm.

Clan Chisholm is a Highland Scottish clan most strongly associated with the Highlands of Inverness-shire, especially Strathglass. Although later regarded as a Highland clan, the family’s deeper origins are thought to lie in the Borders, with the name likely deriving from lands called Chisholm near Roxburghshire.

The Chisholms appear in records from the 13th century in the Scottish Borders. During the Wars of Independence, members of the family are believed to have supported Scottish causes, though documentation is patchy.

By the 14th century, the family had established itself in the Highlands through marriage and land acquisition, eventually becoming chiefs in Strathglass. This shift transformed the Chisholms into a Gaelic-speaking Highland clan, their principal seat became Erchless Castle, which remained strongly associated with the chiefs for centuries.

Like many Highland clans, the Chisholms were involved in the Jacobite risings. Clan members supported the Jacobite cause in both 1715 and 1745, though often in limited numbers compared with larger clans. At the Battle of Culloden, Chisholms fought for Prince Charles Edward Stuart. Their chief at the time, Roderick Chisholm, was killed during the campaign shortly before or around Culloden-era fighting.

NEWS OF MEMBERS



During May, Past lady President, Jacinta Munro, has organised the St Norbert's Kommetjie Festival of Art, Music & Literature.

It has the title of, ***“Where Tradition Meets the Tide”*** and she and the Norbatine Fathers invite you to a week of soul-stirring music, breathtaking art, and hidden history. Jacinta, together with the Norbertine Fathers, has directed and organised the St Norbert's Priory in Kommetjie into a hub of contemporary creativity.

Whether you're a jazz lover, an art collector, love modern and classical music, or just enjoy food and wine there will be a seat there for you.

As she says, the highlights will be:

The Sound: “From the majestic Baroque Organ and the South African Naval Band to local choirs and smooth jazz.”

The Sight: “Local Art Exhibitions, a Junior Art Competition, and a prestige Norbertine Art Auction.”

The Story: “Rare guided literary tours of the Monastery Library.”

The Fun: “Hands on Workshops, Community Games, and Local Food and Wine Experiences.”

St Norbert's Kommetjie
FESTIVAL OF ART, MUSIC & LITERATURE





Entry Fees Apply.

The Norbertine Fathers invite you to a week-long cultural celebration from 18–24 May 2026 at St Norbert's Priory in Kommetjie. Blending spiritual tradition with contemporary creativity, the festival will feature:

St Norbert's Priory, Kommetjie Festival Coordinators: Fr Subeesh Kalappurackal O. Praem/ Jacinta Munro
Contact Number: 0726026144 | Email address: Stnorbertkommetjiefestaml@gmail.com



DAY	TIME	EVENT
Monday	10:00-19:00	Library Tours, Music concerts, Poetry sessions, Art Exhibition, Food and Refreshment, Wine and Beer Tasting, Tea Garden, Introducing famous Authors.
Tuesday	10:00-21:00	Library Tours, Music concerts, Poetry sessions, Art Exhibition, Food and Refreshment, Wine and Beer Tasting, Tea Garden, Introducing famous Authors.
Wednesday	10:00-21:00 (Concert 1: 17:00-18:00) (Concert 2: 19:00-20:00)	Library Tours, Music concerts, Poetry sessions, Art Exhibition, Food and Refreshment, Wine and Beer Tasting, Tea Garden, Introducing famous Authors. *Baroque Organ Concerts- Stefan Steyn
Thursday	10:00-21:00 (Musical Event: 19:00-21:00)	Library Tours, Music concerts, Poetry sessions, Art Exhibition, Food and Refreshment, Wine and Beer Tasting, Tea Garden, Introducing famous Authors. *Christian Devotional Songs
Friday	10:00-22:00 (Musical Event: 19:00-22:00)	Library Tours, Music concerts, Art Exhibition, Food and Refreshment, Wine and Beer Tasting, Tea Garden, Introducing famous Authors. *Celebrating Sports Evening
Saturday	10:00-22:00 INB: Jazz at the Priory Concert: 19:00-22:00 *Other Events will take place at various times throughout the day)	Library Tours, Art Exhibition, Food and Refreshment, Introducing famous Authors. Events on the day: *Masiphumele Choir *Local bands *Wine Tasting/Craft Beer Tastings *Jazz at the Priory Concert *Potjiekos Competition *Junior Art Competition *Tea Garden *Craft Stall vendor
Sunday	10:00-22:00 INB: SA Navy Band: 15:00-17:00 *Other Events will take place at various times throughout the day)	Library Tours, Art Exhibition, Food and Refreshment, Introducing famous Authors. Events on the day: *Masiphumele Choir *Liturgical Dancing *Wine Tasting/Craft Beer Tastings *SA Navy Band *Local Choirs *Tea Garden

St Norbert's Kommetjie
FESTIVAL OF ART, MUSIC & LITERATURE

SCAN TO FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK SCAN TO FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM

EVENT SPONSORS

Ticket prices for the events vary and, until they are published, please contact Jacinta for details. Contact her too if you would like to come along as a vendor and market your products. jaybirdmunro@gmail.com or 072 602 6144 as well as stnorbertkommetjiefestaml@gmail.com.

