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Search Terms: "lynx" AND ("Scotland" OR "Scottish")

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Content Type	Narrowed by
news	Sources: Scotland; News Timeline: 01 Aug, 2020 to 31 Dec, 2024

1. Pirates sunk in Tayside rout

24 Oct 2024 Paisley Daily Express SPORT; Pg. 24

2. Veteran Ralph Scott's main regret is sweating mistakes

12 Oct 2024 Aberdeen Press and Journal SPT; Pg. 71 Jamie Durent

3. Missing Lynx Pirates can't find top form against Dons

11 Oct 2024 Paisley Daily Express SPORT; Pg. 22,23 TAYLOR MURRAY

4. Renfrewshire teams aim to be cup winners

05 Oct 2024 Paisley Daily Express NEWS; Pg. 23 taylor murray

5. Wheely spectacular day out at museum Huge turn out for big Wings and Wheels exhibition

04 Oct 2024 Dumfries & Galloway Standard NEWS; Pg. 10 SHARON LIPTROTT

6. No fewer than 15 bulls sold for five-figure among the Charolais

01 Oct 2024 The Scottish Farmer Julie Wight

7. Lecture will dig into the story of extinct species

25 Sep 2024 Stirling Observer NEWS; Pg. 8 CHRIS MARZELLA

8. Screen dream for ice arena

31 Aug 2024 Aberdeen Evening Express NWS; Pg. 5 Alastair Gossip

9. What my 30 years investigating the far right reveals about unrest that sparked riots

11 Aug 2024 The Herald Neil Mackay

10. No Headline In Original

11 Aug 2024 The Sunday Herald (Glasgow) Pg. 30 William Bain

11. Glasgow artist Trackie McLeod serves up Glasgow in the 90s nostalgia for new exhibition

30 Jul 2024 GlasgowWorldNEWS

12. Predator reintroductions: Are we asking the wrong questions?

22 Jul 2024 The Herald Craig Williams

13. We've been asking the wrong questions on predators

22 Jul 2024 The Herald (Glasgow) Pg. 15 Alan Simpson

14. Trust warns as deer numbers near a million

04 Jul 2024 Aberdeen Press and Journal NWS; Pg. 9 Stuart Macleod

15. Well, at least we know who not to vote for if we care at all about the planet

02 Jul 2024 The Herald Vicky Allan

16. 'Reintroducing lynx, wolves or bears unacceptable to Scots farmers and crofters'

22 Jun 2024 The Herald Vicky Allan

17. Return of the wolf. Map shows rise across Europe, will Scotland reintroduce?

22 Jun 2024 The Herald Vicky Allan

18. Demonised, tortured, extirpated - is it time to bring the wolf back to Scotland?

22 Jun 2024 The Herald Vicky Allan

19. New archaeological dig will find the remnants of the Glasgow Garden Festival of 1988

20 Jun 2024 The Herald Paul English

20. How the ghost of the Rev IM Jolly is haunting Scotland's Kirk

16 Jun 2024 The Herald Sandra Dick

21. On the prowl for Scotland's elusive big cats: are pumas, panthers and lynx out there?

09 Jun 2024 The Herald Sandra Dick

22. NSA calls for consultation on Eurasian lynx reintroduction

01 Jun 2024 The Scottish Farmer Kelly Henaughen

23. Consultation needed on reintroduction of lynx, says NSA

01 Jun 2024 The Scottish Farmer Jackie Craft

24. Nuffield Farming report shares farmer perspectives on large carnivore reintroductions

01 Jun 2024 The Scottish Farmer Kelly Henaughen

25. City bus gates are a barrier to attracting visitor footfall to the Granite Mile

21 May 2024 Aberdeen Press and Journal AGD; Pg. 26 Struan Nimmo

26. MSPs would rather slope off to lunch than consider the Highlands' future

13 May 2024 Aberdeen Press and Journal AGD; Pg. 28 Struan Nimmo

27. Sustainability group changes meeting venue over deer cull protest concerns

26 Apr 2024 Peeblesshire News Mark Davey

28. i'm LOVING LYNX EFFECT on our cool city

23 Apr 2024 Aberdeen Evening Express NWS; Pg. 26 Prestige Page Manager 4

29. Call of the wildcats FIGHTING TO SAVE NATIVE FELINE FROM EXTINCTION Our reporter joins a crucial conservation project in the Highlands

02 Apr 2024 Daily Record and Sunday Mail NEWS; Pg. 22,23 NADA FARHOUD

30. Paltry eagle scheme cash needs massive uplift to compensate farmers and crofters

01 Apr 2024 The Scottish Farmer John Sleigh

31. Humans may lack the humility to allow wolves to roam free in the wild in Scotland once again – Nina Welsch

31 Mar 2024 Scotsman COLUMNISTS POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT NATURE SCOTLAND

32. Name of the game is still films and telly

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33. No Headline In Original

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34. Lynx eye treble after title win

18 Mar 2024 Aberdeen Evening Express SPT; Pg. 31 Paul Third

35. Why going slow is rapidly becoming the new way to travel - Scotland on Sunday Travel

17 Mar 2024 Scotsman TRAVEL

36. Liz recalls races in Aberdeen and backs Run Fest

16 Mar 2024 Aberdeen Press and Journal WKD; Pg. 12 Neil Drysdale

37. Five Scottish books for younger readers to celebrate World Book Day including Wee Unicorn

06 Mar 2024 Scotsman BOOKS ARTS AND CULTURE

38. Threat to hill farming: Vital backbone of Scottish livestock production

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39. Pirates have a tough night

15 Feb 2024 Paisley Daily Express SPORT; Pg. 24 CALAM PENGILLY

40. Pirates sail on to glory with deadly double Paisley men end seven-game winless run

07 Feb 2024 Paisley Daily Express SPORT; Pg. 22 Calam Pengilly

41. More local councils with more autonomy could spell bad news for the countryside

05 Feb 2024 Aberdeen Press and Journal AGD; Pg. 27 P&j Comment

42. Aidan Smith's TV week: True Detective (Sky Atlantic), American Nightmare (Netflix),
Finders Keepers (C5), Big Boys (C4)

20 Jan 2024 Scotsman TELEVISIONENTERTAINMENTTHINGS TO DOSHOWBIZ

43. THIS WEEK'S RANDOM QUESTIONS

20 Jan 2024 Daily Record and Sunday Mail NEWS; Pg. 20,21 TAM
COWAN'S

44. Poor Pirates on sigh seas LYNX HAVE WIND IN THEIR SAILS

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45. Europe wants to cull them: where does it leave hopes here for the return of the wolf?

14 Jan 2024 The Herald Sandra Dick

46. Similar sinking feeling for Pirates

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47. Do big cats exist in the UK? Netflix Tiger King expert has captured the evidence on video and says yes

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57. sports review of the year 2023 part one

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58. Centuries-old Scots pine saved as part of wider Highlands rewilding project

12 Dec 2023 The Herald (Glasgow) Pg. 11 By Paul Cargill, PA Scotland

59. Scotland-s oldest wild Scots pine saved from being 'lost forever'

12 Dec 2023 The Herald Jody Harrison

60. Centuries-old Scots pine saved as part of Highlands rewilding project

12 Dec 2023 Scotsman ENVIRONMENTENVIRONMENT

61. 11 great spots to get your skates on and try some winter sports

02 Dec 2023 Aberdeen Press and Journal WKD; Pg. 36 Jenna Scott

62. Highlighting LSPB Spring Bean and Pea Variety Performance

01 Dec 2023 The Scottish Farmer John Sleigh

63. Where the wild things are. Ten of Scotland's most pioneering rewilding estates

20 Nov 2023 The Herald Vicky Allan

64. Rab McNeil: I detest families and their appalling, bawling offspring

18 Nov 2023 The Herald Robert McNeil

65. Concerns over stark decline of Scottish seabird population over last 20 years

16 Nov 2023 The Herald (Glasgow) Pg. 8 By Ryan McDougall, PA Scotland

66. Advisory: First issued under embargo

16 Nov 2023 PA Newswire: Scotland PA Newswire: Scotland

67. Scottish seabirds: Most of species in decline over past 20 years, research shows

16 Nov 2023 Scotsman ENVIRONMENTSCOTLAND

68. Agenda: The wild world of rewilding explained

03 Nov 2023 The Herald Agenda

69. The wild world of rewilding explained

03 Nov 2023 The Herald (Glasgow) Pg. 17 D CMS

70. Reintroducing the lynx to Scotland first requires a change in public attitudes

02 Nov 2023 Aberdeen Press and Journal AGD; Pg. 24 P&j Comment

71. Upland farming mirrors the Dodo's fate

01 Nov 2023 The Scottish Farmer Kelly Henaughen

72. Book review: A ramble through Highland folklore makes enchanting fireside reading

27 Oct 2023 The Herald Susan Flockhart

73. Fresh efforts to bring back the lynx

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74. From Glasgow's Ruchill Park to Costa Rica , the beauty of nature can lift your spirits – Philip Lymbery

22 Sep 2023 Scotsman COLUMNISTENVIRONMENTNATIONALSCOTLANDNATURE

75. They're back. Oysters returned to Firth of Forth after a century extinct

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76. Wolf, lynx, great auk. Scotland's lost pre-industrial wildlife revealed

10 Sep 2023 The Herald Vicky Allan

77. 'Heard of the bog raft spider?' BBC nature series charts Scotland's new wild

10 Sep 2023 The Herald Vicky Allan

78. Ice hockey match raises £13,000 for Archie

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79. Girl with rare illness in £13k ice fundraiser

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80. Why endangered Eriskay ponies are helping rewild a corner of Scotland

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81. No Headline In Original

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82. £6m boost to help halt decline in wildlife

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83. Scotland wildlife: Why wild lynx could return to Scotland within ten years

03 Aug 2023 The Herald Richard Baynes

84. Contrasting sheep systems to benefit from NSA Next GENE-aeration giveaway

01 Aug 2023 The Scottish Farmer Kelly Henaughen

85. Lynx owner to keep lid on prices

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86. P&J country a hotspot' for sightings of big cats

14 Jul 2023 Aberdeen Press and Journal NWS; Pg. 8 Scott Mcpherson

87. Expert confirms north-east is a big cat hotspot'

14 Jul 2023 Aberdeen Evening Express NWS; Pg. 9 Cameron Roy

88. BORN TO BE WILD THE 'HIGHLAND TIGER' HANGS ON BY A WHISKER Wildcats released into national park in effort to prevent extinction

16 Jun 2023 Daily Record and Sunday Mail NEWS; TEASERS; Pg. 14,15 DAN VEVERS

89. Explore cool Granite City - from dolphin watching to theatre trips

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90. Lynx restores a modern classic John Deere 6800 ready for modern-day use

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91. National Sheep Association Scot Sheep 2024 event heads to East Lothian

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92. LSPB hoping to build on the success of its oilseed rape variety selection

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93. HiSpec launches new push-off 20-tonne capacity dump trailer

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94. Kubota ups its game with new narrow M5-102 tractor at 106hp

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95. Rosemary Goring: It seems UK's most popular sport is not football but speeding

25 May 2023 The Herald Rosemary Goring

96. Scotland needs an urgent conversation on rewilding - for all our sakes

18 May 2023 The Herald Kirsty Hughes

97. We need to have an urgent conversation about rewilding for all our sakes

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98. Cunningham North MSP calls for reintroduction of Eurasian lynx

08 May 2023 Largs and Millport Weekly News Adam Lyon

99. Cheesier than world's biggest toastie but kudos to Queer Eye: Alison Rowat's TV picks
07 May 2023 The Herald Alison Rowat

100. No Headline In Original

06 May 2023 Aberdeen Press and Journal WKD; Pg. 36 Sonja Rasmussen

101. National Sheep Association slam Lynx reintroduction plans in Scotland

01 May 2023 The Scottish Farmer John Sleigh

102. Young sheep farmers to be given genetic boost by new NSA giveaway

01 May 2023 The Scottish Farmer Kelly Henaughen

103. Sport

28 Apr 2023 Dumfries & Galloway Standard NEWS; Pg. 35

104. LOONY LYNX EFFECT IS THE VERY LAST THING OUR HIGHLANDS NEED

27 Apr 2023 Scottish Express NEWS; Pg. 13 Alan Cochrane

105. Scottish farmers voice opposition to introduction of predators

27 Apr 2023 The Herald

106. NFUS chief calls on Holyrood to reject return of the lynx

26 Apr 2023 Aberdeen Press and Journal FAR; Pg. 38 Katrina Macarthur

107. THE MISSING SING LYNX BIG CATS COULD BE SET FOR RETURN TO THE HIGHLANDS
AFTER 500 years It would restore balance to nature and make Scotland 'first rewilding nation'

25 Apr 2023 Daily Record and Sunday Mail NEWS; Pg. 8,9 DAN VEVERS

108. MSPs discuss possible return of lynx to help enrich the Highlands

25 Apr 2023 Aberdeen Press and Journal NWS; Pg. 8 Scott Mcpherson

109. Farmers call to reject reintroduction of lynx ahead of talks on bringing back the
bobtail cat

25 Apr 2023 Scotsman FARMINGENVIRONMENTNEWSSCOTLAND

110. 'Critical' milestone hit in efforts to save wildcats from extinction

24 Apr 2023 The Herald Ema Sabljak

111. 'In the world of Angie Spoto-s debut novel, grief nurses are an elite status symbol'

24 Apr 2023 The Herald Alastair Mabbott

112. World first rewilding centre near Loch Ness opens its doors to the public

14 Apr 2023 The Herald Gabriel McKay

113. Dutch 'green' war on farmers could come to Scotland next

11 Apr 2023 The Herald (Glasgow) Pg. 13 D CMS

114. Struan Stevenson: Green revolutionaries will bring Dutch war on farming to Scotland

11 Apr 2023 The Herald Struan Stevenson

115. Pirates set sights on the Playoffs Paisley outfit can use their Aberdeen defeat as motivation as they head to weekend showdown

05 Apr 2023 Paisley Daily Express SPORT; Pg. 22,23 BEN RAMAGE

116. MSPs to discuss proposals for return of lynx to Scotland in Parliament today

01 Apr 2023 The Scottish Farmer Kelly Henaughen

117. NFU Scotland call for new Lynx rewilding proposals to be bombed out by ScotGov

01 Apr 2023 The Scottish Farmer Kelly Henaughen

118. Inverness veteran is playing on at 40

01 Apr 2023 Aberdeen Press and Journal SPT; Pg. 68 Sophie Goodwin

119. A PIRATES LIFE FOR US! Coach relishing huge weekend of fixtures as side head into homeplay-offcrunchandthenontocupsemiinthecapital TURLEY RALLYING CALL TO PLAYERS AND FANS

29 Mar 2023 Paisley Daily Express NEWS; Pg. 24 BEN RAMAGE

120. No Headline In Original

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121. Could rewilding create Britain 's own Serengeti? There are no lions, elephants, or zebras? but a stretch of Dorset coast is already teeming with unusual species and there are pioneering plans to reintroduce other once-native creat...

23 Mar 2023 Scottish Express NEWS; Pg. 26,27 Chris Hockley

122. Pirates end league on a low point Final-day defeat wounds Pirates

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123. Lynx create history with first league title

20 Mar 2023 Aberdeen Evening Express SPT; Pg. 31 Danny Law

124. Vicky Allan: BBC must put Wild Isles -sixth episode- on TV - whatever Tories may say

14 Mar 2023 The Herald Vicky Allan

125. From Alan Warner to James Kelman, the best new Scottish books of 2023

05 Mar 2023 The Herald Barry Didcock

126. Scientists battling to save lynx

13 Feb 2023 Scottish Star NEWS; Pg. 24

127. Spitfire on new mission

10 Feb 2023 Scottish Star NEWS; Pg. 21

128. Pirates coach lashes out Adam Walker blasts' selfish' players after painful home defeat means Paisley side are'probably out of title race'

08 Feb 2023 Paisley Daily Express NEWS; Pg. 22,23 BEN RAMAGE

129. Goose-whisperer stars in hilarious Musselburgh TikTok

07 Feb 2023 East Lothian Courier Gregor Millar

130. A top price of 3800gns was paid twice at Border and Lakeland Club Sale, Carlisle

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131. Greenock man 'stole a bank debit card'

28 Jan 2023 Greenock Telegraph David Goodwin

132. Did you ever catch a glimpse of the elusive Beast of Bennachie ?

26 Jan 2023 Aberdeen Evening Express NWS; Pg. 12 Kirstie Waterston

133. Animal attraction Five of the best zoos to visit in 2023

22 Jan 2023 Daily Record and Sunday Mail SEVEN DAYS;FEATURES; Pg. 13
RICHARD JONES

134. COP15 will tackle global wildlife loss. Here's a plan to save Scotland's nature now

03 Dec 2022 The Herald Vicky Allan

135. Podcasts

28 Oct 2022 Scottish Express FEATURES; Pg. 34 ELIZABETH ARCHER

136. Pirates ship is rocked Head coach Turley not ready to hit the panic button after heavy defeat but won't stand for repeat performance

26 Oct 2022 Paisley Daily Express NEWS; Pg. 22,23 BEN RAMAGE

137. Lynx making noise on ice hockey scene

14 Oct 2022 Aberdeen Press and Journal SPT; Pg. 50 Jamie Durent

138. It's cool for cats as Lynx hit top

14 Oct 2022 Aberdeen Evening Express SPT; Pg. 33 Jamie Durent

139. Famous Edinburgh creative agency behind Irn-Bru ads pushes south with new office

12 Oct 2022 Edinburgh Evening News BUSINESSBUSINESSSEDINBURGH Scott Reid scott.reid@jpimedia.co.uk

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141. John Deere tractor tops BLE online machinery sale at 15,000

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142. Readers' Letters: Not wild about bringing back apex predators

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143. Beast from the East MUM STUNNED BY 'BIG CAT' SIGHTING Mum says she snapped pic of mysterious puma-like creature prowling field after thinking it was a baby deer

25 Aug 2022 Daily Record and Sunday Mail NEWS; TEASERS; Pg. 21
KAITLIN EASTON ; JORDAN SHEPHERD

144. Spray's the way for guys

12 Aug 2022 Scottish Star NEWS; Pg. 7

145. Sturgeon Moon: What time is the supermoon tonight? Sturgeon Moon meaning explained

11 Aug 2022 Scotsman WEATHER Ginny Sanderson
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146. Sturgeon Moon: What time is the supermoon tonight? Sturgeon Moon meaning explained

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147. How drones are being used to remotely spot deer herds and protect new woodlands in Scottish Highlands

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CHANGE CONSERVATION NATURE SCOTLAND Ilona Amos iamos@scotsman.com

148. How restoring native predators can help tackle the invasive species crisis - Dr Joshua P Twining and Professor Xavier Lambin

29 Jun 2022 Scotsman COLUMNISTS POLITICS ENVIRONMENT WORLD NATIONAL SCOTLAND NATURE Joshua P Twining and Xavier Lambin

149. UK NATURE NEEDS LYNX EFFECT

18 Jun 2022 Scottish Express NEWS; Pg. 31 Emily-Jane Heap

150. BOOTROOM

08 Jun 2022 Daily Record and Sunday Mail NEWS; Pg. 43

151. Nine-year-old Simeon is 'Walking for Wolves' in the Borders

02 Jun 2022 Border Telegraph John Hislop

152. Nine-year-old Simeon is 'Walking for Wolves' in the Borders

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153. Scotland's 10 best underground adventures: Caves, tunnels, bunkers, mines and crypts to explore

22 May 2022 The Herald Susan Swarbrick

154. Hitlist Going underground with Scotland's 10 best subterranean adventures

22 May 2022 The Sunday Herald (Glasgow) Pg. 33 Susan Swarbrick

155. New book gets top marks from Renfrew schoolkids

15 May 2022 The Gazette Jacob Nicol

156. Raw nature, near misses and sleeping in a bat cave: Gordon Buchanan charts 30 years in the wild

14 May 2022 The Herald Susan Swarbrick

157. Wild idea? Lynx could be reintroduced to Scotland despite concerns about it being a sheep predator

28 Apr 2022 The Herald Martin Williams

158. Public support is key for future return of wild lynx to Scotland

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CHANGECONSERVATIONNATUREPOLITICSPLACESSCOTLANDINVERNESS, HIGHLANDS AND
ISLANDS Ilona Amos iamos@scotsman.com

159. Scotland not ready yet' for the lynx effect

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160. Saluting heroes of the Falklands War 40 years on

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161. Author Lindsay hopes to teach kids about rewilding in her latest book

25 Mar 2022 Barrhead News Erin Paterson

162. Lady in pink gears up for success in racing championships

18 Mar 2022 Skegness Standard HUMAN INTERESTOTHER
SPORTLOUTHSKEGNESSMOTOR CAR RACINGRALLYING Chrissie Redford
chrissie.redford@jpress.co.uk

163. Wolf at the door? Not yet, but report says they should be...

15 Mar 2022 The Herald (Glasgow) Pg. 15 Vicky Allan

164. Vicky Allan: Wolves could save Scotland's environment

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166. Heading here eh hd hd hd h hd hd hd h hdh d hd hd hd

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167. Explore the future of rewilding at Fritton Lake holiday club in Norfolk – Scotland on Sunday Travel

13 Mar 2022 Scotsman TRAVELLIFESTYLE Lisa Young

168. Wildlife expert's talk on reintroducing lynx

11 Mar 2022 Stirling Observer NEWS; Pg. 12

169. Explore Fife\xE2s venues and activities with the family

24 Feb 2022 The Herald

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11 Feb 2022 Scottish Express NEWS; Pg. 10 Geoff Ho

171. Vicky Allan: Has Brewdog 'lost the plot' with deer cull plan to protect trees?

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172. Deer stalking a necessary and urgent evil

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173. Both sides of the rewilding debate are wrong, says woodland expert

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174. It's getting hard to keep up with a' the outrage caused by Boris and his mates

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175. Rewilding: Luxury wedding venue vows to bring back nature on Scotland's east coast

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176. Capy New Year from zoo babies

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177. Europe's farmers count the cost of large carnivores

01 Jan 2022 The Scottish Farmer Gordon Davidson

178. Rewilding Scotland: Nature's wins from 2021 and priorities for 2022

29 Dec 2021 Edinburgh Evening News ENVIRONMENTENVIRONMENT Rachael Davies rachael.davies@jpimedia.co.uk

179. Rewilding Scotland: Nature's wins from 2021 and priorities for 2022

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180. Edinburgh-based business angel syndicate Archangels cheers record year of investment

27 Dec 2021 Edinburgh Evening News BUSINESSBUSINESS Emma Newlands

181. Edinburgh-based business angel syndicate Archangels cheers record year of investment

27 Dec 2021 Scotsman BUSINESSBUSINESS Emma Newlands

182. Rewilding Scotland's wildernesses should be accompanied by 'renaturing' its farms - Philip Lymbery

13 Dec 2021 Scotsman COLUMNISTSFOOD AND DRINKENVIRONMENTINVERNESS, HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS Philip Lymbery newsdeskts@scotsman.com

183. Lynx youth given Scots opportunity

10 Dec 2021 Aberdeen Press and Journal SPT; Pg. 52 Sophie Goodwin

184. Scots call for ice warriors

10 Dec 2021 Aberdeen Evening Express SPT; Pg. 32 Sophie Goodwin

185. Lynx to unveil new Stoll front loaders
01 Dec 2021 The Scottish Farmer Ken Fletcher

186. Big demand for grain drying plant
01 Dec 2021 The Scottish Farmer Ken Fletcher

187. Full-line on display from Fendt
01 Dec 2021 The Scottish Farmer Ken Fletcher

188. Giants first up for Pirates
19 Nov 2021 Paisley Daily Express NEWS; Pg. 24

189. Covid claimed keen sportsman, Alex
18 Nov 2021 Aberdeen Press and Journal BMD; Pg. 36 Chris Ferguson

190. Man dies of Covid-19 despite having jabs
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191. Gamers travel back in time to life as Pict in Scotland 1,300 years ago
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192. Are red deer a pest or the pride of Scotland?
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195. When the girl next door moved out and a star arrived up
04 Nov 2021 Aberdeen Evening Express NWS; Pg. 12 Graeme Strachan

196. killer remains at large

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197. Rebecca McQuillan: No one\xE2s defending devolution, least of all the SNP and Tories

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198. No one's defending devolution, least of all the SNP and Tories

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200. Alladale Wilderness Reserve - A Rewilding Story - Scotland on Sunday Travel

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209. Designer outlet: TV star John Amabile has a creative spark on screen and off

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210. Auchorachan junior bull tops Stirling at 18,000gns

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Pirates sunk in Tayside rout

Paisley Daily Express

October 24, 2024 Thursday

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: SPORT; Pg. 24

Length: 185 words

Body

It was a "disappointing" night for the Paisley Pirates in Dundee as they were hammered 8-1.

The Pirates faced off against Dundee Rockets in their second game against each other in a week with the last meeting ending 5-1 to the Tayside outfit.

And this week the scoreline only grew as the Pirates saw eight goals fly into their net with only one in reply.

Saturday's defeat now sees the team winless in their last two **Scottish** National League games.

The Pirates sit in fifth place, four points off Kirkcaldy Kestrels, who are above them and nine points behind leaders Aberdeen **Lynx**.

A club spokesperson said that the game was always going to be a difficult one and they will look to bounce back this weekend.

They said: "A very disappointing result for us this evening.

"The Rockets were always going to be a tough game and they certainly didn't back down this evening.

"We are back at home next weekend and will be hoping to brush ourselves down and bounce back."

Meanwhile, the Pirates will be looking to get back to winning ways at the Braehead Arena as they welcome North Ayrshire Wild this Sunday in a league clash.

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Pirates sunk in Tayside rout

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Veteran Ralph Scott's main regret is sweating mistakes

Veteran Ralph Scott's main regret is sweating mistakes

Aberdeen Press and Journal

October 12, 2024 Saturday

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Length: 800 words

Byline: Jamie Durent

Body

Caley Thistle Women defender Julia Ralph Scott is the next player to take on our Starting XI feature.

Ralph Scott, at 41, has enjoyed a hugely successful career, which began as a teenager with Elgin City.

While studying in Edinburgh she joined Hibernian, before moving across the Atlantic to play for Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey, along with Canadian outfit Toronto Lynx.

She returned to Scotland in 2005, with spells at Aberdeen, Celtic and Forfar Farmington, before moving to England with Doncaster Rovers Belles.

Ralph Scott, who is from Nairn, won 14 Scotland caps after making her national team debut aged 17 in 2000, and is now back in the Highlands with Caley Thistle.

Ahead of tomorrow's SWF Championship trip to leaders East Fife, Ralph Scott takes a look back at her long and successful career.

What do you remember about your senior debut?

My senior debut - a very long time ago. When I first signed for Elgin I was delighted to be able to train and play every week.

Before this I was playing with the boys after school at my local park and playing school football only. When I went to university in Edinburgh a few years later, after signing for Elgin, I signed for Hibs which was incredible, to play for such a well-known club.

What is your career highlight so far?

There are many to be honest. Getting my first team cap for Scotland at the age of 17 against Netherlands will be high on the list - along with winning both cups at Celtic, playing in America and Canada and signing for Doncaster Belles.

But my most memorable will always be scoring the winning penalty and getting "player of the match" for Hibs against Kilmarnock in the Scottish Cup final in 2003.

Who is the best player you played with?

Veteran Ralph Scott's main regret is sweating mistakes

Again, with a career as long as mine I have come across incredible players. I always admired Julie Fleeting when I was in the Scotland set-up, she was so composed in front of goal.

When I was at Glasgow City, Jo Love would be on my list for her versatility. I always thought Christie Murray was a great player when we were at Celtic together, her skill and vision was incredible.

And who is your toughest opponent?

Birgit Prinz for Germany.

Do you or any of your team-mates have any particular superstitions that you follow before games?

Not really. I personally don't really have anything except painting my nails before a game - more of a routine than superstition.

I tape my left wrist with my family written on it. I recently lost both parents so I keep them close when playing. I remember one game my manager joked about her name being there so I now write "Kar" also.

How would your team-mates describe you?

I am sitting with our manager Karen Mason, who I also work with - so I asked her to answer this. I won't type what she first said but she would say; fun, energetic, silly but also wise. I have also been called the mum of the team to the younger players, which I suppose I am.

What is the best advice you have been given?

My Dad. He would always tell me I can't change what has happened, it is how we react to situations. It's frustrating he never said this to me at the start of my career as it is only recently that I take what he said on to a football pitch.

My whole career I have played with a lack of confidence and worried about making mistakes. Since taking on my Dad's advice I don't let mistakes get into my head.

Yes, I have had an incredible career but I always have the regret of not being more confident on the field, which I am now, but nearing the end of my career. I try to now give that advice to younger players in the hope that they listen.

What is your favourite away ground and why?

Firstly I will tell you what it could have been. I had a chance to play at Old Wembley against England but I decided to go on an S6 school trip to Italy instead - biggest mistake ever.

I always liked playing at Lennoxtown, where Celtic play. We played in many incredible stadiums worldwide travelling with Scotland but unfortunately my memory is the worst so I can't remember my favourite.

What is your favourite goal scored by you or a team-mate?

My goal for Celtic in the first ever women's Old Firm game against Rangers was pretty special, along with my first goal for Scotland.

Every goal you score is a favourite - it's a real buzz to see the ball hit the back of the net.

If you were stranded on a desert island and had to bring one current or former team-mate for help, who would it be and why?

I would take our manager Karen Mason. She keeps me right at football and she keeps me right at work.

I would also take my lifelong football friend Alana Bruce, formerly of Forfar Farmington, so we could share old football stories to pass the time.

Veteran Ralph Scott's main regret is sweating mistakes

How do you relax away from football?

I love spending time with my daughter Ellie Hope, and fiance Robin. Ellie and I are like best friends.

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Missing Lynx; Pirates can't find top form against Dons

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Byline: TAYLOR MURRAY

Body

Ice hockey special

Paisley Pirates were narrowly pipped by Aberdeen Lynx as their Scottish National League return to the Braehead Arena ended in frustration.

The Pirates fell to a 3-2 defeat as they played at home for the first time this season.

Despite being a goal up at the end of the first period, a comeback from Lynx saw them trailing at the end of the second period.

The Pirates made it a nervy finish as they got a goal back in the third period but it wasn't enough to secure the points.

Both goals for head coach Iain Turley's side came from Chris Wilson who was rightly awarded the man of the match.

Speaking to Pirates TV after the game, Turley said it was a tough game against a side who are reigning back-to-back champions.

|

He said: "It was frustrating. We put some play together for probably around 45 minutes and it was not a complete performance.

"They are a good team and it shows. They have been league champions the last two years.

"To go 1-0 up against them is not something we are shouting about but you can see how dangerous they can be.

"The effort and the application is there. We are rusty and a lot of that is scrappy hockey, not the best of play.

"But we are back here now and it is not going to be an overnight fix. We were better here than this time last week."

Pirates are certainly busy and have a doubleheader this weekend as they are set to travel to face Kirkcaldy Kestrels in Fife tomorrow before welcoming the Dundee Rockets to the Braehead Arena on Sunday.

Missing Lynx; Pirates can't find top form against Dons

Pictures courtesy of Al Goold Photo

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Renfrewshire teams aim to be cup winners

Paisley Daily Express

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 23

Length: 370 words

Byline: taylor murray

Body

There is action in the West of **Scotland** League (WoSFL) this afternoon with Renfrewshire teams up for the cup.

Johnstone Burgh are looking to bounce back from a 2-0 Premier Division defeat to Beith as they welcome Third Division Vale of Leven to Keanie Park in the first round of the West of **Scotland** League Cup.

Also in first-round action are table-topping Thorn Athletic who host Benburb of the Premier. The Johnstone men will be looking to stay on the winning path after beating Lugar Boswell Thistle last weekend 2-0 in the Third Division.

St Peter's are also parking league duties for the weekend but will travel to Victoria Park to take on familiar foes Newmains United in an all-Fourth Division affair.

The sides met earlier in the season with St Peter's coming out on top 4-0 in a resounding home win.

Neilston are off the back of an impressive 5-0 victory against Forth Wanderers in the Second Division - making it 25 goals scored in their last five games.

The Farmer's Boys will be looking to continue that threat in front of goal against First Division outfit Ashfield.

In the second round of the cup, Renfrew will host Finnart of the Third

Division in the first of three consecutive knockout games.

'Frew are on an impressive run of nine games unbeaten across all competitions so far this season - with manager Jimmy Quigley keen for his side to have a real crack at silverware.

First Division leaders Arthurlie are also at home in the second round against Ardeer Thistle who are from the Third Division.

The Barrhead men have only lost one game this season and are currently on a seven-game unbeaten streak, conceding only two goals in that time.

In club rugby, Paisley, who are second place in West Division Three, will host Hyndland today with the team hoping to bounce back from their defeat to Glasgow University Medics.

Renfrewshire teams aim to be cup winners

Birkmyre host Carrick in the first round of the National Shield while Bishopston have the weekend off.

In ice hockey, Corey Neilson's Glasgow Clan have another Challenge Cup game against Dundee Stars tonight at the Braehead Arena after coming out on top last week in a thrilling 5-4 encounter.

Paisley Pirates face Aberdeen Lynx in the Scottish National League at the Braehead Arena on Sunday evening.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: PDE

Subject: SPORTS AWARDS (90%); ICE HOCKEY (73%); RUGBY (73%); WINTER SPORTS (73%)

Geographic: DUNDEE, SCOTLAND (79%); GLASGOW, SCOTLAND (74%); ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (58%); SCOTLAND (94%); National Edition

Load-Date: October 5, 2024

End of Document

Wheely spectacular day out at museum; Huge turn out for big Wings and Wheels exhibition

Wheely spectacular day out at museum; Huge turn out for big Wings and Wheels exhibition

Dumfries and Galloway Standard

October 4, 2024

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 10

Length: 260 words

Byline: SHARON LIPTROTT

Body

A superb turnout of almost 190 exhibits brought hundreds of visitors out to enjoy Dumfries and Galloway Aviation Museum's Wings and Wheels Show.

Among the highlights was a showing of the powerful Gator 2 Lynx edition tractor - the world's first quad turbine light modified tractor.

Used in tractor pulling, it is powered by four Rolls Royce Gem turbine engines which visitor were told is the powerplant from two Westland Lynx helicopters.

Visitors to the independent museum at Heathhall got to hear it make some noise with engine runs throughout the day.

A number of classic and modified cars, motorbikes and trucks on display also delighted alongside aircraft exhibits, and music was provided by Dumfries Community Swing Band.

Also on the airfield, Dumfries and Galloway's Prostate Buddies were there to offer advice and information.

A spokesperson for the museum thanked Jim Whitecross for showing his Gator 2 Lynx helicopter powered tractor and all the exhibitors, visitors and fellow volunteers who ran the shop, the tearoom, and helped park and marshall all the vehicles.

The museum has a fantastic collection of aircraft, including a Battle of Britain veteran Loch Doon Spitfire, supersonic Lightning fighter and a wartime assault glider collection.

There are dedicated displays on the Home Front, RAF Dumfries and the Bomber War, and the only dedicated Airborne Forces collection in Scotland.

The museum is open to the public from 10am to 5pm (last entry at 4pm) on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

It will be closing for the season after Saturday, October 26.

Wheely spectacular day out at museum; Huge turn out for big Wings and Wheels exhibition

Graphic

Busy Sunday's event at Dumfries and Galloway Aviation Museum brought in visitors from near and farTraffic jam
There were some eye-catching cars on display at Wings and Wheels

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DGS

Subject: TRENDS & EVENTS (90%); AIR FORCES (78%); MOTORSPORTS (72%)

Industry: MUSEUMS & GALLERIES (94%); AIRCRAFT (90%); AIR FORCES (78%); HELICOPTERS (78%);
MILITARY HELICOPTERS (76%); MOTOR VEHICLES (76%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (90%); UNITED KINGDOM (53%); National Edition

Load-Date: October 4, 2024

End of Document

No fewer than 15 bulls sold for five-figure among the Charolais

No fewer than 15 bulls sold for five-figure among the Charolais

The Scottish Farmer

October 2024

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Length: 2152 words

Byline: Julie Wight

Body

Charolais bulls again achieved the lead breed average with 65 bulls cashing in at 7977, backed up with no fewer than 15 five-figure sales.

The clearance was also one of the best at 77%.

Hamish Goldie sold Goldies Unity for the joint top price of 16,000gns Ref: RH211024086 However, without last year-s highs of 50,000gns and 30,000gns, averages fell 276 for the same number sold.

-There has been a strong trade for Charolais suckled calves and that is reflected in the trade here today which has been driven by commercial producers,- said Charolais Society council treasurer, Murray Lyle, Mid Cambushinnie, Dunblane.

Hollywell Unclebob from J and S Middleton made 14,000gns Ref: RH211024114 -Trade has been sound for the good bulls, and there were people buying today that would normally buy in February because they anticipate the trade to higher in the spring.

-More farmers are calving in the spring, so the autumn sales are more of a challenge which is reflected in the number of unsold bulls in all breeds,- he added.

Trade peaked at 16,000gns on two occasions.

Marwood Ullapo from R A and J Blyth made 14,000gns Ref: RH211024110 First to achieve that price was the reserve breed champion, Goldies Unity, from Hamish Goldie, Dumfries. This March 2023-born bull is a son of Caylers Rocky, that was purchased at Carlisle for 12,000gns and bred from Goldies Miranda, which goes back to Gretnahouse Heman. Jim Hodge, Dykes, took this bull back home to Ayrshire.

Achieving a personal best, Sean Mitchell, Grassknop, Penrith took the same money for his April 2023-born bull, Huttonend Ubelter. Surpassing his previous high of 8500gns was a third prize bull by Barnsford Ferny, out of Allanfauld Ozzy, which was purchased here for 5500gns. Final bidder was Bill Bruce, Balmyle, Meigle.

No fewer than 15 bulls sold for five-figure among the Charolais

Balthayock Ushant from Balthayock realised 13,000gns Ref: RH211024112 Commercial buyers Andrew and Alan Warnock, Dreva, Biggar went to 14,000gns for Marwood Ullapo from Roy and Neil Blyth, Elwick. This May 2023-born bull, which stood third in his class, is a son of Marwood Odin that has bred sons to 13,000gns, while the dam, Marwood Libby, is a daughter of Burradon Goldenballs.

John and Sandra Middleton, New Pitsligo, Fraserburgh, also received 14,000gns for their June 2023-born bull, Hollywell Unclebob. This first prize bull is sired by Nuthampstead Judas, which was purchased at the Westcarse dispersal and has bred a lot of big prices for the herd. The dam is the Clenagh Lyle daughter, Hollywell Rouge. Unclebob sold to Mel and Mike Alford, Foxhill, Devon.

The Milne family sold Elgin Usain for 13,000gns Ref: RH211024109 Another by the same sire, Hollywell Utah, stood fourth in his class and later realised 12,000gns to R and E Chapman, West Cockmuir, Fraserburgh. Utah is out of the Whitecliffe James-sired Hollywell Orla which has bred bulls to 10,000gns.

The third prize bull, Elgin Usain from Matthew Milne, Elgin, made 13,000gns when the hammer fell to James Nisbet, Sorn Mains, Sorn, Mauchline. Breed champion at Black Isle and reserve at Grantown this year, this April 2023-born bull is from the first crop of sons from Thurso Paul, which was a half-share purchase as a calf privately. The dam is the Woodpark Elgin daughter, Elgin Megan.

Hollywell Utah from J and S Middleton realised 12,000gns Ref: RH211024102 Kenneth Sutherland and sons Stephen and Kenneth of Sibmister and Stainland Farm, Thurso, went to 10,000gns for another by the same sire. This was the May 2023-born bull, Elgin Ullapool, which stood fifth in his class. He is bred from Elgin Libby, a Westcarse Houdini daughter. Ullapool was champion at Nairn and reserve at Keith Show.

David and Tracey Nicoll sold three five-figure priced bulls on behalf of the late Major David Walter, Balthayock, Perth. Topping the pen at 13,000gns was Balthayock Ushant, a second prize winner from the first crop of sons by the 24,000gns Harestone Ronaldinho. He is bred from Balthayock Petronella, which goes back to the 2015 Royal Highland Show supreme, Balthayock IMP. This May 2023-born bull was knocked down to Andrew McNee, Woodend, Armadale.

Balmyle Uranus from WP Bruce Ltd made 12,000gns Ref: RH211024107 Mark Ross, Ross Farms, Wester Middleton, gave 11,000gns for the red ticket holder, Balthayock Ultimatum. This similarly aged bull is by the same sire but out of Balthayock Olala.

Selling for 10,000gns was Balthayock Ulex, a June 2023-born bull from the first crop of sons sired by Balthayock Regal. A heifer-s calf, he is bred from Balthayock Robyn, a Balthayock Ferdinand daughter. Third in his class, he sold up to Orkney with John Stranger, South Seatter.

Balthayock Ultimatum from Balthayock sold for 11,000gns Ref: RH211024111 Bill Bruce, Balmyle, Meigle, produced his first overall championship at Stirling with Balmyle Uranus which later realised 12,000gns. This April 2023-born bull is a son of Balmyle Jasper, which has bred bulls to 28,000gns, while the dam, Balmyle Madem, goes back to Balmyle Eclipse. Final bidders were T Smith and Son, Netherton Farm, Alford.

Another by the 24,000gns Harestone Ronaldinho, Bombax Unit, this time from the Smeaton family, Bombax, Forfar, made 11,000gns. This 19-month-old is out of Bombax Matilda, a Clyth Diplomat daughter and heads down to Stranraer with JM Fisher, Meikle Larbrax.

The Smeatons sold Bombax Unit for 11,000gns Ref: RH211024099 The same home sold the March 2023-born bull, Bombax Uber for 10,000gns to M Leslie, Keithmore, Keith, Dufftown. By the same Harestone sire, he is bred from the Balmyle Magnate sired-dam, Mornity Orla.

The senior champion, Newlogie Unreserved from AJR Farms, Ellon, realised 10,000gns when brought out by stockman Andrew Reid. Reserve junior male champion at this year-s Royal Highland Show, this January 2023-born bull is by the 26,000gns Maerdy Amontillado, and out of Newlogie Ohdream. He goes off to Cairnborrow, Huntly, with the Wordie family.

No fewer than 15 bulls sold for five-figure among the Charolais

Senior champion, Newlogie Unreserved from AJR Farms, Ellon, realised 10,000gns Ref: RH211024097 Selling for the same money, former Gretnahouse stockman Joe Speak and his partner, Jordan Tipping, Gretna, sold the April 2023-born bull, Gretnahouse Uhtred. A 28,000gns Lochend Nighthawk son, he is out of Gretnahouse Masweety and is a full brother to a 16,000gns bull. Uhtred sold down to Dumfries with W Templeton, Glenlaugh, Auldgirth.

Top price from Allen Drysdale-s Glenericht herd, Middle Drimmie, Blairgowrie, was 9500gns paid for the April 2023-born bull, Glenericht Untouchable.

Balthayock Ulex from Balthayock sold for 10,000gns Ref: RH211024113 Rob Haining / The **Scottish** Farmer... This red ticket holder is by the home-bred Glenericht Limpet, which has bred sons to 18,000gns while the dam, Glenericht Idyll, goes back to Blelack Digger. Burnton Farms, Laurencekirk, were the final bidders.

A cow and calf from Andrew Burnett, Spittalton, topped the females when selling for 11,000gns to C and C Farming, Thrumpton, Morpeth. The seven-year-old cow, Spittalton Nikita, is a daughter of Whitecliffe Highlight. She sold with her March-born bull calf, Spittalton Vogue, which is sired by Goldies Oasis.

Leading Awards

Bulls born Oct to Feb 2023 - 1 and senior champion, AJR Farms- Newlogie Unreserved, by Maerdy Amontillado, 10,000gns to GT Wordie, Cairnborrow, Huntly; 2 and reserve senior, RA and J Blyth-s Marwood Universal, by Racissant, 5800gns to R McCarlie, Wester Hassockrigg, Shotts; 3, AJ Taylor-s Briarbank Union, by Balmyle Oscar, 5000gns to GT and S Coghill, Muce, Orkney; 4, RA and J Blyth-s Marwood Ultimate, by Hatenon, 6500gns to WSL Muir, Upper Onston, Orkney; 5, AB Hornall-s Falleninch Tommy, by Magicien, unsold.

Bulls born Feb to Mar 2023 - 1, H Goldie-s Goldies Umpire, by Gretnahouse Heman, 5700gns to A Clark and Sons, West Gkengyre, Stranraer; 2, J Irvine and Son-s Inverlochy Usher, by Caylers Napoleon, 6000gns to Glenkiln Farms, Dumfries; 3, C Smeaton and Sons- Bombax Ultimate, by Harestone Ronaldinho, 8500gns to P and F Ross Ltd, Orkney; 4, J Jeffery-s Kersknowe Ultimate, by Silver Rebel, 6800gns to JM Fisher, Meikle Larbrax, Stranraer; 5, J Jeffery-s Kersknowe Upgrade, by Silver Rebel, 5000gns to D Findlay and sons, Pirnhall, Stirling.

Gretnahouse Uhtred from J G Speak and J H Tipping sold for 10,000gns Ref: RH211024101 Rob Haining / The **Scottish** Farmer... Bulls born Mar 18 to 27, 2023 - 1, McMurrich Partnership-s Formakin Uist, by Ravissant, unsold; 2, WK and P Drysdale-s Glenericht Uber, by Elrick Predator, 7000gns to JM Anderson, Strocherie, Banff; 3, J Jeffrey, Kersknowe Usain, by Silver Rebel, unsold; 4, S Gillear, Gillear Upshot, by Harestone Rolex, unsold; 5, AJR Farms- Newlogie Undercover, by Newlogie Nobel, unsold.

Bulls born Mar 27 and Apr 4, 2023 - 1 reserve intermediate and overall reserve, H Goldie-s Goldies Unity, by Caylers Rocky, 16,000gns to J Hodge, Dykes, Auchinleck; 2, H Goldie-s Goldies Ulex, by Caylers Rocky, 5800gns to JJ Lawrie, Wester Clunie, Fife; 3, RA Milne-s Elgin Usain, by Thurso Paul, 13,000gns to J Nisbet, Sorn Mains; 4, J and S Middleton, Hollywell Utah, by Nuthampstead Judas, 12,000gns to R and E Chapman, West Cockmuir; 5, W and N Milne-s Glenernan Uranus, by Marwood Robocop, 8000gns to AS Harman, Grove, Chesham.

Bombax Uber from the Smeatons sold for 10,000gns Ref: RH211024100 Rob Haining / The **Scottish** Farmer... Bull born Apr 6 and 11, 2023 - 1, intermediate champion and overall champion, WP Bruce Ltd-s Balmyle Uranus, by Balmyle Jasper, 12,000gns to T Smith and Son, Netherton Farm, Alford; 2, WK and P Drysdale-s Glenericht Unstuck, by Elrick Predator, 8000gns to JJ Lawrie, Wester Clunie, Fife; 3, RA and J Blyth-s Marwood Usk, by Balthayock Lineup, 5200gns to WSL Muir, Upper Onston, Orkney; 4, Ross Farm Co-s Roscoe Unstoppable, by Allanfauld Noble, 9000gns to J Anderson and Son, Headshaw, Lauder; 5, JHC Campbell and Sons- Thrunton Urquart, by Baillieston Orcadian, 7000gns to S Shall and Sons, Brandon, Alnwick.

Bulls born Apr 12 and 26, 2023 - 1, WK and P Drysdale-s Glenericht Untouchable, by Glenericht Limpet, 9500gns to Burnton Farms, Laurencekirk; 2, DE Evans- Maerdy Underdog, by Maerdy Figaro, 8500gns to JHC Campbell and sons, Thrunton, Alnwick; 3, S Mitchell-s Huttonend Ubelter, by Barnsford Ferny, 16,000gns to WP Bruce, Balmyle; 4, DFWH and NR Walter-s Balthayock Upbeat, by Elrick Paragon, 7000gns to Millburn Farm, Orkney; 5, RA and J Blyth-s Marwood Usher, by Balthayock Lineup, 7500gns to JE Woodman and Son, Northumberland.

No fewer than 15 bulls sold for five-figure among the Charolais

Bulls born Apr 27 to May 6, 2023 - 1, WP Bruce Ltd-s Balmyle Utmost, by Clenagh Lyle, 7000gns to RT Phaup and Partner, Hoprigshiel; 2, Boden and Davies Ltd-s Sportsmans Uefa, by Elrick Outlaw, 4600gns to A and J Craig, Craigton, Castle Douglas; 3, WK and P Drysdale-s Glenereicht Usher, by Caylers Oxford, 9000gns to J Morton and Son, Kaeside, Melrose; 4, DFWH and NR Walter-s Balthayock Unison, by Elrick Paragon, 4000gns to Millburn Farm, Orkney; 5, RA Milne-s Elgin Ullapool, by Thurso Paul, 10,000gns to J Sutherland, Sibmister and Stainland, Thurso.

Elgin Ullapool from the Milne family sold for 10,000gns Ref: RH211024105 Rob Haining / The **Scottish** Farmer...

Bulls born May 7 to 16, 2023 - 1 and junior champion, J Irvine and Son-s Inverlochy United, by Caylers Napoleon, unsold; 2 and reserve junior, R and N Barclay-s Harestone Upshot, by Harestone Lynx, 7000gns to A Clark, Blackhill, Carluke; 3, AB Hornall-s Falleninch Ulysses, by Falleninch Soptif, 7500gns to MG and A Shearer, Lythmore, Thurso; 4, MJ Massie-s Elrick Unique, by Maerdy Gouverneur, 8000gns to J and J Wilson, Wester Cairnglass, Inverness; 5, JHC Campbell and Sons- Thrunton Ulric, by Whitecliffe Orwell, 5500gns to WSL Muir, Upper Onston, Orkney.

Bulls born May 17 and 31, 2023 - 1, DFWH and NR Walter-s Balthayock Ultimatum, by Harestone Ronaldinho, 11,000gns to Ross Farms, Wester Middleton; 2, DFWH and NR Walter-s Balthayock Ushant, by Harestone Ronaldinho, 13,000gns to R McNeese, Woodend, West Lothian; 3, RA and J Blyth-s Marwood Ullapo, by Marwood Odin, 14,000gns to J Warnock and Sons, Dreva, Biggar; 4, MJ Massie-s Elrick Ugie, by Ballinlare Phantom, 6500gns to Glenkiln Farms, Dumfries; 5, R and N Barclay-s Harestone Universe, by Harestone Rabelais, 5500gns to A Orr, Lawhead, Tarbrax.

Bulls born after June 2023 - 1, J and S Middleton-s Hollywell Unclebob, by Nuthampstead Judas, 14,000gns to MJ Alford, Foxhill; 2, Messrs Curry-s Burradon Uppercrust, Tweeddale Rio, 6500gns to S Rorison, Dalowie; 3, DFWH and NR Walter-s Balthayock Ulex, by Balthayock Regal, 10,000gns to J and R Stranger, South Seatter, Orkney; 4, Boden and Davies Ltd-s Sportsmans Usher, by Elrick Outlaw, unsold; 5, Messrs Curry-s Burradon Umph, by Tweeddale Radioactive, 9000gns to Raeside Farm, Fenwick.

Heifers - 1 and female champion, WJ Kingaby-s Utopia Unique, by Stranagone Reagan, unsold; 2 and reserve female, JHC Campbell and Sons- Thrunton Tamar, by Glenernan Northstar, 4000gns to A McCornick, Barnbackle, Dumfries.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: PRICES (78%); AWARDS & PRIZES (62%)

Geographic: **SCOTLAND** (73%)

Load-Date: October 24, 2024

Lecture will dig into the story of extinct species

Lecture will dig into the story of extinct species

Stirling Observer

September 25, 2024

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 8

Length: 349 words

Byline: CHRIS MARZELLA

Body

Stories of beavers, wolves and bears roaming the land were common when most of us were young - but one scientist is hoping to shine a light on other animals that once roamed **Scotland** and he'll be delivering a special lecture on that very topic in Stirling.

Award-winning scientist and author Dr Ross Barnett will be journeying to Stirling next month to speak for the Royal **Scottish** Geographical Society's (RSGS) Inspiring People talks programme.

Dr Barnett has been involved with the field of ancient DNA research for more than 20 years, looking at the relationships between extinct and extant.

Throughout his career he has been fascinated by the animals that once lived side-by-side with humans.

This prompted him to write his book titled 'The Missing **Lynx**', looking at some of the many species that have been lost from Britain and Europe since the end of the Ice Age.

His talk will be the first in a series taking place in Stirling for the Royal **Scottish** Geographical Society's (RSGS) Inspiring People talks programme, which runs 90 talks across **Scotland** until April 2025.

Gearing up for his talk, Dr Barnett said: "I'm excited and honoured to be part of the RSGS Inspiring People programme.

"I'm looking forward to talking about all things extinct and I'll even be bringing along their fossil bones for people to see."

RSGS chief executive Mike Robinson encouraged members of the public to come along.

He added: "We're delighted to have Dr Barnett as part of the Inspiring People talks programme this year.

"It will be fascinating to hear about some of the lesser known animals that have been lost to us, and how their extinction has shaped the natural world as we know it today.

"Join us for what is sure to be an inspiring and informative talk!"

Lecture will dig into the story of extinct species

RSGS Inspiring People talks are open to all, tickets are free for RSGS members, students and under-18s and £15 for general admission.

Tickets are available to book online in advance at www.rsgs.org/ events, and some may also be available at the door.

Dr Barnett's talk begins at 7.30pm ONWEDNESDAY, October 9, at the University of Stirling's Logie Lecture Theatre.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: STO

Subject: ANIMALS (90%); MAMMALS (90%); RODENTS (90%); SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (90%); WRITERS (79%); FOSSILS (78%); GEOGRAPHY (78%); DNA (73%); EXECUTIVES (50%)

Industry: WRITERS (79%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (91%); National Edition

Load-Date: September 25, 2024

End of Document

Screen dream for ice arena

Aberdeen Evening Express

August 31, 2024 Saturday

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Section: NWS; Pg. 5

Length: 244 words

Byline: Alastair Gossip

Body

The biggest moments of the Aberdeen Lynx's ice hockey matches could soon be shown on a big screen - as sports chiefs look to capitalise on the club's success.

Aberdeen's top team skated to a second successive Scottish National League title last season, adding the Scottish Cup to their silverware too.

And now Sport Aberdeen is looking to double down on the success of the north-east's second-largest spectator sport.

The city council's arm's-length leisure operator runs Aberdeen Linx Ice Arena at the beach, which holds - and often attracts - 1,100 on match days.

There are plans for a new ice rink down at Aberdeen beach as part of the multi-million-pound regeneration of the beachfront.

But council chiefs could soon put those proposals on the back burner as they're well short of the required cash to build it.

As with other areas of Sport Aberdeen's business, chief executive Keith Heslop is looking to invest to grow.

He's teamed up with the ice hockey club to see how best to improve the match-day experience.

Mr Heslop says: "The ice rink is a fantastic facility on a match day. But how can we turn our facility into more of an experience?

"We have been looking at the opportunity to invest in a big screen, which would go on the wall across from the stand.

"Maybe it could be interactive and able to track the puck.

"I want fans pitching up on a Saturday night for a match to feel like they could be at an arena in North America, albeit it may be on a smaller scale."

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Ev

Subject: ICE HOCKEY (90%); ICE SKATING (90%); SPORTS & RECREATION FACILITIES & VENUES (90%); STADIUMS & ARENAS (90%); WINTER SPORTS (90%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (77%); EXECUTIVES (73%); CITY GOVERNMENT (70%); CITIES (56%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (91%); SCOTLAND (89%); NORTH AMERICA (79%); 7 North East

Load-Date: August 31, 2024

End of Document

What my 30 years investigating the far right reveals about unrest that sparked riots

What my 30 years investigating the far right reveals about unrest that sparked riots

The Herald

August 11, 2024 Sunday

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Length: 4054 words

Byline: Neil Mackay

Body

My first brush with neo-Nazis came aged 14. A skinhead gang, replete with swastika tattoos, tried to murder me and three friends in the street. I grew up on a tough Northern Ireland housing estate during the Troubles, and the far right were linked to loyalist paramilitaries.

The men who attacked us - a dozen-strong, aged from 18 to their mid-20s - took exception to us were wearing Two-Tone badges. The record label produced anti-racist music by The Specials and The Selecter.

The assault was so bad that an off-duty cop in a nearby house emerged when he heard my head being beaten off a fence. He pulled his gun. They ran, but only after one final kick to my head, and stamping on my friend-s face. I awoke in hospital, teeth kicked out, lucky to be alive. Two were charged and convicted.

Every investigative reporter worth their salt has a handful of themes which run through their work, nearly always related to their own life. For me, it-s the Northern Ireland conflict, political extremism, the far right, and social evils like poverty. That night, when neo-Nazis tried to put me in a graveyard, it started my lifelong exploration of the far right and what makes extremists tick.

I've been a reporter for more than 30 years, and dedicated huge amounts of time to unmasking the far right at home and abroad. I've written countless investigations and made documentaries, all with one intent: to warn that sooner or later festering far-right violence would spill on to the streets of Britain, and nations like America. As recent years in the USA, and current events in England and Northern Ireland show, I was unfortunately right.

Sadly, I've sometimes endured TV commissioners and newspaper executives who refused to understand the - newsworthiness- of investigating the far right. I hope they feel foolish today. Ironically, some now write hand-wringing pieces over the media-s failure to address the causes of the riots.

Not all the extremists I met were neo-Nazis - though many were - but every one of them adhered to dangerous and divisive far-right ideology.

Terrorism

What my 30 years investigating the far right reveals about unrest that sparked riots

After university, I was a cub reporter, learning my trade and specialising in crime, terrorism and security. I began investigating links between the neo-Nazi group Combat 18 and loyalist paramilitary organisations like the Ulster Volunteer Force and its breakaway Loyalist Volunteer Force. For those unaware of the far right-s intricate codes, 18 references the letters A and H, first and eighth alphabetically. AH stands for Adolf Hitler. Combat 18 grew out of the early British National Party. It has carried out multiple acts of violence against ethnic minorities.

Due to death threats, I moved to **Scotland** in the mid-1990s, and continued my investigations. Contacts within loyalist paramilitary groups connected me with the UVF in Glasgow. We met in a pub near the Clyde. I talked to them about their agenda.

It was clear they were chiefly motivated by sectarian hatred, and their business was mostly supporting Protestant gunmen in Northern Ireland. But there was a second theme to their bigotry: immigrants in **Scotland**.

I felt deeply uneasy that this cocktail of hate was simmering away in the city I-d made my home.

Shortly afterwards, far-right terrorist Timothy McVeigh bombed Oklahoma, killing 168 including children. McVeigh was executed for the worst act of terror on American soil prior to September 11. He was inspired by the book The Turner Diaries - a fictional account of a white race war written by Dr William Pierce, head of what was then America-s most dangerous and largest neo-Nazi organisation, the National Alliance.

I secured an interview with Pierce. He was blood-chilling, a sneering, calculated, Hitler-worshipping anti-Semite. Pierce - and similar figures in organisations like the Ku Klux Klan and Britain-s Combat 18 - promulgated - leaderless resistance-: the doctrine that small groups of -lone wolf- terrorists can operate at a more deadly level, and be more difficult for police and intelligence services to surveil, infiltrate and destroy, by using a closed -cell structure-.

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I discovered that Pierce and the National Alliance were in close contact with far-right extremists all over the world, including the BNP.

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Within weeks, the London nail bombings began. It was my job to investigate. Neo-Nazi David Copeland was eventually arrested. A lone wolf, like Timothy McVeigh, he operated according to the doctrine of leaderless resistance.

Over three dreadful weekends, Copeland detonated bombs in racially-diverse Brixton and Brick Lane, and Soho-s Admiral Duncan pub, a popular LGBT bar. Four died, including an unborn baby, and 140 were injured.

Copeland got life. He-d been a BNP member and read The Turner Diaries.

He told police: -My main intent was to spread fear, resentment and hatred throughout this country - My aim was political. It was to cause a racial war - There-d be a backlash from the ethnic minorities, then all the white people will go out and vote BNP.-

Copeland feared he was gay. I've met hundreds of neo-Nazis. They-re all virulently homophobic - as well as misogynistic, racist, and anti-Semitic. It-s struck me that perhaps these men - who all exhibit their masculinity in cartoonish, exaggerated ways - were riddled with self-hate over some aspect of their sexuality which they repressed.

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My investigations into Copeland started to unravel the nexus between far-right extremists in Britain and nations like America, Germany, Sweden, Italy and France. Members of organisations like Blood & Honour - a British neo-Nazi group connected to Combat 18 - were close to organisations such as the National Alliance. There were even meetings between British and American neo-Nazis where the notion of lone wolves and leaderless resistance was discussed.

Think of this international nexus as points on a map, or communication nodes. Senior figures in British extremist groups keep contact with senior figures in American groups - sharing ideas, tactics and philosophy. Those ideas ripple down to the rank and file, along with the doctrine of leaderless resistance and lone wolves.

We would see this play out in Norway in 2011 when Anders Breivik acted alone murdering 77 people. Breivik, in turn, inspired Brenton Tarrant who partially live-streamed himself killing 51 people in attacks on the Muslim community in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Anders Breivik Image: PA

The far right often depends more on the -virus of influence-, than direct organisational connection. We saw that to some degree in recent rioting. William Pierce inspires McVeigh, McVeigh inspires Copeland; Breivik inspires Tarrant; online British extremists in 2024, inspire street thugs. Far-right extremism is an ideology which ripples across the West.

Scottish hate

AFTER the nail bombings, I got my teeth into far-right extremism in **Scotland**. I made contact with one of the country-s most influential extremists: Steve Cartwright, a prominent BNP member linked to Combat 18 and influential in Blood & Honour.

He-d engage me in lengthy, disturbing conversation featuring much Holocaust denial. Cartwright was central to the growth of white power music across Britain, Europe and America - a major recruitment tool of young extremists - and would rail against multiculturalism or, as he put it, -the multi-culty-.

Cartwright attended meetings of the American Friends of the BNP - founded by the BNP-s Mark Cotterill, who had been in the National Front. Meetings of this organisation attracted former KKK members.

Another far-right **Scottish** extremist I had the misfortune to investigate was Jim Dowson. From Airdrie, this former Orange Order member was once linked to a loyalist flute band accused of glorifying UDA paramilitary Michael Stone, who murdered three Catholics. Dowson was militantly anti-abortion. He later became the BNP-s chief fundraiser.

I first met him at his Cumbernauld council house in the late 1990s. Today, he-s supposedly worth millions. He was later linked to a number of websites which pumped out pro-Trump hoaxes tying Hillary Clinton to Satanism, paedophilia and other conspiracies.

Dowson was involved in Belfast-s ugly -flag protests-, and later given a three-month suspended jail sentence after pleading guilty to participating in unlawful public processions.

By now I was in semi-regular contact with Nick Griffin, BNP leader. He-s one of the most unpleasant individuals I've ever met. He-d been in the National Front as a teenager, and was involved in the white power music scene, but studied at Cambridge. In 1998, he was convicted of distributing material likely to incite racial hatred.

BNP Leader Nick Griffin

Griffin wanted to do for the BNP what Marine Le Pen would do for the French Front National: shift its image from street thuggery to legitimate political party. Griffin, however, couldn-t escape his past. He-d referred to the Holocaust as -the Holo-hoax-, and said: -I am well aware that the orthodox opinion is that six-million Jews were gassed and cremated and turned into lampshades. Orthodox opinion also once held that the Earth was flat ... I have

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An officer who overheard Griffin take a phone call, while police searched his home once, said he heard Griffin -say to this unknown caller -they're very civilised, more civilised than the [Metropolitan Police], no Jews or P**is--.

While being interviewed by detectives, Griffin said the purpose of everything he did was summed up in one sentence: -We must secure the existence of our race and a future for white children.-

Murder

PAY attention to that phrase. It's the infamous -Fourteen Words-, the slogan of white supremacists, coined by David Lane, who founded the American terror group The Order. Lane was sentenced to 190 years for racketeering, conspiracy and violating the civil rights of Alan Berg, a Jewish radio host murdered by The Order in a drive-by shooting with Lane the driver.

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He told me about wanting to -repatriate ethnics to their country of origin-, and railed against the --leftist elite- - a talking point heard today from right-wing politicians and journalists. I often wonder if they care they're parroting Griffin.

I questioned Griffin, whose father was a Tory councillor, about his -suits not boots- strategy: in other words putting well-educated, well-dressed BNP members like him front and centre, and keeping skinheads out of sight. I left Griffin feeding the pigs on his small-holding farm, returning to **Scotland** for a much-needed shower.

Griffin would later be elected to the European Parliament and appear on Question Time, normalised by the BBC. I'd stay in touch with Griffin over the years, questioning him about the tactics of the British far right as I watched it slowly make inroads into UK politics. In 2006, the BNP took nearly 230,000 votes in local elections, averaging 18% in contested wards, electing 33 councillors. In 2007, it took nearly 300,000 votes. At the 2009 European elections, the BNP took 943,598 votes.

It was now - at the then height of far-right expansion in Britain - that I undertook an investigation lasting 18 months. I began exploring the rise of the far right globally, travelling all across Britain, France, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Russia and America. It was an experience which horrified even me - and by now I'd spent more than a decade in the neo-Nazi mire.

Grooming

IN **Scotland**, I uncovered that Steve Cartwright had helped bring the concept - first originated in America - called Project Schoolyard to Britain. This saw neo-Nazis handing out white power CDs to children at school gates.

This was an important and frightening development. Kids were being groomed. I began filming anything I could relate to this, and eventually had enough material to air the documentary Nazi Hate Rock. It got me a Bafta nomination.

Let me make clear just how vile white power music is: there's a song like -Jack-Hammered N***r P***y-, or -Freezer-full of N***r heads-.

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I followed Cartwright to Italy with his friend Chris Telford, a well-known BNP activist, whose band Nemesis was playing at a huge white power concert outside Verona. They talked for hours about -the biological survival of the white race-.

Cartwright, then under Special Branch surveillance, boasted he -wasn-t afraid to hate-. In Milan, I met Francesca Ortolani, known as -Italy-s first lady of fascist music-, and watched her perform -Don-t Go Around with the Jews-. She told me she -hates black people-. She was one of Europe-s most downloaded white power musicians.

Later, in Sweden, I-d meet another woman idolised in the white power movement. She went by the name Saga, and was considered a far-right sex symbol. Adoring skinheads mobbed her in Stockholm. She told me her philosophy was -I just don-t want people that aren-t like me, around me-.

I watched her play a white power gig in northern England organised by Blood & Honour. White power is big in many of the towns where recent riots broke out. Like today-s riots, the gigs - held in pubs, clubs or hotels sympathetic to extremists - were organised by phone or online to stay one step ahead of the law. Saga gave Nazi salutes to the crowd, and skinheads gave Nazi salutes back. One neo-Nazi brought his eight-year-old child along.

In my documentary, you can watch two 14-year-old American girls, Lynx and Lamb, singing the song -Strike-force White Survival- in front of a baying crowd of US Nazis.

Although the British band Skrewdriver are considered the founders of white power music, America is the heartland. It-s where bands like Blue Eyed Devils release songs called Final Solution.

Project Schoolyard was invented by the US white power record label Panzerfaust. Its slogan is: -We don-t just entertain racist kids, we help create them.- My investigations took me to the isolated, armed compound of the National Alliance in West Virginia, America. By now William Pierce was dead, and the movement led by his protege Erich Gliebe. He once boxed under the name -the Aryan Barbarian-. His wife Erica, a former go-go dancer with the stage name Holly Caust, was the high priestess of the First United Church of Adolf Hitler. I spent a week with these people.

I wandered around the National Alliance warehouse - stocked with over a million dollars worth of white power CDs, Hitler mouse mats, posters of girls holding cans of Zyklon B poison gas under the words -Got Jews?-, and boots that left swastika footprints on a victim-s face.

There were sculptures and pictures of Hitler throughout. Gliebe played me recordings of hate calls to gay people. He and his wife put on -Klassic Klan Kompositions- with one song called -Move them N*****s north-. Gliebe found it -humorous-. Erica later told me: -I chose someone to mate with on their race.-

Genocide

THE National Alliance sold the computer game Ethnic Cleansing. I watched young Iraq war veterans playing the game, murdering Jews, Mexicans and African-Americans. The Nazis later took me into the woods to show off their collection of machine guns and pistols.

I went to Michigan to meet Shawn Sugg - star of America-s white power scene and friend to Steve Cartwright and Chris Telford. He had a taste for drinking and fighting, and thought himself an outlaw. He told me the -Fourteen Words- were the heart of his philosophy and then, without batting an eye, said: -You know, Neil, I used to think about genocide. We live on this crowded planet and I just thought -wouldn-t it be great if we got rid of some undesirables-.-

Back in Britain, I spent many weeks in Heanor, Nottingham, the nation-s skinhead capital, and home to white power band Whitelaw. Their leader Benny was a dead-eyed hatemonger who raged against LGBT people. Bassist Steve - a skinhead straight from central casting - had stickers on his guitar reading -My boss is an Austrian painter- or denouncing -race-mixing sluts-. Some of the band-s hangers-on were profound alcoholics, drunk from the moment they woke.

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I went undercover into an illegal neo-Nazi gig in Germany, near Leipzig, to watch Whitelaw play in front of a crowd of Hitler worshippers. It was the most disgusting experience of my life. Whitelaw were on stage shouting -Death to ZOG- when riot police turned up, surrounded the building, covered the exits with attack dogs, and ringed the place with floodlights. ZOG means -Zionist Occupied Government- - that's how neo-Nazis refer to Western democratic governments.

As violence escalated - tear gas was later fired - I hunkered down in the attic of the hotel where the gig was taking place and filmed riot cops and Nazis fighting. During the battle, I spoke to Henrik Ostendorf, a youth leader of the NDP - then Germany's main far-right party.

Back then, the NDP had state parliament seats. It was later renamed Homeland, and this year sanctioned by the federal court as it -aimed to undermine or eliminate- democracy.

Ostendorf watched as fellow Nazis were arrested and told me: -A few years ago, we were the poor, poor Nazis, and everybody was laughing about us, ja? But now, we have the power. Never give up.

-Always be optimistic, and who knows, maybe in five years - 10 years - we will give the orders to these -- And he paused, sneering, and pointed to the police: -Soldiers. We are the light - we are the sun. And after the dark- the cold night - the warm sun has to come again. Hail the new dawn.-

Also in attendance that night was NDP regional deputy leader Klaus-Jurgen Menzel, who grew up during the war. As Whitelaw played their signature tune -Fetch the Noose-, he told me it was his role to -educate- the young neo-Nazis at the gig to be good, patriotic Germans.

Later, back in Britain, I'd spend the evening at the Union Jack-draped home of Whitelaw bassist Steve. He was shaving his head, polishing his oxblood DMs, and boasting about -P**i-bashing- and once beating some immigrants to a pulp. He told me: -For things to get better, they have to get worse, and to me that means I'd let every asylum seeker into this country who wants to come. I'd let them all in -cos that would cause enough unrest to give me my way.-

My blood chilled. I soon discovered the BNP was getting in on the music act, and had set up its own label Great White Records.

At its studios near Halifax, I watched Nick Griffin and his daughter laying down tracks. David Hannam, Great White Records manager, told me: -It's solely aimed to help the BNP. Young people love anything that's seen as rebellious - so when social workers and teachers and parents go -that's taboo-, the hope is young people always like to rebel, and in our opinion if they're going to rebel, we'd like them to do it our way and listen to our music.-

Griffin smiled, adding: -Music is a very effective way of getting our views across.-

However, his -suits not boots- strategy was shot to pieces in my documentary. In the film you can watch Scott McLean, the party's former deputy chairman, at a Nazi cross-burning ceremony in **Scotland** where racist songs were sung and -jokes- made about Auschwitz.

Race war

MAKE no mistake, white power music is deadly. Devon Burghardt of Turn It Down, the Chicago-based anti-white power music monitoring group, told my documentary team about Benjamin Smith, who left two people dead after a two-state killing spree - his own version of a -racial holy war-. When the police finally caught him, his car was stocked with weapons, ammo, money, and caches of white power CDs.

After 2010, matters began changing. The unpleasant truth is that in Britain, the advent of the Tory government drew support from the BNP. At the 2010 Westminster election, the BNP took 564,331 votes. For context, the SNP took 491,386 votes. Come 2015, the BNP had fallen to just 1,667 votes at Westminster. The arithmetic is telling.

The English Defence League would draw much of its membership from thewaning BNP.

What my 30 years investigating the far right reveals about unrest that sparked riots

Indeed, Tommy Robinson - real name Stephen Yaxley-Lennon - the co-founder of the now defunct EDL, was a member of the BNP and now blamed for fuelling much of the recent far-right unrest across England and Northern Ireland by spreading disinformation.

The far right now became just as adept at using social media as they had music. During the recent riots, one far-right channel on the Telegram platform had 13,000 members.

Extremists plotted attacks on immigration centres, and swapped information on how to make petrol bombs. They used Telegram to mobilise rioters, sharing locations including the sites of mosques.

Telegram has since shut down the most noxious channels.

As Conservatives dismantled the asylum system and demonised refugees, the far right saw a way to regain the relevance it once had in the 2000s. It began a campaign of social media disinformation, claiming women or children were being attacked by male refugees -of fighting age-.

Last year, I reported how Erskine in Renfrewshire became a far-right flashpoint with the extremist organisation Patriotic Alternative targeting a hotel housing refugees. They were faced down by counter-demonstrations from trade unionists and anti-racist campaigners. As we saw during recent rioting, hotels housing refugees were also targeted.

During the Erskine protests, I spoke to Patriotic Alternative leader Mark Collett, a former BNP member once close to Nick Griffin. In 2021, the Jewish Chronicle reported Collett -promoted Mein Kampf to thousands of followers online-.

He was covertly filmed admitting he admired Hitler, and describing Aids as a -friendly disease- as -blacks, drug users and gays have it-. He told me: -We're unashamedly pro-white and stand up for the interests of the indigenous people of these islands: white British people.-

Former PA member Kristofer Kearney had pleaded guilty to disseminating terrorist publications. He-s said to have been an active member of the neo-Nazi National Action until just before it was banned for glorifying the murder of MP Jo Cox.

I asked Collett about The Jewish Chronicle reports. He said: -I don-t care what The Jewish Chronicle says - I-m not interested in their hypocritical babble.- He said that -post-Trump, post-Brexit- words like -Nazi-, -bigot- and -racist- no longer had -an effect-, adding: -Those words are becoming increasingly meaningless.-

-There-s big change coming-, he boasted, saying that as an -ethno-nationalist- he -desires a largely ethnically-homogenous country-. Collett added ominously: -Protests will continue all over the country until this issue is solved.-

The future

ALL that you've read here watered the garden where the far-right riots grew. Today, we've seen the consequences of such propaganda and hate play out on the streets. Believe me when I say I know these people. They're dangerous. They haven-t gone away and they will return. They always return.

The only way to ensure we never fall victim to their extremism again is to crush them so hard they never get up.

That doesn-t just mean draconian prison sentences for foot soldiers and ringleaders, but recognising that much of the far right-s rhetoric became normalised both by the Conservative and Reform Party, and large sections of the British media, over recent years.

For all their hate and cruelty, the far right could never have gained the traction we've seen this last week - never caused the mayhem they did - if so many in our press and political parties hadn-t happily parroted their talking points, for money and power.

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Body

MY first brush with neo-Nazis came aged 14. A skinhead gang, replete with swastika tattoos, tried to murder me and three friends in the street. I grew up on a tough Northern Ireland housing estate during the Troubles, and the far right were linked to loyalist paramilitaries.

The men who attacked us - a dozen-strong, aged from 18 to their mid-20s - took exception to us were wearing Two-Tone badges. The record label produced anti-racist music by The Specials and The Selecter.

The assault was so bad that an off-duty cop in a nearby house emerged when he heard my head being beaten off a fence. He pulled his gun. They ran, but only after one final kick to my head, and stamping on my friend's face. I awoke in hospital, teeth kicked out, lucky to be alive. Two were charged and convicted.

Every investigative reporter worth their salt has a handful of themes which run through their work, nearly always related to their own life. For me, it's the Northern Ireland conflict, political extremism, the far right, and social evils like poverty. That night, when neo-Nazis tried to put me in a graveyard, it started my lifelong exploration of the far right and what makes extremists tick.

I've been a reporter for more than 30 years, and dedicated huge amounts of time to unmasking the far right at home and abroad. I've written countless investigations and made documentaries, all with one intent: to warn that sooner or later festering far-right violence would spill on to the streets of Britain, and nations like America. As recent years in the USA, and current events in England and Northern Ireland show, I was unfortunately right.

Sadly, I've sometimes endured TV commissioners and newspaper executives who refused to understand the "newsworthiness" of investigating the far right. I hope they feel foolish today. Ironically, some now write hand-wringing pieces over the media's failure to address the causes of the riots.

Not all the extremists I met were neo-Nazis - though many were - but every one of them adhered to dangerous and divisive far-right ideology.

Terrorism

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After university, I was a cub reporter, learning my trade and specialising in crime, terrorism and security. I began investigating links between the neo-Nazi group Combat 18 and loyalist paramilitary organisations like the Ulster Volunteer Force and its breakaway Loyalist Volunteer Force. For those unaware of the far right's intricate codes, 18 references the letters A and H, first and eighth alphabetically. AH stands for Adolf Hitler. Combat 18 grew out of the early British National Party. It has carried out multiple acts of violence against ethnic minorities.

Due to death threats, I moved to **Scotland** in the mid-1990s, and continued my investigations. Contacts within loyalist paramilitary groups connected me with the UVF in Glasgow. We met in a pub near the Clyde. I talked to them about their agenda.

It was clear they were chiefly motivated by sectarian hatred, and their business was mostly supporting Protestant gunmen in Northern Ireland. But there was a second theme to their bigotry: immigrants in **Scotland**.

I felt deeply uneasy that this cocktail of hate was simmering away in the city I'd made my home.

Shortly afterwards, far-right terrorist Timothy McVeigh bombed Oklahoma, killing 168 including children. McVeigh was executed for the worst act of terror on American soil prior to September 11. He was inspired by the book The Turner Diaries - a fictional account of a white race war written by Dr William Pierce, head of what was then America's most dangerous and largest neo-Nazi organisation, the National Alliance.

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In other words, if multiple groups of one, two or three extremists act alone, murdering and bombing, they can spark race war, bring down democracy, and establish a Nazi dictatorship where Jews and people of colour are either killed or deported. That madness was their philosophy.

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Copeland got life. He'd been a BNP member and read The Turner Diaries. He told police: "My main intent was to spread fear, resentment and hatred throughout this country ... My aim was political. It was to cause a racial war ... There'd be a backlash from the ethnic minorities, then all the white people will go out and vote BNP."

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He told me about wanting to "repatriate ethnics to their country of origin", and railed against the "'leftist elite' - a talking point heard today from right-wing politicians and journalists. I often wonder if they care they're parroting Griffin.

I questioned Griffin, whose father was a Tory councillor, about his "suits not boots" strategy: in other words putting well-educated, well-dressed BNP members like him front and centre, and keeping skinheads out of sight. I left Griffin feeding the pigs on his small-holding farm, returning to ***Scotland*** for a much-needed shower.

Griffin would later be elected to the European Parliament and appear on Question Time, normalised by the BBC. I'd stay in touch with Griffin over the years, questioning him about the tactics of the British far right as I watched it slowly make inroads into UK politics. In 2006, the BNP took nearly 230,000 votes in local elections, averaging 18% in contested wards, electing 33 councillors. In 2007, it took nearly 300,000 votes. At the 2009 European elections, the BNP took 943,598 votes.

It was now - at the then height of far-right expansion in Britain - that I undertook an investigation lasting 18 months. I began exploring the rise of the far right globally, travelling all across Britain, France, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Russia and America. It was an experience which horrified even me - and by now I'd spent more than a decade in the neo-Nazi mire.

Grooming

IN ***Scotland***, I uncovered that Steve Cartwright had helped bring the concept - first originated in America - called Project Schoolyard to Britain. This saw neo-Nazis handing out white power CDs to children at school gates.

This was an important and frightening development. Kids were being groomed. I began filming anything I could relate to this, and eventually had enough material to air the documentary Nazi Hate Rock. It got me a Bafta nomination.

Let me make clear just how vile white power music is: there's a song like "Jack-Hammered N***r P***y", or "Freezer-full of N***r heads".

I followed Cartwright to Italy with his friend Chris Telford, a well-known BNP activist, whose band Nemesis was playing at a huge white power concert outside Verona. They talked for hours about "the biological survival of the white race".

Cartwright, then under Special Branch surveillance, boasted he "wasn't afraid to hate". In Milan, I met Francesca Ortolani, known as "Italy's first lady of fascist music", and watched her perform "Don't Go Around with the Jews". She told me she "hates black people". She was one of Europe's most downloaded white power musicians.

No Headline In Original

Later, in Sweden, I'd meet another woman idolised in the white power movement. She went by the name Saga, and was considered a far-right sex symbol. Adoring skinheads mobbed her in Stockholm. She told me her philosophy was "I just don't want people that aren't like me, around me".

I watched her play a white power gig in northern England organised by Blood & Honour. White power is big in many of the towns where recent riots broke out. Like today's riots, the gigs - held in pubs, clubs or hotels sympathetic to extremists - were organised by phone or online to stay one step ahead of the law. Saga gave Nazi salutes to the crowd, and skinheads gave Nazi salutes back. One neo-Nazi brought his eight-year-old child along.

In my documentary, you can watch two 14-year-old American girls, Lynx and Lamb, singing the song "Strike-force White Survival" in front of a baying crowd of US Nazis.

Although the British band Skrewdriver are considered the founders of white power music, America is the heartland. It's where bands like Blue Eyed Devils release songs called Final Solution.

Project Schoolyard was invented by the US white power record label Panzerfaust. Its slogan is: "We don't just entertain racist kids, we help create them." My investigations took me to the isolated, armed compound of the National Alliance in West Virginia, America. By now William Pierce was dead, and the movement led by his protege Erich Gliebe. He once boxed under the name "the Aryan Barbarian". His wife Erica, a former go-go dancer with the stage name Holly Caust, was the high priestess of the First United Church of Adolf Hitler. I spent a week with these people.

I wandered around the National Alliance warehouse - stocked with over a million dollars worth of white power CDs, Hitler mouse mats, posters of girls holding cans of Zyklon B poison gas under the words "Got Jews?", and boots that left swastika footprints on a victim's face.

There were sculptures and pictures of Hitler throughout. Gliebe played me recordings of hate calls to gay people. He and his wife put on "Klassic Klan Kompositions" with one song called "Move them N*****'s north". Gliebe found it "humorous". Erica later told me: "I chose someone to mate with on their race."

Genocide

THE National Alliance sold the computer game Ethnic Cleansing. I watched young Iraq war veterans playing the game, murdering Jews, Mexicans and African-Americans. The Nazis later took me into the woods to show off their collection of machine guns and pistols.

I went to Michigan to meet Shawn Sugg - star of America's white power scene and friend to Steve Cartwright and Chris Telford. He had a taste for drinking and fighting, and thought himself an outlaw. He told me the "Fourteen Words" were the heart of his philosophy and then, without batting an eye, said: "You know, Neil, I used to think about genocide. We live on this crowded planet and I just thought 'wouldn't it be great if we got rid of some undesirables'."

Back in Britain, I spent many weeks in Heanor, Nottingham, the nation's skinhead capital, and home to white power band Whitelaw. Their leader Benny was a dead-eyed hatemonger who raged against LGBT people. Bassist Steve - a skinhead straight from central casting - had stickers on his guitar reading "My boss is an Austrian painter" or denouncing "race-mixing sluts". Some of the band's hangers-on were profound alcoholics, drunk from the moment they woke.

I went undercover into an illegal neo-Nazi gig in Germany, near Leipzig, to watch Whitelaw play in front of a crowd of Hitler worshippers. It was the most disgusting experience of my life. Whitelaw were on stage shouting "Death to ZOG" when riot police turned up, surrounded the building, covered the exits with attack dogs, and ringed the place with floodlights. ZOG means "Zionist Occupied Government" - that's how neo-Nazis refer to Western democratic governments.

No Headline In Original

As violence escalated - tear gas was later fired - I hunkered down in the attic of the hotel where the gig was taking place and filmed riot cops and Nazis fighting. During the battle, I spoke to Henrik Ostendorf, a youth leader of the NDP - then Germany's main far-right party.

Back then, the NDP had state parliament seats. It was later renamed Homeland, and this year sanctioned by the federal court as it "aimed to undermine or eliminate" democracy.

Ostendorf watched as fellow Nazis were arrested and told me: "A few years ago, we were the poor, poor Nazis, and everybody was laughing about us, ja? But now, we have the power. Never give up.

"Always be optimistic, and who knows, maybe in five years - 10 years - we will give the orders to these ..." And he paused, sneering, and pointed to the police: "Soldiers. We are the light - we are the sun. And after the dark- the cold night - the warm sun has to come again. Hail the new dawn."

Also in attendance that night was NDP regional deputy leader Klaus-Jurgen Menzel, who grew up during the war. As Whitelaw played their signature tune "Fetch the Noose", he told me it was his role to "educate" the young neo-Nazis at the gig to be good, patriotic Germans.

Later, back in Britain, I'd spend the evening at the Union Jack-draped home of Whitelaw bassist Steve. He was shaving his head, polishing his oxblood DMs, and boasting about "P**i-bashing" and once beating some immigrants to a pulp. He told me: "For things to get better, they have to get worse, and to me that means I'd let every asylum seeker into this country who wants to come. I'd let them all in 'cos that would cause enough unrest to give me my way."

My blood chilled. I soon discovered the BNP was getting in on the music act, and had set up its own label Great White Records.

At its studios near Halifax, I watched Nick Griffin and his daughter laying down tracks. David Hannam, Great White Records manager, told me: "It's solely aimed to help the BNP. Young people love anything that's seen as rebellious - so when social workers and teachers and parents go 'that's taboo', the hope is young people always like to rebel, and in our opinion if they're going to rebel, we'd like them to do it our way and listen to our music."

Griffin smiled, adding: "Music is a very effective way of getting our views across."

However, his "suits not boots" strategy was shot to pieces in my documentary. In the film you can watch Scott McLean, the party's former deputy chairman, at a Nazi cross-burning ceremony in **Scotland** where racist songs were sung and "jokes" made about Auschwitz.

Race war

MAKE no mistake, white power music is deadly. Devon Burghardt of Turn It Down, the Chicago-based anti-white power music monitoring group, told my documentary team about Benjamin Smith, who left two people dead after a two-state killing spree - his own version of a "racial holy war". When the police finally caught him, his car was stocked with weapons, ammo, money, and caches of white power CDs.

After 2010, matters began changing. The unpleasant truth is that in Britain, the advent of the Tory government drew support from the BNP. At the 2010 Westminster election, the BNP took 564,331 votes. For context, the SNP took 491,386 votes. Come 2015, the BNP had fallen to just 1,667 votes at Westminster. The arithmetic is telling.

The English Defence League would draw much of its membership from the waning BNP.

Indeed, Tommy Robinson - real name Stephen Yaxley-Lennon - the co-founder of the now defunct EDL, was a member of the BNP and now blamed for fuelling much of the recent far-right unrest across England and Northern Ireland by spreading disinformation.

No Headline In Original

The far right now became just as adept at using social media as they had music. During the recent riots, one far-right channel on the Telegram platform had 13,000 members.

Extremists plotted attacks on immigration centres, and swapped information on how to make petrol bombs. They used Telegram to mobilise rioters, sharing locations including the sites of mosques.

Telegram has since shut down the most noxious channels.

As Conservatives dismantled the asylum system and demonised refugees, the far right saw a way to regain the relevance it once had in the 2000s. It began a campaign of social media disinformation, claiming women or children were being attacked by male refugees "of fighting age".

Last year, I reported how Erskine in Renfrewshire became a far-right flashpoint with the extremist organisation Patriotic Alternative targeting a hotel housing refugees. They were faced down by counter-demonstrations from trade unionists and anti-racist campaigners. As we saw during recent rioting, hotels housing refugees were also targeted.

During the Erskine protests, I spoke to Patriotic Alternative leader Mark Collett, a former BNP member once close to Nick Griffin. In 2021, the Jewish Chronicle reported Collett "promoted Mein Kampf to thousands of followers online".

He was covertly filmed admitting he admired Hitler, and describing Aids as a "friendly disease" as "blacks, drug users and gays have it". He told me: "We're unashamedly pro-white and stand up for the interests of the indigenous people of these islands: white British people."

Former PA member Kristofer Kearney had pleaded guilty to disseminating terrorist publications. He's said to have been an active member of the neo-Nazi National Action until just before it was banned for glorifying the murder of MP Jo Cox.

I asked Collett about The Jewish Chronicle reports. He said: "I don't care what The Jewish Chronicle says ... I'm not interested in their hypocritical babble." He said that "post-Trump, post-Brexit" words like "Nazi", "bigot" and "racist" no longer had "an effect", adding: "Those words are becoming increasingly meaningless."

"There's big change coming", he boasted, saying that as an "ethno-nationalist" he "desires a largely ethnically-homogenous country". Collett added ominously: "Protests will continue all over the country until this issue is solved."

The future

ALL that you've read here watered the garden where the far-right riots grew. Today, we've seen the consequences of such propaganda and hate play out on the streets. Believe me when I say I know these people. They're dangerous. They haven't gone away and they will return. They always return.

The only way to ensure we never fall victim to their extremism again is to crush them so hard they never get up.

That doesn't just mean draconian prison sentences for foot soldiers and ringleaders, but recognising that much of the far right's rhetoric became normalised both by the Conservative and Reform Party, and large sections of the British media, over recent years.

For all their hate and cruelty, the far right could never have gained the traction we've seen this last week - never caused the mayhem they did - if so many in our press and political parties hadn't happily parroted their talking points, for money and power.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: SHE

Subject: FAR RIGHT POLITICS (90%); FASCISM (90%); NEGATIVE NEWS (90%); NEGATIVE SOCIETAL NEWS (90%); POLITICAL EXTREMISM (90%); INVESTIGATIONS (89%); MURDER (89%); NATIONAL SECURITY & FOREIGN RELATIONS (89%); NEGATIVE MISC NEWS (89%); PARAMILITARY & MILITIA (89%); TERRORISM (89%); TERRORISM & COUNTERTERRORISM (89%); WHITE NATIONALISTS (89%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (78%); CRIME, LAW ENFORCEMENT & CORRECTIONS (78%); ETHNIC CONFLICTS (78%); RACISM & XENOPHOBIA (78%); RIOTS (78%); UK POLITICAL PARTIES (78%); POLITICAL & SOCIAL IDEOLOGIES (73%); RACE & ETHNICITY (73%); ETHNIC GROUPS (70%); MINORITY GROUPS (70%); agriculture (%); business (%); crime (%); education (%); wales_community (%); wales electoral ward (%); health terms (%); political parties (%); sport (%); weather (%)

Industry: MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, **SCOTLAND** (73%); NORTHERN IRELAND (93%); UNITED STATES (92%); UNITED KINGDOM (90%); WALES (90%); ENGLAND (79%); **SCOTLAND** (73%)

Load-Date: August 11, 2024

End of Document

Glasgow artist Trackie McLeod serves up Glasgow in the 90s nostalgia for new exhibition

Glasgow artist Trackie McLeod serves up Glasgow in the 90s nostalgia for new exhibition

GlasgowWorld

July 30, 2024

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Section: NEWS

Length: 770 words

Highlight: The new evening exhibition will combine the culinary arts with not-so-traditional arts from Glasgow artists

Body

Glasgow East End community and arts organisation Strange Field announces YER DINNER'S READY, a nostalgic evening of cuisine, performance and installation.

Co-curated by Trackie McLeod and Programme Director Jenny Tipton, the night features new work from Glasgow based artists Len Goetzee, Durty Beanz, and McLeod on August 31 from 7-11pm.

The second event in Strange Field's new performance series, YER DINNER'S READY transports you to a simpler time of after school [TV dinners](#) and Nokia 3310 polyphonic ringtones, Teletext, and [Lynx](#) Africa.

McLeod presents a collection of video works spanning ten years that celebrate the importance of Glasgow in his work and recurring theme of nostalgia, welcoming you to French Street for a night of unexpected sensory immersion and installation. This event follows his recent collaboration with [Scottish](#) indie band The Snuts on an advertising campaign for their UK No. 2 album 'Millennials', and a series of political art billboards posted around Glasgow supported by Jack Arts/Build Hollywood.

Len Goetzee brings to the table a series of brand new performances, inspired by jingles of times gone by, with hints of Crazy Frog and Toys 'R' Us transporting us to our inner child, while examining a trans methodology of collapse and dispossession. Music, voice, and the written word excavate a past enmeshed with the non-human and the more than human in Goetzee's work, encouraging binaries to break down and temporalities to become twisted; an anti-propulsive practice reversing into queer resistance and old futures.

From chippy teas to tuck shop treats, Durty Beanz (DB) will punctuate the evening's proceedings with a six-course culinary centrepiece performance exploring the relationships between memory, flavour and identity (both personal and shared).

DB are an Action Research Group based in [Glasgow](#). Established in 2019, the group produce a diverse range of outputs operating at the intersection of contemporary art practice and digital anthropology. Their goal is to playfully

Glasgow artist Trackie McLeod serves up Glasgow in the 90s nostalgia for new exhibition

interrogate the shifting status of the things we eat, specifically in relation to global food inequalities, climate crisis and cultural identities.

Music throughout the night will be provided by McLeod and frequent Strange Field collaborator Dirt Brooks. The event is ticketed at £35 each, with a percentage of the proceeds going to LGBT Youth **Scotland** with a six-course dinner and one welcome drink included in the admission price and vegan and vegetarian options available.

YER DINNER'S READY sits in the middle of Strange Field's first ever programme of major exhibitions and events held at French Street. The programme, which operates alongside its regular community events and open-source programmes which are also held at The Pipe Factory in Calton, includes a series of large scale solo exhibitions from early-career and under-represented artists such as Philip Ewe and Morwenna Kearsley and experimental performance events.

Strange Field's Dalmarnock space has already been filled with William Joys' *Agenda*, film installation *Flywheel* from Harriet Rickard, and most recently the *Heritage & Community Exhibition* showcasing the photography of Chris Leslie and examining the legacy of Glasgow's Commonwealth Games ten years on in the community Strange Field now calls home.

This 2024/25 exhibition and events programme is designed to test the limits of the French Street exhibition space and provide artists a rare opportunity to operate at a large scale with a budget not often available to artist-led organisations. This programme has been made possible through support from The National Lottery through Creative **Scotland**, The National Lottery Heritage Fund, The National Lottery Community Fund and The William Grant Foundation.

On top of these announced major exhibitions and performance events, plans for late 2024 and into 2025 include innovative talks and events on the concepts of intersectional radical care and governance, further large-scale exhibitions, and more events that place the Calton and Dalmarnock communities at the centre of what Strange Field do.

Trackie McLeod said: "With the amazing continued support of Strange Field, we look forward to bringing you an evening of nostalgia, nonsense and nineties nosh."

Jenny Tipton, Programme Director for Strange Field, said: "This second event in our performance series is an ambitious collaboration that supports three exciting artists based in Glasgow to create new work and turn our space into an immersive dining experience - something we've not done before and are very much looking forward to making with Trackie, Len and Durty Beanz!"

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: ARTISTS & PERFORMERS (92%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (90%); CUSTOMS & CULTURAL HERITAGE (90%); EXHIBITIONS (90%); TRENDS & EVENTS (90%); MEAT FREE DIETS (89%); HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCE (78%); LGBTQ+ PERSONS (78%); CALENDARS (76%); NEGATIVE NEWS (71%); ANTHROPOLOGY & ARCHAEOLOGY (70%); MUSIC GROUPS & ARTISTS (68%)

Industry: ARTISTS & PERFORMERS (92%); EXHIBITIONS (90%); FROZEN FOODS (76%); PUBLISHING (73%); MARKETING CAMPAIGNS (72%); OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE (72%); OUTDOOR ADVERTISING (70%); MARKETING & ADVERTISING (69%); MUSIC GROUPS & ARTISTS (68%)

Glasgow artist Trackie McLeod serves up Glasgow in the 90s nostalgia for new exhibition

Geographic: GLASGOW, **SCOTLAND** (93%); **SCOTLAND** (89%); UNITED KINGDOM (71%)

Load-Date: July 30, 2024

End of Document

Predator reintroductions: Are we asking the wrong questions?

The Herald

July 22, 2024 Monday

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Length: 786 words

Byline: Craig Williams

Body

In mainland Europe, *Lynx* are proving more adaptable than we might have imagined, setting up territories among fields, copses and villages in Switzerland, while wolves have reappeared on the outskirts of Rome. Large predators rarely need wilderness. What they need is a good supply of food and somewhere to hide, but most of all, they just need tolerance.

For too long, we have been asking the wrong questions about potential predator reintroductions here in *Scotland*. The focus has been on whether we have enough space, enough prey or enough habitat. The answer to all these questions is yes.

Switzerland alone has nearly twice as many people in little more than half as much space as *Scotland*, with fewer deer and no greater area of woodland, yet it is now home to more than 250 *Lynx* and a similar number of wolves.

It's not even a question of whether reintroduced predators might kill livestock. They will. The key question is simply this: how much conflict are we prepared to tolerate? Sheep farmers will naturally tell you that even one lost sheep is unacceptable and certainly, any loss can be both costly and stressful. But losses are also part of life on a farm.

Farmers already lose livestock to many causes, including difficult births, starvation, hypothermia, disease, accidents and growing predation by eagles, foxes, badgers and corvids. So, the idea that a single extra loss is unacceptable might be considered disingenuous. On the other hand, there is always a point at which losses become unsustainable.

If we are going to have an honest conversation about where that threshold lies, all parties need to start by accepting that they might not get the answer they want. It might be that *Lynx* kill several hundred sheep a year, but that we decide as a society that sheep farmers must live with that - albeit noting that they could and should be compensated for these losses, as well as being helped to prevent avoidable loss.

Lynx (Image: Erwin Van Maanen)

Such an approach is common in most countries around the world where coexistence with wildlife is managed, often it must be said, with less resources than we have in *Scotland* and with more challenging species, such as elephants, tigers or bears.

Predator reintroductions: Are we asking the wrong questions?

Alternatively, it might be that *Lynx* kill thousands of sheep a year. Regular -offenders- could be removed, but if too many *Lynx* routinely killed too many sheep, we might have to accept that *Scotland* simply cannot accommodate a large predator. Switzerland only supports around 400,000 sheep. In *Scotland* we have 6.8 million.

In the case of wolves, unless there is a profound shift in how we manage our livestock, returning to a model of active shepherding and round the clock protection, we would almost certainly lose very large numbers of livestock. On the other hand, there are reasons to believe that *Lynx* might not cause the same level of problems.

Firstly, *Lynx* are less prone to killing multiple animals in single attacks, while cattle and horses are too big for *Lynx* to tackle. Secondly, research suggests that in Norway, where wild prey is sufficiently abundant, *Lynx* rarely attack livestock. Sheep might look like easy pickings, but *Lynx* prefer venison.

Conflict with *Lynx* in *Scotland* is subject to two conflicting drivers. Our hyper-abundant sheep population makes it more likely that *Lynx* will encounter sheep more often than they do elsewhere. They might not seek them out, but if opportunities are presented too often, they may prove irresistible.

On the other hand, our abundant deer population provides *Lynx* with plentiful opportunities to hunt their preferred prey. Elsewhere, where deer numbers exceed a threshold density that is commonplace in *Scotland*, sheep are rarely attacked.

Which one of these two drivers dominates is impossible to predict. We can only say that some level of livestock predation is inevitable. But then coexistence with nature always comes at a cost. The decision we have to make is: what costs are we prepared to accept?

Putting a price on the many benefits offered by an animal like the *Lynx* is difficult. There may be a boost to tourism, or a reduction in deer management costs, but how does one monetise the benefits for biodiversity, or the awe and wonder one feels when walking in the footsteps of such an animal?

Nonetheless, there is always a price to pay. So, we either decide that we want to live in a nature-rich world where such inspiring animals still walk among us, or we say that there is no place for them anymore, because the price tag is too high.

Hugh Webster is Lead writer with ***SCOTLAND***: The Big Picture, a charity that works to make rewilding happen across *Scotland*, as a solution to the growing climate and biodiversity crises.

www.scotlandbigpicture.com

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: MAMMALS (90%); WILD CATS (89%); BIRDS (78%); WILDLIFE (78%); ANIMAL WELFARE (73%)

Industry: LIVESTOCK (90%); SHEEP & GOAT FARMING (88%); SHEEP FARMING (88%); FARMERS & RANCHERS (78%)

Geographic: ***SCOTLAND*** (91%); SWITZERLAND (90%); EUROPE (79%)

Predator reintroductions: Are we asking the wrong questions?

Load-Date: July 22, 2024

End of Document

We've been asking the wrong questions on predators

We've been asking the wrong questions on predators

The Herald (Glasgow)

July 22, 2024 Monday

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The Herald

Section: Pg. 15

Length: 764 words

Byline: Alan Simpson

Body

In mainland Europe, *Lynx* are proving more adaptable than we might have imagined, setting up territories among fields, copses and villages in Switzerland, while wolves have reappeared on the outskirts of Rome.

Large predators rarely need wilderness. What they need is a good supply of food and somewhere to hide, but most of all, they just need tolerance.