Keep an eye open on Facebook and Instagram between now and the opening of the Festival.

When and Where: 18th May to 24th May at St Norbert's Priory, 8 Rubbi Road Kommetjie



Believe it or not, but Jacinta will be appearing in a dance spectacular in the of Cape Town city centre just before the opening of the above Festival.

Saturday 16th May.

“Cape Town Celebration of Dance”

Performed on

World Belly Dance Day

The Wave Theatre, 44 Long Street

From 11am to 4pm

There will be belly dance performances from more than 20 studios and dancers and will include brand new beginners to award winning performers. Jacinta will be dancing with ladies from the “Sunaa-Moon Studio”

Just as important as the dancing, all profits raised on the day will be donated to: **“Rape Crisis”** <http://rapecrisis.org.za/>

World Belly Dance Day is hosted by The Feminine Divine for the 15th time this year, and the organisation has, collectively, raised R158 000 for Rape Crisis since their first event.

Come along and enjoy spectacular dancing and support a worthy cause.

BIRTHDAYS IN MAY

A very happy birthday to all our members who celebrate their special day this coming month:

Mary Kent 3rd May

Allan Bateson 12th May

Glenda Thorpe 12th May

Rita Robson 14th May

Ian Stevenson (Councillor) 14th May

David Wallace 16th May

ITEMS FOR SALE/ WANTED: Callies Scottish Marketplace

In this section, members can buy and sell Scottish items — anything from clothing eg a kilt, Prince Charlie Jacket, etc to memorabilia. If you’re looking for something in particular, you can also post a request here. Since this is within our own community of friends, it provides a safe and trusted platform where you don’t need to worry about scams. Email me your “advert” or item request and I will include it in the following Newsletter. Nothing wanted or for sale this month.

PIPE BAND

If anyone has a yearn to learn the bagpipes and join a band, contact Pipe Major Grant Scheffel of the Nelson Mandela Artillery Pipes & Drums (Grant can be contacted by clicking the link: grant@bagpipes.co.za)

The band plays one Saturday each month outside Mitchells Scottish Ale House at the Waterfront, at 4PM.

HIGHLAND DANCING

The following are three Highland Dance studios that can be contacted for anyone who might be wanting to try out Highland Dancing:

1. Celtic Dance Tapestry: Contact Hayley 083 2852825 (they often perform at our events)
2. Claddagh Irish & Highland Dancing: 083 564 6717 (Heather)
3. Lucas Highland Dance Studio: Contact Lesley 082 448 6335

COUNTRY DANCING

Anyone interested can contact Heather Hodgson (info@scd.za.net) for dancing in the Fish Hoek area (Wednesday nights at 7:45PM, at St Margaret's Anglican Church in 5th Avenue).

Dancing also at Lynfrae Scottish Dancing Club (Wednesday nights at 7:30PM, at the Congregational Church Hall, Main Road, Claremont). Anyone interested can contact Hilary Kerr (hilary@kerr.za.net).

PIPER FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS & EVENTS

If anyone requires a piper for a wedding, funeral, or other event, please contact me via email (Andrew.bosch@uct.ac.za) or 081 742 3706 to discuss your needs.

KILT MAKER

If you need a kilt made, or repairs to a kilt, contact Kathy. I can highly recommend her work. She can be contacted on 076 342 5371.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Cape Town Celebration of Dance – Saturday 16 May 2026

St Norbert's Kommetjie Festival of Art, Music & Literature – 18th to 24th May 2026.

Kirkin O' the Chief – Sunday 24th May 2026



The Kirkin will be followed by

The Chiefs at Home in the church hall.

Please allow time in your Sunday planning to join us after the Kirkin

Remember to allow extra travel time to and from the Church as there may be road closures in places due to the Cape Town Marathon



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**Through the howl of wind and showers of rain,
We play for the living, the dead and the slain,
Our notes they are the sound of an angels swoon,
For our enemies, the sound of their coming doom,
Be you married or buried our pipes sound true,
Whenever we're needed, we'll be there for you.**

A PIPERS CREED