For too long, we have been asking the wrong questions about potential predator reintroductions here in Scotland.

The focus has been on whether we have enough space, enough prey or enough habitat. The answer to all these questions is yes.

Switzerland alone has nearly twice as many people in little more than half as much space as Scotland, with fewer deer and no greater area of woodland, yet it is now home to more than 250 *Lynx* and a similar number of wolves.

It's not even a question of whether reintroduced predators might kill livestock. They will. The key question is simply this: how much conflict are we prepared to tolerate? Sheep farmers will naturally tell you that even one lost sheep is unacceptable and certainly, any loss can be both costly and stressful. But losses are also part of life on a farm. Farmers already lose livestock to many causes, including difficult births, starvation, hypothermia, disease, accidents and growing predation by eagles, foxes, badgers and corvids. So, the idea that a single extra loss is unacceptable might be considered disingenuous. On the other hand, there is always a point at which losses become unsustainable.

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Such an approach is common in most countries around the world where co-existence with wildlife is managed, often with fewer resources than we have in Scotland and with more challenging species, such as elephants, tigers or bears.

We've been asking the wrong questions on predators

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Hugh Webster is Lead Writer for *SCOTLAND*: The Big Picture, a charity that works to make rewilding happen across *Scotland*.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: HER

Subject: MAMMALS (90%); WILDLIFE (79%); ANIMAL WELFARE (78%); BIRDS (77%); ANIMALS (73%); agriculture (%); health terms (%); weather (%)

Industry: LIVESTOCK (90%); SHEEP FARMING (89%); SHEEP & GOAT FARMING (88%); FARMERS & RANCHERS (79%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, *SCOTLAND* (73%); *SCOTLAND* (91%); SWITZERLAND (90%); EUROPE (79%)

We've been asking the wrong questions on predators

Load-Date: July 22, 2024

End of Document

Trust warns as deer numbers near a million

Trust warns as deer numbers near a million

Aberdeen Press and Journal

July 4, 2024 Thursday

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Section: NWS; Pg. 9

Length: 503 words

Byline: Stuart Macleod

Body

The total number of deer in **Scotland** is "unnaturally high" at nearly one million, experts have warned.

And the exclusivity of shooting rights on estates has contributed "massively" to the proliferation of deer populations in the uplands and the spreading of these populations into the wider landscape.

In a blog for the **Scottish** Wildlife Trust, its species advocacy team said: "Deer are keystone species, helping to shape ecosystems. Light grazing by deer keeps competitive plant species in check, allowing a greater diversity of plant life to thrive, and micro-habitats are created when deer disturb ground with their hooves and fertilise the soil with their dung," they wrote.

"It is, however, possible to have too much of a good thing. At high densities deer go from being gentle gardeners of the landscape to metaphorical bulldozers.

"The independent Deer Working Group recommended in their 2020 report that for natural woodland regeneration to occur in the presence of deer there should be no more than five in every 1km² of land (variable with species and location), but there are many places in **Scotland** where deer densities far exceed this and where, as a result, woodland regeneration doesn't stand a chance without protection from deer-proof fencing.

"High deer numbers are also bad news for **Scotland**'s internationally important peatlands.

"Overgrazing of peat-forming plants and trampling of peatland soils hampers the carbon capturing peat-formation process and degrades existing peat, releasing greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and destroying habitat relied upon by a unique assemblage of species.

"The total number of deer in **Scotland**, including our native red and roe deer and the introduced sika and fallow deer, is estimated to be nearly one million.

"This is unnaturally high and represents a major ecological imbalance driven by human actions - namely the removal of all of **Scotland's** post-glacial large predators (bears, wolves and **Lynx**) and the intentional management of private hunting estates, covering roughly 1.5 million hectares of the **Scottish** uplands, to produce high numbers of red deer to be shot for sport."

A major player in **Scotland's** deer management landscape is Forestry and Land **Scotland** (FLS). FLS owns 8% of **Scotland's** land but in 2023-24 was responsible for culling 42,500 deer, which was one third of the national total.

Trust warns as deer numbers near a million

Paul Bekier, area wildlife manager for FLS, told the trust: "Scotland's very high background deer population continually hampers FLS's achievement of its environmental objectives in many areas."

Other proposals included measures to remove some of the barriers which exist to upping the national cull, including repealing the venison dealer's licence and shortening the closed season for shooting female deer.

Another avenue currently being explored is to enable communities to become more involved in deer management. NatureScot is currently piloting this idea at their Creag Meagaidd National Nature Reserve (NNR), and another scheme is proposed for Beinne Eighe NNR.

Classification

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Journal Code: Pr

Subject: MAMMALS (98%); LIFE FORMS (90%); WETLANDS (90%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (89%); WILDLIFE (89%); WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (89%); ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (78%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (76%); BLOGS & MESSAGE BOARDS (73%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS CONSERVATION (73%); GREENHOUSE GASES (50%)

Industry: FERTILIZERS (77%); BLOGS & MESSAGE BOARDS (73%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS CONSERVATION (73%); HUNTING & TRAPPING REGULATION & POLICY (65%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (74%); SCOTLAND (93%); 7 North East

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Well, at least we know who not to vote for if we care at all about the planet

Well, at least we know who not to vote for if we care at all about the planet

The Herald

July 2, 2024 Tuesday

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Byline: Vicky Allan

Body

This article appears as part of the Winds of Change newsletter.

We all know who definitely not to vote for if you care about the planet.

Firstly, for those who don't give a sun-shrivelled fig or are going the full climate denial route, there's Reform. Theirs is a manifesto that tells us climate change is happening but it's got nothing to do with us.

Compared to Reform the Conservatives almost look like Just Stop Oil just for the simple fact that they are at least backing net zero by 2050. But dig into the manifesto and you find those giveaway lines, like -pragmatic, proportionate and realistic approach-.

You find statements like: -We will boost our energy independence in an increasingly unstable world. We will legislate to ensure annual licensing rounds for oil and gas production from our own North Sea.-

But more than the manifesto itself, the tone of the debate, Rishi Sunak's talk of the costs rather than the benefits of green transition has indicated lip service to net zero. Even the former Conservative net zero tsar, Chris Skidmore, has had enough and has indicated he plans to vote Labour.

Skidmore accused the prime minister of breaking the consensus of the past on climate action to -seek division and polarisation-.

Read more:

Winds of Change | Taylor, Keir, Rishi... Scottish Greens have your private jet days numbered

But what to vote if you really do care about the planet? And not just climate change, but also plastic waste, biodiversity, and wider ecological crises that are directly caused by humans, by the capitalocene as some now call it?

This election campaign is a confusing one in which climate has featured mainly in debate about job losses and just transition, with relatively little questioning of what plans mean for the climate and nature.

Well, at least we know who not to vote for if we care at all about the planet

Various organisations have created analyses of the manifestos for climate and nature, among them Greenpeace, which rated the Green Party top of the UK parties, followed by the Liberal Democrats, which, it said, -have set a high bar on climate and nature, with a fair approach to the transition that shields those struggling with the cost of living, and recognises the UK-s responsibility to support climate-vulnerable countries around the world.-

The Conservative manifesto was described as -worrying reading-.

The Labour -change- message

With Labour a likely winner, it seems appropriate to look at their offering first. A feature of many of the manifestos is an emphasis on clean energy and growth, rather than climate. But at least Labour is not talking up the negatives, it-s pushing the positives of green growth with a whole section dedicated to -Make Britain a clean energy superpower-

-The climate and nature crisis is the greatest long-term global challenge that we face,- it says, and there is indeed a lot of climate-positive policy in there.

Sign up for the Winds of Change newsletter and get a weekly update on all things climate and energy.

But let-s look at what-s not in there. There-s no revoking of the oil licenses that the Conservative government put through, and that glaring absence, the 28 billion a year green investment pledge that Labour scrapped back in February. Green growth and the clean energy transition, in Labour-s plan, is going to happen through private investment, with only the tiniest of priming through public money - a mere 4.7 billion, 1.2 billion of which will come through the windfall tax.

The excuse may seem reasonable - the Conservatives left us with too little money! But is it credible? Back in February, political economist Richard Murphy said that what Labour is doing -is the worst thing possible, which is to cut the pump-priming investment funds from government that get the growth cycle he's desperate for underway, and which pays for itself with extra taxes paid in the end-.

It-s therefore no surprise that 28 billion features in other manifestos. The Scottish Green Party, for instance, says: - the next UK Government must introduce a 28 billion per year Green New Deal investment programme.-

Read more:

Rewilding | 'Reintroducing Lynx, wolves or bears unacceptable to Scots farmers and crofters' Rewilding | Demonised, tortured, extirpated - is it time to bring the wolf back to Scotland? Rewilding | Return of the wolf. Map shows rise across Europe, will Scotland reintroduce?

The SNP declares: -The UK Government must invest at least 28bn a year in the green economy to deliver a step change in public and private investment in net zero and major investment in the domestic supply chain.-

Also key in the manifestos is the matter of just transition. A key question for me is, are they committed to both protecting jobs and speeding through green measures; and to bringing benefits to communities impacted by, for instance, by grid expansion?

The SNP -in between- strategy on oil and gas licenses, with its talk of a climate compatibility checkpoint, does not fit that bill. But some of their just transition talk does.

-Instead of benefiting Scotland-s interests, our energy resources have bankrolled successive UK Governments,- it says. -Scotland as a whole should see far more of that benefit, but we also believe the local communities who house the infrastructure - like pylons and wind farms - should get a much greater degree of benefit.-

Isn-t there more to this than green growth?

Well, at least we know who not to vote for if we care at all about the planet

Everything I've mentioned here is a debate and conversation about green growth. It's about the benefits of net zero progress in terms of increasing jobs and GDP. It takes the assumption that we can decouple rising GDP from its pollution and resource impacts.

But it's worth remembering that the climate crisis is not the only crisis humanity is careering into - and we don't want to slash carbon dioxide but diminish biodiversity, add to our waste problem or pollute environments in other ways. That surge of growth and electrification is only going to go so far towards helping us to live well and sustainably on this planet.

Most parties are talking about green growth over the coming years. It is a key part of the massive infrastructure-building process of the next zero transition.

But the message too often is that tired old line that growth is a good thing in itself. There are no mentions of limits to growth - unsurprisingly given we are just coming to the end of two crisis years in which GDP per capita loss has been the equivalent of 1500 per household.

Read more:

Winds of Change | No new North Sea oil and gas licences? Or lots? Or maybe some?

But an agrowth perspective in which we stop seeing growth as a belief system and answer to all problems, or at least acknowledge where growth may not be a good thing, would be good to see.

I'm looking for suggestions of ways of reshaping our human relationship with the natural world we depend on that aren't about pushing up productivity and consuming more - a bit more of the doughnut economics espoused by Kate Raworth.

I'm looking for words like -wellbeing-, there in the **Scottish** Greens manifesto. -We need a radically different approach to our economy - one which prioritises the wellbeing of people and planet over individual profit; which creates decent well-paid jobs for the future; and which reinvests in our public services and local communities.-

I'm looking for -nature-positive economy-, mentioned in the Lib Dem manifesto. I'm looking for -making polluters pay-.

(Image: Derek McArthur)

Protect nature

Yes, we need a green transition, a mass building of new infrastructure, and that will represent growth. But we also need the right restraints so that biodiversity is guarded. We need significant funding for the switch to more nature and climate-friendly forms of agriculture. These areas are barely mentioned in the Labour manifesto, though a separate pledge was made to deliver a -countryside protection plan-.

The absence was highlighted by calls like those of the Greens, SNP and Lib Dems for more funding for farmers to deliver sustainable agriculture, and by the recent march in London, which demanded, -Restore Nature Now-.

Clean energy powerhouse? Yes please, but that's not all we need to save the planet.

Classification

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Well, at least we know who not to vote for if we care at all about the planet

Subject: CLIMATE CHANGE (89%); ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM (89%); POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); UK POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); NEGATIVE NEWS (87%); CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS (78%); ELECTIONS (78%); BIODIVERSITY (77%); CLIMATE ACTION (77%); GREEN ECONOMY (77%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (76%); GREEN GROWTH (76%); UK LIBERAL DEMOCRATS (76%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (73%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (71%); POLITICS (71%); ENERGY PERMITTING (70%); WASTE PRODUCTS (68%); GOVERNMENT BODIES & OFFICES (66%); LAYOFFS & DISMISSALS (66%); PRIME MINISTERS (66%); COST OF LIVING (60%); PLASTIC WASTE (50%)

Company: SEA LTD (56%)

Ticker: SE (NYSE) (56%)

Industry: NAICS519290 WEB SEARCH PORTALS AND ALL OTHER INFORMATION SERVICES (56%); ENERGY & UTILITIES (89%); SOLAR ENERGY (89%); ALTERNATIVE & RENEWABLE ENERGY (88%); GREEN ECONOMY (77%); GREEN GROWTH (76%); ENERGY PERMITTING (70%); OIL & GAS INDUSTRY (69%); WASTE PRODUCTS (68%); PLASTIC WASTE (50%)

Person: RISHI SUNAK (72%)

Geographic: ATLANTIC OCEAN (79%); NORTH SEA (79%); UNITED KINGDOM (92%); **SCOTLAND** (79%)

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'Reintroducing lynx, wolves or bears unacceptable to Scots farmers and crofters'

'Reintroducing lynx, wolves or bears unacceptable to Scots farmers and crofters'

The Herald

June 22, 2024 Saturday

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Byline: Vicky Allan

Body

-The question,- says vice president of NFU ***Scotland***, Alasdair Macnab, -is what is the political appetite for introducing new predators in the UK? And there isn-t any.-

In 2018, Fergus Ewing, then Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy said reintroduction of large predators would happen -over my dead body-.

-He was very clear," Macnab says, " that he would never support such a reintroduction. We expect the ***Scottish*** Government to stand by that pledge. There have been a number of attempts to get a consensus, but no one has actually got a local or political consensus to start considering a release. It just hasn-t happened.-

Though there are currently no plans for wolf-reintroduction in ***Scotland***, rewilding charity, ***Scotland***: The Big Picture is campaigning for a mandate for a trial reintroduction of ***Lynx***.

Macnab describes any such proposals to introduce predators -such as ***Lynx***, wolves and bear- as -unacceptable- to the NFUS membership of farmers and crofters.

-NFU ***Scotland*** remains crystal clear," he says, "that any proposals to reintroduce predators such as ***Lynx***, wolves or bears are wholly unacceptable to ***Scottish*** farmers and crofters, and it calls on the ***Scottish*** Government to make a clear statement rejecting such proposals permanently.

-There has,- he says, -been a lot of noise about wanting predators reintroduced. It has caused a lot of stress to our members - and bear in mind our members are already dealing with the White-tailed eagle (sea eagle), which is predating heavily on sheep despite efforts to reverse it. We are aiming to gather evidence now on that and demonstrate that they are a real problem and it-s putting farmers out of business. Introducing yet another predator into the system would be the final straw for a lot of people-

READ MORE:

What wolf's history tells us about reintroduction in ***Scotland*** European wolf culls: Will it savage ***Scottish*** hopes for return? Wild ***Lynx*** could return to ***Scotland*** within ten years

'Reintroducing lynx, wolves or bears unacceptable to Scots farmers and crofters'

Six years ago Norwegian farmers addressed NFU **Scotland**-s AGM on the impact of large predators after NFUS had sent a delegation to Norway to look at the losses farmers were incurring.

-The year that we were out there," he observes, "Norwegian authorities paid out compensation on 20,000 sheep lost to predators (on UK current values sheep will average around 100 to 135; a payout of 2m to 2.7m). This does not cover the loss of genetic value of sheep being kept for breeding and the genetic potential that is lost. Of the sheep killed by predation in Norway, wolverine accounted for around 34 percent of losses with the **Lynx**, bear and wolf accounting for 21 percent, 15 percent and nine percent respectively."

Macnab says: -The Norwegians told us that to reintroduce any predators into our country would be an absolute catastrophe.-

He notes that a European Parliament report titled -The revival of wolves and other large predators and its impact on farmers and their livelihood in rural regions of Europe-, states that, in Norway, farmers lose 16 sheep for every **Lynx**.

The report, however, also notes that Norway is unique in Europe in having such high levels of predation.

It states: -The very high losses that we see in Norway (and partially France and Switzerland) are the result of husbandry systems where sheep graze freely in forest and mountain habitats without fencing, shepherds or dogs to protect them. The fact that neighbouring Sweden and Finland have per capita losses of sheep that are between one hundredth and one thousandth of that in Norway shows the dramatic effect of simply removing livestock from natural habitats and keeping them on fields or other fenced pastures close to farms.-

Alasdair Macnab (Image: web)

What is happening in the European Union is also being watched closely by NFUS. Over the past half decade, the wolf has been -strictly protected- - and its numbers across the bloc have risen by 1,800% from near extirpation by the 1960s, to 20,300.

But last year the European Commission put forward a proposal that would allow them to change the EU protection status from -strictly protected- to -protected-. This, it was said, would allow greater flexibility for control to address the -challenges being posed by increasing wolf numbers-.

The move came in the wake of the killing of European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen-s pony in September 2022. Its killer, a mature male wolf, was found, through DNA tests, to have been involved in the deaths of about 70 sheep, horses, cattle and goats.

Last year, the then UK Secretary of State for the Environment Therese Coffey assured English farmers that the UK Government would not support the reintroduction of predators.-

-**Scottish** farmers and crofters,- says Macnab, -deserve similar assurances. Despite the media speculation, we remind our members that nothing yet equates to an application for release in **Scotland**.- Were that to ever happen, the process for securing permission for the trial release of any predator is long and complex and any application will be subject to considerable analysis and debate.

-In our opinion, despite numerous attempts, no local consensus nor political consensus has ever been secured for such a release Farmers and crofters in **Scotland** can be confident that the Union, as a member of the **Scottish** National Species Reintroduction Forum, will take all necessary steps to ensure their interests are protected were a formal application ever to be made.-

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

'Reintroducing lynx, wolves or bears unacceptable to Scots farmers and crofters'

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: FARM LABOR (90%); MAMMALS (89%); WILD CATS (89%); CABINET OFFICES (73%); GOVERNMENT ADVISORS & MINISTERS (73%); GOVERNMENT BODIES & OFFICES (73%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (72%); ANIMAL WELFARE (68%)

Industry: FARM LABOR (90%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%)

Geographic: NORWAY (94%); **SCOTLAND** (94%); UNITED KINGDOM (92%)

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Return of the wolf. Map shows rise across Europe, will Scotland reintroduce?

Return of the wolf. Map shows rise across Europe, will Scotland reintroduce?

The Herald

June 22, 2024 Saturday

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Length: 493 words

Byline: Vicky Allan

Body

The wolf was the last apex predator to roam **Scotland** and the rest of Britain. Though the date of its final disappearance is debated, it outstayed the bear and the **lynx**, and left its mark on our culture.

The Herald is committed to covering the big issues around our relationship to land and nature, and wolf reintroduction remains a divisive issue; the wolf an icon of biodiversity loss, even though its extirpation from these isles began over 1000 years ago.

Of all the mooted species reintroductions to **Scotland**, the wolf rouses the most passion and anger. There are reasons feelings run so high. The wolf feels familiar; like an old, but dangerous friend; recognisable in our place names, our heraldry, our historic tales. . Once relatively common in **Scotland**, England and Wales, the story of how it was hunted and persecuted, has been told by Derek Gow in his book, Hunt for The Shadow Wolf.

READ HERE:

Demonised, tortured, extirpated - is it time to bring the wolf back? 'Reintroducing **lynx**, wolves or bears unacceptable to farmer'

Other species have been introduced, and still others proposed. **Scotland**: The Big Picture, for instance, currently has a campaign for the reintroduction of the **lynx**. But the wolf has a different meaning and evokes much stronger feelings, both positive and negative than many other animals.

The political position in both **Scotland** and England has been that there will be no return. Five years go, Fergus Ewing swore the large predators would be reintroduced over his dead body. Farmers, who stand to lose most from the arrival of the wolf, argue strongly against their reintroduction.

They point to tensions in other parts of Europe where the wolf is expanding, and farmers and hunters are advocating for greater controls and stronger culls, due to rising livestock losses and growing wolf populations.

The range and numbers of these wolves are mapped here:

Return of the wolf. Map shows rise across Europe, will Scotland reintroduce?

Views are divided over the wolf, both in **Scotland** and across Europe. Some still see it as a dangerous predator to be kept from these shores; others as a missing link in our ecosystems. Often, both here and in the rest of Europe, pro and against wolf views fall along lines of left and right, or urban and rural - but not always.

We are, in the UK, close to alone in being wolfless. Almost all countries in Europe have seen its return, even if, in cases like Belgium, in small numbers. The species is present in all EU Member States except Ireland, Cyprus and Malta, as well as across Scandinavia. The number of wolves across the EU in 2023 is estimated to be 20,300. This map shows where they are and how they are protected or controlled.

There is a reason we have no wolves, in spite of reintroduction proposals like those of Alladale Wilderness Reserve owner, Paul Lister. We are an island, and, as Derek Gow points out, the wolf stands no chance of arriving here on its own. If we want wolves, we are going to have to go and get them. Which begs the question, do we want to?

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: MAMMALS (90%); EUROPEAN UNION (89%); POPULATION GROWTH (89%); BIODIVERSITY (77%); BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION (77%); WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (77%); ANIMALS (76%); ISLANDS & REEFS (76%); EMOTIONS (75%)

Industry: FARMERS & RANCHERS (74%); LIVESTOCK (73%)

Geographic: **SCOTLAND** (96%); EUROPE (94%); ENGLAND (92%); EUROPEAN UNION MEMBER STATES (92%); UNITED KINGDOM (92%); BELGIUM (79%); CYPRUS (79%); WALES (79%); MALTA (58%)

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Demonised, tortured, extirpated - is it time to bring the wolf back to Scotland?

Demonised, tortured, extirpated - is it time to bring the wolf back to Scotland?

The Herald

June 22, 2024 Saturday

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Length: 1655 words

Byline: Vicky Allan

Body

-When it comes to wolves,- says rewilding pioneer, Derek Gow, -what's required is courage; political courage. Even though the animals can be radio-satellite collared so we know the location of every wolf, I doubt that the powers that be in **Scotland** and Nature Scot will have any interest in this at all.

-They will do nothing until they are explicitly politically told to do something. Politically nothing will happen until there is a groundswell of public opinion for this animal.-

Gow lives on a 300-acre farm on the Devon-Cornwall border, which he has been rewilding with wild boar, white stork and beavers, as well as, within a large enclosure, **Lynx** - having previously reared sheep and cattle. But the story of his passion for nature, and the wolf, begins in his **Scottish** childhood, near Biggar, at the edge of the Southern Uplands.

What sparked both Gow-s new book about the predator's history, Hunt for the Shadow Wolf: The Lost History of Wolves in Britain, and his young imagination was a story that his grandmother told him of a place near his childhood home, called Wolf Clyde, said to be the site where the last wolf was killed on the Clyde. In her tale, the wolf was killed by a woman with a griddle pan.

-Of course, it wasn-t the last wolf,- he says, -and it-s debatable whether there was ever a wolf there.- When he looked back at historical documents he found that Wolf Clyde was actually -Wolchclide- or Wathclyde. Notes that -Wath- translates either as a place with a river ford or a place with a fort. Gow believes **Scotland's** Flow Country was probably home to the last wolves on mainland Britain and that they -lived and died in this sanctuary". One account suggests a sighting even as late as 1929.

As a boy, it had fascinated him that a wolf might once have lived in what felt to him like a tame landscape. -The idea that **Scotland** had been a place where at one point, creatures like wolves had made their home seemed incredible to me.-Derek Gow with a boar (Image: Jonny Weeks)

A key strand in his book is a deep dive into what we can learn from old place names of Britain. -When you start to look at the older languages, the wolf is the most commonly recorded mammal in place names. It was once a

Demonised, tortured, extirpated - is it time to bring the wolf back to Scotland?

species that grasped our imagination very firmly and we recorded right the way through the whole landscape from the very north of **Scotland** to the very south of England."

Gow is a passionate and provocative advocate for rewilding, perhaps best known for his role in the reintroduction of the Eurasian beaver, but also water voles, white stork and more recently wildcats.

While reintroduction is not exactly what Hunt for the Shadow Wolf is about, it haunts the book. Gow notes, for instance, that the International Union for Conservation of Nature, in its official reintroduction guidelines, requires that both the cause of a species- extirpation and the absence of the initial drivers of its extinction are understood before any programme of restoration begins.

His book is, at least in part, an attempt at greater understanding - and the story he tells is one of far-ranging - domination and destruction-, not just of wolves, but other animals and people.

It is a portrait of persecution of the wolf in Britain that is dramatic and horrifying - and also tied to Christian monasticism.

But the story of the wolf is also, Gow says, that of another species. Sheep farming and wolf persecution came - hand in glove-, and chiefly responsible for bringing that culture to Britain was a monastic order, the Cistercians. Early medieval churchmen, were, he writes -sheep managers of note-, their flocks, their "gold-.

-The Cistercians come to the Welsh borders in the late 1100s,- he says, -and bear in mind this was an order who left the Benedictine orders because their teachings were way too frivolous.-

-They were a fairly formidable and very unforgiving people. But behind that was a conviction of belief that the order and profitability of land is the work of the Lord. For them things that were outwith the work of the Lord were outlaws, be they human, robbers, murderers, wolves, or whatever else.-

By the late 13th century, in the **Scottish** Borders, for instance, Cistercians at Melrose Abbey, would own more than 13,000 sheep.

A few hundred years later, sheep were also key in the Highland clearances. -If you look at what happened after the -45 rebellion whereby the lords in the north marry into the English aristocracy What they became interested in was money - and as soon as that happened, the sheep come north with English shepherds or Border shepherds. Then the people that have lived there under the patronage of the lairds, Highland chiefs, are all carted off to Canada, burnt out of their houses.-

Sheep farming, he adds, was -nothing to do with Highland culture and was quite alien". "In the beginning they were seen as a symbol of tyranny absolute and you've got people like Thomas More and crofters rebellions reacting against the sheep and the imposition of everything that came with them.-

It was wool, and its price, he describes, that drove the expansion of sheep farming in **Scotland**, and with it the clearances. But what kept it around up until today were subsidies. -What bedded those sheep in," he says, "has been our membership of the EU and the Common Agricultural Policy and the fact that you got paid at certain times headage for just keeping a sheep. It was that system that then basically transmogrified into the single farm payment.-

It is a way of life, he says, -that has been privileged for a lifetime and a half-.

-Sheep are not evil,- he writes. -It's how we keep them that hurts. Without vast public subsidies, they would simply cease to exist and yet, any time a proposal to reintroduce a species as modest as a woodcat or marten is proposed in extreme rural circles, the ridiculous prospect that they might -eat a lamb- seals their doom.-

Gow is combative and dismissive of the objections of farmers to the reintroduction of predators. -At the end of the day, farmers are a tiny part of society and though their views have to be listened to, it should not be the case that hundred thousand people dictate to 76 million how they are going to live.-

Demonised, tortured, extirpated - is it time to bring the wolf back to Scotland?

It's debatable when the last wolf in **Scotland** was killed, but the United Kingdom has been near wolfless for around 300 years, and, as Gow points out, they are not going to come back on their own. If we want them, we are -going to have to go and get them-.

European wolf (Image: Tom Anders)

-They're never going to swim from continental Europe, though they're good swimmers.-

Wolf reintroduction, he notes, would require a shift to a different style of sheep farming. He notes that certain systems have existed in coexistence with the wolf.

-Sheep husbandry in eastern Europe and Eurasia still operates in, parts, by a method that involves driving them into caves at night, or faulds, or bounds, and people are with the sheep, moving through an environment and taking care of them.-

That kind of approach, he says, brings an ecological richness. -Because they're moving on all the time and they distribute the seeds of the alpine plants down into the drove roads of the lowlands, by browsing things sporadically like juniper and the high altitude shrubs. They open up grasslands that can become incredibly rich."

The book is filled with horrifying stories not just of the hunting and killing of the wolf, but also its demonisation and torture, particularly by those that caught them in wolf traps across the country. The persecution of the wolf was, Gow argues, part of a -whole culture of carcinogenic hatred that was developed in Western Europe and in Britain, with its fulcrum around the predators, the primitive people-.

-As soon as you tell lies about what the creature is and what it can do or can't do, before long you get people believing and hating. You give them the ability to indulge their hate and to act out the darkest things that are in their heart and they take it. We know very well from our colonial history how that applies to people.-

In Europe, the wolf is on the rise, populations having surged by 1,800% since the 1970s when it was near extirpated. There are even, for instance, nine wolf packs in the Netherlands.

READ MORE:

Wild **Lynx** could return to **Scotland** within ten years Reject wolf reintroduction permanently, says farmers union

An argument sometimes given in favour of reintroduction of wolves is that they would help control the deer - which are in such high numbers across **Scotland** that they are being culled.

Gow argues that the presence of the wolf would alter deer movements, allowing woodland to flourish. -You go to the guys in the Veluwe," he says, "and they will tell you that the deer have changed. They cannot easily feed where they once fed with great ease. Their days of languor are over. They've got to constantly watch what they do next - because the wolf will find them.-

Another point that Gow makes is that man's best friend, the dog, is responsible for tens of thousands of times more human deaths than the wolf. He says: -There are 50 -80,000 dog attacks or kills of humans every year worldwide. In the last twenty years, wolves have killed 12 people.-

In Hunt for the Shadow Wolf, he writes, "One day, when wolves are brought back to Britain, their return will not simply be about land healing. We will consciously or not be healing ourselves."

But, right now, he sees little political will behind this cause. -I see no courage or vision in the nature conservation authorities in Britain, to see anything like this happen," he says. "They're more concerned about translocating small beetles and parasites than anything else.

Demonised, tortured, extirpated - is it time to bring the wolf back to Scotland?

"I don't think there will be any movement with regard to the reintroduction of the wolf in Britain, unless you get a tough little group of people who start to make a real fuss about it - and they have to carry the large languid organisations like the John Muir Trust and others with them.-

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New archaeological dig will find the remnants of the Glasgow Garden Festival of 1988

New archaeological dig will find the remnants of the Glasgow Garden Festival of 1988

The Herald

June 20, 2024 Thursday

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Byline: Paul English

Body

It was the festival which saw Glasgow's riverbank burst into full bloom, seeding thousands of days out and planting a million memories.

Now a team of archaeologists are on a mission to find the remnants of the Glasgow Garden Festival of 1988.

Archaeologist Dr Kenny Brophy of the University of Glasgow is leading a new dig on the past, on the only remaining site of the botanical jamboree which ran for 152 days 36 years ago.

An estimated 4.3 million people visited the festival, which spanned 120 acres from the Kingston Bridge to the Govan docks on a footprint which is now home to the city's Quay leisure complex BBC ***Scotland***, STV, the Glasgow Science Centre and Glasgow Tower.

Now Dr Brophy and his team of students, volunteers and school pupils are digging up the past in Festival Park in Govan.

Glasgow University archaeology student Maya Ferrari (left) and Adam Swemmen from Edinburgh University investigate the Garden Festival site (Image: Colin Mearns/The Herald)

-We did a test dig in 2022 at the site, and we found lots of coins which predated 1988, which allows us to speculate that they might have been thrown into the lochan which was in this part of the site.

-What we found on that test dig made us want to come back to do more. The main focus of the excavation now is to look at the route of the festival railway line which ran over sections of what is now festival park.

-We have dug a trench across where we think the railway line was, looking for material residue related to its construction.

-We've just found some plastic plant labels, which have the names of plants like red campion written on them and it's reasonable to assume they are fragments from the festival.

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-We've found decorative stonework that was at the lochan edge, we've found the geotextile layer which was at the bottom of the lochan and have been able to establish that dispute everything being cleared off the site, some of the bigger landscape features have left a significant footprint.

-That's a huge opportunity for us to celebrate the heritage of the park and the Glasgow Garden Festival by explaining to people about what is under their feet.-

Dr Kenny Brophy, left, from the department of archaeology at the University of Glasgow and Lex Lamb, right, project leader with 'After the Garden Festival' pictured in Festival Park (Image: Colin Mearns/The Herald)

The dig is part funded by Glasgow City Heritage Trust and Glasgow University, and led by After The Garden Festival, an initiative set up by designer and social history enthusiast Lex Lamb to create a digital archive of the festival.

Lamb's research has so far drawn a cache of 4,000 crowd-sourced photos, as well as locating memorable festival features such as the Coca Cola Rollercoaster, now in a theme park in Lowestoft, and the miniature steam train, now in Rusutsu Resort, Hokkaido, Japan. The flower-filled fiesta also featured over 270 artworks, sculptures from internationally renowned artists like George Wyllie and Stan Bonnar, many of which have been charted and located in new locations

He said: -The dig is one of many strands of what we're doing to record and celebrate the legacy of the Glasgow Garden Festival.

-The excavation is bringing up tangible evidence, not just documents and interviews. These are the physical remains.-

Read more:

AI helps unlock 900 years of St Giles' history for new video game How the ghost of the Rev IM Jolly is haunting **Scotland's** Kirk On the prowl for **Scotland's** elusive big cats: are pumas, panthers and **Lynx** out there?

The current excavation is also exploring an area of the park which was the location of the festival's Antonine Gardens, a recreated Roman bathhouse in Bearsden on the northern outskirts of Glasgow.

Dr Brophy said: -It was removed after the festival and taken to a roundabout in Milngavie. We have now started to find tangible evidence of the demolition process of the festival site,, evidence of things being thrown into hollows to level out what would become Festival Park.

-The archaeology is starting to shed light into some of the physical and forgotten elements of the festival which are still in situ 30-odd years later. That's the joy of archaeology - finding objects from the past and telling stories from the things we find.-

The ruined remains of a waterfall, still visible in the park, are also of interest to the team.

Lamb said: -It's a dynamic feature and very well remembered. Some features were hardly photographed at all but in the 4,000 photos that we currently have acquired of the festival, the waterfall is really well-represented.-

Archaeological excavations at Festival park, Glasgow (Image: Colin Mearns/The Herald)

The dig has also uncovered older indicators of Glasgow's lost ceramics industry, with fragments of clay pipes and ceramic tiles making appearing in the dig, evidence of how the festival site was in-filled after the gates closed for the last time in September 1988.

Lamb said: -The park is built on material ploughed up from what is now Glasgow Harbour, which was piled into lorries and taken through the Clyde Tunnel to this site. But there are also fragments of decorative blue tile in the

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area where the Bowmore Distillery and restaurant was, which is where Charles and Diana had lunch when they opened the site.-

The Garden Festival, the third of five UK-wide garden festivals, was followed by major international events in Glasgow including 1990s European City of Culture and 1999-s European City of Architecture. Lamb believes the significance of the five month event needs to be marked.

He said: -If you look at the ten year period between 1983-1993 there were significant changes in Glasgow with places like The Concert Hall, Princess Square, St Mungo Museum opening - all this happened in a really concentrated point in terms of how the city reinvented itself and how it wanted to be seen in the world.

Glasgow University archaeology students Erin Martin (left) and Olivia MacFarlane investigating the site of the miniature train line that ran through the 1988 Glasgow Garden Festival. (Image: Colin Mearns/The Herald)

-It-s a pivotal part in the cultural reinvention here, and there-s really nothing to commemorate the garden festival at all, which seems remarkable given its importance.

-We are looking to put in some sort of proper interpretation on the site to make sure people who might now know that this amazing thing happened here, know about it and its importance to Glasgow.

-If somebody had spoken to people in the 1970s who put together the Empire Exhibition in 1938 then we would have a better understanding of that now.

-But I would say the Glasgow Garden Festival, in terms of the culture and economy of Glasgow was considerably more important. We really want to mark it and acquire as much information about it before the opportunity is lost.-

A podcast about the work of After The Garden Festival project will be available from Glasgow City Heritage Trust on 27 June.

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Industry: FESTIVALS (89%); GEOTEXTILES (65%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, SCOTLAND (94%); EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND (58%); SCOTLAND (79%)

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How the ghost of the Rev IM Jolly is haunting Scotland's Kirk

How the ghost of the Rev IM Jolly is haunting Scotland's Kirk

The Herald

June 16, 2024 Sunday

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Length: 1206 words

Byline: Sandra Dick

Body

Dour-faced and miserable, Rikki Fulton-s Rev. IM Jolly and his dreary -Last Call- message from the Kirk is the stuff of comedy legend.

Sending up the church-s strait-laced, -thou shalt not- and strict Presbyterian image, the gloomy cleric merely had to sigh, slowly lift his head and utter a gloomy -hullo- to have television audiences in stitches.

But while a generation of Scots raised on Late Call - ***Scottish*** Television-s 1980s five minutes of bedtime religious thought - laughed along, the joke quickly wore thin with those he was so brilliantly lampooning.

So much so, that the comic-s creation is being partly blamed for leaving Scots with a haunting image of the Kirk, its ministers and their Sunday services as glum, boring and out of sync with modern lives.

One of the Kirk-s own ministers says the ghost of the Rev. Jolly combined with controversial moves to downsize its church properties which pitted congregation against congregation, are at the heart of its modern problems.

In a new book which examines the thorny issues affecting the Kirk - collapsing membership numbers, its -dour- image and fears for its future - and how to fix them, Perthshire minister Rev Neil Glover has urged a radical reboot of how the Church of ***Scotland*** presents itself and delivers its Christian message.

Rev Neil Glover says the Kirk has to shed its dour image to attract new members (Image: Andrew O'Brien/Church of ***Scotland***)

Instead of dwelling too much on regurgitating the scriptures and closures, he suggests the Kirk should focus on re-inventing itself, and even adopt a life coach style role to help modern Scots -find themselves-.

That would mean less emphasis on encouraging congregations to devote efforts to helping others and - perhaps surprisingly - more on bettering their own lives.

He has also urged the Kirk to follow another -cleric- inspired name, pop band Deacon Blue and its leader Ricky Ross, who he says went on a journey of rediscovery before successfully relaunching to a new audience.

How the ghost of the Rev IM Jolly is haunting Scotland's Kirk

-For ten years he worked hard to try to work out who they were and what mattered to them, to find that sound that was authentic to who they are and that spoke to contemporary **Scotland**,- he says.

-That's the process we have got to do. We've got to go deep within ourselves, deconstruct and then reconstruct, persevere, make mistakes and find good people to work with.-

The Church of **Scotland** has around 280,000 members - significantly down from a 1.3million peak in the late 1950s.

The number of people worshiping in person on a Sunday is around 60,000 compared to 88,000 pre-pandemic. Growing numbers are said to be opting to worship online or in other ways.

The collapse in membership plus costs of caring for ageing buildings led to a massive downsizing exercise. The church is in the process of shedding around 30% of its buildings, with up to 400 likely to close over the next few years.

Earlier this year, the Church of **Scotland** sold off its only church in Gibraltar, bringing to an end two centuries of worship, while closer to home dozens of church buildings, some in stunning locations, are on the market.

However, the process has been bloody with congregations pitched against each other in the fight to save their church premises, fury over the loss of churches at the heart of communities for centuries and dismay over the loss of stained glass, organs and even the sound of church bells ringing.

Read more from Sandra Dick:

AI helps unlock 900 years of St Giles' history for new video game Ash dieback is killing trees: artists have plans to breathe new life into the wood On the prowl for **Scotland**'s elusive big cats: are pumas, panthers and **Lynx** out there?

While concerns for the future grow: writing in the Kirk-s magazine, Life and Work, The Rev Dr Richard Frazer, minister of Greyfriars Kirk in Edinburgh, recently told of fears there will be no Church of **Scotland** left within -a generation or two-.

Dr Frazer, who is also chaplain to the University of Edinburgh, said candidates for the ministry have raised concerns that 'it feels like we are being formed to administer palliative care'.

Although it-s a similar experience for many churches around the world, Rev. Glover, who covers Aberfeldy, Dull and Weem, Grantully, Logierait and Strath Tay parish churches, feels a major reason for the steady decline here lies with the Kirk-s -dour- image.

-We are a bit dull some of the time,- he says. -For many generations of Scots, the church and the image of the Church of **Scotland** minister is of Rev. IM Jolly.

Rev Neil Glover's book, Finding Our Voice, argues the Kirk has spent too much energy on closing churches (Image: Andrew Milligan/PA **Scotland**)

-Getting rid of that Rev I. M. Jolly image is harder than you think: you can take out the pews and play guitars and think that will make a difference, but it doesn-t.

-People do think that the church is boring.

-People-s expectations of church is that it-s distant, emotionally cold and if you step inside you'll be told you-re a bad person and to start looking after other people and forget about yourself.

-We were putting lots of energy into closing and merging churches and we have been missing the point,- he adds.

-People are less likely to believe in God, but they still want to be part of organisations and groups, and they have a sense of discovery about their own growth and how they are going to flourish as an individual.

How the ghost of the Rev IM Jolly is haunting Scotland's Kirk

-Mainstream churches like ours are often not thinking like that.

-We are good at thinking about how do we help others, but when we start asking how do we look after ourselves we worry that it is self-indulgent, a bit precious and maybe it's bit -**Scottish**- to not do that.

-But it's like being on a plane, and you're told you should put your own oxygen mask on first.

-We have to learn to be places that inspire people and give them a sense of becoming a better version of themselves, and should not to be shy of that.-

Rev Glover, a minister for 20 years, says church services of the future might be more relaxed, held outside the traditional Sunday morning timeslot when families often have other commitments, and could involve eating together and sharing stories.

But he warns: -One temptation is to try to copy successful churches, particularly those in North America.

-We should be ourselves, grounded in what it is to be **Scottish**, to fight for justice, faith in Christianity and rooted in local community.

-Too often the message we have sent is that we are closing churches.

"Amalgamations, building closures or reform of our structures are not the things that are going to spark renewal in the Church of **Scotland**, and yet that is where we are spending a lot of our energy."

He likens his book, Finding Our Voice, to a manifesto for change. However, he remains optimistic that the church can survive for generations to come.

-It's a huge challenge but the church has always relished huge challenges,- he adds.

-Many periods in **Scottish** history where it has been felt that the church was on the brink of disappearing and it has renewed, and often the renewal is just after it looked most desolate.

-Some remarkable things have happened before, and they will happen again.-

Finding Our Voice: Searching for Renewal in the Mainline Church is published by St Andrews Press

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Industry: MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); TELEVISION INDUSTRY (71%); LIFE COACHING (50%)

Geographic: **SCOTLAND** (94%)

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How the ghost of the Rev IM Jolly is haunting Scotland's Kirk

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On the prowl for Scotland's elusive big cats: are pumas, panthers and lynx out there?

On the prowl for Scotland's elusive big cats: are pumas, panthers and lynx out there?

The Herald

June 9, 2024 Sunday

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Byline: Sandra Dick

Body

Sun streamed through the railway carriage window as the engine slowed to make its way over the Glenfinnan viaduct.

It was sometime in the mid-1980s, and just another morning for Paul Macdonald as he and his pal made their way by train to Lochaber High School.

-As the train approached what-s now called the -Harry Potter bridge-, the east side terrain comes up so it-s more level with the train,- he recalls.

-It was early morning, sunny, clear and light. The train was travelling relatively slowly, and there it was, slinking away, so close and so clear.

-It was unmistakably and undeniably a -big cat.-

(Image: Archant)

Paul watched, speechless, staring out of the window until the train crawled on and the big cat became a distant speck.

It was his first sighting of a big cat on the prowl in **Scotland** - it would not be his last - and the trigger for a lifelong search for elusive pumas, black leopards and **Lynx** which he believes lurk in the shadows in every region right across **Scotland**.

-We looked at each other,- he remembers. -I said to my friend -did you see that?- and he said -yes, did you see that too?-.

More than 1,500 big cat sightings have been documented on a nationwide map (Image: Paul Macdonald - Big Cat Sightings)

On the prowl for Scotland's elusive big cats: are pumas, panthers and lynx out there?

-It wasn't a deer or a dog. It was definitely a big cat. Like anyone who sees something like that in the wild, we couldn't believe our eyes.-

These days Paul is at the helm of ***Scottish*** Big Cat Research Team, an amateur group who are absolutely certain that ***Scotland***'s lush landscape and miles of wilderness are a perfect haven for wild big cats.

Thought to be mostly descendants of exotic pets released decades ago, the group believes they are not just roaming rural ***Scotland*** but encroaching on some of our most built-up urban areas.

Last week the notion that big cats are among us leapt forward after swabs taken from a sheep carcass found in the Lake District were confirmed to have traces of *Panthera* genus DNA - linked to panthers, leopards, tigers and lions.

News of a big cat in Cumbria does not surprise Paul: he's aware of four other positive big cat DNA results retrieved from sites in England.

And he's sure it's only a matter of time before there's proof here that big cats - including the very species at the centre of -rewilding- and reintroduction debates, ***Lynx*** - are alive and thriving across the land.

Paul Macdonald of ***Scottish*** Big Cat Sightings group (Image: Paul Macdonald)

The group, which receives new sightings almost every day, recently released a map showing what it says are credible big cat sightings across ***Scotland*** since 1947.

The largest mapping database of its kind in the UK, it pinpoints more than 1,500 sightings spanning John O'Groats to Berwick upon Tweed, from Tobermory in the west to dozens of sightings across the north-east, down the east coast and right across the central belt.

A mass of tan, black, orange and grey dots, reflecting the colour of the animal, Paul believes it only represents between 1% to 5% of the true number of sightings over the decades.

Read more:

Why does every act think they can fill up the Glasgow Hydro?

Scotland Euros 2024: Tartan Army hits the road in a campervan convoy

Most are never shared: often people convince themselves they're mistaken or don't want to risk being ridiculed.

While those who do flag up their suspicions, only sightings which Paul and his team are convinced are accurate, are recorded.

But the nationwide map is just one of several the group has put together.

One devoted to sightings of ***Lynx*** - kept under wraps to protect them from being disturbed or hunted by landowners or gamekeepers - suggests the species is present across the country.

-That has surprised us,- adds Paul. -We expected there to be a few pockets across ***Scotland***, instead they are everywhere.

Amateur researchers are collecting evidence of big cat sightings across the country (Image: Paul Macdonald - ***Scottish*** Big Cat Sightings group)

-We are sure about these sightings because they are such weird looking creatures, with an unusual gait. They're lanky looking with a bushy face, white beards, tufted ears and a short tail.

-When we have two or three of these unique features reported in a sighting, it's only going to be a ***Lynx***.

On the prowl for Scotland's elusive big cats: are pumas, panthers and lynx out there?

-We're confident that they are quite active. That puts a different perspective on the current debate: it's not reintroduction of a species, it's boosting the population that's already here.-

A deep forest dweller and highly elusive, *Lynx* sightings tend to be in rural areas with thick cover.

But some other big cats may be closer to home.

Paul recalls catching sight of a big cat roaming in the area around Troon in Ayrshire and an encounter up Arthur's Seat in the heart of Edinburgh.

-I was with friends at the time,- he says of the Edinburgh incident. -This was something capable of growling - and not every big cat can growl.-

It is not as unlikely as it sounds: in 2012, a police helicopter scanning Arthur's Seat during a search for a vulnerable woman picked up a large heat source at least three times the size of the woman police officer on the ground.

Details were not released at the time: it would be three years later before one officer present confirmed the crew was convinced they were looking at a puma.

Adds Paul: -There have been a few reports from Arthur's Seat.

Scottish Big Cat Research members are appealing for news of big cat sightings (Image: Paul Macdonald)

-And when you look at the sightings that are relatively urban, you often find they are close to green corridors that lead to fields like disused or even still active railway lines.-

It's suspected big cats and other exotic species were set free by their owners following the Dangerous Wild Animals Act in 1976. Before then, shops like Harrods openly sold everything from baby elephants to Christian the lion, famously purchased by two Australian backpackers in 1969 and kept at their Kings Road flat.

In one astonishing 1970s incident, a pub in Leith was the scene of a puma attack, when the animal, kept in a cage by the publican, was released.

The attack, at the Merryman pub in Commercial Street, left a man and a woman injured and the distinction of being **Scotland**'s only recorded victims of a mountain lion attack.

It's also thought US military bases in **Scotland** in the aftermath of the Second World War kept big cats as mascots which were released into the Highlands when they packed up and left.

There are also documented cases of big cats being trapped in **Scotland**: in 1927, farmers who had lost sheep and goats in Invernesshire reported seeing an animal like a leopard and found tracks in soft bog.

One set a steel trap on the mountainside, and next morning found -a large, fierce yellow animal of unknown species- which he promptly dispatched. It was later confirmed to be a *Lynx*; one of at least three caught around the same time.

Decades later, in October 1980, farmer Ted Nobel of Cannich near Inverness, exasperated at the loss of several sheep and foals, set a trap using a sheep's head as bait.

(Image: Contributed)

He returned to find a rather upset puma.

The female - nicknamed Felicity - was seized by police and taken to what's now the Highland Wildlife Park near Aviemore.

On the prowl for Scotland's elusive big cats: are pumas, panthers and lynx out there?

How it came to be in the Highlands seemed solved when a prisoner in England claimed he had set free two 19-month old puma cubs, called Rooster and Jen, amid concerns they'd be put down while he was jail.

In a curious twist to an already mindboggling story, the farmer later appealed to keep the puma at his farm but was turned down.

Felicity lived out her years in captivity, died of old age, was stuffed and put on display at Inverness Museum.

Back at the **Scottish** Big Cat Research Team, Paul says the Cumbria DNA finding is another step towards sightings being taken seriously. He-s called for **Scotland**-s outdoor, nature and wildlife groups to work together to unravel what is out there including Kellas cats, the hybrid mix of **Scottish** wildcats and domestic felines which can grow to impressive size and have never been fully studied.

He-s also urged people who spot -big cats- to contact the group through their Facebook page.

-There have been stories about livestock being taken by some kind of predator for decades,- he adds. -Sometimes we-re sure it-s a canine attack - dogs run wild among sheep and often they die of stress or shock.

-Large felines operate in a different way, they-re much more clinical.

-We've had cases when a deer or sheep carcass has been found up a tree - a pretty positive indicator that it-s a big cat.

-We have a perfect environment for them, there-s prey abundant and plenty of cover,- he adds.

-We-re sure there are numerous pairs active in pretty much every region of **Scotland**.-

Classification

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NSA calls for consultation on Eurasian lynx reintroduction

The Scottish Farmer

June 2024

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Length: 299 words

Byline: Kelly Henaughen

Body

Concerns have once again been raised about proposed release plans of Eurasian *lynx*.

The National Sheep Association (NSA) has called for a full consultation before any decision is taken to reintroduce the species, after fresh application plans.

In *Scotland*, the Lifescape Project has reignited discussions and south of the border, the Northumberland Wildlife Trust is doing the same.

The NSA said it stood by the position it formed around the last application in 2018 by *Lynx* Trust UK - an application rejected by the Defra Secretary.

[READ MORE | NFUS panel night calls for reform of assurance and the Union](#)

NSA chief executive, Phil Stocker said: -NSA would advocate for a case-by-case approach to ensure there is a robust and clear strategy to ensure unintended consequences are avoided.

-As an organisation we will engage constructively with this conversation, on the understanding that it will inform whether a formal consultation should proceed in advance of any licence application.

-As sheep farmers, we will be far more directly affected than most and we have a duty and a right to express our views.-

[READ MORE | *Scottish* Land and Estates lays out its election asks](#)

Mr Stocker said few farmers would 'sleep easy at night' thinking their sheep might be being attacked by a *lynx*.

-We know the effect that domestic dogs attacking sheep has on farmer anxiety levels and the repulsion these attacks are met with by the public,- he added.

-We have to think carefully about how the destruction of a livestock farming sector would change the countryside, our rural communities and the ecology and nature that most farmers are already working hard to further improve.-

NSA calls for consultation on Eurasian lynx reintroduction

Lynx reintroduction has caused long-running debate, over uncertainty of the potential impact the predator could have on existing habitats.

Classification

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Industry: SHEEP & GOAT FARMING (90%); SHEEP FARMING (90%); AGRIBUSINESS (78%); ANIMAL FARMING & BREEDING (78%); LIVESTOCK (78%); LIVESTOCK SERVICES (78%); AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING & HUNTING (73%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (91%); UNITED KINGDOM (57%)

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End of Document

Consultation needed on reintroduction of lynx, says NSA

Consultation needed on reintroduction of lynx, says NSA

The Scottish Farmer

June 2024

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Length: 560 words

Byline: Jackie Craft

Body

THE NSA has called for consideration of nature and biodiversity before any reintroduction of the Eurasian Lynx.

With the launch of Missing Lynx Project interactive roadshows in Northumberland, the NSA is keen to reiterate the need for a full consultation before any decision is taken to reintroduce this predator in the English/Scottish borders.

With the Northumberland Wildlife Trust at the start of another -conversation- about the introduction of Eurasian Lynx and a similar initiative underway in Scotland under the banner of The Lifescape Project, the NSA is concerned that once again there are plans to prepare for a licence application to release this predator species into our landscape.

The NSA stands by the position it formed around the last application in 2018 by Lynx Trust UK - an application rejected by the Secretary of State at that time.

NSA chief executive officer Phil Stocker said: -There must be practical and science-based evidence and reasoning behind any potential reintroductions of risk species and NSA would advocate for a case-by-case approach to ensure there is a robust and clear strategy to ensure unintended consequences are avoided.

NSA chief executive officer, Phil Stocker (Image: NSA)

"As an organisation, we will engage constructively with this conversation, on the understanding that it will inform whether a formal consultation should proceed in advance of any licence application.

-As sheep farmers, we will be far more directly affected than most and we have a duty and a right to express our views.

"The potential impact is wide and far reaching, including the stress placed on farmers knowing that an apex predator is in the vicinity - we know the effect that domestic dogs attacking sheep has on farmer anxiety levels and the repulsion these attacks are met with by the public.

He says why it would be okay for a sheep to be attacked by a Lynx instead is irrational.

Consultation needed on reintroduction of lynx, says NSA

He said: -The answer is likely to be that compensation will be paid. We know this is not all about money and few farmers will sleep easy at night thinking their sheep might be being attacked but it's okay because they will get a government cheque to compensate.

-We have to think carefully about how the destruction of a livestock farming sector would change the countryside, our rural communities and the ecology and nature that most farmers are already working hard to further improve.

"So many species such as the curlew, whimbrel, skylark, along with many insects and mammals, are dependant on grazing animals and farming activity - it is this that has shaped our countryside over hundreds and thousands of years.

Farmers are involved in tree planting, hedgerow planting and extensive grassland management, all with the aim of improving habitats from the ground up.

The NSA policy manager, Emma Bradbury, said: -Targets that are set must be very specific and measurable to ensure that any reintroductions are held to account and do not negatively impact although native species.

"There must also be careful forethought for our own endangered native species that could potentially be put at risk by the reintroduction of a species - for example the Eurasian Lynx - which is flourishing in other parts of the world.

"The Eurasian Lynx is thought to have been extinct from the British Isles for 1,300 years due to a decrease in forest area and persecution by humans.-

Classification

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Subject: WILD CATS (94%); BIODIVERSITY (90%); MAMMALS (89%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (89%); EXECUTIVES (88%); ANIMALS (78%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (78%); ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (78%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (78%); HABITAT CONSERVATION (78%); WILDLIFE (78%); WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (78%); NATIONAL SECURITY & FOREIGN RELATIONS (76%); LICENSES & PERMITS (75%); MANAGERS & SUPERVISORS (75%); CONSERVATION (73%); DOGS (73%); INSECTS & ARACHNIDS (71%); GOVERNMENT ADVISORS & MINISTERS (68%); GOVERNMENT BODIES & OFFICES (68%)

Industry: AGRIBUSINESS (78%); FARMERS & RANCHERS (78%); LIVESTOCK (78%); SHEEP FARMING (78%); AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING & HUNTING (73%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); ANIMAL FARMING & BREEDING (69%); SHEEP & GOAT FARMING (69%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (92%); UNITED KINGDOM (72%)

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Nuffield Farming report shares farmer perspectives on large carnivore reintroductions

The Scottish Farmer

June 2024

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Length: 440 words

Byline: Kelly Henaughen

Body

Northern Ireland-based researcher and conservationist Dr Jonny Hanson NSch 2023 has published his Nuffield Farming report entitled -Large carnivore reintroductions to Britain and Ireland: farmers- perspectives and management options-.

Sponsored by the Thomas Henry Foundation, the full report is now available on the Nuffield Farming report library and his report video is available on the Nuffield Farming YouTube channel. Jonny will present the findings of his research at the 2024 Nuffield Farming Conference, to be held in Belfast in November.

During his Scholarship, Jonny travelled to Switzerland, the Netherlands, the USA and France, and performed remote interviews with individuals in the UK, Republic of Ireland and Belgium. His primary objectives were to understand farmer perspectives and management tools regarding the reintroduction of large carnivores in the UK and Republic of Ireland, as well as explore examples how coexistence is other parts of the world is managed and governed.

[More News | AHDB consumer behaviour webinar](#)

[More News | Reform UK plans to restructure UK agriculture post-Brexit](#)

In his report, he says: -The potential reintroductions of wolves, *Lynx* and bears to Britain and Ireland after absences of centuries, or even millennia, is one of the most controversial agri-environmental topics of the century.

-Despite the many social, economic and environmental benefits extolled by supporters of reintroductions, the costs and challenges are also significant, with many likely to be borne by livestock farmers. Few studies have considered their perspectives to date.-

In addition to interviews and visits with agricultural and rewilding representatives, Jonny also developed a - Reintroduction Coexistence Framework- to encapsulate and visualise the complex dimensions of the topic, which he also shares and discusses in the report.

Nuffield Farming report shares farmer perspectives on large carnivore reintroductions

More News | The future of **Scottish** land ownership

-Large carnivore reintroductions are likely to be complex, contested and costly endeavours, whether with *Lynx*, or, to an even greater extent, with wolves and bears. The primary challenge with all three species is likely to be the management and governance of coexistence with livestock farming, particularly of sheep,- he continues.

-The qualitative findings from this report suggest that there is a degree of consensus, among both farming and rewilding representatives alike, about the scope and scale of these challenges, with both groups citing the varied political, economic, social, legal and environmental dimensions. However, agricultural interviewees were more likely to stress the potential negative consequences of reintroductions.-

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (90%); MAMMALS (89%); SOCIETY, SOCIAL ASSISTANCE & LIFESTYLE (89%); AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT (78%); ENVIRONMENTALISM (78%); INTERVIEWS (78%); LIVESTOCK RESEARCH (78%); SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (78%); BREXIT (74%); CONFERENCES & CONVENTIONS (73%); CONSUMER BEHAVIOR (73%); RESEARCH REPORTS (73%)

Industry: ANIMAL FARMING & BREEDING (89%); LIVESTOCK (89%); AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT (78%); LIVESTOCK RESEARCH (78%); SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (78%); SPONSORSHIP (77%); TELECONFERENCING (76%); CONSUMER BEHAVIOR (73%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%)

Geographic: BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND (58%); UNITED KINGDOM (93%); IRELAND (90%); **SCOTLAND** (88%); NORTHERN IRELAND (79%); BELGIUM (72%); NETHERLANDS (72%); FRANCE (57%)

Load-Date: June 19, 2024

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City bus gates are a barrier to attracting visitor footfall to the Granite Mile

City bus gates are a barrier to attracting visitor footfall to the Granite Mile

Aberdeen Press and Journal

May 21, 2024 Tuesday

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Section: AGD; Pg. 26

Length: 1313 words

Byline: Struan Nimmo

Body

Sir, - We now have the latest published shocking footfall figures which confirms that our Aberdeen city bus gate system (recently introduced by the council) has been an unmitigated disaster for our businesses in the Granite Mile with a staggering reduction of 500,000 shoppers made worse by extracting £3 million from the pockets of unsuspecting motorists (50,000 motorists at £60 per fine) who inadvertently ended up using the lanes.

They won't be back.

However, rather than being shocked by the dramatic drop in footfall, people like myself have warned that the measures introduced by the council were anti-business, anti-motorist (Letters, P&J) and literally would drive people away from our city centre.

Job done council - not quite?

The really worrying part is that the worst has still to come.

Putting aside the new £50m of public money investment in the Aberdeen Market - which will be worth a meagre £5m on completion - the new proposed "uber-cycle" lanes are just plain daft (given our weather and so on) and has nothing to do with attracting serious shoppers, notwithstanding the chaos inflicted on local businesses and the cost of implementing the nonsensical scheme in the meantime.

Throwing public money at our city centre by using expensive lipstick smacks of a council which is ideologically driven, has little or no business acumen and shows an acute vulnerability to minority pressure groups.

Finally, the last people we would be listening to - including cyclist groups - are the bus companies who, in my view, have conned the council leaders and believe it or not are now asking us to "bear with it" and lecture us about the traffic congestion before bus gates.

The bus companies should have been part of the solution as a more innovative means of transport and not the problem - how ironic.

Ian Lakin,

Aberdeen.

Popular cafe adds spice to city centre

City bus gates are a barrier to attracting visitor footfall to the Granite Mile

Sir, - I note with interest the concern about the decline in footfall in the city centre (P&J, May 15).

I have just returned from a lunch in Cafe 52 which, sadly, is the only reason I tend to visit the city centre these days.

I regularly meet friends there who travel from different parts of Aberdeenshire to gather somewhere central.

However, even this haven of friendliness and comfort is under threat.

The popular outside dining area is in danger of demolition.

This is to allow access to vehicles to build the new market.

Vehicles were able to access the area to demolish the old "new market" with no problem, the only change being the new roads layout round Guild Street.

Cafe 52 in all its years of operation has done a huge amount to enhance The Green, which used to be very dreary and run down.

This long-established and popular business is in danger of closing because of the forceful demolition of an eating area which actively encourages footfall in the surroundings and on Union Street.

I do believe that this will detract from the amenity in the area and be another reason for the decline in footfall.

Carol Wallace,

Oldmeldrum.

Gates are good news for retailers in shire

Sir, - So footfall in central Aberdeen is down by between 500,000 and a million since the introduction of bus gates.

There's a surprise.

Numerous people have reported that they have been trapped by the gates and several correspondents - including myself - have remarked that they are good news for retailers in Aboyne, Banchory, Inverurie and Stonehaven.

Just wait until the LEZs become active, not to mention the "redevelopment" of Union Street.

City councillors have failed to realise that Aberdeen has a significant entrepôt in the shire, not always easily accessed by bus.

I suppose I could always go into town by bike, if I have a day to spare for the round trip.

Mike Salter,

Banchory.

Rediscovering joy of simply shopping

Sir, - Last week I spent a few days in the Cotswolds. The views and the visits were great but I also had an amazing experience. On my first day I saw in a shop window something I liked.

I went in, tried it on and bought it. Over the next three days I bought two shirts, one dress blouse, two summer tops, three sweaters and the original lightweight jacket.

Why? Because I rediscovered the pleasure in finding shops where I was welcomed and could handle and try on the items and in each case went on to buy.

City bus gates are a barrier to attracting visitor footfall to the Granite Mile

It was such a great pleasure because, as our larger stores closed and the centre of town became so closed off, this is an experience we have lost.

So, I am one of the 500,000 people missing from Union Street and thank you so much to the Cotswolds.

MA Farquharson,

Aberdeen.

Policy on predators has gone to the dogs

Sir, - On a recent Lynx study visit with staff from the Cairngorms National Park Authority we saw and heard about the Swiss government's livestock protection, which was years ahead of ours if we are ever going to release apex predators here.

Only 24 hours after talking with their senior practitioner in livestock predation from (Swiss agency) Agridea we returned to hear of the sea eagle attacks on lambs in Laggan. I immediately suggested to the park that they organise a trial using the two guardian dogs trained for this very purpose with Jonny at Highland Falconery Aviemore - sadly my idea was not taken up. We are a long way from releasing any more predators when we do not take up opportunities like this.

My heart goes out to those poor sheep keepers suffering this new kind of predation to add to the many other things they have to put up with.

I also struggle to understand how anybody can condone the kind of suffering the poor lambs suffer by being picked up by huge talons and flown off to be eaten - the death must be long and suffering.

Ruaridh Ormiston,

Kingussie.

Scotland has more than enough MSPs

Sir, - At the restoration of the **Scottish** Parliament on May 12 1999, it was anticipated that the number of MSPs would eventually fall from 129 to 104, but in 2002, **Scottish** Secretary Helen Liddell MP - yes, folks, there was a Labour government back then - said she would amend the **Scotland** Act 1998 to withdraw that stipulation. Why? Well, there was loads of work to do of course. Or was it a case of "I like Edinburgh. Can I not stay, savour the kudos and pocket the rewards?" (my sardonic aside).

At the same time, the number of **Scottish** MPs would fall from 72 to 59, currently the status quo.

The suggestion was lampooned by George Foulkes MP, now Baron Foulkes of Cumnock and a former pupil of Keith Grammar School. He maintained that the change would create "chaos and confusion" over constituency boundaries. Indeed, I can't remember how many parliamentary constituencies Keith has been in - Banffshire, Gordon, Moray and now Aberdeenshire North and Moray East beckons. How many voters realise that the latter will be our constituency at the next general election?

David McLetchie MSP, **Scottish** Tory leader in 2002, stated that "the **Scottish** Parliament badly needs to be cut down to size. We want a leaner, more focused Parliament that concentrates on reform of public services and issues of real concern to the **Scottish** people instead of politically correct trivia". So, is 129 MSPs too many?

The late Mr McLetchie CBE was a visionary. He got it spot on. I'm sick fed up of politically correct trivia now, in 2024. Gender reform? No, we want a leaner, more focused Parliament that governs for the people and not for ideology.

And now Victor Meldrew makes a contribution as Holyrood wants to increase the number of MSPs: "I don't believe it".

City bus gates are a barrier to attracting visitor footfall to the Granite Mile

Ask the electorate. The answer that would come Holyrood's way would not be printable.

Instead, reflect on Mr McLetchie's words. Why not invoke artificial intelligence to assist in the good governance of **Scotland** for it has been sadly lacking in Holyrood for a decade?

More MSPs? No thank you.

Do your job, collect your generous salary and expenses which we pay for and leave your parliamentary iPad at home when you holiday in Morocco in a campervan.

Bill Maxwell,

Keith.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Pr

Subject: CITIES (89%); CITY LIFE (89%); BICYCLES (72%)

Industry: MOTOR VEHICLES (89%); MOTORCOACHES & BUSES (89%); URBAN BUS SYSTEMS (89%); VEHICLE TRAFFIC (78%); BICYCLES (72%); HIGHWAYS & STREETS (50%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, **SCOTLAND** (94%); **SCOTLAND** (59%); 7 North East

Load-Date: May 21, 2024

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MSPs would rather slope off to lunch than consider the Highlands' future

MSPs would rather slope off to lunch than consider the Highlands' future

Aberdeen Press and Journal

May 13, 2024 Monday

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Section: AGD; Pg. 28

Length: 1364 words

Byline: Struan Nimmo

Body

Sir, - I am writing to express my disappointment and concern over the recent events at Holyrood regarding the debate on new energy infrastructure in the Highlands.

Having attended the session, I observed a distressing lack of commitment and engagement from many of our elected representatives.

It was disheartening to witness the chamber emptying of MSPs following first minister's questions, leaving the debate on such a critical issue largely unattended. Shame on them - it proves just how unimportant the concerns and voice of their constituents are to them. We matter not.

This absence of support from our politicians raises serious questions about where their priorities and dedication lie. It's certainly not with their constituents. It appears that a taxpayer-subsidised lunch held more appeal to some than addressing the livelihoods and homes of those they represent.

The reluctance of our elected officials to engage meaningfully with discussions on SSEN plans for the Highlands is alarming. It begs the question: why are they avoiding these crucial conversations? Are they perhaps cowed by the formidable influence of the UK Government?

We must demand better from those we entrust to represent us - we cannot elect those who continue to be silenced by the UK Government.

From my vantage point in the gallery, it was evident that only a minority of MSPs, from Conservative seats, demonstrated genuine support and a willingness to advocate for their constituents.

Meanwhile, the responses and usual scripted waffle from the Minister for Energy, Just Transition and Fair Work, Gillian Martin, appeared out of touch with the depth of public concern, merely deflecting blame on to Westminster and urging engagement with SSEN.

The Green Party's contribution, unfortunately, fell short, highlighting a concerning detachment from reality. As citizens we deserve representatives who are not only present but also actively champion our interests.

The overwhelming display of solidarity from Highland protesters underscores the urgent need for a thorough, independent assessment of proposed projects and a re-evaluation of policies to safeguard **Scotland** from further corporate exploitation.

MSPs would rather slope off to lunch than consider the Highlands' future

We must demand accountability and transparency in decision-making processes that impact our communities and environment.

The call for an extensive debate on energy infrastructure and wind development is a step in the right direction, but actions must follow words. We cannot afford to prioritise short-term goals over the long-term wellbeing of our nation. In chasing the elusive target of net zero, the SNP resemble a cat futilely pursuing a beam of torchlight. The real beneficiaries of this pursuit are the greedy energy and investment companies, while the interests of the people are sidelined.

As we look ahead, it is imperative that we hold our elected officials accountable and demand better representation. It is time for the concerns of their constituents to take priority over their own agendas. We deserve representatives who will champion our interests and ensure that Scotland's future and the future of the next generation is shaped by the voices of the people.

The Dunbeath/Berriedale Community Say No To Pylons Action Group.

Farmers deserve a say on rewilding'

Sir, - "Rewilding" the Scots countryside as imposed on our country by politicians and pressure groups often seems to be based more on ideological than practical and humane motivations.

The farmers and others dismayed and hurt by the reintroduction of, say, sea eagles and beavers have good reason to complain.

Decisions as to such potentially harmful and dangerous further reintroductions as the calls for the return of the wolf and the Lynx to our countryside should depend on any convincing, tangible benefits sought rather than on enthusiasts' perceptions of an ideal world.

Is the white-tailed eagle really any more "magnificent" than, say, the robin redbreast or the blackbird?

All around planet Earth, hugely greater losses, destruction and suffering than benefits have always resulted from the imposition of political leaders' and pressure groups' choices of ideologies on their nations and on their people's lives.

Witness all these wars.

Charles Wardrop,

Perth.

Labour wrong to keep moving right

Sir, - With the latest defections from the Conservative and Unionist Party to the UK Labour Party by two MPs, and the announcement of a former chancellor and sacked chairman of the party that he will stand down at the next election, it would appear Sir Keir Starmer is simply waiting until sufficient MPs resign or defect to take over as prime minister, without a general election required.

I jest, but it could seem that way.

A major concern for Starmer with these defections is the change to the political direction of UK Labour and, of course, the Scottish party. What will people think and how will they view their party's infection by these new arrivals' political views? It is already quite evident that Labour is mirroring the direction of the Conservatives in Westminster, who are heading farther right, like a virus hunting new hosts.

If Suella Braverman is any guide to a significant slice of the governing party, many believe they should forge further to the right to regain voters who recently boosted the Reform Party's fortunes in the English council elections.

MSPs would rather slope off to lunch than consider the Highlands' future

It doesn't seem a good look for Labour, with its roots allegedly cemented in left-of-centre politics, when it accepts a Conservative who is considerably farther to the right of their historic average, yet the likes of Diane Abbot and Jeremy Corbyn have lost the whip.

Starmer is right, yes, and moving further right.

Alistair Ballantyne,

Angus.

Rethink this costly plan for city travel

Sir, - The plans for Academy Street have been reviewed by economic consultants and given a "poor value" rating. Despite Highland Council directing the consultants to accentuate the positives, they failed to come up with many.

The return on the huge cost is guesstimated at a paltry 51 pence in the pound.

The report confirms emissions would increase instead of the promised reduction.

With extended journeys, that would be inevitable. Many of those extended journeys would see people drive through the Crown district.

It is clear that the survey mentioned by the self-proclaimed "Inverness Bicycle Mayor" (P&J, May 8) shows huge opposition to the proposals once people realise the impact would be to increase traffic elsewhere.

It is not good enough to say that the issue can be mitigated by yet more restrictions on cars.

The plan to stop cars travelling the length of Academy Street should be killed off and buried. The money could be better spent, and Academy Street could be improved without the cost and damage of this proposal.

Donald M MacKenzie,

Inverness.

Time to demand fair deal with EU

Sir, - Further to the never-ending nonsense being spouted by bitter Remoaners (such as Ian D McCormick, P&J Letters, May 10), it is crystal clear that they will not accept the result of the people's vote at the begrimed UK 2016 Brexit referendum and are working night and day to sabotage it, cherry-picking all sorts of biased claptrap from leftie academics to back up their biased opinions.

Cooking the books has, over the years, become an EU speciality, and they are still raging and out to punish Westminster for allowing the people their long-awaited say back in 2016.

Dictatorial Brussels has already plundered UK finances, fishing grounds and other resources, and is hellbent on continuing.

With 23 European countries not members of the EU and seven who are refusing point blank to use the euro as their currency, clearly membership of the EU is not the be-all and end-all that cash-strapped Brussels and their toadies in the UK are so desperate for us all to believe.

After eight years of capitulation, the time has come for soft-touch Britain to send all EU migrants (and bitter Remoaners) back to the beaches of France, with an immediate return to the "Common Market" trading agreement that the people originally voted for.

Never again must the UK become hijacked by a clique of puffed-up liberal elitist chancers over in Brussels, masquerading as the European Commission.

MSPs would rather slope off to lunch than consider the Highlands' future

George Emslie,

Aberdeen.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Pr

Subject: ELECTIONS & POLITICS (90%); ENERGY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS (89%); GOVERNMENT BODIES & OFFICES (89%); PUBLIC OFFICIALS (89%); ENERGY DEPARTMENTS (78%); SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS (78%); **SCOTTISH** NATIONAL PARTY (78%); GOVERNMENT ADVISORS & MINISTERS (76%); POLITICAL PARTIES (72%); GOVERNMENT GRANTS & SUBSIDIES (69%); NEGATIVE MISC NEWS (69%); NEGATIVE NEWS (69%)

Company: BEAM GLOBAL (62%)

Ticker: BEEM (NASDAQ) (62%)

Industry: NAICS541512 COMPUTER SYSTEMS DESIGN SERVICES (62%); SIC4931 ELECTRIC & OTHER SERVICES COMBINED (62%); ENERGY & UTILITIES (89%); ENERGY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS (89%); ENERGY DEPARTMENTS (78%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, **SCOTLAND** (90%); **SCOTLAND** (92%); UNITED KINGDOM (92%); 7 North East

Load-Date: May 13, 2024

End of Document

Sustainability group changes meeting venue over deer cull protest concerns

Sustainability group changes meeting venue over deer cull protest concerns

Peebleshire News

April 26, 2024 Friday

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Length: 201 words

Byline: Mark Davey

Body

A VILLAGE sustainability group has changed the venue for its monthly meeting after concerns about possible protests following a deer cull.

Sustainable West Linton and District (SWLD), which manages Roamers Wood, where deer have been culled to protect saplings, will hold its meeting on Monday (April 29) in St Mungo-s Church, on the corner of Chapel Brae and the A702.

The accessible entrance is on the A702 with parking in adjacent streets.

It is hoped there will be a guest speaker from NatureScot.

SWLD has also updated its website pages about Roamers Wood and the need for a deer cull.

Introductory text on SWLD-s website front page states: -The vision for Roamers Wood is rooted in ecological restoration within the picturesque landscape of West Linton.

-Creating community woodlands enriches biodiversity, fosters environmental stewardship, and enhances mental and physical well-being through recreation.-

Concerning the predation of young trees by Roe deer, a SWLD spokesperson said: -Roe deer are a natural part of the biodiversity in **Scotland**, but in the absence of their natural predators, such as **Lynx** and wolves, they can reach local densities which impact other components of the natural environment.-

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: BIODIVERSITY (90%); MAMMALS (90%); SUSTAINABILITY (90%); TALKS & MEETINGS (90%);

Sustainability group changes meeting venue over deer cull protest concerns

TRENDS & EVENTS (90%); BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION (78%); CONSERVATION (78%); ENVIRONMENTALISM (78%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (74%); LAND RECLAMATION (69%)

Industry: WEBSITES (75%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (52%)

Load-Date: April 26, 2024

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i'm LOVING LYNX EFFECT on our cool city

i'm LOVING LYNX EFFECT on our cool city

Aberdeen Evening Express

April 23, 2024 Tuesday

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Section: NWS; Pg. 26

Length: 94 words

Byline: Prestige Page Manager 4

Body

Aberdeen can take pride in having a sports team that has just topped the Scottish league for a second year - and won the Scottish Cup.

No, not the Dons, obviously.

But massive congratulations are due to the cool wonders who are Aberdeen Lynx, the Granite City's own ice hockey team.

They cuffed the formidable Edinburgh Capitals in the Scottish Cup on Saturday, about a month after clinching the SNL title - again. Of course, I only know all this because of a family connection - go Toby.

But it's great to have some good sporting news to be shouting about in Aberdeen.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Ev

Subject: SPORTS & RECREATION (90%); ICE HOCKEY (73%); WINTER SPORTS (73%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (91%); EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND (58%); SCOTLAND (90%); 7 North East

Load-Date: April 23, 2024

i'm LOVING LYNX EFFECT on our cool city

End of Document

Call of the wildcats; FIGHTING TO SAVE NATIVE FELINE FROM EXTINCTION Our reporter joins a crucial conservation project in the Highlands

Call of the wildcats; FIGHTING TO SAVE NATIVE FELINE FROM EXTINCTION **Our reporter joins a crucial conservation project in the Highlands**

Daily Record and Sunday Mail

April 2, 2024 Tuesday

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 22,23

Length: 966 words

Byline: NADA FARHOUD

Body

They once roamed widely throughout Britain. But the loss of forest habitat, hunting for their fur then more recently breeding with domestic cats has left our native wildcat species hanging on by a claw.

Wiped out completely from England and Wales, they now can only be found in remote parts of **Scotland**.

There are fewer than 400 estimated left in the wild, making them rarer than Bengal tigers.

In the India the this our DAVID SAVING

But thanks to a reintroduction scheme, our most critically endangered mammal is being brought back from the brink.

Nineteen **Scottish** wildcats, known also as Britain's tigers thanks to their distinctive tiger, is cat BARCLAY OF WILDCATS markings, were taken from a captive breeding programme and returned to the wild last summer.

Now this small group of elusive cats are hunting for rabbits, mice and rodents - living out in Britain's last wilderness for their first winter.

"This is our own native wildcat species," said David Barclay, a conservation manager at Saving Wildcats. "In the same way as India has the tiger, this is our cat. It's very special to the history of **Scotland**."

I join field manager Dr Keri Langridge from the project in the Cairngorms National Park to find out more about this vital piece of conservation work.

The team checks in on the cats every day by tracking them via their GPS collars, studying how they are coping with life in the wild - in particular the harsh **Scottish** winter.

Dr Langridge, who is leading the tracking, says the cats are mainly doing well, though one has died from an abdominal infection.

Call of the wildcats; FIGHTING TO SAVE NATIVE FELINE FROM EXTINCTION Our reporter joins a crucial conservation project in the Highlands

She said: "Most individuals have stayed relatively local to the release locations so far, while others have explored more widely. Camera traps, which we have positioned across the release sites, have also recorded positive behaviours such as hunting prey."

She added that they are cautiously confident that the cats are establishing themselves. The scientists are hoping for some of the females to be pregnant by spring.

As we walk, the tracker beeps, indicating that one of the cats is close by. But we don't see it.

Dr Langridge explained that the species is incredibly shy and almost entirely nocturnal, lying in their dens in the daytime. Another 13 kittens have now been bred for the SAVING WILDCATS project and will be transferred to pre-release enclosures to prepare for their new life in the wild in the summer, once they are six to eight months old.

About 30 more will be released over the next three years. WILDCATS are typically smaller than foxes and pose no danger to people.

Britain's only remaining native cat species, they look similar to a domestic tabby but are larger and stockier, and have a black-banded bushy tail.

They are currently restricted to **Scotland** but the species could also return to England for the first time in 100-plus years. Devon Wildlife Trust believes the southwest could be the ideal place to reintroduce them.

Camera positive hunting Dr Keri

As the rare wildcat is so similar to a domestic tabby, even professionals find it difficult to tell them apart.

Another issue is that interbreeding with feral domestic cats has become a serious threat to their survival. While the two are different species, they can reproduce, and produce fertile offspring.

As the number of hybrid cats has increased, the wildcat is now at risk of genetic extinction.

All wildcats now bear evidence of interbreeding, and many have little "wild" genes left in them.

Additionally, feral domestic cats can transmit disease to wildcats.

Dr Langridge explains that another vital part of the project is a Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate, Return programme for feral cats.

Amid fears for the species' survival, tissue from a **Scottish** wildcat has been cryogenically preserved.

as

The critically endangered cat is the first UK species to have its cells frozen, as part of a

MANAGER campaign to create a "biobank" of the world's most endangered animals.

Charity Nature's SAFE has preserved samples from 200 at-risk species from around the world, including the white rhino, mouse deer, wolverine and naked mole rat.

The UK-based charity hopes scientists in the future will be able to use the tissue - usually taken from animals' reproductive organs - to create eggs or sperm that could be used to replenish populations through IVF. The charity also banks sperm and egg cells.

David says: "WILDCATS are on the brink of extinction in **Scotland** and conservation action is essential.

"Preserving genetic material is a valuable resource in our wildcat conservation toolbox and helps us implement long-term strategies."

Call of the wildcats; FIGHTING TO SAVE NATIVE FELINE FROM EXTINCTION Our reporter joins a crucial conservation project in the Highlands

He adds optimistically: "We are confident that, by working together to expand the range of tools we have available for wildcat conservation, we will be able to create a brighter future for our iconic 'Highland tiger'."

HISTORY OF OUR ONLY WILDCAT EUROPEAN wildcats colonised Britain after the Ice Age, more than 9000 years ago, when there was still a land bridge to the continent.

They became one of our native cats, along with the *Lynx*, long since wiped out here.

wildcats then followed the spread of suitable habitat and prey so that, by the time Britain became an island, they were all over its length and breadth.

During their millennia of isolation, our wildcats evolved to become what many consider to be a separate subspecies - the Scottish wildcat.

They are the most powerful of all wildcats, a trait that was celebrated by Highland clans, who adopted the animal as a symbol of ferocity and independence.

The pet cat lounging on your sofa originated from the smaller African wildcat which, with human help, has spread throughout the world.

In the way India has the tiger, this is our cat DAVID BARCLAY OF SAVING WILDCATS Camera traps have recorded positive behaviours such as hunting prey DR KERI LANGRIDGE CONSERVATION PROJECT FIELD MANAGER

Graphic

TRACK STARS Dr Langridge and Nada on the cats' trailWOODLAND HOME Where wildcats stay before releaseENDANGERED Wildcat at the Highland Wildlife Park

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DRC

Subject: CATS (94%); CONSERVATION (90%); MAMMALS (90%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (90%); WILD CATS (90%); WILDLIFE (90%); RODENTS (89%); ENDANGERED SPECIES (78%); MOUNTAINS (78%); NATIONAL PARKS (78%); PUBLIC LANDS (78%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (73%); MANAGERS & SUPERVISORS (69%)

Industry: NATIONAL PARKS (78%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (73%)

Call of the wildcats; FIGHTING TO SAVE NATIVE FELINE FROM EXTINCTION Our reporter joins a crucial conservation project in the Highlands

Geographic: ENGLAND (92%); **SCOTLAND** (90%); UNITED KINGDOM (90%); INDIA (72%); WALES (58%); National Edition

Load-Date: April 2, 2024

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Paltry eagle scheme cash needs massive uplift to compensate farmers and crofters

Paltry eagle scheme cash needs massive uplift to compensate farmers and crofters

The Scottish Farmer

April 2024

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Length: 562 words

Byline: John Sleigh

Body

Things must be getting desperate in the ***Scottish*** Government when they can't release the relatively modest sum of 400,000 to hard-pressed west coast hill farmers having lambs eaten by sea eagles.

If only their accounts department had been so hesitant when paying out expenses for iPad roaming charges for holidaying health ministers.

The sums of money being paid out to farmers and crofters only equate to the value of a few fat lambs at current prices. When you realise these predating birds have been reported to take a third of a lamb crop in some flocks, the size of the cheque starts to look insulting.

READ MORE | West coast farmers deem delayed eagle contracts 'unacceptable'

There is a real danger here that the goodwill built up through NatureScot working with farmers and crofters gets washed away. We have seen a huge effort from producers to wind down calls to eradicate the birds, albeit a sentiment with much sympathy.

We see this week Swiss farmers sharing a similar plight having suffered wolves devouring their flocks. The alpine ovine keepers staged a grizzly protest by stacking sheep carcasses at the door of regional government offices. Perhaps Douglas Brae could do a drop off at Holyrood to hammer home the need for proper recompense?

Mature discussions have been had around the table, with the greatest efforts being made by farmers and crofters to keep the peace. Unfortunately, NatureScot seems to be stuck in the crossfire, with Edinburgh bureaucrats holding the purse strings whilst pushing regional staff under the bus.

Hopefully, by highlighting the sorry situation, more momentum can build to get compensation payments for dead lambs to a respectable level.

If you believe the RSPB's figures on the amount of cash these flying barn doors bring into the local economy, then the land managers need a massive jump in payments. If the government continues to get away with giving out

Paltry eagle scheme cash needs massive uplift to compensate farmers and crofters

token gestures, there is no hope of fair compensation for beaver damage. The idea of *Lynx* reintroduction must be shot on sight.

We cannot keep adding new species to ***Scotland*** and crossing our talons. We have nearly 70m people on this island, more than one person for every acre in the country. It is not fair to conduct these species introduction experiments without proper planning and compensation. The countryside is not a plaything for urban dwellers to visit for holidays and weekends.

Not that many folks will be visiting the countryside in this weather. So far, spring seems to have been posted missing, but with longer days and a drying wind, it is incredible how things can turn around.

There could be another U-turn needed over the calving interval rules in the future beef calf scheme. The lesson here for the government is that until there is detail to debate, farmers are far too busy to give feedback on broad plans or loose frameworks. The beef scheme debacle will be like a storm in a teacup compared to the barny approaching when the full detailed rules on the agricultural bill are published.

One area where you don-t need to wait is our refreshed ***Scottish Farmer***. This week, we have updated the paper to present our articles, stories, and reports in the best possible light. As farming and the countryside have changed in our 131 years of existence, it is important that the newspaper continues to evolve as we resolutely support farmers every step of the way.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: BIRDS (90%); FARM LABOR (90%); GOVERNMENT BODIES & OFFICES (90%); COASTAL AREAS (89%); GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (78%); REGIONAL & LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (78%); PRICES (77%); LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (74%); GOVERNMENT ADVISORS & MINISTERS (73%); HEALTH DEPARTMENTS (72%); ECONOMY & ECONOMIC INDICATORS (71%); WILD CATS (61%)

Industry: FARM LABOR (90%); FARMERS & RANCHERS (89%); HEALTH DEPARTMENTS (72%)

Geographic: EDINBURGH, ***SCOTLAND*** (78%); ***SCOTLAND*** (94%)

Load-Date: April 11, 2024

End of Document

Humans may lack the humility to allow wolves to roam free in the wild in Scotland once again – Nina Welsch

Humans may lack the humility to allow wolves to roam free in the wild in Scotland once again – Nina Welsch

Scotsman

March 31, 2024 Sunday

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Section: COLUMNISTS/POLITICS/ENVIRONMENT/NATURE/SCOTLAND

Length: 611 words

Highlight: Countries like Poland, Norway and Italy have reintroduced species such as the *Lynx*, wolf and bear

Body

There's an old joke about an army of Englishmen approaching the *Scottish* border. From the misty distance a voice goads that it will "take only one Scotsman to defeat a thousand Englishmen". The general proceeds to send that number of soldiers across the border. Only one returns alive, crawling across the ground in agony: "It's a trap," he wheezes, "there's two of them."

The punchline, as well as ribbing the English, pokes fun at the mythologised idea of the Scotsman as more beast than man, an apex warrior more powerful than the lion and bear combined. For some reason, it came into my mind after I attended the premiere of a thought-provoking documentary titled *Why Not Scotland?* Produced by non-profit organisation *Scotland: The Big Picture*, the film looks at different countries around Europe – Poland, Norway and Italy – that have reintroduced species such as the *Lynx*, wolf and bear to their countries' ecosystems and how the advantages have ultimately outweighed the disruptions.

Rewilding is a popular proposition with the *Scottish* public. A *study by the Scottish Rewilding Alliance*, comprised of 20 different organisations, showed 76 per cent of Scots were in favour. A lot of this enthusiasm, though, revolves around replanting depleted species of trees and the reintroduction of smaller, unthreatening animals, such as beavers. Bigger, predatory mammals are a squeamish prospect, *even for some rewilding campaigners*. There is particular tension between conservationists and farmers, who have been framed unhelpfully as antagonists to one another, as *eloquently explored by environmentalist farmer Patrick Laurie*.

'Authentic symbol of wildness'

I suspect though that an equally difficult barrier to overcome will be the aversion in the wider *Scottish* psyche. Thanks in part to fairytales, *wolves have a deeply unfair reputation for being dangerous*. In fact, attacks on humans are, if not non-existent, spectacularly rare – the same applies to lynxes, bears are a different story.

[Get our weekly opinion newsletter for expert analysis from The Scotsman's team of columnists](#)

Humans may lack the humility to allow wolves to roam free in the wild in Scotland once again – Nina Welsch

A deeper problem yet is touched on by Dr Hugh Webster. On [the idea of reintroducing wolves to Scotland](#), the biggest advantage of which would be addressing our massive deer-overpopulation problem, he argues that they are perceived as not just a threat to farmer's livestock but also represent something more discomfiting: "An authentic symbol of wildness... a reminder of the fact that humans do not (and perhaps should not) stand unchallenged in their dominion over the natural world."

A shift in ego

While primality and wildness may be baked into the romanticised image of Scottishness – specifically **Scottish** masculinity – I'm not sure within this mythology is partnership with nature or reverence for it, more boastful dominance. Putting whimsical notions of Celtic brute strength aside, in modern **Scotland** we are as cosseted and insulated from the brutality of nature as any other part of the west.

READ MORE: [Villagers sign landmark deal with rewilding firm to create new community homes and boost nature](#)

Humans found themselves on top of the food chain by accident and in **Scotland**, we've had 300 years without wolves, bears or any other kind of apex predator. Even I, a passionate environmentalist, grapple with the idea of living amongst them. This is not because of irrational worries of being maimed or eaten while on a Highland walk but the shift in ego that relinquishing top-dog status requires. For wolves or **lynx** to be (re)accepted as part of our natural landscape and ecosystem, it would require that most endangered of human qualities: humility.

Nina Welsch is a freelance writer

Graphic

[The chances of a human being attacked by a wild wolf are low \(Picture: Matt Cardy/Getty Images\)](#)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: MAMMALS (90%); WILDLIFE (90%); WILD CATS (89%); ANIMALS (78%); LIFE FORMS (78%); WRITERS (78%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (74%); DOCUMENTARY FILMS (74%); ARMED FORCES (73%); ENVIRONMENTALISM (72%); NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS (69%)

Industry: WRITERS (78%); DOCUMENTARY FILMS (74%); ARMED FORCES (73%); LIVESTOCK (73%); PUBLISHING (73%)

Geographic: **SCOTLAND** (93%); NORWAY (90%); ENGLAND (79%); EUROPE (79%)

Load-Date: March 31, 2024

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End of Document

Name of the game is still films and telly

Name of the game is still films and telly

Aberdeen Press and Journal

March 29, 2024 Friday

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Section: NWS; Pg. 10

Length: 577 words

Byline: Prestige Page Manager 3

Body

Anything Banksy puts his name to turns to gold, so was one family setting up their child for success?

The famous street artist authorised his first exhibit in 14 years in Glasgow in 2023. And it seems a **Scottish** family was so inspired by the exhibit that they used his name.

The National Records of **Scotland** has released the latest baby name data and among the boys' names on the **Scottish** list for the first time - with Banksy - are Tarzan, Ox, **Lynx**, Howl and Hermes.

While for girls some first time names were California, Frenchie, October and Pasty.

Topping the charts were the names Luca and Isla. With Luca knocking Noah off the top spot.

Scottish parents were again inspired by film and television during 2023.

One of the biggest science-fiction films of recent years was 2021's Dune - starring Timothee Chalamet and Zendaya.

The actors have clearly inspired **Scottish** families, as last year there were two Timothees and two Zendayas.

The lead character in Dune, Paul Atreides, did not lead to an uptick in the Christian name's use.

A classic name in **Scotland**, its popularity has been falling since the 1990s with only 13 babies given the moniker last year.

Chani - Dune's female lead character - has been used just three times since 1982, one of which was last year.

The Barbenheimer frenzy had an impact on **Scottish** baby names, but not by a surge in Kens or Barbies. There hasn't been a baby Barbie since 1979.

However, the time in the spotlight for Cillian Murphy - of Oppenheimer fame - and Margot Robbie has seen the two names reach a record high in **Scotland**.

Margot has been gradually rising since 2014, but 42 babies given the moniker last year was a significant jump on 2022.

Cillian reached the top 100 boy names for the first time in **Scotland** last year with 53 babies.

Name of the game is still films and telly

When naming a baby, TV murder mysteries may seem an odd source of inspiration.

But that's what some parents in **Scotland** may have taken their lead from.

The name Mabel, while it has popped up since records began in 1974, has not been a particularly popular name in **Scotland**.

But it has gained traction since the 2010s and reached 47 names in 2023.

This may be due to the popular US TV series Only Murders In The Building, in which one of the main characters, Mabel Mora, is played by Selena Gomez.

One of the Hulu show's other main characters, Oliver, is a name that has been popular in **Scotland** for years, with 250 babies named in 2023.

Rounding off the true-crime trio is Charles-Haden, who hasn't yet inspired any parents.

Despite the final season of the show airing in 2019 to a fairly lukewarm reception, **Scottish** parents still turn to Game Of Thrones.

More baby boys this year shared their names with characters from the fantasy series than girls, although Arya - for 30 babies - proved the most popular female pick.

Arya's sister Sansa shared a name with one baby, while Khaleesi, a title given to Daenerys Targaryen, was also bestowed on a baby girl last year.

Ramsay inspired eight parents in **Scotland** - sharing a name with Ramsay Bolton, although it seems unlikely many people had the controversial villain in mind when naming their little one.

Other Game Of Thrones names that popped up last year included Bran, Theon, Oberon, Jon, Jaime, Tywin, Joray and Shae.

As well as looking at what's trending, we also considered names that we've said goodbye to for the first time this year.

Dale, Graeme and Kelly have all been given to 100 babies or more in a single year but were nowhere to be seen in 2023.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Pr

Subject: ARTISTS & PERFORMERS (90%); INFANTS & TODDLERS (89%); ACTORS & ACTRESSES (78%); FILM (78%); STREET ART (78%); SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY FILMS (73%)

Industry: ARTISTS & PERFORMERS (90%); ACTORS & ACTRESSES (78%); FILM (78%); SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY FILMS (73%); TELEVISION PROGRAMMING (73%)

Name of the game is still films and telly

Person: BANKSY (92%); CILLIAN MURPHY (79%); MARGOT ROBBIE (79%); TIMOTHEE CHALAMET (79%); ZENDAYA (79%); SELENA GOMEZ (52%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (74%); GLASGOW, SCOTLAND (58%); CALIFORNIA, USA (72%); SCOTLAND (94%); 7 North East

Load-Date: March 29, 2024

End of Document

No Headline In Original

No Headline In Original

Aberdeen Press and Journal

March 29, 2024 Friday

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Section: NWS; Pg. 10

Length: 577 words

Byline: Scott Mcpherson

Body

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Industry: ARTISTS & PERFORMERS (90%); FILM (78%); ACTORS & ACTRESSES (74%); SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY FILMS (69%); TELEVISION PROGRAMMING (69%)

No Headline In Original

Person: BANKSY (91%); CILLIAN MURPHY (79%); MARGOT ROBBIE (79%); TIMOTHEE CHALAMET (79%); ZENDAYA (79%); SELENA GOMEZ (52%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (74%); GLASGOW, SCOTLAND (58%); CALIFORNIA, USA (72%); SCOTLAND (94%); 7 North East

Load-Date: March 29, 2024

End of Document

Lynx eye treble after title win

Aberdeen Evening Express

March 18, 2024 Monday

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Section: SPT; Pg. 31

Length: 443 words

Byline: Paul Third

Body

Aberdeen **Lynx** head coach Jordan Leyden is targeting a treble after watching his side win the **Scottish** National League title for the second year in a row.

The Aberdeen side wrapped up their second successive national ice hockey title in stunning fashion with a game to spare on Saturday with a 10-0 win at Dundee Comets.

Leyden said: "Doing it last year was special as it was the first title in the club's history but to do it back-to-back in a competitive league is pretty special.

"Having done it once there was a bit of pressure on us to do it again and there was the added pressure of being the team everyone wants to take the scalp of.

"There was a lot of pressure going into all these games as you are now expected to win. It's good to have those expectations but it was tough being the team everyone wanted to beat."

On the resounding victory Leyden added: "It wasn't a scoreline I expected. Once we got 3-0 up the Comets maybe gave up a little bit but we didn't stop as in our eyes it wasn't over until it was over.

"It was very pleasing to see the guys come out and put on a performance like that in such a high pressure game."

Retaining the trophy they won last year is especially pleasing for Leyden after his side missed out on the title in 2022.

With the benefit of hindsight the head coach believes the pain of not winning the title two years ago has been a valuable lesson for the club.

He said: "We missed out on the title by a point in 2022 and it has been a massive learning curve for us as a team and a club.

"There was one game specifically which we pinpointed in terms of our preparation and how we handled things.

"We've been very focused on how we prepare for every game in the last two seasons and since the 2022 season the number of games have doubled. Instead of a 14-game championship it's now 28.

Lynx eye treble after title win

"It's double the chance of winning but also double the threat of losing so to win back-to-back in those circumstances is very pleasing.

With the play-offs and the ***Scottish*** Cup final to come in April Leyden believes his side is capable of further success this season. He said: "We've still got the ***Scottish*** Cup final and the possibility of the play-offs as well so the chance of the treble is still on and that's our main goal.

"We'll play a quarter-final against the eighth-placed team home and away and the winners go into a play-off weekend on April 13 and 14. The semis are played on the Saturday with the final on the Sunday. The ***Scottish*** Cup final is a week later on April 20 so there's still a lot of hockey to play.

"We've still got one league game to play next weekend and we'll maybe rest some guys who have some niggles ahead of the play-offs."

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Ev

Subject: COACHES & TRAINERS (89%); ***SCOTTISH*** FOOTBALL (89%); SPORTS & RECREATION EVENTS (89%); TOURNAMENTS (89%); ICE HOCKEY (73%); WINTER SPORTS (72%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, ***SCOTLAND*** (90%); DUNDEE, ***SCOTLAND*** (79%); ***SCOTLAND*** (93%); 7 North East

Load-Date: March 18, 2024

End of Document

Why going slow is rapidly becoming the new way to travel - Scotland on Sunday Travel

Scotsman

March 17, 2024 Sunday

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Section: TRAVEL

Length: 675 words

Highlight: Take a holiday where the journey is the destination, with these easy-going trips

Body

With access to the world now easier than ever, it's hard to resist the temptation to cram holiday itineraries with multi-day hops. But on the flip-side, slow travel is growing in popularity.

This doesn't necessarily mean taking an age to reach a destination – although journeys are rapidly becoming part of the adventure. Instead, the emphasis is on being immersed in every moment, whether that's savouring street food in an Indian market, or hiking through mountains in Spain.

The end result is a holiday that's often better for the environment and more relaxing for your soul. Here are some of our top slow travel picks right now...

Cross the Arctic Circle by train

There aren't many places in the world where train journeys risk being interrupted by a reindeer on the line. Travelling along the inland spine of Sweden, a five-night trip on the historic Inlandsbanan train offers travellers the chance to see Santa's helpers along with bears, wolves, *Lynx* and wolverine on a journey into the wilderness.

Start above the Arctic Circle in Gällivare – reached with a flight or overnight train via Stockholm – and stop at Jokkmokk to visit the Sami museum and learn about indigenous culture. Between June 5 and July 6, this region experiences the phenomenon of Midnight Sun with daylight around the clock.

The trip ends in Mora in the Dalarna region, a folkloric area cherished by nostalgic Swedes and famous for its red wooden horses.

How: A six-day North to South trip costs from SEK 9,295/£705pp including five nights' accommodation in mid-range hotels and museum entries. Flights extra. Visit res.inlandsbanan.se/en

Take it easy in the Dolomites

Why going slow is rapidly becoming the new way to travel - Scotland on Sunday Travel

It can seem daunting in a foreign country, but using public transport is both an economical and more sustainable way to travel – plus it plunges you into local life. Inntravel has made the process easy with their new ‘stroll’ portfolio of trips, using local buses, trains and lifts to make walking more accessible.

Their seven-night adventure to Italy’s Dolomites includes days on the Alpe di Siusi, Europe’s largest Alpine plateau, a climb to the UNESCO Dolomites Panoramic Balcony and a low level route along the path of the historic Ferata de Gherdëina, a former railway line built by Russian POWs during WWI. Sleep and eat in family-owned restaurants and hotels.

How: From £1,070pp (two sharing), including half-board accommodation, luggage transfers, and route notes and maps. Available from May 25 to October 31. Visit inntravel.co.uk

Enjoy the simple life in India

The stereotypical image of India conjures up colourful chaos, but the best way to soak it all in is slowly. Surrounded by lemon groves, frangipani trees and marigolds at the foothills of the Aravalli Mountains, Anopura is a peaceful farm featuring a collection of four villas and seven suites. An hour’s drive northeast of Jaipur, the journey to get here passes through ancient temples, dramatic cliffs and patches of jungle.

Alongside leopard safaris, immersive experiences include block painting classes with local women, picnics in temple ruins at dusk and cricket games with the nearby village.

How: One bedroom farm villas (sleeps two) start from £170 per night on a B&B basis. Visit anopura.com

Sail away to Spain

In an era of slow travel, ferries have been enjoying a renaissance. Brittany Ferries, who operate trips from Portsmouth and Plymouth to Santander and Bilbao, have joined forces with the Paradores to offer relaxing holidays with stays in historic hotels and immersion in Spain’s cultural heritage.

Parador de Fuente Dé, for example, is a modern mountain shelter in Cantabria’s Picos de Europa mountain range with access to trails and a cable car. Take part in photography workshops, learn the basics of beekeeping and indulge in forest bathing.

How: Five-night trips from £280pp for a car and two people, including return ferry crossings and three nights’ B&B in a Parador. Visit brittany-ferries.co.uk

Review: Town Hall Hotel, London – Scotland on Sunday Travel – A former town hall is now a high-end hipster destination in Bethnal Green

Graphic

[The Inlandsbana train in Sweden. Pic: Alamy/PA](#)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Why going slow is rapidly becoming the new way to travel - Scotland on Sunday Travel

Subject: MAMMALS (98%); MOUNTAINS (89%); HIKING (76%); INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (71%); SUSTAINABILITY (70%); WORLD WAR I (60%)

Industry: TRAINS (90%); HOTELS & MOTELS (89%); MUSEUMS & GALLERIES (87%); CULTURAL TOURISM (79%); MOTORCOACHES & BUSES (74%); RAIL TRANSPORTATION (74%); PUBLISHING (73%); CITRUS GROVES (72%); RESTAURANTS (71%)

Geographic: STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN (76%); ALPS (93%); INDIA (90%); **SCOTLAND** (90%); ARCTIC (87%); SWEDEN (79%); SPAIN (72%)

Load-Date: March 19, 2024

End of Document

Liz recalls races in Aberdeen and backs Run Fest

Liz recalls races in Aberdeen and backs Run Fest

Aberdeen Press and Journal

March 16, 2024 Saturday

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Section: WKD; Pg. 12

Length: 1055 words

Byline: Neil Drysdale

Body

It might have been a celebratory event rather than the pursuit of any medals, but Liz McColgan has never taken a backward step in her life.

So it was business as usual when she locked horns with her compatriot, rival and - despite what some of the tabloids claimed at the time - friend, Yvonne Murray, in Aberdeen's Duthie Park in 1991, the same year she powered to global glory in Tokyo.

The former 10,000m world champion and 1988 Olympic medallist in Seoul, who shoved her silver into a drawer at home because she was so frustrated it wasn't gold, has recalled fondly her many visits to the Granite City, including another joust with Murray in the BUPA 5k at the city's Botanic Gardens in 1993.

These weren't her favourite distances, but she still reminded those who watched that McColgan is one of the most fiercely-committed performers who has ever appeared in track and field; a woman of unstinting commitment and resilience.

Starting out in track and cross-country

As a youngster, she competed in all manner of track and cross-country events for many years, even as she was making a name for herself at age-group level with Dundee Hawkhill Harriers, prior to international prominence with a stunning victory in the 10,000m at the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh in 1986.

The Scot, whose daughter Eilish won the Commonwealth title at the same distance in Birmingham in 2022, is a dedicated believer in encouraging youngsters to participate in sport and, as somebody who used to pound the streets of Dundee, is convinced people of all ages can benefit, physically and mentally, from being involved in athletics.

So she has emphatically backed The P&J Run Fest 2024, on April 14 at the entertainment venue P&J Live.

With a 10k, 5k and junior fun run - which all start and finish on the concourse. The event is designed to bring together people of all ages and fitness levels from across the north and north-east to create a community of runners.

The programme also features a family fun day out and parents with babies in prams and buggies, while enthusiastic young athletes under the age of 12, will have the opportunity to participate in a 1k junior fun run, with all the diverse range of activities helping to raise funds for five inspiring charities.

Liz recalls races in Aberdeen and backs Run Fest

Liz told us: "It's a great idea. What's not to love about getting families and the local community active?"

"I hope it's a great success and, from my experience of running in the city, I know there is a real enthusiasm for athletics in the north east."

"I remember coming up here many times as a kid and running in all different kinds of events and, when you are young, you just get so much enjoyment from it - you're not thinking about anything like the Olympics or Commonwealth Games at that stage."

"The main thing, when you first put on your running shoes, is having fun and getting healthy exercise with your friends and your family."

"Then you can decide if you want to start taking it more seriously later on."

Running in the DNA for MYles

There's a long and proud tradition of families and clubs developing their talent and proving that running was in their DNA in Aberdeen and few stories better illustrate that than the remarkable symbiosis between Mel Edwards and his son, Myles.

The former was one of those redoubtable individuals who kept racing against the clock, setting new milestones, defying medical diagnoses and proving age is just a number. He was also the man with the initials MBE - Meldrum Barclay Edwards - who ended up receiving an MBE for his services to sport and charity.

This remarkable fellow, who died in 2019, enjoyed a prodigious international career, alongside many of the greatest names of his generation, including Commonwealth medallists Lachie Stewart and Ian McCafferty. Renowned for his intensive training regimes of 100 miles per week, his marathon personal best two hours, 18 minutes, 25 seconds still places him high in the British rankings.

And, during a career which spanned half a century, it was estimated he covered more than 100,000 miles, thousands of them for charity in the latter stages of his life.

Myles, who shares that same philanthropic philosophy, can't quite recall the first time he watched his father going through his paces.

As he said: "I was only a couple of days old when I was taken to one of my dad's races before going home from hospital, so I definitely don't remember that one. But I have very fond memories of watching my dad training with his friends in The Lynx Pack group at the Chris Anderson Stadium (now Aberdeen Sports Village) and Balgownie. As soon as I was old enough, I began to jump into their sessions and always felt a huge sense of pride and happiness at being able to run with - albeit quite a bit behind - my dad."

"Then, as the years passed, I also loved making him proud through my own running when (among other achievements) I became the Scottish 1500m champion."

The laughs and the exhilaration for life'

Mel's international colleague, Colin Youngson, a three-time Scottish marathon champion from Aberdeen, recalled: "When he first contracted cancer, I visited him in his hospital ward and we laughed our way through my collection of Alf Tupper - Tough of the Track - photocopies."

"I could add so many more memories. His tales of dawn jogging at Rubislaw, saying hello to the fox that trained there at the same time; and so many charitable ventures into which he poured his heart and soul. The laughs and exhilaration for life."

Myles has inherited those traits and is enthusiastic about next month's Run Fest. He said: "The P&J Run Fest in Aberdeen is a great thing for the running community and the city as a whole."

Liz recalls races in Aberdeen and backs Run Fest

"The fact that it is accessible for people of all ages and abilities is great and I am sure that it will be a big success. I will be doing my first marathon this year in London, but I would love to take part in the Run Fest next year."

In their different ways, Mel, Myles and Liz McColgan illustrate why **Scotland** has punched above its weight at the highest level on the athletics track over the years.

There's a realisation there is more to the sport than elite competition and that you need to sow the seeds at the grassroots. If there's no next generation, there's nothing.

And that's another reason to applaud The P&J Run Fest 2024 creation.

For more information: events.kronosports.uk/event/277

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Pr

Subject: TRENDS & EVENTS (90%); RUNNING (89%); SPORTS & RECREATION EVENTS (89%); FAMILY (78%); OLYMPICS (78%); TRACK & FIELD (78%); DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS (73%); FUNDRAISING (68%); PHYSICAL FITNESS (68%); EXERCISE & FITNESS (63%)

Company: BRITISH UNITED PROVIDENT ASSOCIATION LTD (56%)

Industry: NAICS524298 ALL OTHER INSURANCE RELATED ACTIVITIES (56%); SIC6321 ACCIDENT & HEALTH INSURANCE (56%); BABY PRODUCTS (78%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, **SCOTLAND** (91%); DUNDEE, **SCOTLAND** (89%); TOKYO, JAPAN (57%); SOUTH KOREA (79%); 7 North East

Load-Date: March 16, 2024

End of Document

Five Scottish books for younger readers to celebrate World Book Day including Wee Unicorn

Scotsman

March 6, 2024 Wednesday

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Section: BOOKARTS AND CULTURE

Length: 411 words

Highlight: Whether you're looking for picture books or recommendations for reluctant teenagers, here are five Scottish books to try.

Body

Getting children engaged in reading can be challenging, and it can be hard to find titles which are enticing enough to catch their eye.

With so many titles to choose from it can be hard to find the right book for a reluctant reader, but sometimes starting closer to home can help.

No matter how old or young, there is a book out there for them and with World Book Day on Thursday, March 7 we've selected a few to help.

Here are five Scottish books for younger readers, from picture books to teenage coming of age tales.

Wee Unicorn by Meg McLaren

Suitable for even the youngest of children, Meg McLaren's Wee Unicorn is a beautifully illustrated picture book with an important message about finding friendship and embracing differences. Set at the very edge of the Ancient Forest in the north, the book follows the Wee Unicorn, who is loud and distinctly unmagical as she finds friendship in the most unlikely of places.

Wheesht by Susi Briggs

Illustrated by William Gorman, Susi Briggs' Wheest is a Scots language tale about Shug, a dog who loves to sing. So much so, that his family can't sleep and are constantly telling him to "haud his wheest". The funny book includes a Scots glossary at the back making it an excellent way to introduce lots of new Scots words.

An Illustrated Treasury of Scottish Mythical Creatures by Theresa Breslin and Kate Leiper

Theresa Breslin OBE worked with illustrator Kate Leiper to bring this book of Scottish creatures to life. Suitable for children aged 9-11, An Illustrated Treasury of Scottish Mythical Creatures is full of traditional tales expertly retold.

Five Scottish books for younger readers to celebrate World Book Day including Wee Unicorn

The Rewilders by Lindsay Littleson

Lindsay Littleson's *The Rewilders* follows Esme, a young girl who is annoyed to be sent to her gran's for the weekend – until, she discovers that Cora, the abandoned kitten her Gran found is a wild *lynx* kit. Now growing rapidly, Esme ends up on a dangerous mission to rewild the creature in the Highlands with the help of the school's bad boy Calum Docherty and Shug, the world's worst guard dog.

Duck Feet by Ely Percy

Duck Feet by Ely Percy is a funny and authentic coming of age story which captures a teenager's experience of growing up in working class *Scotland*. It follows Kirsty Campbell during her time at Renfrew Grammar School and covers topics from drugs and teen pregnancy to bullying and sexuality with compassion and dark humour. It was named [*Scotland's Book of the Year in 2021*](#) and is only suitable for older teen readers.

Graphic

[*Wee Unicorn, by Meg McLaren*](#)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: ADOLESCENTS & TEENS (90%); CHILDREN'S LITERATURE (90%); CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS & TEENS (89%); PREGNANCY & CHILDBIRTH (89%); BOOK REVIEWS (78%); DRAWING & ILLUSTRATION (78%); HUMOROUS LITERATURE (78%); TEENAGE PREGNANCY (78%); YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE (78%); WILD CATS (73%); WORKING ANIMALS (71%); GENDER & SEX DISCRIMINATION (60%)

Industry: BOOK REVIEWS (78%); DRAWING & ILLUSTRATION (78%); PUBLISHING (73%)

Geographic: [*SCOTLAND*](#) (91%)

Load-Date: March 6, 2024

Threat to hill farming: Vital backbone of Scottish livestock production

The Scottish Farmer

March 2024

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Length: 1037 words

Byline: John Sleigh

Body

Hill farming is an industry which has long been the backbone of livestock production in Scotland. Now, an industry which helped to keep rural shops, garages, post offices and schools open and thriving is under threat from a change in societal values.

Food production today is relegated to the second division, with environmental concern elevated to the premier league - a fallacy that only empty shelves will sort out.

Hill farming has always been a Cinderella sector, heavily dependent on support from government because of the nature of the ground being farmed, distance from markets, and constraint of weather. The lambs and calves produced in the hills have over the years underpinned the profits on many low-ground finishing farms, although they struggled to enhance the profitability of the farm they were bred on.

I've farmed in the hills all my life, from the north west of Skye where I was born and started my career, to farming today in the middle of the Cairngorms. It's a job in which, to me, there is great satisfaction in turning out quality pens of calves and store lambs. You are completely at the mercy of the buyer and the current trade, and 12 months of hard work comes down to that 60 seconds in the ring.

This last six months has seen a sea change in the values of calves and lambs - these empty straths and glens are having an effect, with the prices starting to reflect our costs of production. This is due mainly to the laws of supply and demand beginning to bite. An ever-increasing population with ever-decreasing production can only have one outcome.

Will this lead to these hills and glens being restocked and the houses filled with shepherds and stockmen? Time and economics will dictate. My hope would be that these jobs would return - because this industry is about people.

The days when there would be a dozen folk at a clipping might never return, but to have a clipping in many a glen would be an achievement.

Here in the Cairngorms we have been under more pressure than some other areas of Scotland as we have had to labour under an added layer of bureaucracy in the guise of the national park.

Threat to hill farming: Vital backbone of Scottish livestock production

Additional planning laws and the increased cost of housing have led to many of our young folk being forced to leave their home area in search of cheaper housing and more job opportunities.

Our park board has been instrumental in leading the drive for environmental measures, resulting in the recent release of beavers into the Spey Valley.

The lack of consultation and having beavers imposed on us was the last straw for many crofters and farmers. This led to the formation of the Cairngorm Crofters and Farmers Community.

This group has grown from a WhatsApp group of three members to currently over 90. One of our main aims is to connect with the park authority and take agriculture and food production back onto the agenda.

One of our biggest challenges in doing this is the park board, and the fact that it is loaded with government appointees picked for their environmental bias rather than any agricultural expertise.

Quite the reverse, in fact - some of them are intent on making livestock production a memory of the past in the strath, and fulfilling their own agenda of rewilding **Scotland** and introducing **Lynx** and wolves in a madcap attempt to recreate their vision of what **Scotland** looked like 1000 years ago.

These environmentalists are keen to tell us of the decline of various species of birds and mammals, and hark back to the glory days of the earlier part of the 20th century.

The truth is that back then the hills were full of people - shepherds, cattlemen and gamekeepers - all looking after their own.

Predators were kept under control which gave every other species a chance at life and allowed them to flourish.

The early 1990s saw the birth of the environmental scheme - the money from these schemes has helped many a hill farm and croft, but in truth it has very little for the environment in real terms.

A lot of these schemes included stock reduction - the animals which were at the centre of the biodiversity and fragile eco-systems of the hills being removed at a civil servant-s whim.

But enough of the past. How do I see the future for hill farming in **Scotland**?

If and when we reach the tipping point where food is no longer taken as a given, but is appreciated for the necessity that it is, I see a bright future for the hills.

Here in **Scotland** we have plenty of that precious resource - water - and a temperate climate in which to grow grass. Our rainfall is complained about so often, but the fact is that huge areas of the world would give almost anything to have such a plentiful and regular supply.

This gives us an advantage which will only become apparent when the increasing shortage of water in other parts of the world impacts their ability to produce.

Our hills which have been cleared will once again be appreciated for the healthy, red meat they can produce.

Young people are the lifeblood of any industry, and none more so than farming.

Technology is playing an increasing part in our industry and our ability to embrace this has to be encouraged.

Of course, there are some skills, such as that of the stock person, that are not so easily transferred by computer. The skillset of the hill shepherd has to be preserved to enable our hills to be stocked again.

Gaelic is my mother tongue and there is a saying in Gaelic which roughly translates to -the man who lives a long time will see many things-. In my lifetime I've seen the hills full of stock, and I'm now seeing many hills cleared of stock.

Threat to hill farming: Vital backbone of Scottish livestock production

Hopefully, I-II live to see them restocked. I've seen hill lambs sell for 1 - I'm now seeing them make 170. I've seen weaned calves sell for 25 with the best now making 1500.

Hopefully this price increase will stabilise the economy of the hills and lead to a new dawn for our industry.

Wishing you all a good calving and lambing, with the weather on our side.

Robert MacDonald farms at Castle Grant home farm near Grantown-on-Spey. He runs suckler cows and breeds pedigree Cheviot sheep. He was a previous chair of the NFUS LFASS committee and is current chair of the Cairngorms Crofters and Farmers Community group which represents rural interests within the Cairngorms National Park.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: MAMMALS (90%); FARM LABOR (89%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (89%); OUTPUT & DEMAND (78%); SOCIETY, SOCIAL ASSISTANCE & LIFESTYLE (78%); PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENTS (77%); PRICES (77%); NATIONAL PARKS (75%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (72%); MOUNTAINS (72%); PUBLIC LANDS REGULATION & POLICY (69%)

Industry: ANIMAL FARMING & BREEDING (91%); LIVESTOCK (91%); BEEF CATTLE FARMING (90%); SHEEP & GOAT FARMING (90%); FARM LABOR (89%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (89%); NATIONAL PARKS (75%); AGRICULTURE (73%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (93%)

Load-Date: March 21, 2024

End of Document

Pirates have a tough night

Pirates have a tough night

Paisley Daily Express

February 15, 2024 Thursday

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: SPORT; Pg. 24

Length: 207 words

Byline: CALAM PENGILLY

Body

Paisley Pirates suffered their joint-heaviest defeat of the season against Aberdeen *Lynx* on Saturday night.

The Renfrewshire side were hammered 11-1 by the north-east outfit who climbed up to first place in the *Scottish* National League (SNL) following the impressive result.

A spokesperson for the club posting on social media acknowledged:"A tough night at the office where we just couldn't get going enough to get past a tight and well-played game from the *Lynx*."

Having beaten an Edinburgh Capitals team that occupied top spot at the Braehead Arena the previous Sunday - and also overcoming Kilmarnock Thunder - the day before, the Pirates halted a seven-game losing streak and appeared to have turned their season around.

Coach IanTurley will be hoping the heavy defeat against Aberdeen will not have deflated the squad too much ahead of an away four-pointer against DundeeTigers this Saturday (face-off 7pm and tickets are sold out).

TheTayside team are one place and four points above Pirates in seventh in the SNL standings with the Paisley side having four games in hand on them.

Due to time pressures at Dundee Ice Arena, the Dundee Comets and THETIGERs play other teams just once at home during the season.These matches are for double points.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: PDE

Pirates have a tough night

Subject: STADIUMS & ARENAS (90%); TICKET SALES (52%)

Organization: PITTSBURGH PIRATES (94%)

Industry: TICKET SALES (52%)

Geographic: DUNDEE, SCOTLAND (88%); ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (73%); EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND (57%); SCOTLAND (90%); National Edition

Load-Date: February 15, 2024

End of Document

Pirates sail on to glory with deadly double Paisley men end seven-game winless run

Pirates sail on to glory with deadly double; Paisley men end seven-game winless run

Paisley Daily Express

February 7, 2024 Wednesday

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: SPORT; Pg. 22

Length: 381 words

Byline: Calam Pengilly

Body

The Paisley Pirates are back on course with the wind in their sails following two big results last weekend.

After seven games without a win, the Braehead-based side were sinking to the bottom of the [Scottish](#) National Ice Hockey League.

But impressive performances against Kilmarnock Thunder and leagueleaders Edinburgh Capitals on Saturday and Sunday respectively saw them pick up two wins to give hope of better days ahead.

On Saturday, they travelled to East Ayrshire to take on the side that sit directly above them in the table.

There was a new addition in goal for the Pirates, with U19s player Daniel McGowan taking a shift between the pipes for his first team debut.

The Pirates ran out 3-2 winners, with Tom Johnston named man-ofthe-match.

Then on Sunday, a home game against the front-runners from the capital which the Pirates were not expected to get anything out of given their recent run of form. The

Renfrewshire side defied the odds to defeat Edinburgh 6-4. Hatrick hero Garry Simpson was named man-ofthe-match. Also chipping in with goals were Chris Wilson, Chris Turley, and Martyn Simpson.

Speaking to club media after the match on Sunday, Garry Simpson said: "I thought the boys dug deep and did what we had to do. You can't fault the effort levels all the way through. It's great to get a hat-trick but it's obviously a team sport so credit to those passing the puck too."

Pirates coach Ian Turley said: "Everyone to a man over the full six periods played massively, and I'm hugely proud of all the guys. It's amazing the difference a week makes. This has been coming, with the work the boys have been putting in in the background. And hopefully it changes the direction of our season."

"We're not under any illusions about how hard it's going to be. We've got to go to Aberdeen next week and we're not getting ahead of ourselves, but if we play the way we played last night and tonight and execute, then we should be fine."

Pirates sail on to glory with deadly double Paisley men end seven-game winless run

"It's a real positive group that we've got in there, everybody will be delighted."

Next up for the Pirates is an away trip on Saturday evening to 2023 champions Aberdeen **Lynx** who currently occupy second place in the table and so represent another tough game for Ian Turley's men, but win that and they'll be right in the mix with seven league matches remaining.

Graphic

!Pictures by Al Goold Photography Double delight Pirates had wind in their sails as two wins at the weekend pushed them up the table and gave hope of better things to

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: PDE

Subject: SPORTS & RECREATION EVENTS (89%); ICE HOCKEY (79%); SPORTS & RECREATION (79%); WINTER SPORTS (74%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, **SCOTLAND** (73%); EDINBURGH, **SCOTLAND** (73%); **SCOTLAND** (90%); National Edition

Load-Date: February 7, 2024

End of Document

More local councils with more autonomy could spell bad news for the countryside

More local councils with more autonomy could spell bad news for the countryside

Aberdeen Press and Journal

February 5, 2024 Monday

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Section: AGD; Pg. 27

Length: 760 words

Byline: P&j Comment

Body

Flying into Aberdeen or Glasgow from Norway, I have often noticed the clear distinction between town and country. One moment you are over green, rolling agricultural land then, suddenly, below you are houses, shops and football fields.

The approach to Oslo is different. Yes, we do have great forests and the sea. But Oslo tends to straggle out in all directions. Suddenly, apparently in the middle of nowhere, you see an estate of luxurious second homes, double garages and wide roads. It is not easy to spot where the countryside ends and the city begins.

I think I have found out the reason behind this difference: **Scotland** probably has much tighter planning controls.

In area, Norway is almost five times bigger than **Scotland** but the two countries have almost the same population size at about 5.4 million. Yet, **Scotland** has 32 local authorities with planning powers. Norway has 357.

Many Norwegian local authorities are very small indeed, with fewer than 3,000 folk and a correspondingly small administration. But they can make planning decisions that affect not only their own area but whole regions, or even the whole country.

Oslo already has two huge Ikea stores. But the retailer last year applied to build a new shop, just 25 miles south of Oslo. This was in the Vestby local authority, with a population of 18,000 people. The proposed store also happened to be on the best piece of unbuilt agricultural land in the whole region.

The local authority approved the application, since it would provide more than 300 jobs and masses of trade for the local authority. After a great deal of to and fro, central government stepped in and was able to annul the approval.

The regional and national implications of a new Ikea store would have been huge on traffic (new roads would need to be built), on city trade (the branch would draw trade from existing businesses in Oslo itself), and the store would remove a large chunk of very scarce arable land.

Because local authorities have such wide powers, the Norwegian government is also increasingly concerned about the loss of natural habitat, and interference with native species such as elk, bears, wolves, reindeer, **Lynx** and wolverines.

More local councils with more autonomy could spell bad news for the countryside

A major threat these days is the building of country cabins or second homes in the mountains or along the sea. Because of Norway's increasing prosperity, there are now almost half a million cabins or second homes in the country. **Scotland** has about 25,000.

One local authority in central Norway with a population of fewer than 4,000 people (and maybe 1,500 houses) has allowed almost 5,000 second homes to be built on the mountains in its boundaries.

This means big, fully serviced housing estates with roads, sewerage and drainage, and power. Most of these houses have two or three bedrooms.

The impact on Norway's mountain environment is predictable, creating a concrete jungle where herds of wild reindeer used to roam.

Small local authorities cannot afford many architects, planners or engineers to advise the council, and in a community where everyone knows everyone, it is often difficult for a councillor to say no.

Why let an area of useless wetland stand empty when building on it can make money for the local community? Why should a friend not be able to build a cabin on an isolated beach?

Norway believes in local democracy. The current minister for environment says: "Local folk know best." This is why, unlike in **Scotland**, planning in Norway is highly decentralised. The Centre Party (formerly the Farmers' Party), a member of the current government, is a fervent opponent of greater centralisation.

The national broadcasting network NRK has just screened a documentary series showing that the natural environment in Norway is being eroded piece by piece, largely because of the decentralisation of planning.

Nobody is there to see "the big picture". Wetlands are being drained, natural forest felled, and wildlife hounded away.

Having worked for some years as a planner in **Scotland**, I know how exacting the standards were that applied to building in the countryside. To me, the difference with Norway is clear.

Norwegians are largely rural folk who feel they have the right to live where they like, and preferably close to the countryside. Scots are largely urban folk, with a large farming community that knows how to husband the countryside.

I have no doubt that **Scotland** can teach Norway a thing or two about looking after the country.

Originally from **Scotland** and now living in Norway, Mike Fergus is a retired consulting economist and partner in a Norwegian consultancy firm.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Pr

Subject: POPULATION SIZE (99%); AGRICULTURAL LANDS (90%); REGIONAL & LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (90%); MAMMALS (89%); MOUNTAINS (89%); WILDLIFE (77%); APPROVALS (73%); ECOSYSTEMS &

More local councils with more autonomy could spell bad news for the countryside

HABITATS (72%); GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (68%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (65%); LIFE FORMS (60%)

Company: INGKA HOLDING BV (82%)

Industry: NAICS449110 FURNITURE RETAILERS (82%); SIC5712 FURNITURE STORES (82%); AGRICULTURAL LANDS (90%); SECOND & VACATION HOMES (89%); RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION (77%); RETAIL & WHOLESALE TRADE (77%); RETAILERS (72%); HIGHWAYS & STREETS (50%)

Geographic: OSLO, NORWAY (94%); ABERDEEN, **SCOTLAND** (90%); GLASGOW, **SCOTLAND** (58%); NORWAY (95%); **SCOTLAND** (94%); 7 North East

Load-Date: February 5, 2024

End of Document

Aidan Smith's TV week: True Detective (Sky Atlantic), American Nightmare (Netflix), Finders Keepers (C5), Big Boys (C4)

Aidan Smith's TV week: True Detective (Sky Atlantic), American Nightmare (Netflix), Finders Keepers (C5), Big Boys (C4)

Scotsman

January 20, 2024 Saturday

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Section: TELEVISIONENTERTAINMENTTHINGS TO DOSHOWBIZ

Length: 1082 words

Highlight: We can't really do winter weather, do we? I mean, we might be child-like in our wonder at the concept, but the merest of icy blasts paralyses the country, only 0.000007 of the population know how to fit snow chains to their cars without ending up manacled and ready for a sex party - and this week the NHS had to rush out advice for frozen pavements: "To avoid falling, walk like a penguin."

Body

This isn't mandatory but just wait: the next government will appoint a minister for it and he or she will be as tough as the new Secretary of State for Brushing Teeth.

Anyway, let's journey 4,500 miles to Alaska for **True Detective: Night Country** (Sky Atlantic) where puffer jackets aren't worn for fashion, polar bears are a road hazard, the sun has set over the small town of Ennis for winter and as Det Hank Prior says: "Third day of darkness, things start to get weird."

This is the fourth series in the crime anthology and, now helmed by Mexican horror auteur Issa Lopez, it's already looking like the weirdest yet thanks in no small part to the setting where there's a vivid sense of every available source of illumination - car headlights, streetlamps, neon signs - straining to continue functioning in the near permanent whiteout. It's a real edge-of-the-world kind of place where human connection borders on the desperate.

Liz Danvers, Hank's boss, is on Tinder alert. Evangeline Navarro, who had to be bumped out of the local force over her obsession with an unsolved murder and is now a state trooper, booty-calls her man in the middle of the night until, exhausted, he groans: "Next time, I ain't picking up the phone." And Hank? He's getting married at Christmas. "To Natascha from the catalogue," sniggers Liz. "She's from Vladivostok," he corrects.

Jodie Foster is Danvers. Her film credits are of course peerless but a TV career which began as a kid on *The Doris Day Show* hasn't offered a series as high-end as this until now. True Detective is an odd-couple procedural and for the first time it's two women with newcomer Kali Reis giving as good as she gets as the Indigenous sidekick. At one point Danvers sneers: "And you know this because a spirit animal came to you in a dream?" Navarro bites back: "My spirit animal eats old f***n' white ladies like you for breakfast."

Well, it's another case with a strong supernatural element. A scientific research station has been hastily vacated with music still playing and sandwiches half eaten. "Dorks on a geek expedition?" suggests Hank. But you don't just

Aidan Smith's TV week: True Detective (Sky Atlantic), American Nightmare (Netflix), Finders Keepers (C5), Big Boys (C4)

go out for a walk here, no matter that the boffins would probably not have to resort to the penguin waddle. Navarro thinks there's a connection with her old murder. "That one sunk you before," warns Travers. But the line "She's awake!", uttered at the beginning by one of the scientists who then shakes uncontrollably, is soon echoing in Travers' nightmares. The only thing I'm fairly confident about in this terrifying tale is that we'll hear it again, and probably more than once.

The title **American Nightmare** doesn't tell us much. ITV's documentary *Trump: the Return?* might have used it. And so could any number of true-crime shows. But it's been claimed by Netflix for a reconstruction of a kidnap case which strangely shunned the obvious and more arresting, "The Real Gone Girl".

You might have seen film-makers Felicity Morris and Bernadette Higgins' *The Tinder Swindler* and this is no less astonishing. In 2015 in Vallejo, California Denise Huskins and her boyfriend Aaron Quinn were woken in the dead of night by a home invader. Huskins was kidnapped and Quinn was soon being interrogated as the prime suspect. Then when Huskins reappeared, seemingly unscathed, she was accused of faking the kidnapping.

In 2015 true-crime wasn't what it is now so I can't accuse the detective of playing to the interview-room cameras, knowing that he might be on Netflix one day. Nevertheless, Matt Mustard - cue the Beatles song "Mean Mr Mustard" - is glimpsed very much enjoying his role. Indeed, given his name, you'd have to say he relishes it (ouch).

"I put a lot of puzzles together - I am the puzzle-maker," he says. "How do I make it so you look like a monster?" He doesn't believe Quinn's version of events. The kidnapper was wearing a wetsuit and swim goggles? That's too much detail.

The detail intrigues defence attorney Dan Russo. "This is insane," he says. But he reckons Quinn is telling the truth. "I believe him in my heart but no one in f****n' North America will." Russo is straight out of Central Casting but I don't think he's hamming up his part. He seems like the kind of brief you'd want on your side against Mean Mr Mustard. Huskins' return isn't the end of it, however. The lurid fascination of the TV news networks ramps up when someone remembers the plot of *Gone Girl* - had Huskins suspected Quinn was cheating on her and contrived the abduction? I won't tell you how *American Nightmare* ends but suffice to say: is it any wonder women who're victims of crime are reluctant to come forward when they're treated like this?

Before he starred in the TV show of the year if not the decade - you know the one I'm talking about - Toby Jones was a weekend treasure-hunter in the comedy *Detectorists*. Now for a drama about metal-detecting, called **Finders Keepers** (Channel 5) and featuring Neil Morrissey who gets a buzz out of the hobby and sometimes a shrill beeping but it's never anything other than a rusty coke can or somesuch junk.

Then one afternoon down Somerset way Morrissey's Martin happens across Anglo-Saxon gold. He wants to do the right thing, "surrender it to the Crown" and wait for the possible reward. But his wide-boy soon-to-be son-in-law (*The Inbetweeners*' James Buckley) suggests they try and sell it to a collector for half a million. "Charlie doesn't need any more gold," he says. "Have you seen his coach?"

Under financial pressure, not least from the cost of the wedding, decent, dull Martin agrees. He's never done anything like this before. And, judging by next week's trailer, a pleasant little show is about to get heavy (metal). But what will real detectorists think? That their pastime is being traduced, or sexed-up?

Channel 4's comedy **Big Boys** is back for a second season and for Danny (Jon Pointing) and Jack (Dylan Llewellyn) a second year at uni, so they should be getting the hang of campus life, but they're not having nearly enough sex, and especially when compared to their Scottish mate Corinne (Edinburgh's Izuka Hoyle).

Jack Rooke's semi-autobiographical show is profound about male friendship and pleasingly clarty with it. Jack is gay and Danny straight but they couldn't be tighter, always there for each other, and that's despite the latter's preferences for "Lynx Africa boxsets and Jeremy Clarkson's bull**** books". There are jokes about Liz Truss who must be the softest of targets for comedy but I'll forgive *Big Boys* that.

Aidan Smith's TV week: True Detective (Sky Atlantic), American Nightmare (Netflix), Finders Keepers (C5), Big Boys (C4)

Graphic

[Jodie Foster in True Detective: Night Country.](#)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: APPOINTMENTS (90%); GOVERNMENT ADVISORS & MINISTERS (90%); GOVERNMENT BODIES & OFFICES (90%); NATIONAL SECURITY & FOREIGN RELATIONS (90%); MAMMALS (89%); CHRISTMAS (78%); CRIME, LAW ENFORCEMENT & CORRECTIONS (77%); NEGATIVE NEWS (77%); MURDER (75%); UNSOLVED CRIMES (70%); DOCUMENTARY FILMS (64%); EXPERIMENTATION & RESEARCH (60%); SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (60%)

Company: NETFLIX INC (58%)

Ticker: NFLX (NASDAQ) (58%)

Industry: NAICS532282 VIDEO TAPE & DISC RENTAL (58%); SIC7841 VIDEO TAPE RENTAL (58%); OUTERWEAR (78%); PUBLISHING (73%); DOCUMENTARY FILMS (64%)

Geographic: UNITED STATES (92%)

Load-Date: January 20, 2024

End of Document

THIS WEEK'S RANDOM QUESTIONS

THIS WEEK'S RANDOM QUESTIONS

Daily Record and Sunday Mail

January 20, 2024 Saturday

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 20,21

Length: 149 words

Byline: TAM COWAN'S

Body

ARE there 183 days in January - or does it just feel like it?

Who do Christmas market stall-holders rob the rest of the year?

For the first few weeks after the festive season, do African teenage boys all stink of Lynx Scotland?

Whatever happened to Kris Akabusi?

If you get food poisoning, is it OK to keep it in the bottle and use it on your spouse?

If Lawrence Shankland was called Lawrio Shankilio, which half of the Old Firm would have already spent £10million on him?

How come the electric bikes used by Deliveroo delivery men have a minimum speed of 85mph?

Considering IKEA furniture is named after geographical locations in Sweden, where exactly is Lake Krappystuff?

Why do the toilets on planes have frosted windows? (Who's going to look in - a flock of geese?) Is Chick Young's favourite shampoo called Shoulders?

How much would it help the environment if St Johnstone fans all travelled in the one

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DRC

THIS WEEK'S RANDOM QUESTIONS

Subject: ELECTRIC MOBILITY (69%); FOOD BORNE ILLNESS (56%)

Industry: ON DEMAND SERVICES (78%); TEMPORARY STAND RETAILING (78%); ELECTRIC MOBILITY (69%)

Geographic: SWEDEN (68%); National Edition

Load-Date: January 20, 2024

End of Document

Poor Pirates on sigh seas; LYNX HAVE WIND IN THEIR SAILS

Paisley Daily Express

January 17, 2024 Wednesday

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 23

Length: 489 words

Byline: CALAM PENGILLY

Body

Paisley Pirates' Fraser Kerr said it was "another tough night at the office" for his team when they fell to another disappointing loss this season against Aberdeen Lynx.

The player-of-the-match made the comments following the frustrating 8-3 defeat on Sunday night against the Scottish National League's second-placed side.

The result meant the Pirates brought up their seventh match without a win, and sees the Braehead Arena-based outfit occupying seventh place - just one off the bottom.

Kerr told club media:"It's the same thing again - taking penalties and not being on it offensively, a few bad bounces went our way as well.

"It's just the way it's going this season. I think we kept going throughout the game but we just need to be more clinical in front of the net.

"We had a lot of scoring opportunities that we've not converted on and then a few bad bounces at the other end and it's tough to try and claw your way back."

James Demeo opened the scoring for Lynx in the second minute of the game before Pirates responded with a quickfire double - Martin and

Gary Simpson both scoring in the third minute.

However, with the Pirates down to three men after two penalties, Lynx - with a two-man advantage - responded with a goal in the 12th minute from Jordan Leyden.

Back at full-strength, Pirates took the lead again through a Marcus Murdoch goal in the 18th minute.

The lead would last less than two minutes, though, with another Pirates penalty handing the initiative back to Lynx, Demeo scoring on the power play to make it 3-3 at the end of the first period.

And that would be it for the Pirates'scoring efforts. Lynx scored three unanswered in the second period to make the score 6-3 going into the final period and managed two more before the match finished.

Poor Pirates on sigh seas LYNX HAVE WIND IN THEIR SAILS

Pirates coach Adam Walker lamented his team's lack of emotional control, saying: "There seems to be a theme with us at the moment where we come out and we push hard and we push hard."

"And then we get a couple of chances and we put them away and then we take penalties - silly, silly penalties - and then we let teams back into the game. You're never going to win games if you can't shut the door and that comes from everybody."

"The effort is there but we've dug ourselves a hole and we're struggling to get out of it and it seems no matter what we do at the moment it backfires on us."

"The guys need to be switched on for 60 minutes. We need to control our emotions in the right way."

"It's not like we don't have the team. I think the first period we outplayed Aberdeen by quite a bit, but we took eight minutes in penalties and they scored two goals in the power play."

"It allows teams back into the game and we need to learn to stop doing that."

The Pirates have a week off now before they can make another attempt to end the horrid run of losses they've been on since November.

Their next match is against third-placed Kirkcaldy Kestrels at the Braehead Arena on Sunday, January 28.

Graphic

- Pictures by Al Goold Photography

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: PDE

Subject: EMOTIONS (78%)

Organization: PITTSBURGH PIRATES (94%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (58%); SCOTLAND (78%); National Edition

Load-Date: January 17, 2024

Europe wants to cull them: where does it leave hopes here for the return of the wolf?

Europe wants to cull them: where does it leave hopes here for the return of the wolf?

The Herald

January 14, 2024 Sunday

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Length: 1696 words

Byline: Sandra Dick

Body

Towering at upwards of 6ft 7ins, the commanding figure of Macqueen of Pollochaig encompassed brute strength, brave heart and unrivalled reputation as one of **Scotland**-s finest deerstalkers.

So, when word swept from the thick woodlands of Darnaway Forest, crossed the River Findhorn and whistled around the Morayshire hills and glens that a wild wolf had killed two children, it was Macqueen who the local Laird summoned to bring his dogs and lead the hunt.

It was a winter-s day in 1743 - at least, that-s how the story goes. A great gathering armed with bows, arrows, knives and hounds had been arranged to hunt the beast.

But much to the Laird of Macintosh-s increasing irritation, there was no sign of Macqueen.

What he didn-t know was that our hero was already on the case.

Eventually he arrived at the scene. Striding towards the gathering, he threw back his plaid to reveal the bloody and very dead head of **Scotland**-s last wolf.

The story has become embedded in Highland legend - whether it is actually true, though, remains up for debate.

Some suggest **Scotland**-s wolves had already been hunted to extinction much earlier, others that wolves were prowling woodlands and preying on cattle, sheep and children well into the 18th century.

Forward to now, though, and wolves have become a pin-up species among some rewilding enthusiasts who argue their return to **Scotland** could provide a natural solution to soaring numbers of red deer, boost biodiversity and right the ancient wrong that saw them hunted to extinction.

With many communities in Europe living side by side with wild wolves where their numbers have been allowed to grow due to strict protection rules, why couldn-t it happen here?

Europe wants to cull them: where does it leave hopes here for the return of the wolf?

Beinhorn, a hamlet in the German region of Lower Saxony, is just one of several areas on the continent where the topic of wolves is a particularly sensitive one; it's where, on a summer's evening in 2022, a wolf pounced on a pony named Dolly and left the 30-year-old much-loved pet of President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, for dead.

That fuelled an already lively debate over what to do about growing numbers of wolves in a country that had thought it had seen its last wild wolf some time in the 1850s.

Having died out, wolves are thriving again partly due to the country's reunification in 1990.

Read more:

Which sharks can be found in **Scotland**? More than you might imagine

Calum's Road: how an Isle of Raasay crofter built his own road

Mountain award for women's outdoor sports champion Lee Craigie

Whereas it had been legal in old East Germany to hunt wolves that strayed across the border from Poland, the united Germany's stance was to protect them, paving the way for their gradual return.

And return, they have. Germany is now said to have more than 160 wolf packs, numbering over 1,300 wolves.

It's a similar story in neighbouring European countries: according to 2021 estimates of wolf numbers, Italy has more than 3,300, Romania nearly 3,000, Bulgaria more than 2,700 and Poland 1,880. In France, there are an estimated 783, with numbers across Europe said to be growing at a rate of a third every year.

In Finland, where estimates range from 150 up to 300 wolves, discussion has rumbled on over how many is too many and whether some should be culled. Slovenia has previously taken action and culled problem wolves; in November, the Government there confirmed it plans a new wolf management strategy for 2024, with "the rapid issuance of permits for culling".

And in Switzerland, where environmental groups celebrated the return of the first wild wolf 30 years ago when one strolled over the border from Italy, there are now at least 32 packs roaming the countryside, with upwards of 300 wolves.

Between 2019 and 2022, wolf attacks on livestock there tripled, leading farmers to clear livestock animals from alpine summer pastures in order to protect them.

Amid mounting concern, the Swiss government recently broke ranks to approve measures allowing the eradication of entire packs of wolves, amid suggestions the country might cope with 12 packs, but not 32.

Wildlife groups reacted with a legal challenge: last week it ended in court with the government plan for a cull put on hold.

But that victory for environmental groups may be short lived. The issue of wolves and how to control their numbers may be set to take a particularly dramatic leap forward.

Across Europe, tens of thousands of sheep, goats and cattle are either killed or wounded in attacks every year; in Germany, 4,366 farm animals were killed by wolves in 2022 alone, among them 30 horses and four llamas - a 30% rise on the previous year.

With the attack on the European Commission's president's pony, Dolly among the most high profile, recent weeks have seen confirmation that the Commission proposes to downgrade the wolf's -strictly protected- status meaning they can only be interfered with as a last resort to -protected-, potentially opening the door to wolf hunts to return.

Europe wants to cull them: where does it leave hopes here for the return of the wolf?

-The comeback of wolves is good news for biodiversity in Europe. But the concentration of wolf packs in some European regions has become a real danger especially for livestock,- said Ursula von der Leyen.

-I am deeply convinced that we can and will find targeted solutions to protect both, biodiversity and our rural livelihoods.-

The move has been met by outrage from conservationists who argue the commission-s plan is not based on scientific evidence.

-The proposal reflects a strategic, opportunistic and political move which raises concerns about its motivations and alignment with genuine policy objectives,- said LxC3a Badoz of Eurogroup of Animals.

It has become more than a war of words: in some areas where wolves have become a particular issue, hunting shelters have been found and wolves illegally shot.

In one disturbing case in Lower Saxony, scene last year of more than 216 wolf attacks killing more than 600 animals, a bullet-strewn wolf-s carcass was found floating in a canal, followed days later by its head and tail.

In another, a wolf-s head was dumped on the pavement outside a nature conservation office, while Christian Meyer, the area-s Green environment minister claimed she had received death threats.

With wolves causing so much discomfort in Europe, is the suggestion that they might be reintroduced here to help control deer numbers, dead in the water?

Peter Cairns, Executive Director of rewilding group Scotland: The Big Picture, says: -To be clear, there is currently no (serious) discussion about wolves in Scotland.

-That is not to say that there is no support for their return - there is - but given the social and cultural barriers that exist in Scotland, it makes little sense to pursue a reintroduction at this time.

-The events in Europe bring into sharp focus the challenge of human/wildlife coexistence, which as I've said before, is rarely an ecological challenge - wolves can live happily across most of Europe - but one driven by social, cultural and political norms.

-There is no doubt that the call for controlling wolves in Switzerland is politically motivated and was catalysed by a wolf attack on horses belonging to Ursula von der Leyen.

-Our vision for rewilding is built on ecosystem health, function and completeness. We believe that this relies on the presence of all native species, including all our missing predators, which includes wolves.-

The John Muir Trust has previously claimed there is -no ecological reason- why the species should not return to the Highlands.

A spokesperson said: -As keystone predators, wolves play an important role in balancing and restoring natural ecosystems.

-A few centuries ago, they were hunted to extinction in Scotland with damaging ecological consequences.

-But we can-t just rewind the calendar without resolving all of the challenges that would inevitably arise.

-Throughout Europe, the reintroduction and natural spread of wolves is highly controversial and generates strong emotions and conflict, particularly with livestock farming and hunting interests.

-Without full local community and national support any reintroduction in Scotland would be extremely challenging and unlikely to be successful.-

As for Scotland-s farmers, there is no doubt over where they stand.

Europe wants to cull them: where does it leave hopes here for the return of the wolf?

-NFU **Scotland** remains crystal clear that any proposals to re-introduce predators such as **Lynx**, wolves or bears are wholly unacceptable to **Scottish** farmers and crofters, and it calls on **Scottish** Government to make a clear statement rejecting such proposals permanently,- said a spokesman.

-The past few years have seen a long line of brazen and presumptuous claims from organisations about the imminent reintroduction of predators to the UK, causing considerable angst and anxiety to those who keep livestock in **Scotland**.

-The only application in the UK to date, to reintroduce **Lynx** to Kielder in the North of England, was rejected by the UK Government.

-Feverish press coverage of previous proposals to reintroduce predators saw a welcome commitment in public from Fergus Ewing MSP, when he was **Scotland**-s Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy, that he would never support such a reintroduction.

-We fully expect the current **Scottish** Government to stand by that pledge.-

To hammer home concerns, the organisation points to a study trip to Norway five years ago, when a delegation heard how authorities had paid out compensation on 20,000 sheep lost to predators.

-Of the sheep killed in Norway, wolverine accounted for around 34% of losses with the **Lynx**, bear and wolf accounting for 21%, 15% and 9% of sheep killed through predation, respectively,- the spokesman added.

-Predation of farmed livestock in Norway has reduced over the past decade - not because of fewer predators, but the fact that hill farmers have simply stopped keeping sheep.

-The Norwegian NFU believe that around 1,000 hill farmers have given up in the past 10 years as they simply cannot carry on at the levels of predation.

-The Norwegians told us that to reintroduce predators into our country would be an absolute catastrophe. Their experience has simply strengthened our resolve.

-Those reaping any benefit from these species- reintroductions are rarely the ones bearing any of the costs or negative impacts.-

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: MAMMALS (90%); DOGS (78%); BIODIVERSITY (77%); MOUNTAINS (77%)

Person: URSULA VON DER LEYEN (79%)

Geographic: LOWER SAXONY, GERMANY (79%); **SCOTLAND** (94%); EUROPE (93%); GERMANY (90%); EUROPEAN UNION MEMBER STATES (78%)

Load-Date: January 14, 2024

Europe wants to cull them: where does it leave hopes here for the return of the wolf?

End of Document

Similar sinking feeling for Pirates

Paisley Daily Express

January 11, 2024 Thursday

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: SPORT; Pg. 23

Length: 428 words

Body

It's now six games without a win for the luckless Paisley Pirates who lost to bottom-of-the-table North Ayrshire Wild at the Braehead Arena on Sunday.

It was an ill-tempered match that saw opposition goalkeeper Liam Griffin thrown out of the game and numerous penalties being given in a chaotic final third that saw five goals netted leading to a 5-4 loss for Ian Turley's men.

The Pirates have failed to plunder any points in the **Scottish** National League since November.

And it wasn't for want of trying on Sunday, with the team managing to muster 56 shots, while only facing 15.

Despite early pressure from the Pirates, it was the North Ayrshire side that netted first, with Dylan Murray scoring in the fifth minute.

Calum Blair responded in the 14th minute with the Pirates on a powerplay.

Marcus Murdoch then put the Paisley side in front two minutes later to see them lead Wild going into the second period.

After a frantic first, the second period saw comparatively little action, with no score from the Pirates, and Wild player Murray netting his second of the match to make the score level at 2-2 going into the final third.

All hell broke loose in the third, with Wild scoring three goals courtesy of Murray in the 51st minute, Liam Houston in the 54th, and Murray bagging his fourth of the game in the 56th minute to make the scoreline 5-2 to the North Ayrshire side with just four minutes to play.

Despite the bleak outlook, and the subsequent loss of two players to penalties in the remaining minutes, the three remaining Pirates players rallied, benefitting when Wild keeper Griffin was thrown out of the match for fighting . With four against three, they went on to score in the 57th minute and again in the 58th.

Ultimately though the Pirates would fail to complete the comeback, leaving them without a win in the league since November and in second-last place in the table on 12 points.

Pirates coach Turley refused to be drawn on the referees' performance after the match. Speaking to club media he said: "I'll keep my thoughts on the officiating tonight to myself."

Similar sinking feeling for Pirates

He lamented his side's lack of a cutting edge, saying they were the side doing most to get the win.

"We were by far the better team, we definitely showed that with our possession and shots etc," he said.

"I don't think we played badly, we just couldn't get a couple of goals and then we've let in some soft goals."

The Pirates' next fixture sees them take on Aberdeen **Lynx** at the Braehead Arena on Sunday where they'll be hoping to put this horrid run behind them.

?All images courtesy of Al Goold Photos

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: PDE

Subject: REFEREES & UMPIRES (89%); SPORTS OFFICIATING (89%); ATHLETES (74%)

Organization: PITTSBURGH PIRATES (94%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, **SCOTLAND** (57%); **SCOTLAND** (79%); National Edition

Load-Date: January 11, 2024

End of Document

Do big cats exist in the UK? Netflix Tiger King expert has captured the evidence on video and says yes

Do big cats exist in the UK? Netflix Tiger King expert has captured the evidence on video and says yes

Fraserburgh Herald

January 7, 2024

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The Fraserburgh Herald

Section: READ THIS

Length: 611 words

Highlight: A star of Netflix's hit show Tiger King says new evidence of a big cat is 'definite' proof of their existence in the UK.

Body

Kelci 'Saff' Saffery, who starred alongside Joe Exotic and Carole Baskin in 'Tiger King: Murder, Mayhem & Madness' believes Eurasian Lynx are living in England. This comes after Lewis Dailly believes he spotted the animal in the countryside in Coniston, Cumbria over the recent New Years period.

Eurasian Lynxes were once native in Britain but it's thought they died out around 1,400 years ago. However, there are multiple sightings of these animals in the British countryside each year and fresh footage now appears to show the cat wandering round.

And now Saff, who lost his arm after being horribly injured by a 42-stone tiger, says recent evidence of paw prints is 'definitely a cat.' He said: "The paw print is definitely a cat, what with the lack of claws. Even the way the front paw semi-aligns with the back paw in stride."

Lewis was visiting the area with his family when he looked out of the window of the holiday cottage and spotted 'something moving' in the bushes. He then started filming the mystery creature but before he could show a family member, it had 'gone into the bushes.'

Lewis, of Wolverhampton, West Mids., said: "I just looked out my back window from the holiday cottage I'm staying at and I saw something moving. So I quickly grabbed my iPad and started filming because it looked and moved bigger than a domestic cat. I tried to get a family member, then it gone in to the bushes".

Even though several people have agreed that Lewis saw a big cat, a few others have criticised the quality of the video. According to Lewis, 'it's not as easy' to get the footage but he said he's now 'on the lookout' to see the animal again.

He said: "It's not as easy as people think to get a photo or footage. I've went up there to check for tracks, but wasn't successful. I'm here for another week so I'm gonna be on the lookout."

Do big cats exist in the UK? Netflix Tiger King expert has captured the evidence on video and says yes

Lewis posted his findings on Facebook and Samuel Moore commented on the post, claiming he spotted a 'big black cat' in the area, seven years ago. He said: "I must admit I saw a big black cat in Coniston 7 years ago, not too far from the lake. It was by the school, it jumped over into the other field, was a big black cat and there's perfect habitat round there".

This incident comes after a new video was released of a *Lynx* roaming around the Cheviot Hills near the England and Scottish border a few years ago. Tim Whittard, who produced the award-winning documentary 'Panthera Britannia Declassified' say both videos portray 'several aspects consistent with *Lynx*-type cats.'

He said: "These videos, while lacking resolution and not being the best quality, both portray several aspects consistent with *Lynx*-type cats. The most obvious being the lack of a pronounced tail of significant length".

Carl Marshall, who starred in the Amazon Video documentary, also agrees with Tim and says he has seen 'plenty of credible evidence' they exist. He said: "Reports of big cat sightings have been fairly consistent in Britain now for several decades. Even though the *Lynx* is the least reported of the British big cats, I have seen plenty of credible evidence for them, and have even found suspected *Lynx* tracks myself".

Carl found suspected *Lynx* tracks while he was looking for wild boar in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, in late 2019.

He said: "Healthy dog tracks are usually symmetrical. If this track was canine in origin, then two straight sticks should sit neatly between the first and second toes, and the third and fourth toes, and cross diagonally, without touching either edge of the rear plantar pad, nor any of the adjacent toes". If I had some plaster with me I would have taken casts. "I wish I had some with me at the time."

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: WILD CATS (93%); ANIMALS (90%); CATS (90%); EVIDENCE (90%); DEATH & DYING (78%); MAMMALS (78%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (72%); INTERNET SOCIAL NETWORKING (69%); DOCUMENTARY FILMS (50%)

Company: NETFLIX INC (58%); META PLATFORMS INC (51%)

Ticker: NFLX (NASDAQ) (58%); META (NASDAQ) (51%)

Industry: NAICS532282 VIDEO TAPE & DISC RENTAL (58%); SIC7841 VIDEO TAPE RENTAL (58%); NAICS516210 MEDIA STREAMING DIST SVCS, SOCIAL NETWORKS, AND OTHER MEDIA NETWORKS AND CONTENT PROVIDERS (51%); SIC7374 COMPUTER PROCESSING & DATA PREPARATION & PROCESSING SERVICES (51%); MOVIE FILMING (89%); PUBLISHING (73%); INTERNET SOCIAL NETWORKING (69%); DOCUMENTARY FILMS (50%)

Geographic: WOLVERHAMPTON, ENGLAND (79%); ENGLAND (90%); UNITED KINGDOM (90%); SCOTLAND (79%)

Do big cats exist in the UK? Netflix Tiger King expert has captured the evidence on video and says yes

Load-Date: January 7, 2024

End of Document

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Mearns Leader

January 7, 2024

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Section: READ THIS

Length: 611 words

Highlight: A star of Netflix's hit show Tiger King says new evidence of a big cat is 'definite' proof of their existence in the UK.

Body

Kelci 'Saff' Saffery, who starred alongside Joe Exotic and Carole Baskin in 'Tiger King: Murder, Mayhem & Madness' believes Eurasian *Lynx* are living in England. This comes after Lewis Dailly believes he spotted the animal in the countryside in Coniston, Cumbria over the recent New Years period.

Eurasian Lynxes were once native in Britain but it's thought they died out around 1,400 years ago. However, there are multiple sightings of these animals in the British countryside each year and fresh footage now appears to show the cat wandering round.

And now Saff, who lost his arm after being horribly injured by a 42-stone tiger, says recent evidence of paw prints is 'definitely a cat.' He said: "The paw print is definitely a cat, what with the lack of claws. Even the way the front paw semi-aligns with the back paw in stride."

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Geographic: WOLVERHAMPTON, ENGLAND (79%); ENGLAND (90%); UNITED KINGDOM (90%); SCOTLAND (79%)

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Load-Date: January 7, 2024

End of Document

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Berwickshire News

January 7, 2024

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Section: READ THIS

Length: 611 words

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Scotsman

January 7, 2024 Sunday

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The Southern Reporter

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Buchan Observer

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Edinburgh Evening News

January 7, 2024 Sunday

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Inverurie Herald

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And now Saff, who lost his arm after being horribly injured by a 42-stone tiger, says recent evidence of paw prints is 'definitely a cat.' He said: "The paw print is definitely a cat, what with the lack of claws. Even the way the front paw semi-aligns with the back paw in stride."

Lewis was visiting the area with his family when he looked out of the window of the holiday cottage and spotted 'something moving' in the bushes. He then started filming the mystery creature but before he could show a family member, it had 'gone into the bushes.'

Lewis, of Wolverhampton, West Mids., said: "I just looked out my back window from the holiday cottage I'm staying at and I saw something moving. So I quickly grabbed my iPad and started filming because it looked and moved bigger than a domestic cat. I tried to get a family member, then it gone in to the bushes".

Even though several people have agreed that Lewis saw a big cat, a few others have criticised the quality of the video. According to Lewis, 'it's not as easy' to get the footage but he said he's now 'on the lookout' to see the animal again.

He said: "It's not as easy as people think to get a photo or footage. I've went up there to check for tracks, but wasn't successful. I'm here for another week so I'm gonna be on the lookout."

Do big cats exist in the UK? Netflix Tiger King expert has captured the evidence on video and says yes

Lewis posted his findings on Facebook and Samuel Moore commented on the post, claiming he spotted a 'big black cat' in the area, seven years ago. He said: "I must admit I saw a big black cat in Coniston 7 years ago, not too far from the lake. It was by the school, it jumped over into the other field, was a big black cat and there's perfect habitat round there".

This incident comes after a new video was released of a *Lynx* roaming around the Cheviot Hills near the England and Scottish border a few years ago. Tim Whittard, who produced the award-winning documentary 'Panthera Britannia Declassified' say both videos portray 'several aspects consistent with *Lynx*-type cats.'

He said: "These videos, while lacking resolution and not being the best quality, both portray several aspects consistent with *Lynx*-type cats. The most obvious being the lack of a pronounced tail of significant length".

Carl Marshall, who starred in the Amazon Video documentary, also agrees with Tim and says he has seen 'plenty of credible evidence' they exist. He said: "Reports of big cat sightings have been fairly consistent in Britain now for several decades. Even though the *Lynx* is the least reported of the British big cats, I have seen plenty of credible evidence for them, and have even found suspected *Lynx* tracks myself".

Carl found suspected *Lynx* tracks while he was looking for wild boar in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, in late 2019.

He said: "Healthy dog tracks are usually symmetrical. If this track was canine in origin, then two straight sticks should sit neatly between the first and second toes, and the third and fourth toes, and cross diagonally, without touching either edge of the rear plantar pad, nor any of the adjacent toes". If I had some plaster with me I would have taken casts. "I wish I had some with me at the time."

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: WILD CATS (93%); ANIMALS (90%); CATS (90%); DEATH & DYING (78%); MAMMALS (78%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (72%); INTERNET SOCIAL NETWORKING (69%); DOCUMENTARY FILMS (50%)

Company: NETFLIX INC (58%); META PLATFORMS INC (51%)

Ticker: NFLX (NASDAQ) (58%); META (NASDAQ) (51%)

Industry: NAICS532282 VIDEO TAPE & DISC RENTAL (58%); SIC7841 VIDEO TAPE RENTAL (58%); NAICS516210 MEDIA STREAMING DIST SVCS, SOCIAL NETWORKS, AND OTHER MEDIA NETWORKS AND CONTENT PROVIDERS (51%); SIC7374 COMPUTER PROCESSING & DATA PREPARATION & PROCESSING SERVICES (51%); MOVIE FILMING (89%); PUBLISHING (73%); INTERNET SOCIAL NETWORKING (69%); DOCUMENTARY FILMS (50%)

Geographic: WOLVERHAMPTON, ENGLAND (79%); ENGLAND (90%); UNITED KINGDOM (90%); SCOTLAND (79%)

Do big cats exist in the UK? Netflix Tiger King expert has captured the evidence on video and says yes

Load-Date: January 7, 2024

End of Document

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Ellon Times

January 7, 2024

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ELLON TIMES

Section: READ THIS

Length: 611 words

Highlight: A star of Netflix's hit show Tiger King says new evidence of a big cat is 'definite' proof of their existence in the UK.

Body

Kelci 'Saff' Saffery, who starred alongside Joe Exotic and Carole Baskin in 'Tiger King: Murder, Mayhem & Madness' believes Eurasian Lynx are living in England. This comes after Lewis Dailly believes he spotted the animal in the countryside in Coniston, Cumbria over the recent New Years period.

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Company: NETFLIX INC (58%); META PLATFORMS INC (51%)

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Geographic: WOLVERHAMPTON, ENGLAND (79%); ENGLAND (90%); UNITED KINGDOM (90%); SCOTLAND (79%)

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Load-Date: January 7, 2024

End of Document

sports review of the year 2023; part one

Paisley Daily Express

January 6, 2024 Saturday

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: SPORT; Pg. 22,23

Length: 1292 words

Body

It was the year that saw a top-six finish for St Mirren and a new contract extension for boss Stephen Robinson. 2023 also witnessed para table tennis star Martin Perry strike gold in Greece.

And Bishopton Rugby Club were celebrating promotion. Here, Carla Talbot takes us on a trip down memory lane.

JANUARY • St Mirren playmaker Greg Kiltie was delighted to unwrap a shiny new contract just after Christmas Day.

But the determined midfielder made picking up even more starts his New Year's resolution.

The 25-year-old made his 48th appearance for the Paisley side when he came on as a sub against Livingston on Wednesday, December 28.

• Jamie McKim was left feeling gutted for his players after they missed out on the chance to claim a massive WoSFL Cup scalp because of a "nightmare" offside call.

Johnstone Burgh arrived at Beechwood Park as massive underdogs for their second-round clash with top-flight side Auchinleck Talbot but more than held their own throughout the hard-fought tie.

After missing chances of their own, the Renfrewshire side were ultimately beaten by Mark Shankland's first-half close-range finish.

McKinnon to express Sport: "It was a tough loss to take. I thought we put in

a dominant performance, while lacking a bit of cutting edge up front to put the ball in the back of the net.

• Jim Goodwin was

described as a 'good man' who 'gave everything' after being sacked by Aberdeen less than a year after leaving St Mirren to take over the Pittodrie club.

A shock **Scottish** Cup defeat to Darvel followed by a crushing 6-0 loss to Hibs at Easter Road, sealed his fate after just 11 months.

FEBRUARY • St Mirren legend Jimmy Bone believed a sprinkling of **Scottish** Cup magic and a hatful of self-belief could help Buddies conjure up a memorable upset against Celtic.

sports review of the year 2023 part one

The Saints Hall of Famer was former boss Alex Smith's second in command when the Paisley club upset the odds in 1987 to beat Jim McLean's much-fancied Dundee United to lift the famous trophy.

The Buddies needed a similarly huge performance to have any chance of progressing past red-hot favourites Celtic in Glasgow.

St Mirren put up a brave fight but ended up on the receiving end of a bruising **Scottish** Cup 5-1 defeat after Richard Taylor picked up a costly red card.

- Paisley Pirates were agonisingly close to sealing a morale-boosting doublewin weekend before

Aberdeen **Lynx** bit back in overtime After coasting to a 3-1 home win against North Ayrshire Wild, the Renfrewshire side were looking to take down league leaders Aberdeen.

But after a 2-2 stalemate it was Aberdeen who pinched the extra point, with Ben Edmonds their goal hero.

MARCH • Delighted St Mirren Women coach Kate Cooper believes the Paisley club's historic new sponsorship deal with Kibble will help secure their long-term future. And she is confident the funding will see the Buddies continue to grow on and offthe pitch.

The Paisley Daily Express exclusively revealed that Paisley charity Kibble are backing the in-form SWF League One team in the form of a record-breaking three-year sponsorship deal. It will help fund the team that has grown exponentially in the last year, having enjoyed their first pre-season trip to Europe at the start of the season and played at the SMiSA Stadium in November.

- Paisley para table tennis

star Martin Perry kicked offhis season in style with a brilliant bronze medal display in Italy.

The 28-year-old was competing in the Lignano

Masters Para Open, the first event of the Paralympic qualification cycle as players look to smash their way into the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris. Perry, who picked up an incredible bronze medal at the World Championships in Spain last year, believes his game is in good shape going forward

despite just missing out on a final spot.

- APRIL • Bishopton Rugby Club schooled Shawlands with

a massive victory to ensure their promotion hopes go down to the wire.

The Holmpark side knew they needed a big win to have a chance of still catching Lomond and Helensburgh in second spot in the West League Division Three table.

- Two former Buddies aptly combined to make St Mirren's top-six dream come true.

T h e S a i n t s h o s t e d Kilmarnock knowing a point would be enough to guarantee a first top-half finish since 1985.

But after a surprisingly flat display in front of a record 7,937 sell-out crowd, first- half goals from Killie duo Liam Donnelly and Christian Doidge had the Paisley side relying on results elsewhere.

sports review of the year 2023 part one

And ironically it was Jim Goodwin's Dundee United that saw Stephen Robinson's men creep over the line, with ex-Saints fan favourite Jamie McGrath setting the Terrors on their way to a decisive 2-0 win.

MAY • Paisley para table tennis star Martin Perry plundered a gold medal in Greece.

Competing at the Greek Para Open in Argostoli, Perry linked up with Aaron McKibbin to compete in the men's class 14 doubles.

Pleased Perry said: "This partnership has a lot of potential for the future.

"It wasn't the strongest of events, but we kept it very professional and got over the finish line."

- Brilliant Bishopton held their nerve to smash L ochabe r and s e a l promotion on the final day of the season.

The Renfrewshire side went into the pivotal clash knowing a victory would lift them above Waysiders/ Drumpellier and clinch the final promotion spot in the West League Division 3 table.

Leading 34-12 at halftime,

the hosts continued to score heavily in the second half to secure the bonuspoint win they needed to clinch promotion to West League Division 2.

- St Mirren's European dream came to a painful end at Pittodrie after a damaging defeat at the hands of Aberdeen.

The Buddies travelled to Pittodrie knowing a win could have potentially seen them leapfrog Hibs into fourth spot.

But a poor first half saw

the Buddies trailing by two at half-time, Leighton Clarkson's free-kick breaking the deadlock before Graeme Shinnie nodded the hosts further in front.

The goals sandwiched a reckless red card for Saints defender Thierry Small, his second dismissal in four appearances, for a terrible tackle on Bojan Miovski that saw the Dons defender leave on a stretcher.

Shinnie put the result to

bed early in the second half with his second goal - ending

Buddies Euro dream.

JUNE • St Mirren director Gordon Scott told how he is "immensely proud" of his time at the club as he reflected on the rollercoaster seven years in his role.

T h e f o r m e r S a i n t s c h a i r m a n - who has served on the board twice - announced that he would be stepping down at the SMiSA Stadium.

In an interview with St Mirren TV, Scott said his shock exit was all down to

timing, having felt that he had done all he can at the Paisley club.

Club chairman John Needham hailed former club owner Scott - who paid around £700,000 for a controlling 51 per cent share of the club in 2016 - for his involvement in some of the biggest successes for Saints over the years.

- At age 11, Ellie Gray already has her sights set on her dream of competing at the Olympics.

And the talent ed

sports review of the year 2023 part one

schoolgirl was one step closer to making that a reality after being accepted into one of the most prestigious sports schools in the country.

Ellie, who has been training as a gymnast since age five, was given the news she had earned a place at the Glasgow School of Sport which has helped develop and nurture some of **Scotland**'s top young athletes.

E a ch yea r, o n ly f ou r candidates in each sport

from all over the country are chosen to join the school.

- S t e p h e n R o b i n s o n insisted there was no doubt he would sign a new deal with St Mirren.

The Buddies boss and assistant Diarmuid O'Carroll put pen to paper on threeyear contract extensions which keep them at the SMiSA Stadium until 2026.

"I'm delighted and grateful to the board and the fans for their support," he said.

Graphic

Top six-hitters Buddies celebrate with fans after clinching milestoneIn the money St Mirren Women's team boss Kate Cooper revealed sponsorship deal with KibblePirate tears Ice hockey stars fell to Aberdeen in overtime. Pic: Al Goold

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: PDE

Subject: CELEBRITIES (89%); **SCOTTISH** FOOTBALL (89%); SOCCER TOURNAMENTS (89%); TABLE TENNIS (89%); CHRISTMAS (77%)

Industry: CELEBRITIES (89%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, **SCOTLAND** (68%); GLASGOW, **SCOTLAND** (59%); **SCOTLAND** (94%); National Edition

Load-Date: January 6, 2024

Centuries-old Scots pine saved as part of wider Highlands rewilding project

Centuries-old Scots pine saved as part of wider Highlands rewilding project

The Herald (Glasgow)

December 12, 2023 Tuesday

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The Herald

Section: Pg. 11

Length: 454 words

Byline: By Paul Cargill, PA **Scotland**

Body

A REMOTE ancient woodland containing **Scotland**'s oldest wild Scots pine has been saved by a rewilding charity from being lost forever.

Trees for Life stepped in to save dozens of pines throughout Glen Loyne in the northwest Highlands after they were identified to be at risk from overgrazing by excessive numbers of deer.

The charity has erected deer-proof fencing around the perimeter of the woodland, with permission from the landowner to protect the trees and allow young seedlings to grow without being eaten.

The oldest pine in the grouping of some 57 pines, all of which are believed to be several centuries old, has been dated as being 565 years old by St Andrews Tree-Ring Laboratory.

Trees for Life surveyed the site as part of its four-year Caledonian Pinewood Recovery Project, one of the most comprehensive surveys of the health of **Scotland**'s pinewoods.

The team found that some of the oldest pines were outside an area of fencing which had been erected in the 1990s to protect them from grazing pressure, and that deer had also breached the perimeter.

The charity has since put up 1.5 kilometres of new fencing and renewed existing sections with heavy-duty materials brought to the remote glen by helicopter. It is hoped the pinewood will now be able to regenerate naturally for the first time in decades.

James Rainey, senior ecologist at Trees for Life, said: "Glen Loyne's wild pines and other Caledonian pinewoods are globally unique, and a special part of **Scotland**'s character and culture."

"Saving and restoring them offers a major opportunity for tackling the nature and climate crises. Fencing is only a temporary fix, but for now it's a vital way of giving these precious pinewoods a fighting chance of recovery until effective landscape-scale deer management can be properly established."

Historically part of the royal hunting grounds of Cluanie, the Glen Loyne woodlands would once have been home to capercaillie, wildcat and **Lynx**.

Centuries-old Scots pine saved as part of wider Highlands rewilding project

Ordnance Survey maps from 1874 show a more extensive woodland in the glen, but by the 1990s there were only 85 ancient pines left - a number that has since been reduced further to just 57.

The nature recovery project has been funded by the family of Harry Steven, who with Jock Carlisle wrote *The Native Pinewoods of Scotland*, published in 1959.

The book recognised the special status of the pinewoods and documented 35 wild pine populations that had survived centuries of deforestation.

In the 1990s, the work of Steven and Carlisle led to the then Forestry Commission *Scotland* compiling *Scotland's* official Caledonian Pinewood Inventory, which today recognises 84 sites. Glen Loyne, on East Glen Quoich estate, lies within Affric Highlands - the UK's largest rewilding landscape.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: HER

Subject: CHARITIES (89%); FORESTRY & ENVIRONMENT (89%); DEFORESTATION (79%); ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (79%); WILD CATS (79%); FOREST RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (78%); PRIVATE LANDS (78%); NEGATIVE NEWS (77%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (74%); ENVIRONMENT (%)

Industry: FORESTRY & ENVIRONMENT (89%); DEFORESTATION (79%); FOREST RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (78%); FORESTRY & LOGGING (78%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, *SCOTLAND* (73%); *SCOTLAND* (91%); UNITED KINGDOM (58%)

Load-Date: December 12, 2023

End of Document

Scotland-s oldest wild Scots pine saved from being 'lost forever'

Scotland-s oldest wild Scots pine saved from being 'lost forever'

The Herald

December 12, 2023 Tuesday

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Length: 515 words

Byline: Jody Harrison

Body

A remote ancient woodland containing **Scotland**-s oldest wild Scots pine has been saved by a rewilding charity from being lost forever.

Trees for Life stepped in to save dozens of pines throughout Glen Loyne in the northwest Highlands after they were identified to be at risk from overgrazing by excessive numbers of deer.

The charity has erected deer-proof fencing around the perimeter of the woodland with permission from the landowner to protect the trees from harm and allow young seedlings to grow without being eaten.

READ MORE: Assynt community fights Dutch elm disease by planting 'hope'

The oldest pine in the grouping of some 57 pines, all of which are believed to be several centuries old, has been dated as being 565 years old by St Andrews Tree-Ring Laboratory.

Trees for Life surveyed the site as part of its four-year Caledonian Pinewood Recovery Project, one of the most comprehensive surveys of the health of **Scotland**-s pinewoods.

The tree was at risk from deer

The team found that some of the oldest pines were outside an area of fencing which had been erected in the 1990s to protect them from grazing pressure, and that deer had also breached the perimeter.

The charity has since put up 1.5 kilometres of new fencing and renewed existing sections with heavy-duty materials brought to the remote glen by helicopter.

It is hoped the pinewood will now be able to regenerate naturally for the first time in decades.

James Rainey, senior ecologist at Trees for Life, said: -Glen Loyne-s wild pines and other Caledonian pinewoods are globally unique, and a special part of **Scotland**-s character and culture.

-Saving and restoring them offers a major opportunity for tackling the nature and climate crises.

Scotland's oldest wild Scots pine saved from being 'lost forever'

-Fencing is only a temporary fix, but for now it's a vital way of giving these precious pinewoods a fighting chance of recovery until effective landscape-scale deer management can be properly established.-

READ MORE: Can **Scotland** retain its lead in woodland creation?

Historically part of the royal hunting grounds of Cluanie, the Glen Loyne woodlands would once have been home to capercaillie, wildcat and **Lynx**.

Ordnance Survey maps from 1874 show a more extensive woodland in the glen, but by the 1990s there were only 85 ancient pines left - a number that has since been reduced further to just 57.

The nature recovery project has been funded by the family of Harry Steven, who with Jock Carlisle wrote The Native Pinewoods of **Scotland**, published in 1959.

The book recognised the special status of the pinewoods and documented 35 wild pine populations that had survived centuries of deforestation.

In the 1990s, the work of Steven and Carlisle led to the then Forestry Commission **Scotland** compiling **Scotland**'s official Caledonian Pinewood Inventory, which today recognises 84 sites.

Glen Loyne, on East Glen Quoich estate, lies within Affric Highlands - the UK's largest rewilding landscape.

Led by Trees for Life and Rewilding Europe, the 30-year community-focused initiative will restore woodland, peatland and riverside habitats over half a million acres from Loch Ness to the west coast.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: CHARITIES (89%); FORESTRY & ENVIRONMENT (86%); FOREST RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (78%); PRIVATE LANDS (78%); WILD CATS (78%); NEGATIVE NEWS (77%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (76%); DEFORESTATION (75%); ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (75%)

Industry: FORESTRY & ENVIRONMENT (86%); FOREST RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (78%); FORESTRY & LOGGING (78%); DEFORESTATION (75%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%)

Geographic: **SCOTLAND** (93%)

Load-Date: December 12, 2023

Centuries-old Scots pine saved as part of Highlands rewilding project

Centuries-old Scots pine saved as part of Highlands rewilding project

Scotsman

December 12, 2023 Tuesday

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Section: ENVIRONMENTENVIRONMENT

Length: 466 words

Highlight: A remote ancient woodland containing Scotland's oldest wild Scots pine has been saved by a rewilding charity from being lost forever.

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Graphic

A remote ancient woodland has been saved by a rewilding charity from being lost forever. Photo: Trees for Life/PA Wire

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: CHARITIES (89%); FORESTRY & ENVIRONMENT (87%); CONSERVATION (79%); FOREST RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (79%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS CONSERVATION (79%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (79%); NEGATIVE NEWS (78%); PRIVATE LANDS (78%); WILD CATS (78%); WETLANDS (77%); ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (75%); WETLANDS CONSERVATION (72%); DEFORESTATION (69%); LAND RECLAMATION (69%)

Industry: FORESTRY & ENVIRONMENT (87%); FOREST RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (79%); FORESTRY & LOGGING (79%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS CONSERVATION (79%); PUBLISHING (78%); DEFORESTATION (69%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (91%)

Load-Date: December 12, 2023

11 great spots to get your skates on and try some winter sports

11 great spots to get your skates on and try some winter sports

Aberdeen Press and Journal

December 2, 2023 Saturday

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Section: WKD; Pg. 36

Length: 846 words

Byline: Jenna Scott

Body

Glencoe Mountain Resort

The Glencoe Mountain Resort presents visitors with some of the most stunning scenery in the whole of the country, such as the Munro peak Buachaille Etive Mor.

There are plenty activities on offer throughout the seasons with mountain biking and hill walking available throughout the summer and skiing, snowboarding and sledging throughout the winter.

Snowsports lesson are also provided for novices looking to unleash their adventurous side - prices range from £25-£640. To inquire, contact 07917 638353, or instruction@glencoemountain.co.uk

Season passes are now available online.

Glenshee Ski Centre

Glenshee Ski Centre is the largest alpine snowsports area in the UK.

It's a great venue for experienced and amateur sport enthusiasts who are keen to hone in on their skills and abilities. Visitors can take part in skiing, snowboarding or sledging - lessons are offered for any beginners.

There are also plenty of facilities including a shop with all basic essentials and a cafe to keep you fuelled and cosy.

Ski passes can be booked online.

Adventure Aberdeen Snowsports

Aberdeen's only dry ski slope lives out in Garthdee and offers a selection of activities for visitors of all ages and abilities.

Outdoor sports are at the heart of the venue. As well as managing grass and artificial turf football pitches, there are a number of lessons, public sessions and coaching in skiing and snowboarding offered to everyone.

And a Get Active membership allows you to benefit from each and every session of your choosing at the price of £46 per month.

Inquiries can be made via: snowsports@sportaberdeen.co.uk, or 01224 810215.

11 great spots to get your skates on and try some winter sports

Nevis Range

Nevis Range, near Fort William, is actually **Scotland**'s highest snowsports centre.

The venue offers traditional winter sports like skiing, snowboarding, and various lessons in each activity. Visitors, whether returning or new, are welcome to hire out equipment for the duration of their trip.

A range of slopes and runs are available to choose from for both beginners and more experienced guests; and a cafe and restaurant are on-site to close out a hard day's work.

To make a booking inquiry, visit the Nevis Range website.

Inverness Ice Centre

Inverness Ice Centre is easily accessible from the town centre.

It offers a fantastic venue for a range of sports, including ice skating, ice hockey and curling, all year round in its five-rink ice arena.

Visitors can enjoy competitive sports and watch the local hockey teams go head-to-head on the ice, or take part in ice skating lessons and public sessions.

Inquiries can be made via the Inverness Ice Centre website.

The Lecht

This alpine ski centre takes its visitors around the mountains of the eastern Cairngorms, Beinn a' Chruinnich and Meikle Corr Riabhach.

Though **Scotland**'s smallest ski centre, the venue has lots to enjoy for skiers and snowboarders of all levels and abilities.

Routes are marked using a colour scheme with green being easy and black being very difficult.

The Lecht also offers a snowboarding school for anyone keen to pick up some tips and tricks from qualified instructors.

For more information, visit The Lecht website.

Moray Leisure Centre

The Moray Leisure Centre has been commended for its "excellent" ice rink facilities.

Visitors of all ages, abilities and skillsets are welcome to join in with a session or two in curling, ice hockey and figure skating.

The multi-purpose fitness centre also offers swimming, a gym and various classes in yoga and aquacise, ensuring that there is something to keep everyone entertained.

Cairngorm Mountain

Admire the magnificent scenery in the heart of the Cairngorms National Park.

The centre has been branded as **Scotland**'s "ultimate winter playground" for families, thrill-seekers, and beginners.

There is more than 30km of pisted runs available with freestyle terrain and equipment for hire also offered. It is certainly not one to be missed, so why not plan a visit with the family?

11 great spots to get your skates on and try some winter sports

To make an inquiry, visit the Cairngorm Mountain website.

Linx Ice Arena

Visit the home of the Aberdeen [Lynx](#) for a game of your own over the winter season.

The Linx Ice Arena has plenty on offer from public and private skating lessons to parent and toddler workshops.

For more information, including public sessions times and prices, visit the ice skating activity page.

And a Get Active membership lets you make the most of the sessions.

Loch Insh Watersport and Activity Centre

Choose from skating, skiing and snowboarding at this multi-purpose facility in the Highlands.

The venue has a great selection of activities, whether that's a private hire or public session, to take part in with workshops priced as low as £10.

To make an inquiry, visit the Loch Insh website.

Huntly Nordic and Outdoor Centre

Take a shot at cross-country skiing at the Huntly Nordic and Outdoor Centre.

The venue caters to people from beginner level to experienced skiers. Equipment is available to hire to ensure you are prepared and lessons, including family workshops, are offered to all visitors.

To make an inquiry, contact huntlynordic.skicentre@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or 01466 794428.

Classification

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Journal Code: Pr

Subject: SKIING (99%); SKIING FACILITIES (99%); MOUNTAINS (92%); BOARDSPORTS (90%); SLED SPORTS (90%); SNOWBOARDING (90%); SPORTS & RECREATION (90%); WINTER SPORTS (90%); ICE SKATING (89%); AMATEUR SPORTS (77%); CURLING (77%); EXTREME SPORTS (77%); ICE HOCKEY (77%); SPORTS & RECREATION FACILITIES & VENUES (77%); SPORTS INSTRUCTION (77%); STADIUMS & ARENAS (77%); MOUNTAIN BIKING (73%); SPORTS FANS (72%); WALKING & JOGGING (72%); CYCLING (57%)

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Geographic: ABERDEEN, [SCOTLAND](#) (92%); [SCOTLAND](#) (92%); UNITED KINGDOM (73%); 7 North East

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11 great spots to get your skates on and try some winter sports

End of Document

Highlighting LSPB Spring Bean and Pea Variety Performance

The Scottish Farmer

December 2023

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Length: 295 words

Byline: John Sleigh

Body

New PGRO 2024 Descriptive Lists (DL) highlight the performance of LSPB spring bean and combining pea varieties. Six LSPB varieties lead the DL for spring beans, providing pulse growers with diverse options suitable for various farm conditions and rotations.

Genius tops the DL with the highest seed yield, offering large-sized beans, excellent agronomic traits, and resistance to Downy mildew. *Lynx*, another high-yielding variety, ensures reliability in changing seasons. Notably, LSPB introduces LVC varieties (low vicine/convicine) Futura and Victus on the DL, with yields close to leading traditional varieties, indicating a potential future for LVC in the UK spring bean market.

While yield is crucial, agronomic traits and quality also play a significant role. Yukon, despite its lower yield on the DL, compensates with the highest downy mildew resistance rating, earliest maturity, and a bold sample, making it an early option in practical farm situations. The 2024 DL for combining peas sees LSPB's presence, with Concerto leading the Yellow Pea DL. Orchestra is another high-yielding LSPB Yellow pea on the DL.

The Green Pea DL is led by Carrington, the highest yielding variety with good Downy mildew resistance and standing power, alongside three other high-yielding LSPB Green peas - Butterfly, Stroma, and Bluetime. In the Marrowfat section, Takayama and Akooma, both high-yielding varieties, exhibit resistance to Downy mildew and good standing ability at harvest.

In conclusion, LSPB's pulse varieties prominently feature in the PGRO 2024 Descriptive Lists, showcasing the continuous improvement of pulses in yield, agronomic traits, and marketability. This underscores LSPB's dedication to advancing the UK pulse crop for the benefit of growers and end-users.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Highlighting LSPB Spring Bean and Pea Variety Performance

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Where the wild things are. Ten of Scotland's most pioneering rewilding estates

Where the wild things are. Ten of Scotland's most pioneering rewilding estates

The Herald

November 20, 2023 Monday

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Length: 3179 words

Byline: Vicky Allan

Body

Scotland-s landscape is changing. Whether we call it rewilding, restoration, or regeneration, a range of experiments are happening that putting a new relationship with nature at their heart. There has even been talk in recent years, inspired by the **Scottish** Rewilding Alliance, of **Scotland** becoming the world's first 'rewilding nation'.

There is no one model for this; in terms of method or funding. Some are about planting trees; others letting them regenerate. Some talk of -natural capital-, others of a -nature-led- approach; some of carbon credits, others of apex predators; some of ecosystem markets, others of community benefits.

Some are rich landowners like Anders Povlsen, others community members working for trusts. Some see it as a business model, others a relationship with wildlife. Some talk of reintroducing. Some talk of repeopling.

All of them revel in returning wildlife - whether nesting golden eagles or a patch of expanding Caledonian pinewood.

But the ways in which they are changing our relationship to **Scotland**-s landscape and the life within it are complex, as are the ways they impact on the land ownership debate.

Here are ten estates that have begun to carve a trail, altering our sense of what **Scotland**-s wild really is. The focus here is chiefly around individual estates, though there are other wider projects, like Cairngorms Connect or Affric Highlands, which connect areas and bring together different organisations and landowners.

Scotland has a -right to roam- and you can visit them all, responsibly, if you like - enjoy a little eco-tourism or even volunteer, at some sites, to get your hands dirty.

DUNDREGAN

Ownership Trees for Life, charity

Size 4000 ha

Trees planted 2 million (across Trees for Life-s multiple sites)

Where the wild things are. Ten of Scotland's most pioneering rewilding estates

Peatland restoration At least 17 ha

Story: When, earlier this year Trees for Life opened the UK-s first rewilding centre and invited the public to witness and learn about the rewilding process, and even -rewild- themselves, it was following its characteristically trailblazing pattern. The conservation charity was founded by ecologist Alan Watson-Featherstone in 1986 with the aim of restoring the Caledonian forest in the Highlands.

The Dundreggan Estate, west of Loch Ness which it bought in 2008 in a 1.65 million deal, is just one of many sites it is restoring. Bold in its vision, Trees for Life thinks on a 200-year scale and has said that by 2058 it wants woodland to cover around 60% of Dundreggan. Not only can 4000 species be found on site, but also a tree nursery, which grows around 80,000 trees a year from seeds.

Trainees working at Dundreggan tree nursery

Eco-tourism Visit the centre, take a guided walk, and if that-s not enough, you can volunteer on a tree-planting weeks or enrol in one of their traineeships in rewilding.

Guess who-s back? In 2020 pair of golden eagles bred at the estate for the first time in 40 years, helped by a specially-constructed nest.

Funding Trees for Life has embraced everything from public and private funders to the sale of carbon units, validated by the UK Woodland Code. A percentage of the funds it raises through carbon credits supports local groups. Bonds have been created with green bank Triodos. Plus, supporters can also pay to plant a tree, at 11.99 for the certificate, plus 6 for each tree. Carbon maths? Trees for Life-s accredited carbon offset site at Dundreggan has, it says, the capacity to offset 50,000 tonnes of CO2 - but all those trees planted over the years add up to so much more.

READ MORE: [Dundreggan: Rewilding centre near Loch Ness opens doors](#)

CARRIFRAN WILDWOOD

Ownership Borders Forest Trust, charity

Size 650 ha

Trees planted 750,000

Peatland restoration Yes

The Survivor Rowan at Carrifran Wildwood was named [Scottish](#) Tree of the Year in 2020

Story: A small grassroots group of forty locals began the pioneering Wildwood Project back in the mid-1990s with a vision - they were going to restore the ecology of an area of the Southern Uplands to the state it would have been before people started practicing settled agriculture, around 6000 years ago. Over two decades of ecological restoration have already taken place at this glen in the Moffat hills.

Over that period these pioneering volunteers organised purchase of the Carrifran valley. Funds were raised from public subscription; help gained from the John Muir Trust. The first trees were planted on Millennium Day, January 1, 2000.

But Philp and Myrtle Ashmole, key founders of the project, say they don-t call it rewilding. -That word can evoke simplistic visions of wolves and bears: we prefer to call it ecological restoration. Our aim is to rebuild natural ecosystems from the bottom up.-

Eco-tourism Spot the Survivor Rowan, which was one of the few remaining trees in the glen before restoration began, and was voted [Scotland](#)-s Tree of the Tear in 2020.

Where the wild things are. Ten of Scotland's most pioneering rewilding estates

Funding Its website notes it receives -donations from the public through a Stewardship Scheme and on grant aid from organisations such as Scottish Forestry, NatureScot and grant-making trusts-. Funding for peatland restoration has come through Peatland Action and they have also accessed financing via the Woodland and Peatland Codes.

Guess who-s back? Bird species such as willow warblers, chaffinches, blackcap, long-tailed tit, siskin, lesser redpoll and tree pipit.

Carbon maths BFT has said that Forest Carbon estimated -these nascent woodlands will go on to sequester more than 80,000 tonnes of carbon during their growing lifetimes-.

READ MORE: Rewilding Scotland. Not just green lairds and capitalists

READ MORE: New rewilding concept at heart of groundbreaking 20m Scottish deal

GLENFESHIE

Ownership Anne and Anders Povlsen/Wildland Ltd

Size 18,000 ha

Trees planted 5 million across all Wildland-s Cairngorms holdings since 2014

Peatland restoration Yes

Glenfeshie. Image: Peter Mulligan/Getty

Story: Scotland-s richest man, Anders Holch Povlsen, owner of Bestseller, a global fashion retailer inherited from his parents, bought Glenfeshie in 2006 when it was still a depleted pinewood overrun by deer.

But even before the Danish billionaire took ownership, the estate-s rewilding journey had begun - or the real visionary behind the project is Wildland-s manager, Thomas MacDonnell, who had as a young man worked putting up deer fencing and observed that there was something seriously not working.

In 2004, when the Deer Commission came to cull the high numbers, MacDonnell accepted it as necessary and went on to cull the next year. Deer numbers are now reduced to around two per square kilometre.

As well as trees planted, Wildland-s rewilding has involved -many millions of natural seedlings- that have regenerated. Its timescale, it says, is a -200-year vision-

Eco-tourism Not just the wealth of wildlife, but also the luxury accommodation available to rent across the estate, including Glenfeshie Lodge itself, which one travel website notes can be rented for 12 guests for three nights, fully catered, at 17,000. Wildland offers stalking, fishing, 4x4 tours and pony picnics.

Carbon maths Rewilding projects registered at the UK Woodland Carbon Code for Glenfeshie and other Wildland sites in the Cairngorms estimate a total of over 1,200,000 tonnes of CO2 sequestered over their lifetimes.

Mar Lodge Estate

Ownership National Trust for Scotland

Size 31,000 ha

Trees planted Some planting, though most new trees have arisen through regeneration

Peatland restoration 500ha as part of Geldie scheme

Andrew Painting, ecologist and author of Regeneration at Mar Lodge. Image: Gordon Terris/Herald

Where the wild things are. Ten of Scotland's most pioneering rewilding estates

Story In 1995, the land, which had been run as a sporting estate, was taken over by the National Trust and a 200-year plan was developed with three pillars of management -environmental conservation sport and access for everyone-.

What it started to do was something quite extraordinary, and controversial. The largest national nature reserve in the country, not so very many miles from royal Balmoral, began to operate what it called a zero tolerance campaign. It began to shoot not just a few of its deer, but a lot. At first, it seemed like nothing was happening. But then after ten years signs became clear of the woodland returning. Since 1995 deer numbers have been reduced from 3500 to 1650.

Regeneration is their priority. In 2021 the estate recorded 2000ha of naturally regenerating and expanding woodland below 600m - and this, says ecologist Andrew Painting, will have expanded since. -Generally speaking we prefer natural regeneration over tree planting, but this isn't possible everywhere and we've taken a pragmatic approach to our new woodland restoration scheme in the Geldie.-

The Geldie Woodland Project has involved the planting of 102,000 trees of native species in fenced enclosures over 120 hectares.

Eco-tourism One of the most popular visitor destinations in the Mar Lodge Estate is the Linn o' Dee, a favourite picnic spot for Queen Victoria, who used to come here from Balmoral Castle. Part of the estate is still managed for sport.

Guess who's back? Hen harrier (2016) and white-tailed eagle (2022) have returned to breed for the first time in living memory. In the case of white-tailed eagle, this was probably the first time on the estate for around 200 years.

Carbon maths 7,000 tCO₂ a year, sequestered by Mar Lodge woodlands

READ MORE: Rewild **Scotland**: "Beavers in all rivers. **Lynx** and wolf back.-

ALLADALE WILDERNESS RESERVE

Ownership Paul Lister (describes himself as the current -custodian-)

Size 23,000 acres

Trees planted Over 1 million

Alladale Wilderness Reserve

Story: Paul Lister, philanthropist and heir to the MFI fortune, is probably most famous as -The Wolf Man- who has previously said he wants to establish a large-scale wolf reserve in the Highlands. Inspired by Yellowstone National Park, where the introduction of wolves in 1995 has led to a -trophic cascade-, enriching biodiversity, Lister sees wolves as the missing apex predator that would bring down otherwise out-of-control deer numbers; albeit within a trial Reserve.

A Caledonian pinewood at the reserve is the second most northerly fragment of this critically rare habitat. Previously in poor condition, work was done to fence it off, and a million native trees were also planted.

According to Nature Scot, the wood had two decades ago "been only a few old pines" but is "once again thriving and the forest area has expanded massively" with, in addition to Scots Pine, birch, rowan, willow, alder, aspen and juniper all increasing in area and abundance.-

Eco-tourism Nature walks, salmon leap, forest bathing, wild swimming, photography, wildlife hide, mountain biking, foraging, clay bird shooting, pickleball court, gym and a newly built Wellness and Education Centre, for yoga, meditation and community outreach. It's also possible to stay in Alladale Lodge itself or one of the Ghillie's Rest and Eagle's Crag.

Where the wild things are. Ten of Scotland's most pioneering rewilding estates

Restoration at the SSSI/SPA on Alladale wilderness estate. Image: Norman Strachan

Guess who-s back? Red squirrels were successfully introduced a decade ago and there is a wildcat breeding facility in partnership with Royal Zoological Society of Scotland.

Carbon maths Registered for carbon offset at the UK Woodland Carbon Code, Alladale Phase II, a project of 65-year duration, is predicted to sequester 52542 tCO2 over its lifetime.

CORROUR

Ownership Lisbet Rausing

Size 23,000 ha

Corrour station. Image: Julie Howden/The Herald

The Story: On the edge of Rannoch Moor, Corrour, an estate whose most famous popular culture reference is the role of its deserted station in the film version of Trainspotting, was bought by Lisbet Rausing of the Tetrapak dynasty in 1995.

Since then, the owners have adopted an approach inspired by rewilding pioneer Dick Balharry, who helped draw up the management plan. According to Ms Rausing it focused on -whole habitats and allowing natural processes to take place, and on being guided by habitat response-.

Deer numbers were reduced to under five per square kilometre to allow the young trees a chance to survive. Sheep were removed, but beef cattle, says one blog, still roam in summers, "echoing transhumance-. Rausing, along with Povlsen, has backed a 50,000 study to access public opinion about return of the Lynx.

Carbon maths Their woodland creation projects are predicted, according to documents lodged in the Woodland Carbon Code register, to sequester 30,000 tCO2 over a lifetime of 100 years.

KINRARA ESTATE

Ownership BrewDog/Lost Forest

Size 3700 ha

Kinrara Estate. Image Galbraith

The Story Scotland-s punk brewers, triggered by their desire to find a way to offset the company-s emissions and the conclusion that the best thing would be to do it themselves, bought the Kinrara estate, west of Aviemore for 8,8 million in 2020.

Critics have dubbed them green lairds, lambasting, for instance, their exaggerated claim that the project could capture up to 550,000 tonnes of CO2 a years - the correct figure was up to 1 million tonnes over 100 years.

Others have questioned the 1 million in Scottish Forestry grants for planting and fencing. Some have said their approach focuses too much on planting trees and fencing out deer and not enough on nurturing regeneration. But, it seems the punk rewilders can't win, for when it was mooted that they might cull deer to enable regeneration, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) accused them of having "lost the plot".

All this in spite of the fact that they have renowned carbon expert and author, Mike Berners-Lee, as advisor.

So far BrewDog have planted 500,000 trees. Around 100 hectares are, according to a plan submitted by Scottish Woodlands, being put aside for regeneration.

Where the wild things are. Ten of Scotland's most pioneering rewilding estates

Eco-tourism In an interview CEO James Watt enthused about the possibilities of a campsite, sustainable water sports in the lake, and plans to build a wind farm to be running by 2028.

Carbon maths Watt has described the project as the -single largest native woodland establishment and peatland restoration project ever in the UK, capable of pulling one million tonnes of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere-.

TARRAS VALLEY NATURE RESERVE

Ownership Langholm Initiative, community development trust

Size 4200 ha

Peatland restoration Yes

Volunteers at Tarras Valley Nature Reserve. Image: Langholm Initiative

Story When, last year, the Langholm Initiative succeeded in the buy-out of its second swathe of land from Buccleuch Estate, chairman John Hanrahan declared it a -moment of history and hope-. -It shows,- he said, -how communities can achieve the remarkable when people work together, even when the odds seem impossible.-

The buy-outs saw land transferred from one of **Scotland**'s largest landowners to a community development trust - and one that had formed in response to the post-industrial crisis in the area. They involved the raising of a total of 6 million and resulted in the creation of new jobs as well as a new nature reserve.

The Langholm Initiative says it is aiming for -a nature-led, low intervention approach to ecological restoration, mainly undertaking tasks which offset the intensive management practises of the past-. This includes restoring peatlands by blocking drainage ditches, felling mature spruce forestry and replacing it with native woodland, clearing invasive Sitka spruce and planting native broadleaf trees.

Eco-tourism The reserve is already a well-known site to watch birds, including -hen harriers, cuckoos, curlew, and even the occasional golden eagle! On its river walks it-s also possible to spot otters and dippers.

Funding To buy out the Langholm Initiative turned to multiple sources, from crowdfunders to donations from the charity Rewilding Britain.

BUNLOIT, BELDORNEY AND TAYVALLICH

Ownership Highlands Rewilding

Size Bunloit (513 ha), Tayvallich (1370 ha), Beldorney (349 ha)

View of Tayvallich Estate. Image: Highlands Rewilding

The Story The brainchild of former Greenpeace director and solar pioneer Jeremy Leggett, Highlands Rewilding has declared it -is pursuing a business model to scale nature recovery like no other-.

Starting with initially two estates, Bunloit (on the banks of Loch Ness) and Beldorney (in Aberdeenshire), it put out a crowdfunding call to what it described as -everyday citizen rewilders-. Since then, it has scaled further by buying the massive Tayvallich estate in Argyll.

Bunloit, on the shores of Loch Ness, is described as its -natural capital laboratory-, and initial work at the site was around conducting -baseline natural capital surveys-, and there are plans to develop a wide range of nature restoration strategies over the estates.

But there is also an emphasis on community and Highlands Rewilding says it is about -repeopling-. At Tayvallich, the company signed a first-of-a-kind Memorandum of Understanding with Tayvallich Initiative, -a community body set up to consider options for community land purchase, to benefit both the local community and nature-.

Where the wild things are. Ten of Scotland's most pioneering rewilding estates

A camera trap being set up to monitor biodiversity. Image: Highlands Rewilding

Eco-tourism Highlands Rewilding is developing self-guided walking routes around the estates to help give visitors more insight into the work they do. They also have several holiday cottages that visitors can book as a base for exploration, and guided tours of their -natural capital laboratories- available.

Guess who-s back? -Some natural regeneration of birch and rowan,- the company says, -is already happening at Beldorney, and we are seeing flowering species spreading into the fields from the edges, as a result of changing the grazing management to adapted multi paddock grazing.-

Carbon maths Highlands Rewilding has estimated that they can sequester an extra (net) 60,747 tCO₂e over 100 years on Bunloit. At Beldorney, in the company-s second natural capital report, it estimated a potential extra 85,504 tCO₂e could be sequestered across the estate over the next 100 years; a 48% increase on current modelled stocks. Analysis not yet complete for Tayvallich.

BAMFF ESTATE

Ownership Ramsay family, private

Size 520 ha

Trees planted 100 ha

The Story: Not the biggest in terms of area, but a rewilding experiment that has made one of the most sensational reintroductions. Bamff Estate, in Perthshire, is most famous for its beavers which were introduced in 2002 as a demonstration project for ***Scotland***. Paul Ramsay's transformation of the family land is sometimes compared to Isabella Tree's Knepp Estate in England, as a striking experiment in rewilding a farmed estate. A third is woodland and the beavers have created a large area of wetland and pools. However, beavers are controversial, and not all landowners and farmers in the area are fond of their return.

Bamff is part of the Northwoods rewilding network for smaller estates and landholdings.

Eco-tourism Bamff doesn-t just boast -the best beaver wetlands in the UK-, there is also a breeding herd of Exmoor Ponies due to arrive at Bamff in January 2024, and set to graze their new wild land area. It-s also possible to stay in a cottage or hut on the site and walk parts of the Cateran Trail. The estate offers guided beaver watching and guided wildland walks, plus, from time to time, volunteer activity programmes.

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Industry: NURSERY & TREE PRODUCTION (89%); ECOTOURISM (78%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS CONSERVATION (78%); GREENHOUSES, NURSERIES & FLORICULTURE PRODUCTION (78%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); CARBON OFFSETS (71%)

Where the wild things are. Ten of Scotland's most pioneering rewilding estates

Geographic: SCOTLAND (94%); UNITED KINGDOM (59%)

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End of Document

Rab McNeil: I detest families and their appalling, bawling offspring

Rab McNeil: I detest families and their appalling, bawling offspring

The Herald

November 18, 2023 Saturday

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The Herald

Length: 1087 words

Byline: Robert McNeil

Body

HERE-S another sector of society that I condemn utterly: parents. In fact, I dislike families as a whole and believe that issue, if that is the word, should be raised in socialist pods with prog rock and audio selections from Tolkien pumped into their pathetically soft heads.

Families are self-obsessed, protective and exclusive. They are the origin of all tribalism, nationalism and war. You can be telling parents an interesting and amusing anecdote and, just before you get to the punchline, they turn away and start going goo-ga to their bairn. Just because it-s fallen on its head or something.

They pay no attention to a chap at all. It-s disgraceful. That said, I-m on record as praising modern parents for treating their children respectfully and answering their inane inquires rather than, as my dad did, telling me to just shut up and eat my bridie (if it was a Sunday).

READ MORE: **Scottish** football: What's gone wrong with our glorious game? Lots

I was an enthusiastic supporter of the smacking ban but, recently in a city leisure centre-s changing rooms, revisited that approbation.

There were only four showers and, as so often, one family was monopolising them all, which they did for so long that I had to give up and go home covered in sweat and **Lynx**.

This was not before listening to their brat bawling and shouting. Repeatedly, it actually intoned: -I am cross!- And, instead of asking if it wanted a medal, they just said solicitously: -Are you cross?- And I thought: -The stupid git-s just telt you that.- On and on it went until I started to think the only cure was to boot it up the arse. But the parents just cooed: -Are you cross, Humphrey?- Eventually, I felt I had to take command of the situation.

READ MORE: God bless the late Queens of Coatbridge who sang in perfect kitsch

As well as declaring its fury, the diminutive dimwit had been bawling -No!- in that feline way you get in parts of Once Great Britain: -Neiaouw!- Every ruddy vowel in the language engaged. Pointing at it sternly, I thundered: -It-s not neiaouw. It-s no. N. O. Two letters. Wretched infant.- The child stood open-mouthed in shock and never uttered another word.

Rab McNeil: I detest families and their appalling, bawling offspring

No, only kidding. As usual, I never said anything at all. Just pulled back my leg and - remembered that oppressive legislation. Then I slouched off home to write an angry poem. -Wetness! Wetness all around! But none for me.- Pithy, but needs work, I think.

Many unhappy returns

LIKE most respectable citizens, I rarely return items bought online. I-m far too busy to repackage things and take them to the Post Office. Also, it feels shameful.

Furthermore, I imagine the people I've bought from - perhaps Markies or Lewis, J - feeling sad at the item being returned, and wailing: -But what have we done wrong?-

However, this week, we learned that almost half of garments bought from websites are sent back. That-s 4.1 billion of clothes. Some people with a broken moral compass buy several items, from which to choose one.

When I get a garment that doesn-t fit or suit me, I put it in the charity skip. Mind you, it-s rare for me to spend more than 50.

I did return a non-playing CD once, and will own that it was simple to do so compared to back in the day, when you-d to drink four cans of Skol lager and a bottle of Scotsmac - -the bam-s dram- - before plucking up the courage to return a faulty vinyl record to the grumpy, middle-aged man in the wee shop, sitting there in his Perry Como sweater, with no idea what a Led Zeppelin was anyway.

Time to tee off

I WAS wearing a 20-year-old Beatles T-shirt and ready to hit the gym when, with time to kill, I read a fashion expert saying: no-one over 28 should wear a T-shirt, and certainly not one with the name of some old band on it. Egad!

The critic was, like everyone nowadays, female, and went on to diss men for looking in the mirror and saying: - Yeah, that-lI do.-

Not so. I take care with my T-shirts, ensuring they've a slogan or symbol across the chest to hide my moobs. It-s a conversation starter when your bust bears the words -Hamilton Academicals- or -Jesus is risen-, if these are the slogans that do the job. Then there are the arms.

You can-t wear long sleeves to the gym. I tried an anorak but it got sweaty. Obviously, a sports jacket, despite the name, is out. So it has to be some kind of T-shirt.

On my first visit to a gym, thinking it was what everyone wore, I donned a vest, but soon discovered these were just for the muscly chaps.

My problem with T-shirts is that I've arms like pencils. Possibly one (or two ideally) of those sleeve tattoos would help. I could get one depicting hairiness and muscle definition, perhaps also a motor bike or a spanner, or whatever it is real men like.

Maybe I should update my band reference. Are Aphrodite-s Child still going? Strawberry Alarm Clock? The Peanut Butter Conspiracy? See? Don-t say we chaps don-t put any thought into our T-shirts.

Little pouch of pleasure

Snus is supposedly the reason Swedes have the lowest rate of smoking in Europe. It-s a nicotine-substitute pouch that you stick in your mouth. It-s banned in the EU, but Sweden negotiated an opt-out. How weird. Snus increases the risk of heart disease, high blood pressure and diabetes. But you've got to have some fun in your life.

Just desserts

Rab McNeil: I detest families and their appalling, bawling offspring

Quite rightly, two thirds of Britons don-t know what posset, parfait, ganash, tuile, torte or coulis mean. On fancy dessert menus, they refer variously to sauces, cakes, glazes and wafers. So why not use such proud British names? A message in my earpiece: sauce is from Latin via French, cake Scandinavian, wafer foreign. Only glaze is English (Germanic). It-s disgraceful.

Bug bites

The capitalists are making us eat insects. The preservative E120, found in everyday products including cake, yoghurt, sweeties and lipstick, is often produced from ground up cochineal beetles. Shellac (E904), used on fruit, is a resin produced by female lac bugs when laying eggs. Ach well.

See salt?

They-re shouting again about salt increasing blood pressure. All together now, like wolves howling at the Moon: howowow? It-s like alcohol causing dehydration. How? It-s a liquid. These matters are beyond comprehension, best taken with a pinch of salt.

See red?

Here-s the latest natural -cure- for humanity-s natural state, depression: strawberries. Gub eight a day to also avoid dementia. Predictably, the key ingredients in strawbs are anthocyanins, which produce the red pigment. Cheer yourself up by making a torte out of them. And don-t forget to sprinkle it with beetles.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: POLITICAL & SOCIAL IDEOLOGIES (78%); CHILD DISCIPLINE (73%); SOCCER (67%)

Industry: MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (55%); UNITED KINGDOM (52%)

Load-Date: November 18, 2023

End of Document

Concerns over stark decline of Scottish seabird population over last 20 years

Concerns over stark decline of Scottish seabird population over last 20 years

The Herald (Glasgow)

November 16, 2023 Thursday

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Section: Pg. 8

Length: 625 words

Byline: By Ryan McDougall, PA **Scotland**

Body

Nearly two-thirds of **Scotland**'s breeding seabird species have declined over the last 20 years, a new survey has found.

Seabirds Count, released in book form by wildlife publisher **Lynx** Edicions, is said to be the most comprehensive seabird census produced to date and provides population estimates for all 25 regularly breeding species of Britain, Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands.

Of the 25 seabird species, 23 breed regularly in **Scotland**, 14 of which have declined since the year 2000.

The study says the causes of decline vary depending on the species of seabird and the region they inhabit.

However, predation, adverse weather and a lack of food were cited as the main reasons for the decline.

It is thought that climate change could be a contributing factor to adverse weather and a lack of food.

Fisheries were also referenced as a reason for food scarcity.

Three of the species had previously increased in number, but two of these, the great skua and northern gannet, have been negatively affected by highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), which was first seen in seabirds after the census was completed.

Just three species have remained stable.

Anne McCall of RSPB **Scotland** said: "For decades, our globally important seabird populations have been badly impacted as a result of human activities, whether through the introduction of predators to islands, the capture in fishing gear all the way through to the ever-increasing effects of climate change and the impacts this has on food availability and breeding success."

"The scale of seabird declines in **Scotland** shows these impacts starkly and it is clear there is an urgent need for effective actions."

Concerns over stark decline of Scottish seabird population over last 20 years

that will help reverse the fortunes of seabirds.

"Increasing their resilience in the face of current and future threats is vital if we are to protect these amazing birds for future generations."

The survey took place over the course of six years (2015-2021) and was led by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) alongside more than 20 steering group partners.

The last census of its kind was published in 2004, covering 1998-2002.

Population changes in **Scotland** cannot be estimated for the remaining seabird species due to changes in survey methods.

Common Gull numbers have decreased by 53% since the last survey in 2000 - with predation and changes in land causing degradation or loss of nesting habitat and food availability.

Atlantic Puffins have declined by 21% in **Scotland** - reflecting a wider loss in the UK, as **Scotland** is home to 75% of the species.

Globally, Atlantic Puffins are considered to be vulnerable to extinction.

The European Storm petrel, Great Skua and Northern Gannet increased between the previous census and the latest one.

Scotland, which is host to almost all of the UK and Ireland's Great Skua population, saw the species increase by 14% by 2021.

Researchers believe this is due to their ability to switch prey, depending on availability.

The Northern Gannet, which also has a broad diet, increased by 40%.

Daisy Burnell, senior marine ornithologist and Seabirds Count coordinator, said: "The majority of Britain and Ireland's seabirds breed in **Scotland**, and unfortunately for many of them the results of Seabirds Count do not paint a positive picture.

"Counting all these seabirds was no small task and was only possible through the incredible passion and dedication of volunteers and professional surveyors who collected the data.

"Because of them, we not only understand how seabirds are faring at present but have also been provided with the building blocks for seabird conservation and recovery in **Scotland** for at least the next decade.

"I cannot thank those involved enough for their support and participation in this project, they truly are census legends."

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: HER

Subject: BIRDS (91%); WILDLIFE (90%); CLIMATE CHANGE (89%); CLIMATOLOGY (89%); POLLS &

Concerns over stark decline of Scottish seabird population over last 20 years

SURVEYS (89%); POPULATION ESTIMATES & PROJECTIONS (89%); POPULATION GROWTH (89%); AVIAN INFLUENZA (78%); ISLANDS & REEFS (78%); WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (78%); CONSERVATION (77%); FOOD CRISES & SHORTAGES (74%); FOOD SHORTAGES (74%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (74%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (73%); ZOONOTIC DISEASES (72%); INFLUENZA (52%); **SCOTLAND** (%); agriculture (%) ; health terms (%)

Industry: PUBLISHING (89%); AVIAN INFLUENZA (78%); FOOD CRISES & SHORTAGES (74%); FOOD SHORTAGES (74%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, **SCOTLAND** (74%); **SCOTLAND** (97%); IRELAND (92%); UNITED KINGDOM (91%); ISLE OF MAN (79%); CHANNEL ISLANDS (57%)

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Advisory: First issued under embargo

Advisory: First issued under embargo

PA Newswire: Scotland

November 16, 2023 Thursday

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Section: PA Newswire: **Scotland**

Length: 660 words

Body

SCOTTISH SEABIRD POPULATION IN DECLINE, RESEARCH SHOWS

By Ryan McDougall, PA **Scotland**

Nearly two thirds of **Scotland**'s breeding seabird species have declined over the last 20 years, a new survey has found.

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The study says the causes of decline vary depending on the species of seabird and the region they inhabit.

However, predation, adverse weather and a lack of food were cited as the main reasons for the decline.

It is thought that climate change could be a contributing factor to adverse weather and a lack of food.

Fisheries were also referenced as a reason for food scarcity.

Three of the species had previously increased in number, but two of these, the Great Skua and Northern Gannet, have been negatively affected by Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), which was first seen in seabirds after the census was completed.

Just three species have remained stable.

Anne McCall of RSPB **Scotland** said: ``Seabirds Count couldn't have come at a more crucial time given the increasing pressures facing our seabirds.

Advisory: First issued under embargo

``For decades, our globally important seabird populations have been badly impacted as a result of human activities, whether through the introduction of predators to islands, the capture in fishing gear all the way through to the ever-increasing effects of climate change and the impacts this has on food availability and breeding success.

``The huge scale of seabird declines in **Scotland** shows these impacts starkly and it is clear there is an urgent need for effective actions that will help reverse the fortunes of seabirds.

``Increasing their resilience in the face of current and future threats is vital if we are to protect these amazing birds for future generations."

The survey took place over the course of six years (2015-2021) and was led by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) alongside more than 20 steering group partners.

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Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newswire

Advisory: First issued under embargo

Subject: BIRDS (91%); POLLS & SURVEYS (90%); CLIMATE CHANGE (89%); CLIMATOLOGY (89%); POPULATION DECLINE (89%); POPULATION ESTIMATES & PROJECTIONS (89%); POPULATION GROWTH (89%); WILDLIFE (89%); AVIAN INFLUENZA (78%); CONSERVATION (78%); ISLANDS & REEFS (78%); WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (78%); FOOD CRISES & SHORTAGES (74%); FOOD SHORTAGES (74%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (74%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (73%); EMBARGOES & SANCTIONS (73%); ZOONOTIC DISEASES (72%); INFLUENZA (52%); **SCOTLAND** Birds (%)

Industry: AVIAN INFLUENZA (78%); PUBLISHING (78%); FOOD CRISES & SHORTAGES (74%); FOOD SHORTAGES (74%)

Geographic: **SCOTLAND** (98%); UNITED KINGDOM (90%); ISLE OF MAN (79%); CHANNEL ISLANDS (57%)

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End of Document

Scottish seabirds: Most of species in decline over past 20 years, research shows

Scottish seabirds: Most of species in decline over past 20 years, research shows

Scotsman

November 16, 2023 Thursday

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Section: ENVIRONMENTSCOTLAND

Length: 630 words

Highlight: Nearly two thirds of Scotland's breeding seabird species have declined over the past 20 years, a new survey has found.

Body

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Scottish seabirds: Most of species in decline over past 20 years, research shows

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Graphic

[A Black Guillemot bird. Picture: Edmund Fellowes/SWNS](#)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: BIRDS (91%); CLIMATOLOGY (90%); POLLS & SURVEYS (90%); WILDLIFE (90%); CLIMATE CHANGE (89%); POPULATION ESTIMATES & PROJECTIONS (89%); POPULATION GROWTH (89%); CONSERVATION (79%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (79%); ISLANDS & REEFS (78%); WILDLIFE

Scottish seabirds: Most of species in decline over past 20 years, research shows

CONSERVATION (78%); FOOD CRISES & SHORTAGES (75%); FOOD SHORTAGES (75%); AVIAN INFLUENZA (73%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (73%); ZOONOTIC DISEASES (73%); INFLUENZA (53%)

Industry: PUBLISHING (90%); FOOD CRISES & SHORTAGES (75%); FOOD SHORTAGES (75%); AVIAN INFLUENZA (73%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (98%); IRELAND (92%); UNITED KINGDOM (91%); ISLE OF MAN (79%); CHANNEL ISLANDS (58%)

Load-Date: November 15, 2023

End of Document

Agenda: The wild world of rewilding explained

The Herald

November 3, 2023 Friday

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Length: 537 words

Byline: Agenda

Body

Rewilding is a word that we're hearing increasingly. It crops up in relation to everything from reintroducing *Lynx* into the Highlands to letting your lawn grow wild.

It's got an ability to inspire that established terms like nature restoration perhaps lack. Which is perhaps why it's proliferating and even sparking spin-off terms like -seawilding-. But the word can also cause contention. This is not helped by the many varied interpretations of rewilding. So what is rewilding and should it matter to us? We were asked to look at this by the Scottish Government. They wanted a definition that they and the wider public sector could refer to.

It helps to look at the word's origins to understand it and contentions around it. -Rewilding- emerged in North America among a set of conservationists who wanted to protect areas that they saw as pristine -wildernesses".

This then led to the idea of rewilding, of trying to recreate these types of landscapes where they had been lost.

Since then, the idea has spread globally. Many are inspired by its vision of reinvigorated natural systems that need little human management. However, two aspects can be contentious. First, if it involves reintroducing missing species like wolves, this can produce understandable worries about risks to local people and livelihoods. Second, reducing the impact of people might mean excluding them from specific landscapes and places.

In Scotland, where rewilding visions have been adopted by some private landowners and charities, rewilding visions are very varied, but generally tamer: they usually promise some types of benefit for people and don't always involve plans for species reintroductions.

Even so, many land managers are uncomfortable with the potential changes to landscapes and livelihoods these ideas could still involve, such as changes that might threaten activities like grouse shooting.

Communities and other groups (farmers, hillwalkers, wildlife enthusiasts, for example) may also have concerns, often related to pre-existing concerns around who gets a say -and benefits from -land management in Scotland.

Agenda: The wild world of rewilding explained

The definition we provided, as a reference point for the public sector (and available on the Scottish Government website), explains that rewilding uniquely emphasises giving nature more autonomy. We also note that rewilding projects should be done working with -and ideally for -local communities.

So, should rewilding matter to us? Those who are inspired by rewilding are talking about it a lot. But right now it isn't actually embedded in most management plans and visions for nature management. I think we should consider why -rewilding- is being discussed so widely. Scotland-s landscapes are undoubtedly heavily impacted by humans, with many negative consequences for nature, but also society. So, I do believe efforts to redress this damage are needed. However, discussing this challenge using other words may make the debate clearer and calmer.

Meanwhile, where rewilding initiatives are under way, it will be useful to track progress from rhetoric to reality: to clarify the possibilities of rewilding and how we can reinvigorate natural systems.

Dr Kerry Waylen is senior researcher at The James Hutton Institute, Aberdeen.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (89%); MAMMALS (78%); WILDLIFE (78%); CONSERVATION (77%); NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (77%); ENVIRONMENTALISM (73%); NATURAL RESOURCES (73%); PRIVATE LANDS (64%)

Industry: MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (90%); NORTH AMERICA (79%)

Load-Date: November 6, 2023

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The wild world of rewilding explained

The Herald (Glasgow)

November 3, 2023 Friday

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The Herald

Section: Pg. 17

Length: 535 words

Byline: D CMS

Body

REWILDING is a word that we're hearing increasingly. It crops up in relation to everything from reintroducing *Lynx* to letting your lawn grow wild.

It's got an ability to inspire that established terms like nature restoration perhaps lack. Which is perhaps why it's proliferating and even sparking spin-off terms like "seawilding". But the word can also cause contention. This is not helped by the many varied interpretations of rewilding. So what is rewilding and should it matter to us? We were asked to look at this by the ***Scottish*** Government. They wanted a definition that they and the wider public sector could refer to.

It helps to look at the word's origins to understand it and contentions around it. "Rewilding" emerged in North America among a set of conservationists who wanted to protect areas that they saw as pristine "wildernesses". This then led to the idea of rewilding, of trying to recreate these types of landscapes where they had been lost.

Since then, the idea has spread globally. Many are inspired by its vision of reinvigorated natural systems that need little human management. However, two aspects can be contentious. First, if it involves reintroducing missing species like wolves, this can produce understandable worries about risks to local people and livelihoods. Second, reducing the impact of people might mean excluding them from specific landscapes and places.

In ***Scotland***, where rewilding visions have been adopted by some private landowners and charities, rewilding visions are very varied, but generally tamer: they usually promise some types of benefit for people and don't always involve plans for species reintroductions.

Even so, many land managers are uncomfortable with the potential changes to landscapes and livelihoods these ideas could still involve, such as changes that might threaten activities like grouse shooting. Communities and other groups (farmers, hillwalkers, wildlife enthusiasts, for example) may also have concerns, often related to pre-existing concerns around who gets a say - and benefits from - land management in ***Scotland***.

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The wild world of rewilding explained

So, should rewilding matter to us? Those who are inspired by rewilding are talking about it a lot. But right now it isn't actually embedded in most management plans and visions for nature management. I think we should consider why "rewilding" is being discussed so widely. **Scotland's** landscapes are undoubtedly heavily impacted by humans, with many negative consequences for nature, but also society. So, I do believe efforts to redress this damage are needed. However, discussing this challenge using other words may make the debate clearer and calmer.

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Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: HER

Subject: LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (89%); WILDLIFE (79%); MAMMALS (78%); CONSERVATION (77%); NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (77%); ENVIRONMENTALISM (73%); NATURAL RESOURCES (73%); PRIVATE LANDS (64%); agriculture (%)

Industry: MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, **SCOTLAND** (73%); **SCOTLAND** (90%); NORTH AMERICA (79%)

Load-Date: November 3, 2023

End of Document

Reintroducing the lynx to Scotland first requires a change in public attitudes

Reintroducing the lynx to Scotland first requires a change in public attitudes

Aberdeen Press and Journal

November 2, 2023 Thursday

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Section: AGD; Pg. 24

Length: 874 words

Byline: P&j Comment

Body

For centuries, people have been exerting control over every square inch of the **Scottish** landscape. We've made it work for the benefit of just one species: us.

The vast, treeless deer forests, sheep pastures and grouse moors of the north and the arable monocultures of the south bear witness to our ability to subjugate nature for our own ends. Today, these ecologically sanitised landscapes - largely stripped of their natural woodlands and drained of their vibrant wetlands - serve the needs of just a few select species and, in many cases, just a few people.

As a society, we don't see the nature-depleted landscapes that surround us, and the animals we've lost, because we suffer from "ecological blindness".

We perceive a landscape of natural beauty because we're told that's what it is; and that notion is kept alive as each new generation accepts the landscape they're born into as normal, irrespective of how impoverished it might be.

We've long forgotten how to live alongside wild nature, and this is especially true when it comes to large predators.

Such predators are vital for ensuring healthy living systems, and biodiversity is badly affected by their absence. Fortunately, they are staging a comeback across mainland Europe, benefiting from a softening of public attitudes and relief from centuries of persecution.

But, as an island, if we want these animals back, we have to make a conscious decision to reintroduce them. Any such reintroduction needs to be realistic and reasonable, and to work in a **Scottish** context. It would require approval by the **Scottish** Government, with habitat assessments and full public consultation.

All of which is why the Eurasian **Lynx** is the best candidate for a return.

Research tells us that **Lynx** could make a good living in **Scotland**, helping to restore healthy woodland ecosystems by preying on abundant deer and, significantly, other predators, like fox. This would help tackle the climate emergency by allowing our forests to expand and lock up more carbon.

Lynx would also be a boon to local tourism, accompanied by a wider economic boost. Their presence would inspire hope and help reconnect our frayed relationship with nature.

But the cultural chasm that stifles the return of **Lynx** has little to do with the animal itself.

Reintroducing the lynx to Scotland first requires a change in public attitudes

I've spent decades listening to conflicting opinions on which wildlife species should live where in **Scotland**, in what numbers and to whose benefit. I've also heard myriad perspectives on the return of **Lynx** and the perceived change that it would bring about.

Most people know very little about this enigmatic cat. With scant knowledge, people tend to join up their own dots, mistakenly conflating the impact of **Lynx** with that of wolves.

More significantly, however, predators like **Lynx** challenge what we have normalised. They ask us to cede control to natural processes, and accommodate wild nature in our orderly, manicured landscape. These animals demand that we look at the landscape through a different, unfamiliar lens.

A recent webinar hosted by the **Lynx to Scotland** partnership discussed the return of **Lynx** with two representatives from the sheep farming sector. **Lynx** are shy woodland hunters which primarily prey on deer, and avoid open grazing land. But on the basis that, even so, **Lynx** might well take some sheep, the webinar participants were asked what level of predation would be tolerable. For one participant, at least, the answer was clearly "none".

The concerns of sheep farmers, as well as other land managers, are largely valid and entirely legitimate. On the other hand, in an increasingly ecologically conscious society, there is growing concern around the impacts of climate breakdown and the ongoing loss of biodiversity. Young people, in particular, recognise the unfulfilled ecological potential of **Scotland's** landscape.

This brings into play a key question: whose voice should carry the most weight? Is it fair that sheep farmers are able to unilaterally veto the return of **Lynx**? Or, is it fair for these animals to be imposed on economically fragile rural economies by "outsiders", people with little skin in the game?

At the heart of this are divergent social and cultural values. There are those who see the **Scottish** landscape as something of a commodity, a resource to be controlled and exploited for the benefit of people.

And, increasingly, there are those who see the necessity for healthy ecosystems fuelled by natural processes, such as predator-prey interactions, birth, death, decay and regeneration.

I believe there are good reasons for bringing **Lynx** back to **Scotland** for the benefit of nature, climate and people. But there is no black and white here; no definitive right and wrong. Our values are shaped by a complex array of factors.

That said, there is no denying that everyone alive today has grown up in a world more modified by humans and more ecologically impoverished than at any time in our history.

As we all try to turn nature depletion into nature recovery, we will have to relearn how to live alongside unfamiliar non-human species. The challenge of change is a journey. One that is easier for some than others.

Peter Cairns is executive director of rewilding charity **Scotland**: The Big Picture, and partner of the **Lynx to Scotland** project

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Pr

Reintroducing the lynx to Scotland first requires a change in public attitudes

Subject: FORESTS & WOODLANDS (90%); MAMMALS (90%); ANIMALS (89%); ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (89%); WILD CATS (89%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS CONSERVATION (78%); WILDLIFE (78%); BIODIVERSITY (77%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (77%); LIFE FORMS (77%); FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS (76%); CONSERVATION (72%); LAND RECLAMATION (72%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (71%); WETLANDS (71%)

Industry: FORESTS & WOODLANDS CONSERVATION (78%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, **SCOTLAND** (74%); **SCOTLAND** (94%); EUROPE (74%); 7 North East

Load-Date: November 2, 2023

End of Document

Upland farming mirrors the Dodo's fate

The Scottish Farmer

November 2023

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Length: 395 words

Byline: Kelly Henaughen

Body

Dear sir,

With reference to the article by the young farmer Rebekah Housden in the Eskdale and Liddesdale Advertiser on November 2nd, 2023; -Upland Farming is like the Dodo- it is in fact becoming so.

This is so true. All that seems important in this country is tourism, forestry, and wilding Britain.

At present, there are 32 conflicts and wars taking place in the world, and likely to increase. When Lynx became extinct on this island around 1300 years ago the population was a little over a million. Now we are heading towards 68 million and on the increase. So what are we TO EAT?

Farmers all over the country are struggling financially yet so much of our food is imported much of it out of season and not up to our ethical standards. WHY?

The old-fashioned community belief was; self-sufficiency to feed your family and then support your community and excess then sold. In wartime the great message was -DIG FOR BRITAIN-, so think about it -powers that be-, we are in need.

The horrors of excessive house building on good land, none of which by the way present solar panels etc., when there are so many second homes and holiday lets, and the great disaster of commercial forestry needs attention NOW.

To the West side of the A7 just South of Langholm good fields last autumn were planted with Spruce trees. These fields could not only have been used for grazing or growing animal feed but maybe, vegetables for our consumption. Now according to the article -Fury at Proposals for Tree Planting- in the Annandale Observer, Friday, Nov. 3rd three farms at Claygate near Canonbie are to be swamped with commercial planting of TREES, again acidifying the land and rivers and ruining the land for future use.

On the B6357 road through Newcastle to the A7, it has been recorded by CCTV 250 to 500 timber Lorries a day passing through full to return empty, travelling from 3 am to 10 pm, all run on fossil fuels.

Upland farming mirrors the Dodo's fate

Thousands of delivery vans delivering online shopping orders mob the roads; fossil fuel! Yet.

We are to abandon our petrol cars for electric!

Those with any authority or influence think outside the FASHIONABLE box and look to a healthy, well fed future and self-sufficiency. Restrict commercial forestry and tax it well. Support our farmers to feed our growing population well, healthily, and environmentally.

Get your act together.

Christine Hudson, Rowanburn, Canonbie.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: TIMBER TRACT OPERATIONS (89%); NEGATIVE NEWS (76%); POPULATION GROWTH (76%); ETHICS (73%)

Industry: FARMERS & RANCHERS (90%); FORESTRY & LOGGING (89%); TIMBER TRACT OPERATIONS (89%); VACATION RENTALS (77%); ANIMAL FOODS (74%); LIVESTOCK FEED (74%); FRUITS & VEGETABLES (73%); SECOND & VACATION HOMES (71%); ENERGY & UTILITIES (69%); SOLAR ENERGY (66%); FOSSIL FUELS (65%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (91%)

Load-Date: November 23, 2023

End of Document

Book review: A ramble through Highland folklore makes enchanting fireside reading

Book review: A ramble through Highland folklore makes enchanting fireside reading

The Herald

October 27, 2023 Friday

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Length: 1103 words

Byline: Susan Flockhart

Body

The Bone Cave: A Journey Through Myth And Memory

Dougie Strang

Birlinn, 14.99

Late October, and the roar of rutting stags reverberates across the ***Scottish*** Highlands. As days shorten, the old Celtic festival of Samhain approaches, signalling the end of the harvest season and the coming of winter. Traditionally, this liminal period is accompanied by a thinning of the border between this world and the next. It is, writes Dougie Strang, -the moment when the Cailleach, as winter crone, comes into her own-.

Gaelic legend casts the Cailleach as a spectral shapeshifter. In origin myths, she creates landmarks such as the Ailsa Craig out of boulders dropped from her apron folds. In sinister tales, she is a harbinger of death. And sometimes, she is linked to the mysterious -deer woman- creed, which sees hunters brought up short when their cervine prey turns into a beautiful maiden or wizened hag.

Strang studied folklore at the Edinburgh University School of ***Scottish*** Studies co-founded by Hamish Henderson and The Bone Cave is, as the subtitle suggests, a journey through the stories told by our ancestors. It also charts a geographical odyssey, as Strang follows their narrative arc through Perthshire, Sutherland, Argyll and Mull, visiting wild and lonely places where communities once thrived but where now, the only trace of their presence lies among rickles of stone.

Or does it? As Strang discovers, the hills, glens and burns still resonate with voices that once rang around winter hearths and their ancient tales are immortalised in Gaelic place names. There, by Allt Nighean Mhic Domhnuill (the Stream of Donald-s Granddaughter), a renowned stalker killed his last stag; Uaigh Dhiaarmaid (Dhairmaid-s grave) marks the resting place of Fionn mac Cumhaill-s love rival; and Tigh na Cailleach denotes the Cailleach-s house.

Strang treads softly across this storied landscape. Travelling solo throughout the month of October, he cooks on carefully tended fires and camps out under the stars or - one memorable night - in the Bone Cave at Creag nan Uamh near Inchnadamph, Assynt. In its deepest recesses, the remains of prehistoric bears, ***Lynx*** and wolves have

Book review: A ramble through Highland folklore makes enchanting fireside reading

been excavated and in the candlelit gloom, Strang imagines -the otherworld- pressing in through the walls, just as the roar of a passing stag echoes from the cave mouth.

Deer, we learn, are also called crodh-sithe (-fairy cattle-) and -in the folklore of the Highlands, there is no creature - more fey-. During Strang-s trek, these animals are omnipresent, crossing his path and haunting his dreams like the Cailleach who, in one story, is glimpsed standing on a hillside, clacking deer bones together and muttering about the burning of the woodlands. An allusion, perhaps, to the despoliation of the Caledonian forest?

As he walks, Strang ponders the origins and significance of Gaelic folklore, drawing links with the native peoples of Australia, Scandinavia and the Arctic, whose cultures also endured -oppression, deracination and in many cases deliberate extermination- and who, he speculates, -would likely have no trouble in recognising a Highland Dreaming- in a mountain gully gouged out by a giant boar, or in the seething Corryvreckan whirlpool where the Cailleach is said to wash her ancient plaids.

Strang-s journey serves partly as a kind of reckoning with his own trajectory, from disconsolate Glasgow car mechanic to folklorist and writer living a happy family life on an Argyllshire hill farm. Escaping the city appears to have been key to his happiness, and he worries about the consequences of our increasing separation from the land and whether the stories embedded within it can survive the modernising onslaught of plastic pollution and electricity pylons. At one point, he realises a once-sacred well has been obliterated by a JCB.

So-called -nature-writing- can sometimes feel a bit unnecessary: all breathless descriptions of stately pines or burnished leaves that, to misquote Kilmer-s famous poem, are never as lovely as a tree itself. Strang-s focus, by contrast, is less on the landscape per se than on humankind-s relationship with it, and his observations - whether on the people he encounters while hitching or the mountain crash sites where young airmen met their doom - are invariably thought-provoking and often deeply affecting, and his imagery feels fresh: lichen-clad oaks appear like -raggedy old men-; a passing boat-s engine buzzes -like an aggravated wasp-.

Meanwhile, the tales he conjures from the hilltops - of fairies, kelpies, Nimble Men and rowing boats drifting across starlit skies - are entralling.

A month spent amid some of **Scotland**-s wildest, most desolate terrain is not for the faint-hearted, and the author dices with elemental danger more than once.

He seems to yearn for the lost sensibilities of our hunter-gatherer forebears and I wonder if we occasionally risk idealising what Strang calls -my country-s depth-culture-. Perhaps prehistory was a kinder place, but as he acknowledges, **Scotland**-s more recent past is awash with the blood and tears of ordinary folk sacrificed to serve the ambitions of clan chiefs, aspiring monarchs and -improving- landlords. Nor should we forget those trashed and burned as supposed witches: a reminder, surely, that the forces promulgating ancient beliefs weren-t always benign.

And my sceptic-s eyebrow twitched on reading that Lochaber locals would have insisted, with unwavering conviction, that the -parallel roads- of Glen Roy -were made by Fionn mac Cumhaill and his warriors, as they raced their chariots round the sides of the glen-. Maybe. But mightn-t some of them have done so with a hint of leg-pulling swagger? Then as now, people are unlikely to have been homogeneous in their beliefs.

Still, as Strang makes clear, the line between myth and reality is a shoogly one, and no doubt our ancestors were as capable as we are of suspending disbelief - particularly at this time of year. It-s at the tail end of October that his journey comes to a fitting end in the Black Wood of Rannoch among fragments of ancient pine trees, where the last wolves of **Scotland** are thought to have roamed.

Strang favours the beast-s re-introduction, both to aid the regeneration of ravaged woodland and because -to be in the presence of something outwith our control, something that might even be more than a match for us, teaches perspective, humility even-.

Mixing challenging questions about rewilding, land ownership and Highland re-population with enchanting stories and luminous prose, The Bone Cave is a beautiful book: the perfect companion to a winter-s night by the fireside.

Classification

Book review: A ramble through Highland folklore makes enchanting fireside reading

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: FOLKLORE (90%); MAMMALS (88%); BOOK REVIEWS (78%); PREHISTORIC LIFE (78%); HALLOWEEN (77%)

Industry: BOOK REVIEWS (78%)

Geographic: EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND (79%); SCOTLAND (90%)

Load-Date: October 27, 2023

End of Document

Fresh efforts to bring back the lynx

Fresh efforts to bring back the lynx

Scottish Express

September 30, 2023 Saturday

Edition 1, Scotland

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 8

Length: 187 words

Byline: George Mair

Body

SCOTLAND has "a responsibility" to reintroduce **lynx** to the landscape, according to a project dedicated to bringing back the enigmatic big cat.

The **Lynx To Scotland** partnership has published 10 reasons for reintroducing the Eurasian **lynx**, which they say is "making a comeback" across mainland Europe.

The alliance of rewilding charities **Scotland**: the Big Picture, Trees for Life and Lifescape, says **Scotland** is "one of the most nature depleted countries in the world" and one of only "a handful of European countries" with no large predators.

In their 10-reasons paper, they insist reintroducing the **lynx** would not only "right a wrong" hundreds of years after the species was wiped out by human activity, but also help **Scotland** tackle nature and climate emergencies, meet its environmental commitments and set an example to the world.

The **Lynx to Scotland**'s Peter Cairns said: "Across mainland Europe, the Eurasian **lynx** is staging a comeback.

"**Scotland** is currently one of only a handful of European countries with no apex predators. We believe **lynx** could thrive in **Scotland**, would benefit **Scotland** and should be returned to **Scotland**."

Graphic

Lynx are staging a comeback

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Fresh efforts to bring back the lynx

Journal Code: DXPscot

Subject: WILD CATS (93%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (95%); EUROPE (91%); Scotland

Load-Date: September 30, 2023

End of Document

From Glasgow's Ruchill Park to Costa Rica , the beauty of nature can lift your spirits – Philip Lymbery

From Glasgow's Ruchill Park to Costa Rica, the beauty of nature can lift your spirits – Philip Lymbery

Scotsman

September 22, 2023 Friday

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Section: COLUMNISTSENVIRONMENTNATIONALSCOTLANDNATURE

Length: 549 words

Highlight: Insects are fascinating, trees make us happy and sea eagles are just magical

Body

Treshnish on the Isle of Mull and sweeping meadows dance with colour. Backed by mountainous green hills punctured by jagged rock, carpets of flowers stretch to the sea. Whilst peering at orchids on my hands and knees, a shadow strokes past. Startled, I look up to see a magnificent white-tailed eagle, *Scotland's* largest bird of prey, glided nonchalantly overhead. A magical memory from a lifetime spent fascinated by nature.

Whilst far-flung islands have a certain cachet, nature really is something you can enjoy anywhere, a thought brought home to me when I saw the [*incredible photos of 'wee beasties' in Glasgow's Ruchill Park*](#). Photographer David Hamilton found himself captivated by the treasure trove of vibrant colours, intricate details, and tiny creatures waiting to be discovered there. Shooting with a macro lens, he takes the most amazing portraits of the smallest animals, making them larger than life on his popular Instagram page, [*weemadbeasties*](#).

More than 1,000 species are now on David's tally for *Scotland* alone. He told the BBC: "Once I actually started seeing the sort of colours and the vibrancy of the insects, that was me hooked." Couldn't agree more. It's a stunning example of finding nature, and lots of it, on your doorstep.

'Oasis of calm'

Another recent example is the [*walnut tree on the outskirts of Perth*](#) which was chosen as *Scotland's* contender in the annual Tree of the Year competition by the Woodland Trust. That tree is estimated at 250 to 300 years old and stands in the rather ordinary setting of a car park on the A9 at Inveralmond. Regardless of location, admirers describe it as "exceptionally attractive", offering an "oasis of calm amongst the bustle".

The [*reality is that trees make us happy*](#). They lift spirits, reduce anxiety, and are beneficial to our mental health. They have other superpowers too: reducing the impact of climate change, alleviating flooding, and reducing soil erosion. So, by rights, every tree should be Tree of the Year! Whether close to home or far away, trees provide homes for a rich multitude of wildlife.

Restoring nature

From Glasgow's Ruchill Park to Costa Rica , the beauty of nature can lift your spirits – Philip Lymbery

One reason to celebrate is the [conservation work on Scottish wildcats](#) in the Highlands. Known as the 'Highland tiger', about 20 specially bred wildcats have been released by conservationists to help save the species from extinction. In a landmark moment for nature restoration, the success of this project could well lead to optimism for other ambitious programmes. One such could be the reintroduction of the Eurasian [Lynx](#), 1,000 years since the species was hunted to extinction.

In my past life as a wildlife tour leader, I've taken people to places like Africa, Costa Rica, and the Seychelles to marvel at all that the natural world has to offer. Yet, I've also had some of my most memorable moments close to home. Whether it be a local park or coastal islands, there is a richness of new surprises just waiting to lift spirits. Whether reintroduced sea eagles, wildcats, everyday trees and 'wee beasties', one thing I'll never forget: nature is amazing.

Philip Lymbery is chief executive of Compassion in World Farming, a former United Nations Food Systems Champion and an award-winning author. His latest book is Sixty Harvests Left: How to Reach a Nature-Friendly Future. Philip is on Twitter @philip_ciwf

Graphic

[A white-tailed eagle, also known as a sea eagle, comes in to catch a fish thrown overboard from a wildlife viewing boat off the Isle of Mull \(Picture: Dan Kitwood/Getty Images\)](#)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: CONSERVATION (89%); INSECTS & ARACHNIDS (89%); ISLANDS & REEFS (89%); MOUNTAINS (89%); WILDLIFE (89%); ANIMALS (79%); BIRDS (78%); COASTAL AREAS (78%); ENVIRONMENTALISM (78%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (77%); WILD CATS (76%); PHOTOGRAPHY (75%); PHOTOGRAPHY SERVICES (75%); EROSION (73%); VISUAL ARTISTS (70%); CLIMATE CHANGE (67%); EROSION CONTROL (62%); MENTAL HEALTH (62%); SOIL HEALTH (62%); SOIL CONSERVATION (61%)

Industry: PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (77%); PHOTOGRAPHY (75%); PHOTOGRAPHY SERVICES (75%); PUBLISHING (73%); PARKING SPACES & FACILITIES (72%); VISUAL ARTISTS (70%); SOIL HEALTH (62%)

Geographic: [SCOTLAND](#) (94%); COSTA RICA (90%); SEYCHELLES (79%); AFRICA (65%)

Load-Date: September 22, 2023

They're back. Oysters returned to Firth of Forth after a century extinct

They're back. Oysters returned to Firth of Forth after a century extinct

The Herald

September 21, 2023 Thursday

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Length: 847 words

Byline: Vicky Allan

Body

For 100 years the native oyster has been absent in the Firth of Forth due to over-fishing. A half century ago they were officially declared extinct in the area. But on Monday, they were back, as a batch of native oysters were thrown from the edge of a boat in the Firth.

These were the first of 30,000 oysters that are set to be introduced to the estuary, in a project carried out by Restoration Forth, a project delivered by multiple organisations including Heriot-Watt University and the Marine Conservation Society.

They had been transported from a native oyster producer on Little Loch Broom and treated onsite to adhere to stringent biosecurity protocols before deployment.

The physical act of reintroduction was not, as Marine Conservation Society's shellfish engagement officer, Caitlin Godfrey, described, complicated . "We took the boat out,- she said, -our oysters in coolers, and then we simply grabbed a handful, dropping them over the side of the boat.-

However, the two licensed sites were chosen only after careful scientific assessment. Ms Godfrey said: -They have been surveyed by the Heriot-Watt divers carried out our site surveys and they have been looking at the condition of the seabed and the species that are already living there to get a good idea of where would be good to restore."

Shockingly, those 30,000 oysters represent just a tiny fraction of the 30 million oysters that it has been estimated were hauled from those waters, yearly, during the 18th century.

-In the 1700s and 1800s,- Ms Godfrey said, -there was a huge oyster bed outside Edinburgh, probably one of the most famous in the UK, and at its peak it was producing 30 million oysters per year. It was a hugely important industry and these oysters were being sold across Edinburgh, Glasgow, down to London

-By the end of the 1800s, it was completely fished-out. The bed was overexploited. So oysters were declared locally extinct - which is why this week-s deployment was just so exciting. We-re finally them back to where they belong.-

READ MORE: Rewilders of our seas - bringing back oysters and seagrass

The success in getting the project this far was, she said, partly down to volunteers.

They're back. Oysters returned to Firth of Forth after a century extinct

Among them was Bill Simpson, who skippered the boat for the reintroduction. He said: -I've been working on the Forth for over 50 years and have read and heard stories of oysters and Newhaven fishermen. It's good to know we will have oysters back - let's hope they go forth and multiply.-

However, there will be little chance of eating a native oyster from the Firth in the near future, nor are there any plans to fish them - the purpose of the project being chiefly environmental.

Emmy Cooper-Young Heriot Watt Uni with native oyster. Image:t Maverick

-We're restoring our oysters,- said Ms Godfrey, -because of the environmental benefit they can bring for species and for people along the coastline - but we don't have plans to establish an oyster industry or fish them out anytime soon.-

Oysters are also not the only species that Restoration Forth is bringing back to the estuary. -We're working on seagrass as well,- said Ms Godfrey. -There are already areas of seagrass around the Firth of Forth and we're working on bulking up those areas and working with local communities to help .-

Earlier this year the first seeding of seagrass was successfully carried out in three locations along the Firth of Forth coast as part of the Restoration Forth project.

These two species, native oysters, and seagrass are, Ms Godfrey said, -both really good for improving biodiversity-.

-They're habitats for lots of other marine species - in particular an oyster reef has got fantastic places for lots of small species to hide, to find food and shelter etc. They're really good for biodiversity."

-Oysters are also filter feeders so they can help improve water clarity. We're interested in seeing if we can help improve the quality and the clarity of the Firth of Forth as well, as it's quite a mucky environment.-

READ MORE: Wolf, Lynx, great auk. An atlas of Scotland's lost wildlife

READ MORE: Mystery of the dead Scottish seabirds. Is it bird flu?

Numerous partners, as well as countless volunteers, have been involved in delivering the project, amongst them the WWF, Edinburgh Shoreline, Fife Coast & Countryside Trust, Heriot Watt University, Marine Conservation Society, Project Seagrass, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Scottish Seabird Centre, The Ecology Centre and The Heart of Newhaven Community.

The reintroduction has also been supported by the Scottish Government's Nature Restoration Fund.

Mairi McAllan, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero, and Just Transition said: -I'm honoured and delighted to have been part of Restoration Forth's historic event, returning native oysters to the Firth of Forth for the first time in around 100 years.

"Communities in Scotland are, as they should be, at the forefront of our nature restoration efforts, and it has been very encouraging to see the drive and enthusiasm of people involved in this project to take action to restore and protect their local marine environment."

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: CONSERVATION (90%); MARINE BIOLOGY (90%); MARINE CONSERVATION (90%); MARINE

They're back. Oysters returned to Firth of Forth after a century extinct

RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (90%); SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES (90%); WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (90%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (89%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (78%); COASTAL AREAS (76%)

Industry: MARINE CONSERVATION (90%); MARINE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (90%); SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES (90%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%)

Geographic: EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND (90%); GLASGOW, SCOTLAND (57%); LONDON, ENGLAND (53%); SCOTLAND (58%); UNITED KINGDOM (53%)

Load-Date: October 10, 2023

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Wolf, lynx, great auk. Scotland's lost pre-industrial wildlife revealed

The Herald

September 10, 2023 Sunday

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The Herald

Length: 1773 words

Byline: Vicky Allan

Body

Wildcats and pine martens roamed through the woods. Sea eagles and red kites soared our skies. In what's called the early modern period, from 1500 to 1700, **Scotland** saw a different range of wildlife from that of today. Brown rats and grey squirrels had yet to be established. Small populations of **Lynx** appear to have been present. It was, writes Dr Lee Raye, author of An Atlas of Early Modern Wildlife, -the last great age of the wolf-.

Studies tell us that we now live in a time of profound biodiversity loss; in which **Scotland**, it is claimed, is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world. But what about the past? Did our landscape once teem with other life?

This new atlas, which looks at animal distribution through books and documents from the period provides startling insights - and what's striking is quite how rich the historical information is regarding **Scotland**.

In fact, says Dr Raye, Highland **Scotland**, the Hebrides and the Northern Isles were the best-recorded parts of the whole of Britain and Ireland, from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries.

This, in part, was because of Robert Sibbald of Kippes, a naturalist who also helped found both the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.

-In an early experiment with crowd-sourced citizen-science," says Dr Raye, "Robert Sibbald sent out questionnaires to educated people (especially physicians, clergy and the gentry) all around **Scotland**, asking them to return descriptions of their local areas and the records of the nature around them. The responses to these questionnaires allow us to go some way towards mapping the wildlife of **Scotland** before the industrial revolution, which I've taken advantage of for my Atlas of Early Modern Wildlife.-

Dr Raye, however, warns us against assuming that before industrialisation the natural world existed -in pristine, harmonious state-. The early modern period, after all, was one of climate anomaly, the Little Ice Age, regular crop failures and famines. The temperature of the North Sea was lowered -to the extent that cod and herring fisheries failed-.

It was also the case that many species - **Lynx**, roe deer, beavers, red squirrels, cranes, capercaillies and great auks - were already declining due to hunting. Others, like brown bears, wild boar and right whales, seem to have already been extinct.

Wolf, lynx, great auk. Scotland's lost pre-industrial wildlife revealed

Wolf

The wolf is, in **Scotland**, an icon of species loss, as well as a symbol of aspiration and desire for the return of an apex predator. But what is the truth about its history over the last millennium in **Scotland**?

Even in 1684 Robert Sibbald was describing the **Scottish** wolf as a once-common, now-extinct species, and, writing a century on, Thomas Pennant agreed that the last Wolf in **Scotland** was killed in 1680.

-It seems most likely," writes Dr Raye, "that the seventeenth century saw the end of the wolf as an ordinary **Scottish** species."

This disappearance in the Highlands came not long after the wolf's loss in the lowlands. Previous to this barons were made responsible for hunting wolves on their land in an act of James I, and a 15th-century poem by the Gaelic poet Giolla Cr\xC3ost T\xC3illi\xC3r celebrates wolf-hunting in the lowlands.

In the 17th century, the only **Scottish** county where early modern naturalists recorded wolves was Sutherland in the area of Strath Nave.

The author of one of these records, Robert Gordon of Gordonstoun, described three forests in Sutherland as "erie profitable for feiding of bestiall, and delectable for hunting. They are full of reid deer and roes, woulffs, foxes, wyld catts.-

Lynx

-They have also a wild cat three times as big as the common cat,- wrote one traveller named Richard Pococke, in 1760, following a visit to historic Kirkcudbrightshire. -They are of a yellow-red colour, their breasts and sides white. They take fowls and lambs, & breed two at a time. I was assured that they sometimes bring forth in a large bird-s nest, to be out of the reach of dogs; and it is said they will attack a man who would attempt to take their young ones, but they often shoot ... them & take the young."

Were these animals **Lynx**? Raye believes this description fits. Though **Lynx** had disappeared from England at the end of the medieval period, there are sufficient mentions to suggest that they may have been still surviving in **Scotland** till much later. One letter even states that the best **Lynx** skins are those from Sweden and **Scotland**

But the **Lynx**, Dr Raye notes, is likely to have gone extinct not long afterwards.

Wildcat

Scottish wildcats are on the brink of extinction - but, earlier this year, about 20 specially bred wildcats were released into the Highlands by conservationists.

The species, often called the **Scottish** wildcat, was simply called the wildcat before it disappeared from both England and Wales. Its decline across Britain was rapid, beginning first in the south and midlands of England then Wales, Northern England and most of Lowland **Scotland** by 1990. -In seventeenth-century England and Wales,- Raye writes, -670 bounties were paid on Wildcats, but there were only four through the whole of the nineteenth century.- The initial reason for the decline, the writer notes, -seems to have been deforestation-..

Wild Boar

The story of the wild boar is more complicated than many other species. Though it theoretically went extinct, writes Dr Raye, due to "overhunting in Britain and Ireland in the medieval period-", that does not mean it was then absent from these isles.

Even after the wild extinction of the species, wild boar were imported by the aristocracy to restock their estates for hunting. There was a fluidity between wild and domestic, with free-roaming domestic pig populations tending to become feral - as for instance one population on Orkney - and becoming more like a wild boar.

Wolf, lynx, great auk. Scotland's lost pre-industrial wildlife revealed

Brown Bear

What about the last bear? The bear may have left its mark on our psyche, our place names and our cuddly toys, but it is believed to have gone in Ireland at the end of the Mesolithic period, and in most of Britain in the late Neolithic or early Bronze age. However, Dr Raye notes, -it-s possible that a small population may have survived in north Britain into the early medieval period-. By the early modern period none were found wild in Britain.

Capercaillie

The iconic capercailie is now critically endangered. Recent research by the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust showed that numbers in **Scotland** have nearly halved in ten years to just 380 today. But even in the early modern period, it was already in decline. -Possibly,- Dr Raye writes, this may have been -due to destruction of its habitat and the colder weather in the Little Ice Age- of the fact that at the time it was also commonly hunted.

-This most rare bird the capercalze,- wrote the naturalist John Leslie, -the commonly-called woodland horse, is frequently found in Ross-shire and also Lochaber, and even other mountain areas which do not lack pine trees. It is even smaller than the raven. It greatly appeals to the tastes of those who eat it with its very lovely flavour.-

Great Auk

Now long extinct globally, the great auk, was recorded on St Kilda in the early modern period by three sources.

-Archaeological remains,- Raye writes, -suggest that the Great Auk was once more common in the Isle of Man and also elsewhere especially in the Outer Hebrides, as well as in the Northern Isles, Caithness, Orkney and the Scilly Isles and less commonly in Sutherland, as well as the Isle of May, Ailsa Craig and Cos. Antrim, Donegal, Clare and Waterford.- But by the early modern period, it was lost from those areas.

The species was most often referred to as gairfowl, and the author Martin Martin described it as -being the stateliest, as well as the Largest of all the Fowls here, and above the Size of a Solan Goose.... stands stately, his whole Body erected, his Wings short, he Flyeth not at all, lays his Egg upon the bare Rock, which, if taken away, he lays no more for that year.-

Dr Raye notes that the extinction of this species was initially driven "by unsustainable hunting, especially for food, feathers and fuel by sailors and fishers-. It was easily targeted because it could not fly. Tragically, its final extinction was probably also driven by the collection of its rare specimens for museums and private collections.

Beaver

The beaver is back in **Scotland** - a fact that can be credited both to accidental or illegal release and reintroduction. But one question often raised, both by advocates of its return and critics, is what its history was in **Scotland**. It appears by the 16th century it was already in critical decline. -By the time the early modern sources were written,- Dr Raye observes, -beaver populations in Britain seem to have been nearly depleted.- Though sixteen documents from the period referred to the beaver, they were mostly detailing past populations. One of the notable records of presence, however, was around Loch Ness.

Walrus

-The Walrus, or Mors,- wrote Robert Sibbald, -is... a wild and powerful animal, hot to the touch, and it breathes in strongly through the nostrils ... It crawls more than it moves. It has a thick, leathery skin and thick hair of a grey colour. It has a grunt just like a pig, it calls or grumbles with a strong, heavy voice. It has a very big head with two teeth thrust out, just like an elephant. -

The population of walrus Sibbald was writing of was resident on the north shore of the Firth of Forth - and is long gone. Walrus were intensely hunted during the early modern period for their hides, ivory, and oil. A vulnerable species globally, it is now rarely seen off the UK, though one, which was given the name Thor, caused a flurry of excitement when it was spotted at the start of this year.

Wolf, lynx, great auk. Scotland's lost pre-industrial wildlife revealed

However, early modern naturalists, Dr Raye observes, recorded it as a species often seen around Orkney and in the North Sea.

Common skate complex

Scotland is even now home to one of the last strongholds of the globally critically endangered flapper skate, one of the two species of the common skate complex (the other being the blue skate). As the name implies these were once common. -Over the course of the modern period,- Raye writes, -the common skate has changed from being a commercial species generally distributed around Britain and Ireland to a rarely seen Atlantic species only found in the extreme north of these islands. It was already depleted in the North Sea by the start of the twentieth century, and continued fishing pressure by anglers and bycatch in trawlers have made the species critically endangered.-

The Atlas of Early Modern Wildlife by Lee Raye is published by Pelagic publishing

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: BIRDS (90%); MAMMALS (90%); WILD CATS (90%); WILDLIFE (90%); FISHES (89%); RODENTS (89%); MARINE MAMMALS (78%); ANIMALS (77%); BIODIVERSITY (77%); BIOLOGY (75%); FAMINE (71%); WRITERS (71%); CITIZEN SCIENCE (70%); MILLENNIUM (66%); CROWDSOURCING (65%); RELIGION (50%)

Company: SEA LTD (58%)

Organization: ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS (55%)

Ticker: SE (NYSE) (58%)

Industry: NAICS519290 WEB SEARCH PORTALS AND ALL OTHER INFORMATION SERVICES (58%); BOTANICAL GARDENS (78%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); FAMINE (71%); WRITERS (71%)

Geographic: EDINBURGH, **SCOTLAND** (73%); ATLANTIC OCEAN (79%); NORTH SEA (79%); **SCOTLAND** (94%); UNITED KINGDOM (73%); IRELAND (55%)

Load-Date: October 10, 2023

'Heard of the bog raft spider?' BBC nature series charts Scotland's new wild

'Heard of the bog raft spider?' BBC nature series charts Scotland's new wild

The Herald

September 10, 2023 Sunday

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The Herald

Length: 1272 words

Byline: Vicky Allan

Body

Chances are slim that you have heard of the bog raft spider. One of the UK-s largest, it-s a ferocious hunter with the remarkable skill of being able to walk on water, buoyed by tiny air bubbles trapped on its leg hairs.

It also happens to be, by far, the species mentioned most in an interview with wildlife cameraman Fergus Gill and producer Jackie Savery about their BBC **Scotland** nature series, **Scotland** The New Wild.

-We didn-t know about the bog raft spider before we did this series,- raves Gill. -We like to challenge ourselves and find new things, and this idea came through a spider expert who used to work for the RSPB in the Cairngorms, and now is one of the few people in the world who knows this bog raft spider.

-We asked, -What do you think is something that nobody has told the story about that deserves its moment in the spotlight?- He said - -Have you heard of the bog raft spider?--

Scotland The New Wild is a remarkable attempt by wildlife production company Maramedia to capture **Scotland**-s nature in a state of flux and change, to document the wonders and positive changes, as well as the worrying signs as climate-change and biodiversity loss hits.

While it features startling footage of familiar iconic species - grey seal pups struggling to survive on the Monach isles, stags fighting, urban foxes, mountain hairs and squirrels swirling around a tree in bluebell woods - most striking of all are the tales it tells of less familiar creatures.

Among these is the courtship of the dotterel, a wading bird which breeds on the plateaux of **Scotland**-s highest mountains, and which is notable in being a species in which the female is more colourful than the male. It-s she that does the overt courtship display. Dotterel males incubate the eggs, while the females go off and breed again.

-The species has only been filmed once before in the UK and never in this sort of detail,- says Gill.

-We thought that filming the courtship would be the most difficult thing because when that happens varies from year to year and depends on access to the hills in terms of snow.

-We had to get up there with our equipment and find the birds. But we got lucky. And nailed the courtship perfectly. And in my head, I thought filming chicks later on should be easier. But it turned out to be the opposite.-

'Heard of the bog raft spider?' BBC nature series charts Scotland's new wild

Also marvellous amongst **Scotland** The New Wild-s insights is footage of wood ants living in the treetops of the great wood of Caledon. -They farm aphids,- raves Savery.

-They basically milk the aphids for the honeydew which they live on. That-s such a mad thing to be going on at the top of pine trees.-

The series was filmed over two years, in a hectic schedule of shoots, many of them crammed into the spring and summer months when nature goes into a full action bloom of rebirth and activity.

READ MORE: Wolf, **Lynx**, great auk. An atlas of **Scotland**s lost wildlife

READ MORE: **Scotland**s wildlife is in crisis. Here's how we save it

Savery describes orchestrating this as -the ultimate jigsaw-, and one which began with a long wishlist of species, landscapes and wildlife events.

The team called the three-part series The New Wild from the start, even when it was just a glimmer of a pitch, a working title.

-We didn-t want it to be a static look at **Scotland**s wildlife,- says Savery, -because it-s changing all the time.

-We wanted to show the amazing things happening as well as the really worrying things.-

For Gill, the programme-s aim is to take stock of -where things are at the moment in **Scotland** and where they might go-, not just in terms of species and landscape, but also the human factor, our -relationship with wildlife-.

The series is not one that focuses simply on the most remote wild, the Highlands or the islands.

It also has an episode on the lowlands, including species that had never before been filmed to such an extent in **Scotland** - from city water voles to bearded tits living off reed seeds in the Carse of Gowrie.

Fergus Gill started photographing nature as a child, growing up in Perthshire, the son of NatureScot photographer Lorne Gill.

Twice, as a youngster, he won junior wildlife photographer of the year, on both occasions with photographs taken from his own back garden.

Fergus Gill with his father, Lorne Gill

-My dad always encouraged me to try to take photographs,- he says.

-I was interested in animals, and I didn-t really know what I was seeing, so I would try to take photographs of them and come back and look in a book to see what it was.

-That was the way my mind worked. I like to absorb information and find out more about things. Photography was a really fun way to do that. Back then it was on film and slide so you would have to wait quite a long time.

-Digital photography changed all that.-

Gill spent his Saturdays photographing animals and his Sundays playing football. His father, for the most part, photographed landscapes and plants, and nurtured in him an appreciation of habitat, ecosystem and -the interconnectivity of nature-.

-When,- Gill says, -you-re seven years old you only tend to think of species in individual terms but he was thinking more about the landscape as a whole.-

'Heard of the bog raft spider?' BBC nature series charts Scotland's new wild

It takes a particularly hardy type to film nature like this - someone who can take all weathers and endure extremes. For **Scotland** The New Wild, for instance, Gill made the trip out to the Monach Isles whose white sand beaches host the largest breeding colony of grey seals in Europe.

The first challenge was reaching the island - for it has no infrastructure, no pier, and the route in and out is surrounded by rocky skerries under the water. -Just getting there,- he says, -is like an absolute epic. You're taking all your drinking water, your generator, emergency food. In the end, we were there for nearly three weeks and the weather was so poor most of the time it would have been impossible to get off the island.-

Gill already knew what it was like to work in extremes. For a previous Maramedia series, Stormborn, he endured freezing temperatures and high winds to film those tenacious species living on the remote northern edges of the Atlantic Ocean, in Shetland, Norway and Iceland.

Roe deer at dawn

The other art that Gill has developed is that of sinking into the background, whether by elaborate camouflage, or finding a perfect concealed viewpoint. -A lot of the animals," he says, "don't like to be close to people so it's finding ways to blend into the landscape - to try to get them to behave naturally - rather than sticking out like a sore thumb. It's about using your fieldcraft and knowledge of the landscape.- That hard work done to conceal himself resulted in one of the most entertaining sequences in the film - a female beaver cleaning herself with comical vigour and diligence.

What's also notable is that the -new wild- of this series includes people. It features, for instance, crofters, whose sheep and cattle shape a vibrant landscape; ecosystems, like the Carse of Gowrie reedbeds, formed by deliberate human planting.

Gill is keen that people don't get caught up in arguments about what rewilding is, or use of the different terms around conservation. -Rewilding,- he says, -doesn't necessarily mean what everyone thinks it does. It might not be bringing back water voles. It might just be about creating a nice habitat for a bog raft spider to live in.

-It's also about people doing things on their own scale. I now have a wildflower meadow and a bit of grass in my garden that I didn't have before. People can do whatever they want on their own scales to make a difference. We can all do it.-

Scotland The New Wild is on the BBC **Scotland** channel and BBC iPlayer, 9pm on Sunday, September 17.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: BIRDS (89%); INSECTS & ARACHNIDS (89%); MAMMALS (89%); WILDLIFE (89%); BIODIVERSITY (77%); MARINE MAMMALS (77%); CLIMATE CHANGE (76%); MOUNTAINS (74%)

Industry: MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (78%); MOVIE INDUSTRY (76%)

Geographic: **SCOTLAND** (94%); UNITED KINGDOM (90%)

Load-Date: October 10, 2023

'Heard of the bog raft spider?' BBC nature series charts Scotland's new wild

End of Document

Ice hockey match raises £13,000 for Archie

Aberdeen Evening Express

September 4, 2023 Monday

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Section: NWS; Pg. 3

Length: 240 words

Byline: Calum Petrie

Body

An "inspirational" Elgin teenager who organised a charity ice hockey match has handed over nearly £13,000 to the Archie Foundation.

Lucy Stewart, 13, delighted bosses at the sick kids charity after handing over £12,875.

The sum was raised at Aberdeen **Lynx** Arena on Saturday, when Aberdeen Predators took on RAF Lossiemouth Jets in a match organised by Lucy. Archie has been a great help to her and her family throughout her life.

Lucy was born with tracheo-oesophageal fistula and oesophageal atresia, which means she struggles to breathe and is susceptible to pneumonia and chest infections.

She has missed a lot of time at Elgin High School as she is in and out of hospital, and has been helped by Archie.

Having thought they would raise "a couple of hundred pounds", mum Claire said she couldn't believe the final figure.

She was also nervous that "nobody would turn up", so was left overwhelmed as nearly 1,000 people turned up.

Jets fan Lucy presented a trophy to the victorious Jets, who won 7-5, with Lucy's dad Barry in the team.

"Lucy took it all in her stride," said Claire. "I on the other hand started crying. To raise nearly £13,000 is just incredible."

"We got so much help from people we didn't know. John Colley, chairman of Aberdeen **Lynx** and **Scottish** Ice Hockey, got the ice rink to agree."

Archie Foundation chief executive Paula Cormack said: "The money Lucy raised will help other children who are in and out of hospital, like her."

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Ev

Subject: WINTER SPORTS (92%); ICE HOCKEY (90%); SPORTS & RECREATION FACILITIES & VENUES (78%); STADIUMS & ARENAS (78%); CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS & TEENS (77%); PNEUMONIA (77%); INFECTIOUS DISEASE (75%); RESPIRATORY DISORDERS & INJURIES (71%); EXECUTIVES (50%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (90%); SCOTLAND (74%); 7 North East

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Girl with rare illness in £13k ice fundraiser

Aberdeen Press and Journal

September 4, 2023 Monday

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Section: NWS; Pg. 19

Length: 426 words

Byline: Calum Petrie

Body

An "inspirational" Elgin teenager who organised a charity ice hockey match has handed over nearly £13,000 to the Archie Foundation.

Lucy Stewart, 13, delighted bosses at the sick children's charity after handing over a whopping £12,875.

That was the sum raised at Aberdeen **Lynx** Arena on Saturday, where Aberdeen Predators took on RAF Lossiemouth Jets in a match organised by Lucy to raise money.

The charity has been a great help to Lucy and her family throughout her life.

Lucy was born with Tracheo-oesophageal Fistula and Oesophageal Atresia, a rare condition which means she struggles to breathe and is susceptible to pneumonia and chest infections.

She is forced to miss large chunks of learning at Elgin High School as she is in and out of hospital.

Archie has provided play staff, entertainers, accommodation, and a comforting environment during her multiple hospital stays in Elgin and Aberdeen.

Lucy wanted to give back to Archie and approached both team captains with her idea for a big match. Both were on board from the get-go.

Having thought they would raise "a couple of hundred pounds", mum Claire said she couldn't believe the final figure.

She was also nervous that "nobody would turn up", so was left overwhelmed as nearly 1,000 people packed into the stands.

Having sold programmes at the door, Lucy made her way on to the ice at the start of the match to drop the ceremonial first puck.

The Jets fan also got to present medals to the players afterward, as well as a trophy to the victorious Jets captain.

In a tense, close game, the Jets - featuring Lucy's dad Barry - eventually ran out 7-5 winners. Mum Claire described the final period as the "longest 15 minutes of my life". "Lucy took it all in her stride," said Claire. "I, on the other hand, started crying.

Girl with rare illness in £13k ice fundraiser

"More and more people kept coming in. I just couldn't understand where all these people were coming from. But Lucy just didn't seem phased by the amount of people."

She added: "We thought we'd raise a couple of hundred pounds, with a raffle and maybe some donations, and that that would help a few families.

"John Colley, who's the chairman of Aberdeen Lynx and Scottish Ice Hockey, heard about Lucy's plans to organise a match.

"He wanted to help, and so it was him that got the ice rink to agree to host the match.

"I just thought - it's too big, we'll never fill it. But Lucy just said let's do it!"

And Paula Cormack, chief executive of the Archie Foundation, said: "Quite simply, The Archie Foundation could not support as many children and families as we do without people like Lucy."

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Pr

Subject: CHARITIES (90%); DISEASES & DISORDERS (90%); FUNDRAISING (90%); ICE HOCKEY (90%); WINTER SPORTS (90%); CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS & TEENS (89%); FAMILY (89%); ATHLETES (78%); INFECTIOUS DISEASE (78%); ORPHAN & RARE DISEASES (78%); PNEUMONIA (78%); SPORTS & RECREATION FACILITIES & VENUES (78%); STADIUMS & ARENAS (78%); AIR FORCES (76%); RESPIRATORY DISORDERS & INJURIES (73%); EXECUTIVES (50%)

Industry: AIR FORCES (76%); HOSPITALS (68%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (90%); SCOTLAND (74%); 7 North East

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End of Document

Why endangered Eriskay ponies are helping rewild a corner of Scotland

Why endangered Eriskay ponies are helping rewild a corner of Scotland

Herald Scotland

September 3, 2023 Sunday

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Length: 1537 words

Byline: Sandra Dick

Body

Hardy little workhorses, their history spans centuries of hauling and helping, carrying peat, fish, and seaweed for their island owners.

For centuries, Eriskay ponies were crucial to crofting life until 1970s farm technology and modern ways took over, and their numbers dwindled.

Today the tough island breed, surefooted and with a coarse coat that has evolved over centuries to withstand the west coast weather is reckoned to be less common than giant pandas.

In a patch of Argyll, however, three young Eriskay ponies are turning back the hands of time, working in harmony with the land in an ambitious rewilding project that aims to return the landscape to a natural mosaic of plants, insects and wildlife.

They may seem an unlikely addition to a rewilding agenda which has tended to focus on more exotic species such as wolves, *lynx* and wild boar.

But at Ardnackaig Farm, a rugged estate overlooking the Sound of Jura where bracken and rushes cover the landscape in summer, and birch, alder and willow are emerging from the remains of a long-since felled forestry plantation, the Eriskay trio of Tam, Jock and Anna, is already hard at work.

Read more: [**Scottish** rum: The distillers acknowledging its shady past](#)

In tandem with farmer David Stewart's herd of Highland cows, they graze land once covered with Sitka spruce, trampling the soft ground and doing what comes naturally to help wildflowers and grasses, insects and pollinators grow.

The tough ponies are said to be perfectly suited for the ambitious rewilding project which it's hoped will return land left behind by crofters then planted with commercial forest to a more natural landscape.

Better still, if Mother Nature does her job, next spring will see the arrival of three new Eriskay foals, offspring for the trio.

Why endangered Eriskay ponies are helping rewild a corner of Scotland

That would be particularly good news: only three foals were registered last year with Rare Breed Survival Trust (RBST), which classes the breed as -critically endangered-.

While the Eriskay Pony Society - one of two rival organisations dedicated to the breed - estimates the current number of ponies stands at around 420, others have suggested it could be much lower.

Although current numbers are bleak, the ponies- potential benefits for the booming rewilding sector have raised hopes for a rise in demand for the breed, while in the sterile surroundings of a Nottingham laboratory, scientists are also trying to give the breed a much needed helping hand.

There, the latest genetics technology is being used to create a national DNA -Tinder- style matchmaking service intended to take the guesswork out of finding the best match for breeding.

Announced last summer, the biggest ever survey of the breed-s DNA has seen owners around the country share samples of their ponies- hair to be sequenced at Nottingham Trent University.

Once unlocked, their genetic code enters a nationwide Eriskay Pony Genetic Archive used to ensure owners find the best match for breeding.

The three-year project, developed through the Eriskay Pony Society and the RBST hopes to overcome issues that come from such a small gene pool, and will form a blueprint for other rare equine breeds.

Meanwhile, on Eriskay itself, where a wild herd of around 30 roams freely, a further boost is on the horizon.

There, a landmark historic school dating from the 1800s and closed in 2013, is being turned into a new heritage and cultural hub where another organisation devoted to the breed, the Comann Each nan Eilean, which holds the Stud Book of Origin for Eriskay ponies, aims to become a focal point for the breed on its home territory.

As well as telling the story of the breed, it-s hoped it will raise awareness of its endangered status with visitors, potentially spurring on new interest in securing the ponies- future.

-They are very much a breed which is in danger,- agrees Liam Crouse, secretary of Comann Each nan Eilean. A longstanding historic split between themselves and The Eriskay Pony Society over the purity of the breed means they do not tend to share information on new foals, making establishing the true number of born each year difficult.

Read more: National Trust for **Scotland** archaeology: 30 years of discovery

It is understood, however, that Comann Each nan Eilean has recorded four new foals in the past year, and five in 2020, three of which are able to trace their bloodline back to a single pure-bred stallion called Eric.

What all tend to agree upon, however, is the breed has attributes that fits perfectly with the ethos behind the rewilding movement.

-They are a benefit to the environment,- adds Liam. -As native breeds, they will eat things that other animals may not necessarily touch.

-Such as heather: Highland cattle will eat it, but sheep don-t go near it. Eriskay ponies might well eat it, and they will also stamp it down.

-You don-t get much heather, which is beneficial to other types of grass that become available for grazing. So, in terms of conservation grazing, they work very well.-

In Argyll, farmer David Stewart says he deliberately chose his trio partly because of their rich heritage and partly because of their distinct characteristics honed by centuries of hard work in tough island conditions.

It has made them effective at navigating rugged terrain, while an in-born ability to selectively graze and trample plant species means they work in harmony with Highland cows which follow their own distinctive grazing habits.

Why endangered Eriskay ponies are helping rewild a corner of Scotland

Their natural resilience means they can cope with an -arm-s length- life outdoors, roaming free across 100 hectares of his land, tracked using their GPS collars.

-From a rewilding point of view, I wanted to use native breeds as foragers, and Eriskay ponies are the most native to me in Lochgoilhead,- he says.

-If you bring horses to Argyll, they suffer for the first year or two - the ticks are awful. But a breed that has been in this area for so long is able to withstand the challenges of local climate.-

But while the breed - along with close cousins, Highland and Shetland ponies - may be a perfect fit for rewilding, landowners may find it hard to find Eriskay ponies to work on their land.

-Trying to estimate the population in general is very difficult - it can be challenging to know how many there are,- says Tom Blunt of RBST.

-The other question is how many breeding mares there are that are actively breeding.

-We are trying to encourage more owners to breed, and the challenge then is to try to ensure there-s a marketplace for the breed.-

That could come from landowners seeking to -rewild- their land - and Aidan McCormick, Northwoods Rewilding Officer for Northwoods, the Scotland-wide chain of landholdings committed to nature recovery and which supported Mr Stewart with a grant from its rewilding fund, says there are clear benefits to introducing native breeds to rewilding projects.

-The butterflies, flowers and insects that exist in Britain evolved with these creatures,- he says.

-They created open grassland meadows and scrub by eating trees or knocking them down or keeping bits of meadows open, they provided dung and shaped the habitat that all these other species thrived in.

-By bringing breeds back we bring back the missing element that has been completely lost - they are critical.

-Cows and horses might not be sexy for rewilding - it-s always Lynx or wolves or native forest that we hear about. But they are key to supporting biodiversity.

-Native breeds they can survive winters, they are resistant to natural disease they are really tough. You don-t lose the animals, there-s also pride that comes with supporting a native breed.

-Eriskay ponies have history, and are fantastic if used in rewilding.-

At Ardnackaig Farm, David Stewart is hopeful others involved in rewilding might follow his lead.

-I hope people will wake up to the benefits they bring,- he says.

-They have history written in their genes and the least we can do is keep that going.-

How Eriskay ponies were vital to crofters' life

Sturdy and strong, docile and incredibly beautiful, Eriskay ponies were once a vital component of the crofters- life.

The ponies carried peat from the fields to the doorsteps of crofters- homes, and seaweed from the shoreline to fertilise their crops.

Descended from the undomesticated equine which once roamed Scotland-s forests and hills long before settlements of people took shape, they reached a peak in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Why endangered Eriskay ponies are helping rewild a corner of Scotland

The Highland Clearances took their toll, as owners departed and fewer ponies were needed. The arrival of motor vehicles and better roads made transportation much easier which drove them close to extinction, while cross breeding diluted the breed.

By the early Seventies it was thought no pure Eriskay stallions were left. Island-based pony organisation, Comann Each nan Eilean, faced buying a Western Isles type Highland Pony - the closest breed genetically to the Eriskay Pony - in order to encourage the breed back.

However, a pure but unlicensed Eriskay stallion, named Eric, was later discovered in South Uist and taken to the neighbouring Isle of Barra to breed with pure mares from Eriskay.

His descendants have gone on to secure the purity of the breed on their native island, with all ponies bred through the society able to trace their male bloodline back to Eric.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: MAMMALS (90%); WILDLIFE (90%); HORSES (89%); DNA (83%); ENDANGERED SPECIES (78%); SEAWEED & ALGAE (78%); INSECTS & ARACHNIDS (77%); GRAZING LANDS (75%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (73%); FARM LABOR (73%); SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (73%); POLLINATION (72%); OUTPUT & DEMAND (69%); BIOTECHNOLOGY & GENETIC SCIENCE (66%); GENES & CHROMOSOMES (63%)

Industry: AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY (89%); AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT (77%); DISTILLERIES (74%); FARM LABOR (73%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); FORESTRY & LOGGING (72%)

Geographic: NOTTINGHAM, ENGLAND (66%); **SCOTLAND** (93%)

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The Sunday Herald (Glasgow)

September 3, 2023 Sunday

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sundayherald

Section: Pg. 19

Length: 1505 words

Byline: D CMS

Body

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Today the tough island breed, sure-footed and with a coarse coat that has evolved over centuries to withstand the west coast weather, is reckoned to be less common than giant pandas.

In a patch of Argyll, however, three young Eriskay ponies are turning back the hands of time, working in harmony with the land in an ambitious rewilding project that aims to return the landscape to a natural mosaic of plants, insects and wildlife.

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No Headline In Original

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Announced last summer, the biggest-ever survey of the breed's DNA has seen owners around the country share samples of their ponies' hair to be sequenced at Nottingham Trent University.

Once unlocked, their genetic code enters a nationwide Eriskay Pony Genetic Archive used to ensure owners find the best match for breeding.

The three-year project, developed through the Eriskay Pony Society and the RBST, hopes to overcome issues that come from such a small gene pool, and will form a blueprint for other rare equine breeds.

Meanwhile, on Eriskay itself, where a wild herd of about 30 roams freely, a further boost is on the horizon.

There, a landmark historic school dating from the 1800s and closed in 2013 is being turned into a new heritage and cultural hub where another organisation devoted to the breed, the Comann Each nan Eilean, which holds the Stud Book of Origin for Eriskay ponies, aims to become a focal point for the breed on its home territory.

As well as telling the story of the breed, it's hoped it will raise awareness of its endangered status with visitors, potentially ramping up new interest in securing the ponies' future.

"They are very much a breed which is in danger," agrees Liam Crouse, secretary of Comann Each nan Eilean. A longstanding historic split between it and the Eriskay Pony Society over the purity of the breed means they do not tend to share information on new foals, making establishing the true number born each year difficult.

It is understood, however, that Comann Each nan Eilean has recorded four new foals in the past year, and five in 2020 - three of which are able to trace their bloodline back to a single pure-bred stallion called Eric.

What all tend to agree upon, however, is the that the breed has attributes that fit perfectly with the ethos behind the rewilding movement.

"They are a benefit to the environment," adds Crouse. "As native breeds, they will eat things that other animals may not necessarily touch."

"Such as heather. Highland cattle will eat it, but sheep don't go near it. Eriskay ponies might well eat it, and they will also stamp it down."

"You don't get much heather, which is beneficial to other types of grass that become available for grazing. So, in terms of conservation grazing, they work very well."

In Argyll, farmer David Stewart says he deliberately chose his trio partly because of their rich heritage and partly because of their distinct characteristics honed by centuries of hard work in tough island conditions.

It has made them effective at navigating rugged terrain, while an in-born ability to selectively graze and trample plant species means they work in harmony with Highland cows which follow their own distinctive grazing habits.

No Headline In Original

Their natural resilience means they can cope with an "arm's length" life outdoors, roaming free across 100 hectares of his land, tracked using their GPS collars.

"From a rewilding point of view I wanted to use native breeds as foragers, and Eriskay ponies are the most native to me in Lochgilphead," he says.

"If you bring horses to Argyll, they suffer for the first year or two - the ticks are awful. But a breed that has been in this area for so long is able to withstand the challenges of the local climate."

But while the breed - along with close cousins, Highland and Shetland ponies - may be a perfect fit for rewilding, landowners may find it hard to secure Eriskay ponies to work on their land.

"Trying to estimate the population in general is very difficult - it can be challenging to know how many there are," says Tom Blunt of RBST.

"The other question is how many breeding mares there are that are actively breeding.

"We are trying to encourage more owners to breed, and the challenge then is to try to ensure there's a marketplace for the breed."

That could come from landowners seeking to rewild their land - and Aidan McCormick, rewilding officer for Northwoods, the ***Scotland***-wide chain of landholdings committed to nature recovery and which supported Mr Stewart with a grant from its rewilding fund, says there are clear benefits to introducing native breeds to rewilding projects.

"The butterflies, flowers and insects that exist in Britain evolved with these creatures," he says. "They created open grassland, meadows and scrub by eating trees or knocking them down, or keeping bits of meadows open, they provided dung and shaped the habitat that all these other species thrived in."

"By bringing breeds back we bring back the missing element that has been completely lost - they are critical. Cows and horses might not be sexy for rewilding - it's always ***lynx*** or wolves or native forest that we hear about. But they are key to supporting biodiversity."

"Native breeds can survive winters, they are resistant to natural disease, they are really tough. You don't lose the animals, and there's also pride that comes with supporting a native breed. Eriskay ponies have history and are fantastic if used in rewilding."

The Clearances

At Ardnackaig Farm, farmer Stewart is hopeful others involved in rewilding might follow his lead. "I hope people will wake up to the benefits they bring," he says.

"They have history written in their genes and the least we can do is keep that going."

Sturdy and strong, docile and incredibly beautiful, Eriskay ponies were once a vital component of crofters' lives.

The ponies carried peat from the fields to the doorsteps of crofters' homes, and seaweed from the shoreline to fertilise their crops.

Descended from the undomesticated equine which once roamed ***Scotland***'s forests and hills, long before settlements of people took shape, they reached a peak in the 18th and 19th centuries. The Highland Clearances took their toll, as owners departed and fewer ponies were needed.

The arrival of motor vehicles and better roads made transportation much easier which drove them close to extinction, while cross-breeding diluted the breed.

No Headline In Original

By the early 1970s it was thought that no pure Eriskay stallions were left. Island-based pony organisation Comann Each nan Eilean faced buying a Western Isles-type Highland pony - the closest breed genetically to the Eriskay pony - in order to encourage the breed back. However, a pure but unlicensed Eriskay stallion named Eric was later discovered in South Uist and taken to the neighbouring Isle of Barra to breed with pure mares from Eriskay.

His descendants have gone on to secure the purity of the breed on their native island, with all ponies bred through the society able to trace their male bloodline back to Eric.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: SHE

Subject: MAMMALS (90%); WILDLIFE (90%); HORSES (89%); DNA (83%); INSECTS & ARACHNIDS (79%); SEAWEED & ALGAE (78%); ENDANGERED SPECIES (76%); GRAZING LANDS (75%); FARM LABOR (74%); POLLINATION (74%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (73%); SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (73%); OUTPUT & DEMAND (70%); BIOTECHNOLOGY & GENETIC SCIENCE (66%); GENES & CHROMOSOMES (64%); agriculture (%); crime (%); education (%); health terms (%); weather (%)

Industry: AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY (89%); AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT (79%); FARM LABOR (74%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); FORESTRY & LOGGING (72%)

Geographic: NOTTINGHAM, ENGLAND (66%)

Load-Date: September 3, 2023

End of Document

£6m boost to help halt decline in wildlife

Scottish Express

August 23, 2023 Wednesday

Edition 1, Scotland

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 23

Length: 183 words

Byline: Henry Dalton-Stone

Body

THE Wildlife Trusts are ploughing £6million into helping threatened species with rewilding.

Water voles, European eels, pine martens and spiny lobsters will all be helped by the charity.

More than 40% of UK species are in decline, and 15% are threatened with extinction, a State of Nature report says.

Liz Ballard, chief executive of the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust, said, however, that this can be reversed.

Top predators, such as *Lynx* and wolves, have been extinct in the UK for centuries.

This in turn has had a knock-on effect on the wider ecosystem.

Projects

The predators are "keystone species" and their hunting stops other animals from dominating their ecosystems through overbreeding.

The charity plans to help with the restoration and expansion of wild places which will reduce the effects of flood and drought. Campaigners say the frequency and intensity of both are more likely due to the rapidly changing climate.

The programme will include seven key projects, including a focus on the River Severn.

The Daily Express Green Britain Needs You campaign has called for more space for nature.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DXPscot

£6m boost to help halt decline in wildlife

Subject: WILDLIFE (92%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (90%); FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS (90%); MAMMALS (90%); THREATENED & SENSITIVE SPECIES (90%); ANIMALS (78%); CRUSTACEANS (78%); WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (78%); CLIMATE CHANGE (73%); EXECUTIVES (56%)

Geographic: SHEFFIELD, ENGLAND (79%); **SCOTLAND** (90%); UNITED KINGDOM (89%); **Scotland**

Load-Date: August 23, 2023

End of Document

Scotland wildlife: Why wild lynx could return to Scotland within ten years

Herald Scotland

August 3, 2023 Thursday

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Length: 639 words

Byline: Richard Baynes

Body

THE boss of a leading green charity has suggested the wild lynx could be back in Scotland in less than a decade.

And Steve Micklewright, chief executive of Trees for Life (TfL), says the Scottish Government should pay farmers to put up with the predators, which many fear will attack sheep and other livestock.

Micklewright and TfL are advocates of rewilding, or restoring countryside to its wild state. The charity is developing an ambitious scheme to rewild 500,000 acres of the Highlands around Glen Affric.

Under Micklewright-s leadership the charity has doubled in size and successfully challenged the Scottish Government in court over the shooting of reintroduced beavers.

Now he says: -The next big thing if we can pull it off is a trial reintroduction of lynx.-

The idea has been suggested before: the cat, the size of a Labrador dog, hunts deer in woodland and could help solve the problem of overgrazing in Scottish forests. It lived wild in Scotland until about the eighth century, when it was hunted to extinction.

Read more: Edinburgh Zoo welcomes six Asian small-clawed otter pups

Other charities such as Scottish Wildlife Trust have said there is a case for its reintroduction. No licences have yet been issued for a lynx trial anywhere in the UK, and so far no-one has put a timescale on the move.

But Micklewright said: -I feel that we-re on the journey there - we have started that process. Can we see lynx back in five or ten years? That-s the big challenge, I think, getting the missing back.-

Livestock farmers will object strongly to any plans for the introduction of a new predator. In Norway, lynx predation of sheep has been a serious problem, and farmers opposed a proposed trial lynx reintroduction in the Kielder Forest, on the Scottish border with Northumberland. That plan was rejected by the UK Government.

The National Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS) said plans for lynx reintroduction are -wholly unacceptable-.

Scotland wildlife: Why wild lynx could return to Scotland within ten years

Micklewright responded to farmers' fears by saying: -I understand that concern, and the process we are going through includes working with those interests - We identified six potential problems and barriers to Lynx reintroduction, of which sheep predation is undoubtedly the number one concern.

-If you look at the science and the evidence, it says it shouldn't be a problem because Lynx like to live in woodland, they're secretive, and generally sheep and lambs don't live in woodland so they shouldn't come across each other.-

But, speaking to the Windswept and Interesting podcast, he admits: -It could be an issue - so how do you figure out how to resolve it? I think the route to go down is a trial reintroduction where the trial includes trying to figure out whether this sheep predation issue is big, and whether it is something that would affect whether we would welcome Lynx back fully into Scotland.-

And he says a Government subsidy scheme to help farmers put up with the predator could be an important element of the reintroduction of Lynx: -If we want wildlife back as a country we have to be prepared to pay for it. The traditional way is to pay farmers for the loss of sheep but I like the American model where they pay farmers to have the missing [animals] on their land - that's a better model.-

Read more: 'Animal welfare emergency' alert as number of pets ditched soars

The NFUS said that it hopes the Scottish Government will honour a previous ministerial pledge not to allow the return of the Lynx.

A spokesman said: -In our opinion, despite numerous attempts, no local consensus nor political consensus has ever been secured for such a release.

-Farmers and crofters in Scotland can be confident that the union - will take all necessary steps to ensure their interests are protected were a formal application ever to be made."

You can find the Windswept and Interesting podcast on Spotify.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: WILD CATS (94%); MAMMALS (90%); WILDLIFE (90%); EXECUTIVES (78%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS (78%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (77%); SPORT HUNTING (77%); WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (77%)

Industry: FARMERS & RANCHERS (90%); LIVESTOCK (89%); ANIMAL FARMING & BREEDING (77%); SHEEP & GOAT FARMING (77%); SHEEP FARMING (77%); PODCASTING (50%)

Geographic: EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND (58%); SCOTLAND (95%); UNITED KINGDOM (90%)

Load-Date: August 3, 2023

Contrasting sheep systems to benefit from NSA Next GENE-aeration giveaway

The Scottish Farmer

August 2023

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Length: 551 words

Byline: Kelly Henaughen

Body

NINE young sheep farmers from across the UK are to benefit from the opportunity to access top-class genetics following a National Sheep Association (NSA) Next Generation programme initiative.

Following a successful launch of the NSA Next GENE-eration giveaway in 2021, NSA was thrilled to offer keen young sheep enthusiasts the chance to compete for a prize of a ram voucher again this year. But in a development from the 2021 giveaway, as well as teaming up with Rob and Jo Hodgkins of Kaiapoi Romneys as in the previous competition, NSA was pleased to also work with the Dutch Spotted Sheep Society to increase the number of young farmers who could win a voucher and to allow those with varied sheep enterprises to benefit.

READ MORE: National Sheep Association slam [Lynx](#) reintroduction plans

NSA communications manager Katie James said: -The NSA Next GENE-eration giveaway has been a great success again this year with the addition of the Dutch Spotted ram vouchers really complementing the existing offering.

-The two breeds offer sheep farmers from contrasting systems the opportunity to benefit from top class genetics that will help them progress their systems. Some incredibly deserving young sheep farmers have been awarded these and we look forward to seeing the benefit the rams bring to their flocks over the next year and will share this journey with interested parties along the way.-

Preparing to make the journey to Cambridgeshire to exchange their vouchers for the MV accredited, performance recorded rams known to carry the Myomax double muscling gene from the Kaiapoi Romney flock are young shepherds Carys Jones from Carmarthenshire, Peter Sessford from Lincolnshire, Jenny and Richard Oglesby from Yorkshire and Dafydd Owen from Denbighshire. The lucky four were selected as recipients of the rams as it was felt they would fit well into the young farmer-s extensive, forward thinking systems.

Rob Hodgkins of Kaiapoi Romneys commented: -As a farm we have had the benefit of a lot of people's and business's goodwill over the years. It's important to Jo and myself that we are now in a position to give back to the

Contrasting sheep systems to benefit from NSA Next GENE-aeration giveaway

industry that has given so much to us. We hope this giveaway will make some meaningful change to these deserving young farmers.-

READ MORE: NSA Scot Sheep 2024: Heading to Dunbar, East Lothian

Getting ready to hit the pedigree Dutch Spotted sales this season are voucher winners Sam Lee from Northamptonshire, Eilidh Hortin from Cumbria, Lisa Lewis from Carmarthenshire, Kirsten Hardisty and Michael Houghton from Derbyshire, and Fiona Wilshaw from Cheshire.

Edward Adamson of the Dutch Spotted Sheep Society said: -As a relatively new breed in the UK the Dutch Spotted Sheep Society understands the difficulties of getting started and is pleased to help some enthusiastic young sheep farmers establish their businesses and realise the qualities of the Dutch Spotted breed.-

NSA-s Katie James concluded: -This has been a fantastic initiative to be involved with and NSA-s thanks must go to Rob and Jo Hodgkins, the Dutch Spotted Sheep Society, and of course those who helped along the selection process including final judges NSA Northern Ireland Development Officer Edward Adamson, NSA Scottish Region Coordinator Grace Reid, NSA Treasurer Dave Gregory, and NSA Trustee Henry Dunn.-

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: WILD CATS (68%); ACCREDITATION (50%)

Industry: SHEEP & GOAT FARMING (93%); SHEEP FARMING (93%); FARMERS & RANCHERS (89%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (78%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (73%); UNITED KINGDOM (73%)

Load-Date: August 16, 2023

End of Document

Lynx owner to keep lid on prices

Lynx owner to keep lid on prices

Scottish Express

July 23, 2023 Sunday

Edition 1, Scotland

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 52

Length: 95 words

Body

CONSUMER goods giant Unilever's new chief executive Hein Schumacher is expected to signal an end to price hikes at its half year results ONTUESDAY.

Unilever, which owns diverse brands from Pot Noodle to deodorants such as Lynx, is expected to say its inflation has peaked in the second quarter.

Although price deflation is unlikely any time soon, Schumacher is tipped to say the cycle of price hikes is over.

Unilever is expected to say revenues rose 2.3 per cent to £26.2billion. Schumacher is also due to address concerns about Unilever's continued involvement in Russia.

Graphic

FRESH RESULTS: Unilever revenues are up

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: SXPscot

Subject: PRICE CHANGES (91%); PRICE INCREASES (90%); PRICES (90%); EXECUTIVES (73%); DEFLATION (72%)

Lynx owner to keep lid on prices

Company: UNILEVER PLC (90%)

Ticker: UL (NYSE) (90%)

Industry: NAICS325620 TOILET PREPARATION MANUFACTURING (90%); NAICS325611 SOAP & OTHER DETERGENT MANUFACTURING (90%); NAICS311412 FROZEN SPECIALTY FOOD MANUFACTURING (90%); NAICS311411 FROZEN FRUIT, JUICE & VEGETABLE MANUFACTURING (90%); NAICS311225 FATS & OILS REFINING & BLENDING (90%); PRICE CHANGES (91%); FOOD INDUSTRY (90%); PRICE INCREASES (90%); CONSUMER PRODUCTS (89%); DEFLATION (72%)

Geographic: RUSSIA (52%); Scotland

Load-Date: October 26, 2023

End of Document

P&J country a hotspot' for sightings of big cats

Aberdeen Press and Journal

July 14, 2023 Friday

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Section: NWS; Pg. 8

Length: 516 words

Byline: Scott Mcpherson

Body

A big cat expert has revealed that Moray and Aberdeenshire have been hotspots for sightings.

Paul Macdonald, who runs the **Scottish** Big Cat Research Team, has been mapping every place where they have been spotted.

He became "hooked" on searching for big cats after his first sighting in the late 1980s while he was going to school at Glenfinnan in the Highlands.

Sightings of puma and leopard-like creatures stalking **Scottish** hills and glens have been reported for decades but little evidence has been found.

However, Mr Macdonald and his team are working to change that by building the biggest ever database of big cats in **Scotland**.

So far they have collected more than 1,300 sightings from all over the country.

However, Mr Macdonald said his database will only be around 1-5% of all sightings - as the vast majority go unreported.

"Aberdeenshire and Moray have been a hotspot for over the past decade. There was certainly a lot of activity in the mid to late 1990s," he said.

"A lot of these sightings of large black cats are the size correlation of a black leopard. They can take down a deer."

Aberdeenshire's most famous big cat was the Beast of Bennachie which had a number of sightings in the 1990s.

Evidence included mysterious track marks and even bodies of sheep that had been torn apart.

But in an effort to protect the animals, the **Scottish** Big Cat Research Team does not make its mapping data available to the public. A number of recent sightings have been mapped.

Mr Macdonald, a sword and knife maker by trade, said: "We are aware that there are gamekeepers and farmers that have made themselves known that they are quite happy to shoot the cats."

P&J country a hotspot' for sightings of big cats

A recent documentary on Britain's big cat mystery, called *Panthera Britannia Declassified*, showed researchers obtaining 86 pages of correspondence and pictures from Scottish public bodies, including Police Scotland, the Scottish Government and NatureScot, under freedom of information laws.

The evidence comes as no surprise to Mr Macdonald, who believes he knows where the non-native big cats originate from.

In his view, the vast majority of exotic big cats were intentionally released into the wild by their owners.

During the 1960s and 1970s, having an exotic pet such as a Lynx or panther was a status symbol and perfectly legal.

But the introduction of the Dangerous Wild Animals Act in 1976 made it illegal to own big cats without a special licence.

Mr Macdonald said: "The animals became logistically and financial unsustainable. It would have been easier for owners just to release them, which becomes the logical thing to do."

One other possibility is that the sightings could be Scottish wildcats.

In June, 22 Scottish wildcats were released into the Cairngorms in a "historic milestone".

But Mr Macdonald is sceptical that they have been confused as big exotic cats owing to the major differences in size and appearance.

Instead he thinks it is more likely the big cats are confused for the large black Kellas cat.

Mr Macdonald urged people interested in getting involved in the project to follow the Big Cat Sightings in Scotland Facebook group.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Pr

Subject: CATS (92%); MAMMALS (90%); WILD CATS (90%); ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS (89%); ANIMALS (89%); WILDLIFE (89%); PETS (73%); MOUNTAINS (71%); FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (64%)

Industry: DATABASE SOFTWARE (78%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (89%); SCOTLAND (94%); UNITED KINGDOM (79%); 7 North East

Load-Date: July 14, 2023

Expert confirms north-east is a big cat hotspot'

Expert confirms north-east is a big cat hotspot'

Aberdeen Evening Express

July 14, 2023 Friday

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Section: NWS; Pg. 9

Length: 619 words

Byline: Cameron Roy

Body

A big cat expert has said that Moray and Aberdeenshire have been hotspots for sightings.

Paul Macdonald, 50, who runs the **Scottish** Big Cat Research Team, has been working on mapping every sighting location.

He became hooked on searching for big cats after his first sighting of one in the late 80s while he was going to school at Glenfinnan in the Highlands.

Sightings of puma and leopard-like creatures stalking **Scottish** hills and glens have been reported for decades but little evidence has been found.

But Mr Macdonald and his team are working to change that by building the biggest ever database on big cats in **Scotland**.

So far they have collected more than 1,300 sightings from all over the country.

However, Mr Macdonald said that his database will only record around 1-5% of all sightings - as the vast majority go unreported.

He said: "Aberdeenshire and Moray have been a hotspot over the past decade. There was certainly a lot of activity in the mid to late 90s.

"A lot of these sightings of large black cats are the size correlation of a black leopard.

"They can take down a deer."

Aberdeenshire's most famous big cat was the Beast of Bennachie which had a number of sighting in the 1990s.

Evidence included mysterious track marks, eyewitness sightings, and even bodies of sheep that had been torn apart.

But in an effort to protect the animals, the **Scottish** Big Cat Research Team does not make their mapping data available to the public.

Although there is a lot of historical sightings recorded, a number of recent animal sightings have also been mapped.

Expert confirms north-east is a big cat hotspot'

Mr Macdonald, a custom sword and knife maker by trade, said: "Circulation of the mapping is strictly limited for the research team.

"We are aware that there are gamekeepers and farmers that have made themselves known that they are quite happy to shoot the cats."

A recent documentary on Britain's big cat mystery called *Panthera Britannia Declassified* showed researchers obtaining 86 pages of correspondence and pictures from **Scottish** public bodies under freedom of information laws.

It showed organisations such as Police **Scotland**, the **Scottish** Government and NatureScot discussing various sightings.

The evidence comes as no surprise to Mr Macdonald who believes he knows where the non-native big cats originate from.

In his view, the vast majority of exotic big cats were intentionally released into the wild by their owners.

During the 1960s and 70s, having an exotic pet such as a **Lynx** or panther was a status symbol and perfectly legal.

But the introduction of the Dangerous Wild Animals Act in 1976 made it illegal to own big cats without a special licence.

Wild pet owners either had to obtain a licence and provide adequate facilities, give their pet to a zoo, or have them put down.

Mr Macdonald said: "The animals became logically and financial unsustainable.

"It would have been easier for owners just to release them, which becomes the logical thing to do."

One other possibility is that the sightings could be **Scottish** wildcats.

In June, 22 **Scottish** wildcats were released into the Cairngorms in a "historic milestone".

But Mr Macdonald is sceptical that they have been confused as big exotic cats due to the major differences in size and appearance.

Instead he thinks it is more likely the big cats are confused for the large black Kellas cat.

It is a hybrid between the **Scottish** wildcat and domestic cat and it is named after the village of Kellas, Moray, where it was first found.

The Zoology Museum of the University of Aberdeen holds a mounted specimen that was found during 2002 in the Insch area of Aberdeenshire.

Mr Macdonald has encouraged people interested in getting involved with the project to follow the Big Cat Sightings in **Scotland** Facebook group.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Ev

Expert confirms north-east is a big cat hotspot'

Subject: CATS (92%); MAMMALS (90%); WILD CATS (90%); ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS (89%); ANIMALS (89%); PETS (89%); WILDLIFE (89%); ANIMAL WELFARE (78%); EYEWITNESSES (75%); FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (64%)

Industry: DATABASE SOFTWARE (78%); ZOOS & AQUARIUMS (76%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (89%); SCOTLAND (94%); UNITED KINGDOM (76%); 7 North East

Load-Date: July 14, 2023

End of Document

BORN TO BE WILD THE 'HIGHLAND D TIGER' HANGS ON BY A WHISKER Wildcats released into national park in effort to prevent extinction

BORN TO BE WILD; THE 'HIGHLAND D TIGER' HANGS ON BY A WHISKER **Wildcats released into national park in effort to prevent extinction**

Daily Record and Sunday Mail

June 16, 2023 Friday

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: NEWS; TEASERS; Pg. 14,15

Length: 452 words

Byline: DAN VEVERS

Body

SCOTTISH wildcats bred in captivity have been released into the Cairngorms National Park in an bid to curb their extinction.

The 22 cats, part of a breeding project, will be monitored with GPS collars. Around 60 will be released in the next three years.

Approved under licence by NatureScot, the trial releases are the first of their kind in Britain and it is hoped they will help restore **Scotland's** critically endangered wildcat population.

The cats were born in a purposebuilt centre at Highland Wildlife Park, near Aviemore, in 2022.

Dr Helen Senn, project leader and head of science and conservation programmes for the Royal Zoological Society of **Scotland**, said: "We hope that this project will pave the way for the full recovery of **Scotland's** last remaining native cat species.

"Unfortunately, life is tough for wild carnivores and the sad reality is that some of the wildcats that we release will not survive due to threats such a road traffic. Their survival is contingent on their individual behaviour in a new environment.

"The Saving Wildcats team have made every effort to prepare the wildcats by moving them into large pre-release enclosures which support natural development, informed by successful recovery projects such as Iberian **Lynx** in Spain and Portugal.

"But they cannot ultimately control how the cats will react. However, we also know that inaction will result in extinction. As human activity is responsible for the wildcat's decline, we have a responsibility to take action now to protect one of our rarest and most threatened mammals.

"Everything we learn from this closely monitored first trial release will help inform future releases."

BORN TO BE WILD THE 'HIGHLAND TIGER' HANGS ON BY A WHISKER Wildcats released into national park in effort to prevent extinction

David Field, of the Saving Wildcats Project Board and chief executive of the Royal Zoological Society of **Scotland**, said: "The time is now to give the 'Highland tiger' the best chance of survival and I am thankful for the work of our team members, partners and supporters in making this happen."

Dr David Hetherington, nature networks manager for the Cairngorms, said: "This conservation project is the most ambitious for the wildcat in **Scotland** to date and it's great to see it taking place here."

Alex Macleod, of Forestry and Land **Scotland**, added: "The Cairngorms Connect Partners are committed to a 200-year vision to restore habitats, ecological processes, and species across a vast area of the Cairngorms National Park.

"The size, scale, and positive impact of our restoration efforts make this landscape a great release location for the first conservation translocation of wildcats in Britain.

"We're delighted to be a part of restoring this amazing species in **Scotland**."

human activity is responsible for wildcat decline and we have a duty to take action now

Graphic

FELINE THREATENED The native **Scottish** species faces real risk of being wiped outFREE TO ROAM The first 22 cats are at large and will wear GPS collars

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DRC

Subject: NATIONAL PARKS (92%); CATS (90%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (90%); PUBLIC LANDS (90%); CONSERVATION (89%); LAND RECLAMATION (89%); MAMMALS (89%); MOUNTAINS (89%); WILD CATS (89%); ZOOLOGY (89%); ANIMAL WELFARE (78%); ENDANGERED SPECIES (78%); WILDLIFE (78%); ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (77%); HABITAT CONSERVATION (76%); THREATENED & SENSITIVE SPECIES (76%); EXECUTIVES (75%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (71%)

Organization: ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF **SCOTLAND** (57%)

Industry: NATIONAL PARKS (92%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (90%); ZOOS & AQUARIUMS (90%)

Geographic: **SCOTLAND** (92%); UNITED KINGDOM (72%); PORTUGAL (55%); SPAIN (55%); National Edition

BORN TO BE WILD THE 'HIGHLAND D TIGER' HANGS ON BY A WHISKER Wildcats released into national park in effort to prevent extinction

Load-Date: June 16, 2023

End of Document

Explore cool Granite City - from dolphin watching to theatre trips

Aberdeen Press and Journal

June 3, 2023 Saturday

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Section: WKD; Pg. 32

Length: 854 words

Byline: Jenna Scott

Body

Explore Aberdeen Science Centre

Aberdeen Science Centre has an array of fun and interactive workshops aimed towards audiences of all ages. There are over 60 exhibits and six zones to explore: Energy, Space, Life Sciences, Test It, Make It and Under Six.

Each display allows visitors to understand and learn how the world is shaped by various sciences. A selection of workshops are available throughout the day where visitors can get involved with live experiments and develop a deeper passion for the wonderful world of science and beyond.

Trip to the Theatre

Comedy, opera, musicals and more are all lined up at the fantastic arts venues located across the city, such as His Majesty's Theatre.

Matinees and evening performances are all available to choose from in the upcoming weeks, but it is recommended you book in advance to secure tickets. With many eating spots in Aberdeen city centre, there are plenty of places to grab a bite before the main event, including The Terrace overlooking the newly-refurbished Union Terrace Gardens.

Jump In Adventure Park

This Tullos-based venue has trampolines galore. Bounce as far as the eye can see across an arena filled with interconnected trampolines - yes, that includes jumping from the walls. There's plenty to keep visitors busy here; from tumble tracks to trampoline dodgeball and rock climbing to soft play, Jump In offers a whole day's worth of fun.

Wander around Footdee

The quaint village of Fittie', pictured inset, above right, is considered to be one of the north-east's greatest hidden gems - ironically enough, it is actually very easy to find once you know what you are looking for.

The former fishing village is a popular go-to spot for locals and tourists who want to break away from the hustle and bustle of the city centre.

Dolphinwatch at Torry Battery

Explore cool Granite City - from dolphin watching to theatre trips

Aberdeen is actually one of the best places to spot dolphins in the wild. Visitors might also spy various other marine life such as seals and otters. Grab a pair of binoculars to make sure you get a clear view.

In fact, the best place to find dolphins is between the orange breakwater wall and the lighthouse. This is particularly common during the summer months when the dolphins can sometimes be seen feeding.

Scot Surf School

It might be a rare skill to have in the north-east, but Scot Surf School is not deterred by the baltic conditions of Aberdeen's weather and water. The business was founded by former **Scottish** Surf Rescue Team member Campbell Scott, who delivers insightful workshops and programmes for surf enthusiasts and novices.

Contact: scotsurf@outlook.com, or 07732637082.

Linx Ice Arena

Glide across the rink at the popular Linx Ice Arena. The venue offers public sessions, parent and toddler sessions, skating tuition and an onsite skate shop with a skate sharpening service.

The arena is also home to the 2016 SNL playoff champions, Aberdeen **Lynx**. While there are not any events scheduled to see the **Lynx** in action here soon, their fixtures can be found on their website.

Aberdeen beach promenade

The perfect place for a stroll in both sunshine and cooler days. The promenade along Aberdeen's beach is popular with families, runners and dog walkers.

It also provides a stunning backdrop, with plenty of opportunities to snap that perfect shot of the city's coastline. Oh, and if you want a snack after your walk, or simply want to take a break, there are plenty of places to grab a coffee or an ice cream - and who can resist a delicious 99 cone?

Challenge yourself with escape rooms

There are several escape room venues around Aberdeen. Each bring their own unique quality to the table with various themed rooms and challenges to toy with your mind. Gather a group of friends to beat the clock and work together to solve puzzles before it's too late.

Book with The Locked Door Escape Room or Breakout Games to secure a slot.

explore Hazlehead Park

Hazlehead Park comprises golf courses, a Pets' Corner, playground, cafe and many other enticing features. Visitors are welcome to explore the nature trails around the park as well as popping along to see the adorable animals, including alpacas, goats, Shetland pony, miniature donkeys and more, at the mini zoo.

Roam around Old Aberdeen

Step back in time as you venture around the cobbled streets of Old Aberdeen, home to historic city buildings such as St Machar Cathedral and other iconic hidden gems. Head through to the Cruickshank Botanic Garden or visit the Zoology Museum to learn all about their impressive worldwide collection, and the best part of all? It's free.

Relax with a drink in the city centre

There are plenty of pubs to choose from in the city centre. And with hope that the weather will remain this summer, it's the perfect opportunity to bask in the rays in a beer garden.

Soul Bar, Ma Cameron's and The Old Schoolhouse are just a few of the venues Aberdeen has to offer.

Explore cool Granite City - from dolphin watching to theatre trips

But even if there is a bit of rain, get yourself inside and watch the world go by and take in the historic views, and one ideal place to do so is the Old Blackfriars pub in the Castlegate.

Surrounded by the area's famous cobbles, it's also metres away from the city's Mercat Cross.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Pr

Subject: THEATER (90%); MAMMALS (89%); MARINE MAMMALS (89%); STADIUMS & ARENAS (89%); MUSICAL THEATER (77%); WILDLIFE (77%); LIFE FORMS (72%); CLIMBING (67%); ROCK CLIMBING (66%); SURFING (64%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (93%); SCOTLAND (79%); 7 North East

Load-Date: June 3, 2023

End of Document

Lynx restores a modern classic John Deere 6800 ready for modern-day use

Lynx restores a modern classic John Deere 6800 ready for modern-day use

The Scottish Farmer

June 2023

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Length: 536 words

Byline: Ken Fletcher

Body

Lynx showcased an award-winning Deere 6800 restoration at the Royal Highland

An interesting project on a near 30-year old John Deere 6800, it was fully restored by **Lynx** Engineering and equipped with the latest add-on technology - it made its **Scotland** debut on the **Lynx** Engineering trade stand at the Royal Highland Show.

Having received rave reviews from visitors to LAMMA at the NEC, Birmingham, in January, the tractor has since made an award-winning appearance at the classic tractor show, Tractor World, where it won the Best Restored Tractor award in the 1976-2000 class, beating almost one hundred concourse tractors in the category.

READ MORE: Merlo's new compact TurboFarmer telehandler at RHS23

That accolade provided recognition of the time, effort and skill invested by the **Lynx** project team of Greg Allen, Mark Purves and Sam Ewbank in restoring a modern classic to the most exacting of standards.

The project was undertaken to mark the company-s 30th anniversary and to demonstrate how an old, tired and well used tractor could be restored and re-equipped with new components to give it a new lease of life to take on the demands of modern farming.

Lynx Engineering-s choice of a JD for the project was an easy one to make, it said. The 6000 Series was a completely new range of tractors when it was launched to wide acclaim at Smithfield in 1994.

READ MORE: Kubota ups its game with new narrow 106hp M5-102 tractor

Lynx were ahead of the game having taken all the key measurements for a front linkage and pto kit to fit the tractor. By the time UK dealers took delivery of their first consignment, **Lynx** had a Zuidberg front linkage and pto kit available and ready to go.

When the tractor arrived on site, it looked in reasonable condition for its age and many hours in the field. However, stripping it down to the chassis revealed underlying problems that had to be addressed.

Lynx restores a modern classic John Deere 6800 ready for modern-day use

Amongst many others, these included an engine that only ran on five cylinders, a turbo requiring a full rebuild and a gearbox that was virtually completely replaced with new parts.

Work was also needed on front and rear axles and there was much more cleaning, blasting and painting than originally planned for.

READ MORE: HiSpec launch new push-off Dump Trailer

Restoration was finally completed in December, with the tractor fitted with the latest Stoll Next Generation ProfiLine FZ43-27 front loader, painted appropriately in the Stoll colours that would have been applied back in 1994, and equipped with the latest Pro Control electronic joystick.

The original Zuidberg front linkage could not be saved, so a new up-to-date system was specified with the addition of a front pto, the linkage also being employed to carry the Zuidberg front override protector.

The original Dromone rear pick-up hitch was sent back to Dromone for a complete overhaul. Lynx also replaced the original viscous fan with a brand new Flexxaire reversing cooling/cleaning fan.

Other products featured on the Lynx stand at the Royal Highland Show included the latest Stoll ProfiLine front loader, Zuidberg front linkages and PTOs, Dromone pick-up hitches and coupling systems, a range of front-mounting weight units and the company-s own Streamline branded front press.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: ANNIVERSARIES (52%)

Company: DEERE & CO (94%); BEST INC (57%)

Ticker: DE (NYSE) (94%); BEST (NYSE) (57%)

Industry: NAICS444230 OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT RETAILERS (94%); NAICS333112 LAWN & GARDEN TRACTOR & HOME LAWN & GARDEN EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURING (94%); NAICS333111 FARM MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURING (94%); SIC3524 LAWN & GARDEN TRACTORS & HOME LAWN & GARDEN EQUIPMENT (94%); SIC3523 FARM MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT (94%); SIC2875 FERTILIZERS, MIXING ONLY (94%); SIC2874 PHOSPHATIC FERTILIZERS (94%); SIC2873 NITROGENOUS FERTILIZERS (94%); SIC5999 MISCELLANEOUS RETAIL STORES, NEC (57%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%)

Geographic: BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND (57%); SCOTLAND (88%); UNITED KINGDOM (58%)

Load-Date: July 21, 2023

Lynx restores a modern classic John Deere 6800 ready for modern-day use

End of Document

National Sheep Association Scot Sheep 2024 event heads to East Lothian

National Sheep Association Scot Sheep 2024 event heads to East Lothian

The Scottish Farmer

June 2023

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Length: 428 words

Byline: Kelly Henaughen

Body

A leading beef and sheep unit near Dunbar is set to host **Scotland**-s national sheep event, NSA Scot Sheep, next year.

Organised by the **Scottish** Region of the National Sheep Association (NSA), NSA Scot Sheep 2024 will be held on Wednesday, June 5, 2024, at Aikengall Farm, Innerwick, Dunbar, East Lothian.

Aikengall is farmed by the Hamilton family; James, Charles and Harry, along with their mother Vanessa. With their late father John, they moved there in 1998, from Dykefoot and South Cobbinsshaw in Lanarkshire.

READ MORE: National Sheep Association slam **Lynx** reintroduction plans

-We are delighted the Hamilton family has agreed to host NSA Scot Sheep 2024,- explained NSA **Scotland** chair, Peter Myles.

-The 2022 event will be a hard act to follow, but, Aitkengall has all the ingredients for a terrific day out for **Scottish** sheep farmers; Great livestock, great hosts, and great views, what more could you want. Unless of course you want to see renewables; the impressive Aitkengall wind turbines will generate considerable amount of interest as well as power on the day I-m sure.

-The farm is in a great location and provides a varied and successful business that will be worth a visit to see. NSA **Scottish** Region is very excited to work with the Hamilton family over the next year in preparation for the event.-

Since taking on Aikenagall farm where its 1900 acres on the edge of the Lammermuir Hills, rise from 900 to 1200ft, the Hamilton family has extended their farming interests, incorporating the neighbouring 400 acre farm of Thurston Mains in 2004, taking on the tenancy of the 1200 acres farming unit of Nunraw farm at Garvald in 2010 and the 600 acre farm of Barney Mains, Near Haddington, in 2022.

The Hamilton-s lamb 1400 head each year at Aikengall, comprising 700 Blackface ewes bred pure for replacements, with the remaining 700 Blackface ewes crossed to the Bluefaced Leicester for producing Scotch Mules, where the females are retained for breeding. 1400 Scotch Mule ewes are put to the Texel tup and lambed at Nunraw in March.

National Sheep Association Scot Sheep 2024 event heads to East Lothian

READ MORE: NSA events offer the perfect day out for sheep farmers

The farms also support a beef enterprise of 900 spring calving commercial cows, based on the Simmental breed using Simmental, Lincoln Red and latterly Aberdeen Angus bulls.

James Hamilton, who lives at Aikengall, says: -It will be a great pleasure and honour for us as a family to host such a prestigious event for the sheep industry in **Scotland**. We are looking forward to welcoming fellow farmers and seeing friends old, new, and not met yet to Aikengall, next June!-

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: HORSES (78%); WIND ENERGY INDUSTRY (72%); WILD CATS (70%)

Industry: SHEEP & GOAT FARMING (90%); SHEEP FARMING (90%); BEEF CATTLE FARMING (78%); LIVESTOCK (78%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); ALTERNATIVE & RENEWABLE ENERGY (72%); ENERGY & UTILITIES (72%); WIND ENERGY (72%); WIND ENERGY INDUSTRY (72%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, **SCOTLAND** (58%); **SCOTLAND** (91%)

Load-Date: July 21, 2023

End of Document

LSPB hoping to build on the success of its oilseed rape variety selection

LSPB hoping to build on the success of its oilseed rape variety selection

The Scottish Farmer

June 2023

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Length: 272 words

Byline: Ken Fletcher

Body

Making its return to Cereals recently, LS Plant Breeding, was following up on a successful first visit in 2022 - with its market leading oilseed rape varieties very much to the fore again.

-We had a high footfall of growers, agronomists and trade visitors to our stand and they were exactly our target audience,- commented Chris Guest, LSPB's managing director. -In particular, the great interest in our variety demonstration plots at the stand last year confirmed our decision to take part in Cereals again in 2023.-

READ MORE: Oilseed Rape: Resilient Crop Option Despite Challenges

The company's comprehensive series of plots featured winter oilseed rape, spring and winter beans, spring combining peas, and spring wheat plots.

LSPB has a long heritage of winter oilseed rape breeding and top of the UK Recommended List, Turing - for both East/West and North regions - alongside Vegas, which was showcasing the -RlmS' phoma resistant gene with outstanding light leaf spot resistance, plus Murray at the top of the East/West region only, headed up the range of varieties on display.

READ MORE: Enhance Crop Performance with Proper Sprayer Preparation

Chris Guest also pointed to a selection of candidate varieties for the first time, including Zidane, a RL candidate winter OSR will be there as well as some promising coded varieties with exceptional packages of traits being evaluated for the future.

Equally well known to UK pulse growers for its spring bean portfolio and the varieties included top of the PGRO Descriptive List, Genius, market leading Lynx, and market expanding LVC (low vicine/convicine) varieties, Futura and Victus.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

LSPB hoping to build on the success of its oilseed rape variety selection

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: AGRONOMY (90%); BOTANY (90%)

Industry: FARMERS & RANCHERS (90%); GRAIN & OILSEED FARMING (90%); AGRICULTURE (78%); FRUITS & VEGETABLES (78%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (73%); UNITED KINGDOM (70%)

Load-Date: July 21, 2023

End of Document

HiSpec launches new push-off 20-tonne capacity dump trailer

The Scottish Farmer

June 2023

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Length: 360 words

Byline: Ken Fletcher

Body

A unique new dump trailer that uses the well proven push-off technology originally designed for the company's Kompactor range of push-off trailers, was launched at the Highland by HiSpec Engineering.

The trailer has a heaped load volume of 14.5m³, giving it a carrying capacity of around 20 tonnes, depending on material.

READ MORE: [Lynx](#) restores a modern classic John Deere 6800 tractor

Unlike conventional tipping dump trailers, the PD20 Dump Trailer is offloaded using a hydraulically operated moving floor type headboard that cleanly and efficiently clears the load from the body once the up and over tailgate has been raised. This is based on the same mechanism that was developed for the larger Kompactor push-off trailer range and has a push-off capacity of 28,000kg.

This enables it to be safely used and offloaded on slopes, or at an angle without any risk of the trailer tipping over, or in buildings and situations where there are height restrictions. Where necessary, it also makes it very easy to offload and spread a load while on the move.

READ MORE: Merlo's new compact TurboFarmer telehandler at RHS23

Once the trailer has been emptied and the tailgate closed, the operator can move off while the headboard is retracting, so avoiding an delay, so turn-round times are reduced.

The floor of trailer body is constructed from 8mm thick Hardox steel, with 6mm Hardox used for the body sides. By avoiding the need for a hydraulic tipping ram and hinge points, the centre of gravity is lower than for a conventional dump trailer, making the PD20 Dump Trailer very stable on the road and the load height of 2.39m means operators can easily see into the trailer from the tractor cab.

READ MORE: Kubota ups its game with new narrow 106hp M5-102 tractor

HiSpec launches new push-off 20-tonne capacity dump trailer

Its chassis has a hydraulically sprung drawbar fitted with a bolt-on swivel hitch. The running gear comprises of a parabolic sprung tandem axle, fitted with 127mm round commercial axles. These are fitted with 525/65 R20.5 173F tyres and 420x180 air/hydraulic brakes.

The standard specification also includes LED road lighting, four reversing lights, a strobe beacon and brackets for fitting an up and over sheet.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: ENGINEERING (89%)

Industry: ENGINEERING (89%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (73%)

Load-Date: July 21, 2023

End of Document

Kubota ups its game with new narrow M5-102 tractor at 106hp

Kubota ups its game with new narrow M5-102 tractor at 106hp

The Scottish Farmer

June 2023

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Length: 694 words

Byline: Ken Fletcher

Body

A narrow version of its 106hp M5-102 tractor - aimed at those working in specialist fruit, vineyard and vegetable applications - made its debut for Kubota at this week's Royal Highland Show.

This latest model, the M5-102N, brings several upgrades over its predecessor, the M5001N, including a revised cab complete with Category 4 filtration; front axle suspension and front pto; hydraulically adjustable rear linkage stabilisers and lift rods; and reduced cost of ownership through improved DPF and emissions control efficiency.

READ MORE: HiSpec launch new push-off Dump Trailer

Power comes from Kubota-s V3800 engine, a 3.8-litre four-cylinder turbocharged motor 346Nm of torque and 106hp. It has an EU Stage V compliant emissions package that uses diesel exhaust fluid (DEF).

This emissions control module is neatly packaged under the bonnet, avoiding the need for external mounting of components, such as a DEF tank and SCR cannister, which could impact on the operator-s view from the cab. With a diesel filler at the rear of the tractor and a DEF filler under the bonnet, it is almost impossible to mistake the fill points.

-Packaging is very important on a tractor that is governed by its physical size,- said Jonathan Rook, Kubota-s UK product manager for M-series tractors. -This narrow model does not disappoint. Yet on its narrowest wheel and tyre combination, the M5-102N can be slimmed down to just 1.2m wide to suit row-specific tasks.-

Latest emissions control technology sees the M5N able to perform a diesel particulate filter (DPF) regen at much lower RPM and using much lower temperatures compared to the previous M5N. Requiring only 1100rpm to complete, considerable fuel savings are available, compared to the previous model-s 2000rpm regen. A DPF service is not required until 6000 hours and engine oil changes are every 500 hours.

READ MORE: Lynx restores a modern classic John Deere 6800 tractor

Power is channelled through a 36 x 36 transmission of six speeds in three ranges, with a two-speed power split for each of the six manual speeds. Electronic shuttle control and a declutch button add to functionality and the tractor-s 40kph road speed is achieved at reduced rpm.

Kubota ups its game with new narrow M5-102 tractor at 106hp

Up front, a portal front axle with bevel gear has Kubota's switchable Bi-Speed turn, which increases the front wheel speed once the steering angle exceeds 35°. When engaged, this tightens the turning circle by pulling the nose of the tractor in the direction of steering.

The front axle can also be equipped with an optional suspension system which provides 95mm of travel that is damped by accumulators, and for the first time on this model, a factory-fitted front linkage and pto is also available.

The cab has an almost flat floor design, making the most of internal space and comfort, and an uprated air-suspension seat is also part of the standard specification.

The dashboard combines an LCD panel with traditional gauges, and thanks to electronic engine control, operators can set two engine speed memories. With electronic engine speed monitoring and control, power demanding tasks can be better maintained without excessive fluctuations in engine speed.

READ MORE: Merlo's new compact TurboFarmer telehandler at RHS23

Air conditioning is standard, while those who prefer fresh air can choose to open either of the two curved rear corner windows. Both front indicator assemblies are on spring loaded brackets, allowing them to be twisted inwards by 90° for added protection.

The tractor is now equipped with a stationary pto function and LED lighting. For hydraulic services, buyers have the choice of manual, or electronic spools and the option of ISOBUS implement control through Kubota's 7-inch or 12-inch K-Monitors. -Up to five mechanical spools can be fitted, with individual flow control easily reached inside the cab thanks to a 68.3 litre fixed displacement pump,- said Mr Rook.

In addition, the availability of a mid-mount spool valve kit makes it easy to operate front-mounted equipment. The Cat II rear linkage offers a 2.3 tonne lift capacity.

Priced from 58,868,a range of Kubota Care warranty packages are available, offering up to five years and 5000 hours cover.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: POLLUTION MONITORING, PREVENTION & REMEDIATION (90%); AIR QUALITY REGULATION (89%); EMISSIONS (89%); PRODUCT PACKAGING (89%); PRODUCT MANAGEMENT (73%); PARTICULATE MATTER (70%); SPEED LIMITS (64%)

Industry: EMISSIONS (89%); PRODUCT PACKAGING (89%); AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT MFG (78%); WEBSITES & PORTALS (78%); DIESEL FUEL (75%); SPEED LIMITS (64%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (88%)

Load-Date: July 21, 2023

Rosemary Goring: It seems UK's most popular sport is not football but speeding

Rosemary Goring: It seems UK's most popular sport is not football but speeding

Herald Scotland

May 25, 2023 Thursday

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Length: 1014 words

Byline: [Rosemary Goring](#)

Body

IS it worth risking your career to shave a few minutes off a journey? Suella Braverman is not the only politician to have fallen foul of a speed camera and find herself not simply on the wrong side of the law but in danger of plunging headfirst over the professional cliff. Until the PM decided not to pursue the matter, she was in a predicament similar to the final scene in *The Italian Job*, teetering on the edge of a precipice as the rockface crumbled beneath her wheels.

I might be wildly wrong, but it-s hard to imagine that Braverman was caught careering along at 22 mph in a 20 zone. Putting the foot down in the far right lane seems more her style.

Rather than submit herself to the humiliation and public scrutiny of attending a speed awareness course, she paid a fine and had three points added to her licence. So far, so acceptable. The contentious issues were whether her team was truthful when asked about this offence and if, as some have claimed, she asked her civil servants to see if a one-to-one speed awareness course could be arranged for her, a luxury provided for celebrities keen to stay out of the limelight.

READ MORE: [Rosemary Goring: We older folk are facing down decrepitude by joining gym bunnies](#)

Braverman must be aware she has had a narrow escape, since precedent shows speeding misdemeanours are often an MP-s downfall. Chris Huhne tried to foist the blame onto his wife Vicky Pryce, as a result of which both served time in prison. The Peterborough Labour MP Fiona Onasanya was also jailed for lying to police about a speeding ticket when caught going over the limit.

In retrospect, Braverman might wish she had followed the example of Peter Bristow, Conservative MP for Peterborough, who, after being caught doing 76mph in a 50mph stretch of the A1, asked police to disqualify him from driving for a month, and also paid a fine, costs, and a victim surcharge. Public contrition would have served the Home Secretary far better than attempting to dodge scrutiny of what is, let-s face it, one of the commonest and least sensational ways of breaking the law in this country.

Rosemary Goring: It seems UK's most popular sport is not football but speeding

Braverman-s job has been spared (for the time being at least), but by the time you've read this paragraph dozens of new tickets will have been issued. To judge by statistics, Britain-s most popular sport is not football but speeding. According to government figures for 2021, only 52% of motorway drivers complied with the speed limit, and a mere 49% on 30mph roads. By comparison, on national speed limit single carriageways the majority were law abiding (89%).

None of this will come as much surprise to anyone who regularly gets behind the wheel. One of my friends, who would not hesitate to do an emergency stop to avoid pancaking a rabbit, says that on motorways she goes at 80, since that-s what everyone else is doing. That-s beyond me. In previous dilapidated cars there was always the fear that parts would start to fly off.

These days, it-s not the car that starts to shake but me. Looking around me on the M74 the other day, I recognise I'm in a minority. There-s obviously something hypnotic about driving en masse, as if a group mentality takes over, convoys of like-minded, like-speeded vehicles moving in synch as if they were a swarm of bees.

As far as I can determine, there is no correlation between personality and turning into a wannabe Lewis Hamilton. Someone who appears perfectly trustworthy and sensible can, once in charge of the gear box, turn a regular journey into a dodgems race, swerving around blind corners on the opposite lane, braking at speed bumps as if reining in a runaway horse, and overtaking on country lanes in the face of oncoming flashing traffic.

Those who refuse to be constrained by the speed limit appear to view their cars as the last bastions of liberty. It-s not for someone else to tell them how to drive. Hence the Home Secretary-s recent predicament. Yet by trying to escape the collective act of expiation and penance that is a speed awareness course, Braverman has missed one of the motorist-s most illuminating rites of passage.

I was once caught going too fast on my way to - wait for it! - a funeral, having assumed I was in a 40 zone when it was 30. To avoid getting points on my licence, I went on one of these courses. It was a revelation.

READ MORE: Rosemary Goring: Book review: *Mister Timeless Blyth* by Alan Spence

I-d pictured being incarcerated for four hours in a miasma of *Lynx* amid a throng of boy racers. Instead, there was a hint of lily-of-the-valley and Old Spice as the room filled with shame-faced or sullen 40-, 50- and 60-somethings: people who, like me, had carelessly ignored a sign, or thought no harm would be done if they put the foot down. Or didn-t care if it did.

Speed limits appear to act like a school teacher-s final warning, something to be flouted. On country roads, where there-s every chance of finding horse riders or stray cattle and sheep around the corner, it would be insanity to go at 60, even though it-s legal. Some, however, take it as a personal challenge not to drop a point below it. The roads bear indelible skid marks to prove it; occasionally there-s an overturned car in a field.

The village where I live is a 20mph zone, but if even half the traffic observes this I-d be surprised. Here, and elsewhere, only a few of us seem to stick to this, driving those behind us nuts. You can sense their pent-up frustration at being kept to this funereal pace, yet why should I bow to the pressure of the fist-waving radish in the rear view mirror? Twenty is not just about pedestrian and cyclist safety but about keeping emissions down too. From the speedsters- response, however, you-d think their human rights had been infringed.

And in a way, they probably think they have. Going at whatever speed you like, regardless of the limit, is today-s Declaration of Independence. As figures show, the majority of drivers are law breakers. That-s not good. Even worse is when the law maker becomes the law breaker.

At that point the only question is, has the PM been too speedy in exonerating Braverman?

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Rosemary Goring: It seems UK's most popular sport is not football but speeding

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: SPEED LIMIT ENFORCEMENT (91%); NEGATIVE PERSONAL NEWS (90%); CRIME, LAW ENFORCEMENT & CORRECTIONS (89%); ROAD TRANSPORTATION SAFETY (89%); SPEED LIMITS (89%); ELECTIONS & POLITICS (78%); UK CONSERVATIVE PARTY (78%); UK LABOUR PARTY (78%); FINES & PENALTIES (73%); MISDEMEANORS (73%); CIVIL SERVICES (72%); JAIL SENTENCING (68%)

Industry: SPEED LIMIT ENFORCEMENT (91%); TRAFFIC CAMERAS (90%); ROAD TRANSPORTATION SAFETY (89%); SPEED LIMITS (89%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (92%); UNITED KINGDOM (79%)

Load-Date: May 25, 2023

End of Document

Scotland needs an urgent conversation on rewilding - for all our sakes

Scotland needs an urgent conversation on rewilding - for all our sakes

Herald Scotland

May 18, 2023 Thursday

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Length: 1090 words

Byline: [Kirsty Hughes](#)

Body

Has rewilding-s moment come? The word itself increasingly resonates with many. And awareness of how badly biodiversity has been damaged in **Scotland**, and the rest of the UK, has grown. Moving on from thinking of planting trees being only about sequestering carbon to the goal of recreating flourishing eco-systems of trees, plants, insects, animals, birds, peatlands, healthy rivers and more is both vital and obvious. But can it be done fast enough, at large-enough scale, while bringing enough communities and other interest groups on board?

Some groups have been acting to rewild parts of **Scotland** for many years - decades even. From restoring the once-great Caledonian Forest to protecting and extending the remnants of **Scotland**-s temperate rainforests, re-introducing wildlife - from beavers and red squirrels to discussions about predators such as **Lynx** - there are real signs of change and hope.

One such group is Trees for Life, based at Dundreggan a few miles west of Loch Ness, who have been planting trees in Glen Affric for three decades. Above their newly opened Rewilding Centre in Dundreggan, there are growing forests of a whole range of native trees from Scots pines to downy and dwarf birch to aspens, hazels and many more, all dripping with lichens and moss. Walk along the accessible paths - the aim is to engage as many people as possible - and birds dart across paths. There are rustles from the undergrowth, where tiny flowers peep out. An extraordinary 4,000 plant and animal species have been documented here.

Read more: Prospects for an independent **Scotland** rejoining EU are positive

But rewilding means change. And if our twin climate and biodiversity crises are to be tackled at the scale needed in this crucial decade, then those who are doubtful about or opposed to change have to be brought on board. Trees for Life CEO Steve Micklewright says that successful change means good communication - listening, engaging, dialogue, reassurance, compromise and showing how rewilding can benefit local communities. They are currently running a discussion about re-introducing beavers to Glen Affric. It takes time to talk through where, how and why, and ways to ensure any possible negative impacts either won-t happen or would be dealt with promptly.

There is, inevitably, opposition, especially when something needs to move fast and at large scale. A new report this week, from leading international scientists, documents the impact of intensive agriculture, including pesticides and

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fertilisers- use, on plummeting bird numbers across the UK and the rest of Europe. With encouraging exceptions, farmers and landowners are mostly not at the forefront of embracing rewilding.

In the European Union, the Commission-s new proposals to drive nature restoration, including reducing pesticide use, face determined opposition from the European People-s Party - the centre-right grouping in the European Parliament of which the Tories were once members. With European Parliament elections in a year-s time, the grouping is looking to its voters. Others in the Parliament embrace and argue for the Commission-s approach. But this degree of disagreement in a vital decade is not encouraging.

A recent article in a leading environmental journal argued, through painstaking analysis of different TV news sources in Australia, Brazil, Sweden, the UK and the US, that opposition to climate and biodiversity measures is now coming less in the form of straightforward denial of the problem and more through attacks on specific policies. These attacks often focus on claims about economic costs and personal sacrifices involved, the authors found. The European People-s stance is indicative of this problem.

Finding the best path through these political and oppositional dynamics is challenging. Rewilding needs genuine discussion and debate. It needs community buy-in and from business, civil society groups, the wider public, landowners and more. And certainly, meeting the **Scottish** Government - and UN - goals, of protecting at least 30% of **Scotland**-s nature by 2030, will not be possible without open democratic debate. So well-informed, fact-based discussion of choices, benefits, costs, trade-offs are all vital.

The **Scottish** Government-s consultation on highly protected marine areas has, unhappily, so far demonstrated how not to go about such plans and consultations. And the UK Government is currently planning to repeal EU water, air pollution and environmental laws.

But others have moved ahead more successfully. Despite Brexit - and its impact on their access to key funding sources - Trees for Life are now part of a major European network, Rewilding Europe, taking their work to a very much bigger landscape scale. Their Affric Highlands project aims to rewild half a million acres from Dundreggan to the west coast of **Scotland** over 30 years.

Read more: Starmer puts English Brexit voters before UK's interests

Such a vast project needs buy-in, which Trees for Life are currently achieving, including from local communities, NGOs, landowners and businesses. The speed and extent of action from different groups in such a project cannot be dictated. It must be participative, voluntary and through seeing the benefits.

For Trees for Life, rewilding means a re-peopled landscape too, not a landscape without people. From their European partners in Portugal, says Steve Micklewright, they are getting lots of ideas too about the sorts of small ventures that can thrive due to rewilding, from local tourism and nature-based businesses to the many jobs that rewilding brings. These can attract younger people back to the area - and their views must count on what landscapes should look like in three decades- time.

Scotland has a good range of dynamic rewilding groups, big and small. But the scale and urgency of biodiversity challenges means government must step in where voluntary, local and participative processes are not enough - if government is, itself, not part of the problem.

This then is the rewilding conundrum. Locally-driven projects may be best. But achieving nature restoration across 30% of **Scotland** will require effective, large-scale government intervention too. There will need to be serious, intelligent policy solutions that can get buy-in if some powerful voices, such as some landowners, are in the way of fast enough progress. Populist and oppositional politics will not help here. What we need are both local and national, democratic, fact-based and inspiring conversations and debate to drive rewilding forward.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Scotland needs an urgent conversation on rewilding - for all our sakes

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: BIODIVERSITY (90%); ANIMALS (89%); BIRDS (89%); EUROPEAN UNION (89%); EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS (89%); LIFE FORMS (89%); RODENTS (89%); BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION (78%); CONSERVATION (78%); FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS (78%); MAMMALS (78%); NEGATIVE NEWS (78%); WILDLIFE (78%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS (77%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS CONSERVATION (77%); PESTICIDES (76%); WETLANDS (76%); ZOOLOGY (76%); LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (75%); RAIN FORESTS (73%); INSECTS & ARACHNIDS (71%); CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS (64%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS (62%); ELECTIONS (60%); ELECTIONS & POLITICS (60%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (60%); RIVERS (56%)

Industry: FORESTS & WOODLANDS CONSERVATION (77%); PESTICIDES (76%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); FERTILIZERS (60%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (96%); EUROPEAN UNION MEMBER STATES (92%); UNITED KINGDOM (92%); EUROPE (91%)

Load-Date: May 18, 2023

End of Document

We need to have an urgent conversation about rewilding for all our sakes

We need to have an urgent conversation about rewilding for all our sakes

The Herald (Glasgow)

May 18, 2023 Thursday

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The Herald

Section: Pg. 15

Length: 1064 words

Byline: D CMS

Body

HAS rewilding's moment come? The word itself increasingly resonates with many. And awareness of how badly biodiversity has been damaged in ***Scotland***, and the rest of the UK, has grown. Moving on from thinking of planting trees being only about sequestering carbon to the goal of recreating flourishing eco-systems of trees, plants, insects, animals, birds, peatlands, healthy rivers and more is both vital and obvious. But can it be done fast enough, at large enough scale, while bringing enough communities and other interest groups on board?

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Classification

Language: ENGLISH

We need to have an urgent conversation about rewilding for all our sakes

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: HER

Subject: BIODIVERSITY (90%); ANIMALS (89%); BIRDS (89%); EUROPEAN UNION (89%); EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS (89%); LIFE FORMS (89%); RODENTS (89%); PESTICIDES (79%); WILDLIFE (79%); BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION (78%); CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS (78%); CONSERVATION (78%); FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS (78%); LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (78%); MAMMALS (78%); NEGATIVE NEWS (78%); POLITICAL PARTIES (78%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS (77%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS CONSERVATION (77%); WETLANDS (76%); ZOOLOGY (76%); INSECTS & ARACHNIDS (74%); ELECTIONS (73%); ELECTIONS & POLITICS (73%); RAIN FORESTS (73%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (61%); RIVERS (56%); agriculture (%); business (%); wales_community (%); wales electoral ward (%); health terms (%); political parties (%); weather (%)

Industry: PESTICIDES (79%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS CONSERVATION (77%); FERTILIZERS (74%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, SCOTLAND (73%); SCOTLAND (93%); EUROPE (92%); EUROPEAN UNION MEMBER STATES (92%); UNITED KINGDOM (92%); WALES (91%)

Load-Date: May 18, 2023

End of Document

Cunningham North MSP calls for reintroduction of Eurasian lynx

Cunningham North MSP calls for reintroduction of Eurasian lynx

Largs and Millport News

May 8, 2023 Monday

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Length: 293 words

Byline: [Adam Lyon](#)

Body

Cunningham North MSP Kenneth Gibson has called for the Eurasian *lynx* to be reintroduced to *Scotland*.

The animal has been extinct in Britain for over 500 years, but conservationists have seen a recent surge in support to bring the predator back into the country.

The big cat has been successfully reintroduced in Spain in recent years, and the MSP believes a similar scheme would be beneficial in the *Scottish* Highlands.

Speaking in Holyrood, Mr Gibson said: -We live in a country that is among the most nature-depleted in the world and worldwide biodiversity is declining faster than at any time in human history.

-However, recent years have seen some notable improvements and increased awareness, hunting bans and habitat restoration have resulted in a gradual return of many native species.

-Here, the reintroduction of beavers, ospreys and sea eagles, and action to save wildcats and otters, are all very positive measures that show a commitment to conservation.

-However, any debate on biodiversity cannot ignore the fact that the UK is one of the few countries in Europe with no apex predators.

-Research has confirmed that our Highlands have enough habitat and suitable prey to support a population of around 400 *lynx*.

-Reintroducing the Eurasian *lynx* is not only morally right but would contribute to nutrient recycling and carcase provision for other species, as well as the regeneration of vegetation and trees.-

Edward Mountain, MSP for the Highlands and Islands, says he would not like to see the animal reintroduced in *Scotland*.

He said: -*Lynx* have been away from this country for 500 years, and now is just not the time to bring them back.

-As far as I can see, as an MSP who represents the Cairngorms, there is no appetite for the reintroduction of *lynx*.-

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: WILD CATS (97%); BIODIVERSITY (90%); CONSERVATION (90%); ENVIRONMENTALISM (90%); LIFE FORMS (78%); MAMMALS (78%); MARINE MAMMALS (78%); RODENTS (78%); WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (78%); BIRDS (77%); HABITAT CONSERVATION (77%); NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (77%); MOUNTAINS (76%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (74%); LAND RECLAMATION (69%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (93%); UNITED KINGDOM (91%); EUROPE (79%); SPAIN (79%)

Load-Date: May 8, 2023

End of Document

Cheesier than world's biggest toastie but kudos to Queer Eye: Alison Rowat's TV picks

Cheesier than world's biggest toastie but kudos to Queer Eye: Alison Rowat's TV picks

Herald Scotland

May 7, 2023 Sunday

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Length: 794 words

Byline: [Alison Rowat](#)

Body

The job involved hiding in the bushes, camping out for days wondering if you were ever going to get a sniff of the subject. It was like photographing wildlife, says one of the doughty, only the -quarry- was JD Salinger, a reclusive writer of a cult novel that spoke to millions and continues to do so to this day.

Director Shane Salerno had his own Herculean task when making the documentary Salinger (Sky Arts, Tuesday, 9pm). Yet from a mountain of interviews with the author-s friends, acquaintances and biographers, plus acres of footage and other material, some of it previously unseen, he manages to assemble a compelling portrait of a man who famously did not want to be known.

Some of the sharpest observations come from those who knew Salinger in the days before The Catcher in the Rye, when he was just another struggling writer being rejected by The New Yorker magazine. Except he wasn-t struggling. Salinger lived with his parents in a Park Avenue apartment. He had been to all the best schools and been kicked out of them, much like his anti-hero, Holden Caulfield. The part about being rejected by The New Yorker was true, though he was hardly alone in that.

Love TV? Subscribe now for a pick of the week's best programmes

He finally had a short story about Holden accepted, but the Second World War saw it shelved. Salinger fought in Europe, continuing to work on Catcher whenever he could. Legend has it he had pages on him when he landed on the beaches of Normandy.

War made Salinger the writer he became, but it broke him too. What he had seen in combat, and the camps, led to a breakdown, a fate some of his best-known characters would share.

Catcher eventually made its debut in 1951 and would go on to sell in the tens of millions. One teenager-s cry of anguish against phoneys was heard around the world and it still sells in six figures to this day.

Other writers would make the most of the adulation that followed, but not Salinger. He took himself to a cabin in the woods of New Hampshire, never to be seen or heard from again. Or so went the legend. As Salerno shows, he did

Cheesier than world's biggest toastie but kudos to Queer Eye: Alison Rowat's TV picks

engage with the outside world when he wanted. At this point the documentary takes a turn for the bleak. Salinger may have been a hero on the page, but in reality he was a flawed individual who allowed nothing to interfere with his work.

Salerno-s documentary comes in a movie-length two hours and 40 minutes. Slick editing makes it rattle along but at times it looks its age. The real pity is that it was released in 2013 and more has happened since in the Salinger story. The essentials are here though, making this a must-see for anyone who will forever hold a torch for Holden.

READ MORE: Nicola Sturgeon on Loose Women

It has been 16 years, can you believe, since Mad Men shimmied on to television to sell viewers an initially seductive view of the advertising industry. The male Madison Avenue execs had a high old time of it, but what of the women, the Peggy Olsens stuck in the typing pool?

Some of Peggy-s British counterparts are interviewed in Mad Women (Channel 4, Tuesday, 10pm). When they started their careers, women were portrayed in advertising in two ways - they were either obsessed with keeping a clean house, or getting and keeping a man. The idea of women making ads that went beyond sexist stereotypes was just too far out to be believable.

Then along came a certain jeans ad set in a launderette and started a mini-revolution. Barbara Nokes got the idea for the Levi 501 ad from her own life. She really was sitting in a launderette one evening when a man came in, stripped to his underwear, and bundled his clothes into a machine. In the ad, the guy became Nick Kamen, the soundtrack was Marvin Gaye, and the rest was - well, you know the punchline.

We also meet the female execs behind boundary-pushing ads for Flake, Diet Coke, *Lynx*, Dove and other brands. Although you have to remind yourself at times that they are talking about selling stuff and not saving the world, the women here undoubtedly changed the industry and helped change the culture along the way.

READ MORE: Blood Money and World's Most Secret Hotels

It has been so long since the chaps of Queer Eye (Netflix) were around I had begun to think they had gone their separate ways. Never fear: the original, and some would say still the best, of the life makeover programmes, Queer Eye is back for a seventh series. It-s still the same -Fab Five- line-up giving advice on interior design, fashion, grooming, and so on - but the location has moved from Texas to New Orleans, a city still haunted by the Hurricane Katrina disaster.

Queer Eye can sometimes be cheesier than the world-s biggest toastie, but the hearts of all concerned are in the right place. Their dancing is pretty dang fine too.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: WRITERS (90%); DOCUMENTARY FILMS (89%); NOVELS & SHORT STORIES (89%); MOVIE REVIEWS (77%); WILDLIFE (77%); BIOGRAPHICAL LITERATURE (72%); WORLD WAR II (69%)

Industry: WRITERS (90%); DOCUMENTARY FILMS (89%); MOVIE REVIEWS (77%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); EDUCATIONAL SERVICES (67%)

Cheesier than world's biggest toastie but kudos to Queer Eye: Alison Rowat's TV picks

Geographic: EUROPE (79%)

Load-Date: May 7, 2023

End of Document

No Headline In Original

No Headline In Original

Aberdeen Press and Journal

May 6, 2023 Saturday

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Section: WKD; Pg. 36

Length: 363 words

Byline: Sonja Rasmussen

Body

Festival

Rise Up: Evening Concert, The Lemon Tree, Aberdeen, tonight 7.30pm.

A night celebrating and championing an array of Black and PoC talent from all across **Scotland**, who are changing the narrative in the country's music scene.

For more information contact 01224 641122, or go to aberdeenperformingarts.com Event is pay what you want and ranges from free to £10.

Exhibition

The Testament Of Alexander Jaffray, Aberdeen Art Gallery, Schoolhill, Aberdeen, Runs until Sunday September 3.

This year marks the 350th anniversary of the death of Alexander Jaffray, who was twice Provost of Aberdeen. The manuscript is a rare and important document providing a really fascinating insight into Jaffray's faith following his conversion to Quakerism at a time of religious persecution and political upheaval.

For more information call 03000 200293 or go to aberdeencity.gov.uk/AAGM

Book

The Grief Nurse by Angie Spoto

What if someone could come along and take your grief from you, freeing you from the torment of it? That is the world we find ourselves in, in The Grief Nurse. **Lynx** is the grief nurse to the Aster family. However, when the eldest Aster son dies and **Lynx** is put to work, tensions rise between those within the household and those soon to arrive for the wake.

Secrets and mystery surround the tragic loss, and things become even eerier as bodies start to pile up.

Film

Love Again (12A)

No Headline In Original

Journalist Rob Burns (Sam Heughan) is assigned to write a feature on chart-topping singer Celine Dion and his focus is waylaid by a series of texts from a total stranger to his new phone for work.

The heartfelt missives are from children's book illustrator Mira Ray (Priyanka Chopra Jonas), who is struggling to cope with the death of her fiance and is sending texts to her late beau's mobile device, unaware the number has been reassigned. Rob is deeply moved by Mira's outpourings and he enlists the help of Dion to rationalise his feelings for a woman he has never met.

TV

Britain's Got Talent (ITV, tonight 8pm)

The latest series of the talent show has been going down well with viewers.

Tonight, more would-be performers will be trying to impress the judges and secure a place in the live semi-finals.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Pr

Subject: ANNIVERSARIES (90%); CONCERTS & MUSIC FESTIVALS (90%); FESTIVALS (90%); TRENDS & EVENTS (90%); DEATH & DYING (89%); GRIEF (89%); ARTISTS & PERFORMERS (78%); MUSIC (78%); SINGERS & MUSICIANS (78%); RELIGION (76%); VISUAL ARTISTS (76%); PROTESTANTS & PROTESTANTISM (74%); DRAWING & ILLUSTRATION (71%); THIS DAY IN HISTORY (71%); RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION (69%); CHILDREN'S LITERATURE (68%); EMOTIONS (68%); NURSES & NURSING (68%); WRITERS (68%)

Industry: CONCERTS & MUSIC FESTIVALS (90%); FESTIVALS (90%); ARTISTS & PERFORMERS (78%); SINGERS & MUSICIANS (78%); VISUAL ARTISTS (76%); DRAWING & ILLUSTRATION (71%); MUSEUMS & GALLERIES (71%); CONSUMER ELECTRONICS (70%); NURSES & NURSING (68%); TEXT MESSAGING (68%); WRITERS (68%); TELEVISION INDUSTRY (65%); MOBILE DEVICES (63%)

Person: CELINE DION (58%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (92%); UNITED KINGDOM (90%); SCOTLAND (74%); 7 North East

Load-Date: May 6, 2023

National Sheep Association slam Lynx reintroduction plans in Scotland

The Scottish Farmer

May 2023

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Length: 381 words

Byline: John Sleigh

Body

The National Sheep Association (NSA) have again come out fighting against any proposals to reintroduce *Lynx* to *Scotland*. They believe that reintroduction would damage diverse farmland habitats, the people that manage these environments, and the livestock found amongst

The reintroduction of *Lynx* debate was fired up again last week following a parliamentary motion by the *Scottish* National Party-s (SNP) Kenneth Gibson which received cross-party support .

The motion explained that some people believe the return of *Lynx* could make *Scotland*-s natural world -richer and stronger- via a managed reintroduction, following appropriate assessments.

However NSA *Scottish* region coordinator Grace Reid argued: -NSA *Scottish* Region advocates for a diverse tapestry of habitats and biodiversity across farmland. Protecting these habitats that exist, the species that are at risk right now, and the people managing them should be the priorities for the government.

-However, NSA members across the UK and notably *Scotland* have been at the sharp end of species reintroductions, from poor consultation processes, illegal releases, no management strategies, and no mitigation, exit or recognition of the impacts to farming businesses and livelihoods. We are increasingly concerned around the contradictions which could arise in government policy.-

"As new UK wide farming policies are incentivising habitat creation and work to improve already high animal welfare standards NSA considers it short sighted to be considering the release of a species that could severely damage the biodiversity of existing habitats and severely impact animal welfare and sheep farmers' livelihoods."

-The argument that *Lynx* will only feed on deer is not acceptable.

"There is no doubt sheep will be an easy target for predation and it is a major concern for those who farm in *Scotland*.

"Evidence has shown that some European sheep flocks continue to suffer disproportionately great losses due to *Lynx* predation.

National Sheep Association slam Lynx reintroduction plans in Scotland

-Those in favour of a reintroduction argue the UK has fallen behind in terms of species diversity but there is a history of greater land use and land use change in **Scotland** than Europe has seen and therefore comparisons cannot be made between the UK and Europe due to the vast land scale and landscape differences.-

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: WILD CATS (91%); BIODIVERSITY (90%); HABITAT CONSERVATION (90%); MAMMALS (90%); **SCOTTISH** NATIONAL PARTY (90%); AGRICULTURAL LANDS (89%); ANIMAL WELFARE (89%); ANIMALS (89%); BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION (89%); LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (89%); LAND USE PLANNING (89%); PUBLIC POLICY (78%); UK POLITICAL PARTIES (78%); AGRICULTURE REGULATION & POLICY (77%); LAND CONSERVATION (77%); GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (76%); CONSERVATION (72%)

Company: NATIONAL LATEX PRODUCTS CO (92%); NATIONAL SUPER SERVICE CO (92%)

Industry: SIC3069 FABRICATED RUBBER PRODUCTS, NEC (92%); NAICS333310 COMMERCIAL AND SERVICE INDUSTRY MACHINERY MANUFACTURING (92%); SIC3589 SERVICE INDUSTRY MACHINERY, NEC (92%); LIVESTOCK SERVICES (90%); AGRICULTURAL LANDS (89%); LAND USE PLANNING (89%); SHEEP & GOAT FARMING (89%); SHEEP FARMING (89%); LIVESTOCK (78%); AGRICULTURE REGULATION & POLICY (77%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%)

Geographic: **SCOTLAND** (99%); EUROPE (92%); UNITED KINGDOM (92%)

Load-Date: August 30, 2023

End of Document

Young sheep farmers to be given genetic boost by new NSA giveaway

Young sheep farmers to be given genetic boost by new NSA giveaway

The Scottish Farmer

May 2023

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Length: 423 words

Byline: Kelly Henaughen

Body

FOLLOWING a successful first running of its Next GENE-eration giveaway in 2021, the National Sheep Association (NSA) is once again offering the UK-s young sheep farmers chance to progress their flocks with a competition to win top class genetics.

As with previous giveaways, this gives young sheep enthusiasts aged 18 to 35 the opportunity to win one of five MV accredited, performance recorded Romney rams, kindly provided by Rob and Jo Hodgkins, of Kaiapoi Romneys, through the Frank Parkinson Agricultural Trust. But new for 2023, NSA is also teaming up with the Dutch Spotted Sheep Society to giveaway five ram vouchers, each to the value of 750, to be redeemed at an official Dutch Spotted Sheep Society sale in 2023.

NSA communications manager, Katie James, who is co-ordinating the giveaway, said: -The addition of the Dutch Spotted ram vouchers to the giveaway will mean even more young shepherds will be able to benefit from this initiative. The two breeds will offer sheep farmers from contrasting systems the opportunity to benefit from top class genetics that will help them progress their systems.-

Edward Adamson, for the Dutch Spotted Sheep Society, added: -As a relatively new breed in the UK the Dutch Spotted Sheep Society understands the difficulties of getting started and is pleased to take this opportunity to help some enthusiastic young sheep farmers establish their businesses and realise the qualities of the Dutch Spotted breed.-

READ MORE: National Sheep Association slam Lynx reintroduction plans

The giveaway is just one element of the programme that encourages and supports the sheep farmers and service providers of the future. The programme is inviting applications from enthusiastic young sheep farmers in the UK who would like to be considered as a recipient of a Kaiapoi Romney ram or a Dutch Spotted ram voucher to apply and be considered by submitting a short video clip explaining the reasons for their application and an overview of why they believe they should be considered as a chosen recipient.

Applications opened on Monday, May 15 and will remain open until Monday, June 19. All applicants will be notified of whether they have made it to the next stage of the application process. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to an

Young sheep farmers to be given genetic boost by new NSA giveaway

online selection interview during the week beginning Monday, July 17, 2023 via Zoom or Microsoft Teams, and the successful applicants informed within 48 hours.

For full entry guidance and terms and conditions of the giveaway visit <https://go.nationalsheep.org.uk/GENERATION>.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: VIRTUAL EVENTS (77%); INTERVIEWS (74%); WILD CATS (67%); ACCREDITATION (56%)

Company: MICROSOFT CORP (51%)

Ticker: MSFT (NASDAQ) (51%)

Industry: SIC7372 PREPACKAGED SOFTWARE (51%); SHEEP & GOAT FARMING (95%); SHEEP FARMING (95%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (78%)

Geographic: UNITED KINGDOM (90%); SCOTLAND (73%)

Load-Date: August 30, 2023

End of Document

Sport

Dumfries and Galloway Standard

April 28, 2023

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 35

Length: 1452 words

Body

ICE HOCKEY SOLWAY SHARKS U16S DOUBLE CHAMPIONS

The Solway Sharks have enjoyed even more success this season in their junior ranks.

After the senior men's team won the quadruple and the women's side won the National Ice Hockey League (WNIHL) Division 2 title it was the U16s time to shine.

The U16s have had a fantastic season, playing teams the length and breadth of the country as well as a trip over the Irish Sea to Belfast, recording 17 wins and just one defeat, to see them crowned league champions against Lanarkshire Lightening recently.

Owen Rae picked up the **Scottish** U16s League Winners cup on behalf of his teammates who celebrated this momentous success.

Thoughts then turned to the **Scottish** Cup semi-final which was being played on Good Friday against rivals North Ayr. The game was a hotly contested affair which saw the young Sharks secure a 5-2 win and book their place in the U16 **Scottish** Cup final the following weekend.

The Sharks made the long trip up to Aberdeen **Lynx** arena to face Kirkcaldy, formidable opponents and the only team to have beaten the Sharks this season.

In the scoreless first period both teams demonstrated fantastic offensive skills with Sharks players, Cassie McGregor, Lucas Campion, Taylor Carruth, Bailey Thomson and Tomas Vyorstek all having opportunities on net and Logan Reid holding firm in nets.

The second period continued in the same vein as the first, with players showing grit and determination and the talented Solway defencemen, Ewan Duignan, Sam Stoodley, Samuel Wojick and Owen Rae, continued to thwart the Kirkcaldy offensive play.

With just 15 minutes of regulation time remaining and both teams battling for the puck, it was end-to-end play, fantastic displays of hockey for the neutrals in the crowd.

With seven minutes 36 seconds of the period remaining, defenceman Owen Rae won the puck in his own end before skating through to the Kirkcaldy offensive zone. Rae struck the puck sweetly, seeing it go in off the post, past Cameron Kenny in the Kirkcaldy goal as the Sharks took the lead.

Sport

Kirkcaldy took a penalty and the Sharks went on the power play. As the clock ticked down the Kirkcaldy bench pulled their goalie.

As the puck broke it landed at the stick of Bailey Thomson who skated to the net and tapped the puck home, 2-0 the final score.

Bailey Thomson lifted the trophy on behalf of his team to celebrate with them.

U16s head coach Ross Murray said: "It's been a pleasure to coach this group of players this season.

"Their hard work and dedication is a testament to themselves and the club, it's been a great achievement. It's something they should all be proud of. With most of this team moving up to U19s next season, I'm excited to see what's to come for them. The future is bright."

Solway Sharks head coach Martin Grubb said: "This year has been an amazing year for this group of players and winning one trophy is nice but winning both the league and cup shows how good they have been.

"The players bought in to the coaches systems from early in the season and as a group they have grown not only as players but young people and that is something to be proud of.

"They all deserve massive credit and it shows how much our player pathway works when the majority have come through our programme. Congratulations to everyone involved in the success and long may it continue."

The club would like to say a massive thank you to all our sponsors, volunteers, parents and players.

Anyone interested in playing ice hockey should contact Dumfries Ice Bowl 01387 251300 or Solway Sharks Junior Ice Hockey club @ ssjihc.chair@aol.com

ROWING NITHSDALE AMATEUR ROWING CLUB The club welcomed young people aged 10 to 18-years-old along to its free junior open day on Saturday.

It was a chance for those interested in rowing - which combines strength, endurance and teamwork - to find out more about the sport and the club with the opportunity learn and develop new skills while making new friends.

Experienced coaches were on hand to provide all the necessary instruction and support, as well as equipment so that those who attended the open day got the chance to try out rowing on the River Nith.

The club said it welcomes everyone, regardless of their skill level or experience, to participate and have fun. It is also keen to introduce young people to rowing who may have never tried it before or those who have some experience and are eager to develop their skills further, so anyone who missed Saturday's event should still get in touch with the club if they fancy a new challenge.

MOTORSPORT SPEYSIDE STAGES RALLY Jock Armstrong had to settle for second place in the McDonald and Munro Speyside Stages Rally on Saturday.

The Castle Douglas driver had won the opening round of the KNC Groundworks ***Scottish*** Rally Championship in his Subaru Impreza.

But this time around, he and co-driver Hannah McKillop had to be content with the runner-up spot, nearly half a minute behind the winning duo of Finlay Retson and Paul Beaton in their Ford Fiesta R2.

After struggling with their set-up on the Friday, they were more consistent on Saturday, although were hampered by an overheating exhaust on the penultimate stage.

Mark McCulloch of Dumfries was seventh in his Proton Satria, Iain Wilson of Dalbeattie claiming 10th in his Ford Fiesta Rally2.

Sport

Two places further back were Angus Lawrie of Castle Douglas and Paul Gribben of Annan in their Mitsubishi Evo 9. Scott Peacock of Castle Douglas was 16th in his Mitsubishi Evo 8, enough for success in the Albyn Garage Challengers competition.

Canonbie's John McIlwraith and codriver Heather Grisedale took a second successive win in the Groundwater Lift Trucks Subaru Cup, despite struggling a little with the dust on Friday night. Owen Paterson coming home seventh in class M6 on the notes of Martin Burke's Subaru.

The two-wheel drive and pro two class honours once again went to Dumfries duo Peter Stewart and Harry Marchbank in their Peugeot 208 Rally 4. Dumfries' Richard Stewart was second in class in his Peugeot.

Bridge of Dee's Donald Peacock and Dumfries' Mairi Riddick won class H2 in their Ford Escort Mk2, Penpont's Jim Robertson third in his similar car. That secured Jim the Haddo Energy Super Seniors victory for the second time this season, Graham Wild on the notes this time.

Robert Proudlock of Dumfries took his first Moates Offshore Juniors win of the season with Steven Brown. They survived a couple of small moments on the afternoon to take the class win and finish 21st overall. The Peugeot 208 of Dumfries' Scott and David Sloan was second in class M2. The next round of the ***Scottish*** Rally Championship is the Jim Clark Reivers Rally on May 29.

Golf LIAM JOHNSTON IN UAE Liam Johnston is in the United Arab Emirates on Challenge Tour duty this week.

The Dumfries and County player is in action at the Abu Dhabi Challenge after a short break in tour action.

Johnston, 30, teed off early yesterday morning alongside Spaniard Lucas Vacarisas and Frenchman Pierre Pineau at Abu Dhabi Golf Club.

A prize pot of \$300,000 is up for grabs in the Emirates with 2,000 tour points on offer for the field.

Johnstone lies in 38th place in the Road to Mallorca rankings.

Connor Syme is due to return to the DP World Tour scene next week with the DS Automobiles Italian Open in Rome.

FOOTBALL QOS LADIES 1 KILWINNING 0 Queen of the South Ladies virtually wrapped up the Biffa SWFL (South) League title when they beat nearest rivals, Kilwinning 1-0 at NWCC on Sunday.

In a hard fought game, Queens were on top for the most part, however, an excellent Kilwinning team fought them every inch of the way, with their keeper in particular pulling off a succession of good saves, holding almost everything that came near her.

The only goal of the game came just before half-time when striker Holly Ovens fired a well-placed shot across the keeper into the left-hand corner of the net.

The second half continued in the same vein, with Queens having the upper hand but always having to be alert when Kilwinning broke forward. The game became fairly physical with a number of yellow cards shown, and there were a few stoppages for minor injuries, but there was no further scoring.

Queens now sit on 42 points from their 14 games, and although Kilwinning could theoretically still catch Queens, even if Queens lost all their remaining games, Kilwinning would need to pull back a 76 goal difference disadvantage.

This Sunday, it's a drive up the A76 to take on Nithsdale Wanderers Ladies. A point from that game would make a title collapse mathematically impossible and then the celebrations can begin. However the season doesn't end with winning the league title as there's still the small matter of a play-off for promotion to the next tier in a few weeks.

Graphic

Two in a row John McIlwraith and Heather Grisedale made it two wins out of two in the Groundwater Lift Trucks Subaru Cup. Credit AF Motorsport MediaDouble trouble These youngsters had fun at Nithsdale Amateur Rowing Club's open day on SaturdaySuccess Solway Sharks U16s are the 2022/23 League and Cup ChampionsMessing about on the water Nithsdale Amateur Rowing Club held an open day for juniors at their clubhouse on Saturday

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DGS

Subject: ICE HOCKEY (90%); MEN'S SPORTS (90%); WINTER SPORTS (90%); ATHLETES (89%); HOLDING COMPANIES (89%); **SCOTTISH** FOOTBALL (89%); COACHES & TRAINERS (78%); SPORTS AWARDS (78%); EASTER SEASON (69%)

Company: SEA LTD (57%)

Ticker: SE (NYSE) (57%)

Industry: NAICS519290 WEB SEARCH PORTALS AND ALL OTHER INFORMATION SERVICES (57%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, **SCOTLAND** (57%); BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND (57%); ATLANTIC OCEAN (79%); **SCOTLAND** (95%); National Edition

Load-Date: April 28, 2023

End of Document

LOONY LYNX EFFECT IS THE VERY LAST THING OUR HIGHLANDS NEED

Scottish Express

April 27, 2023 Thursday

Edition 1, Scotland

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 13

Length: 236 words

Byline: Alan Cochrane

Body

THEY'RE at it again ... the barmy army who insist that the Highlands are Europe's "last wilderness" and should be utilised for any number of loony "rewilding" schemes. Their latest is not really a new one, merely a reworking of an old one - that Scotland is the ideal place for the re-introduction of the Lynx.

So-called experts reckon the best way of controlling the numbers of the deer supposedly decimating our forests is to bring back the Lynx, extinct in Scotland for something like 1,000 years. Each of these cats would need a massive area free of buildings - and especially people, whom the rewilders always regard as a nuisance as they plan to take us back to the Middle Ages and beyond.

But the same experts also say it's red deer (too big for the Lynx to dine on) which are doing most of the damage. Lynx prefer the smaller roe deer, but are we to accept that they can tell the difference between a roe and a succulent lamb, and leave the latter alone?

Proper wildlife experts, as distinct from the hobby version, reckon we'd need 250 Lynx in the Highlands. I'm sure that number wouldn't meet with much approval from hill farmers, not to mention their sheep and lambs.

Once they've brought back the Lynx, the rewilders will campaign for the reintroduction of wolves followed, no doubt, by bears.

And the people who actually live in the Highlands? They'll be corralled in enclosures so as not to disturb the animals.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DXPscot

LOONY LYNX EFFECT IS THE VERY LAST THING OUR HIGHLANDS NEED

Subject: MAMMALS (90%); WILD CATS (90%); WILDLIFE (78%); WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (71%); CATS (70%)

Industry: SHEEP FARMING (71%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (91%); EUROPE (58%); Scotland

Load-Date: April 27, 2023

End of Document

Scottish farmers voice opposition to introduction of predators

Herald Scotland

April 27, 2023 Thursday

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Length: 495 words

Body

NFU **Scotland** president Martin Kennedy has called on the **Scottish** Government to permanently reject any proposals to introduce predators such as **Lynx**, wolves and bears to **Scotland**-s countryside.

-In our opinion,- he said, -no local or political consensus exists for such a release. Indeed, Norway recently paid out compensation for 20,000 sheep lost to predators and sixteen sheep are lost to every **Lynx**.

"Predation of farmed livestock in Norway has actually reduced over the past decade - not because of fewer predators, but the because hill farmers have simply stopped keeping sheep, and around a thousand hill farmers have given up in the past ten years as they simply couldn-t handle losses on that scale.

-Those reaping any benefit are rarely those bearing the costs and negative impacts - the farmers and crofters dealing with the consequences in perpetuity.-

Round-up

WELL-bred, finished hoggs met a good demand at Newton Stewart yesterday, with a top price of 170/head achieved for a pair of Dutch Spotted from JM Howie, Wellhouse, while Beltexes and Chevious sold to 316p/kg and 312p/kg for pens of from Bridgehouse Farming Co.

Mr J Drennan, Balgracie led the Blackfaces at 137/head and 291p/kg for a pen against an overall average of 259p/kg. Cast sheep sold to 181/head for Wellhouse with ewes to 168 for a Texel from Boreland. Mid Skeog led the Mules at 126 whilst Balkar topped the Blackfaces at 98/head.

Hoggs at Dingwall on Tuesday didn-t quite scale the heights of last week, but hopper fed animals remained at a premium.

Despite a predictably higher number of leaner ewes being sold - casualties of a trying lambing season - trade on the whole bucked the trends of further south, with feeding sheep selling to 135 for a Texel Cross ewe from Loaneckhelm.

Prime cattle in Dumfries sold easily to 330p/kg for Limousin cross heifers from Yett to R Johnstone & Sons, while OTM cattle continue to be in big demand - beef cattle selling to 290p/kg for Grennan and 1,920/head for Midtown, while dairy cattle sold to 197p/kg for New Farm and 1,375/head for Grains.

Scottish farmers voice opposition to introduction of predators

Lighter hoggs averaged 276p/kg and sold to 307p/kg for Copewood, with heavier types averaging 264p/kg and selling to 296p/kg for West Skelston.

Calves at Ayr on Tuesday peaked at 640/head for a pair of Aberdeen Angus heifers from East Montgarswood with bulls to selling to 600/head for a pen of three from West Cairngaroch.

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In the rough ring, 125 cattle sold easily, bulls to 2,000/head for Kirminnoch and to 262p/kg for an Angus from Dunduff.

Cast cows sold to 2,220 for a Charolais from Balnowlart and to 274p/kg for a Limousin from Rosemount. Dairy cows sold to 1,730 for a Friesian from Kirminnoch to 220p/kg for the same breed from West Cairngaroch.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: MAMMALS (90%); ANIMALS (76%); FARM LABOR (70%)

Industry: BEEF CATTLE FARMING (89%); SHEEP FARMING (89%); LIVESTOCK (78%); SHEEP & GOAT FARMING (76%); FARM LABOR (70%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (58%); SCOTLAND (92%)

Load-Date: April 27, 2023

End of Document

NFUS chief calls on Hollyrood to reject return of the lynx

NFUS chief calls on Hollyrood to reject return of the lynx

Aberdeen Press and Journal

April 26, 2023 Wednesday

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Section: FAR; Pg. 38

Length: 466 words

Byline: Katrina Macarthur

Body

NFU **Scotland**'s president and a local MSP have voiced their opinions ahead of an event organised at Hollyrood to discuss the potential of returning the **lynx** to **Scotland**.

Last night's event was sponsored by Ariane Burgess MSP and hosted by the **Lynx** to **Scotland** partnership.

Speaking ahead of the event, president of NFU **Scotland** Martin Kennedy said that the union remained "crystal clear" that any proposals to reintroduce predators such as **lynx**, wolves or bears are wholly unacceptable to farmers and crofters.

He called on the **Scottish** Government to make a clear statement rejecting such proposals permanently.

"The past few years have seen a long line of brazen and presumptuous claims from organisations about the imminent reintroduction of predators to the UK, causing considerable angst and anxiety to those who keep livestock in **Scotland**," said Mr Kennedy.

"The only application in the UK to date, to reintroduce **lynx** to Kielder in the north of England, was rejected by the UK Government.

"Feverish press coverage of previous proposals to reintroduce **lynx** saw a welcome commitment in public from Fergus Ewing MSP, when he was **Scotland**'s cabinet secretary for rural economy, that he would never support such a reintroduction.

"We fully expect the current **Scottish** Government to stand by that pledge," added the union president.

Mr Kennedy said that, despite the media speculation, he reminded union members that nothing as yet equates to an application for release in **Scotland**.

He said that, were that ever to happen, the process for securing permission for the trial release of any predator is long and complex and any application will be subject to considerable analysis and debate.

"In our opinion, despite numerous attempts, no local consensus nor political consensus has ever been secured for such a release.

"Those reaping any benefit from these species' reintroductions are rarely the ones bearing any of the costs or negative impacts.

NFUS chief calls on Holyrood to reject return of the lynx

"It is vital that all the impacts are considered and costed and support is made available to those carrying the costs both during any possible pilot study but, crucially, beyond.

"When the researchers have patted themselves on the back and packed up at the end of the pilot, they leave farmers and crofters dealing with the impacts in perpetuity."

Highland and Islands MSP Edward Mountain also weighed in on the situation and said the last thing the Highlands needed is the "Lynx effect".

"This agenda is being pushed by rewilding organisations which are fixated on single species and the reforestation of the Highlands," he said.

"We shouldn't forget that previous attempts to reintroduce species have not come without their problems, such as the uncontrolled introduction of beavers on the Tay, which has caused many flooding problems and damage along the river."

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Pr

Subject: WILD CATS (90%); FARM LABOR (76%); LABOR UNIONS (76%); MAMMALS (76%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (74%); CABINET OFFICES (73%); GOVERNMENT ADVISORS & MINISTERS (73%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (70%); RODENTS (67%); REFORESTATION (50%)

Industry: SPONSORSHIP (78%); FARM LABOR (76%); LIVESTOCK (73%); REFORESTATION (50%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (90%); SCOTLAND (94%); UNITED KINGDOM (93%); ENGLAND (79%); 7 North East

Load-Date: April 26, 2023

End of Document

THE MISSING SING LYNX BIG CATS COULD BE SET FOR RETURN TO THE HIGHLANDS AFTER 500 years It would restore balance to nature and make Scotland 'first rewilding na....

THE MISSING SING LYNX; BIG CATS COULD BE SET FOR RETURN TO THE HIGHLANDS AFTER 500 years It would restore balance to nature and make Scotland 'first rewilding nation'

Daily Record and Sunday Mail

April 25, 2023 Tuesday

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 8,9

Length: 381 words

Byline: DAN VEVERS

Body

LYNX could be reintroduced to Scotland to boost the ecosystem - like in France, Germany and Switzerland.

The woodland predators, which are not deemed a risk to humans, were hunted to extinction 500 years ago.

Conservationists hope releasing 400 Lynx to the Highlands will lead to Scotland becoming known as "the world's first rewilding nation".

The wild cats will prey on deer, and experts hope they will help restore nature and benefit communities as well as regenerating forests.

Lynx reintroduction will be discussed in the Scottish Parliament today in a debate organised by rewilding charities and sponsored by Ariane Burgess MSP.

Potential reintroduction was debated on April 20 after a motion by Kenneth Gibson received cross-party support.

MSPs, senior advisers and rural groups are to attend the event, hosted by Lynx to Scotland project partners Scotland: The Big Picture, Trees for Life and The Lifescape Project.

Dr David Hetherington will highlight how Lynx successfully returned to Germany, France and Switzerland and insist they are "shy and elusive woodland hunters which pose no danger to people".

Last year, the Lynx to Scotland project completed the first detailed research into the reintroduction, consulting stakeholders such as farmers, gamekeepers, landowners, tourism operators and rural communities in Argyll and in Cairngorms National Park.

Steve Micklewright, head of Trees for Life, said: "Scotland could become the world's first rewilding nation but is still one of Europe's only countries lacking large predators.

"The support or acceptance of the land management community for a well-considered, carefully managed Lynx reintroduction would help deliver on commitments to restore 30 per cent of nature by 2030."

THE MISSING SING LYNX BIG CATS COULD BE SET FOR RETURN TO THE HIGHLANDS AFTER 500 years It would restore balance to nature and make Scotland 'first rewilding na....

The Lynx to Scotland project says reintroducing the species could reduce the impacts of deer eating and damaging woodland, boost biodiversity and restore natural processes while helping to attract valuable tourism revenue for rural communities.

Adam Eagle, boss of The Lifescape Project, said: "Scotland has suitable habitat for Lynx to prosper here.

"The return of this magnificent creature is about choices and our willingness to live alongside other species."

Lynx are "shy and elusive woodland hunters which pose no danger to people". Dr David Hetherington

Graphic

BEAUTIFUL Lynx could help boost rural tourism, experts say COMEBACK TRAIL Lynx were hunted to extinction in Scotland in the 1500s

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DRC

Subject: WILD CATS (91%); CONSERVATION (90%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (89%); LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (89%); MAMMALS (89%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (89%); BIODIVERSITY (78%); BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION (78%); ENVIRONMENTALISM (78%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS (78%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS CONSERVATION (78%); NATURAL RESOURCES (78%); NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (78%); PUBLIC LANDS (78%); MOUNTAINS (77%); NATIONAL PARKS (77%); CATS (76%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (76%); TRENDS & EVENTS (75%); TOURISM OUTPUT (66%); TRAVEL & HOSPITALITY SECTOR PERFORMANCE (66%)

Industry: FORESTS & WOODLANDS CONSERVATION (78%); NATIONAL PARKS (77%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (76%); EVENT TOURISM (73%); TOURISM (67%); TOUR OPERATORS (66%); TOURISM OUTPUT (66%); TRAVEL & HOSPITALITY SECTOR PERFORMANCE (66%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (94%); FRANCE (90%); SWITZERLAND (88%); EUROPE (73%); GERMANY (73%); National Edition

Load-Date: April 25, 2023

MSPs discuss possible return of lynx to help enrich the Highlands

Aberdeen Press and Journal

April 25, 2023 Tuesday

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Section: NWS; Pg. 8

Length: 370 words

Byline: Scott Mcpherson

Body

Discussions about the reintroduction of the Lynx to Highland forests have been held at the Scottish Parliament.

Organised by Highlands MSP Ariane Burgess along with the charity, Lynx to Scotland, the talks reflect growing support for the return of the Eurasian Lynx.

The animal has been extinct in the UK for more than 500 years due to human activity and habitat loss.

Talks come as the Saving Wildcats conservation project is due to reintroduce Scottish wildcats back into the wild, following a successful breeding programme.

The final stage of the project will release 20 wildcats back into the wild in June at a site in the Cairngorms National Park.

Research on the Lynx has found the Highlands to be a suitable habitat for around 400 animals, should they be reintroduced in Scotland.

Peter Cairns, executive director of Scotland: The Big Picture, a partner to Lynx to Scotland, said: "It's good news that politicians and policymakers are now seriously discussing the return of the Lynx, which would have strong public support."

"Scotland is one of the poorest places on Earth for nature, and if we are serious about tackling the nature and climate emergencies, these conversations really matter."

Reintroducing Lynx was debated in the Scottish Parliament on Thursday, after a motion by the SNP's Kenneth Gibson received cross-party support.

The motion outlined a staggered approach to the species' return and emphasised the benefits such animals would have in helping to enrich the Scottish natural landscape.

In addition, Scotland has a larger than preferred population of roe deer, which also happens to be a favourite prey of the Lynx.

The Lynx could help rebalance the natural order by helping maintain deer numbers without the need for human intervention.

MSPs discuss possible return of lynx to help enrich the Highlands

Experts say Lynx are shy and solitary creatures and are unlikely to pose a threat to humans.

Steve Micklewright, chief executive of Trees for Life, added: "Scotland could become the world's first rewilding nation, but is still one of Europe's only countries lacking large predators.

"The support or acceptance of the land management community for a well-considered, carefully managed Lynx reintroduction would help deliver on commitments to restore 30% of nature by 2030."

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Pr

Subject: WILD CATS (91%); ANIMALS (89%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS (89%); MAMMALS (89%); CONSERVATION (78%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (78%); LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (78%); MOUNTAINS (78%); NATIONAL PARKS (78%); NATURAL RESOURCES (78%); NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (78%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (78%); PUBLIC LANDS (78%); PUBLIC POLICY (78%); SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY (78%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (76%); ELECTIONS & POLITICS (73%); EXECUTIVES (73%)

Industry: NATIONAL PARKS (78%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (78%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (89%); EARTH (79%); SCOTLAND (94%); EUROPE (78%); UNITED KINGDOM (58%); 7 North East

Load-Date: April 25, 2023

End of Document

Farmers call to reject reintroduction of lynx ahead of talks on bringing back the bobtail cat

Farmers call to reject reintroduction of lynx ahead of talks on bringing back the bobtail cat

Scotsman

April 25, 2023 Tuesday

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THE SCOTSMAN

Section: FARMINGENVIRONMENTNEWSSCOTLAND

Length: 270 words

Highlight: Farmers have called on the **Scottish** Government to make a clear statement rejecting proposals being discussed in Parliament to reintroduce **Lynx**.

Body

Some conservationists believe bringing back **Lynx** would benefit eco-tourism and help control roe deer where they damage woodland. But the National Farmers Union (NFU) **Scotland** said the idea of bringing back the bobtail cat was “wholly unacceptable” when it comes to those managing livestock such as farmers and crofters.

The outcry came ahead of a reception taking place in Holyrood on Tuesday where politicians, rewilding groups such as The Big Picture and Trees for Life, scientists, landowners and school children were meeting to discuss potentially reintroducing the apex predator.

NFU **Scotland** president Martin Kennedy said the proposals about an “imminent reintroduction of predators” had caused considerable anxiety to those who keep livestock in **Scotland**.

“NFU **Scotland** remains crystal clear that any proposals to reintroduce predators such as **Lynx**, wolves or bears are wholly unacceptable to **Scottish** farmers and crofters and it calls on **Scottish** Government to make a clear statement rejecting such proposals permanently,” he said.

Mr Kennedy added: “Those reaping any benefit from these species’ reintroductions are rarely the ones bearing any of the costs or negative impacts.”

Former rural affairs secretary Fergus Ewing said he would never support a reintroduction of the species in 2018. Mr Kennedy said the union fully expected the current **Scottish** Government to stand by that pledge.

Earlier this year, UK environment secretary Therese Coffey told English farmers the UK Government would not support the reintroduction of predators.

Mr Kennedy insisted **Scottish** farmers and crofters deserve similar assurances.

Graphic

Farmers call to reject reintroduction of lynx ahead of talks on bringing back the bobtail cat

NFU Scotland has hit out at discussions going ahead in the Scottish Parliament about the potential reintroduction of lynx (Mark Graham)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: CATS (90%); FARM LABOR (90%); MAMMALS (90%); TALKS & MEETINGS (90%); WILD CATS (90%); ECOTOURISM (78%); ENVIRONMENTALISM (78%); GOVERNMENT ADVISORS & MINISTERS (78%); LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (78%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (74%); ELECTIONS & POLITICS (73%)

Organization: NATIONAL FARMERS UNION (84%)

Industry: FARM LABOR (90%); FARMERS & RANCHERS (90%); LIVESTOCK (79%); ECOTOURISM (78%); PUBLISHING (73%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (97%); UNITED KINGDOM (91%)

Load-Date: April 25, 2023

End of Document

'Critical' milestone hit in efforts to save wildcats from extinction

'Critical' milestone hit in efforts to save wildcats from extinction

Herald Scotland

April 24, 2023 Monday

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The Herald

Length: 766 words

Byline: [Ema Sabljak](#)

Body

A bid to boost a **Scottish** species on the brink of extinction has moved a step closer to the first-ever release of the animal into the wild.

Scottish wildcats which are set to be released in the Cairngorms National Park later this year have now been moved into specially designed pre-release enclosures.

The Saving Wildcats conservation partnership project has said the move marks a "critical milestone" in the efforts to help the endangered mammals.

Once widely distributed across Great Britain, wildcats have suffered from loss of habitat and persecution - with only low numbers remaining in northern and eastern **Scotland**.

Led by the Royal Zoological Society of **Scotland** (RZSS), the partnership is working to restore **Scotland**-s wildcat population through a breed and release programme.

READ MORE:Wildcats to be released in **Scotland** this summer in bid to save iconic species

David Barclay, ex-situ conservation manager for the partnership, said: "It is fantastic to have passed this critical milestone in the project and exciting to take another important step forward in the plans to release wildcats this year.

"The journey to restore a viable wildcat population in **Scotland** is just beginning and we are incredibly grateful for the efforts of our team members, partners and supporters whose expertise has been crucial to reach this point."

A total of 22 kittens were welcomed at the Highland Wildlife Park in a quiet area hidden away from visitors last year - many of which will be among the first of their species to release into the wild in the UK.

Their pre-release enclosure is also located in the eight-acre conservation breeding for release centre at the park.

There are 20 enclosures which were constructed in 2022 as a core element of the programme.

'Critical' milestone hit in efforts to save wildcats from extinction

In efforts to support natural development, the enclosures are designed to reduce exposure to humans and disturbance and are not available for public viewing.

Wildcats are solitary in the wild and the pre-release enclosures mimic a natural dispersal from their parents.

Mr Barclay added: -The large pre-release enclosures are designed to encourage the cats to exhibit their full repertoire of natural behaviours whilst promoting social interactions and communication between cats.

"Our expert keeper team also use a selection of tools and techniques to promote natural activity patterns whilst enhancing key skills needed for life in the wild, including hunting, foraging and scent marking.

"To compliment this, we have an extensive CCTV system which allows us to monitor the behaviour of the cats around the clock from our office, without any activity at the enclosures.-

The pre-release enclosures were built with the support of Cairngorms National Park volunteer programme, Chester Zoo, Forestry and Land **Scotland** as well as experts and advisors from St Andrews University.

READ MORE: Bid to save the endangered **Scottish** wildcat is resuscitated

Meanwhile, the wildcats which remain in the breeding enclosure are also expecting a busy time ahead.

Coupled-up wildcats have begun their second breeding season, which includes pairs Fruin and Beanie, Fian and Rannoch, Cranachan and Margaret, Torr and Embo, Droma and Arran, Oscar and Caol Ila and Nell and Con.

However, male wildcat Ordie is awaiting the arrival of another female wildcat after his partner Tulla sadly died after complications from a fractured leg.

Rannoch was also re-paired after his last partner Fearn was moved to Golders Hill Park Zoo in London.

Also known as the Highland Tiger, wildcats are elusive and secretive animals which feed on small mammals and birds.

The project's wildcat conservation breeding for release centre is the first of its kind in the UK and follows other similar dedicated endangered species breeding centres including Iberian **Lynx** and European mink.

The project is funded with the contribution of the LIFE Programme of the European Union and the generous support of the Garfield Weston Foundation, the National Trust for **Scotland**, the People's Trust for Endangered Species, the European Nature Trust and the **Scottish** Government.

However, the Saving Wildcats project also relies on donations from supporters.

Running up to April 27, donations will go even further through the Give Green Match Fund with all donations being doubled.

Help bring wildcats back from the brink of extinction in **Scotland**

This week you can DOUBLE your donation to the @SaveOurWildcats partnership led by @RZSS with the @BigGive #GreenMatchFund!

Secure a future for the Highland tiger today -\xEF<https://t.co/mxJ3VtvVV7> pic.twitter.com/e7DxwyrmjW

- Highland Wildlife Park (@HighlandWPark) April 20, 2023

Classification

'Critical' milestone hit in efforts to save wildcats from extinction

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: ANIMALS (90%); CONSERVATION (90%); NATIONAL PARKS (90%); WILDLIFE (90%); CATS (89%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (89%); PUBLIC LANDS (89%); ENDANGERED SPECIES (78%); MAMMALS (78%); MOUNTAINS (77%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (76%); LAND RECLAMATION (75%); ANIMAL COMMUNICATION (73%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (73%); SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY (60%); VOLUNTEERS (50%)

Organization: ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF **SCOTLAND** (57%)

Industry: NATIONAL PARKS (90%); ZOOS & AQUARIUMS (90%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (89%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%)

Geographic: **SCOTLAND** (93%); UNITED KINGDOM (73%)

Load-Date: April 24, 2023

End of Document

'In the world of Angie Spoto-s debut novel, grief nurses are an elite status symbol'

'In the world of Angie Spoto-s debut novel, grief nurses are an elite status symbol'

Herald Scotland

April 24, 2023 Monday

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Length: 586 words

Byline: [Alastair Mabbott](#)

Body

You'd expect the death of a son to be an emotionally devastating blow for a family. Not for the aristocratic Asters, living the life of idle gentry on their private island of Mount Sorcha. For the Asters have their own grief nurse, a young woman called **Lynx**, whose psychic powers can take away their sorrow, leaving them bright and chipper to welcome the guests to what would have been their son Sculptor-s engagement party but will now serve as his wake.

In the world of Angie Spoto-s debut novel, grief nurses are an elite status symbol. They allow the rich to go through life untroubled by negative emotions like sadness, anguish or heartbreak. Hanging on to one-s grief is considered bad form, and those who have a grief nurse can-t imagine how anyone copes without one.

Distinguished by their white hair and pale eyes, grief nurses are snatched from their parents and isolated in special schools, later to be farmed out into what basically amounts to indentured servitude, paraded as trophies and passed down like heirlooms.

Lynx has lived on Mount Sorcha for 12 years, relieving the family members of their grief since the age of ten. Revered but unloved, gifted with an extraordinary ability that makes people afraid to touch her, given intimate access to the Asters- emotions but bedding down in the servants- quarters at night, **Lynx** feels understandably detached from the human race. But her interior life is full of wonder and intense sensation. The lonely **Lynx** can escape to a landscape inside herself where the source of her power resides, and her clients- grief, as she hungrily devours it, manifests itself in symbolic forms: as a rose, for example, a crow or a blade. Often, she can see them in the real world, such as those times when a snake will become visible wrapped around Ms Aster-s arm.

As the late Sculptor-s wake begins, his fianc\xC3e, the flamboyant Vela Deleporte, makes her entrance. To everyone-s dismay, she has brought Sculptor-s grief nurse, assuming that her guardianship will now pass to the Asters. Older, assured, enigmatic, Karina is the first grief nurse **Lynx** has seen since she was a child, and she doesn-t know quite what to make of her. Is she a threat or a potential ally? How will her arrival affect **Lynx**-s relationship with the Asters- daughter, with whom she is secretly and hopelessly in love, and who has a shameful secret of her own?

'In the world of Angie Spoto-s debut novel, grief nurses are an elite status symbol'

Originally from Chicago, Angie Spoto got her PhD in Creative Writing in Glasgow and continues to live in Scotland, her adopted home clearly inspiring the island of Mount Sorcha. The world outside it is purely the product of her imagination: a vaguely Edwardian alternate timeline she could have explored further, in which same-sex marriage is commonplace but using hot-water pipes to heat a greenhouse counts as cutting-edge technology. Her world-building only falters when it comes to the people known as Faders, whose nature is never really quite clear, despite their relevance to Lynx-s story.

Lynx herself is a compelling, if introspective and distant, character. Possessed of incredible abilities, she is nevertheless at the mercy of the events taking place around her, and yearns to be free to choose her own destiny and follow her heart.

Elements of magic realism and shades of gothic romance enshroud her journey of self-discovery in an aura of enchantment and infinite possibilities, and her dawning realisation that human beings need grief if they are to feel fully alive is tracked by some beautiful passages steeped in rich imagery.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: EMOTIONS (90%); GRIEF (90%); FAMILY (78%); CREATIVE WRITING (77%); NOVELS & SHORT STORIES (77%); LGBTQ+ PERSONS (73%); MARRIAGE (73%); CERTIFICATES, DEGREES & DIPLOMAS (67%); SAME SEX MARRIAGE & UNIONS (50%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, SCOTLAND (58%); SCOTLAND (91%)

Load-Date: April 24, 2023

End of Document

World first rewilding centre near Loch Ness opens its doors to the public

World first rewilding centre near Loch Ness opens its doors to the public

Herald Scotland

April 14, 2023 Friday

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Length: 767 words

Byline: [Gabriel McKay](#)

Body

The world's first rewilding centre, by the shores of Loch Ness, will open its doors to the public for the first time on Friday.

The centre, located on the 10,000 acre Dundreggan Estate has been part of a rewilding project by Trees for Life since 2008, with the group allowing the forest to regenerate naturally after centuries of damage caused by sheep, goats and deer grazing.

It lies just eight miles from the shores of Loch Ness on the main road to Skye, and has already seen golden eagles successfully breeding on the site for the first time in 40 years.

Around 20 new jobs have been created on the site, which it is hoped will boost the local economy as people arrive to visit the rewilding centre and stay in its 40 room accomodation building.

Dundreggan is part of Affric Highlands, the UK-s largest rewilding landscape which will potentially cover more than 500,000 acres.

Steve Micklewright, chief executive of Trees for Life, said for 15 years -Dundreggan has been a beacon for rewilding our landscapes- and that -now it will be a beacon for rewilding people too-.

He added: -We want to breathe life into the huge potential of the Highlands to help nature return in a major way - providing people from all walks of life with fantastic experiences while supporting re-peopling, boosting social and economic opportunities, and tackling the climate and nature emergencies.-

Displays will be in both English and Gaelic, and will also feature a cafe, classrooms and an events space.

Read More: Conservationists challenge 'highly damaging' Berwick Bank plan

Laurelin Cummins-Fraser, the centre-s director, said it is -embedded in the landscape and the community-.

World first rewilding centre near Loch Ness opens its doors to the public

She added: -Its design is inspired by Gaelic heritage and history, and by the Caledonian forest - with verticals representing trees, changing light to reflect how light plays in woodlands, and materials and colours conjuring up bracken and forest bark.-

Rewilding is seen as an effective way of combating climate change and its impacts.

The United Nations has appointed 2021-2030 as the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration with the explicit aim -to prevent, halt, and reverse the degradation of ecosystems on every continent and in every ocean".

Rewilding pasture lands reduces the number of cows and sheep while increasing the number of trees and reducing carbon emissions.

Some rewilding projects also focus on the reintroduction of so-called 'keystone species' which are seen as crucial in maintaining the ecological balance of an area.

Read More: [Lynx](#) could be reintroduced to [Scotland](#) despite concerns about it being a sheep predator

These can include carnivores which prevent a herbivorous animal from eliminating all of a local plant species, for example the sea otter which prevents the destruction of kelp forests by feeding on the sea urchins which eat them.

In [Scotland](#) there have been calls to reintroduce the [lynx](#), which has been extinct in Britain since the Middle Ages, and the Eurasian wolf.

The United Kingdom currently has no terrestrial apex predators, and it's thought the reintroduction of such species could keep deer numbers in check and prevent extensive damage to the ecosystem.

In 2020, [Lynx](#) Trust UK began a consultation into releasing the animals into the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park north of Glasgow but it was met with opposition from sheep farmers.

Jen Craig of the National Sheep Association said of the plans in 2021: "The last consultation to date carried out by [Lynx](#) UK Trust was flawed and subsequently denied.

-It is also worth remembering that the cabinet secretary Fergus Ewing has made his disapproval of any reintroduction in the past quite clear, and we will continue to ensure that view is maintained in [Scotland](#).

"Yet another predator to our flocks is certainly not required in these very tumultuous times."

However, supporters of the [lynx](#)'s reintroduction point to their ability to prey on deer and prevent the destruction of woodland by grazing and state that the cats are known to kill foxes so may actually prevent livestock loss.

The beaver has already been successfully reintroduced into [Scotland](#), with the first released in 2009 into Knapdale Forest in Argyll.

Seven beavers - an adult pair and five young offspring - were released into Loch Lomond earlier this year though two of the kits are believed to have died in an otter attack.

The move, which saw the animals relocated from Tayside, came after the [Scottish](#) Government in late 2021 announced its support for translocation, which involves safely trapping and moving the animals to a more suitable area, rather than culling them when they cause problems.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

World first rewilding centre near Loch Ness opens its doors to the public

Subject: LAKES (90%); MAMMALS (89%); SALTWATER ECOSYSTEMS (84%); ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION (78%); SEAWEED & ALGAE (78%); AGRICULTURAL LANDS (77%); CLIMATE ACTION (77%); CONSERVATION (77%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS (77%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS CONSERVATION (77%); GRAZING LANDS (77%); LIFE FORMS (77%); DEFORESTATION (76%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (76%); LAND DEGRADATION (76%); ECONOMY & ECONOMIC INDICATORS (74%); SOCIETY, SOCIAL ASSISTANCE & LIFESTYLE (73%); ENVIRONMENTALISM (72%); LAND RECLAMATION (71%); APPOINTMENTS (69%); CLIMATE CHANGE (69%); ECONOMIC STIMULUS (69%); JOB CREATION (69%); MARINE MAMMALS (69%); EXECUTIVES (67%); UNITED NATIONS (65%); ANIMALS (60%); EMISSIONS (60%); GREENHOUSE GASES (60%); UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTIONS (60%)

Industry: AGRICULTURAL LANDS (77%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS CONSERVATION (77%); DEFORESTATION (76%); EMISSIONS (60%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (88%); UNITED KINGDOM (78%)

Load-Date: April 17, 2023

End of Document

Dutch 'green' war on farmers could come to Scotland next

Dutch 'green' war on farmers could come to Scotland next

The Herald (Glasgow)

April 11, 2023 Tuesday

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The Herald

Section: Pg. 13

Length: 975 words

Byline: D CMS

Body

NOT content with dire warnings for massive livestock reductions to help reduce greenhouse gases, a former adviser for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has called for the complete removal of sheep from our fields and hills.

Ben Goldsmith, brother of ex-Tory MP Zac Goldsmith, claimed in a recent tweet that "sheep have got to go".

He wrote that: "Sheep have a brutal impact on the hydrology of our landscapes, compacting the soil and expunging vegetation, thereby making soil erosion, flooding and seasonal drought ever more frequent and ever more severe and costing the country billions each year."

Goldsmith is a wilding enthusiast. He intends to transform his 300-acre Somerset farm into a wild habitat "so animals can roam free".

He even blames sheep as the main obstacle to the reintroduction of wolves and *Lynx* to Britain's landscape.

His tweet has sparked anger among sheep farmers, as they struggle through another difficult lambing season, with snow, ice and heavy rain adding to the annual stress and strain of the job.

The National Sheep Association (NSA), which represents hundreds of sheep farmers in *Scotland*, said his comments represented a "naïve and uneducated view on a vital sector".

NSA chief executive Phil Stocker said: "Sheep have been in the British Isles since the Neolithic settlers landed on our shores around 3000 BC, 5,000 years ago. They have created and maintained some of the most loved landscapes we see and enjoy today."

Attacking Ben Goldsmith's assertions, he commented: "The unique environment, working for most times in harmony with sheep farming, is highly valuable in relation to water management and quality, carbon sequestration, and nature, and provides people with social and health benefits."

Dutch 'green' war on farmers could come to Scotland next

Goldsmith's controversial views echo the opinion of the Committee on Climate Change (CCC), which advises the UK Government on emissions targets and reports to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The committee has advised that consumption of beef, lamb and dairy products should be significantly reduced, and livestock replaced with trees. They claim that reducing the amount of red meat and dairy products we eat by 20%, and reducing food waste by 20%, would save the equivalent of seven million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) from farms.

Such is the growing anger among farmers across Europe at constant attacks by the environmental lobby that a new political party set up to represent farmers in the Netherlands stormed to victory in March in elections to the Dutch Senate.

The Farmer-Citizen Movement, known as BoerBurgerBeweging (BBB), campaigned on a platform backing protests against the Dutch government's environmental policies, which aim to slash nitrogen emissions by dramatically cutting back on livestock numbers.

Using a campaign slogan of "No Farms, No Food", the party won 15 of the Senate's 75 seats, more seats than prime minister Mark Rutte's ruling conservative VVD party, scoring nearly 20% of the vote.

Dutch farmers have been protesting for months, blocking highways and staging mass demonstrations in towns and cities. Hundreds have been arrested.

They say they are fighting for the survival of modern agriculture, blaming the Greens for trying to do to farming what they have done to the power grid and the oil and gas sector.

The farmers claim that Green activists are trying to destroy their ability to produce high-quality, abundant, clean and inexpensive food.

Although the Netherlands has a population of only 17 million, it is the second-largest exporter of farm produce in the world after the US. Dutch farmers produce enormous quantities of beef, pork, dairy products and many other foodstuffs that are sold in Europe and worldwide.

They use the latest technology to ensure that their farms are among the cleanest, most efficient and sustainable in the world.

But they argue that draconian plans to reduce nitrogen oxide and ammonia pollution by 50% by 2030 would mean reducing their herd size by one-third, sending food prices rocketing and forcing many of them out of business.

Dutch farmers warn that if the green revolutionaries succeed in crushing agriculture in the Netherlands, their war on farming will quickly spread to other countries.

Scottish Greens co-leader Patrick Harvie, Minister for Zero Carbon in the SNP/Green coalition government at Holyrood, is on record as stating: "**Scottish** farmers are facing a perfect storm. They need to make even bigger emission cuts to make up for the wasted years".

But **Scotland**'s farmers are facing an uphill struggle to recover from the pandemic and trading barriers introduced through Brexit.

Suggestions that they should dramatically cut livestock numbers and now the ludicrous idea that all sheep should be banned is the last straw.

The president of NFU **Scotland**, Martin Kennedy, says farmers and crofters are not only providing high-quality, nutritious food, but are doing so in a manner that puts **Scotland** at the forefront when it comes to climate change, the environment, and economic return.

Dutch 'green' war on farmers could come to Scotland next

With the meltdown in SNP ranks in **Scotland**, the BBB farmers' party success in Holland may be a salutary warning to politicians promoting anti-farmer "green" policies that a backlash could end their careers.

Scotland's hardworking livestock farmers are sick to death of being portrayed as climate vandals by a voluble vegan minority, who indulge in a gross misrepresentation of the evidence.

British livestock production is among the most sustainable in the world.

Indeed, the National Farmers' Union (NFU) is committed to a net-zero target for agriculture by 2040, 10 years earlier than the UK Government's own aim.

Struan Stevenson is a former Member of the European Parliament and a director of the Brussels-based environmental organisation, the European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: HER

Subject: AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENTS (90%); ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENTS (90%); MAMMALS (90%); CLIMATE ACTION (89%); CLIMATE CHANGE (89%); EMISSIONS (89%); GREENHOUSE GASES (89%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (89%); DROUGHT (79%); LOBBYING (79%); WILDLIFE (79%); ANIMALS (78%); CARBON CAPTURE & STORAGE (78%); ELECTIONS (78%); ELECTIONS & POLITICS (78%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (78%); GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (78%); POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS (78%); POLITICAL PARTIES (78%); POLLUTION MONITORING, PREVENTION & REMEDIATION (78%); PUBLIC POLICY (78%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (78%); SOIL HEALTH (78%); UK CONSERVATIVE PARTY (78%); WEATHER (78%); FLOODS & FLOODING (75%); AIR QUALITY REGULATION (73%); ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION & POLICY (73%); NEGATIVE POLITICAL NEWS (73%); POLITICAL PROTESTS (73%); EROSION (70%); EXECUTIVES (65%); PROTESTS & DEMONSTRATIONS (60%); agriculture (%); business (%); crime (%); health terms (%); political parties (%); weather (%)

Industry: SHEEP FARMING (91%); AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENTS (90%); LIVESTOCK (90%); SHEEP & GOAT FARMING (90%); EMISSIONS (89%); FOOD PRODUCTS (89%); MEATS (89%); SOIL HEALTH (78%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); BEEF (70%); DAIRY PRODUCTS (60%)

Person: JANOS ADER (78%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, **SCOTLAND** (73%); UNITED KINGDOM (93%); NETHERLANDS (92%); **SCOTLAND** (92%); EUROPE (79%)

Load-Date: April 11, 2023

Struan Stevenson: Green revolutionaries will bring Dutch war on farming to Scotland

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Herald Scotland

April 11, 2023 Tuesday

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Length: 1004 words

Byline: [Struan Stevenson](#)

Body

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READ MORE: Will we ever sort out our relationship with animals?

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READ MORE: Imposing a vegetarian diet on Scots would be environmental disaster

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Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENTS (90%); ANIMALS (90%); ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENTS (90%); MAMMALS (90%); CLIMATE ACTION (89%); CLIMATE CHANGE (89%); EMISSIONS (89%); GREENHOUSE GASES (89%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (89%); ANIMALS & SOCIETY (78%); CARBON CAPTURE & STORAGE (78%); DROUGHT (78%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (78%); LOBBYING (78%); POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS (78%); POLLUTION MONITORING, PREVENTION & REMEDIATION (78%); PUBLIC POLICY (78%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (78%); UK CONSERVATIVE PARTY (78%); WEATHER (78%); GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (77%); POLITICAL PARTIES (77%); POLITICS (77%); WILDLIFE (77%); FLOODS & FLOODING (75%); SOIL HEALTH (75%); AIR QUALITY REGULATION (73%); ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION & POLICY (73%); POLITICAL PROTESTS (72%); EROSION (70%); ELECTIONS & POLITICS (65%); EXECUTIVES (65%); NEGATIVE POLITICAL NEWS (60%); PROTESTS & DEMONSTRATIONS (60%)

Industry: SHEEP FARMING (91%); AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENTS (90%); LIVESTOCK (90%); SHEEP & GOAT FARMING (90%); EMISSIONS (89%); FOOD PRODUCTS (89%); MEATS (89%); SOIL HEALTH (75%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); BEEF (70%); DAIRY PRODUCTS (60%)

Person: JANOS ADER (78%)

Geographic: **SCOTLAND** (94%); UNITED KINGDOM (92%); NETHERLANDS (91%); EUROPE (79%)

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Pirates set sights on the Playoffs Paisley outfit can use their Aberdeen defeat as motivation as they head to weekend showdown

Pirates set sights on the Playoffs; Paisley outfit can use their Aberdeen defeat as motivation as they head to weekend showdown

Paisley Daily Express

April 5, 2023 Wednesday

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: SPORT; Pg. 22,23

Length: 629 words

Byline: BEN RAMAGE

Body

Paisley Pirates coach Ian Turley believes an action-packed SNL Playoff quarter-final win cost his knackered troops a **Scottish** Cup final spot. But he's confident his players can recover and use the pain of their semifinal cup exit as fuel to fire the team to Playoff title glory once again.

The Pirates headed into an entertaining weekend of ice hockey with two shots at silverware on the line.

On Saturday, they welcomed Dundee Comets to Braehead Arena looking to book a coveted spot in the Playoffs weekend.

Holding a 4-1 lead heading into the third period, that looked to be confirmed before the Comets mounted a memorable comeback to force the game into overtime.

With neither side sealing the deal in added time, the dramatic tie went to nerve-racking penalty shots with Pirates just edging their way through - much to the delight of the relieved home crowd.

There was no time to recover for Turley's men, who travelled through to Murrayfield ice rink to take on SNL League champions Aberdeen **Lynx** in a mouthwatering **Scottish** Cup semifinal clash on Sunday.

The Pirates took the positivity from the dramatic night before into the first session, racing into a 2-0 lead.

The Braehead Arena outfit just couldn't get the result over the line though, with **Lynx** eventually forcing their way to a narrow 4-3 victory.

Despite enduring mixed fortunes on the ice, Pirates coach Turley is pleased his team still have a chance to end the season on a high by replicating their 2019 Playoff success this weekend.

He told Express Sport: "It was a weekend of very mixed emotions overall.

"We got the job done on Saturday in a very hard-fought win and looked to have taken that into the **Scottish** Cup game on Sunday.

"We were up against the league champions in Aberdeen but we went two ahead and were playing really well.

Pirates set sights on the Playoffs Paisley outfit can use their Aberdeen defeat as motivation as they head to weekend showdown

"Once they got one back we just looked a little bit deflated. I think it was just a bit of mental toughness and resilience we were missing.

"It's hard to quantify how much the Saturday night took out of us. With the game going all the way to penalty shots, the fatigue and adrenalin levels were very high and it's tough to recover from that so quickly.

"We just didn't have enough in the end on Sunday. The boys were gutted, but thankfully we have got through to the Playoffweekend, which is a staple of our season.

"That's how we're judged and I told the boys after the Aberdeen game that we can't sit back and wonder what happened and what if.

"We've got a chance to win something now and end the season with silverware. That's got to be our aim and I'm confident we can recover and turn it around this weekend."

The Pirates face Dundee Comets on Saturday at Murrayfield in the semi-finals, with a place in Sunday's final up for grabs that could see them face Aberdeen Lynx once again. They are hot favourites in their tie against Kilmarnock Thunder.

Turley believes their defeat to the Lynx could actually end up being a positive heading into the season finale event.

He said: "We know it's going to be tough against the Comets because they've beaten us twice this season. There's almost an arrogance to their play in that they go about their business the same way in every game and are very consistent.

"For me it's not about ability at this stage, it's about heart and want and desire. You've got to be mentally strong in the Playoffs and if we go behind we have to remember it's a 60 minute game and there's no reason to panic.

"We have to stick to our guns and I know we have the resilience now to regroup and keep going.

"There's a huge trophy at stake and it's very exciting.

"We've had our low and hopefully that can galvanise us and be the extra few per cent we need to bring that trophy back to Paisley again."

It's not about ability at this stage, it's about heart and desire

Graphic

Hit and a miss Paisley Pirates are through to the Playoffs but missed out on the Scottish Cup (Pictures courtesy of Al Goold

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: PDE

Pirates set sights on the Playoffs Paisley outfit can use their Aberdeen defeat as motivation as they head to weekend showdown

Subject: SPORTS & RECREATION (90%); SPORTS & RECREATION EVENTS (90%); STADIUMS & ARENAS (90%); TOURNAMENTS (90%); ICE HOCKEY (79%); SPORTS & RECREATION FACILITIES & VENUES (79%); WINTER SPORTS (79%); EMOTIONS (78%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, **SCOTLAND** (90%); DUNDEE, **SCOTLAND** (58%); **SCOTLAND** (92%); National Edition

Load-Date: April 5, 2023

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MSPs to discuss proposals for return of lynx to Scotland in Parliament today

MSPs to discuss proposals for return of lynx to Scotland in Parliament today

The Scottish Farmer

April 2023

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Length: 299 words

Byline: [Kelly Henaughen](#)

Body

Lynx reintroduction will be discussed in the **Scottish** Parliament today in a meeting organised by rewilding charities and sponsored by the **Scottish** Greens' Ariane Burgess MSP.

Potential reintroducing was debated on April 20 after a motion by Kenneth Gibson received cross-party support. MSPs, senior advisers and rural groups are to attend the event, hosted by **Lynx** to **Scotland** project partners **Scotland**: The Big Picture, Trees for Life and The Lifescape Project.

Dr David Hetherington will highlight how **Lynx** successfully returned to Germany, France and Switzerland and insist they are 'shy and elusive woodland hunters which pose no danger to people'.

READ MORE: **Lynx** reintroduction study shunned by farming representatives

However, NFU **Scotland** said any proposals to reintroduce **Lynx** were unacceptable to farmers and crofters. It said: "The past few years have seen a long line of brazen and presumptuous claims from organisations about the imminent reintroduction of predators to the UK. The only application to date, to reintroduce **Lynx** to Kielder in the North of England, was rejected."

Last year, the first detailed social feasibility study into a trial reintroduction of **Lynx** to **Scotland** found divided opinions. The **Lynx** to **Scotland** project commissioned the research in the Cairngorms National Park and Argyll. The study found opposition among rural residents and workers.

The perceived benefits included ecotourism and **Lynx** helping to control roe deer numbers in areas where they damage woodland, but there were concerns that **Lynx** could prey on livestock.

The wild cats were once native to Britain, but were driven to extinction 500 to 1000 years ago. A group of conservation organisations believe bringing back **Lynx** would benefit ecotourism and help control roe deer where they damage woodland.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

MSPs to discuss proposals for return of lynx to Scotland in Parliament today

Subject: WILD CATS (94%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (90%); UK POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (89%); MAMMALS (88%); TRENDS & EVENTS (78%); CONSERVATION (76%); PUBLIC LANDS (75%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (73%); RURAL EMPLOYMENT (73%); FARM LABOR (72%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (71%); ECOTOURISM (70%); RESEARCH REPORTS (70%); CATS (69%); NATIONAL PARKS (66%)

Industry: LIVESTOCK (73%); FARM LABOR (72%); ECOTOURISM (70%); NATIONAL PARKS (66%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (92%); ENGLAND (79%); UNITED KINGDOM (78%); FRANCE (73%); SWITZERLAND (58%); GERMANY (56%)

Load-Date: April 25, 2023

End of Document

NFU Scotland call for new Lynx rewilding proposals to be bombed out by ScotGov

NFU Scotland call for new Lynx rewilding proposals to be bombed out by ScotGov

The Scottish Farmer

April 2023

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Length: 543 words

Byline: [Kelly Henaughen](#)

Body

NFU **Scotland** remains crystal clear that any proposals to re-introduce predators such as **Lynx**, wolves or bears are wholly unacceptable to **Scottish** farmers and crofters.

This was the message as a parliamentary reception in Holyrood took place this week, looking at rewilding groups' proposals to reintroduce **Lynx** to **Scotland**.

NFUS president, Martin Kennedy said: -The past few years have seen a long line of brazen and presumptuous claims from organisations about the imminent reintroduction of predators to the UK, causing considerable angst and anxiety to those who keep livestock in **Scotland**. The only application in the UK to date, to reintroduce **Lynx** to Kielder in the North of England, was rejected by the UK Government.

-Feverish press coverage of previous proposals to reintroduce **Lynx** saw a welcome commitment in public from Fergus Ewing MSP, when he was **Scotland**-s Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy, that he would never support such a reintroduction. We fully expect the current **Scottish** Government to stand by that pledge.

"Two months ago, Secretary of State for the Environment Therese Coffey gave categorical assurances to English farmers that the UK Government would not support the reintroduction of predators. **Scottish** farmers and crofters deserve similar assurances."

Highlands and Islands MSP Ariane Burgess hosted the event at at Holyrood, in partnership with the **Lynx** to **Scotland** coalition, where MSPs heard proposals to bring **Lynx** back to **Scotland** as part of a -wildlife comeback-

Greens MSP Ms Burgess said: "David Attenborough-s Wild Isles broadcast an unavoidable message: the UK-s nature is in trouble, but we can still save it if we act now. One key way to help nature is by reintroducing **Lynx**, an apex predator that does not threaten humans but helps restore functioning ecosystems.

"Across mainland Europe, **Lynx** are staging a comeback. Is **Scotland** going to sit back and miss out on the benefits that **Lynx** can bring?"

NFUS are calling on the **Scottish** Government to make a clear statement rejecting such proposals permanently.

Mr Kennedy continued: -Despite the media speculation, we remind our members that nothing as yet equates to an application for release in **Scotland**. Were that to ever happen, the process for securing permission for the trial

NFU Scotland call for new Lynx rewilding proposals to be bombed out by ScotGov

release of any predator is long and complex and any application will be subject to considerable analysis and debate.

-In our opinion, despite numerous attempts, no local consensus nor political consensus has ever been secured for such a release. Farmers and crofters in **Scotland** can be confident that the Union, as a member of the **Scottish** National Species Reintroduction Forum, will take all necessary steps to ensure their interests are protected were a formal application ever to be made."

-Those reaping any benefit from these species- reintroductions are rarely the ones bearing any of the costs or negative impacts. It is vital that all the impacts are considered, costed and support is made available to those carrying the costs both during any possible pilot study but crucially beyond. When the researchers/environmentalists have patted themselves on the back and packed up at the end of the pilot they leave farmers and crofters dealing with the impacts in perpetuity,- he concluded

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: FARM LABOR (90%); MAMMALS (90%); WILD CATS (90%); WILDLIFE (78%); CABINET OFFICES (77%); ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION (77%); GOVERNMENT ADVISORS & MINISTERS (77%); WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (77%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (73%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (73%); CONSERVATION (72%); LAND RECLAMATION (67%)

Industry: FARM LABOR (90%); LIVESTOCK (73%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%)

Geographic: **SCOTLAND** (99%); UNITED KINGDOM (94%); ENGLAND (79%); EUROPE (79%)

Load-Date: April 29, 2023

End of Document

Inverness veteran is playing on at 40

Aberdeen Press and Journal

April 1, 2023 Saturday

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Section: SPT; Pg. 68

Length: 567 words

Byline: Sophie Goodwin

Body

Caley Thistle's Julia Ralph Scott has enjoyed an illustrious career and has no plans to hang up her boots anytime soon.

The 40-year-old midfielder, who can also play in defence, has turned out for the Caley Jags in recent years, but football has taken her much farther than the Highlands.

Ralph Scott, who is from Nairn, earned 14 caps for **Scotland** and played college football in America and for Toronto **Lynx** in Canada.

After returning to the UK, she competed at the highest level in **Scotland** for Hibernian, Celtic, Aberdeen, Forfar Farmington and Inverness City and played in the newly established FA WSL in 2011.

In England, with Doncaster Belles, her team-mates included several European Championship winners, who are regarded as some of the best players in the world.

"I was only at Doncaster for about eight weeks because it was the tail end of the season," Ralph Scott said.

"I played with Millie Bright, Mary Earps and Bethany England there."

"There's a ridiculous story with Millie. I'm quite a bit older than her, but they dropped her to put me in the squad."

"She's an insane player -much better than me! I don't know why she was dropped, it could've been because I was older and a bit more experienced than her back then."

"It's just really cool to know I've played in the same squad as players like that."

During a brief spell at Glasgow City in 2014, which was cut short after finding out she was pregnant, Ralph Scott had a feisty encounter with another Lioness - and the reigning Queen of the Jungle after winning ITV's I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here!

She said: "I had the chance to join Glasgow City when they made the last-16 of the Champions League."

"I thought it was a joke at first, but it wasn't. Eddie (Wolecki Black) phoned me and said he had seen me play and wanted to sign me."

"My first game was a friendly against Manchester City. I got knocked out and got a black eye from Jill Scott."

Inverness veteran is playing on at 40

"I only played one more friendly for Glasgow City and I came off feeling a bit ill - then I found out I was pregnant."

Having featured alongside those who are starting to reap rewards of the growth of the women's game, Ralph Scott admits she does think about what could've been, having played at the highest level herself.

"It does make your stomach turn a bit," Ralph Scott said.

"You start thinking if only I was 15 or 20 years younger then you could've had some of that limelight for playing at the highest level.

"Women's football has just boomed since then and because of England's win in the summer.

"I've got so many highlights from my career, playing all over the world with ***Scotland*** and playing at all the clubs. Football has saved my life, it's been really awesome."

Now back playing for Caley Thistle in the SWF Championship, Ralph Scott has endured a difficult season on the sidelines due to ankle and rib injuries as well as illnesses.

Despite those challenges, which she has overcome and has been named in recent matchday squads, she has no plans to hang up her boots.

"It's been frustrating because during pre-season I felt good and was training twice a day," Ralph Scott said.

"I'm 40 now so I have to make sure I stay fit because I'm sometimes playing against 16 and 17-year-old players.

"I absolutely love the game and I know I can compete against the players in this league.

"I don't want to retire until I really have to."

Caley Thistle host Dryburgh Athletic in the SWF Championship tomorrow.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Pr

Subject: WOMEN (78%); WOMEN'S SPORTS (78%); PROFESSIONAL SPORTS (77%); SPORTS & RECREATION EVENTS (77%); SPORTS AWARDS (77%); COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY SPORTS (73%); PREGNANCY & CHILDBIRTH (63%); CELEBRITIES (62%)

Industry: COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY SPORTS (73%); CELEBRITIES (62%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, ***SCOTLAND*** (93%); GLASGOW, ***SCOTLAND*** (72%); TORONTO, ON, CANADA (72%); MANCHESTER, ENGLAND (57%); ONTARIO, CANADA (57%); ***SCOTLAND*** (92%); ENGLAND (90%); UNITED STATES (79%); CANADA (77%); UNITED KINGDOM (72%); 7 North East

Inverness veteran is playing on at 40

Load-Date: April 1, 2023

End of Document

A PIRATES LIFE FOR US! Coach relishing huge weekend of fixtures as side head into homeplay-offcrunchandthenontocupsemiinthecapital TURLEY RALLYING CALL TO PLAYE....

A PIRATES LIFE FOR US!: Coach relishing huge weekend of fixtures as side head into homeplay-offcrunchandthenontocupsemiinthecapital TURLEY RALLYING CALL TO PLAYERS AND FANS

Paisley Daily Express

March 29, 2023 Wednesday

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 24

Length: 408 words

Byline: BEN RAMAGE

Body

Paisley Pirates are gearing up to skate into an exciting, season-defining weekend.

And coach Ian Turley is calling on the Renfrewshire club's supporters to pack out Braehead Arena to help roar their team over the line in their final home match of the campaign.

The Pirates welcome Dundee Tigers to town on Saturday for the second leg of their crunch play-off quarter-final.

With a narrow 4-3 lead from the first leg last weekend, the Pirates will be doing all they can to get the job done and make it through to the dramatic finals weekend next month.

With no time to draw breath, the Pirates then travel to Edinburgh on Sunday to take on SNL league champions Aberdeen **Lynx** in a mouth-watering **Scottish** Cup semi-final clash.

Turley is calling on his players to give it their all this weekend - and hopes a bumper home crowd on Saturday can give them a lift to ensure their season doesn't end on a sour note.

Turley told Express Sport: "It was a good result in the first leg. We were decent but we went to sleep in a few key moments.

"There were lapses in concentration and we certainly need to iron those out going into this weekend.

"The Tigers had beaten us in the last league game of the season. It was nice to get some revenge but the job is very much only half done.

"We're now heading into the biggest weekend of the season, with the play-offs and the **Scottish** Cup all on the line.

"These are the games you want to play in and even though the boys are pretty banged up with the time of the season, we need one final push from them to make sure we end things right.

"It's our last home game on Saturday and we'd love to have a big crowd in to cheer us on.

A PIRATES LIFE FOR US! Coach relishing huge weekend of fixtures as side head into homeplay-off crunch and then onto cup semi-final in the capital TURLEY RALLYING CALL TO PLAYE....

"It makes a massive difference having a big crowd behind you and this isn't just a league game.

"There's a lot at stake and hopefully the fans will back us in numbers and we can put in a performance to make them proud."

One bonus for the Pirates this weekend is Aberdeen Lynx were unable to secure their home rink for Sunday's tough Scottish Cup semi-final.

The tie has been moved to a neutral venue at Murrayfield Ice Arena, with Turley adding: "It definitely helps that they don't have home advantage on their side.

"We've beaten them twice this season and they've beaten us twice, so we know it's going to be tight.

"Hopefully we've got enough left in the tank after Saturday's game to get through to that final for a shot at silverware."

Face-off on Saturday is at 5pm.

Tickets are available at the door.

Graphic

Rallying cry Coach Ian Turley Team effort It is an exciting end to the season for the Pirates

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: PDE

Subject: SPORTS & RECREATION EVENTS (90%); SPORTS FANS (90%); STADIUMS & ARENAS (90%); TOURNAMENTS (89%)

Geographic: DUNDEE, SCOTLAND (73%); ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (71%); EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND (56%); SCOTLAND (94%); National Edition

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No Headline In Original

Aberdeen Press and Journal

March 25, 2023 Saturday

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Section: WKD; Pg. 3

Length: 68 words

Byline: Mike Fairgrieve

Body

puck of the crop: Ice hockey maybe isn't the first sport you think of connected to Aberdeen, but that could change after Aberdeen **Lynx** clinched their first **Scottish** National League title with a dramatic final-day win over rivals Edinburgh Capitals. The team play their home matches at Aberdeen's Linx Ice Arena, regularly drawing crowds of more than 1,000. You can learn more about the club at aberdeenlynx.com

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Pr

Subject: ICE HOCKEY (90%); WINTER SPORTS (90%); STADIUMS & ARENAS (88%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, **SCOTLAND** (90%); EDINBURGH, **SCOTLAND** (56%); **SCOTLAND** (74%); 7 North East

Load-Date: March 25, 2023

End of Document

Could rewilding create Britain's own Serengeti? There are no lions, elephants, or zebras? but a stretch of Dorset coast is already teeming with unusual species....

Could rewilding create Britain's own Serengeti?; There are no lions, elephants, or zebras? but a stretch of Dorset coast is already teeming with unusual species and there are pioneering plans to reintroduce other once-native creatures including lynx, beavers and bison EXCLUSIVE

Scottish Express

March 23, 2023 Thursday

Edition 1, Scotland

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 26,27

Length: 1412 words

Byline: Chris Hockley

Body

THERE'S a whisper in certain circles about a part of south Dorset becoming the "Serengeti of Britain". It's slightly tongue in cheek, of course. There won't be lions, wildebeest and zebra roaming the hinterland behind some of the nation's most popular beaches.

But if rather less exotic examples of the animal kingdom are substituted - species endemic to Britain, and once-native creatures wiped out by hunting or disease - then the dreams of the whisperers may well become reality.

For lions, read *lynx*. For wildebeest, read bison. And for zebra, read free-ranging horses and ponies. An awful lot has to happen before Dorset can rival Tanzania's famed Serengeti national park, not least a nod from the Government. Yet under a pioneering project known as Wild Purbeck, supported by councils, landowners, farmers and a host of conservation groups, things are under way.

Herds of Red Ruby cattle, sika and roe deer, Hungarian Mangalica pigs, horses, donkeys and Exmoor ponies are already tramping through miles of heathland and woods with few restrictions while woodlarks and nightjars nest among them and ospreys and white-tailed sea eagles fly above them.

Wild beavers will soon be starting to build their dams as long as the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs gives its long-awaited blessing. Rare sand lizards scuttle across dunes. Silver-studded blue butterflies flutter over clumps of heather.

Ambitious schemes aimed at restoring rivers and encouraging species such as water vole, otter, lapwing, great crested newt and European eel are kicking into life. Plans to introduce bison into the mix are progressing. And in the longer term the Eurasian *lynx*, driven to extinction in Britain 1,300 years ago due to hunting and habitat loss, may reappear as it has in countries such as Germany, Switzerland and Slovenia.

CAMPAIGN

Could rewilding create Britain's own Serengeti? There are no lions, elephants, or zebras? but a stretch of Dorset coast is already teeming with unusual species....

Lynx are on the wish list not only for their star-quality beauty but because they would naturally control rampant deer herds, which at present need regular culling by rangers to stop them eating everything in sight.

The end game is for the reintroductions to protect and enhance Purbeck's already diverse wildlife by allowing nature to manage itself with minimal human intervention. Not just halting the downward spiral of modern times, but reversing it. Local conservationist

Tom Munro is one of the major players in the Wild Purbeck project. "We are starting to get a sense of abundance of nature I have never experienced," he says.

"The possibility to properly appreciate wild landscapes is rare in the UK. To see it here and to have a hand in making it excites me. Watching a herd move through a panorama of pasture and heathland is awesome."

Purbeck is a loosely defined region of just under 160 square miles, made up of the coastal areas around the towns of Wareham, Corfe Castle and Swanage. But along with those holiday beaches, its most outstanding characteristic is its vast expanse of unspoiled heathland and woodland.

Much of it is privately owned by ancient estates, land handed down or traded over the centuries since the days of royal patronage, lords of the manor and scullery maids. The National Trust is another big stakeholder, presiding over more than 15.5 square miles.

This combination of ownership has been adept at keeping the developers at arm's length despite the obvious top-dollar value of such renowned countryside, leaving it free for nature to maintain a grip that has been lost in so many other regions of Britain. It also helps that the infertile, sandy nature of much of its soil makes it more suitable for grazing razing than crop-growing.

The co-operative push between at least 15 organisations and wildlife groups has already been central to the creation of the UK's first "super" National Nature Reserve, a 12.9-square-mile spread formed by ripping out internal fencing and installing new cattle grids plus a 12-mile pig-proof perimeter boundary.

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It knits together 11 types of habitat - including wet and dry heath, valley mires, acid grassland, woodland, coastal sand dunes, lakes and saltmarsh - allowing myriad species to move around the landscape more easily.

in m san ing lands

In one direction, it backs on to Purbeck's Studland Bay, home of endangered seahorses. And in another direction lies Poole Harbour, a haven for wading birds.

Studl horse Harb Bro f thplace

Brownsea Island, which sits in the middle of the harbour, has also been absorbed into the "super" reserve. Known as the birthplace of the Scout movement in 1907, it now hosts more than 200 red squirrels, kept safe from the marauding grey variety by the surrounding water.

rouB

But there's more in the pipeline. An enormous area dubbed the Wareham Arc, stretching around the Saxon walled town from forested land in the north to Army firing ranges in the south, has just been chosen as one of the pilot projects backed by the Government's Landscape Recovery Scheme.

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It comes with a share in a £12million development fund, enabling talks aimed at supporting tenant farmers and landowners to deliver schemes that restore landscape, reduce flood risks and boost biodiversity.

Could rewilding create Britain's own Serengeti? There are no lions, elephants, or zebras? but a stretch of Dorset coast is already teeming with unusual species....

Then there's the South Purbeck Coast strip, another 4.6 square miles of grass and farmland that could get protected status. Join the Arc, the Coastal corridor and the firing ranges, which are left untouched anyway, to the existing "super" reserve and Wild Purbeck becomes palpably real.

"In future I don't think we will be talking about any individual reserve," says David Brown, the National Trust's land and nature programme manager in Purbeck. "It'll just be one big landscape for nature."

One big landscape equivalent to around 19,000 football fields, that is.

L

EAN AND tanned as you'd expect for someone who spends much of his life in the great outdoors, Brown cannot hide a buzzing enthusiasm when he talks about "building back and letting it fly". You get the feeling he would bring back woolly mammoths if he could.

"Most of the backdrop to my working life as an ecologist is pretty grim," says the 51-year-old. "The global picture is far more often of habitat loss and ever-decreasing circles of human intervention than of reconstruction.

"What we're doing here is exceptional because it is happening in a very large landscape where there is a lot of hope for the future. Seeing upward progress is so much more gratifying than slowing decline."

Though the Wild Purbeck project is not only up and running, but accelerating at an impressive pace, those involved are aware there remain many challenges ahead.

Brown is careful to flag the necessity of working hand in glove with the farming community. "It's critical," he says.

"We need to recognise legitimate concerns and find common ground on economic viability. If we plough on regardless it's not good for us. With beavers, for example, some landowners clearly don't want them, even though we know they clean the water that flows into our rivers and seas.

"So we have mapped out areas where they can go and if they try to settle where they are not wanted we will move them on."

And walkers and cyclists will need to be convinced they won't be ambushed by a *Lynx* or charged by a bison.

Both are less likely than winning the lottery - *Lynx* in particular are nocturnal and extremely shy.

But a lengthy myth-busting campaign will be needed to make the point.

Then there's the need to balance the "new nature" with the demands of tourism, the area's main source of employment and income.

Tom Munro is confident it can not only be done, but will be complementary.

"We hope Wild Purbeck will be a massive draw so the tourist season will continue beyond the high-intensity summer months," he says.

"And that will give accommodation and hospitality businesses a stronger footing throughout the year."

Ongoing opposition from some farmers and landowners will also have to be addressed. But many are already on board with the general idea of natural regeneration and are abandoning pesticides and chemical fertilisers.

So will the Wild Purbeck project be seen through to its "Serengeti" conclusion?

And will it be a success? David Brown, for one, has no doubts.

"Actually, restoring nature is in everybody's interests," he adds.

Could rewilding create Britain's own Serengeti? There are no lions, elephants, or zebras? but a stretch of Dorset coast is already teeming with unusual species....

"It's not just a nice fluffy thing for conservationists. We all want beautiful natural landscapes in which we can live and work, or visit; and clean water in which we can bathe. I am convinced the whole of society will benefit if that society is more nature-rich."

Graphic

BACK TO NATURE: Wild ponies tramp the heathland while nightjars nest in the woods ROLLING PLAINS: Cattle on Hartland Moor in Dorset Pictures: BOB GIBBONS / ALAMY

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DXPscot

Subject: MAMMALS (98%); HORSES (91%); COASTAL AREAS (90%); WILD CATS (89%); WILDLIFE (89%); CONSERVATION (88%); BEACHES (77%); MARINE MAMMALS (77%); NATIONAL PARKS (77%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (77%); ANIMALS (76%); BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION (76%); BIRDS (76%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (76%); LIFE FORMS (76%); REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS (76%); ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENTS (74%); LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (74%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (73%); ENVIRONMENTALISM (73%); INSECTS & ARACHNIDS (73%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (72%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (71%); AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENTS (68%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (68%)

Industry: NATIONAL PARKS (77%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (77%); AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENTS (68%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (93%); UNITED KINGDOM (92%); SLOVENIA (79%); SWITZERLAND (79%); GERMANY (54%); Scotland

Load-Date: March 23, 2023

Pirates end league on a low point Final-day defeat wounds Pirates

Pirates end league on a low point; Final-day defeat wounds Pirates

Paisley Daily Express

March 22, 2023 Wednesday

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 24,23

Length: 409 words

Body

Gutted Paisley Pirates coach Ian Turley believes his team need to learn lessons quickly after their league campaign went out with a whimper.

The Renfrewshire side travelled to face DundeeTigers knowing only a win would give them a chance of lifting the SNL title this year.

After a topsy-turvy game, in which the Pirates led 2-0 at one stage, THETIGERS sealed a 7-4 win that consigned the Paisley side to fourth spot in the table.

With a crunch **Scottish** Cup semi-final against eventual league winners Aberdeen **Lynx** and a massive play-off quarterfinal reunion with THETIGERs still to come, Turley insists his players have no time to waste as they look to end the season on a much stronger note.

Turley said:"It was a really poor end to the league campaign for us.

"We were two ahead and then a couple of really basic defensive errors allowed them to level things up.

"It was 4-4 at the end of the second period and we went all out for the win but ended up coming up short.

"We outshot them by almost double but our execution was just poor on the night.

"A win would have seen us finish up second in the table, so to instead finish up fourth was a very disappointing end to the season.

"We're up against THETIGERS again in the play-offs and also have Aberdeen **Lynx** in the **Scottish** Cup.

"These are two massive games for the club and they give us a chance to redeem ourselves.

"It's a chance to show our true selves and allow us to aim to end the campaign on a more positive note."

Pirates know they will have to raise their game to have a chance of lifting silverware over the next TURN TO PAGE 23 few weeks.

And Turley believes consistency and a little naivety have been the issues the club have battled with all season.

Turley said:"In the final league standings there really wasn't much in it from first all the way down to fifth.

Pirates end league on a low point Final-day defeat wounds Pirates

"That's good for the league in general, but for us it's been disappointing and ultimately we haven't been mature enough in some key moments.

"Our decision-making has to be better and we need to learn very fast because we're determined to make it to both finals coming up.

"Every game is a cup final for us now and we just need to show that consistency, because when we're on it we can be very dominant and beat anyone.

"In our games with Aberdeen so far we've won two and they've won two.

"So, we know it can be done, we just need to put in our best performance and it can still be a successful season yet - despite the league disappointment."

Graphic

Frustrated Coach Ian Turley
Final focus Pirates coach Ian Turley

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: PDE

Subject: TOURNAMENTS (90%); SPORTS AWARDS (77%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (88%); SCOTLAND (93%); National Edition

Load-Date: March 22, 2023

End of Document

Lynx create history with first league title

Aberdeen Evening Express

March 20, 2023 Monday

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Section: SPT; Pg. 31

Length: 406 words

Byline: Danny Law

Body

Aberdeen **Lynx** head coach Jordan Leyden has hailed his history-making side after they won the **Scottish** National League title with a dramatic victory against Edinburgh Capitals.

The Aberdeen side went into the match on the back of two defeats but knew victory would be enough to claim a maiden title win.

Ben Edmonds' late winner with only seconds to go proved to be decisive as the **Lynx** ran out 3-2 winners to spark scenes of jubilation.

Leyden praised his players for a huge team effort.

He said: "With the way the past couple of weeks have gone it was always going to be a nervous one.

"We were unfortunate in those games so we still felt pretty confident as we had played well in the past few games.

"Coming down to the last game of the season and in the last dying moments it was a very nervy one.

"It is an unbelievable feeling. The club has been going for over 30 years and we have never won the league before. It is a huge achievement from the guys who have put in so much effort.

"It is great to see all the hard work pay off, including those who do so much behind the scenes."

The game was a sell-out and there was also a large audience following the action live on YouTube.

Leyden said: "I was surprised by how many people were watching the game on the stream from all over the world.

"There were people from Finland and Sweden watching the game.

"You can see how much ice hockey is growing here and the support we have had this season has been unbelievable.

"The games have pretty much all been sold out this season.

"More than 1,000 people were watching live online as well as 1,000 people in attendance at the rink."

While it is a first title win for the **Lynx**, Leyden always felt they were capable of challenging for the top spot.

Lynx create history with first league title

He said: "We finished second last year and only missed out by a point.

"Our ambition was to win the league but we knew it would take a huge effort.

"It wasn't going to be easy because they doubled the amount of games this year.

"Our end goal was to win and we are delighted we have managed to do it."

And the Lynx head coach hopes there is more success to come in the near future.

He added: "We still have the playoffs and a Scottish Cup semi-final coming up as well so there is still the chance we could win the treble. It is unbelievable to even be saying that.

"The celebrations after the game were great. We all enjoyed ourselves and it was great to see all the families and friends enjoying the moment afterwards."

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Ev

Subject: COACHES & TRAINERS (89%); SCOTTISH FOOTBALL (79%); ICE HOCKEY (78%); SPORTS & RECREATION (78%); SPORTS & RECREATION EVENTS (78%); TOURNAMENTS (78%); WINTER SPORTS (70%)

Industry: STREAMING MEDIA (86%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (90%); EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND (58%); SCOTLAND (92%); 7 North East

Load-Date: March 20, 2023

End of Document

Vicky Allan: BBC must put Wild Isles -sixth episode- on TV - whatever Tories may say

Vicky Allan: BBC must put Wild Isles -sixth episode- on TV - whatever Tories may say

Herald Scotland

March 14, 2023 Tuesday

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Length: 850 words

Byline: [Vicky Allan](#)

Body

Let-s not beat about the Caledonian bush. The BBC really ought to get on and put that -sixth- Wild Isles documentary on their live schedules, whether or not it was ever considered for a slot.

You will, I-m sure, if you've been anywhere near the media, have read the story of how the Guardian ran a piece which said that the BBC had relegated said film to iPlayer -because of fears its themes of the destruction of nature would risk a backlash from Tory politicians and the rightwing press-.

Swiftly following that, after some public fuss - enhanced by the outrage over Gary Lineker being taken off the air for his tweet about immigrant policy - this was later dismissed by the broadcaster as -totally inaccurate-, and described by some as fake news.

-There is no -sixth episode--, said the BBC. -Wild Isles is - and always was - a five part series and does not shy away from environmental content. We have acquired a separate film for iPlayer from the RSPB and WWF and Silverback Films about people working to preserve and restore the biodiversity of the British Isles.-

Vicky Allan: The SNP leadership race oil chat is throwback - and dangerous

There are, however, truths lurking beneath the surface here. There-s no doubting that any documentary that really tells it how it is in terms of Britain-s nature would ruffle the Tory right, and indeed represent an irritant to almost any government that might be in power. After all, what needs to be done to turn around our loss of biodiversity involves rethinking everything from agriculture to industry, as well as what we as individuals consume.

Monday night-s first episode of the new Attenborough series, was, as ever, dazzlingly operatic. But watching it made me aware of how much we are going to need this other film, titled Saving Our Wild Isles. For, as hard as David Attenborough might be trying now, there is something in the expected form and narrative of these shows that prevents the telling of the full story.

What I took away from the first episode was what we were not seeing. Partly the issue is that Wild Isles was saddled with a narrative challenge - in the same way as the Green Planet was. What tales do you tell, when there

Vicky Allan: BBC must put Wild Isles -sixth episode- on TV - whatever Tories may say

are so very few apex predators, o the sort that have long been the lifeblood of Attenborough documentaries? It says a great deal that the Wild Isles started at the very outer-limits of the UK with these orcas. Long gone are the wolves, the Lynx, the bear - the ocean is the chief place we can find such grand beasts.

Attenborough delivers us the bad news softly, but with gravity - like an alarm sounding in another room. -The Caledonian Forest is the only native coniferous woodland left in Britain - and is less than one percent of its original extent. Only 13 percent of Britain as a whole is covered by trees - that's one of the lowest proportions in the whole of Europe.-

Then we are caught up in another drama again, following a dormouse in an oak woodland, till again the alarm gently sounds. The loudest ring comes towards the end of the show after a sequence in which charismatic puffins fight off black-headed gulls who want to poach the sand eels literally from their mouths.

-Most of our puffin colonies are in decline,- the veteran presenter says. -Overfishing and climate change mean that the sand eels they depend on are increasingly hard to find. It's a clear example of just how fragile and fragmented our nature is.

Though rich in places, Britain as a whole is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world. Never has there been a more important time to invest in our own wildlife, to try and set an example for the rest of the world and restore our once wild isles for future generations.-

Vicky Allan: Enough demonising - trans people are latest in long line of scapegoats

This is a forceful message. But it still feels we need more. We need someone, for instance, telling us that the industrial sand eel fishery in our waters is being fished by the Danish and that there is now a consultation on its management - please sign the petition.

Of course that's not what an Attenborough film does. It is about making us thrill and care. It's about emotion, rather than information, and it delivers a full blow of horror in a sequence of footage of a male orca, found dead, drowned after getting caught up in fishing gear.

But ultimately too much of our human impact still remains missing from the shows. There is too little direct finger pointing. That's why I-m pleased to hear that there is to be this other film, and that Saving Our Wild Isles will be looking at the causes of nature depletion, including farming practices. Research has shown that the biggest driver of biodiversity loss globally, is land use change - and chiefly that revolves around food production, and what we put on our plates.

So, yes, BBC get it on your schedules. Though, of course, now the good news is that it will likely find a big audience on iPlayer, from those keen to catch a glimpse of the film that might yet still cause a backlash from the Tory right. I very much hope this "sixth episode" does not disappoint.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: DOCUMENTARY FILMS (90%); BIODIVERSITY (89%); POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); MAMMALS (78%); MARINE MAMMALS (78%); SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY (78%); CONSERVATIVE MEDIA (72%); PRIMATES (71%); ELECTIONS & POLITICS (70%); PUBLIC POLICY (69%); FAKE NEWS (68%)

Vicky Allan: BBC must put Wild Isles -sixth episode- on TV - whatever Tories may say

Industry: DOCUMENTARY FILMS (90%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (78%); AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING & HUNTING (72%); CONSERVATIVE MEDIA (72%)

Geographic: UNITED KINGDOM (93%); SCOTLAND (92%)

Load-Date: March 14, 2023

End of Document

From Alan Warner to James Kelman, the best new Scottish books of 2023

From Alan Warner to James Kelman, the best new Scottish books of 2023

Herald Scotland

March 5, 2023 Sunday

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Length: 1379 words

Byline: [Barry Didcock](#)

Body

Circumstances may be straitened and money tight, but bookshops are said to be booming and **Scotland**-s authors continue to produce first-rate yarns and engaging non-fiction to stock them with, whether works which stick closely to genre conventions or heads off into the -literary-, where experimentation is key. In that spirit, here-s our list of 10 of the most notable and interesting **Scottish** books of 2023, from debut novels to works by established voices and national treasures.

Nothing Left To Fear From Hell by Alan Warner

This latest instalment in Polygon-s Darkland Tales, an ongoing series of historical novellas, finds Morvern Callar author Alan Warner poking around in the aftermath of the Battle of Culloden as he follows Bonnie Prince Charlie and his companions through the landscape of the Highlands and Islands and into exile. There-s no romanticising this story, though, so forget all about the Skye Boat Song and doe eyed Flora MacDonald rowing the dashing Young Pretender to safety - in the opening scenes, Warner has the sea-sick and dysentery-wracked Prince wading ashore and, er, relieving himself in front of his men. -Poetic, dirty, comic and surreal- is how Polygon are describing it. The other novellas in the Darkland Tales series to date are Rizzio by Denise Mina and Hex by Jenni Fagan, dealing with (respectively) the murder of royal favourite David Rizzio in the Palace of Holyroodhouse in 1566, and the North Berwick witch trials of 1590. What next, we wonder?

April 6 (Polygon, 10)

River Spirit by Leila Aboulela

Former Saltire Award winner and long-time Aberdeen resident Leila Aboulela returns to Sudan, the country of her birth, for this historical novel set during the Mahdist War of the late 19th century. A war of liberation from Ottoman rule initially, it later saw British forces become involved under the command of Major-General Charles Gordon, known to history as Gordon of Khartoum. Killed in action in the city during the campaign and eulogised by the jingoistic British press as a result, he appears as a character in the novel. The story itself centres on Akuany, a young village girl orphaned in the fighting along with her brother. They are taken in by a young lawyer, Yasheen, but Akuany is later enslaved and moved from house to house across the country. Colonialism, independence, slavery

From Alan Warner to James Kelman, the best new Scottish books of 2023

and the rights of women - they all come under Aboulela-s purview in what is intended to be the first in a series of novels examining the links between ***Scotland*** and Sudan.

March 7 (Saqi Books, 16.99)

O Brother by John Niven

Although he cut his teeth in the music business, Ayrshire-born John Niven is better known as a screenwriter and the author of novels such as Kill Your Friends and Straight White Male. But in this very personal first foray into non-fiction he dips into his own backstory to tell a tale about growing up in the 1970s and in particular his relationship with troubled younger brother, Gary. Funny and tragic by turns, it charts Gary-s downward spiral against the backdrop of family and the wider social upheaval of the 1980s and 1990s.

24 August (Canongate, 18.99)

Our Hideous Progeny by CE McGill

Born in ***Scotland***, raised in North Carolina and now living back here, Charlie McGill (below) originally trained as an aerospace engineer before turning to writing, in particular sci-fi and speculative fiction centring on queer characters. Their Gothic-flavoured, Frankenstein-inspired debut has already drawn praise from Joanne Harris and Jess Kidd, author of The Night Ship. The setting here is London in the 1850s, where Victor Frankenstein-s great-niece Mary is trying to make her way in the field of science. But when she uncovers a secret in the family-s past - is there a clue in the family name? - she-s soon hightailing it north to ***Scotland*** to enlist the help of her reclusive sister-in-law, Maisie, in a venture which could secure her future.

May 5 (Doubleday, 16.99)

Because I Don-t Know What You Mean And What You Don-t by Josie Long

Promising contemporary themes - sex, love, motherhood, friendship and family life in all its messy glory - as well as a couple of ghost stories, this collection from Glasgow-based Josie Long marks her fiction debut. She-s no stranger to the art of storytelling, of course, being better known as an award-winning stand-up comedian, regular guest on TV panel shows and host of BBC Radio 4 programmes such as Josie Long-s Gambit, in which she rediscovered her childhood love of chess.

June 1 (Canongate, 16.99)

Thirsty Animals by Rachelle Atalla

The young, Falkirk-born Scots-Egyptian screenwriter scored a hit last year with her dystopian debut novel The Pharmacist, and she returns here with another near-future thriller. This time we-re in a ***Scotland*** beset by a drought which is causing its cities dry up. Meanwhile people flow over the border from England in pursuit of that same precious resource. In the middle of it all is Aida, who has returned to live with her mother on the rural farm where she grew up. But what do you do when you don-t have enough water to share? And when, if ever, will the rains return?

March 16 (Hodder & Stoughton, 18.99)

READ MORE: ALAN WARNER ON PROG ROCK AND THE FUTURE OF SCOTLIT

The Grief Nurse by Angie Spoto

Another American who has crossed the Atlantic and made a home in ***Scotland***, Chicago-born Angie Spoto (below) studied creative writing at Glasgow University and this debut feature is inspired in part by her love of the work of Ursula Le Guinn, Octavia Butler and Leonora Carrington. In other words expect intricate world-building, a touch of politics and a smidgen of the surreal. These are all good things, of course. The novel tells the story of ***Lynx***,

From Alan Warner to James Kelman, the best new Scottish books of 2023

employed by the wealthy Aster family as a -grief nurse- to ensure they are never troubled by any negative emotions. *Lynx* soon finds herself in the middle of quite a welter of negative emotions, however, when the family's eldest son dies, and somebody starts picking off the guests arriving for the wake. That it takes place on a private island only adds to the tension.

April 13 (Sandstone, 16.99)

Keep Moving And No Questions by James Kelman

Scotland-s literary titan, though often unappreciated in his homeland, is lauded elsewhere - and nowhere more so, it seems, than in the offices of California-based publisher of radical literature, PM Press, who have championed his work. This collection of 21 short stories features five which are brand new, while the rest have been significantly revised by the author. A good place to start if you haven-t already sampled the work of the 1994 Booker Prize winner: if you-re already a fan, be advised this collection is presented in an edition billing itself as -definitive-.

June 13 (PM Press, 16.99)

Sea Bean: A Beachcomber-s Search For A Magical Charm by Sally Huband

Shetland-based nature writer Sally Huband takes to the beaches of her island home - as well as those of Orkney, the Faroes archipelago, and the West Frisian island of Texel - to hunt for the sea beans of her title. Seeds from tropical trees which have adapted to drift thousands of miles on sea currents to aid propagation and dispersal, they are much prized in our northern climes where they have long been used as magical charms. But running in tandem with this narrative is another story, as Huband tells of how slowing down her life and taking up beachcombing allowed her to heal following a chronic illness and the birth of a child.

April 6 (Hutchison, 16.99)

The Dead Don-t Speak by Claire Askew

Fast becoming one of *Scotland*-s brightest new crime writers, Askew won the 2019 Bloody *Scotland* Crime Debut of the Year award for first novel All The Hidden Truths, which introduced Edinburgh-based detective inspector Helen Birch. The feisty DI-s fourth outing, A Matter Of Time, saw Askew nominated for the prestigious McIlvanney Prize. And here is novel number five, which opens with Birch on sick leave following the events of the previous book but dragged back to work when a series of mysterious vigilante crimes escalates into a full-blown crisis. If you prefer verse to violence and couplets to crime, note that Askew is also an award-winning poet: her most recent collection, How To Burn A Woman, won the 2022 *Scottish* Poetry Book of the Year Award.

June 8 (Hodder & Stoughton, 16.99)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: FICTION LITERATURE (90%); NON FICTION LITERATURE (90%); NOVELS & SHORT STORIES (90%); WRITERS (90%); LITERATURE GENRES (89%); FEMINISM & WOMEN'S RIGHTS (78%); HUMAN RIGHTS (78%); LITERATURE (78%); SLAVERY (78%); TRENDS & EVENTS (77%); HISTORY (74%); DRAMA LITERATURE (73%); WOMEN (73%); BOATING & RAFTING (72%); MURDER (69%); WITCHCRAFT (65%); WAR & CONFLICT (64%)

From Alan Warner to James Kelman, the best new Scottish books of 2023

Industry: WRITERS (90%); BOOKSTORES (78%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (78%); ENTERTAINMENT & ARTS (69%); MUSIC INDUSTRY (67%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (79%); KHARTOUM, SUDAN (53%); SCOTLAND (93%); SUDAN (90%); UNITED KINGDOM (79%)

Load-Date: March 5, 2023

End of Document

Scientists battling to save lynx

Scottish Star

February 13, 2023 Monday

Edition 1, Scotland

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 24

Length: 66 words

Body

A EUROPEAN big cat population faces extinction, warns a study.

There are now less than 150 adult lynxes in France, and researchers say they could disappear in 30 years.

Biologist Nathan Huvier, of conservation site Centre Athenas in France, said: "This population urgently needs new genetic material for it to become sustainable."

The Eurasian lynx lives in the Jura mountains on the French/Swiss border

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DSTscot

Subject: WILD CATS (91%); BIOLOGY (90%); SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (90%); CATS (88%)

Geographic: FRANCE (90%); Scotland

Load-Date: February 15, 2023

Spitfire on new mission

Scottish Star

February 10, 2023 Friday

Edition 1, Scotland

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 21

Length: 101 words

Body

A GRANDFATHER has spent years creating a replica of a Spitfire fighter plane - in his garden shed.

Kenneth Mockford, 59, has forked out about £30,000 using blueprints to make many parts from scratch and turn the Battle of Britain winner into a flight simulator.

The retired airman, of Burwell, Cambs, said: "I am a nutty engineer, basically. I have Asperger syndrome and I always say that is my superpower.

"I analyse things to the nth degree and can see things that other people cannot."

Kenneth runs flight simulator business Sim2do and has also built replicas of a Lynx helicopter, a Boeing 737 and an F35 jet.

Graphic

Pictures: SWNS/JAMES LINSELL-CLARK

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DSTscot

Subject: ASPERGER'S SYNDROME (54%)

Company: BOEING CO (58%)

Ticker: BOE (LSE) (58%); BA (NYSE) (58%)

Industry: NAICS336414 GUIDED MISSILE & SPACE VEHICLE MANUFACTURING (58%); NAICS336412 AIRCRAFT ENGINE & ENGINE PARTS MANUFACTURING (58%); NAICS336411 AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURING (58%); SIC3761 GUIDED MISSILES & SPACE VEHICLES (58%); FLIGHT SIMULATORS (90%); HELICOPTERS (73%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (89%); UNITED KINGDOM (59%); Scotland

Load-Date: February 15, 2023

End of Document

Pirates coach lashes out Adam Walker blasts 'selfish' players after painful home defeat means Paisley side are 'probably out of title race'

Pirates coach lashes out; Adam Walker blasts 'selfish' players after painful home defeat means Paisley side are 'probably out of title race'

Paisley Daily Express

February 8, 2023 Wednesday

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 22,23

Length: 478 words

Byline: BEN RAMAGE

Body

PAISLEY PIRATES2 DUNDEE COMETS.....3

Paisley Pirates coach Adam Walker has ordered his players to "look in the mirror" after Dundee Comets blasted a hole in their title hopes.

The Renfrewshire side were hoping to bounce back at Braehead Arena following a painful 7-1 defeat to Edinburgh Capitals the weekend before.

But they were left empty-handed with the Comets returning to Dundee with the points after racing into a lead they never let go.

The back-to-back defeats have seen the Pirates slip back to fifth in the Scottish National League table.

And Walker insists his side need to hit the reset button and focus on improving in time for the end-of-season play-offs.

He told Pirates TV: "It was a disappointing night. We didn't show up for the first two periods and played at their level. They like to pace the game and we let them do that too much."

"We woke up in the third period and played a lot quicker, but you can't give a team like that too much of a lead and too much confidence because it's an uphill battle from there."

"It's tough because I'd say now we're probably out of the title race, just due to losing too many games. So, really now, it's about trying to build and peak around the play-offs."

"I think sometimes the results are irrelevant. We often speak about coming to play and giving a good effort. If you do that then sometimes the result doesn't go your way, and that's life."

"But consistency is a big thing for us. Rather than results it's more about the level we're playing at and it wasn't there against Comets and it certainly wasn't there the weekend before."

Pirates coach lashes out Adam Walker blasts 'selfish' players after painful home defeat means Paisley side are 'probably out of title race'

"We need to go back to the drawing board and have a think. I think a few guys need to take a look in the mirror and understand where they are going wrong and what they can do to help the team."

"We've got a couple of players in there that are playing a bit selfish at the moment and that's not what our team is about. We're a close-knit team."

"I do believe once we get it right we can get back to the levels we reached earlier in the season and we'll be a tough team to beat again."

Kris Phillips, who picked up the man of the match award for Pirates, echoed his coach's sentiments and insists the side must do better this weekend coming.

The Paisley side face a big home double-header at Braehead Arena - playing North Ayrshire Wild on Saturday before welcoming Aberdeen Lynx on Sunday.

He commented: "It was a very frustrating game."

"I think this team should be winning by this point of the season, especially when we've got pressure on us."

"We should be performing but the past two weeks haven't been anywhere close to where we should be and where we can be. We need to work on that and perform better, especially at home."

"We had a bit of a push in the last eight minutes but that's how we should have been playing from the start."

Graphic

Stramash A heated encounter during the Pirates v Comets clash. Pictures: Al Goold (www.algooldphoto.com)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: PDE

Subject: SPORTS & RECREATION EVENTS (89%)

Organization: PITTSBURGH PIRATES (94%)

Geographic: DUNDEE, SCOTLAND (90%); EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND (58%); SCOTLAND (91%); National Edition

Load-Date: February 15, 2023

Pirates coach lashes out Adam Walker blasts 'selfish' players after painful home defeat means Paisley side
are 'probably out of title race'

End of Document

Goose-whisperer stars in hilarious Musselburgh TikTok

East Lothian Courier

February 7, 2023 Tuesday

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Length: 128 words

Byline: [Gregor Millar](#)

Body

A MUSSELBURGH goose-whisperer has gained notoriety online after posting a TikTok of himself and the Canada geese by the River Esk.

Martin Loftus posted the video on the social media platform in which he whistles and calls over the the birds, who come excitedly over to see him.

@martinloftus666 the *lynx* effect #foryou #fyp #foryoupage #*scottish* #*scotland* #musselburgh #animals #animallover #geese #swans #ducks #lynxeffect #drdolittle #natural #happyplace #riveresk #bonding #son #love - original sound - Martin Loftus187

He then sits down on a bench as a gaggle of geese come over to him, allowing him to pat them as he feeds them.

Martin then walks away, before the geese follow him along the banks of the river.

He then states that: "I think we've got a way with the birds."

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: INTERNET SOCIAL NETWORKING (90%); SOCIAL MEDIA (90%); RIVERS (72%)

Industry: INTERNET SOCIAL NETWORKING (90%); INTERNET VIDEO (90%); SOCIAL MEDIA (90%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%)

Goose-whisperer stars in hilarious Musselburgh TikTok

Load-Date: February 7, 2023

End of Document

A top price of 3800gns was paid twice at Border and Lakeland Club Sale, Carlisle

A top price of 3800gns was paid twice at Border and Lakeland Club Sale, Carlisle

The Scottish Farmer

February 2023

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Length: 263 words

Byline: [Julie Wight](#)

Body

A joint top price of 3800gns, an overall average of 2873 and 19 animals selling at or above 3000 were the key highlights of the February Border and Lakeland Club sale of dairy cattle at Carlisle.

Judge, Mike Dixon from Beech House, found his pre-sale champion in the cow in milk, Denmire Patiodoor Kay from the Dennison family, Scales Farm, Aldingham, Ulverston, which he went on to purchase for 3800gns. Bred from 10 generations of Ex or VG dams, she goes back to the Dunnerdale Rudolph Kay Ex95, and is sired by Denmire Patiodoor.

The same home sold the heifer, Denmire Lighthouse Marie for 3600gns to M Ferguson, Seaview, Perth. A daughter of Westcoast Lighthouse, she is out of Denmire Galahad Marie 5.

Mr Ferguson also bought the lead priced heifer at 3800gns. Stowbeck Lighthouse Wster 2, from Skirwith Hall Farms, Penrith, is the result of the AI sire, Westcoast Lighthouse, onto the VG87 classified Stockbeck *Lynx* Ester.

The reserve champion, Espland Milo Angela, from Alan Cannon, Espland Hill, Brampton, Appleby In Westmorland, was another purchased by the judge for 3600gns. She is by Eclipse Milo and bred from Espland Chip Angela.

Top price for Brian and Val Davidson and son Craig's Errolston herd from Gretna was also 3600gns given for Errolston Raider Ricki. This fresh second calver is bred from 10 generations of Ex or VG dams going back to the 2004 Royal Highland champion, Stannock Formation Ricki. She was purchased by Messrs Coulthurst, Goosnargh, Preston.

Auctioneers: Harrison and Hetherington.

averages: eight cows in milk, 3215.66; 59 heifers in milk, 2873.68

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

A top price of 3800gns was paid twice at Border and Lakeland Club Sale, Carlisle

Subject: MAMMALS (90%); AUCTIONS (78%)

Industry: DAIRY FARMING (90%)

Geographic: PERTH, AUSTRALIA (58%); SCOTLAND (73%)

Load-Date: February 21, 2023

End of Document

Greenock man 'stole a bank debit card'

Greenock man 'stole a bank debit card'

Greenock Telegraph

January 28, 2023 Saturday

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Length: 98 words

Byline: [David Goodwin](#)

Body

A GREENOCK man stole a bank debit card before being found in the street with an opened can of super lager, it is alleged.

Robert Meechan, 55, is said to have found a Bank of **Scotland** card at Morrisons supermarket and making no attempt to discover its true owner.

Prosecutors say he was later found on Mount Pleasant Street with a can of 7.5% ABV **Lynx** beer and in possession of cannabis.

Meechan, of Wellington Street, is said to have committed the alleged offences last June.

He has pleaded not guilty through lawyer Gerry Keenan at the sheriff court, with the case due to call again on April 25.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: CRIME, LAW ENFORCEMENT & CORRECTIONS (88%); PUBLIC PROSECUTORS (87%); CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES CRIME (72%); LAW COURTS & TRIBUNALS (70%); CANNABIS (69%); SHERIFFS (68%)

Industry: DEBIT CARDS (90%); PUBLIC PROSECUTORS (87%); GROCERY STORES & SUPERMARKETS (85%); CANNABIS (69%)

Greenock man 'stole a bank debit card'

Load-Date: January 28, 2023

End of Document

Did you ever catch a glimpse of the elusive Beast of Bennachie ?

Did you ever catch a glimpse of the elusive Beast of Bennachie ?

Aberdeen Evening Express

January 26, 2023 Thursday

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Section: NWS; Pg. 12

Length: 1065 words

Byline: Kirstie Waterston

Body

For decades, fleeting glimpses of big cats have been recorded all over Scotland, and in the north-east the Beast of Bennachie is still said to roam the foothills.

From the Bennachie big cat and its distant relations, the Beasts of Angus and Buchan, to Felicity the famous Highland puma, there has been no shortage of big cat sightings.

The Beast of Bennachie was first spotted in the 1970s, but was particularly prolific in the 90s - so much so that Grampian Police even appointed an officer dedicated to sniffing out a predatory big cat that was becoming a beast of burden to Aberdeenshire farmers.

Conclusive evidence of a big cat has never been found around Bennachie, although locals still see the beast from time to time in Garioch.

Last year, there was a flurry of sightings around the River Don on the outskirts of Inverurie.

Walkers described seeing a large black cat, on one occasion crossing the path on the Old Kemnay Road, on another it was spotted on the opposite bank of the river by houses at St James's Walk.

In the last couple of years, a number of people believe they've seen a big black cat around Chapel of Garioch, usually caught in car headlights while pacing, unperturbed, across the road.

Dog walkers have also spoken of incredible close encounters with a large, panther-like feline in the dense forest at the Back o' Bennachie car park and in nearby Premnay.

There were also several sightings of a puma-like cat at Fetternear by Kemnay in 2017, and in the fields by Manar.

Retired Insch farmer Sandy Coutts spotted four mysterious big cats within the space of a year in the 90s.

His first sighting was in late 1994 on Brindy Hill between Keig and Alford, where he saw a large, yellowish creature.

He saw a similar beast in the same location the following February, but it was only when he saw a jet-black feline near the Oyne Fork that he believed he had encountered the infamous Beast of Bennachie.

He explained: "It was much larger than a dog, definitely a big cat, and had a long curved tail.

Did you ever catch a glimpse of the elusive Beast of Bennachie ?

"It just confirms my previous belief that several of these beasts are living in the densely-wooded areas of Bennachie.

"Certainly I have no doubts about what I saw, either this time or on previous occasions."

The discovery of sheep carcasses in the area the following day seemed to corroborate Mr Coutts' claim, but a more cynical local farmer said "I'll believe in the big cat when I find one lying dead".

Mr Coutts' story was just one in a string of independent reports of big cats around the foothills of Bennachie in 1995.

A mystery moggie was also spotted around the other side of Bennachie near Kemnay.

Milkman Tom Florence was completing his early morning round through the wooded area near Fetternear when he spotted the beast.

He said: "It looked like an almost fully-grown lioness.

"I saw it clearly in my truck's lights as it bounded across the road."

"It was smooth-haired, a yellow colour and had a long straight tail.

"I saw it only for a few seconds - as long as it took to cross the road and disappear in the trees - but long enough to see it was some kind of big cat."

Grampian Police wildlife liaison officer Inspector John Sellar, who had been tasked with investigating sheep deaths in the area, said: "We are not discounting the sightings of unusual animals throughout the area, but there is as yet no hard evidence of any felines being involved in the deaths of sheep locally."

But this was of no reassurance to the laird of Pitcairle Castle, Christopher Burges-Lumsden.

He believed a panther-like creature was killing his grazing lambs, and planned to trap it in 1996.

He set up a humane cage-trap in the area where his lambs were killed - and where large pawprints had been spotted in snow.

The laird was certain a big cat had butchered his flock and ruled out foxes, explaining that two lambs found partly consumed near Whiteford village had their throats torn, with cat tracks found nearby.

The same week, bailiff Martin Webster reported sighting a Lynx at Pitcairle Bridge and described it as being long with pointed ears, but jet black rather than mottled.

In fact, police felt a big dog was a more credible explanation, particularly when a farmer reported a canine-like creature near Bennachie.

Many residents in Garioch considered the Beast of Bennachie the stuff of fantasy but a dog seemed more plausible - and in a way perhaps less unnerving.

In 1996, it was suggested the big black beast silently padding around Bennachie preying on sheep was actually a rogue rottweiler, but that theory also became a little far-fetched.

More than two years previously, a rottweiler puppy had escaped in the Durno area, never to be seen again.

Inspector Sellar backed up the idea and said: "All the physical evidence has pointed to canine rather than big cat involvement."

He admitted that if it was a stray dog, it would likely have been spotted more frequently.

Did you ever catch a glimpse of the elusive Beast of Bennachie ?

Two teenagers who found the bloody remains of a sheep while out fishing were not convinced this was the work of a dog or fox.

Schoolboys Kyle Farquhar and Derek Ohldag, of Pitcaple, discovered the gruesome carcass on the banks of the River Ury near their homes in May 1996.

Its upper body was pinned underneath a barbed wire fence; its flesh ripped from bones and its fleece strewn everywhere.

After a few months of no sightings, a motorist claimed he narrowly missed hitting a big cat on the A96 near Huntly in December 1996.

James Sutherland of Hopeman was driving to Aberdeen early in the morning when the beast bounded out in front of him near the Huntly Industrial Estate.

He likened the animal to a puma, adding that he "got a good look at it".

Mr Sutherland described it as about the same height as a Labrador, but said it was too long to be a dog, and that it moved like a cat.

During the 1960s and '70s, having an exotic pet such as a *Lynx* or panther was a status symbol and perfectly legal, but the introduction of the Dangerous Wild Animals Act in 1976 made it illegal to own big cats without a special licence.

Wild pet owners either had to obtain a licence and provide adequate facilities, give their pet to a zoo, or have them put down - instead, many released their exotic cats in the countryside, an act which, due to a loophole in the law, wasn't illegal itself until 1981.

In 1999, big cat researcher Marcus Matthews estimated that based on sightings there were still around 50 exotic felines roaming across the country.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Ev

Subject: WILD CATS (91%); CATS (90%); MOUNTAINS (90%); DOGS (78%); NEGATIVE NEWS (76%); RIVERS (68%)

Industry: FARMERS & RANCHERS (76%); PARKING SPACES & FACILITIES (65%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (74%); SCOTLAND (74%); 7 North East

Load-Date: January 27, 2023

Did you ever catch a glimpse of the elusive Beast of Bennachie ?

End of Document

Animal attraction; Five of the best zoos to visit in 2023

Daily Record and Sunday Mail

January 22, 2023 Sunday

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: SEVEN DAYS;FEATURES; Pg. 13

Length: 821 words

Byline: RICHARD JONES

Body

A trip to a zoo, animal reserve, wildlife park or aquarium could be the first time kids meet the real-life creatures they've seen in books, films and TV shows.

Pairing stellar animal experiences and thrilling attractions with conservation work and wildlife education leads to an exciting and enriching day out for all the family. With more than 700million people visiting zoos around the world each year, here are five of the best to visit... Edinburgh Zoo The Corstorphine zoo will soon be saying bye bye to two of its most popular residents. Yang Guang and Tian Tian the giant pandas arrived in **Scotland** in December 2011 as part of an arrangement between RZSS and the China Wildlife Conservation Association. However, the cuddly duo may be leaving Edinburgh as early as October, so time is running out to see them.

Away from the pandas,

Edinburgh Zoo, formerly the **Scottish** National Zoological Park, is home to more than 2500 animals from around the world, including a huddle of penguins and **Scotland's** only sloths, as well as lemurs, wallabies and pelicans.

Meanwhile, the Highland Wildlife Park, south of Aviemore, is also a great day out where you can learn about the variety of wildlife in present-day **Scotland**, such as pine martens, wildcats and red deer, as well as stepping step back in time to meet the creatures of the past, including wolves, **Lynx**, beavers and wild horses.

www.edinburghzoo.org.uk, www.hIGHLANDWILDLIFEPARK.ORG.UK Busch Gardens Tampa Bay The world-famous animal theme park in Florida offers a unique blend of thrilling rides, exciting seasonal events such as Cinco de Mayo, Bier Fest, Howl-O-Scream and Christmas Town, as well as an AZA accredited zoo with thousands of animals representing more than 200 species.

Among the creatures living in the naturalistic habitats are black and white rhinos, two-toed sloths, cheetahs, tigers, hippos, hyenas and lorikeets. Busch Gardens Tampa Bay recently announced their line-up of events for 2023, including concerts included with park admission and attractions such as the award-winning Iron Gwazi hybrid coaster and the new Serengeti Flyer, with its twin duelling arms, opening this spring.

From January to March, the Mardi Gras is transporting guests to a festive realm of bayou inspired fanfare, while Sesame Street

Kids' Weekends give kids the chance to meet their favourite furry friends.

Animal attraction Five of the best zoos to visit in 2023

www.seaworldparks.co.uk/our-parks/busch-gardens Chester Zoo The UK's most popular wildlife attraction opened in 1931 and now covers 128 acres which is home to more than 27,000 animals and more than 500 species. Among the incredible and exotic creatures at Chester Zoo are capybaras, babirusas and Andean bears, with visitors able to take a trip to Madagascar, wander through the lemur habitat, explore the dense jungles of Southeast Asia by boat, and immerse themselves in the sights, sounds and smells of the Monsoon Forest.

Chester's world-leading conservation and education charity has also made news of late when a rare black rhino and an endangered Malayan tapir were both born at the zoo. If you're looking for something extra special, contemporary British pub The Oakfield serves freshly prepared locally sourced food and hand-picked beers, wines and spirits - the perfect accompaniment to your visit.

www.chesterzoo.org Zoologischer Garten, Berlin

When it comes to impressive historic zoos, it's hard to beat the Berlin Zoological Garden, which was opened way back in 1844. There are a whopping 20,200 animals across 1380 species at Europe's most-visited zoo. It is also a key player in many different breeding programmes. On its 86 acres, you can discover a dizzying variety of animals including polar bears and giant pandas, penguins and pelicans. Most enclosures are designed to resemble natural habitats, while one of the animal-centric architectural highlights is the 1910 Arabian-style Zebra House.

With a combined ticket, you can also visit the three-floor Aquarium Berlin, home to amazing array of fish, as well as pythons, frogs, turtles and Komodo dragons.

zoo-berlin.de/en Yorkshire Wildlife Park For a breathtaking walkthrough wildlife adventure, head to YWP, south-east of Doncaster, to come face to face with some of the world's most beautiful and at-risk species. The site was officially opened by Justin Fletcher (CBeebies' Mr Tumble) in 2009, and among the highlights are Lion Country, which houses a pride of 13 African lions, all of which came from Oradea Zoological Garden in Romania.

Meanwhile, Into Africa is an immersive reserve home to ostrich, antelope, giraffe and endangered Grevy's zebra. Plus, Land of the Tiger is home to Amur tigers and their cubs, while Leopard Heights is the largest Amur leopard facility in Europe.

YWP works closely with charities to help in animal conservation, and, as well as housing four male polar bears in its innovative habitat, Project Polar Reserve is a leading centre for research.

www.yorkshirewildlifepark.com

Graphic

PANDA-MONIUM . Tian Tian is big hit at Edinburgh Zoo ROARSOME Lion Country at Yorkshire Wildlife Park is home to a pride of 13 African lions,

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: SML

Animal attraction Five of the best zoos to visit in 2023

Subject: MAMMALS (98%); WILDLIFE (93%); ANIMALS (91%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (90%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (89%); PRIMATES (89%); WILD CATS (89%); CONSERVATION (78%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (78%); WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (78%); CHRISTMAS (74%); ACCREDITATION (72%); TRENDS & EVENTS (68%)

Company: BUSCH GARDENS WILLIAMSBURG (54%); AHMAD ZAVITSANOS ANAIPAKOS ALAVI & MENSING PC (53%)

Organization: NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL PARK (56%); CHINA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION (56%)

Industry: NAICS713110 AMUSEMENT & THEME PARKS (54%); SIC7996 AMUSEMENT PARKS (54%); NAICS541110 OFFICES OF LAWYERS (53%); SIC8111 LEGAL SERVICES (53%); ZOOS & AQUARIUMS (93%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (90%); DESTINATIONS & ATTRACTIONS (89%); AMUSEMENT & THEME PARKS (78%)

Geographic: TAMPA, FL, USA (90%); EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND (88%); FLORIDA, USA (79%); SCOTLAND (91%); UNITED KINGDOM (88%); MADAGASCAR (78%); ASIA (56%); National Edition

Load-Date: January 22, 2023

End of Document

COP15 will tackle global wildlife loss. Here's a plan to save Scotland's nature now

COP15 will tackle global wildlife loss. Here's a plan to save Scotland's nature now

Herald Scotland

December 3, 2022 Saturday

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Length: 1332 words

Byline: [Vicky Allan](#)

Body

Nearly half of **Scotland**-s species are in decline, but the situation can be turned around with immediate action to preserve natural habitats, a report reveals.

The news around the state of nature is chilling. Study after study, global or national, delivers a portrait of biodiversity loss. The 2019 State Of Nature **Scotland** report, for instance, found 49 per cent of our species have seen declines in abundance since 1970.

But, according to a new Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) report published ahead of the COP15 UN Biodiversity Conference, which takes place in Montreal, Canada, from December 7 to 19 to agree a plan for nature, it is within our power to halt some of this decline.

The report, titled A World Richer For Nature, calls for a -decade of action- and urges **Scotland** to take bold measures to ensure that -by 2030, our best places for nature, amounting to at least 30% of land and sea, are properly protected and well managed-.

RSPB **Scotland** director Anne McCall said: -Nature is in crisis around the globe. We need COP15 to deliver a strong, ambitious deal for nature-s recovery. However, there-s plenty of things the **Scottish** Government can do now to tackle the nature crisis at home. The stated ambition to do this has never been higher, but this needs to manifest in real action.-

The World Wildlife Fund-s recent Living Planet report calculated an average 69% decrease globally in relative abundance of monitored wildlife populations between 1970 and 2018, with the worst decline across Latin America and the Caribbean; the least in Europe and Central Asia.

The report said: -Although Europe and Central Asia saw the smallest recorded regional decline, it should be recognised that many species were already in a depleted state when data started being compiled.-

In other words, a great deal of **Scotland**-s nature was lost long ago - and this is reflected in the fact that, in the global ranking of Biodiversity Intactness Index, **Scotland** comes, with 56%, 28th from the bottom of 240 countries.

COP15 will tackle global wildlife loss. Here's a plan to save Scotland's nature now

Not so bad as England, 7th from bottom, but startlingly worse than other nearby countries: France (65%), Norway (75%).

Scotland-s forest coverage, for instance, is a fraction of its former high of 80%, at now only 18%, though up from a low of 6%. Species lost over the centuries include wolf, Lynx, bear and elk. The beaver, which became extinct north of the Border in the 16th century, is currently being reintroduced.

READ MORE: Both sides of rewilding debate are wrong, says author

Some of our more recently declining species are famous. There are now only about 115 to 315 Scottish wildcat remaining in the wild. The wild Atlantic salmon has been in steep decline, with 35,693 caught in Scotland last year, the lowest number since records began in 1952.

Meanwhile, populations of curlew, a once widespread farmland bird, declined by 59% between 1995-2018. Other farmland birds have also declined, such as lapwings (56%) and rooks (34%).

Seabird populations, already declining, have been dramatically hit by avian flu over the past year. By September this year, for instance, more than 2,600 Great Skuas had died: 8% of the world population. Even our iconic puffins are endangered.

The RSPB is also calling for -an ambitious Seabird Strategy as we face the aftermath of the catastrophic impact bird flu had on seabirds this year-.

In the 2019 UK Marine Strategy assessment, 11 of the 15 indicators used to determine the health of our seas failed to achieve Good Environmental Status.

Insects have also been affected. The Bugs Matter Citizen Science survey, which gathered data on insects -splattered-on vehicle number plates, found, between 2004 and 2021, 28% fewer insects were recorded in Scotland.

Butterfly Conservation-s Red List of threatened butterflies published earlier this year showed more than one in three Scottish butterfly species is under threat, with, new to the list this year, the Scotch argus and the dark green fritillary.

Climate change and the decline in mountain snow cover is also hitting montane species - not just the mountain hare, whose numbers in 2018 were found to be just 1% of its 1950s population, but also arctic-alpine plants such as the snow pearlwort and drooping saxifrage.

Dr Christopher Ellis, of Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, an expert in climate-change impacts, said: - While climate change is a threat to many of our habitats and species, there are solutions. We're working to understand how species depend on very small variations in climate... When we restore our native habitats into the landscape, we can do so in a way that ensures suitable microclimates will exist into the future, providing refugia for species that would be otherwise threatened by climate change.-

However, research has shown that, globally, climate-change is not, yet, the chief cause of biodiversity loss. A recent study by Dr Pedro Jaureguiberry looked into what factors were impacting global biodiversity and found that, on land, the biggest factor was land-use change - chiefly conversion of natural forests and grasslands to intensive agriculture. This was closely followed by direct exploitation through hunting, fishing and trade. Pollution came next, with climate-change in fourth place. The biggest factor in the marine environment was exploitation - overfishing.

The RSPB-s call to -bring forward a Natural Environment Bill with binding targets to effectively protect 30% of Scotland-s land and sea for nature by 2030- comes at a time when just 18% of our land is designated for nature. Meanwhile, 37% of Scottish seas are designated as protected areas, with 28% falling within the Marine Protected Area Network. But, the report notes, -many are not effectively managed for nature.-

COP15 will tackle global wildlife loss. Here's a plan to save Scotland's nature now

The report contains a long list of other wildlife-protecting ideas including a call for a shift to a -nature positive economy- and strengthening of the ***Scottish*** Biodiversity Strategy. As the world comes together for COP15, its warning message is that we cannot afford to lost more years - we must act for nature now.

READ MORE: Rewilders of our seas - bringing back oysters and seagrass

Biodiversity hope projects

Pine hoverfly reintroduction

The pine hoverfly, an insect important for pollination and waste removal, is so endangered it had not been seen in ***Scotland*** in recent years in its adult form. But a reintroduction project this year in the Cairngorms has changed that. This March 3,000 endangered pine hoverfly larvae were released into three forest habitats in the Cairngorms National Park. Surveys this autumn found larvae in previously unoccupied tree stump - showing that at least some had completed a full breeding cycle.

Mar Lodge regeneration

When, 17 years ago, the National Trust for Scotland's Mar Lodge began its zero tolerance approach to deer, the idea received a great deal of backlash. Now, however, the site is seeing landscape-scale natural regeneration of native woodland (mostly Caledonian pinewood) for first time in 200 years, with around 2,000 hectares of naturally regenerating native woodland recorded in 2021. Since 2011 it has seen a 436% increase in the number of Scots pine seedlings. This year White-tailed Eagle returned to breed for the first time in living memory.

READ MORE: Mar Lodge: Efforts to combat climate change as winter species hit

White-tailed eagle reintroduction

Following intense persecution through the 19th century, white-tailed eagles were driven to national extinction in the early years of the 20th century. Following reintroduction successes in both East and West ***Scotland***, the species now has a growing native breeding population once more.

Lamlash no-take zone

Since 2008, following a campaign by the Community of Arran Seabed Trust, there has been a fishing "no-take zone-", where fishing is not allowed around Lamlash bay. A 2020 study led by the University of York found that lobster were now over four times more abundant than in the adjacent areas and that king scallop density was four times higher than in 2013.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: WILDLIFE (92%); BIODIVERSITY (90%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (90%); HABITAT CONSERVATION (90%); NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION (90%); MAMMALS (89%); BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION (78%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (78%); WILD CATS (78%); WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (78%); RANKINGS (77%); BIRDS (73%); THREATENED & SENSITIVE SPECIES (73%); WRITERS (70%)

Organization: ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS (57%); WORLD WILDLIFE FUND (54%)

COP15 will tackle global wildlife loss. Here's a plan to save Scotland's nature now

Industry: MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); WRITERS (70%)

Geographic: MONTREAL, QC, CANADA (72%); QUEBEC, CANADA (57%); **SCOTLAND** (95%); ASIA (92%); CENTRAL ASIA (92%); EUROPE (92%); CARIBBEAN ISLANDS (79%); ENGLAND (79%); NORWAY (79%); LATIN AMERICA (78%)

Load-Date: December 3, 2022

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Podcasts

Scottish Express

October 28, 2022 Friday

Edition 1, Scotland

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 34

Length: 399 words

Byline: ELIZABETH ARCHER

Body

The Boy in the Woods In 1994, six-year-old Rikki Neave's body was found in woods near his home in Peterborough. His mother Ruth was the main suspect in the initial police investigation and believed to have murdered her son despite a lack of evidence. She was convicted of child cruelty and sentenced to seven years in prison. However, in 2014, the case was reopened and new DNA evidence on Rikki's clothes led police to another suspect. In April 2022, a man was convicted of Rikki's murder. This podcast tells the story of how his murderer was brought to justice 18 years after the child's death.

Back Then When Keith Lemon and Lucie Cave take a trip in an imaginary time machine with a celebrity guest and talk about what life was like at the height of their fame. In the first episode, they travel to 2005 with Girls Aloud's Kimberley Walsh. She explains how her image was controlled, meaning the band members weren't allowed the same hair colour, so she dyed hers black. And she recalls being shocked to discover a fan had her face tattooed on his arm.

The presenters also discuss the other big celebrity stories of 2005 from Brangelina to the launch of Celebrity Love Island.

Die For Three Points The pitch-side rants of pottymouthed former football manager Neil Warnock have gone viral on social media, making him a cult star. In this new podcast, he and broadcaster David Prutton discuss the latest Premier League news, while Neil shares insights and memories from his career.

In episode one, Neil talks about how he misses football after 40 years as a player and manager. He now leads a laid-back life in Cornwall, walking his dogs and cycling with his wife. He also explains why he thinks Chelsea's new manager Graham Potter is right to encourage less experienced players.

Burn Wild When we think of terrorists, we probably think of religious fundamentalists. But this podcast investigates environmental terrorism. For more than 10 years, Joseph Dibee and Josephine Overaker topped the FBI's Most Wanted List, with a \$50,000 reward for information leading to their arrest. Their crime? Being part of the Earth Liberation Front, an activist group which set fire to businesses they believed harmed the environment, such as a ski resort allegedly destroying an Oregon *Lynx* habitat, and a university supplying genetically modified crops to farmers. As Dibee's case is tried, a reporter investigates.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DXPscot

Subject: MURDER (99%); CELEBRITIES (90%); CRIME, LAW ENFORCEMENT & CORRECTIONS (90%); INVESTIGATIONS (89%); LAW ENFORCEMENT (89%); NEGATIVE NEWS (89%); TERRORISM & COUNTERTERRORISM (89%); WILD CATS (89%); CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT (78%); ARRESTS (77%); ARSON (77%); CORRECTIONS (77%); COUNTERTERRORISM (77%); CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS (77%); CULTS & SECTS (77%); DEATH & DYING (77%); DNA (77%); ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT (77%); FIRES (77%); FORENSIC DNA TESTING (77%); FORENSICS (77%); JAIL SENTENCING (77%); SENTENCING (77%); SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE FORCES (77%); AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY (76%); CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS & TEENS (73%); DOGS (73%); SOCIAL MEDIA (73%); BIOTECHNOLOGY & GENETIC SCIENCE (71%); GENETIC ENGINEERING (71%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (70%); PROFESSIONAL SPORTS (70%); ECOTERRORISM (66%); TERRORISM (66%); TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS (66%); FUNDAMENTALISM (64%); SPORTS & RECREATION (64%); GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS (62%); POLLUTION & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS (60%)

Industry: CELEBRITIES (90%); PODCASTING (89%); AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY (76%); SOCIAL MEDIA (73%); RESORTS (70%); GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS (62%); AGRICULTURE (60%)

Person: BRAD PITT (53%); ANGELINA JOLIE (50%)

Geographic: Scotland

Load-Date: October 28, 2022

End of Document

Pirates ship is rocked Head coach Turley not ready to hit the panic button after heavy defeat but won't stand for repeat performance

Pirates ship is rocked; Head coach Turley not ready to hit the panic button after heavy defeat but won't stand for repeat performance

Paisley Daily Express

October 26, 2022 Wednesday

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 22,23

Length: 436 words

Byline: BEN RAMAGE

Body

PAISLEY PIRATES1 KIRKCALDY KESTRELS6

Coach Ian Turley is demanding a **Scottish** Cup response from his side after they suffered an "unacceptable" home humbling at the hands of Kirkcaldy Kestrels.

The Renfrewshire club were hoping to pick up their fourth win on the spin at Braehead Arena on Sunday evening but ended up on the receiving end of a painful defeat in their own rink.

While Turley insists he isn't hitting the panic button after the shock loss, he is urging his side to quickly recover for the sake of their fans when they return to the ice against Dundee Tigers on cup duty this Sunday.

Turley told Express Sport: "It was a shocking night. It was one of those games when nobody turned up.

"We had the bulk of possession but we didn't create enough golden opportunities. We didn't test their netminder enough and our go to guys simply weren't at it.

"Sometimes these results happen in ice hockey. But for me the biggest surprise was there was just no response from our players.

"At our home rink, this kind of performance is simply unacceptable".

"We weren't in the game and it felt like we just weren't interested. We let our own punters down, they deserved their money back. Fans can understand losing a game if you lose in the right manner. If you perform well and are beaten by the better team, that happens in sport."

"But this was a seriously bad night at the office and it's up to us now to put things right against Dundee Tigers this weekend."

The sore defeat saw Pirates sink back to fourth in the SNL table, with league leaders Aberdeen **Lynx** now five points clear of Turley's side at the summit.

Pirates ship is rocked Head coach Turley not ready to hit the panic button after heavy defeat but won't stand for repeat performance

Turley hopes the loss serves as a lesson to his players that they simply can't let their standards drop against any team in the division.

He said: "The **Scottish** Cup has changed this season so now it's just one game per round, winner takes all deal.

"There's no better way for us to put that Kestrels. defeat to bed than to come out and win this weekend.

"Our fans deserve that. "They've beaten us in our last three outings against them, including in overtime this season.

"We're looking for a response from every single player this weekend because no-one was up to the standard required last time out.

"It's not panic stations at all. "That result wasn't a reflection of where we are as a club and we simply have to use it as a learning tool.

"The league is so tight this year and if you have an offnight you can be beaten convincingly, as we've unfortunately seen.

"If we don't step up to the mark then we'll get punished for it.

"We can't let that happen again."

Graphic

Turned over Pirates were well beaten by visitors Kirkcaldy

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: PDE

Subject: COACHES & TRAINERS (90%); ICE HOCKEY (78%); STADIUMS & ARENAS (78%); SPORTS & RECREATION (77%); WINTER SPORTS (75%)

Geographic: DUNDEE, **SCOTLAND** (73%); ABERDEEN, **SCOTLAND** (58%); **SCOTLAND** (92%); National Edition

Load-Date: October 26, 2022

Lynx making noise on ice hockey scene

Aberdeen Press and Journal

October 14, 2022 Friday

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Section: SPT; Pg. 50

Length: 377 words

Byline: Jamie Durent

Body

Success for Aberdeen Lynx has not come overnight. It has taken years of hard work to build them up to this stage.

Player-head coach Jordan Leyden has seen Aberdeen's premier ice hockey team grow in stature over the last five to 10 years, which has culminated in them sitting top of the Scottish National League and attracting 1,000 supporters regularly to the Linx Arena.

Dundee and Fife has traditionally been the hotbed for the sport in Scotland but the Lynx's presence at the head of the pack at the moment suggests something special is growing in the north-east.

"It's taken us over the course of about 10 years to get to this stage," said Leyden.

"It's a bit of a niche sport in general and there's not dozens of potential players hanging around Aberdeen, like there is with football.

"It's about creating a want, to want to come to Aberdeen and for us to be able to pick and choose who we can get.

"You see it across pretty much all sports; when teams buy in to what you want to do it helps massively. These are the type of guys we need in the squad.

"They are a squad of guys who are in it together and for the right reasons. Everyone knows their role and plays the system well. It's all going in the right direction."

Leyden, who has put his Highland League career on hold to focus on ice hockey, has been heartened by the response from the Aberdeen community to the Lynx's impressive start.

"We've been fortunate over the last five or six years to be getting roughly 1,000 at every game," he added.

"That's nearly a sell-out every week.

"It goes hand-in-hand - the better the team are on the ice, the more likely people are to turn up. We typically put on a good show and put the effort in."

The current Lynx squad draws on players not just from Aberdeen but from Dundee, Moray and the Highlands too.

They have won five of their six league games so far, with their only defeat coming on the opening day of the season against Dundee Comets.

Lynx making noise on ice hockey scene

Their next game is tomorrow night against Paisley Pirates, with face-off at the Lynx taking place at 7.15pm.

"They've always been a team that are well-drilled," said Leyden.

"They have a good coach in Ian Turley and are very hard-working.

"We know what to expect from them. They're nothing new to us and always give us a tough game."

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Pr

Subject: ICE HOCKEY (90%); WINTER SPORTS (90%); COACHES & TRAINERS (89%); SPORTS & RECREATION EVENTS (78%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (90%); DUNDEE, SCOTLAND (90%); SCOTLAND (93%); 7 North East

Load-Date: October 14, 2022

End of Document

It's cool for cats as Lynx hit top

It's cool for cats as Lynx hit top

Aberdeen Evening Express

October 14, 2022 Friday

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Section: SPT; Pg. 33

Length: 389 words

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"It's about creating a want, to want to come to Aberdeen and for us to be able to pick and choose who we can get."

"You see it across pretty much all sports; when teams buy in to what you want to do it helps massively. These are the type of guys we need in the squad. If the players are not going to buy in then you find they don't last long."

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Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Ev

Subject: ICE HOCKEY (90%); WINTER SPORTS (90%); COACHES & TRAINERS (89%); CATS (78%); SPORTS & RECREATION EVENTS (78%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (90%); DUNDEE, SCOTLAND (90%); SCOTLAND (93%); 7 North East

Load-Date: October 14, 2022

End of Document

Famous Edinburgh creative agency behind Irn-Bru ads pushes south with new office

Famous Edinburgh creative agency behind Irn-Bru ads pushes south with new office

Edinburgh Evening News

October 12, 2022 Wednesday

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Section: BUSINESSBUSINESSEDINBURGH

Length: 275 words

Byline: Scott Reid, scott.reid@jpimedia.co.uk

Highlight: Leith, the creative agency with a client list that includes the likes of Irn-Bru and Nando's, has pushed beyond its Scottish roots after opening an office in Manchester.

Body

The practice's first office outside of Scotland will focus on offering end-to-end production facilities through its new venture, Leith Studios.

Led by ex-Havas head of film, Neil Williams, the new production unit boasts a state-of-the-art online editing finishing suite. The venture has recruited ten people, supported by 131 "Leithers" at the agency's Edinburgh headquarters.

Leith was founded in 1984 and was acquired by Lumany - previously known as Cello Health - in 2004.

Neil Williams, head of production at Leith, said: "It's a great step change and opportunity for Leith in Manchester. With the extraordinary production talent available in the north west, fuelled by Leith's award winning creativity, clients can expect a fresh and innovative new approach to their content creation."

Additionally, the new office will look to grow the agency's healthcare sector expertise which now accounts for 25 per cent of Leith's revenue, specialising in pharmaceuticals and working increasingly in areas like mental health and wellbeing.

Richard Marsham, group managing partner at Leith, said "We're excited to see years of growth for Leith come to fruition, Manchester feels like a natural second home for Leith; combining our top drawer creative firepower with our leading edge health sector expertise and enhanced production facilities.

"We are broadening our client offer in light of market demand, and continue to attract clients across the UK and beyond."

The agency appointed John McPartland from Havas Lynx last year to oversee its health team's creative output.

READ MORE: [Key appointment unveiled at Edinburgh agency that works with Irn-Bru and NatWest](#)

Famous Edinburgh creative agency behind Irn-Bru ads pushes south with new office

Graphic

Creative agency Leith has opened a Manchester office and also taken on a number of additional staff.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: HEALTH CARE SECTOR PERFORMANCE (90%); OUTPUT & DEMAND (78%); APPOINTMENTS (74%)

Company: HAVAS SA (58%)

Ticker: HAV (PAR) (58%)

Industry: NAICS541830 MEDIA BUYING AGENCIES (58%); NAICS541810 ADVERTISING AGENCIES (58%); NAICS541613 MARKETING CONSULTING SERVICES (58%); SIC8742 MANAGEMENT CONSULTING SERVICES (58%); SIC7319 ADVERTISING, NEC (58%); SIC7311 ADVERTISING AGENCIES (58%); HEALTH CARE SECTOR PERFORMANCE (90%); HEALTH CARE (78%); PHARMACEUTICALS & BIOTECHNOLOGY (73%); PUBLISHING (73%)

Geographic: EDINBURGH, **SCOTLAND** (90%); MANCHESTER, ENGLAND (88%); **SCOTLAND** (74%); UNITED KINGDOM (58%)

Load-Date: October 12, 2022

End of Document

Famous Edinburgh creative agency behind Irn-Bru ads pushes south with new office

Famous Edinburgh creative agency behind Irn-Bru ads pushes south with new office

Scotsman

October 12, 2022 Wednesday

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Geographic: EDINBURGH, **SCOTLAND** (89%); MANCHESTER, ENGLAND (88%); **SCOTLAND** (90%); UNITED KINGDOM (58%)

Load-Date: October 12, 2022

End of Document

John Deere tractor tops BLE online machinery sale at 15,000

John Deere tractor tops BLE online machinery sale at 15,000

The Scottish Farmer

October 2022

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Length: 436 words

Byline: [Patsy Hunter](#)

Body

An extensive entry of livestock and arable equipment met a buoyant demand at Border Livestock Exchange's collective online machinery sale, which saw a top price of 15,000 for a John Deere 6200 tractor registered in 1994.

LEADING prices

Machinery - JD 6200 tractor 1994, 15,000; Bailey TB 16 trailer 2010, 14,600; Ford 7610 x 4 tractor J647 EFM, 10,700; Valmet 8400 4wd, delta shift tractor, 10,500; MF 3060 tractor L518 pug 1993, 10,200; 2016 Toyota Hilux Mk8, 10,100; 12t Stewart trailer 2009, 8000; Polaris Ranger diesel 2018, 8000; Vaderstad RDA 600 rapid drill 6m 2003, 7000; Bomford Falcon hedge trimmer 2007, 5700; Lynx streamline 4m folding front press, 5600; Case International 856 XL tractor, 5500; Polaris Ranger 2018, 5300; Kubota RTV X900 2017, 5100; John Deere Gator 885d, 2014 with full cab, 5100; KV ES 85 5f plough 2011, 5100; Polaris Sportsman 570 X2, 4200; Teagle Tomahawk 8500 2013, 3900; Case 1494 4wd tractor and loader 1983, 3900; KV 5f plough 2009, 3700; Honda TRX 420 4x4 ATV, 2015, 3600; 2012 Kuhn Euromix 2 1860, 3500; Polaris Ranger 800 6x6, 3500; 8t Richard Western trailer, 3400; Marshall BC-25 flat trailer 2003, 3400; sheep slats, 3200; Ifor Williams flat bed trailer, 3100; KV 6.2m Cambridge rollers 1996, 2900; Claas 250 baler, 2007, 2600; Ifor Williams stock trailer, 2600; cow catcher with euro hitch, 2600; Ifor Williams 10ft trailer, 2300; Nissan Navara D22 double cab 4 x 4 pickup, 2200; McConnell topper 9, 2000; Amazone KE403 power harrow 2008, 2000; Ifor Williams flat trailer, 1900; Kuhn hay bob 360, 1900; Highlander cattle crush, 1900; Fastrac 4220 tier 4 stocks narrow tyres, 1700; 4 x 600/50R22.5, 1700; 26' cattle float with internal partition, 1700; KV 3f plough, 1600; pair of new 66/4300x25, 1595; shed uprights, 3.6m by 250mm by 100, 1300; Jar-Met grass harrows, 1300; Watson feed trailer, 980.00; Kubota lowboy 6kva generator, 960; Accord Optima 6 row precision seed drill, 940; 6m Flat rollers, hyd extend, 890; Parmiter mounted discs, 880; pair of Isuzu Troopers, 830; Watson feed trailer, 820; Watson lamb feeder, 760; Watson calf creep, 740; Rabe power harrow, 740; Rabe 4f plough reversible, 740; Watson calf creep, 730; 24 x 1.2t potato boxes, 720; Watson calf feeder, 680; JCB digger 3c Mk3 transmission, 680; Sullair compressor, 650; Glendale calf creep, 600; Glendale creep feeder, 600; Kuhn 4m power harrow, 600; caravan Bailey 4berth, 600; calf creep, 570; hydraulic pipe crimper, 570; 20 x crash barriers, 540; diesel air compressor, 540; Portequip single sided feeder, 520; twin axle car transporter trailer, 520; BOM root bucket, 500; bus 24 seater, 340.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

John Deere tractor tops BLE online machinery sale at 15,000

Subject: PRICES (78%)

Company: DEERE & CO (93%)

Ticker: DE (NYSE) (93%)

Industry: NAICS333112 LAWN & GARDEN TRACTOR & HOME LAWN & GARDEN EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURING (93%); NAICS333111 FARM MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURING (93%); NAICS325314 FERTILIZER (MIXING ONLY) MANUFACTURING (93%); SIC3524 LAWN & GARDEN TRACTORS & HOME LAWN & GARDEN EQUIPMENT (93%); SIC3523 FARM MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT (93%); SIC2875 FERTILIZERS, MIXING ONLY (93%); SIC2874 PHOSPHATIC FERTILIZERS (93%); SIC2873 NITROGENOUS FERTILIZERS (93%); LIVESTOCK (91%); ALL TERRAIN VEHICLES (76%)

Load-Date: October 18, 2022

End of Document

Readers' Letters: Not wild about bringing back apex predators

Scotsman

September 23, 2022 Friday

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Section: MUST READLETTERS

Length: 1642 words

Byline: Scotsman Letters

Highlight: On reading Ilona Amos' Sustainable *Scotland* preview entitled "Gathering to show how wild *Scotland* can be" (15 September) regarding tomorrow's Big Picture rewilding conference, I have to admit to conflicting thoughts.

Body

Being of a farming background I can acknowledge that some modern arable farming practices have had detrimental impacts on soil structure and fertility and that woodland cover has declined markedly over the centuries, covering just 13 per cent of UK land today. However, I was disappointed not to find any references to delegates who could present an agricultural perspective.

During the time when brown bears, *Lynx* and wolves roamed the land, the apex predators that some rewilding enthusiasts would like to reintroduce, the population of Britain was around 3.6 million. The gradual deforestation went largely hand in hand with incremental increases in grazing livestock and improvements in all sectors of agricultural husbandry which were needed to sustain an increasing population.

Today there are 68.5 million of us and despite the benefit of huge advances in crop yields and livestock breeding we are reliant on close to 50 per cent of imported food to sustain the nation.

The concept of rewilding clearly resonates with a large proportion of our urbanised society, currently standing at 84 per cent. Advocates of this concept are undoubtedly sincere in their quest to enhance biodiversity, avert climate change and reach net zero by 2050 with the help of 26 per cent tree cover within the next decade, while also doubtless supporting the growing use of biofuels which, ironically, create more emissions than they save.

In arguing their case there are exaggerated claims about job creation while potential negative impacts on farming and ancillary businesses are dismissed. UK emissions amount to around just 1.3 per cent of the global total, therefore compared to the major emitting nations, which are miraculously expected to follow this virtuous example, the task would appear achievable. It will, however, be financially ruinous at around £50 billion per year. In terms of land area, the figures are difficult to determine, but broadly speaking the cumulative area of agricultural land that could be lost to these schemes may approach or exceed 30 per cent.

Readers' Letters: Not wild about bringing back apex predators

This is not to say that certain compromises and cooperative improvements between farming and conservation interests should not be made but in this small overcrowded island is it really sensible to trade so much food producing land for a pseudo-wilderness and countless food miles?

*Neil J Bryce, Kelso, **Scottish Borders***

Pipe up!

I watched the Queen's final passage from Balmoral to London and have only one criticism. Whilst going from Holyroodhouse up the Royal Mile to the Kirk there should have been pipers playing a lament.

Iain Davenport, Penicuik, Midlothian

Failing Union

The latest British Social Attitudes survey from data gathered in 2021 indicates that [support for an independent Scotland](#) has grown from 27 per cent in 1999 to 52 per cent. This is the highest figure reported in an authoritative survey that includes polling expert Professor John Curtice among the authors. Also of note is the drop in support for devolution over the same period from 59 per cent to 38 per cent.

While different polls posing different questions typically exhibit more pronounced highs and lows, there is no doubt that the underlying trend of public opinion in **Scotland** is an increasing desire for self-determination, which is now favoured by at least half of the electorate (this reality will hopefully be borne in mind by those seeking to represent the view of the "majority" in their forthcoming constitutional arguments).

That said, there perhaps is a strong inference from the survey results that this change may be due, at least in part, to the persistent denigration of the **Scottish** Government by opposition parties and by many commentators in the mainstream media. In other words, through spurning objectivity and balance in their criticisms, supporters of this dysfunctional union seem to be unintentionally conspiring to deliver the independence that they rail against.

While the public can see for themselves that there are many areas in which the **Scottish** Government can do better, most can also see that south of the Border life in general is not better, and is in fact worse for many of the poorest and least privileged in a crumbling society. United Kingdom governance is failing and it is now clear that Brexit is not the solution and that only independence can deliver the future to which most in our country aspire, both for themselves and for their fellow citizens.

Stan Grodynski, Longniddry, East Lothian

READ MORE: [Union 'has become decidedly less popular' in Scotland, report finds](#)

In the dark

I was struck by two articles which appeared in The Scotsman yesterday. In the News section there is "Union has become decidedly less popular, report finds", yet another speculative piece on support or otherwise for **Scotland** leaving the UK. The fact that the fieldwork is almost a year old means that this report is long out of date, especially considering recent events. The other [article, by Professor John McLaren](#), is presented as an opinion piece in Perspective. It is, however, an analysis of the effects of devolving some elements of taxation to Holyrood.

Prof McLaren reckons that, in four years' time, **Scotland** will have received £1.5 billion less in tax revenue than under the previous dispensation. As he says, **Scottish** households will be paying much more tax than those in the rest of the UK, "but with next to nothing to show for it". He dubs this "the negative consequences of fiscal devolution". Perhaps we should call it "the price of devolution". Prof McLaren points out the most important aspect of this: "The weird thing about all this is that the 'higher tax for no benefit' position **Scotland** is now in is not part of the political debate". This is the fault not only of politicians who conceal this scandal from the public, it is attributable to the flawed Holyrood system, particularly in comparison with Westminster, with its checks and balances. If the

Readers' Letters: Not wild about bringing back apex predators

ramifications of devolving tax to Holyrood had been widely disseminated, we can be sure that Professor John Curtice and his psephological associates would be reporting rather different opinions on ***Scottish*** secession.

As it is, politicians, especially those in the SNP, find it advantageous to keep the public in the dark, and are able to do so because of the absence of mechanisms for making them accountable.

Jill Stephenson, Edinburgh

Careful, now

Has the SNP unleashed a real problem for itself? The backlash amongst independence supporters since the Queen's death has reached new highs. The poll suggesting a 52 per cent support for dissolving the Union seems a little out of kilter with the recent fulsome display of admiration for the monarchy. Someone is getting this badly wrong. SNP politicians constantly beat the drum that we must be independent yet never tell us how this is to be achieved nor at what cost.

The nub of the problem is that no poll is worth considering unless it is based on a concrete, highly detailed plan. Not only is the devil in the detail but the fate of the SNP is too. Be careful what you wish for.

Gerald Edwards, Glasgow

History lesson

Tim Flinn was likely having a wheeze to suggest extreme limits on voting ([Letters, 21 September](#)), but I do support calls for wider education on constitutional matters, particularly in the confinement of debatable lands between Hadrian and Antonine Walls. About 1,100 years later, in the weeks following its creation, the original version of Magna Carta was anathema by Pope Innocent III, who described it as "illegal, unjust, harmful to royal rights and shameful to the English people". Named in 1215's Magna Carta, "Alan de Galloway, constable of ***Scotland***", had contributed to its terms in the days leading up to King John sealing the great charter. "Alan... was deeply involved in the negotiations that led to the drawing up of Magna Carta. He was with the king at Windsor on 3 June, and the naming of Alan as one of the men on whose advice John supposedly granted the great charter... indicate the nature of his dealings with the English king." Rome did not acknowledge a ***Scottish*** role; notice was not served on the vassals living in Alan's domain, who remain obliged to uphold his agreements. Magna Carta of 1215 is hence arguably still a legitimate constitution in southwest ***Scotland***. There are shared principles in Magna Carta, for example a security clause, which appear also in the later Declaration of Arbroath, lest servants of the crown exceed their powers, perish the thought! There is therefore an historical and geographical overlap of common precepts of law, seen in living constitutional documents linking ***Scotland*** and England, doubly so in Galloway. Good lessons to teach aspiring rulers?

Donald M Henry, Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway

Lockdown legacy

Sweden's policy of not having Covid lockdowns in 2020/21 was controversial, but a recent scientific paper comes out in its favour. It is titled "Non-covid excess deaths 2020-21: Collateral damage of policy choices?" and this category of deaths includes heart disease and hypertension, diabetes and obesity, drug and alcohol-induced deaths, road accidents and homicide.

One of the main findings of this study was that for the EU as a whole there were approximately 64 non-Covid excess deaths per 100,000 during the period in question. But for Sweden, which didn't have lockdowns, the figure was much lower at 33 per 100,000.

Geoff Moore, Alness, Highland

Write to The Scotsman

Readers' Letters: Not wild about bringing back apex predators

We welcome your thoughts. Write to lettersts@scotsman.com including name, address and phone number – we won't print full details. Keep letters under 300 words, with no attachments, and avoid 'Letters to the Editor/Readers' Letters' or similar in your subject line. Do not send letters submitted elsewhere. If referring to an article, include date, page number and heading.

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Graphic

Rewilding advocates are keen to see a population of Brown bears living in the wild here in the UK (Picture: Shutterstock)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: LETTERS & COMMENTS (90%); MAMMALS (90%); POPULATION GROWTH (89%); AGRICULTURAL LANDS (78%); AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT (78%); BIODIVERSITY (78%); BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION (78%); BIOMASS (78%); CONSERVATION (78%); SOCIETY, SOCIAL ASSISTANCE & LIFESTYLE (78%); IMPORT TRADE (77%); BIOENERGY (73%); BIOPRODUCTS (73%); DEFORESTATION (73%); URBANIZATION (73%); WRITERS (73%); EMPLOYMENT GROWTH (70%); BIOFUELS (51%); JOB CREATION (50%)

Industry: AGRICULTURAL LANDS (78%); AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT (78%); BIOMASS (78%); CROP PRODUCTION (78%); LIVESTOCK (78%); BIOENERGY (73%); BIOPRODUCTS (73%); DEFORESTATION (73%); PUBLISHING (73%); WRITERS (73%); BIOFUELS (51%)

Geographic: LONDON, ENGLAND (58%); **SCOTLAND** (91%); UNITED KINGDOM (88%)

Load-Date: September 23, 2022

Beast from the East MUM STUNNED BY 'BIG CAT' SIGHTING Mum says she snapped pic of mysterious puma-like creature prowling field after thinking it was a baby deer

Beast from the East; MUM STUNNED BY 'BIG CAT' SIGHTING Mum says she snapped pic of mysterious puma-like creature prowling field after thinking it was a baby deer

Daily Record and Sunday Mail

August 25, 2022 Thursday

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: NEWS; TEASERS; Pg. 21

Length: 403 words

Byline: KAITLIN EASTON ; JORDAN SHEPHERD

Body

A WOMAN was left shocked after spotting a "big cat" prowling outside her work.

Lisa Elliot, 36, initially thought the animal was a baby deer as it moved across a field near the East Lothian village of Pencaitland on Monday just after 5.30am.

The mum snapped pictures of the large black "puma-sized" cat when she realised "what it really was".

Images show the large black creature roaming across the field before disappearing into the grass. Lisa, who works nightshifts at the Tynholm Stables care home, said this was the first time she or any of her colleagues have seen the black cat.

"I thought it was a baby deer to start with," Lisa told the Daily Record. "I got up to the window and I thought, 'Oh my God, that's no deer'. It was huge!"

She added: "It was just walking across the field - I've never seen anything like it.

"I follow all these kinds of sightings because I find them quite interesting."

I

Despite the threat of a big cat lurking outside her window, Lisa said she hopes she will catch a glimpse of it again.

Her sighting is just one in a long line of reports of big cats, such as *Lynx*, roaming around *Scotland*.

We told In January this year how a big cat expert has mapped over 850 potential sightings after setting up the group Big Cat Sightings in

Scotland, to better understand the elusive mystery.

Beast from the East MUM STUNNED BY 'BIG CAT' SIGHTING Mum says she snapped pic of mysterious puma-like creature prowling field after thinking it was a baby deer

Paul MacDonald says the group has received hundreds of reports of non-native species spotted across the country. He believes the animal Lisa spotted could be a wildcat hybrid but he ruled out a puma or Lynx due to the shape of the tail.

He said: "You could say it is a bit of a mystery. It is more like a wildcat hybrid but it is not in the location you would expect to find a wildcat, which would be in the Highlands."

"There have been sightings of big cats in East Lothian and around the Pencaitland area but the details described were more akin to bigger cats."

"The tail of this particular cat is definitely not the tail of a puma or a Lynx."

Paul, 49, who is based in the Borders, has created a map of where sightings have been made across Scotland in the hope of finding the creatures.

huge in field

He used his experience in military intelligence to gather reports of sightings and accurately map them.

The earliest recorded big cat sighting dates back to 1947, with others recorded in the catalogue this year.

I thought, 'Oh my God, that's no deer'. It was huge lisa elliot reaction to spotting creature in field

Graphic

' SIGHTING Lisa thinks the animal, above right, was as big as puma, left

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DRC

Subject: ANIMALS (90%); CATS (90%); WILD CATS (90%); MAMMALS (89%); LIFE FORMS (73%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (90%); National Edition

Load-Date: August 25, 2022

Spray's the way for guys

Spray's the way for guys

Scottish Star

August 12, 2022 Friday

Edition 1, Scotland

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 7

Length: 67 words

Body

YOUNG men would rather smell good than look good, a poll has revealed.

Being fragrant is way more important for 92% of 18 to 35-year-olds.

More than half of men claim smelling great makes them feel more confident, while 43% said it makes them more positive.

Exactly half of men like being told they are funny, found the study for men's grooming brand Lynx who said "when guys smell great, they feel great".

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DSTscot

Geographic: Scotland

Load-Date: August 12, 2022

End of Document

Sturgeon Moon: What time is the supermoon tonight? Sturgeon Moon meaning explained

Sturgeon Moon: What time is the supermoon tonight? Sturgeon Moon meaning explained

Scotsman

August 11, 2022 Thursday

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Section: WEATHER

Length: 326 words

Byline: Ginny Sanderson, ginny.sanderson@jpimedia.co.uk

Highlight: Here's when and how to see the final supermoon of 2022, named the Sturgeon Moon.

Body

The last supermoon of the year will be rising in our skies tonight.

Stargazers up and down the UK will be treated to a larger than life sight of our natural satellite as it orbits closer to the Earth.

It's the fourth and final supermoon of 2022, after the [Buck Moon](#) in July, the [Strawberry Supermoon](#) in June, and the Flower or [Blood Moon](#) in May.

Here's everything you need to know about the upcoming Sturgeon supermoon, from what it is to when and where to see it.

What is a supermoon?

A supermoon is the phenomenon when the moon is closest in its orbit to the Earth while also being a full moon.

This closest point to the Earth is known as the [perigee](#), which is on average about 253,000 miles (405,500km) from our planet.

When a full moon appears during the perigee it appears larger and brighter than usual, which is why it is named a supermoon.

We've had a number of supermoons in a row in 2022 because this is how often this closer proximity to the Earth normally lasts.

When is the next supermoon 2022? And why is it called the Sturgeon Moon?

Sturgeon Moon: What time is the supermoon tonight? Sturgeon Moon meaning explained

The final supermoon of 2022 will be lighting the skies on Thursday night (August 11), and into the early hours of Friday morning (August 12).

It is called the Sturgeon Moon – but no, it's not named after the First Minister of **Scotland**, Nicola Sturgeon.

The nickname derives from the Native American Algonquin tribes, who named it due to the abundance of sturgeon fish in the Great Lakes during this time.

Other names for the August full moon include: the Corn Moon, Grain Moon, and **Lynx** Moon.

How and what time to see the Sturgeon supermoon in Scotland and the UK

The Sturgeon supermoon will rise at around 8.55pm in **Scotland** and the rest of the UK on Thursday night (August 11).

It will reach its peak at around 2.35am in the early hours of Friday morning (August 12). The peak is when the moon is on the opposite side of the Earth from the sun, and 100 per cent of its surface is illuminated, giving the best view.

Graphic

[The previous supermoon over Blackcastle Hill, Dunbar - photo by Chas Penny](#)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: FISHES (89%); NATIVE AMERICANS (69%)

Industry: PUBLISHING (73%)

Person: NICOLA STURGEON (79%)

Geographic: GREAT LAKES (53%); **SCOTLAND** (90%); UNITED KINGDOM (90%); UNITED STATES (53%)

Load-Date: August 11, 2022

Sturgeon Moon: What time is the supermoon tonight? Sturgeon Moon meaning explained

Sturgeon Moon: What time is the supermoon tonight? Sturgeon Moon meaning explained

Edinburgh Evening News

August 11, 2022 Thursday

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Section: WEATHER

Length: 326 words

Byline: Ginny Sanderson, ginny.sanderson@jpimedia.co.uk

Highlight: Here's when and how to see the final supermoon of 2022, named the Sturgeon Moon.

Body

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Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: FISHES (89%); NATIVE AMERICANS (69%)

Industry: PUBLISHING (73%)

Person: NICOLA STURGEON (79%)

Geographic: EDINBURGH, **SCOTLAND** (74%); GREAT LAKES (53%); UNITED KINGDOM (90%); **SCOTLAND** (89%); UNITED STATES (53%)

Load-Date: August 11, 2022

How drones are being used to remotely spot deer herds and protect new woodlands in Scottish Highlands

How drones are being used to remotely spot deer herds and protect new woodlands in Scottish Highlands

Scotsman

July 26, 2022 Tuesday

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Section: ENVIRONMENT HUMAN INTEREST OUTDOORS CLIMATE
CHANGE CONSERVATION NATURE SCOTLAND

Length: 552 words

Byline: Ilona Amos, jamos@scotsman.com

Highlight: Specialist thermal-imaging drones are being deployed in Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park as part of a trial aimed at safeguarding newly planted trees from marauding deer herds.

Body

The technology is able to pinpoint the location of deer within a forest and can even indicate the species and sex of the animals.

The footage is being used by foresters to monitor exact numbers of deer, which cause damage to saplings and hamper regeneration and creation of woodlands, and target necessary culls to keep numbers down.

The move comes as part of a project to create the new Great Trossachs Forest National Nature Reserve, which will be one of the largest areas of native woodland in **Scotland**, stretching across 14,500 hectares of the Highlands.

Great Trossachs Forest is the UK's newest and biggest national nature reserve and one of the most significant native woodland projects in the UK for a generation.

According to **Scotland**'s forestry agency, which is leading the scheme, there have been increased reports of the deer entering an enclosed conservation area with newly planted trees stretching across 1,000 hectares around Loch Katrine and munching on the emerging shoots.

READ MORE: [Call for recreational hunters to shoot deer on Scotland's public land as part of annual cull](#)

The land is undergoing a renewed management plan by Forestry and Land **Scotland** (FLS) in a bid to create up to 2,000 hectares of new woodland with reduced fencing.

If the trials continue to produce successful results, drone thermal imaging could be a crucial tool in managing the local deer population through sustainable culling.

How drones are being used to remotely spot deer herds and protect new woodlands in Scottish Highlands

Ian Fergusson, head of wildlife management at FLS, said: "In order to develop the new land management plan for the area and to prevent any further damage to the young woodland, we knew we had to introduce a viable way of controlling the deer population."

"This new technology has the ability to spot the exact location of deer, which will improve FLS deer culling abilities in a sustainable manner."

"As trials of the drone thermal imaging show successful results, the method should continue to help ensure each woodland enclosure is left with a very limited number of deer inside the area."

Deer numbers in ***Scotland*** are estimated to have doubled in the past 30 years and are now estimated at more than one million animals.

READ MORE: [*Public support is key for future return of wild lynx to Scotland*](#)

There are four species living in the wild in ***Scotland*** – native red and roe, plus fallow and sika, which were introduced through deliberate releases and escapes from country parks.

FLS is working on the Great Trossachs Forest project in partnership with conservation charities Woodland Trust and RSPB ***Scotland***.

The new reserve will see the land rise from the loch shore through pasture and woodlands of oak, birch, alder and Scots pine, before blending with open moorland and the more exposed higher slopes.

READ MORE: [*Fears over impact of Covid on deer herds and venison industry*](#)

To help protect ***Scotland's*** national forests and land from the negative impacts of deer, FLS employs a number of techniques, including deer culling and fencing, to keep numbers down to sustainable levels, keeping animals healthy and mitigating against habitat loss.

The use of thermal imaging comes after FLS recently announced a trial of Nofence GPS collars on cows at Glentrool in Dumfries and Galloway to promote self-seeded broadleaf forest regeneration from the nearby Glentrool Oakwoods, a site of special scientific interest.

Graphic

[*Footage taken by drones using thermal-imaging technology can pinpoint individual deer and even indicate their species and sex, helping land managers to target culling activities. Picture: FLS*](#)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: NATIONAL PARKS (91%); ANIMALS (90%); CONSERVATION (90%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS CONSERVATION (90%); LAND CONSERVATION (90%); MAMMALS (90%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (90%); PUBLIC LANDS (90%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS (89%); LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (89%); NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (89%); SPORT HUNTING (89%); WILDLIFE (89%); SUSTAINABILITY (79%);

How drones are being used to remotely spot deer herds and protect new woodlands in Scottish Highlands

ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (78%); FOREST RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (78%); FORESTRY WORKERS (78%); LIFE FORMS (78%); NATURAL RESOURCES (78%); WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (78%); LAND USE PLANNING (76%); WILD CATS (73%); COVID CORONAVIRUS (50%)

Industry: NATIONAL PARKS (91%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS CONSERVATION (90%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (90%); THERMAL SENSORS (90%); FOREST RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (78%); FORESTRY WORKERS (78%); LAND USE PLANNING (76%); PUBLISHING (73%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (95%); UNITED KINGDOM (88%)

Load-Date: July 26, 2022

End of Document

How restoring native predators can help tackle the invasive species crisis – Dr Joshua P Twining and Professor Xavier Lambin

How restoring native predators can help tackle the invasive species crisis – Dr Joshua P Twining and Professor Xavier Lambin

Scotsman

June 29, 2022 Wednesday

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Section: COLUMNISTS POLITICS ENVIRONMENT WORLD NATIONAL SCOTLAND NATURE

Length: 1056 words

Byline: Joshua P Twining and Xavier Lambin

Highlight: Ever since early humans spread across the planet, we have killed larger animals, competitors, and those we fear, wiping out native predator species.

Body

[This article is a version of one first published by the [Conversation website](#). Read the original [here](#).]

In Scotland, and across Britain and Ireland more widely, we have been particularly successful, long ago extirpating the last of the wolves and lynx with which we once shared ecosystems and confining other predators to small remnants of their historical ranges.

Yet, there is now mounting evidence that those once-hated native predators play an essential role in regulating prey. Furthermore, new evidence is emerging that the eradication of native predators has, in part, led us to the invasive species crisis we face today.

At the same time, humans have transported species we value outside of their native ranges. By introducing animals, plants and microorganisms into ecosystems where they did not evolve, we have inadvertently created invasive species which drive the extinction of native ones by eating, competing with and exposing them to new diseases. Over the last century, invasive species were the main cause of vertebrate species going extinct.

Mounting evidence suggests those once-hated native predators are essential for regulating invasive prey. In fact, our new research, published in Global Change Biology, shows that the eradication of native predators has partially caused the invasive species crisis we face today.

READ MORE: [UK's next non-native pests: What are raccoon dogs, why are they on the country's 'invasive species' list and why are they so stinky?](#)

But we also found that all is not lost. By examining a series of surveys which included public sightings of grey squirrels and pine martens – a small carnivore and member of the weasel family that was hunted until legal protection came into effect in the 1980s – between 2007 and 2019 in Ireland, we showed how the return of a native

How restoring native predators can help tackle the invasive species crisis – Dr Joshua P Twining and Professor Xavier Lambin

predator can cause the rapid decline of a long-established invasive species (the grey squirrel) over entire landscapes.

We studied populations of both species to discover features that determine the ability of a native predator to control an invasive species following restoration.

These include the capacity of the predator to switch between prey, the failure of the invasive prey to recognise or respond to the threat of a newly recovered predator and the availability of areas that the prey can hide in to escape.

From [wolves hunting non-native Corsican mouflon](#) in the Mercantour mountains of southeastern France to [red-banded snakes predating invasive bullfrogs in China](#), native predators tend to preferentially hunt invasive prey over their native counterparts by a factor of two or even three.

Understanding why this is the case can reveal when and where restoring native predators will help control an invasive species. For instance, sika deer are native to East Asia but became invasive in [Scotland](#), Ireland and across mainland Europe after they were introduced in the late 18th century.

The Eurasian [Lynx](#), a predator of deer which was once widespread throughout Europe, was eradicated from most of its former range by the beginning of the 20th century. Like the grey squirrel with the pine marten, sika deer evolved in the absence of [Lynx](#) and are likely to behave in a similar way when confronted with a native predator – by failing to recognise the threat.

[Lynx](#) tend to switch between the species of deer they hunt and have a proven ability to suppress deer populations. There are also no areas available to deer that [Lynx](#) cannot also access. These factors combined suggest that restoring [Lynx](#) populations will benefit ecosystems in which sika deer are invasive. [Lynx](#) are likely to have a bigger effect on these invasive populations where alternate prey (like roe deer) are scarce or absent, as in Britain and Ireland.

Natural recovery of some large native predators in mainland Europe is well underway thanks to conservation efforts and legal protection. Despite intensive farming and urban sprawl, all it has taken for species to recolonise their historical range was for people to stop killing them.

Evidently, unaided recovery of extinct predators will not occur in insular Britain. Any active reintroduction of large native predators would require a societal consensus that does not exist presently.

Opponents readily claim that there isn't enough space for such wide-ranging animals on the crowded British Isles. Yet the view that large carnivores can only persist separate from people in large, protected areas such as present in North American wilderness or in fenced reserves in South Africa has been thoroughly falsified.

The alternative scenario of managed co-existence relies on people and predators learning to again live alongside one another. It plays out now, with pumas and lynxes prowling the parks of San Francisco and Swiss towns; wolves reproducing in crowded and intensely agricultural landscapes of Belgium and Holland; and black bears frequenting suburbs across America.

Carnivores are highly adaptable and can live alongside us, delivering ecosystem services, and occasional annoyances, in our highly altered, human-dominated worlds.

Opposition to predator recovering is not a space issue but a tolerance issue, reflecting a lack of awareness of the benefits of predator recovery such as the suppression of certain established invasives and over-emphasis of the inconveniences that are well tolerated in other countries.

Our research offers an ecological justification for restoring native predators: to help control and limit the spread of invasive species.

How restoring native predators can help tackle the invasive species crisis – Dr Joshua P Twining and Professor Xavier Lambin

However, it would be naive to pretend this is the only important factor. Living alongside large carnivores does come with consequences, including occasional *[losses of livestock](#)* and *[pets](#)* that cannot be shied away from, but can be reduced with proactive management.

Achieving the requisite wide societal acceptance for the restoration of any native predator population thus must encompass considerations of the likely societal benefit in easing the crisis caused by damaging invasive species and plans to mitigate the inconvenience and losses incurred by a disproportionately affected minority.

Dr Joshua P Twining is a postdoctoral research scientist at Cornell University in the US; Professor Xavier Lambin is chair in zoology at Aberdeen University.

This article is a version of one first published by the [Conversation website](#).

Read the original [here](#).

Graphic

[Wolves were once found all across the UK \(Picture: Matt Cardy/Getty Images\)](#)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: INVASIVE SPECIES (95%); ANIMALS (90%); LIFE FORMS (90%); MAMMALS (90%); RODENTS (89%); BIOLOGY (78%); WILD CATS (78%); CONSERVATION (77%); MOUNTAINS (76%); DOGS (73%); REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS (73%); RESEARCH REPORTS (73%)

Industry: PUBLISHING (90%)

Geographic: CORSE, FRANCE (66%); **SCOTLAND** (91%); IRELAND (90%); UNITED KINGDOM (90%); ASIA (77%); CHINA (74%); EUROPE (73%); EASTERN ASIA (69%)

Load-Date: June 28, 2022

UK NATURE NEEDS LYNX EFFECT

Scottish Express

June 18, 2022 Saturday

Edition 1, Scotland

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 31

Length: 54 words

Byline: Emily-Jane Heap

Body

SCIENTISTS want the *Lynx* to be reintroduced to Britain.

The Eurasian *Lynx*, right, a wild cat up to 3ft long last seen here in the Middle Ages, could manage invasive East Asian sika deer populations.

Restoring native predators is an "important" way to keep biodiversity balanced in the UK, a Queen's University Belfast team said.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DXPscot

Subject: WILD CATS (93%); MAMMALS (90%); BIODIVERSITY (88%)

Geographic: BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND (58%); SCOTLAND (89%); UNITED KINGDOM (74%); Scotland

Load-Date: June 18, 2022

BOOTROOM

BOOTROOM

Daily Record and Sunday Mail

June 8, 2022 Wednesday

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 43

Length: 286 words

Body

DAILY POLL

CELTIC, Rangers and Hearts have been allowed into the Lowland League - right decision?

QUICK QUIZ 1 Danny Wilson was sacked after Glasgow Warriors lost 76-14 to who? 2 Who scored an own goal in Wales' 1-0 victory over Ukraine on Sunday? 3 Which golfer is currently leading the DP World Tour's season rankings? 4 With his French Open win, Rafa Nadal has won how many Slams? 5 What was Connor Goldson's last club before joining Rangers? 6 Who earned promotion to England's League Two via the National League play-offs this season?

7 Who is the manager of Falkirk? 8 The Twins, Timberwolves, Vikings, Lynx and United are sports teams based in which US city?

9 In which Australian city would you find The Gabba stadium?

10 True or false? Katie Taylor has never lost a professional fight.

ON THIS DAY 2009: Brazilian playmker Kaka left AC Milan to sign for Real Madrid on a six-year deal for a fee of around £59million.Tv sport

FOOTBALL: Nations League - Scotland v Armenia (Premier Sports 1, 7pm), Republic of Ireland v Ukraine (Premier Sports 2, 7.15pm), Wales v Holland (Box Nation, 7.35pm). CRICKET: One-Day International - Pakistan v West Indies (Sky Sports Cricket, 11.50am; Sky Sports Main Event, 1pm); T20 Blast - Yorkshire Vikings v Lancashire Lightning (Sky Sports Main Event/Cricket, 6.15pm). CYCLING: Criterium du Dauphine (Eurosport 1, 1.55pm).

BASKETBALL: NBA Finals - Boston Celtics v Golden State Warriors (Sky Sports Main Event/Arena, 1.45am). BASEBALL: MLB - Houston Astros v Seattle Mariners (BT Sport 1, 11.30pm).

GOT A STORY?

Tweet us at @Record_Sport Or email us sport@dailyrecord.co.uk

True.

BOOTROOM

Brisbane 9

Minnesota 8

McGlynn

John 7

Grimsby 6

Brighton 5 22 4

McIlroy

Rory 3

Yarmolenko

Andriy 2

Leinster 1

ANSWERS:

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DRC

Subject: SPORTS & RECREATION (90%); BASEBALL (89%); BASKETBALL (89%); ATHLETES (78%); SOCCER (78%); SPORTS & RECREATION EVENTS (78%); GOLF TOURNAMENTS (77%); STADIUMS & ARENAS (77%); SPORTS AWARDS (76%); TOURNAMENTS (76%); BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS (75%); BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS (75%); GOLF (72%); THIS DAY IN HISTORY (68%); CYCLING (50%)

Company: DP WORLD LTD (57%); DAY INTERNATIONAL INC (53%)

Industry: NAICS488310 PORT & HARBOR OPERATIONS (57%); NAICS483112 DEEP SEA PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION (57%); SIC4225 GENERAL WAREHOUSING & STORAGE (57%); SIC3069 FABRICATED RUBBER PRODUCTS, NEC (53%)

Person: RAFAEL NADAL (56%)

Geographic: BOSTON, MA, USA (79%); BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA (70%); GLASGOW, SCOTLAND (58%); TEXAS, USA (79%); AUSTRALIA (79%); ENGLAND (79%); PAKISTAN (79%); SCOTLAND (79%); WALES (79%); IRELAND (73%); UKRAINE (72%); National Edition

BOOTROOM

Load-Date: June 8, 2022

End of Document

Nine-year-old Simeon is 'Walking for Wolves' in the Borders

Nine-year-old Simeon is 'Walking for Wolves' in the Borders

Border Telegraph

June 2, 2022 Thursday

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Length: 450 words

Byline: [John Hislop](#)

Body

Nine-year-old Simeon Williams and dad Richard are spending the half-term holiday walking the St. Cuthbert's Way across the borders of **Scotland** and Northumberland to raise money for two worthy causes.
xC2

The pair travelled up from their home in Ipswich and started their 100km journey in Melrose.
xC2
xC2

The walk was Simeon's idea after becoming inspired by a talk on wolves at his local zoo.
xC2

And when he learned that the endangered animal used to inhabit the **Scottish** Borders he persuaded his dad to help raise some much needed funds.
xC2

The pair set off from Melrose intending to sleep in a tent however the **Scottish** weather dictated a change of plan, and they stayed the first night in a hostel in Jedburgh.
xC2

Dad Richard said: Simeon has wanted to walk the St. Cuthbert's Way since we visited the region last year on holiday.
xC2
xC2

We got the sleeper up to Edinburgh and thankfully the Borders Railway allowed us to travel to Tweedbank before setting off.
xC2

His mum Suzie and younger sister Bethany have written inspirational letters to motivate us on our journey.
xC2
xC2

We've never been to the Borders before, but everyone was incredibly friendly. Even the taxi driver who took us to Jedburgh gave us a donation.
xC2

xC2

We've been carrying the tent but Simeon has carried his sleeping bag and clothes which weights around 5kg.
xC2

We did a practice walk to see if he would be able to do the 100km and he showed that he could.
xC2

Nine-year-old Simeon is 'Walking for Wolves' in the Borders

\xE2The whole family is very proud of what he is doing.\xE2\xC2

\xC2Simeon said: \xE2I want to raise awareness and funds to protect the wild creatures of our world, before it is too late for them.\xC2\xC2

\xE2Wolves are incredible animals and they are under threat due to habitat loss. I want to do what I can to help them and all the endangered creatures of the world.\xC2

\xE2It\xE2s been tough going at time because of the weather but it stopped raining when we crossed the border into England.\xC2

\xE2I think \xE2ve raised \xC2425 so far but I hope we can get some more donations. I told all my class mates but I don\xE2t know if they were paying attention but my teacher made a donation.\xE2\xC2

\xC2All the money raised will be divided equally between: The Wolves and Humans Foundation which is a UK based charity dedicated to conserving Europe\xE2s large carnivores - the wolf, brown bear and *Lynx*, and Action for The Wild Charity, the Colchester Zoo's charity which supports conservation projects worldwide, helping to preserve and reintroduce vulnerable and endangered species to the wild.\xC2

A GoFundMe page has been set up at\xE2www.gofundme.com/WalkingForWolves\xE2to help raise funds for two separate wildlife charities.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: TERRITORIAL & NATIONAL BORDERS (79%); ENDANGERED SPECIES (77%); MAMMALS (76%); ANIMALS (75%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (75%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (70%); WEATHER (69%)

Industry: ZOOS & AQUARIUMS (75%)

Geographic: EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND (58%); SCOTLAND (88%); ENGLAND (73%)

Load-Date: June 2, 2022

Nine-year-old Simeon is 'Walking for Wolves' in the Borders

Nine-year-old Simeon is 'Walking for Wolves' in the Borders

Peeblesshire News

June 2, 2022 Thursday

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Length: 450 words

Byline: [John Hislop](#)

Body

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The walk was Simeon's idea after becoming inspired by a talk on wolves at his local zoo.

And when he learned that the endangered animal used to inhabit the **Scottish** Borders he persuaded his dad to help raise some much needed funds.

The pair set off from Melrose intending to sleep in a tent however the **Scottish** weather dictated a change of plan, and they stayed the first night in a hostel in Jedburgh.

Dad Richard said: "Simeon has wanted to walk the St. Cuthbert's Way since we visited the region last year on holiday."

"We got the sleeper up to Edinburgh and thankfully the Borders Railway allowed us to travel to Tweedbank before setting off."

His mum Suzie and younger sister Bethany have written inspirational letters to motivate us on our journey.

"I've never been to the Borders before, but everyone was incredibly friendly. Even the taxi driver who took us to Jedburgh gave us a donation."

"I've been carrying the tent but Simone has carried his sleeping bag and clothes which weights around 5kg."

"We did a practice walk to see if he would be able to do the 100km and he showed that he could."

The whole family is very proud of what he is doing.

Nine-year-old Simeon is 'Walking for Wolves' in the Borders

\xC2Simeon said: \xE1 want to raise awareness and funds to protect the wild creatures of our world, before it is too late for them.\xC2\xC2

\xE2Wolves are incredible animals and they are under threat due to habitat loss. I want to do what I can to help them and all the endangered creatures of the world.\xC2

\xE1t\xE2s been tough going at time because of the weather but it stopped raining when we crossed the border into England.\xC2

\xE1 think \xE2ve raised \x2425 so far but I hope we can get some more donations. I told all my class mates but I don\xE2t know if they were paying attention but my teacher made a donation.\xE2\xC2

\xC2All the money raised will be divided equally between: The Wolves and Humans Foundation which is a UK based charity dedicated to conserving Europe\xE2s large carnivores - the wolf, brown bear and *Lynx*, and Action for The Wild Charity, the Colchester Zoo's charity which supports conservation projects worldwide, helping to preserve and reintroduce vulnerable and endangered species to the wild.\xC2

A GoFundMe page has been set up at\xE2www.gofundme.com/WalkingForWolves\xE2to help raise funds for two separate wildlife charities.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: TERRITORIAL & NATIONAL BORDERS (78%); ENDANGERED SPECIES (77%); ANIMALS (76%); MAMMALS (76%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (75%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (70%); WEATHER (69%)

Industry: ZOOS & AQUARIUMS (76%)

Geographic: EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND (58%); SCOTLAND (88%); ENGLAND (73%)

Load-Date: June 2, 2022

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Scotland's 10 best underground adventures: Caves, tunnels, bunkers, mines and crypts to explore

Herald Scotland

May 22, 2022 Sunday

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Length: 1365 words

Byline: [Susan Swarbrick](#)

Body

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From caves and tunnels to bunkers, mines and crypts, here's our pick of the 10 best underground places to explore.

The Lochnell Mine Experience, Wanlockhead

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A guided tour of Lochnell Mine → part of the Museum of Lead Mining → gives some sense of what life was like for those tasked with extracting the silvery-grey metal from the hills around Wanlockhead.

The museum has the only underground mine tour in **Scotland**, allowing visitors to venture into the confines of a 300-year-old timbered passage and drift. Tours last around 45 minutes, with helmets and lamps provided.

Visit leadminingmuseum.co.uk

Glasgow Central Station

If you love social history, then exploring the passageways, vaults and echoing spaces beneath the tracks of **Scotland's** busiest railway station is a must. Tours are led by gregarious guides with an encyclopaedic knowledge of all things Glasgow Central.

The content centres largely on human stories, such as poignant tales about a makeshift mortuary during the First World War. Grieving relatives faced the bleak prospect of traversing rows of corpses to identify the remains of loved ones who had perished on French battlefields.

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Visit glasgowcentraltours.co.uk

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Further excavations uncovered remains belonging to wolves, *Lynx*, Arctic foxes and even a polar bear, believed to date from the last glacial period. Human bones and artefacts have also been discovered in the caves.

Visit smoocavetours.com and nature.scot

Scotland's Secret Bunker, Fife

The prominent road signs pointing to "Scotland's Secret Bunker" regularly raise a chuckle and if you've never visited, this Cold War era command centre is packed with fascinating things to see.

Buried 100ft underground, with the entrance hidden in a non-descript farmhouse, the clandestine bunker \xE2 now declassified \xE2 was built at RAF Troymoor, near Anstruther, Fife, in 1953.

This labyrinth of tunnels, encased in 15ft of concrete, is where government and military leaders would have gathered upon the outbreak of nuclear war and looming attack from the former USSR. Among the facilities are an operations room, dormitories, two cinemas and a cafe.

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William followed the animal as it roamed across his lands. When night fell, the donkey rested under a tree in the steep sided Allt Dearg glen. It was here that construction of the medieval castle tower began, with the tree symbolically incorporated.

READ MORE: Folk singer Heidi Talbot on the 'magic' **Scottish** woods that inspired new album\xC2

Modern scientific analysis has revealed that the tree died circa 1372, most likely as a result of being deprived of light because the castle had been built around it. It was long believed to be a hawthorn, but in more recent times confirmed to be holly. The tree still stands in the cellar to this day.

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Visit edinburgh.gov.uk and colintontunnel.org.uk

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Visit visitcruachan.co.uk

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READ MORE:[Wildlife filmmaker Gordon Buchanan reflects on his 30-year career](#)

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It may be illuminated with colourful lights, but there is a darker side to its history. Notorious serial killers Burke and Hare both worked on the tunnel's construction between 1818 and 1822. The canal was also used by unscrupulous doctors to smuggle the corpses of patients to Edinburgh University.

Visit visitfalkirk.com and scottishcanals.co.uk

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: MAMMALS (89%); MARINE MAMMALS (78%); HISTORY (75%); CELEBRITIES (73%); COLD WAR (73%); GRIEF (64%); WORLD WAR I (64%); GEOLOGY & GEOPHYSICS (63%); GLACIERS & ICEBERGS (63%)

Industry: MUSEUMS & GALLERIES (89%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (78%); UNDERGROUND MINING (77%); CELEBRITIES (73%); LEAD & ZINC MINING (72%); RAIL STATIONS & TERMINALS (67%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, SCOTLAND (73%); SCOTLAND (93%)

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Hitlist Going underground with Scotland's 10 best subterranean adventures

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The Sunday Herald (Glasgow)

May 22, 2022 Sunday

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Byline: Susan Swarbrick

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Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: SHE

Subject: MAMMALS (89%); MARINE MAMMALS (78%); HISTORY (75%); CELEBRITIES (73%); COLD WAR (73%); GRIEF (64%); WORLD WAR I (64%); GEOLOGY & GEOPHYSICS (63%); GLACIERS & ICEBERGS (63%); agriculture (%); education (%); wales_community (%); wales electoral ward (%); health terms (%); weather (%)

Industry: MUSEUMS & GALLERIES (89%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (78%); UNDERGROUND MINING (78%); CELEBRITIES (73%); LEAD & ZINC MINING (72%); RAIL STATIONS & TERMINALS (67%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, **SCOTLAND** (90%); **SCOTLAND** (92%); WALES (90%)

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New book gets top marks from Renfrew schoolkids

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The Gazette

May 15, 2022 Sunday

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Length: 162 words

Byline: [Jacob Nicol](#)

Body

SCHOOLKIDS\xC2in Renfrew were treated to a special visit from a children\xE2s author on Monday.

Pupils at Arkleston Primary enjoyed hearing from Lindsay Littleson, whose new book The Rewilders has been named Scottish Book Trust\xE2s children and young adult book of the month.

It features a young girl named Esme, who is braced for boredom when she goes to stay with her grandmother.

However, events take an unusual turn when she discovers Cora \xE2 the abandoned kitten her gran found \xE2 is actually a wild Lynx kitten and is growing fast.

Aileen Jeffrey, who owns The Ginger Cat Children\xE2s Bookshop, in Kilmacolm, arranged the school event.

She told The Gazette: \xE2Lindsay spoke to the children at Arkleston Primary about her new book The Rewilders and about rewilding in Scotland.

\xE2The children asked her some brilliant questions about being an author and her books.\xE2

Lindsay then signed copies of the book for the children who had ordered it from Aileen\xE2s shop.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS & TEENS (90%); WRITERS (90%); YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE (73%); CATS (70%); WILD CATS (70%)

New book gets top marks from Renfrew schoolkids

Industry: WRITERS (90%); BOOKSTORES (78%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (88%)

Load-Date: May 15, 2022

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Raw nature, near misses and sleeping in a bat cave: Gordon Buchanan charts 30 years in the wild

Raw nature, near misses and sleeping in a bat cave: Gordon Buchanan charts 30 years in the wild

Herald Scotland

May 14, 2022 Saturday

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Length: 2190 words

Byline: [Susan Swarbrick](#)

Body

ASK Gordon Buchanan about his most memorable wildlife encounters and he is spoiled for choice \xE2 perhaps no surprise after three decades of adventures that have taken the presenter and filmmaker to almost every corner of the globe.

There was his time spent observing cheetahs in the Kalahari and reindeer in Finnish Lapland. Snow wolves in the Canadian Arctic and gorillas in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Not to forget that now infamous brush with a starving polar bear in the Norwegian archipelago of Svalbard.

Ahead of his tour, Gordon Buchanan \xE2 30 Years in the Wild, coming to the Perth Festival of the Arts later this month, I caught up with the man himself to reminisce about some of the strangest, funniest and life-changing moments of his prolific career.

When we speak on a May morning, Buchanan is at home in Glasgow. "I have been gallivanting earlier in the year and now have had about three weeks at home," he says. "I am enjoying it. Normally springtime is when I am away working, but this year everything was a bit earlier which is nice."

Between doing the anniversary tour and turning 50 last month, Buchanan admits to being in reflective mood. He's certainly got no shortage of spellbinding anecdotes. And without further ado, let's dive in.

Early adventures and a childhood on Mull

"As a kid I spent all of my time outside," says Buchanan. "The recollections I do have about being at home are of me being completely bored. That boredom of being inside and this desperate need to be outdoors. It is not a desire \xE2 it is a need."

"I find that even now I need to be outside. I would probably be happier living in a cave than a house. When we first moved to Mull \xE2 I was seven \xE2 we lived in a caravan for a couple of years. My mum with four kids in not-the-biggest of caravans and being outside allowed us more space."

Raw nature, near misses and sleeping in a bat cave: Gordon Buchanan charts 30 years in the wild

"That was quite instrumental in this desire to be outside. It was probably my mum kicking us out the caravan because she needed to put our bed away.

"I was 17 when I went off to Sierra Leone [to document animals in the Gola Rainforest]. It is only now I realise how young I was. My daughter is 18 and my son is 16 \xE2 I can't imagine either of them disappearing off to a foreign country for a year-and-a-half.

"I was working as an assistant to a wildlife cameraman called Nick Gordon, who sadly passed away in 2004. He lived on Mull too. Back then, I was aware of him, but I didn't really know what his job was. I knew it was something fairly exotic because he would always come back with a tan.

"It was a massive leap going from Tobermory, a place I had grown up in and spent most of my time, to being in such a strange and foreign land. But it did satisfy my desire to be outside because for the whole year-and-a-half I was living in a tent in the forest."

Landmark moments exploring **Scotland**

"I always think that the seasons in **Scotland** are a bit of a blessing," he muses. "You can go to places that might be warmer and have less rain, but **Scotland's** weather and seasons make it such a dynamic country.

"Some of my fondest memories of being outside have been in **Scotland**. It doesn't have to be up in the Himalayas or the depths of the Amazon, I love the west coast of **Scotland**. I also love the Cairngorms and any of the mountainous parts.

"I recently walked from Aviemore to Royal Deeside. I had never explored over that way along the Dee. It is such a stunning part of the country.

"I know the Cairngorms and the Aviemore side, but it was amazing to start from the source of the Dee and then walk for a couple of days through my ideal habitat which is water and rivers and forests. Pretty wild landscapes.

"I don't like the barren **Scottish** landscapes. It always makes me feel a little bit frustrated and depressed that it is so bereft of the creatures that once roamed there."

Favourite spots in **Scotland**

"Abernethy Forest is somewhere I have a real fondness for," says Buchanan. "Walking through that old Caledonian pine forest, you can get a bit lost in there and not bump into anyone. You can see the Cairngorms peeking through the trees in the background.

"In fact, one of my favourite wildlife encounters ever was up in Abernethy. It was snowing, these huge snowflakes. It was the end of winter/start of spring. The whole forest looked magical. I had been filming a capercaillie and that disappeared off. It was quite dream-like.

"Then off to my left, I heard this noise and there were about 12 red deer galloping through the snow, leaping over the juniper. It was almost thigh-deep snow, and they were having to leap really high. It was like watching it in slow motion.

"I hunkered down as all 12 deer bounded past me. If I could repeat any moment in nature \xE2 or life \xE2 it would be that. There was something dream-like about it. Being in that sort of environment and the type of weather I love and seeing a cool creature at close proximity was incredible."

Places still on the wish list

"I have had various trips planned to Madagascar," he laments. "Last year I was supposed to be going but Covid put an end to that. Madagascar is one of those biodiversity hot spots that I would love to experience.

Raw nature, near misses and sleeping in a bat cave: Gordon Buchanan charts 30 years in the wild

"I've never been to Greenland and would love to go there too. I love the frozen north. I have spent a lot of time in Alaska, Canada and Svalbard in Norway. I love that environment. I think it is so otherworldly."

"There are a lot of landscapes around the world that, if it is mountainous and you squint your eyes, the Himalayas can look a lot like Scotland\xE2 or Scotland can look like the Himalayas."

"Whereas if you go to the Arctic, there is just something about the way that the climate transforms the land; it looks very different. When you are in the Arctic, you know you are there, from the geology and how the land has been formed over the millennia."

Most surprising moments

"It is always the thing you are not expecting that blows me away," admits Buchanan. "I was in Washington State, up near the border with Canada, and we were staying in this tiny, idyllic, chocolate-box log cabin in snowy woods."

"There is something about snowy environments and forests that give me this almost out-of-body experience. I was admiring the view when, right in front of me, this Lynx weaved its way through the trees. I froze, staying very quiet and still, as the Lynx pottered around."

"This cabin was in the middle of nowhere and we were there in the winter, so the animals aren't used to seeing people at that time of year. I am sure it was part of this Lynx's beat and he had never bumped into anyone."

"I stood there as it meandered past. To see a Lynx in the wild is extraordinarily difficult. There are people who live in countries that have good Lynx populations and they have never seen one. I was very lucky."

"Then, a couple of years ago, I was filming ospreys at Lake of Menteith and we had this run of good weather. That was a magical week or two because ospreys are super cool. They are always exciting to watch."

"They spend spring and summer in Scotland, then head off down to West Africa for the winter. Every time you look at an osprey, you think about the miles it has clocked up and the journey it has been on through its life. I always find that inspiring."

Career lows, near misses and elusive subjects

"I have been in some amazing places where I haven't managed to see or film what we wanted to get," he says. "I suppose that comes with the territory, but I have generally been pretty lucky in that I haven't had too many series or sequences that I have messed up."

"The one thing that can mess up any trip is people. If you are with the wrong people or with the wrong person that can be far more frustrating than not seeing the animal. Most people who work in my field know how to get along with people in remote and taxing environments."

"But there are some people who seem to wind everyone up. I suppose that goes for every occupation, there is always somebody that you don't really want to be with. I don't mind putting up with hardship and adversity, but I don't like spending time with somebody who is not a team player."

Biggest misconceptions about the job

"Patience. That is the one thing that everybody seems to think you need to have in this line of work," says Buchanan. "But, for me, it is about optimism, positive thinking and experience."

"You are relying on a little bit of luck, but you are relying more on your experience, as well as the experience of the scientists or the local people that you are working with."

"Patience can run out but if you are an optimistic person, optimism has a longer shelf life than patience. I can be patient, but I can also be impatient."

Raw nature, near misses and sleeping in a bat cave: Gordon Buchanan charts 30 years in the wild

"So, when it comes to wildlife, I never view it as a patience game. Knowing that you are in the right place at the right time \xE2 or knowing you are in the right place and then waiting it out \xE2 I don't find that difficult.

"I could wait for weeks and weeks if I have a gut feeling that I am in the right place, but I find it difficult to spend an hour if I have the feeling that it is not the place to be.

"I once spent a week trying to film golden eagles near Cowal. The weather was atrocious, and eagles don't fly when the weather is bad \xE2 they will find somewhere to hunker down. I knew that nothing was going to show up and it was excruciatingly uncomfortable and frustrating.

"I spent a week in this hide, freezing cold and completely soaked, knowing that nothing was going to show up. I was only doing it as a face-saving exercise. The producer said: 'Oh, give it a go anyway.' This was a few years ago and if it was now, I would have said: 'There's no point. I am not doing it.'

"I did it for a week and it felt like a waste. I don't like wasting time and I never think that waiting for wildlife is wasting time, but if you are waiting for wildlife that you know is not going to show up, there are better things to be doing. I could be doing my washing."

Remarkable views

"There are parts of the **Scottish** landscape that blow me away. The west side of Mull I love. You've got the Gribun Rocks, Ulva and Gometra. You can look out at the Treshnish Islands. That as a view is world-beating.

"It made a big impact on me when I was a kid. Even now, that is a view I could stare at for hours, with the added dimension of the changing weather and seasons."

If he could be any animal

"I would love to be a peregrine because I think smacking pigeons out of the sky at 200mph sounds like a lot of fun," laughs Buchanan. "You can make your home in a city or the wildest parts of the countryside. They are pretty adaptable birds. That would be cool."

On assignment: weirdest and wackiest digs

"I slept in a bat cave. We were on a big expedition walking through the Highlands of Papua New Guinea. We started off in a village and I thought: 'This is a bit uncomfortable'. Then we left the village and got to this little farmer's hut and camped there.

"I thought: 'This is even worse than the village'. The accommodation got progressively worse until I was in this bat cave. You had to climb into your hammock covered in mud. It was cold, wet and the ground was basically made up of thousands of years of bat excrement.

"On the return leg, we worked our way back. By the time we got to the farmer's hut again, I was thinking: 'This is pretty nice'. The village where we started felt like Vegas compared to the cave."

Food for thought

"Wherever I go, I eat the local food. What happens a lot of the time, especially if you are with tribal groups, is they offer you some food and it is only polite to accept.

"A tribal group in Ecuador had hunted a monkey. That was our lunch and dinner. It was quite alarming to see. When they cook it, they put a whole monkey limb on the fire and once the hair is all gone it looks like a human hand.

"You are handed this arm with fingers and fingernails and all the hair burnt off, then invited to gnaw away on that. It is a little bit freaky.

Raw nature, near misses and sleeping in a bat cave: Gordon Buchanan charts 30 years in the wild

"The most unpleasant thing I have probably ever had was a wild boar that had been shot. Wild pig meat is incredible, but in this case, they emptied its intestines, colon and everything that was in the animal's stomach from the entry to exit and put it all on the fire.

"I thought: 'That's strange \xE2' But then they put the meat on top of all this, basically, pig s***. This lovely, delicious meat was cooking but infused with an aroma of pig excrement, which is very, very similar to human s***. That was my least favourite meal."

Changing landscapes

"Climate change is something you see all around the world," he says. "There is not a habitat or living species on earth that is not affected by climate change. You see it in **Scotland**. You see it in the rainforests of the Amazon.

"To have had a career that has lasted 30 years and to have witnessed a huge amount of change around the world is alarming. But I think we are seeing a change in people's attitudes towards the environment and the planet.

"I do have hope we can turn things round. There is going to be further loss, but I think future generations will do a better job of looking after the planet."

Gordon Buchanan \xE2 30 Years in the Wild is at Perth Theatre, 7.30pm, on May 25. Visit perthfestival.co.uk

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: MAMMALS (98%); WILDLIFE (91%); PRIMATES (78%); VISUAL ARTISTS (77%); TRENDS & EVENTS (75%); DEMOCRACIES (73%); ARTS FESTIVALS & EXHIBITIONS (72%); FESTIVALS (70%)

Company: EARLY ADVENTURES (54%)

Industry: NAICS451120 HOBBY, TOY & GAME STORES (54%); SIC5945 HOBBY, TOY, & GAME STORES (54%); VISUAL ARTISTS (77%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); ARTS FESTIVALS & EXHIBITIONS (72%); FESTIVALS (70%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, **SCOTLAND** (58%); **SCOTLAND** (88%); ARCTIC (79%); SVALBARD & JAN MAYEN (79%); FINLAND (73%); NORWAY (72%); CONGO, THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE (57%); SIERRA LEONE (51%)

Load-Date: May 14, 2022

Wild idea? Lynx could be reintroduced to Scotland despite concerns about it being a sheep predator

Wild idea? Lynx could be reintroduced to Scotland despite concerns about it being a sheep predator

Herald Scotland

April 28, 2022 Thursday

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Length: 754 words

Byline: [Martin Williams](#)

Body

HOPES of re-introducing big cats into the wild in **Scotland** are being progressed after a new analysis showed there is sufficient appetite to properly explore it.

Research organised by charities **Scotland**: The Big Picture, Trees for Life and Vincent Wildlife Trust suggests a new action group should be set up to overcome any hurdles.

It comes despite strong critics of the idea, with the National Farmers Union **Scotland** (NFUS) saying a return of the predator that would target sheep would be "wholly unacceptable" to its members.

The charities say this was an "overriding concern" and that there was a consensus that exploring solutions was a priority.

It forms part of the **Lynx** to **Scotland** project, a comprehensive study to accurately evaluate the social feasibility of returning **Lynx** to the wild in parts of the Cairngorms and Argyll.

The project partners recognise that reintroductions can only succeed if they are integrated into the communities and landscapes where they take place.

The step forward comes after researchers carried out over 100 interviews, providing wide-ranging views from a range of groups including farmers, gamekeepers, foresters, conservationists, landowners, tourism operators and rural communities.

Researchers said there was a consensus for a participatory cross-stakeholder approach to further explore the benefits of and barriers to **Lynx** reintroduction.

The study, carried out between March 2021 and February 2022, says a **Lynx** Action Group would build trust between stakeholders and address areas of disagreement over science and local knowledge, as well as the "real and reasonable concerns" of some stakeholders.

Moves to reintroduce big cats come hundreds of years after the last **Lynx** died out in the UK.

Wild idea? Lynx could be reintroduced to Scotland despite concerns about it being a sheep predator

Eurasian Lynx are the third largest predator in continental Europe after the brown bear and wolf. Their main prey are roe deer - a small deer that favours woodland.

Lynx were once native to Britain but were driven to extinction 500 to 1,000 years ago due to hunting and habitat loss.

Source:\xC2scotlandbigpicture.com

The three charities believe there are sound ecological reasons for bringing back Lynx, an animal they describe as a "shy and solitary" woodland hunter, rarely glimpsed and not known to attack humans.

They said previous research suggested the Scottish Highlands had sufficient habitat - and more than enough roe deer - to support about 400 wild Lynx.

\xE2When it comes to the return of the Lynx, we\xE2re in the realm of not yet \xE2 but not never. Positively, this new research shows there is sufficient appetite amongst different stakeholders to develop a more comprehensive understanding of this little-known species and the potential for its return to Scotland,\xE2 said Peter Cairns, executive director of Scotland: The Big Picture.

\xE2The overall willingness across different sectors to engage in constructive and thoughtful discussions is heartening and very welcome.\xE2

The charities said the study showed that views about Lynx reintroduction are far more diverse and complex than a simple \xE2for\xE2 and \xE2against\xE2.

"Different perspectives were identified, with some supporting reintroduction because of the environmental and economic benefits, some against, and others who do not think Lynx should be reintroduced now but are open to discussing the future potential," the charities said.

The charities say they are solitary woodland hunters that shy away from humans.

They been reintroduced to other parts of Europe, including Germany's Harz National Park in 2000.

The charities say the species is now expanding in range and numbers across Europe, with successful reintroductions in areas, some of which are more densely populated than Scotland, and in areas of farming, hunting, forestry and tourism.

Steve Micklewright, Trees for Life\xE2s chief executive, said: \xE2In weighing up the hows and whys of a trial Lynx reintroduction, it\xE2s important to consider different stakeholder interests and legitimate concerns.

"Properly assessing and listening to all views is key for the proposed return of an animal that has been absent from Scotland for a long time.\xE2

Separate research carried out for the Scottish Rewilding Alliance in 2020 found that 52% of people in Scotland support Lynx reintroduction, with 19% opposed.

Apex predators such as Lynx are missing in the UK due to hunting and habitat loss. Lynx are known as a keystone species because they maintain balance and diversity in an ecosystem, and other species and the wider environment are affected by their absence.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Wild idea? Lynx could be reintroduced to Scotland despite concerns about it being a sheep predator

Subject: WILD CATS (91%); MAMMALS (90%); CATS (89%); ANIMALS (78%); RESEARCH REPORTS (78%); SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (78%); WILDLIFE (78%); ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (77%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (77%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (77%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (77%); EXPERIMENTATION & RESEARCH (77%); WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (77%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (76%); MOUNTAINS (73%); CONSERVATION (72%); ENVIRONMENTALISM (72%); FORESTRY WORKERS (72%); LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (72%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (66%)

Organization: NATIONAL FARMERS UNION (57%)

Industry: FARMERS & RANCHERS (77%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); FORESTRY WORKERS (72%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (94%); EUROPE (73%); UNITED KINGDOM (58%)

Load-Date: April 28, 2022

End of Document

Public support is key for future return of wild lynx to Scotland

Public support is key for future return of wild lynx to Scotland

Scotsman

April 28, 2022 Thursday

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Section: ENVIRONMENT HUMAN INTEREST POLITICS OUTDOORS CLIMATE
CHANGE CONSERVATION NATURE POLITICS PLACES SCOTLAND INVERNESS, HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

Length: 575 words

Byline: Ilona Amos, iamos@scotsman.com

Highlight: Bringing back once-native wild ***Lynx*** to ***Scotland*** depends more on public attitude than the ecological science behind such a move, a new study has found.

Body

Surveys of a wide range of Scots, including farmers, rural communities and tourism businesses, suggest the predators – which were wiped out in the UK around 1,300 years ago – could be reintroduced at some time in the future.

Previous research suggests there is enough suitable habitat and prey – mainly roe deer – for around 400 of the big cats to thrive in the Highlands.

READ MORE: [*Warning over health impacts as Scotland's lochs and reservoirs heat up due to climate change*](#)

But the charities behind the study say a successful return for the species would hang primarily on widespread support for the plans.

Commissioned by the ***Lynx*** to ***Scotland*** project, the research included a year-long consultation with a wide range of national stakeholders and local communities in the Cairngorms National Park and Argyll.

It was organised by charities ***Scotland***: The Big Picture, Trees for Life and Vincent Wildlife Trust.

"When it comes to the return of the ***Lynx***, we're in the realm of not yet – but not never," said Peter Cairns, executive director of ***Scotland***: The Big Picture.

"Positively, this new research shows there is sufficient appetite amongst different stakeholders to develop a more comprehensive understanding of this little-known species and the potential for its return to ***Scotland***.

"The overall willingness across different sectors to engage in constructive and thoughtful discussions is heartening and very welcome."

Public support is key for future return of wild lynx to Scotland

Analysis shows views about *Lynx* reintroduction are far more diverse and complex than a simple ‘for’ and ‘against’, according to the project team.

Different perspectives were identified, with some supporting reintroduction because of the environmental and economic benefits, some against and others who do not think *Lynx* should be reintroduced now, but are open to discussing the future potential.

Steve Micklewright, chief executive of Trees for Life, said: “In weighing up the hows and whys of a trial *Lynx* reintroduction, it’s important to consider different stakeholder interests and legitimate concerns.

“Properly assessing and listening to all views is key for the proposed return of an animal that has been absent from Scotland for a long time.”

Lynx are solitary woodland hunters that generally avoid humans.

The species is expanding in range and numbers across Europe, with successful reintroductions in various countries – many more densely populated than Scotland.

Conservationists say the presence of the animals, which are at the top of the food chain, bring ecological and environmental benefits, even in areas of farming, hunting, forestry and tourism.

The consultation assessed views around issues such as suitable habitat and the quality of Scotland’s woodlands, the potential for *Lynx* to act as a cost-effective way to reduce the grazing impacts of woodland deer and predation implications for sheep and threatened species such as capercaillie and wildcats.

Other issues discussed included *Lynx* behaviour in Europe and ways of managing reintroduced cats.

The study found the overriding concern, including from a majority of farmers, was around loss of sheep, with a consensus that mitigation measures would need to be a top priority.

“Overall, rather than sparking controversy, discussions around *Lynx* reintroduction saw open debates which were passionate, robust and respectful, and contributed different views, knowledge and experiences,” said Jenny MacPherson, science and research programme manager at Vincent Wildlife Trust.

Graphic

[Studies suggest the Scottish Highlands could support around 400 wild *Lynx*, a native species that was wiped out in the UK around 1,300 years ago. Picture: Peter Cairns/Scotland: The Big Picture](#)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: WILD CATS (96%); ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (90%); RESEARCH REPORTS (90%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (90%); ANIMALS (89%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (89%); MAMMALS (89%); CONSERVATION (79%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (79%); POLLUTION & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS (79%); CATS (78%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (78%); EXPERIMENTATION &

Public support is key for future return of wild lynx to Scotland

RESEARCH (78%); NATIONAL PARKS (78%); SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (78%); THREATENED & SENSITIVE SPECIES (78%); WILDLIFE (78%); WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (77%); ENVIRONMENTALISM (74%); MOUNTAINS (73%); PUBLIC LANDS (73%); EXECUTIVES (72%)

Industry: PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (79%); NATIONAL PARKS (78%); PUBLISHING (73%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (95%); EUROPE (92%); UNITED KINGDOM (73%)

Load-Date: April 27, 2022

End of Document

Scotland not ready yet' for the lynx effect

Aberdeen Press and Journal

April 28, 2022 Thursday

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Section: WOR; Pg. 24

Length: 351 words

Byline: Scott Mcpherson

Body

A year-long study has suggested now is not the time to reintroduce Lynx to Scotland.

Discussions around reintroducing the spotted cats have been rumbling on for years, after they became extinct in Scotland about 1,300 years ago.

But while some conservationists believe there are moral and ecological reasons for bringing back the Lynx, repeated concerns have been raised about the impact they may have on sheep farmers.

Now, a year-long study commissioned by the Lynx To Scotland project has suggested that while, overall, there is support for their reintroduction, now is not the right time.

The research found there is sufficient appetite from rural stakeholders to examine whether potential barriers to a trial reintroduction of Eurasian Lynx to Scotland can be overcome.

The team has now proposed a working group should be formed.

Organised by charities including Scotland: The Big Picture, Trees for Life and the Vincent Wildlife Trust, researchers conducted more than 100 interviews as well as several online webinars and four community events.

Contributions from a range of groups including farmers, gamekeepers, foresters, conservationists, landowners, tourism operators and rural communities have been considered, along with feedback from stakeholders and communities in the Cairngorms National Park and Argyll.

Previous research suggests the Highlands has enough habitat - and roe deer, the animal's preferred prey - to support a population of around 400 wild Lynx.

The staff said a successful reintroduction is more dependent on people's attitudes than the ecological science.

Among the wide-ranging views, there was consensus for a cross-stakeholder approach to further explore the benefits of, and barriers to, Lynx reintroduction.

Peter Cairns, executive director of Scotland: The Big Picture, said: "When it comes to the return of the Lynx, we're in the realm of not yet - but not never".

Scotland not ready yet¹ for the lynx effect

"Positively, this new research shows there is sufficient appetite amongst different stakeholders to develop a more comprehensive understanding of this little-known species and the potential for its return to Scotland."

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Pr

Subject: WILD CATS (93%); CONSERVATION (90%); ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (90%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (90%); MAMMALS (90%); ANIMALS (78%); CATS (78%); EXPERIMENTATION & RESEARCH (78%); RESEARCH REPORTS (78%); SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (78%); VIRTUAL EVENTS (78%); WILDLIFE (78%); WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (78%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (77%); ENVIRONMENTALISM (77%); LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (77%); NATIONAL PARKS (77%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (76%); FORESTRY WORKERS (73%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (73%); CALENDARS (71%); TRENDS & EVENTS (68%); MOUNTAINS (67%)

Industry: NATIONAL PARKS (77%); FORESTRY WORKERS (73%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (73%); SHEEP FARMING (71%); SHEEP & GOAT FARMING (56%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (74%); SCOTLAND (93%); 7 North East

Load-Date: April 28, 2022

End of Document

Saluting heroes of the Falklands War 40 years on

Scottish Express

April 2, 2022 Saturday

Edition 1, Scotland

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 14

Length: 815 words

Byline: Admiral Lord West

Body

FORTY years ago this May, I gave the order "Abandon Ship". HMS Ardent lay to a single anchor, her stern ablaze and sinking. We had experienced 17 air attacks over the previous nine hours and been strafed by 30mm cannon fire.

Wars often come as a surprise and news of the invasion of the Falkland Islands stunned the nation.

The initial view was that nothing could be achieved militarily. The naval view was different and the First Sea Lord Sir Henry Leach told Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher the Royal Navy could recover the islands and moreover they should be recovered. She jumped at the opportunity.

The Argentinian invasion took place on April 2, 1982, and our task force sailed within four days. The Merchant Navy was called to the nation's colours and provided 76 ships, from liners to fishing vessels.

On the day of the Argentinian invasion, my ship was in Devonport after 12 weeks of exercises, primarily off north Norway. Atrocious weather meant my main gun armament needed repair from storm damage. Six days later we were heading south.

We joined the amphibious force off Ascension Island on April 22, the day after my ship's company celebrated my 34th birthday on the flight deck.

Ascension, a volcanic outcrop in the South Atlantic, was about 4,000 miles or midway between UK and the Falkland Islands. A British possession, it was crucial to the conduct of operations.

South Georgia, the islands several hundred miles to the south east of the Falklands, were recaptured from the Argentinians on April 26. On May 1, we saw the first air battles between naval Sea Harriers and Argentinian fighters with the Harriers coming out on top.

On May 2, the submarine HMS Conqueror sank the Belgrano. Significantly then, the Argentinian surface fleet retired to its coastal waters and effectively played no further part in the war.

Two days later, HMS Sheffield was struck by an Exocet missile, abandoned and later sank. It was the first loss of a major warship by the RN since the Second World War.

OUR

Saluting heroes of the Falklands War 40 years on

MAIN amphibious assault at San Carlos Water, an inlet off the Falkland Sound, was on May 21. The Argentinian air attacks were fierce and the battle lasted until May 26. Not since 1945 had the Royal Navy faced such an onslaught by manned aircraft.

During that period, three escort ships were lost, including my own, protecting the amphibious landings. Two were badly damaged and five lightly. By May 26, when

Brigadier Julian Thompson gave orders to start the land advance from his secure beachhead, the RN had ensured 5,000 Royal Marine and Army troops and 5,000 tons of kit were landed without loss.

HMS Ardent had been the first of the amphibious force to enter Falkland Sound, tasked with supporting the Special Forces operating as a diversion around Goose Green and Darwin. I opened fire at 07.23 and after 170 salvos, the Special Forces were able to withdraw safely.

We later came under remorseless air attack at 16.00 and were hit by seven 500lb and 1,000lb bombs. Initial damage was to the hangar and flight-deck area.

Our Seacat missile launcher was blown into the air, landing on the flight deck, killing the Flight Deck Officer. The ship's *Lynx* helicopter was destroyed, fires broke out and flooding was caused by a ruptured firemain. A further attack put a 1,000lb bomb in the After Machinery Room destroying both generators and the switchboard.

With only 20mm cannon and small arms available for defence, further attacks hit the stern, rupturing fuel tanks and killing or injuring the damage control teams.

Three of the attacking aircraft were shot down by Sea Harrier and one by the canteen manager with a machine gun.

Out of control and heading for shore, I dropped an anchor and the ship stopped just clear of the beach. Sinking by the stern, badly on fire and with imminent danger of the magazines exploding, I made the decision to abandon ship.

Twenty-two of my people died, a terrible loss, but 182 were saved. I was the last to leave the ship.

Our forces established ashore, there was some sharp and bloody fighting, on land and at sea, but the result was certain. The

Argentine forces surrendered on June 14.

WHAT

WAS our victory? The despicable Argentinian Junta collapsed, benefiting that nation. Our country had a massive boost to its self-confidence. The Soviets got a shock, and later, as Chief of Defence Intelligence, I saw documents that showed the impact. The Falkland Islanders, who always wished to remain British are now wealthier and more firmly established than ever.

Years of operations in the North Atlantic in winter meant the Royal Navy could operate safely anywhere in the world. The aircraft carriers, once under threat, were recognised as fundamental to the success of the operation. But war is always terrible and we lost 255 servicemen.

But what an achievement. Our people performed wonderfully and our nation must remember them and their actions on this 40th anniversary.

Graphic

UNDER FIRE: Smoke billows from HMS Ardent after she was hit by Argentinian bombs

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DXPscot

Subject: ISLANDS & REEFS (90%); WAR & CONFLICT (90%); ARMED FORCES (89%); COASTAL AREAS (89%); NAVIES (89%); WEAPONS & ARMS (89%); ARMIES (78%); WORLD WAR II (78%); MILITARY WEAPONS (77%); SHOOTINGS (77%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (76%); BRITISH PRIME MINISTERS (74%); WEATHER (72%); PRIME MINISTERS (55%)

Company: SEA LTD (57%)

Ticker: SE (NYSE) (57%)

Industry: NAICS519130 INTERNET PUBLISHING & BROADCASTING & WEB SEARCH PORTALS (57%); ARMED FORCES (89%); NAVIES (89%); ARMIES (78%); MARINE VESSELS (78%); MERCHANT MARINES (78%); MILITARY VESSELS (78%); NAVAL VESSELS (78%); AIRCRAFT (77%); MILITARY WEAPONS (77%)

Geographic: ATLANTIC OCEAN (79%); FALKLAND ISLANDS (MALVINAS) (93%); **SCOTLAND** (93%); SAINT HELENA (79%); SOUTH GEORGIA & THE SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS (79%); UNITED KINGDOM (79%); **Scotland**

Load-Date: April 2, 2022

End of Document

Author Lindsay hopes to teach kids about rewilding in her latest book

Author Lindsay hopes to teach kids about rewilding in her latest book

Barrhead News

March 25, 2022 Friday

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Length: 366 words

Byline: [Erin Paterson](#)

Body

A CHILDREN'S author from Uplawmoor has released her newest book in a bid to educate children on rewilding.

Lindsay Littleson came up with the idea for The Rewilders after reading an article about a Canadian man who thought he'd found an abandoned kitten, which turned out to be a young *Lynx*, on a trail in Quebec.

The book features a young girl called Esme, who is braced for boredom when she goes to stay with her gran.

However, events take an unusual turn when she discovers Cora the abandoned kitten her gran found is actually a wild *Lynx* kitten and is growing fast.

On a mission to rewild her, the team pitch their tents on a bleak Highland moor, with wolves howling outside.

Lindsay told the Barrhead News: "Not everyone agrees that reintroducing *Lynx* and wolves is feasible.

I tried to show in this book that all different points of view are valid, and that compromise and consensus will be necessary if large predators are ever going to be successfully reintroduced in *Scotland*.

Lynx cats were once native to Britain but were driven to extinction 500 to 1,000 years ago due to hunting and habitat loss.

Three charities in *Scotland* - The Big Picture, Trees for Life and Vincent Wildlife - have recently come together to investigate the potential of releasing *Lynx* back into the wild in *Scotland*.

Lynx have already been reintroduced to other parts of Europe, including Germany's Harz National Park in 2000.

Retired teacher Lindsay added: "I love speaking to children about reading, I was a primary teacher for years."

Covid was a silver lining because I was able to visit schools down south virtually, which I wouldn't normally have been able to do.

Author Lindsay hopes to teach kids about rewilding in her latest book

It has been a dream of mine to be a writer since I was a child, and during lockdown I had plenty of time to practice.

Her first published children's book The Mixed Up Summer of Lily McLean won the 2014 Kelpies Prize.

Lindsay will be in Waterstone's in Silverburn tomorrow from 6pm to 7pm signing copies of the book for those who would like to grab a copy of The Rewilders.

To learn more about Lindsay's books and to find out information about her upcoming author events, visit lindsaylittleson.co.uk.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: WILD CATS (91%); MAMMALS (90%); WRITERS (90%); CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS & TEENS (89%); NATIONAL PARKS (76%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (76%); WILDLIFE (76%); PRIMARY & SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS (73%); CATS (72%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (65%); COVID CORONAVIRUS (62%)

Industry: WRITERS (90%); NATIONAL PARKS (76%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (76%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%)

Geographic: QUEBEC, CANADA (58%); SCOTLAND (91%); EUROPE (73%)

Load-Date: March 25, 2022

End of Document

Lady in pink gears up for success in racing championships

Lady in pink gears up for success in racing championships

Skegness Standard

March 18, 2022

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Skegness Standard

Section: HUMAN INTEREST OTHER SPORT LOUTH SKEGNESS MOTOR CAR RACING RALLYING

Length: 940 words

Byline: Chrissie Redford, chrissie.redford@jpress.co.uk

Highlight: The roar of the black and pink C1 race car engine rips through the Lincolnshire countryside.

Body

Its pilot knows how to handle herself as the owner of a coastal motoring school - but when she puts her 'L' plates away there will be no limits when she competes in the male dominated world of the 2022 SMRC C1 Championships.

Already making a name for herself as team manager for the UK endurance races, racing against her husband in the legendary Knockhill Racing Circuit is now on the horizon and according to Mel, "she's tough to beat".

Accelerating from driving instructor onto the racing circuit was by chance. Katrina and Mel paid for an arrive and drive in 2019, got the bug and had the idea of running and racing their own car. The result was Racing-Lines.

"My driving school business was a bit quiet during the Covid-19 lockdown and I'd been teaching under-17s at an event at Blyton Park in my Westfield kit car - that was the first time I experienced what it would be like to race " she explained. "Then we did a track day at Cadwell Park.

"That was the moment I really got the bug."

Competing herself has a gear change from her role as team leader for the UK endurance races, where she is responsible for a multitude of roles, from pit wall duties to coordinating the team and drivers and making sure the race run smoothly and stress free between staff drivers and club.

"Getting behind the wheel is so different to my day job as a driving instructor - I'll be driving quite slow and it's very regulated," said Katrina, who is also the mum of two teenagers.

"But when I get on the circuit and go whatever speed I like and it's such a release.

"I love my day job but I equally love racing."

The crossover from driving instructor to racing 80mph around a circuit has its challenges, though. "I do the correct pull push gear change, lift my foot off the accelerator at corners and break with my right foot instead of my left.

Lady in pink gears up for success in racing championships

"I'm always getting into trouble for that but it'll come with experience."

There is certainly plenty of encouragement for drivers like Katrina, with a worldwide push to see more women take to the track.

Last year's FIA World Endurance Championship saw two all-female line-ups in 24 Hours of Le Mans LMP2 class Richard Mille Racing Team and Iron Lynx - climbing the endurance ladder to compete in the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC).

Katrina's ambition is to get into the Mini Cooper Cup in Scotland, especially having a love for the model, which she runs for her driving school in Skegness.

This means attracting further sponsorship so she can gain the experience she needs to progress by entering more competitions.

Katrina says getting into the sport in her 40s is quite late as most female drivers have come from go-karting.

However, after a couple of successes already under her belt in her C1, she is determined she can step up a gear and follow her dream.

"I raced as part of a team at Rockingham in 2019, then I took part in the Plumb Pudding race at Mallory Park and was second in class," she said.

"I also came seventh in a Focus at Silverston, which I was really pleased with.

"It's all about experience now and making a name for myself."

The black and pink livery on her race car and her striking racing suit will certainly get her noticed.

"When I chose black and pink for my driving school car some people wondered if the colours might put customers off but it's been really amazing for me," she said.

"When I tell people about my driving school they seem to know me because they have seen the car about town - I'm hoping I'm just as memorable in my race car."

ABOUT THE RACING LINES TEAM

Katrina and her husband formed the Racing Lines Team in 2019, competing in the BRSCC run UK C1 Endurance Series which takes place around the UK at prominent circuits, including Belgium's famous Spa-Francorchamps.

The team also competes in the SMRC C1 Championship at the famous Knockhill Race Circuit.

Mel has been involved around motorsport since a child with his father, working most of his career as a HGV driver.

When he stopped HGV driving, he took up a role as a supercar instructor, coaching the paying public in their favourite supercar.

For the 2022 season, Mel will also be swapping roles as co-team leader at Knockhill, and competing alongside Katrina in their second C1.

Since launching Racing-Lines, Katrina and Mel have worked extremely hard to make their cars stand out, refusing to cut corners, and aiming to make the team as professional as possible.

As with any team, they have lots of ideas for the future, including running more cars, expanding into other race series, and supporting a junior driver programme.

Katrina and Mel are now looking for potential partners to work alongside them, so they can expand as a team. Current sponsors are Alive Tuning and Premier Paintworx of Louth - with Katrina also securing Demon Tweaks.

Lady in pink gears up for success in racing championships

They are also looking for an affordable location to keep their cars and truck in one place.

Most races are now filmed and streamed live, reaching large audiences. The C1 Clubs own live stream for the 24 hour Silverstone endurance race, drew an online audience of 29,000 views.

Mel and Katrina plan to once again run their cars in both race series, with Mel taking a back seat and giving way to paid and guest drivers, who's talent and abilities should enable the team to achieve better results.

Katrina is passionately involved in anything that promotes Women in Motorsport, including posting her own achievements on social media pages, such as 'Katrina Gray Racing'.

Anyone interested in promoting them are asked to check out their website at www.racing-lines.co.uk, Facebook and Instagram pages, or call 07713 113 711. Alternatively email info@racing-lines.co.uk

Graphic

[Katrina and Mel \(pictured competing against each other centre\) in the fast lane.](#)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: DRIVER EDUCATION (90%); SPORTS & RECREATION EVENTS (90%); TEACHING & TEACHERS (90%); DRIVING SCHOOLS (89%); MANAGERS & SUPERVISORS (72%); MEN (72%); COVID CORONAVIRUS (68%); COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS REGULATION & POLICY (68%); COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS (53%)

Industry: MOTOR VEHICLES (89%); PUBLISHING (73%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (79%); UNITED KINGDOM (72%)

Load-Date: March 18, 2022

End of Document

Wolf at the door? Not yet, but report says they should be...

Wolf at the door? Not yet, but report says they should be...

The Herald (Glasgow)

March 15, 2022 Tuesday

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The Herald

Section: Pg. 15

Length: 784 words

Byline: Vicky Allan

Body

IT feels as if for a long while now the wolf has been at the door. This month it's there again, pacing and pawing, in the form of a report by Vashti Gwynn and Elias Symeonakis of Manchester Metropolitan University, which finds that "in terms of habitat availability", reintroduction of the wolf into the Highlands of Scotland "should be feasible".

When it comes to rewilding, we often focus on the wolf, above all other animals. It has a hold over us that other smaller, less "charismatic" or totemic species don't.

It's as if we see in this species some story about our relationship with nature. The wolf occupies a special position that the beaver and Lynx don't - as threat, rival and familiar echo of our companion, the dog. For many, the wolf represents an idea of wildness and something lost, especially in these times of biodiversity crisis. But all that is not enough to make a case for reintroduction. It's studies like these that do that.

"Evidence is growing," write Gwynn and Symeonakis, "that apex predators provide a range of ecological benefits, most stemming from the reduction of overgrazing by deer - something from which Scotland suffers."

"In this study, we build a rule-based habitat suitability model for wolves on the Scottish mainland. From existing literature, we identify the most important variables as land cover, prey density, road density and human density, and establish thresholds of suitability for each."

Their modelling finds that an area of "between 10,139km² and 18,857km² is shown to be 80 to 100% suitable" and could support "between 50 and 94 packs of four wolves."

Those figures may send a chill down the spine of many who live and work rurally. 94 packs of four wolves? Even across that vast territory it seems a lot - far more than the single pack that was originally let loose in Yellowstone Park in 1995, and which began the oft-cited transformation that is frequently used now as a case for predator introduction. At Yellowstone, where there are now around 94 wolves, there were so-called "trophic cascades", in which an apex predator suppress the abundance or changes the behavior of their prey, altering the entire ecosystem and food web.

Wolf at the door? Not yet, but report says they should be...

Wolf reintroduction also comes, as is mentioned in the Gwynn and Symeonakis study, with economic arguments. These include tourism and also the proposition that wolves would remove the economic burden of the deer cull. Such arguments are increasingly convincing, especially given the gathering evidence that if we are going to bring back ***Scotland***'s forest and its carbon sink, we need to reduce deer population. The authors note, "Nilsen et al. predict that if wolves were present in ***Scotland*** for 60 years, deer densities would decline to 7/km², with >50% reduction in some places. This is in line with the Deer Commission for ***Scotland***'s target of 6/km²."

But the problem remains that there is a significant kickback from those who live and work rurally. An element of the habitat is the presence of humans. Can we talk about wolves and not mention them?

One 2007 study found that on average rural respondents felt less positively than urban people. "The lower score for the rural population was due to the negative attitudes of the subsample of farmers."

NatureScot has said that there are no plans to consider the wolf's return. "Reintroduction projects are complex and need very careful consideration and planning to ensure national and international guidelines are met."

But the call for it is repeated. It comes back so often, and accompanied by research, as well as significant landowner backing, that it seems that it is not so much whether, but when - even if that when is many decades from now. Species reintroductions are like stepping stones. One of the reasons many are sceptical of the ***Lynx***, which is also mooted for reintroduction, is because they know the wolf may come next.

The real question is whether such calls can persuade rural sceptics. It's those who live on the land and work on it, after all, who will have to experience the wolf at their door. The wider rural community need to be recruited, and that's unlikely to happen via another set of figures and graphs.

When I interviewed reintroduction pioneer Roy Dennis, he emphasised the need to convince locals. "You need to be able to demonstrate that you can do it properly to those who live and work there. And the farmers and landowners and foresters should have the respect that you know what you're doing and you get on with them. Do I think we will have wolves back in ***Scotland*** sometime soon, or at any time? I'm not sure. What I do know is that, unlike in other countries in Europe, they cannot walk here. If we want them, we have to intervene."

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: HER

Subject: MAMMALS (90%); BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION (77%); ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (77%); WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (77%); BIODIVERSITY (74%); WRITERS (74%); agriculture (%); business (%); crime (%); health terms (%)

Company: METROPOLITAN BANK HOLDING CORP (58%)

Ticker: MCB (NYSE) (58%)

Wolf at the door? Not yet, but report says they should be...

Industry: NAICS522110 COMMERCIAL BANKING (58%); SIC6029 COMMERCIAL BANKS, NEC (58%); WRITERS (74%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, SCOTLAND (73%); SCOTLAND (91%)

Load-Date: March 15, 2022

End of Document

Vicky Allan: Wolves could save Scotland's environment

Herald Scotland

March 15, 2022 Tuesday

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Length: 814 words

Byline: [Vicky Allan](#)

Body

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READ MORE: Both sides of rewilding debate are wrong, says author

In this study, we build a rule-based habitat suitability model for wolves on the **Scottish** mainland. From existing literature, we identify the most important variables as land cover, prey density, road density and human density, and establish thresholds of suitability for each.

Their modelling finds that an area of between 10,139km² and 18,857km² is shown to be 80 to 100% suitable and could support between 50 and 94 packs of four wolves.

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Vicky Allan: Wolves could save Scotland's environment

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Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: MAMMALS (90%); BIODIVERSITY (77%); BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION (77%); ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (77%); WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (77%); WRITERS (74%); EVIDENCE (71%)

Company: METROPOLITAN BANK HOLDING CORP (58%)

Ticker: MCB (NYSE) (58%)

Industry: NAICS522110 COMMERCIAL BANKING (58%); SIC6029 COMMERCIAL BANKS, NEC (58%); WRITERS (74%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%)

Vicky Allan: Wolves could save Scotland's environment

Geographic: SCOTLAND (92%)

Load-Date: March 15, 2022

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Shock, horror! Jacob Rees-Mogg was right: Douglas Ross is a lightweight

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Herald Scotland

March 13, 2022 Sunday

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Length: 1050 words

Byline: [Barry Didcock](#)

Body

I NEVER thought I'd even read these words far less write them, but Jacob Rees-Mogg may have been right. I'll tell you why and about what after I've had a lie down.

OK, I'm back, and more or less recovered.

The Honourable Member for the 18th century, as he is known, may have been right when he called Douglas Ross a lightweight. Things so termed catch in gusts and are flung about the place. They either appear to lack agency completely or I'm thinking plastic carrier bags here they do a swooping sort of loop-the-loop which looks almost planned and graceful at first but then not graceful at all when they end up skewered on a TV aerial. Which is kind of where the leader of the **Scottish** Conservative Party finds himself. Hence a lightweight.

Mr Rees-Mogg, if you recall, made the comment in a Newsnight interview. Check it out: the thud on the audio is the jaw of presenter Kirsty Wark hitting the floor, the blur around the Old Etonian's bespectacled head the miasma of arrogance and affected nonchalance he wears in place of **Lynx** Africa BO jammer. But he may still have been right. Why? Because Mr Ross has been blown about by the political weather and now finds himself facing in a completely different direction to before. You see, having previously stated that he has no confidence in Boris Johnson, having called on him to resign, and having submitted one of those all-important letters to the Commons' 1922 Committee saying all this, he has now changed his mind. Just like that.

I imagine one or two of his political enemies have already sidled up to him and sung a version of the Hokey Cokey in his ear (You put your letter in, you take your letter out. In, out, in, out, you shake it all about etc.). Certainly they have not been slow to condemn him and bandy around words such as humiliation and embarrassment. One even described him as having the backbone of a jellyfish.

I daresay a few of Mr Ross's erstwhile political friends may feel like doing the same thing: those Tories do love a bit of blue-on-blue action, after all. Perhaps South **Scotland** MSP Craig Hoy will be one of them. [Douglas Ross] has been clear, consistent and he is correct he tweeted when Mr Ross made his original Boris Out! statement. Next in line, perhaps, will be Murdo Fraser MSP. I'm afraid the Prime Minister's position is no longer tenable, he has lost public trust, and in the interests of the country and the Conservative Party he should step down, he tweeted at the time in support of Mr Ross. And then there's Lothians MSP Jeremy Balfour,

Shock, horror! Jacob Rees-Mogg was right: Douglas Ross is a lightweight

who tweeted that Mr Ross was absolutely right in his calls for the Prime Minister to go. [He] has betrayed the trust of the public and he must resign immediately, he wrote.

Oh dear.

In fact the majority of the Tory group at Holyrood came out behind Mr Ross. But now he has changed his mind. Just like that. Now, presumably, he thinks the Prime Minister's position is tenable, that he has not lost public trust, and that this new position is as clear, consistent and correct as the old one that was its exact opposite. Perhaps the man-in-black in him has come into play, by which I mean his football referee persona. Perhaps he is party to some kind of political VAR nobody else knows about. Perhaps he has been in touch with the political equivalent of Stockley Park, VAR HQ, and been informed via an earpiece nobody else can see that no, the Prime Minister was not offside and did not handle the ball (or the crisps or the bubbly or the birthday cake) and the decision to call on him to resign should be over-turned.

Or perhaps the Russians have invaded Ukraine and begun murdering children and pregnant women and threatened the rest of us with nuclear war. Yes, that's probably it. Perhaps Mr Ross has deployed every particle of his political nous and concluded that the UK is threatened by a man who is self-obsessed, slippery, mendacious and ego-driven but that he should stay on as Prime Minister so he can face up to Vladimir Putin.

And have Mr Ross's Holyrood colleagues, like a confusion of chiffchaffs or a trembling of finches, found themselves U-turning precipitously in order to follow their leader? Yes they have. This is the right move at this time, tweeted Murdo Fraser on Thursday, when Mr Ross announced that he was withdrawing his letter of no confidence. He continued: It would be deeply irresponsible to seek to change Prime Minister when the international situation is as it is. He also posted a comment piece from Boris-boosting tabloid The Sun about the thawing in relations between Mr Johnson and Mr Ross. I read it so you don't have to: it went something along the lines of it was only a spat, there's other stuff to worry about, let bygones be bygones.

The leader of the ***Scottish*** Conservatives calls for the resignation of a Tory Prime Minister and it's only a spat?

By the by, the cynic in me notes that Mr Ross's volte face came two weeks after the Russian invasion of Ukraine but mere days before the Prime Minister is due to travel north to address the ***Scottish*** Conservative Party Conference and a month and a bit before ***Scottish*** council elections at which the deep division between the two leaders would have been exploited mercilessly by Labour and SNP.

Then again, perhaps Mr Ross means it. Perhaps he is simply showing himself to be a man possessed of rationality as well as conviction, big enough to change his mind and be seen to do it. I don't care, he said in an interview on BBC Radio ***Scotland***'s Good Morning ***Scotland*** programme when asked if his U-turn really did make him look like a lightweight. I really don't care. I know political opponents will criticise me for this. That's fine. We had to take a decision looking at what's happening on the world scene at the moment. Anything else, he added, just seems trivial.

Fair play. After all, dogmatism, inflexibility and mono-vision are faults regularly laid at the feet of our politicians, so let's praise those who can unburden themselves of those ills. In terms of flexibility, the leader of the ***Scottish*** Conservatives is proving himself positively double-jointed.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Shock, horror! Jacob Rees-Mogg was right: Douglas Ross is a lightweight

Subject: UK CONSERVATIVE PARTY (78%); UK POLITICAL PARTIES (78%); POLITICAL PARTIES (73%); RESIGNATIONS (63%)

Industry: MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); TELEVISION NEWS SHOWS (68%)

Person: BORIS JOHNSON (52%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (90%)

Load-Date: March 13, 2022

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The Sunday Herald (Glasgow)

March 13, 2022 Sunday

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sundayherald

Section: Pg. 61

Length: 1025 words

Byline: Caroline Woppard

Body

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'Jellyfish's backbone'

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Will Balfour back off?

AND then there's Lothian MSP Jeremy Balfour, who tweeted that Mr Ross was "absolutely right" in his calls for the Prime Minister to go. "[He] has betrayed the trust of the public and he must resign immediately," he wrote.

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A rational rethink?

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Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: SHE

Subject: POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); UK CONSERVATIVE PARTY (89%); UK POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (78%); PRIME MINISTERS (78%); RESIGNATIONS (69%); DISMISSALS (60%); agriculture (%); health terms (%); political parties (%); sport (%)

Industry: MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); TELEVISION NEWS SHOWS (68%)

Person: BORIS JOHNSON (52%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, SCOTLAND (73%); SCOTLAND (91%)

Load-Date: March 13, 2022

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Explore the future of rewilding at Fritton Lake holiday club in Norfolk – Scotland on Sunday Travel

Explore the future of rewilding at Fritton Lake holiday club in Norfolk – Scotland on Sunday Travel

Scotsman

March 13, 2022 Sunday

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Section: TRAVELLIFESTYLE

Length: 1219 words

Byline: Lisa Young

Highlight: Deer, water buffaloes and kingfishers are paving the way for beavers, bison and *Lynx* – *Scotland* on Sunday Travel

Body

Fritton Lake is a sustainable private holiday club situated in the heart of a pioneering rewilding project on the Somerleyton Estate, which covers 1,000 acres on the Norfolk/Suffolk border and is at the forefront of WildEast, a non-profit organisation on a mission to return 250,000 hectares (20%) of East Anglia to nature.

In the driving seat is owner Lord Hugh Crossley, hotel owner, restauranteur, landowner and conservationist who lives with his family at Somerleyton Hall, his 5,000-acre ancestral home.

The aim is to transform the region into one of the UK's biggest and best nature reserves, and Fritton Lake's guests can be part of this greener vision of the future. WildEast was co-founded in 2020 by Hugh Crossley with two other local landowners and farmers Oliver Birkbeck and Argus Hardy. All going to plan, Fritton Lake hopes to pave the way for the reintroduction of key species such as the beaver, pelican, bison and *Lynx*. Since 2017, the estate's farmland has gradually been restored to carefully managed sustainable wildland that is now home to free-roaming animals and birds, and there's plenty of plant life too.

Hugh Crossley grew up on the estate and says, "In my youth, the obvious things missing were woodland mammals. There were no deer and old farming methods were used, and everything was over-grazed. It was silent around here, but now mammals are back and things are livelier, and we have plenty of water, fish and vast woodlands too," he said.

Today, Fritton Lake's guests live amongst the sights and sounds of nature, with rich birdlife, water buffalos, highland cattle, large black pigs, red, fallow and roe deer, herons, otters, red kites, water voles, egrets, buzzards, kingfishers, black welsh mountain sheep, and well-fed and rounded Exmoor ponies.

Once at the heart of a Viking settlement called Loving Land, the lake is 2.5 miles long and in a serpentine shape, dug out in medieval times, probably by children and is two to five metres deep. Chilean rhubarb, with its two-to-tree-metre-wide leaves, stands tall along the shore, next to oxygenating reeds... the more reeds, the healthier the lake.

Explore the future of rewilding at Fritton Lake holiday club in Norfolk – Scotland on Sunday Travel

The lake bubbles with activity from the likes of pike, eel, perch, carp, roach and bream, with woodlands and exotic plants flourishing along its shores.

Wildflowers, including oriental poppies, add a splash of vibrancy to the landscape and attract a healthy stock of spectacularly colourful butterflies, dragonflies and bees that create a delicate chorus of insect sounds across this beautiful setting.

I stayed at the Clubhouse, a cosy boutique hotel full of character that was once a 16th-century manor house. Today the Clubhouse hosts guests within its eight charming bedrooms which all have a contemporary feel, mixed with original exposed wooden beams and quaint windows overlooking the beautiful grounds.

Conveniently located on the ground floor is the Clubhouse restaurant and pub – so it's not far to walk for meals. Self-catering is available if you rent one of the gorgeous and stylish cabins tucked away amidst ancient woodland and with views of the lake, or one of the holiday cottages nestled in the estate's flourishing meadows. Both options are dog-friendly.

Horse owners can bring their equine friends on holiday and take advantage of riding around the spectacular grounds.

Fritton Lake contributes directly to the on-site conservation work and guests are encouraged to join the rewilding team –headed by Matthew, the Fritton Lake horticulturist – on safari on foot, by boat or jeep, to learn from and improve the natural ecosystem. Plans to reintroduce peregrine falcons, storks, beavers and pelicans to the wilds of Fritton Lake are in progress.

Wandering around the estate, I crossed paths with free-roaming Exmoor ponies, water buffalos, Welsh Black cows and native Suffolk large black truffle pigs with their many, many piglets. Don't be surprised by them because they're all part of the rewilding project.

Activities at Fritton Lake include swimming in the two-mile-long lake, walks, canoeing, paddle boarding and more. For Hugh Crossley, growing up by the lake, swimming is part of life. "Effectively, wild swimming is going for a swim in a natural lake or body of water. We've had to rename it for people, to go back to what was a typical activity in the past, and I'm proud of its popularity," he said.

Before taking to the water, bathers must pass a water proficiency test to show they are capable of swimming in the cold and deep lake water. The test involves jumping off the dock and into the lake, then swimming to a pontoon to demonstrate their ability, and handling falling off a boat or paddle board. If satisfied, the staff will let you take to the water. If the

lake isn't for you, there's a heated swimming pool that opens from 9am to 6pm.

I watched as kids took a long run through the Victorian walled garden, over the lush grass and down the wobbly jetty, while all the time stirring up enthusiasm with their joyous, echoing 'whoop, whoop' calls, anticipating the cold water.

With an awkward leap, they propelled themselves into the air then plunged into Fritton Lake.

Walking along the lake's shoreline, I came across another, shorter wooded pontoon, leading to a floating KOTO sauna (a carbon neutral structure for on and off grid living). Inside the smouldering cabin, the heat was intense. There's a large floor-to-ceiling window (you can see out, others can't see in!) overlooking the lake, with views of boaters, paddle boarders,

rowers and occasionally a water buffalo... they can appear anytime, anywhere. You might also spot deer that come to drink, otters or huge dragonflies flitting about in abundance.

When I'd had enough, I jumped straight into the cooling lake. Bookings are required for a 20-minute slot, and you must be 18 or older to use the sauna.

Explore the future of rewilding at Fritton Lake holiday club in Norfolk – Scotland on Sunday Travel

My dinner choice was made easy thanks to the straightforward, tantalising menu. Music filtered across the south facing terrace as guests tucked into bulging burgers, thin-based pizzas, fragrant curries or juicy steak, from a wider menu where most ingredients are grown or raised on the property. The food is tasty and portions are sensible – plus the homemade chocolate ganache dessert is very good.

Dining al fresco under ageing oak trees and silver birches offers charming views across fields, where wildflowers blossom and roaming ponies graze. As the evening temperature dropped, the warmth of the cosy dining room and lounge areas beckoned.

Nothing is over the top here, nor is it underdone... it's perfectly balanced and complemented by the natural, well-balanced grounds.

Fritton Lake at Somerleyton Estate is a unique place where you can immerse yourself in the tranquillity of nature, while doing something to restore the biodiversity of our natural environment. You don't have to fly miles to have a good and educational time.

Fritton Lake: Beccles Road, Fritton, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, NR31 9HA.

www.frittonlake.co.uk

www.wildeast.co.uk

Rooms from £160 per night

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Graphic

[Paddle boarding on Fritton Lake, Norfolk.](#)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: MAMMALS (90%); BIRDS (89%); INSECTS & ARACHNIDS (89%); LAKES (89%); FISHES (88%); AGRICULTURAL LANDS (78%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (78%); CONSERVATION (78%); LAND CONSERVATION (78%); LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (78%); MARINE MAMMALS (78%); NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS (78%); LIFE FORMS (76%); ENVIRONMENTALISM (73%); ANIMALS (72%); HORSES (68%); MOUNTAINS (68%)

Explore the future of rewilding at Fritton Lake holiday club in Norfolk – Scotland on Sunday Travel

Industry: HOTELS & MOTELS (79%); AGRICULTURAL LANDS (78%); PUBLISHING (73%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (90%); WALES (73%)

Load-Date: March 9, 2022

End of Document

Wildlife expert's talk on reintroducing lynx

Stirling Observer

March 11, 2022

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 12

Length: 102 words

Body

Local wildlife expert Tom Ovenden will be discussing whether the lynx should be reintroduced to Scotland at an event later this month.

Tom will be at Legends at the Wallace Monument on Wednesday March 30 from 7-8pm.

The lynx was one of several apex predators once found in Scotland but now absent.

Recent research undertaken used cutting edge computer modelling approaches to assess the ecological suitability of Scotland for lynx reintroduction.

Tom will be discussing whether the lynx could be introduced - and if so whether people are ready for it.

Tickets available on Eventbrite or at www.legendsatthemonument.com

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: STO

Subject: WILDLIFE (91%); WILD CATS (90%); WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (90%); ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (88%); MODELING & SIMULATION (70%)

Industry: MODELING & SIMULATION (70%); COMPUTER SIMULATION (55%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (89%); National Edition

Wildlife expert's talk on reintroducing lynx

Load-Date: March 10, 2022

End of Document

Explore Fife\xE2s venues and activities with the family

Explore Fife\xE2s venues and activities with the family

Herald Scotland

February 24, 2022 Thursday

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Length: 553 words

Body

By Ailsa Sheldon

With beaches, rockpools and ice-creams around every corner, Fife is a brilliant place to explore as a family. The beautiful Fife Coastal path stretches for 117 miles but even the smallest legs should manage a short section.

However the coastline isn\xE2t the only draw, Fife has a huge range of family friendly activities across the region from days out on the farm and berry picking, to land yachting and zorbing, and plenty of rainy-day options too.

Animal lovers big and small are in for a treat at the The **Scottish** Deer Centre near Cupar. You can get up close to twelve species of deer and feed them if you like. The centre is also home to wolves, brown bears, **lynx**, otters, wildcats and birds of prey. Look out for red squirrels on the tree top walk, and challenge the kids to a race on the go kart track. There\xE2s also an adventure playground, indoor play area and a caf\xC3.

For woodland walks, head for Pillars of Hercules Farm Shop and Caf\xC3 near Strathmiglo. Stop in at the caf\xC3 and then head into the gorgeous mature woodlands of Falkland Estate. Follow signs to Maspie Den to walk behind a waterfall.

Kids love Cairnie Fruit Farm near Cupar (open March-November) where you can pick your own berries (in season), ride in a tractor, get lost in a \xE2maize maze\xE2 and burn off some steam playing and trampolining in the fun yard. There\xE2s an onsite caf\xC3 to refuel when you\xE2re all bounced out. Muddy Boots in Balmalcolm is also a good bet for farm themed fun, there\xE2s a muddy meadow with grass sledging, zorbing and a huge trampoline pillow, go karts and even pig racing.

Time for some adrenaline-fuelled watersports? Blown Away is based on windswept West Beach in St. Andrews.

Here you can have a go at kayaking, surfing or stand-up paddleboarding with expert instructors on hand to get you started. Try a stand-up paddleboard (SUP) tour of the St. Andrews coastline when you\xE2ve got the hang of it. Don\xE2t miss a chance to try land yachting too, Blown Away will get you going on a twin landyacht so that kids and parents can \xE2sail\xE2 with a parent (5+). Warning, it can get very competitive! Older kids can have a go at clay pigeon shooting or archery at Cluny Activities near Kirkcaldy. Also on offer are segway tours, golf and a new sport to many \xE2 \xE2footgolf\xE2.

Explore Fife's venues and activities with the family

On a rainy day check out **Scotland's** Secret Bunker, hidden beneath a simple looking farmhouse you'll find the nuclear bunker built in 1953. Explore the control room, dormitories and government offices built in case of nuclear war. Learn about Fife's proud maritime history at The **Scottish** Fisheries Museum in Anstruther. There are museum trails and hands-on activities like dressing up and puzzles to help bring the collection to life, plus regular special events throughout the year.

Whatever the weather, make sure to leave time for the simple pleasures, an ice cream on the beach, a bag of hot chips or a sandcastle competition. We love a good guddle in the rockpools too, the Fife shoreline is the perfect place for it! try Roome Bay in Crail or Ruby Bay in Elie. Look for hermit crabs, shore crabs, starfish and brown shrimp, (just make sure your little scientists don't take anything home).

\xC2

This article is brought to you in association with Visit Fife Golf.

www.visitfifegolf.com

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: BEACHES (89%); SURFING (89%); WILD CATS (89%); BOARDSPORTS (88%); CANOEING & KAYAKING (78%); MARINE MAMMALS (78%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (78%); SLED SPORTS (78%); WATER SPORTS (78%); ANIMALS (76%); BIRDS (74%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS (74%); FAMILY (73%); RODENTS (70%); GYMNASTICS (69%); GOLF (62%); ARCHERY (60%); SHOOTING SPORTS (60%)

Industry: AGRITOURISM (90%); ICE CREAM (90%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (78%)

Geographic: **SCOTLAND** (91%)

Load-Date: February 24, 2022

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Big-brand prices set to rocket

Big-brand prices set to rocket

Scottish Express

February 11, 2022 Friday

Edition 1, Scotland

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 10

Length: 92 words

Byline: Geoff Ho

Body

UNILEVER, the maker of Marmite, Dove, Lynx, Hellmans and more, has warned its prices will have to rise due to surging energy, materials and transport costs.

Chief executive Alan Jope said that price rises were inevitable, at its annual results yesterday, pointing out that crude oil prices rose 60 per cent last year, while palm oil - used across its range of products - now costs 130 per cent more.

Analysts at research group GlobalData believe the resultant price hikes at tills could force customers to switch to cheaper supermarket own-label products.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DXPscot

Subject: PRICE CHANGES (90%); PRICE INCREASES (90%); PRICES (90%); CRUDE OIL PRICES (88%); ENERGY PRICES (88%); OIL & GAS PRICES (88%); PRIVATE LABELS (88%); EXECUTIVES (72%); ANNUAL FINANCIAL RESULTS (71%)

Company: UNILEVER PLC (59%)

Ticker: UL (NYSE) (59%)

Big-brand prices set to rocket

Industry: NAICS325620 TOILET PREPARATION MANUFACTURING (59%); NAICS325611 SOAP & OTHER DETERGENT MANUFACTURING (59%); NAICS311412 FROZEN SPECIALTY FOOD MANUFACTURING (59%); NAICS311411 FROZEN FRUIT, JUICE & VEGETABLE MANUFACTURING (59%); NAICS311225 FATS & OILS REFINING & BLENDING (59%); PRICE CHANGES (90%); PRICE INCREASES (90%); CRUDE OIL PRICES (88%); EDIBLE OILS (88%); ENERGY PRICES (88%); OIL & GAS PRICES (88%); PALM OIL (88%); GROCERY STORES & SUPERMARKETS (83%)

Person: ALAN JOPE (79%)

Geographic: Scotland

Load-Date: February 11, 2022

End of Document

Vicky Allan: Has Brewdog 'lost the plot' with deer cull plan to protect trees?

Vicky Allan: Has Brewdog 'lost the plot' with deer cull plan to protect trees?

Herald Scotland

February 8, 2022 Tuesday

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Length: 824 words

Byline: [Vicky Allan](#)

Body

BREWDOG has lost the plot.

That was the assessment by Peta (People for the Treatment of Animals) of the plan by the brewer to cull deer on its estate in order to protect the trees of the Lost Forest project.

Elisa Allen, of the animal charity, even went so far to declare that it will lose its customers if it thinks that blasting mountain hares and deer with shotguns is going to help restore lost forests, these species' natural home. All it will mean is the slaughter of many of the beloved animals who live there.

It's an emotive intervention in an already tense debate, in which there is significant backing for the idea that culling deer does give breathing space for forests to restore, not least of which the 2020 Scottish Deer Working Group Report.

While there are studies that question the effectiveness of deer hunting and culling, including one 2012 European Commission report which advised that hunting did not work, and that forests would be better protected through close-to-nature management techniques, most of the modelling and research suggests that at least some culling is needed. The regrowth of forest at the National Trust's Mar Lodge and Glen Feshie also suggests their zero-tolerance approach to deer is working.

READ MORE:[Rewild Scotland](#): "Beavers in all rivers. Lynx and wolf back."

In other words, Brewdog has far from lost the plot on its way to the Lost Forest, with its plans for fencing off areas and driving off deer or, as a last resort, shooting them.

Allen nevertheless was fierce in her attack, saying: If the company wishes to retain any of its planet-friendly credentials, it must remember that the planet is home to more than just humans and switch to one of the humane, sustainable methods of population control that exist or risk losing all credibility.

I agree that we should strive to follow the most humane route in all things but this attack on Brewdog's plan is a reminder of the difficult territory we are entering as we attempt to tackle the climate and biodiversity crises. We do

Vicky Allan: Has Brewdog 'lost the plot' with deer cull plan to protect trees?

not yet have a route map in terms of ethics. We are hampered by confused attitudes towards animals, nature, and all living things.

Scientific research in recent years has shown us the importance of trees. Yet, we humans are still particularly poor at protecting and defending plants, except when they are useful to us. The philosopher Peter Singer has described the tendency to privilege the immediate survival and health of our own species, as speciesism. Peta's website carries a definition of this tendency, as 'a prejudice or attitude of bias in favour of the interests of members of one's own species.' It adds that, 'it also speciesist to treat one animal's life as more valuable than another.'

It seems to me there's a whole other level of bias when it comes to looking at the issue of the health of our environment and the wider biosphere, and that's what I might call kingdomism - the privileging of the protection of the animal kingdom over that of the plant kingdom. For this reason, David Attenborough's *The Green Planet*, by helping us understand the complexity of plant life and our interdependence on it, is probably his most important yet.

We humans also have a bias towards protecting fluffy, charismatic animals. If something is particularly cute, it's more likely to garner an army of defenders, which is what happened when the wallabies of Inchconnachan island were slated for eradication or removal as part of plans by Kirsty Young to reduce the island's non-native species to zero.

A petition to save the wallabies has already nearly 35,000 signatures. An intervention by Chris Packham, who has interestingly previously spoken in support of deer culling, has diverted their fate. 'I applaud,' he said, 'efforts to re-wild but you can't blame the wallabies. The way to do it is to catch the wallabies and move them elsewhere. I don't think there would be any problem finding them a new home.'

How can we be humane, while also reversing a long history of human impact? One of Elisa Allen's suggestions is that Brewdog seeks more humane ways of killing the deer. Key among these is dart-delivered birth control for deer. This is a decent suggestion. But reports tend not to recommend it. A review article by Peter Green for the Deer Initiative found: 'Contraception will not reduce numbers in the absence of other means of removal until older females die naturally, which may take many years.'

The processes of rewilding are forcing us to look again at what matters and to evolve a new ethics that encompasses a genuine respect for all life. Who and what, in this new landscape, do we fight for? And what about humans, too? My concern about Brewdog isn't just about what it does with deer. It's that they will turn out to be Green Lairds who get rid of humans too.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: ANIMAL RIGHTS (90%); ANIMAL WELFARE (90%); ANIMALS (90%); ANIMALS & SOCIETY (90%); CONSERVATION (90%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS (90%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS CONSERVATION (90%); MAMMALS (90%); REFORESTATION (90%); BIODIVERSITY (78%); BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION (78%); ETHICS (78%); LIFE FORMS (78%); RODENTS (78%); LAND RECLAMATION (77%); SPORT HUNTING (77%); SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (74%); NEGATIVE NEWS (72%); EXPERIMENTATION & RESEARCH (68%)

Organization: EUROPEAN COMMISSION (55%)

Vicky Allan: Has Brewdog 'lost the plot' with deer cull plan to protect trees?

Industry: FORESTS & WOODLANDS CONSERVATION (90%); REFORESTATION (90%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%)

Geographic: EUROPE (79%)

Load-Date: February 8, 2022

End of Document

Deer stalking a necessary and urgent evil

Aberdeen Press and Journal

February 4, 2022 Friday

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Section: AGD; Pg. 27

Length: 703 words

Byline: P&j Comment

Body

Two ticks crawl across the back of my hand and, with a firm press of my thumb, I crush them.

The final resting place of the pests is a bracken and heather strewn incline which bleeds into Loch Nevis.

Lying on my front in oversized, borrowed camos atop a hellish beanbag of heath, I cautiously raise my chin and survey the loch.

Knoydart Foundation head stalker Jim Brown waits patiently at the top of a knoll 30 metres to my east with a loaded rifle. Our walkie-talkies crackle into life with the voice of ghillie Daniel "Woody" Woods.

"The beast is coming up the right valley."

Brown, a greying and rugged yet somehow youthful looking man of 47 shuffles behind the weapon and readies himself, placing his eye behind the scope.

"Hang on, he might be going up the left valley... No, he's changed his mind again."

Brown briefly pulls away from his firearm to turn to me. He mouths: "Turn it f*****g down" and mimes tuning a radio. I comply and cringe.

This is my first day volunteering with the stalking team and, despite being a vegetarian, I don't want to sabotage the kill. The stalker returns to his prone position and waits.

"He's coming your way, boss."

A red stag jumps into view and hurtles up the space which separates Jim and me.

A gunshot ripples through the valley and the animal jumps, carries on for a few steps before collapsing, its blood spilling across the rocks. My heart neither quickens nor slows but a sadness comes over me.

"There's another one, boss. This one's coming up the left valley," Woody informs us.

A second stag races into view. Brown, never pausing, resumes a shooting position and takes a steady breath.

Then, with a gentle squeeze of the trigger, the second beast drops.

Deer stalking a necessary and urgent evil

Six years had passed since I had last eaten a chunk of meat but, during a month of volunteering with the Knoydart Foundation, I felt compelled to join the deer management team.

Trophy hunting repulses me, as does cruelty to animals, but I reached the conclusion that - thanks to human-driven deforestation and the removal of apex predators - the blood being shed on Scotland's hills is a necessary and urgent evil.

The Knoydart stalking team work in tandem with the Knoydart Forest Trust, who are responsible for the management of woodland on the remote peninsula.

Grant Holroyd, forester for the trust and director of the foundation, argues that deer culling is essential if Scotland is to play its part in combatting the climate emergency.

"Anywhere there's a wild deer population, you can't plant trees without managing the deer," he says.

Since 1999, the trust has planted more than 600,000 trees, encouraging biodiversity, increasing carbon storage and laying the foundation for the re-establishment of rare and missing native species, such as the black grouse. It plans to plant a further 250,000 trees in 2022.

The leaves and shoots of trees could make up the majority of the red deer's diet, and, with over-population, it wouldn't take long to undo the Knoydart Forest Trust's work.

Holroyd explains: "We've got a wild deer population that's been growing and growing for a long time and, if it's not controlled, it will reduce biodiversity and tree growth and the ability to store carbon."

Deer stalking - synonymous with tweed, the upper classes and exaggerated masculinity - is often rightly the target of ire from animal rights activists.

Brown, despite his job title of head stalker, agrees that the negative connotations are sometimes justified and that sport shooting can be detrimental to regeneration efforts.

Brown and his team, however, practice a responsible brand of deer management that is, as the stalker puts it, "a necessary part of responding to the climate emergency" with every effort taken to "ensure culling is carried out humanely".

Brown, like myself, however, believes that, one day, when the ecosystem damage inflicted by humans is reversed by humans themselves, then our land management role will be very different.

In the centuries to come, when newly regenerated native forests mature and predators such as Lynx are inevitably reintroduced, the role of the deer stalker will become more custodian than controller.

Until then, their role as executioner remains imperative.

Finlay Greig is a Scottish journalist

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Pr

Deer stalking a necessary and urgent evil

Subject: SPORT HUNTING (90%); WEAPONS & ARMS (89%); MAMMALS (86%); ANIMAL RIGHTS (78%); TROPHY HUNTING (78%); SHOOTINGS (75%); MANAGERS & SUPERVISORS (72%); ANIMAL WELFARE (71%); FORESTRY WORKERS (70%); BIODIVERSITY (69%); MEAT FREE DIETS (66%); ANIMAL ABUSE & NEGLECT (64%); DEFORESTATION (64%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (60%)

Industry: FORESTRY WORKERS (70%); DEFORESTATION (64%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (74%); SCOTLAND (74%); 7 North East

Load-Date: February 4, 2022

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Both sides of the rewilding debate are wrong, says woodland expert

Both sides of the rewilding debate are wrong, says woodland expert

Herald Scotland

January 25, 2022 Tuesday

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Length: 2955 words

Byline: [Vicky Allan](#)

Body

THE Scots pine. You would think, from the name, it belonged to us, in **Scotland**, this elegant tree with its scaly salmon-tinged bark. You would think it was part of the long history of these isles, here before us humans.

But, says Ben Rawlence, who looked into the story of the tree while researching his beautiful and affecting book, *The Treeline: The Last Forest And The Future Of Life On Earth*, this is a species with a more complex story.

The pine that we see across **Scotland** is actually of two distinct genetic lineages and was brought to our shores by humans. One was brought by the Celts from the Iberian peninsula, the other by people from Ukraine.

These two populations of Scots pines remain, thousands of years on, genetically distinct, and also separate in distribution.

The pines brought here from the Iberian peninsula cover the landscape to the west of Loch Ness, those from the Ukraine occupy the east of that line.

One of the reasons Rawlence finds them so interesting, he says, is because they are part of a much wider story, which he tells, of how humans and trees have long been interlinked.

What I hope people take away, overall, is that the way that the boreal has evolved in lots of different places is contingent upon humans. It has always been. We have always been entangled with its destiny. We have co-evolved together. And that's just as true for the larch as it is for the spruce as it is for the Scots pine or the birch. The reindeer grazing create the conditions for the birch. It's all interlinked.

He tells the story of six key species which form the treeline, Scots pine, birch, larch, spruce, poplar and rowan, and how climate change is impacting not just their distribution but the lives of the people who have lived for millennia alongside them.

But it's the Scots pine I most want to talk with him about. I've long been a lover myself of the tree the way its branches stretch their needles this way and that seeking out the sun, throwing expressive shapes. I can remember the realisation that this tree that cloaked the edge of **Scottish** lochs, was the same that filled the air with pine scent between holiday campsite and beach in France.

Both sides of the rewilding debate are wrong, says woodland expert

That was an early glimmering that this tree we call Scots may not be ours, later confirmed when a Swedish friend Jannica Honey talked to me for my book, *For The Love Of Trees*, about a pine she called simply the Tall, which, when she found it here, would remind her of home. The tree we call Scots has many homes, and many peoples have a relationship with it.

You only have to go back around 8000 years to find a history in which Scots pine is arriving as an invasive species, brought here from the Iberian peninsula and Ukraine. The name tells us little about where it really came from, and more about the colonising role that Britain had in global history.

As Rawlence puts it, All of this stuff is tangled up with everything else – the dominance of Britain and colonialism; how we see and name things.

Research into genetics and archaeology has uncovered these stories of the tree's past.

READ MORE: [Fellowship of the rings: Why we must protect our ancient trees](#)

The provenance, says Rawlence, of the western group of Scots pine is quite well established. They were brought from Iberia by Celts moving up the river estuaries. There's quite a strong archaeological record of the pines moving up the west coast of Britain and then spreading into Caledonia on time scales which were much faster than they would have been had they been regenerating naturally. The only plausible explanation is that they were brought by humans.

The Celts from Iberia were, he says, effectively travelling with their own habitat, the pine, the tree that provided them with food and other resources, with flour even, which could be made from its bark. Meanwhile, people from Ukraine, where a refugium of Scots pines had lingered since the previous Ice Age were also taking their special tree with them. Recent research has shown that the eastern population of ***Scottish*** pines is genetically very similar to those pines. Again, it was people who brought the tree, as they migrated across to the Sami territories of Norway and then over the North Sea to ***Scotland***.

The tree and the people have both left their mark on the ***Scotland*** of today and its gene pools. The red hair of the Ukrainian migrants, and the black of the Celts, exist alongside the trees that they brought with them. Rawlence says that we even find traces of this migration in folklore and oral history. When he mentioned his research to ethnobotanist Diana Beresford-Kroeger, she immediately connected it to Celtic stories which tell of how Iberians met the Ukrainians somewhere near John O'Groats coming the other way. There is a popular word for people of the Danube who had red hair that comes from this encounter. Those two pieces of historical evidence together with the oral history, are a lovely discovery, he says.

When we think about restoring the lost forests of ***Scotland***, often it's the native pine forest we imagine. But, had these people not brought the pine with them, we might be looking at a very different ***Scotland***, with uplands covered with oak woodland. How does that knowledge, affect what kind of forest we might want to regenerate now?

Rawlence is keen that we don't write humans, who, as he says, have co-evolved with trees, out of both nature's history and its future. I applaud the rewilding efforts, the efforts to recover nature, he says. But it's worth remembering that humans were always there. And the sustainability of those efforts and those landscapes is going to be contingent upon some kind of human interaction whether that's farming, new kinds of wildlife tourism, a hunting economy. We have to have a relationship and an entanglement with it. And hopefully these efforts should also be tied to social justice and access for everybody.

He touches on an important debate, in these times of increasing rewilding. We might ask ourselves what the aims of rewilding really are? What are we trying to restore, and in a time when, due to climate change, the conditions are set to change anyway?

This is the central tension that I was trying to get to in the chapter on ***Scotland***, Rawlence says. Both sides of the rewilding debate are looking back. You've got the existing conservation economy saying it was never like that. You've got the rewilding utopianism of a kind of pristine boreal forest, which we know by 5000

Both sides of the rewilding debate are wrong, says woodland expert

years ago was already gone in the British Isles. Both of their claims, those different claims to the past, are incomplete.\xE2

It was his attempt to follow the boreal treeline \xE2 the northern line that winds across altitude and latitude and is the limits of where trees will grow \xE2 that brought Rawlence to the north of **Scotland** and the story of the Scots pine. Rawlence, who is not an ecologist, but a former Human Rights Watch researcher and political speechwriter, who has, in Wales, set up an education institution to teach \xE2creative and adaptive thinking\xE2 called Black Mountains College. He started to look at this treeline zone when he was on the hunt for a good new subject following his book on Somali refugees, City of Thorns: Nine Lives in the World\xE2s Largest Refugee Camp.

\xE2The Horn of Africa,\xE2 he says, \xE2is a very sensitive area, just like the Arctic. Historically it has had a very stable, very narrow temperature range, with monsoons and very delicate climate patterns which are finely calibrated, which were being disrupted.\xE2 What he noticed was that all the \xE2displacement issues, the conflict and the human rights issues\xE2 he was covering were connected to and driven by this \xE2underlying change\xE2.

\xE2I thought, well, the next thing I want to do is not just go somewhere cold but look at another place where climate change is visible. If we\xE2re going to talk about climate change and we\xE2re going to interrogate what it means, why don\xE2t we go and look at the places where it\xE2s been happening for a long time.\xE2

He went in search of a storyline, a way of communicating the enormous topic of climate, something that would enable him to talk about the way we need to \xE2start thinking about our relationship with the non-human world, with other species.\xE2

In the treeline he found a story which touched on the lives of indigenous peoples, impacted by climate change, but in which trees were the chief protagonist. For the treeline, he observes, has been on the march. \xE2They\xE2ve been moving since World War One,\xE2 he notes.

It\xE2s a movement that in many other parts of the world is visible, and noticeable to those who live there. But not here, in **Scotland**, where, Rawlence says, \xE2you\xE2re not seeing the march because you don\xE2t have the trees. They are gone. There\xE2s only a tiny fraction left. Here in Britain we have been highly successful at annihilating our forest. We\xE2ve got 13 percent tree cover which is the lowest number in Europe. We have annihilated our ancient woodlands, perhaps more than any other country on earth. Research has shown we are one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world.\xE2

Rawlence believes that it\xE2s no coincidence that Britain which \xE2was the driver of the industrial revolution, a pioneer of capitalism, and property rights and enclosure and clearances\xE2 has suffered such extraordinary nature depletion. One of the books he cites as having had a profound influence on him, when he read it 20 years ago, was John Prebble\xE2s The Highland Clearances.

\xE2We\xE2ve absolutely written the text book on how to drive nature to the brink in the service of profit. Wales and **Scotland** and Ireland, are all particularly interesting examples of that. Because the patterns of colonialism and exploitation are written in the landscape.\xE2

One of his first chapters revolves around his search for the treeline in **Scotland**. What\xE2s notable about it is that it seems like the pursuit of some elusive phantom. We have over centuries so stripped our landscape of trees that we no longer know where they might grow, what their limits might be, but nevertheless, Rawlence went hunting for the Cairngorms\xE2 very highest trees.

What he was directed to by ecologists, was, he says, not exactly the treeline, but just the place that was the closest approximation to it. \xE2They\xE2ve got a competition going now to see who can geolocate the highest trees in the Cairngorms, amongst the Cairngorms Connect.\xE2

In theory, Rawlence says, \xE2Scotland is on the boreal treeline\xE2. We were formerly a \xE2boreal nation\xE2 like some of our neighbours. \xE2All of the species in **Scotland** are continuous with Norway and Russia and it\xE2s

Both sides of the rewilding debate are wrong, says woodland expert

exactly the same historical process and exactly the same band of climate niche for those boreal species. But nobody knows where the treeline is because the trees are gone. You don't see the march.

This means that there's a sign here that we are not seeing. When you lose an intact ecosystem, you lose your early warning system. You lose your map of the territory. You lose your guide.

A combination of factors mean that we are not seeing the change. One is that many species are long gone, the other is that, Rawlence describes, we don't have indigenous communities living so closely with nature as there are in other countries. They notice for example in Russia that there's a new grass on the block in the Taiga. They notice that there's a new butterfly that nobody knows the name for. Whereas in **Scotland** the most sensitive species to climate change are probably already gone 100 years ago, 50 years ago. That's why we don't see it. It's because it's already gone and we don't know what we're looking for and we've lost.

Often it's said that our landscapes are missing key species, the **Lynx**, the wolf, the bear, the beaver, many of these so long gone that it's hard to imagine the country with them. But it's also, as Rawlence observes, we are missing humans living closely with the landscape.

There are other losses too. We don't have the kind of indigenous knowledge that Rawlence found in some of the other communities he visited along the treeline. Our indigenous knowledge is very very lost, he says. There are little echoes and tremors and traces of it. But it's been systematically destroyed through superstition and Christian hegemony for a thousand years. You find it in crackpots and the weirdo books in the funny bookshops. It's also in the language. It's in Welsh. It's in Gaelic.

As we face the prospect of a climate crisis, we might want to dig deeper into the past. Knowing the factors that made that past unfold as it did, he says, is vital. If you understand better the contingency of the past, then the future becomes mutable. It becomes possible. It becomes something you can change, rather than this horrible place of powerlessness and denial where the only response to climate change is to run away or to bury your head in the sand, or be cynical.

Meanwhile, the treeline remains elusive in **Scotland**. Is it here, or is it not? Might we, through regeneration, find where it should be? What's exciting about **Scotland** is that if you take the overgrazing out of the picture then you'll see what's going to happen and where the treeline is. It might be already above the top of the mountains. A key aim of Cairngorms Connect is to allow trees to re-establish up to the natural treeline.

Perhaps, he even suggests the whole of the Cairngorms were once entirely covered with forest. Cairn gorm is Gaelic for blue mountains, and he theorises perhaps this is because of the blue-green of the pines.

One of the messages of The Treeline is that we are going to have to soon face a future where the climate is different. For Rawlence is fairly sure that we are on that trajectory towards 2 degrees, not the 1.5 degrees that was the fragile goal of COP26.

80-90 percent of scientists agree that 1.5 degrees is impossible, he says. When I started this research 4 years ago, it might have been argued that 1.5 degrees was in reach, but there's now the reality of physics to contend with. And the other reality which has been a feature in my life is the reality of politics and I just know that the system is not going to shift that fast. So even if physically it was possible, politically I know the hard limits of where we are and I despair of the ability to shift.

Rawlence's despair at politics partly comes from his experience of working within it. In the run up to the Iraq war, he was a speechwriter for Charles Kennedy and lead for the Liberal Democrats for the campaign against that war.

READ MORE:**Rewild Scotland**: "Beavers in all rivers. **Lynx** and wolf back."

I used to wake up, he recalls, with nightmares about Tony Blair, frustrated with the fact we could win the argument and popular opinion, and yet with oil and the US and [President] Bush it's happening and

Both sides of the rewilding debate are wrong, says woodland expert

there's nothing you can do. I had a very visceral experience of the unresponsiveness of the democratic system. I saw how fossil capital was hardwired into the system. Not just fossil capital but capital more broadly, and that you cannot extricate capital from its principal energy source. Without fossil fuels it doesn't work.

He places little hope in the processes of international summits like COP26. He calls the over-focussing on emissions carbon reductionism and dismisses net zero as a dangerous delusion. I think hopefully what the book shows you is that nature is really complicated, that carbon is a system that's in flux all the time, with enormous volatility. If you want to use the econometric metaphor like net zero, then you have to acknowledge that this is false accounting.

Nature, he says, is supremely complicated. It's those communities he features in the books who live closely with it that understand it best.

Rawlence has uncovered a fascinating story about the history of the Scots pine in *Scotland*, but what about its future? There, what he has found is not nearly so lovely. Startlingly, he notes that climate change may mean that it disappears from our landscape. This is a prediction he came across in various scientific papers, which to him felt earthshattering, but which he noted was not front page news, nor had it even really been explored by journalists.

He first noticed mention of the possibility in an RSPB handbook to Abernethy forest and that referenced models from the Met Office and University of Oregon which talked about climate velocity and the survivability of Scots pines at various latitudes. It didn't take much, he says, to join the dots and say that if they were gone at 63 degrees north and were at 57, that means that they're gone.

It sounds shocking and it might not arrive on the timescales that the models predict, but at some point in the next century if the warming trajectory continues as at present and we get to 2C in the next decade and 4C by 2100, then yes it does mean that there won't be any more Scots pines in *Scotland*.

That's a terrible thought. But hopefully that will give people pause and they will start to engage more with not just rewilding, but nature recovery and strategic ecology and thinking more broadly about our landscape and how we relate to it and what we need from it.

The Treeline: The Last Forest and the Future of Life on Earth by Ben Rawlence is published by Jonathan Cape

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: LIFE FORMS (78%); ISLANDS & REEFS (77%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (92%); FRANCE (73%); UKRAINE (71%)

Load-Date: January 25, 2022

It's getting hard to keep up with a' the ootrage caused by Boris and his mates

It's getting hard to keep up with a' the ootrage caused by Boris and his mates

Aberdeen Press and Journal

January 15, 2022 Saturday

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Section: AGD; Pg. 27

Length: 634 words

Byline: The Flying Pigs

Body

View from the Midden with Jock Alexander

It's been a totally rules-compliant wik in the village. As sae mony of us have been obeying the rules as required, so it follows that folk here are up tae high doh aboot Boris's latest ootrage.

There's even mair ootrage than the previous tranche o' ootrage over the ootrage we found oot aboot last wik. I've stairted pitting them a' intae a wee bookie cos there's been at much, ye lose track. I dinna think I'm aleen.

I've seen mair comments and funny picters (or "meems" as the young eens cry them) on the social medias aboot this een than the last een. I da ken if this shows the mood o' the country, but it certainly suggests that much o' the country is in a mood.

Boris says he thought it wiz a work meeting and nae a party as it wiz outside in his gairden, fit he considers an extension of his office. Weel I can relate tae this. Certainly my ain place of work is largely ootside, including, as it does several affa boggy fields.

And, like the attendees at the Downing Street soirée last May, I usually hiv a bucket an a. Although in my case it's jist for pitting the sharn in.

Onywyne, it's a' kickin' aff wi' the Tories. **Scottish** leader Douglas Ross said Boris should resign, so Jacob Rees-Mogg called him "a lightweight figure", fit I wid pit doon tae his years o' running the lines as a fitba linesman and ref.

Then he cried the secretary o' state for **Scotland**, Alister Jack, a "heavyweight". I dinna think Jacob Rees Mogg should be fat-shaming his colleagues like at. OK, he's got a bit o' a tummy on him, but fa disnae at oor age?

He a funny sort o' gink, is he, Rees-Mogg? He ayewis minds me on a loon fa's dressed up in his grandad's demob suit for the school play.

On Thursday, Boris pulled oot o' a trip tae Lancashire as a family member has Covid. A constant risk, given that naeb'dy kens foony kids he's got. Fit a shame that he hiv tae stay inside in isolation jist fan he might have expected the very warmest of receptions fae the public.

But at least, efter twa years, he's started tae obey his ain rules. Maks a fine change.

It's getting hard to keep up with a' the ootrage caused by Boris and his mates

Cheerio!

Cava Kenny Cordiner, the football pundit who never settled out of court

Football fans got good news this week, with Nicola Sturgeon saying that we can all pile into the stands again from Monday. I'm not an expert on incommunicology, but I am delighted that the Codona's Virus has decided not to enter football stadiums just in time for the end of the winter break.

This is great news for the Dandies, who face The Rangers on Tuesday night in a classic three-pointer at Pittodrie.

The Rangers gets a lot of stick from the Dons fans because, while they are technologically a brand new club, they still claim all the titles what the original club won. Even the ones they got while they was fiddling their taxes.

But, inadvertently, their example could be a lifeboat for another national figure what has come a cropper.

Poor Prince Andrew has had a difficult few months. He's had his good name dragged through the mud, had to exclude himself from lucrative *Lynx* advertising contracts by admitting that he can't sweat, and been forced to relive the hell of a trip to Pizza Express in Woking.

On top of that, the poor lad has had to hand back all of his royal and military titles to the Queen. My old mum once constipated my Mitre size five after I got mud all over her washing playing headers and volleys in our drying green, so I can really emphasise with how Andrew must be feeling.

I says to her I says: "Come on, mum, it's only mud." And she says: "Mud sticks, Kenneth, especially when it's proper thick mud like that and it's definitely your fault."

But, if Andrew follows *Scottish* football, he'll know that there is a solution. All he has to do is start calling his self "The" Prince Andrew and all that titles will be his again.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Pr

Subject: SPORTS OFFICIATING (89%); SHAMING (67%); RESIGNATIONS (66%); COVID CORONAVIRUS (65%); SETTLEMENT & COMPROMISE (65%); UK POLITICAL PARTIES (64%); SPORTS FANS (63%); WEIGHTISM (62%); LITIGATION (60%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, *SCOTLAND* (74%); *SCOTLAND* (92%); 7 North East

Load-Date: January 15, 2022

Rewilding: Luxury wedding venue vows to bring back nature on Scotland's east coast

Rewilding: Luxury wedding venue vows to bring back nature on Scotland's east coast

Scotsman

January 6, 2022 Thursday

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Section: ENVIRONMENT HUMAN INTEREST OUTDOORS BARS AND PUBS FOOD AND DRINK ENVIRONMENT CLIMATE CHANGE NATURE CONSERVATION TOURISM AND LEISURE REPLACE SCOTLAND

Length: 1082 words

Byline: Ilona Amos, iamos@scotsman.com

Highlight: More than 2,000 trees have been planted as part of a new rewilding project at a luxury wedding venue on the picturesque east coast of **Scotland**, helping fight climate change and reverse the loss of native plants and animals.

Body

Around 100 acres of former farmland will be returned to nature as part of the scheme at Kinkell Byre, an exclusive events venue based in a converted barn overlooking the sea near St Andrews.

Work has already got under way after the venue was awarded £27,150 from the **Scottish** Government's Nature Restoration Fund.

The grant will enable the creation of a large, connected network of rewilded land to the south-east of St Andrews, where the former arable and livestock farm is located.

Trees and hedgerows will be planted and wetland created on the site, which includes 70 acres of grass fields and 30 acres of cliffs.

Rewilding the land at Kinkell will allow natural processes to take hold once again and will reverse the loss of biodiversity caused by years of intensive farming.

The work will encourage the return of native plants, insects, bees, birds, and larger animals.

Increased diversity of the plantlife will also capture more carbon from the atmosphere, helping combat climate change.

As well as environmental benefits, the project is expected to create new job opportunities in the area.

Rory Fyfe, project manager at Kinkell Byre, said: "By Rewilding Kinkell we hope to bring back lost wildlife, enriching our environment and providing multiple ecological benefits."

Rewilding: Luxury wedding venue vows to bring back nature on Scotland's east coast

"In addition, helping to create a richer ecology near St Andrews will broaden local opportunities for educational and community engagement with nature and will create green jobs."

Rewilding is defined as the large-scale restoration of ecosystems to the point where nature is able to take care of itself.

Projects seek to reinstate natural processes and where appropriate bring back missing species, allowing them to shape the landscape and the habitats within.

The aim is to encourage a balance between people and nature, allowing both to thrive.

READ MORE: [*Rewilding: 'Before' and 'after' pictures show transformation of Scottish glen into wildlife haven and visitor hotspot*](#)

Rewilding can provide opportunities for communities to diversify and create nature-based economies; for living systems to provide the ecological functions on which we all depend; and for people to reconnect with the outside world.

The concept has grown in popularity in recent years, with a number of high-profile schemes taking place across **Scotland**.

These include the biggest of its kind in the UK – an ambitious 30-year plan that will see up to half a million acres of land in the Highlands brought back to a healthy natural state.

The **Scottish** Government's Nature Restoration Fund supports a range of urban, rural, marine, and coastal projects to address the twin crises of biodiversity loss and climate change.

It specifically encourages applicants with projects that will increase the biodiversity and environmental value of land and sea, with a focus on habitats and species and supporting green skills, training, and jobs where possible.

Successful projects will contribute to national goals for a green recovery from Covid-19 and a nature-rich future for **Scotland**.

Rewilding Kinkell is one of 54 successful projects across the country to benefit from an additional £5 million of support committed in the latest round of the Nature Restoration Fund.

The projects aim to take practical steps to improve natural habitats, safeguard plant and animal species and improve biodiversity.

The 2021 Nature Restoration Fund adds to **Scottish** Government funding delivered through the Biodiversity Challenge Fund, **Scottish** Rural Development Programme and other sources to support biodiversity and help to deliver **Scotland's** Biodiversity Strategy.

Biodiversity minister and **Scottish** Greens MSP Lorna Slater said: "Too much of **Scotland's** natural environment is degraded after years of over-exploitation, but this government is committed to restoring nature and our wildlife.

READ MORE: [*Going wild: How Scots are working to save nature through rewilding*](#)

"The Nature Restoration Fund will play a big role in delivering these aspirations, and the projects we are funding today are just the beginning.

"The Fund kick-starts a new approach, supporting longer-term, larger, landscape-scale projects across **Scotland** – on land and at sea – that address the twin crises of biodiversity loss and climate change.

"Over this parliament we will invest at least £65 million through the fund, delivering real change that people and nature will benefit from across the whole country."

Rewilding: Luxury wedding venue vows to bring back nature on Scotland's east coast

Francesca Osowska, chief executive of national agency NatureScot, said the United Nations climate summit COP26, held in Glasgow last November, had driven home the urgency of the environmental crisis.

"But there is hope," she said.

"By restoring nature, protecting, and enhancing habitats and safeguarding marine life we can look forward to a nature-positive future.

Scotland is taking action now to meet the huge challenges and pressures that nature is facing and it is projects like these that will make the difference and set us on the road to recovery.

"Climate change needs nature-based solutions, not only to help us reach net zero by 2045 but to create a healthier, more resilient **Scotland**."

READ MORE: [Rewilding: Augmented reality app gives live tour of land after nature takeover](#)

Natural processes include: seasonal change; the cycle of life and death for plants and animals; weather; and geological processes such as erosion, deposition and earthquakes.

They can also be driven by animal behaviour such as grazing, seasonal migrations, reactions to weather or responses to predators.

But many of these processes have been interrupted, damaged or broken by human activities – through the damming, straightening, widening and deepening of rivers and waterways, burning of peatlands, draining of wetlands, extermination of predators such as wolf and **Lynx**, killing and conserving of particular plants and animals, introduction of non-native species, deforestation, replacement of broadleaf woodland with coniferous plantations and other moves.

Rewilding is about working with nature to get the foundations of life working again.

A key principle is the belief that nature may not need intervention and can lead its own recovery if missing and damaged natural processes are restored or replaced.

A message from the Editor:

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Graphic

[Around 100 acres of former farmland and clifftops on the east coast of Scotland will be turned over to nature as part of a new rewilding project at Kinkell Byre, which has been awarded a £27,150 grant from the Scottish Government's Nature Restoration Fund](#)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Rewilding: Luxury wedding venue vows to bring back nature on Scotland's east coast

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: AGRICULTURAL LANDS (90%); ANIMALS (90%); CLIMATE CHANGE (90%); COASTAL AREAS (90%); LIFE FORMS (90%); WEDDINGS & ENGAGEMENTS (90%); BIODIVERSITY (89%); ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (89%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (89%); WEDDING INDUSTRY (89%); WILDLIFE (89%); JOB CREATION (87%); CONSERVATION (79%); GREEN ECONOMY (79%); BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION (78%); ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION (78%); LAND RECLAMATION (78%); WETLANDS (78%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (77%); FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS (77%); SALTWATER ECOSYSTEMS (77%); INSECTS & ARACHNIDS (75%); PROJECT MANAGEMENT (73%); EMPLOYMENT SEARCH (72%); MANAGERS & SUPERVISORS (69%); INFECTIOUS DISEASE (60%); COVID CORONAVIRUS (50%); COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS (50%)

Industry: AGRICULTURAL LANDS (90%); WEDDING INDUSTRY (89%); GREEN ECONOMY (79%); LIVESTOCK (73%); PUBLISHING (73%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (93%); UNITED KINGDOM (58%)

Load-Date: January 5, 2022

End of Document

Capy New Year from zoo babies

Scottish Express

January 3, 2022 Monday

Edition 1, Scotland

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 27

Length: 101 words

Byline: Tess de la Mare

Body

ZOOKEEPERS were treated to their own Christmas births with the arrival of two capybara pups.

Exmoor Zoo in Devon saw the Christmas Day arrivals, with the unseasonably mild weather perfect for the newborns. Capybaras are part of the same rodent family as guinea pigs, but adults often grow to the size of a sheep.

Zoo director Danny Reynolds said: "New arrivals at the zoo are always exciting and even better getting a present like this on Christmas Day."

The pups added to the zoo's December birth tally, with a caracal *lynx* kitten born earlier in the month. The cat is native to Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

Graphic

Happy zoo year...the new capybara pups and, below left, caracal kitten
Pictures: PA, TOBY MELVILLE/REUTERS (CARRIE)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DXPscot

Subject: CHRISTMAS (91%); MAMMALS (90%); WILD CATS (90%)

Capy New Year from zoo babies

Industry: ZOOS & AQUARIUMS (90%)

Geographic: AFRICA (56%); ASIA (52%); MIDDLE EAST (52%); Scotland

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End of Document

Europe's farmers count the cost of large carnivores

The Scottish Farmer

January 2022

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Length: 677 words

Byline: [Gordon Davidson](#)

Body

EUROPEAN FARMERS are under 'constant threat' from the large carnivores now thriving across the continent under the strict protection of conservation law.

Calling for a change in that law to achieve a better balance between predators and people, Michèle Boudoin, chairwoman of the Sheep Working Party at EU farm union Copa-Cogeca, warned that there was 'unchecked and unlimited' growth in the populations of wolves, bears and *Lynx*, with huge impacts on agriculture.

"As a livestock farmer, you suffer the loss of your flock, the loss of your income, the increase in costs of labour and material, and having to use your own funds to finance 20 % of the protection measures deployed," said Ms Boudoin. "On top of this comes the psychological pressure of having to be constantly on the lookout in fear of the next attack, and not knowing whether the flock will survive the night. Some farmers have even taken to sleeping with their flock in sleeping bags, away from their families and their homes, in order to protect their livelihoods."

Read more:

[*Lynx* reintroduction study shunned by farming representatives](#) Rewilding with top predators Predators need managing for nature to thrive

"As an inhabitant of a rural area, you now must live there in the knowledge that the village you have known your entire life or which you have chosen to live is no longer safe. As a hiker or tourist, you are even more at risk because you deliberately walk about the countryside where predators which may not have been there five years ago are now numerous and aggressive," she said,

Compensation payments for the damage caused to animals, assets and local infrastructure cost European taxpayers £228.5 million in the last recorded year, and the average cost per predator per year between 2005 and 2013 has been calculated at £22400 for wolves and £1800 for bears.

"But the true cost is not only monetary £2 it also lies in the psychological affect this can have on humans and domestic animals," said Ms Boudoin. "Livestock farmers suffer from psychological damage caused by injuries, abortions, drops in fertility or the loss of the entire flock. Livestock guardian dogs, which are financed in part by the EU, are often killed or wounded due to the intensity of the physical force with which predators attack."

"The lack of action by the EU on this issue is leading to serious harm to the welfare of animals, almost as though livestock were considered superfluous and it were considered normal for them to suffer so that the wild species may survive. Initially there had been concern about the dwindling numbers of these species of predators, now, however,

Europe's farmers count the cost of large carnivores

with nothing to restrain their attacks, the free availability of food is allowing their populations to increase exponentially and uncontrollably."

Ms Boudoin's own experience as a farmer in France is that that the French Wolf Plan's measures, preventative as well as financial, are 'ineffective and dangerous', and deeply unfair as the funding comes directly from either the CAP budget or farmers' own pockets.

"If civil society and the Commission want wolves, bears and *Lynx* to roam our lands, they should finance them with funds that are not from the CAP, and should ensure that farmers are not the only ones suffering financially. Every year, funds are taken from the CAP budget to establish measures, which clearly do not achieve their objective, but instead only deprive farmers of funds they could use for more important economic purposes," she said.

But more urgently, she also proposed that the strict protection on Europe's large carnivores be lowered, to allow lethal control where needed: "We have had a solution to this problem since the dawn of time, which consisted in appropriate and proportionate protection from attacks. The Habitats Directive, which is thirty years old, has upset this order of things by leaving humans and domestic animals exposed to attacks, while the Commission stands idly by. When will the Commission take action to protect its livestock farmers, its citizens and its domestic animals?"

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: CONSERVATION (90%); MAMMALS (90%); ANIMALS (89%); EUROPEAN UNION (89%); POPULATION GROWTH (89%); ANIMAL WELFARE (78%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (78%); WILD CATS (78%); WOUNDS & INJURIES (75%); HIKING (71%)

Industry: ANIMAL FARMING & BREEDING (89%); LIVESTOCK (89%); FARMERS & RANCHERS (78%)

Geographic: EUROPE (90%); EUROPEAN UNION MEMBER STATES (90%)

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End of Document

Rewilding Scotland: Nature's wins from 2021 and priorities for 2022

Edinburgh Evening News

December 29, 2021 Wednesday

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Section: ENVIRONMENTENVIRONMENT

Length: 1022 words

Byline: Rachael Davies, rachael.davies@jpimedia.co.uk

Highlight: As 2021 comes to a close, what's been achieved in the ***Scottish*** rewilding landscape in the last year and what's on the agenda for 2022?

Body

Scotland has a global reputation for its rewilding efforts, ranging from sea and land projects to river and community-focused projects.

Rewilding, although definitions vary depending on the organisation, broadly refers to the process of restoring ecosystems to their original, uncultivated state.

Not only is this good for the local wildlife and human communities, it also often helps with ecological recovery and helps to reduce the effects of [climate change](#).

In ***Scotland***, with such a diverse range of ecosystems, these projects can look quite different.

[Read more: Call for ***Scotland*** to become world's first Rewilding Nation.](#)

With the effects of the climate crisis being seen more and more around the world, with extreme weather, flooding, droughts, and forest fires becoming more common, among other things, [rewilding initiatives](#) have never been more important.

Here's a look back at what has been achieved in 2021 when it comes to rewilding, as well as what's on the priority list as we move into 2022.

[Read more: 'Before' and 'after' pictures show transformation of ***Scottish*** glen into wildlife haven and visitor hotspot.](#)

Scottish rewilding wins from 2021

Peter Cairns, Executive Director of ***Scotland***: The Big Picture, a nationwide rewilding charity, looks back on 2021 and highlights two different types of success: symbolic and physical.

Rewilding Scotland: Nature's wins from 2021 and priorities for 2022

It's vital to have both types of these successes, to continue both the immediate effects of rewilding on **Scottish** ecosystems and spread awareness of its importance across the country.

Symbolic success for communities

When it comes to symbolism, an important project for Cairns is the sea wilding project in Argyll.

"The significance of it is that it is community-led," he says. "You've got a group of people come together to effectively rewild the sea loch at Craignish. What it does, of course, is signpost to other communities that they can do similar things."

Another community-focused success was the land buyout on the Langholm Moors, where the community-led Langholm Initiative successfully bought 5,200 acres of the Langholm Moor and Tarras Valley after financial backing from over 4,000 people.

Seeing projects like this come from the community are vital, not only because it means that people can do something for the land they live on themselves, but also because projects that have the support of the local community are the ones with the most potential to last.

For example, global search engine Ecosia uses the money made from searches via their search engine to fund biodiversity and tree-planting projects around the world, including several in **Scotland** this year.

Some of the first questions tree planters ask when starting a project are what the people in the community actually want and need.

"That's not something that you have to start thinking about five to ten years after planting - that's what you have to start with," notes Pieter Van Midwoud, Chief Tree Planting Officer at Ecosia. "The key factor for the longevity of your project is that the local people believe and drive this project."

[Read more: Nine animals made extinct in **Scotland** since the Roman occupation.](#)

Rewilding wins for **Scotland**

Of course, symbolism alone isn't enough to keep **Scotland**'s **natural** systems thriving.

Cairns notes that there have been a number of private individuals and companies buying land in order to pursue restorative nature projects.

"Some of them wouldn't necessarily call it rewilding, but, irrespective of what you call it, the emphasis is turning towards nature restoration and recovery," Peter says.

There has also been a strong focus on river restoration in 2021, which doesn't only support ecosystems to help species like Atlantic salmon survive, but also help mitigate the effects of climate change.

As one example, the Eddleston Water project received financial support from the **Scottish** Government, with a focus on restoring the river while reducing the risk and damage from flooding at the same time.

Similarly, the **Scottish** Government has backed various **peatland restoration** projects which may have huge potential when it comes to carbon storage.

When it comes to **Scotland**: The Big Picture themselves, a recent win for the charity was its Northwoods project, which enjoys the collaboration of 35 partners from across the country.

"These are just normal people going about their business, but they want to do something for nature restoration," Cairns explains. "Across the country, at a very small scale and at a large scale, across diverse settings and with

Rewilding Scotland: Nature's wins from 2021 and priorities for 2022

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Scottish rewilding priorities for 2022

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Similarly, looking into whether **Scotland** is ready to reintroduce **Lynx** to the countryside.

Reintroducing species like these that have died out in their natural habitats is a vital part of rewilding, as it helps to establish a healthy, genetically diverse, self-sustaining population.

You need all the different players of an ecosystem to be able to thrive in order to regain strong biodiversity in the area and for the space to eventually thrive on its own.

More broadly in the rewilding community across **Scotland**, more and more businesses have begun to take an interest in rewilding or nature restoration projects.

"There is a tension around the business community stepping up and taking responsibility for their carbon stroke, biodiversity footprint," explains Cairns. "Most people would agree that that's a positive step, but at the opposite end of that extreme, of course, you've got big corporate institutions buying a great chunks of land to effectively greenwash their pollution."

"It'll be interesting to see where that relationship between the business sector and rewilding rolls out over the next few years."

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[Peatlands are a vital "carbon sink", currently storing more carbon than all the world's vegetation, and research shows that they will store even more carbon in the future than was previously believed. Photo: Alex Whittle.](#)

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Industry: PUBLISHING (73%); SEARCH ENGINES (63%)

Geographic: EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND (89%); SCOTLAND (95%)

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Rewilding Scotland: Nature's wins from 2021 and priorities for 2022

Scotsman

December 29, 2021 Wednesday

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Edinburgh-based business angel syndicate Archangels cheers record year of investment

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Edinburgh Evening News

December 27, 2021 Monday

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Section: BUSINESSBUSINESS

Length: 580 words

Byline: Emma Newlands

Highlight: Archangels, one of Scotland's top investment syndicates, has revealed that it led investments totalling a record sum of nearly £24 million in promising Scottish tech and life sciences companies in 2021, up significantly from the previous year.

Body

The Edinburgh-based business angel investment group said it has seen a “packed” year of corporate activity with 11 investments amounting to £23.7m, a year-on-year jump of 44 per cent from £16.3m.

In total, in 2021 Archangels invested £11.8m of its members’ cash, up 46 per cent on 2020, and co-investors this year included Scottish Enterprise, Maven Capital Partners, Par Equity, Sands Capital Ventures, and private equity house NVM.

Investments by Archangels included an initial injection of more than £1 million in BioCaptiva, which has developed a novel next-generation “liquid biopsy” technology device that it is believed could revolutionise the early diagnosis and monitoring of difficult-to-detect cancers.

Scottish Enterprise were co-investors in the seed funding round for the University of Edinburgh spin-out. BioCaptiva also announced the appointments of Dr Frank M Armstrong as chairman and Dr Stephen Little as a non-executive director and investment director.

READ MORE: [Edinburgh investment syndicate Archangels pumps more cash into Scots tech firms in 2020](#)

Archangels cited other highlights from this year such as Calcivis, the Edinburgh-based dental technology company, completing a £1.52m equity fund raise, led by the business angel investment group and also featuring investment from Scottish Enterprise and healthcare and life science -focused fund Lynx Financial in preparation of the US launch of what is billed as the world’s first biotechnology-based dental imaging system.

Additionally, Archangels co-founder Mike Rutherford received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the UK Business Angels Association Angel Investment Awards, which the Edinburgh-based organisation said recognised his 29-

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year-long contribution to business angel investing in the UK, alongside that of his Archangels co-founder Barry Sealey.

Mr Rutherford has [previously said of forming the organisation with Mr Sealey](#): "We both believed that we had done well out of **Scotland** and wanted to put something back... We didn't set out to create a business angel movement. In fact, at that time the phrase business angel was unknown."

Pioneers

Regarding Archangels' performance this year, joint MD David Ovens commented: "Our 2021 investment performance demonstrates our ongoing commitment to investing in promising **Scottish** businesses that are at the leading edge of innovation in their field.

"**Scotland**'s tech and life sciences markets are as vibrant as they have ever been, and there's no shortage of great ideas coming from **Scottish** inventors, change-makers and innovators."

Formed in 1992, Archangels says it now comprises around 100 investor members and leads investment of around £15m a year in early-stage **Scottish** companies, including leverage from partners. It is interested in **Scottish** tech firms looking for initial funding of £50,000 to £2m.

Its latest update comes after it in July [announced its performance for the first half](#), saying it had seen the amount of investment it had led jump by about a third year on year to £12.4m.

The latest news on its activity also follows peer Equity Gap [recently hailing a key investment milestone](#) following its "most successful year to date".

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Rewilding Scotland's wildernesses should be accompanied by 'renaturing' its farms – Philip Lymbery

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Scotsman

December 13, 2021 Monday

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THE SCOTSMAN

Section: COLUMNISTSFOOD AND DRINKENVIRONMENTINVERNESS, HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

Length: 1087 words

Byline: Philip Lymbery, newsdeskts@scotsman.com

Highlight: Some things stay with you forever – like my first ever sighting of a golden eagle. I remember it like yesterday.

Body

The freshness of a spring day as I walked through the hidden glen of Findhorn Valley, a secretive corner of the Highlands. A magical place where towering hills with cliff-edges overlook a chattering river. A trio of mountain hares looked up then scurried away. A weasel took more of an interest in them than me. Skimming the river was a courting pair of common sandpipers, curious wading birds, the male's flight like a butterfly.

That's where I saw one of the most awe-inspiring sights in the natural world: a golden eagle, powerful with broad, angular wings and piercing eyes, soaring close above me. I was dumbstruck. Wowed by the sheer splendour of a bird I'd longed to see since childhood.

Although 25 years ago now, the memory gives me goosebumps. When I return to **Scotland**'s countryside, I still feel that same sense of uplifting energy, being amongst rugged scenescapes and life-enhancing wilderness.

Yet, those same sweeping valleys and soaring mountains belie a lingering sadness. Uplands and craggy glens covered by close-cropped grass tell a story of nature in retreat.

READ MORE: [We need to talk about food and farming if we are to avoid a planetary tailspin – Philip Lymbery](#)

Too many sheep and deer

Much of **Scotland** used to be covered in forest. Today, native woodland covers but four per cent of the total land area. The demise of our once-wooded land led David Lloyd George to say in 1919 that Britain "[had more nearly lost the war for want of timber than of anything else](#)".

Scotland's Caledonian Forest contains some of our rarest wildlife and is considered one of Britain's last remaining areas of wilderness. Home to the wildcat, pine marten, red squirrel, crested tit, capercaillie and golden eagle, its magnificent Scots pines can reach ages of 150 to 300 years, representing living monuments in the countryside.

Rewilding Scotland's wildernesses should be accompanied by 'renaturing' its farms – Philip Lymbery

With their flaking-bark appearance and smoky foliage, Scots pines are a primal building block in one of the most important ecosystems, ***Scotland***'s temperate rainforest.

Long gone are the aurochs, brown bears, ***Lynx*** and wolves that once roamed the 'Great Wood of Caledon'. Since Viking times, the Caledonian Forest has been under siege. More recently, the pace of change has quickened. Between 1960 and 1990, half of what remained was destroyed. Today, 98 per cent of the original native pinewoods have gone.

Less than 20,000 hectares of the once mighty forest remain in isolated fragments, pegged back by too many sheep and deer, which nibble the saplings and prevent much-needed regeneration.

Looked at through the lens of what has been lost, ***Scotland***'s world-famous green vistas and treeless hills have been described by [*leading conservationist Alan Watson Featherstone*](#) as a "devastated landscape".

Soil depletion

Featherstone's charity, Trees for Life, has recently launched an ambitious 30-year recovery plan to rewild a majestic sweep of the ***Scottish*** Highlands, bringing back a great swathe of Caledonian Forest.

The [*Affric Highlands initiative*](#) aims to establish a vast nature recovery area, covering half a million acres from Loch Ness, across the central Highlands, encompassing Glens Cannich, Affric and Shiel. It's an exciting plan on a huge landscape scale.

As a lifelong nature enthusiast, rewilding – the mass restoration of ecosystems – is hugely invigorating. It is also a vital component of what is needed if we are to hand over a liveable planet to future generations. Thriving ecosystems provide the air we breathe, the water we drink and the food we eat.

As well as bringing back the wild by regenerating ecosystems such as Scots pinewoods, there is another major opportunity to restore our countryside – by 'renaturing' farmland.

Like the Caledonian Forest, much of our farmland has been ravaged. Agricultural intensification has led to bigger fields, chemical-soaked arable monocultures, the depletion of our soils, and many of our farm animals either disappearing into industrial farms or being banished to the uplands. The age-old wisdom of mixed farming, where both crops and animals are rotated in a way that maintains nature's balance, has largely been swept away.

Farm animals living as if wild

Renaturing holds the key to a new future for the countryside, as demonstrated by pioneers of nature-friendly farming.

Approaches differ wildly; from those reinstating wildlife edges on their farms – "20 per cent at the edges for nature, 80 per cent in the middle to feed the world" – to those like Simon Cutter, award-winning regenerative farmer in Ross-on-Wye, who abandoned the chemicals and restored cattle, sheep and pigs as rotational grazers and foragers. Wildlife and soil health bounced back as a result.

Then there is the audacious approach of the [*Knepp Estate in West Sussex*](#), where the battle to make a living from difficult farmland has been won by letting nature run riot.

Fields that had been intensively farmed have been given free rein to get back to nature, establishing a thriving woodland pasture where farm animals can live as wild among returning wildlife. It's an inspiring tale told brilliantly in Isabella Tree's book, Wilding.

Restoring balance

Rewilding Scotland's wildernesses should be accompanied by 'renaturing' its farms – Philip Lymbery

The beauty of ending the forced segregation of crops and farmed animals so characteristic of intensive agriculture is that it can help us move away from overgrazing in the uplands and soil-destroying nature-depletion in the lowlands.

By returning farm animals to the land in the right way – as rotational grazers or foragers, interspersed with crops – amazing things happen. They can express their natural behaviours – running, flapping, grazing – making for happier animals with better immunity, which reduces the need for veterinary antibiotics.

It cuts reliance on chemical pesticides and fertilisers, so reducing costs to farmers, and creates a varied landscape, bursting with wildflowers that lure back pollinating bumblebees, as well as providing food and lodging for birds and other wildlife.

To me, renaturing the countryside offers a way to provide truly sustainable food and a lifelong inspiration akin to that memory of my first Scottish eagle.

Philip Lymbery is global chief executive of Compassion in World Farming International and United Nations Food Systems Champion. He is on Twitter [@philip_ciwf](#)

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Graphic

A golden eagle is a magnificent sight (Picture: Getty Images/iStockphoto)

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Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: BIRDS (90%); MOUNTAINS (90%); MAMMALS (89%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (89%); WILD CATS (78%); WILDLIFE (78%); FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS (77%); WILDERNESS (77%); ENVIRONMENTALISM (68%); RAIN FORESTS (65%)

Industry: PUBLISHING (73%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (93%)

Load-Date: December 10, 2021

Rewilding Scotland's wildernesses should be accompanied by 'renaturing' its farms – Philip Lymbery

End of Document

Lynx youth given Scots opportunity

Aberdeen Press and Journal

December 10, 2021 Friday

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Section: SPT; Pg. 52

Length: 520 words

Byline: Sophie Goodwin

Body

Four Aberdeen Lynx players have been selected to represent Scotland at a Conference showcase in Sheffield at Under-17, 15 and 13 levels.

Jack Hutton, Logan Gordon, Zac Thomson and Shay Stephen have all been selected for their respective age group after a rigorous process of trials that took place over two days in Dundee.

The players were put through their paces and each fought for a place, with each coach changing their approach so they could see as much of the talent and skill of the players as possible.

Aberdeen Lynx's junior head coach, Owen Reynolds, has been involved with each of the boys' journeys since they first started ice hockey, and is immensely proud that they have been selected for the Scotland squad.

He said: "I was with them when they were just taking their first steps on to the ice so I've worked with all of these kids since they've started playing hockey.

"I'm extremely proud. As far as the juniors are concerned, Aberdeen is more of a development club and our main focus is on attracting new players and trying to grow the sport locally.

"But to get our established and experienced players acknowledged by the national team is brilliant and it's a good reflection of where the club is going as well."

Reynolds, who is also the Under-17's Scotland coach, knows how hard the trial process is and admits that cutting players from the national side selection feels as if he is "crushing kids' dreams".

But the head coach believes that the Aberdeen Lynx players' selection is a fair reflection of the boys' commitment to the sport, with their deserved selection showing other Aberdeen Lynx players what it's possible to achieve in ice hockey.

Reynolds added: "At the trials, there is only so much the coaches can see of these players over a short period of time. It's always going to be really close.

"Our players being selected has shown that we are getting there in terms of competitiveness, and it shows the other kids in the club what is achievable.

"Some of our kids play for the fun of it and the social aspect, but some want to take it as far as they can."

Lynx youth given Scots opportunity

Reynolds believes that Hutton, the eldest of the group, is somebody that all of the players should look up to, having cemented a regular place in the Aberdeen **Lynx** senior team at the aged of just 16.

The junior coach believes that Hutton's selection for the **Scotland** squad is a reflection of the teenager's commitment to his sport, despite being at an age where distractions might exist.

He said: "Jack is a role model for other kids because when you get to your teenage years there's a lot of distractions that can easily pull you away from sport.

"But he is someone who is really into his keep fit and his wellness which is great to see in a young sportsperson.

"He's set a really high bar for others to try and achieve. It would be normal for players to be 18 or 19 before they get their chance to play in the **Scottish** National League."

Hutton, Gordon, Thomson and Stephens will now take part in 10 training sessions as part of the **Scotland** squad, before travelling to Sheffield to play in a showcase Conference event against the other home nations.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Pr

Subject: WINTER SPORTS (90%); COACHES & TRAINERS (89%); ICE HOCKEY (89%); MENTORS & ROLE MODELS (78%); DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS (73%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, **SCOTLAND** (90%); DUNDEE, **SCOTLAND** (74%); **SCOTLAND** (94%); 7 North East

Load-Date: December 10, 2021

End of Document

Scots call for ice warriors

Aberdeen Evening Express

December 10, 2021 Friday

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Section: SPT; Pg. 32

Length: 515 words

Byline: Sophie Goodwin

Body

Four Aberdeen Lynx ice hockey players have been selected to represent Scotland at a Conference showcase in Sheffield at U17, U15 and U13 levels.

Jack Hutton, Logan Gordon, Zac Thomson and Shay Stephen have been selected after rigorous trials over two days in Dundee.

Aberdeen Lynx junior head coach Owen Reynolds is glad to see that their hard work pay off.

He said: "I've worked with all of these kids since they've started playing hockey.

"I'm extremely proud. As far as the juniors are concerned, Aberdeen is more of a development club and our main focus is on attracting new players and trying to grow the sport locally. But to get our established and experienced players acknowledged by the national team is brilliant and it's a good reflection of where the club is going as well."

Reynolds, who is also the under-17 Scotland coach, knows how hard the trial process is but believes the Lynx players' selection is just reward for their commitment and shows other club youngsters what is possible.

Reynolds added: "At the trials, there is only so much the coaches can see over a short period of time. It's always going to be really close.

"Our players being selected has shown we are getting there in terms of competitiveness and it shows the other kids in the club what is achievable. Some of our kids play for the fun of it and the social aspect, but some want to take it as far as they can.

"The four boys being selected for Scotland can give others that bit of encouragement to go on and achieve something quite cool in the sport."

Reynolds believes that Hutton, the eldest of the group, is a player the other Lynx youth players should look up to, having cemented a regular place in the senior team at only 16 years old.

He believes Hutton's selection for the Scotland squad is a reflection of his continued determination to develop his skills, despite being at an age where distractions might exist.

Scots call for ice warriors

He said: "Jack is a role model for other kids because when you get to your teenage years there's a lot of distractions that can easily pull you away from sport, but he is someone who is really into his fitness and his wellness, which is great to see in a young sportsperson."

"He's set a really high bar for others to try and achieve. It would be normal for players to be 18 or 19 before they get their chance to play in the **Scottish** National League.

"So for Jack to already be getting regular ice time and making an impact - it's good for him and sets a good example for all the players at the club."

Reynolds sings the praises of all his young players and thinks they all have bright futures ahead of them, with now being the perfect chance to make up for lost time caused by Covid-19.

The persistence of Gordon, Thomson and Stephen has paid dividends, with each player having trialled before for **Scotland** but not, for one reason or another, getting a chance to play for the national sides.

Hutton, Gordon, Thomson and Stephen will now take part in 10 training sessions as part of the **Scotland** squads before travelling to Sheffield to play in a showcase Conference event against the other home nations.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Ev

Subject: ICE HOCKEY (90%); WINTER SPORTS (90%); COACHES & TRAINERS (78%); MENTORS & ROLE MODELS (77%); CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS & TEENS (76%); PHYSICAL FITNESS (69%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, **SCOTLAND** (90%); DUNDEE, **SCOTLAND** (79%); **SCOTLAND** (94%); 7 North East

Load-Date: December 10, 2021

End of Document

Lynx to unveil new Stoll front loaders

The Scottish Farmer

December 2021

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Length: 595 words

Byline: [Ken Fletcher](#)

Body

COVID-19 update 20-12-21:

The LAMMA Show announced today that it will move its dates from January 11 and 12 to May 4 and 5, 2022, in response to the evolving COVID-19 situation due to the Omicron variant.

C2

The new generation of Stoll ProfiLine front loaders will be showcased by the line's UK importer, [Lynx](#) Engineering, on its Stand No 20.520 in Hall 20.

Behind the smart, new look of this latest generation of ProfiLine loaders is a range of technical developments and new, innovative design features. Stoll has also extended the ProfiLine model choice in a range designed to ensure a perfect fit on tractors between 50 and 300hp-plus.

Read more:[LAMMA 2021: From tractors and combines to mowers on show by Fendt](#)

The new range incorporates the technology platform on which an increasing range of loader functions will be made available in the near future. These include the options of 'work area restrictions', a system of sensors which, for example, can automatically restrict loader height when working in barns with low overhead space.

Payload weighing will also be available, enabling operators to weigh the load on the job, ensuring material loading accuracy in real time for bucket work, or when handling bales, silage, big bags and pallets.

These new systems, together with electronic self-levelling, will sit alongside established ProfiLine features, such as the drive-in system, 'return to dig', comfort drive, Hydro-Fix, anti-lowering guard, rapid implement attachment using Euro-frame, or combi headstocks and Stoll's unique 're-scooping' function which ensures the bucket is always full with no trickle losses.

This feature works by increasing the maximum tilt angle of between 40° and 46° on the ground up to 64° by re-scooping when lifting. Boom work lights and cameras are also available.

This latest generation has a stronger double-acting lift cylinder, matched to Stoll's improved Z-Kinematics technology, which frees the operator's view of the implement by concealing the mechanical parallel guide rods within the lifting arm booms. It also allows the front loader to be mounted closer to the driver's cab.

Lynx to unveil new Stoll front loaders

This means that attachment components are in the best position possible to reduce the load on the tractor. StollxE2s engineers have also lengthened the lower lift arm to provide increased lifting height, while the cross bar has been optimally positioned for maximum operating visibility.

Stoll has also eliminated the need to regularly replace hose lines by using wear-free steel hydraulic pipes instead of rubber. Hydraulic lines are fully protected but can be freely accessed under the beam and, thanks to StollxE2s Hydro-Fix system, hydraulic lines can be quickly connected and disconnected with one hand.

The complete line will be available to order from [Lynx](#) Engineering dealers across the UK and Ireland in the first quarter of 2022.

Read more:[xC2LAMMA 2022: Big demand for BDC Systems' grain drying plants](#)

Also new on the [Lynx](#) stand will be a new range of Zuidberg steel encased magnetite weight units with optional integrated toolbox, a new Stoll Solid 40-22MS front loader which extends the Solid range with more lift height to 4m and a lift capacity of 1530kg at full height and is specifically designed for lighter tractors needing to lift more.

New from Dromone from [Lynx](#) will be the automatic Fendt ball hitch, which provides a fully automatic ball hitch operation without leaving the tractor seat, plus a new telehandler rear pick up hitch with increased vertical lift capacity to 3-tonnes from 2.5-tonnes.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: COVID CORONAVIRUS (90%); COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS (90%); ENGINEERING (89%); TECHNICIANS & TECHNOLOGICAL WORKERS (76%)

Industry: ENGINEERING (89%); AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT (78%)

Geographic: [SCOTLAND](#) (73%)

Load-Date: December 20, 2021

End of Document

Big demand for grain drying plant

The Scottish Farmer

December 2021

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Length: 443 words

Byline: [*Ken Fletcher*](#)

Body

COVID-19 update 20-12-21:

The LAMMA Show announced today that it will move its dates from January 11 and 12 to May 4 and 5, 2022, in response to the evolving COVID-19 situation due to the Omicron variant.

\xC2

All things grain handling will take centre stage on the BDC Systems\xE2 stand at LAMMA, in Hall 8, Stand 8.410.

"After the catchy and difficult harvest 2021, we have had significant growth in the number of enquiries for our grain handling systems and customers are taking initial enquiries forward to the design stage more quickly than usual," said Andrew Head, its managing director.

Read more:[LAMMA 2022: Lynx to unveil new Stoll front loaders](#)

"In particular, enquiries for BDC Systems\xE2 Svegma continuous flow driers have increased. A reflection of the struggle some farmers had this harvest to get their crops dry in time to meet market and storage requirements. I am sure there will be a lot of interest in the Svegma continuous flow drier we will have on display on our stand and the uncertain weather patterns we are experiencing mean that everyone is looking to get geared up for future harvests," he added.

The first Svegma drier was installed in the UK 38 years ago and there are now more than 1000 installations.

"We will also have BDC Systems\xE2 Moisture Monitoring System (MMS) on show at LAMMA. This is helping farmers/grain store operators overcome the perennial challenge of how to accurately and automatically check moisture content (MC) of wet grain as it enters storage," said Mr Head.

The ability to pre-configure the MMS to automatically send text alerts should the MC fall above or below predefined maximum and minimum levels, enables farmers/grain store operators to make the necessary adjustments remotely and swiftly restore MC to required levels.

Being able to remotely adjust grain drier settings ensures that the drier is optimised to ensure that the correct mc is maintained, helping to significantly reduce energy costs.

Read more:[LAMMA 2021: From tractors and combines to mowers on show by Fendt](#)

Big demand for grain drying plant

Skandia Elevator\xE2s next-next generation H-Line elevator has been available for delivery since early 2021, but Covid-19 restrictions meant that this will be the first time that BDC Systems will be able to showcase the elevator in the UK.

Larger farm enterprises, commercial grain storage operators and milling plants, all requiring high tonnage grain handling capability, will be able to see the H-Line in the flesh on the BDC Systems\xE2 stand. This next-generation H-Line delivers has elevators that are easier to maintain, optimised flow meaning less wear and tear, and can now reach an overall height of 70m.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: COVID CORONAVIRUS (90%); COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS (90%); COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS REGULATION & POLICY (74%); WEATHER (66%)

Industry: AGRICULTURE (78%); FARM PRODUCT WAREHOUSING (78%); FARMERS & RANCHERS (78%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (73%); UNITED KINGDOM (69%)

Load-Date: December 20, 2021

End of Document

Full-line on display from Fendt

The Scottish Farmer

December 2021

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Length: 645 words

Byline: [Ken Fletcher](#)

Body

COVID-19 update 20-12-21:

The LAMMA Show announced today that it will move its dates from January 11 and 12 to May 4 and 5, 2022, in response to the evolving COVID-19 situation due to the Omicron variant.

Fendt will be using LAMMA 2022 to showcase a huge range of new machines across its full line inventory.

You can expect to see new and updated models in all Fendt's product ranges including tractors, combines, balers, green harvest machinery, forage harvesters, forage wagons, telehandlers and sprayers.

One of the core features across a lot of the range is the FendtONE operator platform, which encompasses onboard and offboard task management and brings them together as one, linking the operator and his machine with the farm office or any location with an internet connection and a smart device.

Read more: LAMMA 2022: [Lynx](#) to unveil new Stoll front loaders

Job planning, work monitoring and accurate record keeping are all made easier, with the display appearance and layout similar whether it is viewed in the tractor cab or the farm office, thus simplifying operator training and helping avoid confusion and errors.

Since its launch two years ago, the FendtONE control concept has been rolled out across the range as series are updated and new 500 and 900 Vario models, which are the latest to gain FendtONE cabs, will be shown at LAMMA for the first time.

For 2022 all models will share a similar 10-inch digital dashboard display and the latest FendtONE armrest and multi-function control joystick. Specification levels from Power Plus upwards also have GPS guidance and additional functions available through the armrest-mounted 12-inch terminal.

For complex field tasks and demanding operations, an additional 12-inch roof-mounted display terminal can be added.

Read more: LAMMA 2022: Big demand for BDC Systems' grain drying plants

Full-line on display from Fendt

That aside, experienced Fendt users will feel immediately at home with the new cab layout and controls' familiar appearance and feel.

Also on the stand will be FendtxE2s Ideal 10 combine. This range consists of four models with single or dual highly-efficient Helix rotors and the unique IdealBalance cleaning system.

High work rates, an excellent grain sample and low losses are achieved using this and users can easily switch between chopping and spreading the straw or leaving it in great condition for baling.

Upgrades for 2022 include lane guidance, allowing the farm fleet to follow the same wheel tracks without any need for offsetting. The VarioGuide automatic steering, with RTK, ensures compatibility with Control Traffic Farming (CTF) regimes.

Fendt's large square balers and Rotana variable and fixed chamber round balers will also be displayed. New options for the Rotana include onboard film wrapping while users can conveniently and quickly switch between net and film when making silage and straw bales in a short time window.

From the grass harvest machinery line-up, there will be mowers, rakes, tedders and bale wrappers, including the new generation lightweight Fendt Slicer front and rear mowers and mower-conditioners.

FendtxE2s Former grass rakes have also been updated and, like all other models in the grass harvesting range, feature new styling and an upgraded paint finish.

It also increased its range of Tigo loader wagons in 2021, when the new VR all-in-one loading wagon joined existing PR and XR models. Optimum feed quality, high capacity and rapid unloading are achieved by all Tigo models which come in capacities from 31-

54 mxC2, and latest versions will be available to view.

Another standout exhibit will be the latest Katana forage harvester, which has had recent upgrades to the Katana 650, including extra power, increased working efficiency and four-wheel-drive as standard.

The innovative Fendt Cargo T955 telehandler with its unique lifting cab will also be present on the stand.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: COVID CORONAVIRUS (90%); COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS (90%); PRODUCT ENHANCEMENTS (78%)

Industry: AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT (89%); MONITORS & DISPLAYS (78%); INTERNET & WWW (73%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%)

Load-Date: December 20, 2021

Giants first up for Pirates

Paisley Daily Express

November 19, 2021 Friday

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 24

Length: 160 words

Body

Paisley Pirates are ready for action after learning their long-awaited new fixtures for the upcoming **Scottish** National League (SNL) season.

The Paisley club have been out of action for more than a year and a half due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The team's fans have been waiting patiently to learn when they would return to competitive action, with neighbours Glasgow Clan's new Elite Ice Hockey League campaign recently getting underway.

But now the fixtures have been released for the SNL, with Pirates facing a juicy home clash against Belfast Giants SNL at Braehead Arena on Sunday, November 28 in their first game of the season.

Their first away trip of the campaign sees them travel south to take on North AyrshireWild on Saturday, December 4, who they recently faced in two pre-season friendlies.

They then return to Braehead for two home clashes in a row, facing DundeeTigers on Saturday, December 11 before welcoming Aberdeen **Lynx** on Saturday, December 18.

Graphic

Raring to go Paisley Pirates

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: PDE

Giants first up for Pirates

Subject: STADIUMS & ARENAS (76%); CORONAVIRUSES (71%); ICE HOCKEY (71%); INFECTIOUS DISEASE (71%); SPORTS FANS (71%); WINTER SPORTS (71%); EPIDEMICS (57%); PANDEMICS (57%); VIRUSES (57%)

Organization: PITTSBURGH PIRATES (94%); SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS (91%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, SCOTLAND (59%); ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (58%); BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND (58%); SCOTLAND (78%); National Edition

Load-Date: November 19, 2021

End of Document

Covid claimed keen sportsman, Alex

Aberdeen Press and Journal

November 18, 2021 Thursday

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Section: BMD; Pg. 36

Length: 348 words

Byline: Chris Ferguson

Body

Alex Sibbald of Aberdeen, a retired offshore installation manager and an accomplished sportsman, has died aged 58.

He played semi-professional basketball, played rugby for Aberdeen Wanderers and, along with his father, started Lynx Ice Hockey Club.

Alex died after a battle with Covid, pneumonia and septicaemia, despite having had both vaccines and the booster jab.

Alex and his wife Heather, together with several family members, took ill with Covid at the same time late last month.

Heather and Alex were admitted to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary on October 27, but while Heather stabilised, Alex's condition deteriorated.

By October 30, Heather was in the Covid ward while Alex was in ITU. It was the early hours of Sunday morning that the decision was made to intubate him.

His son Steven, said: "My father was always a fit man but the effort of breathing was so difficult for him, using calories equivalent to running a marathon every day."

"My mum was able to see him due to the unusual circumstance of both my parents being in Covid wards, however, he developed pneumonia and the virus entered his blood stream."

Alex's funeral will be held at Craigiebuckler Church in Aberdeen tomorrow at 11am.

In his professional life he was known as a Forties legend and worked in the field over four decades.

He began his career as a production technician with BP, he rose to management level and mentored many younger workers along the way.

He was born in Edinburgh in September 1963, the son of Alex and Christine Sibbald, and grew up in Ratho village.

Early education was at Currie High School, near Edinburgh, before the family moved to Monymusk.

Covid claimed keen sportsman, Alex

In his youth, Alex played for Scotland's most successful basketball team, Murray International, now known as Livingston, with former NBA player, Alton Bird.

Even while working offshore, Alex found time to play rugby with Aberdeen Wanderers, alongside Scotland international Jason White and many others.

In 1992, Alex, together with his father and coach Billy Brennan, started Lynx Ice Hockey Club which all three generations of the Sibbald family turned out for.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Pr

Subject: DEATH NOTICES & OBITUARIES (91%); CALENDARS (90%); COVID CORONAVIRUS (90%); DEATH & DYING (90%); PROFESSIONAL SPORTS (90%); RESPIRATORY DISORDERS & INJURIES (90%); BASKETBALL (89%); ICE HOCKEY (89%); OFFSHORE OIL & GAS EXPLORATION & EXTRACTION (89%); RUGBY (89%); WINTER SPORTS (89%); VACCINES (78%); PNEUMONIA (77%); FAMILY (76%); ATHLETES (73%); EMPLOYMENT HISTORY (73%); MENTORS & ROLE MODELS (72%)

Industry: OFFSHORE OIL & GAS EXPLORATION & EXTRACTION (89%); VACCINES (78%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (91%); EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND (88%); SCOTLAND (92%); 7 North East

Load-Date: November 18, 2021

End of Document

Man dies of Covid-19 despite having jabs

Aberdeen Evening Express

November 18, 2021 Thursday

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Section: NWS; Pg. 25

Length: 578 words

Byline: Chris Ferguson

Body

Alex Sibbald of Aberdeen, a retired offshore installation manager, and accomplished sportsman, has died aged 58.

He played semi-professional basketball, played rugby for Aberdeen Wanderers and, along with his father, started Lynx Ice Hockey Club.

Alex died after a battle with Covid, pneumonia and septicaemia, despite having had both vaccines and the booster.

Both Alex and his wife Heather, together with several family members took ill with Covid at the same time late last month.

Heather and Alex were admitted to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary on Wednesday October 27 but while Heather stabilised, Alex's condition deteriorated.

By Saturday October 30, Heather was in the Covid ward while Alex was in ITU. It was the early hours of Sunday morning that the decision was made to intubate Alex.

His son, Steven, said: "My father was always a fit man but the effort of breathing was so difficult for him, using calories equivalent to running a marathon every day.

"He did plateau and the amount of oxygen he required was reduced but it takes twice the lung power to exhale CO2 than to breathe oxygen.

"Levels of CO2 did improve and he managed to wake for 40 minute periods. My mum was able to see him due to the unusual circumstance of both my parents being in Covid wards, however, he developed pneumonia and the virus entered his blood stream."

Steven said his mother is now out of hospital and making progress.

He added: "My father was always one for the rules. He was that guy. He would always wear a mask where required to stay safe. I suppose his caution came from working offshore for years."

Alex's funeral will be at Craigiebuckler Church tomorrow at 11am.

In his professional life he was known as a Forties legend and worked in the field over four decades.

Man dies of Covid-19 despite having jabs

He began his career as a production technician with BP, he rose to management level and mentored many younger workers along the way.

Alex acquired the nicknames Big Eck and Victorian Dad offshore, where he was known for his fairness, patience and calm.

He was born in Edinburgh in September 1963, the son of Alex and Christine Sibbald and grew up in Ratho village.

Early education was at Currie High School, near Edinburgh, before the family moved to Monymusk.

Alex's father, also Alex, was rector at Hazlehead Academy.

In his youth, Alex played for Scotland's most successful basketball team, Murray International, now known as Livingston, with former NBA player, Alton Bird.

He began his career with BP in Aberdeen and started and played for the BP basketball team as well as Post Office Eagles.

Even while working offshore, Alex found time to play rugby with Aberdeen Wanderers when home, alongside Scotland international Jason White and many others.

His son, Steven, and grandson, Ethan, followed the family tradition by playing for the club.

In 1992, Alex, together with his father, and coach Billy Brennan, started Lynx Ice Hockey Club which all three generations of the Sibbald family turned out for.

Although his career started with BP, Alex transferred to Apache North Sea, when it bought the Forties assets from BP.

He was heavily involved in bringing on the new Forties satellite platform to operate next to Forties Alpha.

Alex retired in 2018 and, following his death, his family have received many messages of condolence.

Steven said: "He was one of the long-serving Forties stalwarts and there has been an outpouring of disbelief at his passing. The family has been overwhelmed with thoughtful messages, calls and emails."

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Ev

Subject: COVID CORONAVIRUS (92%); DEATH & DYING (92%); DEATH NOTICES & OBITUARIES (91%); COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS (90%); INFECTIOUS DISEASE (90%); MANAGERS & SUPERVISORS (90%); PNEUMONIA (90%); PROFESSIONAL SPORTS (90%); RESPIRATORY DISORDERS & INJURIES (90%); BASKETBALL (89%); FAMILY (89%); OFFSHORE OIL & GAS EXPLORATION & EXTRACTION (89%); RUGBY (89%); EMPLOYMENT HISTORY (78%); VACCINES (78%); WINTER SPORTS (78%); GRANDCHILDREN (77%); ICE HOCKEY (77%); ATHLETES (73%); MENTORS & ROLE MODELS (70%)

Industry: OFFSHORE OIL & GAS EXPLORATION & EXTRACTION (89%); VACCINES (78%)

Man dies of Covid-19 despite having jabs

Geographic: ABERDEEN, **SCOTLAND** (90%); EDINBURGH, **SCOTLAND** (88%); **SCOTLAND** (91%); 7 North East

Load-Date: November 18, 2021

End of Document

Gamers travel back in time to life as Pict in Scotland 1,300 years ago

Gamers travel back in time to life as Pict in Scotland 1,300 years ago

Herald Scotland

November 13, 2021 Saturday

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Length: 1163 words

Byline: [Sandra Dick](#)

Body

Haggling with monks for beer, rustling cattle and hunting for wild boar and *Lynx* - just an ordinary day in the life of a 7th century Pict.

Now a new collaboration between tabletop roleplaying game designers and archaeologists will give modern Scots a flavour of what it was like to live, hunt, haggle and survive in the land of the Picts.

The new Dungeons & Dragons style game, Carved in Stone, will take players on a quest rooted in 7th century historical fact, designed to help players both indulge in fantasy fun while learning more about life in *Scotland* 1,300 years ago.

Read more:[Swan takes flight as pub rises from ashes to lift village fortunes](#)

It is being developed by Edinburgh-based game design company Dungeons on a Dime and the Society of Antiquaries of *Scotland*'s Dig It! project, which is primarily funded by Historic Environment *Scotland* and aims to bring archaeology in *Scotland* to a wider audience.

It's hoped the game will appeal to heritage enthusiasts of all ages and the thriving global roleplaying game community.

Tabletop roleplay games (TTRPGs) are collaborative storytelling games in which players take on the role of characters in the story. Typically, one person—the Game Master or Narrator—manages the world and the challenges, while the players explore and problem-solve.

Read more:[St Kilda's archaeologist lives 'life on the edge' with never-ending list of repairs](#)

One of the most famous and elaborate examples is Dungeons & Dragons, which emerged in the 1970s and has gained a cult following. The game, which involves players collaborating to fight villains and pursue quests, appeared in the hit TV show Stranger Things and is set to be turned into a film starring Chris Pine, Sophia Lillis and Bridgerton's Reg-Jean Page.

Gamers travel back in time to life as Pict in Scotland 1,300 years ago

In most TTRPGs, all players need is dice and a system of game rules. Setting books, such as Carved in Stone, describe the world in which the adventure takes place, and can be used with any TTRPG rules system, including Dungeons and Dragons.

Carved in Stone takes players to a period just after the Battle of Nechtansmere in 695 CE, when the Picts defeated the Northumbrians to become the leading political force in what is now Scotland.

Carved in Stone, with its historically accurate details, will enable narrators to create adventures in which players explore the landscape, meet members of society, and create their own stories.

Dr Jeff Sanders, Project Manager of Dig It!, said the intention was to use role play games as a vehicles to help people explore, enjoy and learn about Scotland's past.

We chose to set it in Scotland at the end of the 7th century because so much recent work that has completely changed our understanding of this medieval Scotland, he added.

It's a fun, exciting and different world that is starting to resemble the Scotland we know but is still a long way from it too.

Most roleplay games are set in a fantasy world, but this is set in real world setting.

The setting is built around the aftermath of the Battle of Nechtansmere, when King Mac Bridei, a charismatic but ruthless figure who remains in the background of the Carved in Stone setting, defeated the Northumbrian threat and set the wheels in motion for a unified Scotland.

Players must prepare for the King's arrival in a small village where a funeral is to take place, requiring a series of quests to gather necessary items.

They will have to get their booze from the monks, get cows and embark on a hunt, he adds. The game allows us to introduce all the core themes of Pictish life: subsistence, the economy, farming, technology and Scotland's place in the world.

The Romans have been gone for several centuries, but trade networks are there, so Scotland is still importing from the continent; if you're a high-status Pict, you will want to dress in colourful silks and drink fine wine.

The book provides historically accurate details about elements of life at the time that could help or hinder players during their adventures. However its developers say it avoids perpetuating stereotypical images of life at the time, such as naked Pictish warriors who covered their bodies in blue tattoos.

Instead, it is designed to tackle misconceptions about the era, encourage critical thinking, and spotlight contemporary archaeological research which proves that Scotland has always been a multicultural, multilingual, and socially diverse country.

Concept art and layouts have been created and a new crowdfunding campaign was launched on Kickstarter yesterday (Saturday 13 November) which aims to raise £215,000 to bring the game to fruition.

If successful, it will be available for purchase with copies donated to School Library Outreach, Glasgow's school library service, which has provided literacy and education advice on the project.

The text will later be released digitally under a Creative Commons license which means anyone will be able to access, use and remix it for free.

Dan MacLean, Community Engagement and Finds Specialist at the Northern Picts Project, said: We are currently experiencing an archaeological revolution in terms of understanding the 1st millennium CE, particularly the Pictish kingdoms.

Gamers travel back in time to life as Pict in Scotland 1,300 years ago

\xE2Excavations and project work by universities (especially Aberdeen and their Northern Picts project), commercial companies, community groups and museums are writing a new and exciting chapter in Scottish history.\xE2

Roleplaying games boomed during the pandemic, as players took tabletop versions online, opening up the opportunity to interact with gamers across the world.

The games have been linked to boosting players\xE2 social skills, creative thinking and problem solving, while games based in fact, such as Carved in Stone, offer an educational element.

Lizy Simonen, Learning Assistant at Glasgow Life (School Library Outreach), said: \xE2Roleplaying games are a mix of literature, storytelling, improvised theatre and visual arts. They bring people together to tell stories, problem solve and challenge each others\xE2 imaginations.

\xE2Research shows that these games have exceptional benefits, aiding in the development of identity and unity across minority and majority groups, teaching vital social skills and engaging vulnerable people. This is an exciting part of Scotland\xE2s story and we are looking forward to helping tell it.\xE2

Brian Tyrrell, Director at roleplay game developers Dungeons on a Dime, said it\xE2s hoped the game will bring greater understanding of the diversity, landscape and way of life in Scotland in the 7th century.

\xE2History and archaeology are conversations between the past and present. For too long the same perspectives have dominated that conversation, interpreting evidence to reflect their own interests.

\xE2We hope it can help inspire more people to examine their past critically and find that there was always a place for them in history where they previously thought there was none.\xE2

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: ARCHAEOLOGY (91%); ANTHROPOLOGY & ARCHAEOLOGY (90%); ACTORS & ACTRESSES (76%); DEATH NOTICES & OBITUARIES (75%); HISTORY (73%); PROJECT MANAGEMENT (68%); MANAGERS & SUPERVISORS (67%)

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Person: CHRIS PINE (67%)

Geographic: EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND (58%); SCOTLAND (93%)

Load-Date: November 13, 2021

Are red deer a pest or the pride of Scotland?

Are red deer a pest or the pride of Scotland?

Herald Scotland

November 13, 2021 Saturday

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The Herald

Length: 2271 words

Byline: [Vicky Allan](#)

Body

ONE stag often catches Neil McIntyre's attention. It peers out from many of his pictures he shoots in the Cairngorms National Park, wide-eyed, curious, with an upward thrust of the head. You can sense him looking back down the lens, an iconic Monarch of the Glen, though more comical.

'That stag,' says McIntyre, 'was quite cheeky and would come and have a look. I felt he was curious about me. He always had that look. He moved around with a group of about twenty stags that lived away up the head of a glen and most of them keep their distance a little bit. But he would always come that bit closer and he was always one that had that curious look on his face.'

Red deer are one of the photographer's big loves, which is why he has followed up his book, *On The Trail Of Red Squirrels*, with another on these imposing animals. That love started young. McIntyre's father was a gamekeeper and deerstalker who took him out with him sometimes while he was working in Perthshire, and later the Highlands. Always, the young boy noticed, there was something about the deer that stood out more than other animals. He recalls on one occasion, as a small child, on a visit to a nearby estate, he came very close to a stag for the first time.

'I had never realised how large the deer were,' he writes, 'until one was standing right in front of me. His shoulders were above my head.' Of course a full-grown stag would be far taller than a six-year-old boy, but seeing it was overwhelming. His breath seemed like smoke in the freezing air. The head, antlers bigger than his shoulders, dipped back and forth over the food. I remember holding up my hands and realising that one antler would be longer than my arm. It would have taken both my childish hands to wrap around it.'

The stag wasn't there for very long but it made an impression. 'I remember,' he says, 'looking up at this huge, impressive stag, and meeting his dark brown eye. I remember losing sight of him in the crowd as more and more deer ran down from the hills to join the feast. I remember longing to reach out and touch their magnificence, and my father's gentle warning, 'They're wild, not for trusting.'

Ever since then, he says, he has been fascinated with red deer. Though McIntyre didn't become a gamekeeper like his father, or his brother, or his nephew, he became another type of stalker, a wildlife photographer. He recalls

Are red deer a pest or the pride of Scotland?

there were only a few times that he shot deer himself, though for him, growing up in the stalking family he did, that was very much a rite of passage.

\xE2I never wanted to be a deerstalker myself,\xE2 he says. \xE2I have shot a few deer obviously, being brought up with it, but from a very early age I would rather take their picture. But \xE2ve experienced it and done it and that\xE2s maybe not a bad thing. It\xE2s let me see how it\xE2s done. It\xE2s not as easy as some people make out. It does involve quite a lot of skills to do it properly.\xE2

He shot a couple of hinds when his father was doing the hind cull, and in his late teens even shot a stag. \xE2And that was it," he recalls. "Once \xE2d done it, I didn\xE2t particularly want to.\xE2

In recent decades, the deer has become a target in the firing line of another mission: the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss. Its numbers, various reports have said, must be controlled because of the ways in which deer browse on young trees and prevent reforestation. It's an issue that seems all the more potent in the wake of COP26, as we strive to hit national targets.

In 2020 a report was published by the **Scottish** Government\xE2s independent Deer Working Group, which delivered a range of recommendations including phasing out the use of lead ammunition to cull deer, modernisation of existing deer legislation, the development of robust deer management plans and enhanced monitoring of deer numbers.

Earlier this year, when Ben Macpherson, then Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment, announced the policy proposals, he made clear what the strategy was about. \xE2As the scale of tackling climate change and the biodiversity crisis increases, and the measures needed to address these challenges become ever more necessary, it is evident that a significant stepping-up of deer management efforts are required.\xE2

In 1959, when the Red Deer Commission was set up it was estimated that the species\xE2s population was around 155,000. In more recent years the population has been estimated at around 350,000 to 400,000.

McIntyre writes in his book, \xE2Everyone has their own ideas about what would be a stable population for red deer across the country. My research shows that in 2017/18, a total of 79,596 red deer were culled from an estimated **Scottish** population of 350,000\xE2400,000. Contrary to what some would like you to think, this population is in decline. Some would say that not only is this a good thing but they hope it will continue, suggesting that a more stable number is somewhere in the region of 100,000 total population. That implies a horrific number of red deer would have to die.\xE2

He remains a fierce advocate for the red deer and a critic of the stronger deer control measures and some of the working group\xE2s recommended policies. Above all, he wants to bring back love and respect to the deer. \xE2That was a big part of doing the book,\xE2 he says, \xE2to try to get some respect back for them, because sadly over the last literally two decades their stature so to speak has been much maligned, reduced to nothing more than a pest in some people\xE2s mind.\xE2

This defence is partly informed by his own family history. He comes from a line of men involved in the deer business and has observed the way their management has changed over the years. \xE2My grandfather broke in deer ponies after the war,\xE2 he says. \xE2The Highland ponies were very much in use for getting the carcasses off the hill. And my grandfather used to train them. That was his job for Glen Artney down near Comrie. He used to get train loads of Highland garrons in and they would all get trained up to carry deer. They would get sent out all over **Scotland** to various different estates.\xE2

By the time McIntyre himself arrived in the world, his grandfather had already finished up work in that business. \xE2He had been kicked so many times with the horses he became quite crippled - so he sort of retired from that a bit earlier than he would normally have done just because of so many kicks he had in the legs from working with the horses.\xE2

Are red deer a pest or the pride of Scotland?

It was, he recalls, by going out with his father, by listening to him and watching the deer, he would learn about their habits and the best way to approach them - which would stand him in good stead in his career as a wildlife photographer. These things became almost instinctive and not something I really thought about.

Coal, steam, empire and COP26 : Glasgow's emissions story

It also gave him an appreciation of the way of life of the gamekeeper and deerstalker, which has made him an advocate, even in times when a lot of the drive in conservation and rewilding is towards dramatically cutting deer numbers, even zero tolerance, in order to promote forest regeneration.

"There's nobody," he says, "really has more respect and admiration for the deer than a proper deerstalker. They do their job in a very considered way - and I think they probably know more about deer than anybody."

McIntyre is a reminder that urban advocates of rewilding, like myself, can have their view of the deer, but they don't really know them, or the impact they have, like he does. He is also an advocate for the rural worker, who comes in many different forms, and for their continued existence on the land. Some of his arguments remind me of those of crofters, who speak for a kind of nature restoration that still allows room for people in the landscape.

His love of the deer is clear in his photography. One of his most prized shots is of a stag shaking off water in the winter. "The deer obviously spend quite a bit of time in the rain," he says. "And you get stags or hinds when they're lying down for a long time, if it's pouring down they'll just become like a big sponge. You can almost guarantee the very first thing they'll do when they stand up is shake and you get this amazing plume of water comes off them. Their head stays almost motionless, but their whole body twists and this fantastic spray of water comes off."

It's also clear from his writing how intimately he has got to know the deer. He writes, for instance, about how they struggle in spring, describes their rolling in the peat, the way that hinds and stags live separate lives until mating season, the spectacle of the rut. On one occasion, he recalls, he was on the Rothiemurchus Estate and could hear stags roaring above me. I was about fifty yards from where I needed to be to see them when I heard two crashing together a sound not unlike the clash of wooden swords. I knew immediately that it must be antlers locking together. Desperate to witness this battle, still unsighted, I ran the last fifty yards until I could peer cautiously over the knoll to see them. The light was poor and the photographs are not among my best but the spectacle was amazing: the sound and the power of two stags locked together, pushing at each other."

What McIntyre is most critical of is the zero tolerance approach to deer adopted by some estates. There are several rewilding estates that have followed that strategy, he says. It suits their agenda. They want full scale natural regeneration, and there's no getting away from the fact there has been over-grazing, and they've adopted this policy which is how they've managed to get such prolific regeneration. But that has resulted in the deer virtually being wiped out of these areas.

His anger is clear. "It's not management. They dress it up, they're very careful with their words, they're not stupid these people. They'll say things like we're increasing deer cull numbers or we'll increase the management, but what they actually mean is it's zero tolerance. And if it's a deer it's shot regardless of what age or sex. It's not about selecting animals. The deer has just become like a pest."

Among the recommendations of the working group report of which McIntyre is critical, is the removal of the close season for males, so that they could be shot at any time, and reducing the length of the female close season. That's reducing them to an even lower status than they are now. The impact would be, I think, quite catastrophic. It means deer can be shot any time.

The question of to what degree red deer numbers need to be controlled, and how to control them, is one that has exercised a great many estate managers, environmentalists and conservationists. I have long been aware of the debate and the controversy around it, and have spoken to many out there who would argue against McIntyre. Even Simon King, writing the foreword of McIntyre's book, notes that they do not agree on the matter of deer management.

Are red deer a pest or the pride of Scotland?

I'm sceptical too, and nervous, about promoting a stepback from deer control at such a critical point in our history, in the midst of a climate and biodiversity crisis\xC2in which forms of rewilding, to which large populations of deer are no friend, are\xC2being seen as an answer.

READ MORE: Rewild **Scotland**: "Beavers in all rivers. **Lynx** and wolf back.\xE2

Nevertheless, there's also something I appreciate about McIntyre\xE2s fierce defence of the deer. I too have felt sad about the way in which those animals which have proliferated because of the way we humans have shaped the landscape, have become themselves demonised.

Anti-deer sentiment,\xE2 he writes, \xE2seems to have been growing over the years. Forestry and red deer have always been in conflict because of the supposed damage the deer do to trees. However, the rewilding movement, which has been gaining support in recent years, is even more averse to deer.\xE2

Whatever strategy we take in terms of their control and management, I don't think we humans will ever stop admiring the red deer, and in particular its mature stag. It's as if that response to their presence and physicality is built into us. McIntyre's photographs are testimony to their beauty and magnificence. Catch sight of a stag on the hill, or in one of his photographs, and it takes your breath away.

Chasing the Deer: The Red Deer Through The Seasons by Neil McIntyre is published by Sandstone press

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Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: MAMMALS (89%); NATIONAL PARKS (89%); MOUNTAINS (78%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (78%); PHOTOGRAPHY (78%); WILDLIFE (78%); RODENTS (67%)

Are red deer a pest or the pride of Scotland?

Industry: NATIONAL PARKS (89%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (78%); PHOTOGRAPHY (78%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (88%)

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End of Document

COP26: Call for 'aggressive' action to tackle plastic pollution as beaches in Bermuda and other islands swamped by foreign litter

COP26: Call for 'aggressive' action to tackle plastic pollution as beaches in Bermuda and other islands swamped by foreign litter

Scotsman

November 12, 2021 Friday

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Section: ENVIRONMENT HUMAN INTEREST ENVIRONMENT CLIMATE
CHANGE NATURE POLITICS SCOTLAND GLASGOW AND STRATHCLYDE

Length: 596 words

Byline: Ilona Amos, iamos@scotsman.com

Highlight: Bermuda's deputy leader has called for the world's biggest economies to take urgent action to cut use of plastics, which are polluting global oceans, harming wildlife and ending up in the food we eat.

Body

Walter Roban, deputy premier and home affairs minister for the UK overseas territory, says Bermuda, which is known for its spectacular beaches, is being blighted by litter from the US and elsewhere, which is washing up on the island nation's shores.

The minister, who has been in Glasgow to represent Bermuda at [COP26](#), says developed countries are the biggest generators of waste plastic, but the impacts are being felt much further afield and are having devastating consequences for the [environment](#) and human health.

Analysis of debris found around the Bermuda coastline shows the vast majority is not of local origin, but is being transported from other places, particularly the US.

"The main issue for us is that plastics thrown as waste in large countries like the United States and others are getting into the ocean and then finding themselves on our shores and on other islands," he said.

"Plastic washes up on our beautiful beaches all the time and it's not plastic that is disposed of in Bermuda, but elsewhere."

READ MORE: [Plastic pollution build-up revealed in Scottish seabird nests](#)

"We hope the US and other large countries aggressively address the issue of disposal of single-use plastics to solve what is a global ocean problem that we see every day in Bermuda."

Bermuda is one of 14 UK Overseas Territories, which are the last remains of the British Empire and include a fifth of the global marine estate.

COP26: Call for 'aggressive' action to tackle plastic pollution as beaches in Bermuda and other islands swamped by foreign litter

The territories do not have a seat at the United Nations negotiating table at COP26, but are represented by the UK Government.

This year's COP saw officials from a record six of the territories in attendance.

Bermuda, which chairs the United Kingdom Overseas Territories Association, is bringing in measures to outlaw single-use plastics from next year.

Mr Roban said: "We look forward to seeing what else the largest countries can do about disposal, handling and elimination of single-use plastics as Bermuda is doing."

"We are doing our part."

The calls come as demonstrators staged a protest against the involvement in COP26 of one of the country's biggest manufacturers of toiletries and household cleaning products.

Activists from the environmental campaign group Break Free From Plastic have hit out at the role of Unilever as a principal partner of the UN summit, condemning the company as a "top plastic and climate polluter".

Campaigner Nikki Reisch, from the Center for International Environmental Law, said: "Plastic is fossil fuels in another form, and plastic pollution is fuelling the climate crisis.

"The only way to reduce emissions from plastic is to make less plastic."

Unilever is behind big-name brands such as Persil, Domestos, Lynx, Dove, Sure, Surf and Simple.

READ MORE: [Coca Cola and Pepsi named worst offenders for plastic litter on UK beaches](#)

In its 2021 Global Brand Audit report, Break Free From Plastic ranked Unilever in third place among the companies creating the most plastic pollution, following Coca-Cola Company and PepsiCo as the top two for the fourth year in a row.

Estimates suggest around 12 million tonnes of waste plastic ends up in global oceans each year, where it poses a significant risk to the marine environment.

It causes the deaths of around 100,000 marine mammals and turtles and one million seabirds annually.

A message from the Editor:

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Graphic

[Activists from environmental campaign group Break Free From Plastic staged a protest in the COP26 blue Zone, hitting out at the role of domestic product manufacturing giant Unilever as a principal partner of the UN summit, condemning the company as a "top plastic and climate polluter"](#)

COP26: Call for 'aggressive' action to tackle plastic pollution as beaches in Bermuda and other islands swamped by foreign litter

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: PLASTIC WASTE (93%); BEACHES (92%); PLASTIC POLLUTION (92%); POLLUTION (92%); POLLUTION & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS (92%); ISLANDS & REEFS (91%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (90%); OCEAN HEALTH (90%); GOVERNMENT ADVISORS & MINISTERS (89%); NEGATIVE NEWS (89%); WILDLIFE (89%); POLLUTION MONITORING, PREVENTION & REMEDIATION (79%); CLIMATE ACTION (78%); COASTAL AREAS (78%); EMISSIONS (78%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (78%); LITTERING (78%); MARINE CONSERVATION (78%); UK POLITICAL PARTIES (78%); WATER POLLUTION (78%); US ENVIRONMENTAL LAW (76%); CLIMATE CHANGE (75%); ENVIRONMENTAL LAW (73%); INTERNATIONAL LAW (73%); NEGATIVE MISC NEWS (65%); UNITED NATIONS (64%); UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTIONS (64%); PROTESTS & DEMONSTRATIONS (60%); MEDICINE & HEALTH (56%)

Company: UNILEVER PLC/NV (51%)

Ticker: UNIA (AMS) (51%); UNA (BIT) (51%); UNA (AMS) (51%); UN (NYSE) (51%); ULVR (LSE) (51%); UL (NYSE) (51%)

Industry: NAICS325620 TOILET PREPARATION MANUFACTURING (51%); NAICS325611 SOAP & OTHER DETERGENT MANUFACTURING (51%); NAICS311412 FROZEN SPECIALTY FOOD MANUFACTURING (51%); NAICS311411 FROZEN FRUIT, JUICE & VEGETABLE MANUFACTURING (51%); NAICS311225 FATS & OILS REFINING & BLENDING (51%); PLASTIC WASTE (93%); PLASTIC POLLUTION (92%); FOOD INDUSTRY (89%); SINGLE USE PLASTICS (89%); POLISH & SANITATION GOODS MFG (84%); SOAPS & DETERGENTS MFG (84%); EMISSIONS (78%); MARINE CONSERVATION (78%); MANUFACTURING (76%); ENERGY & UTILITIES (74%); PUBLISHING (73%); CLEANERS (72%); POLISHES & SANITATION GOODS (65%); TOILETRIES MFG (60%)

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Load-Date: November 11, 2021

The Glasgow Crime Story of the murder of Martin Toner

The Gazette

November 4, 2021 Thursday

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Length: 1263 words

Byline: [Norman Silvester](#)

Body

It was the morning of July 13, 2004, and farmer John Baxter was working in a field removing hay bales when the powerful headlights of his tractor lit up something unusual under a giant grass-covered hedge.

John got off to have a closer look and was shocked to discover the decomposing body of man, head and part of his shoulder.

The farmer immediately alerted the police who discovered that the man had been stabbed around 12 times and his throat cut.

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Detectives reckoned he had been murdered elsewhere and his body dumped in the field outside the village of Langbank in Renfrewshire sometime later.

The area was immediately sealed off in a bid to find any clues that would identify the killer or killers.

Police quickly discovered the identity of the victim and realised it wasn't just murder but possibly a gangland execution.

The body found by the farmer was a 34-year-old Glasgow man and father-of-two, Martin Toner.

He had been reported missing by his wife two weeks earlier and had been due to appear at the High Court in Edinburgh, for a pre-trial hearing, on major cocaine smuggling charges.

The father of two was well known to the police, but that didn't mean that the murder would be investigated any less thoroughly.

Toner, who ran a bin cleaning company, was last seen on Tuesday, June 29, 2004 around 3pm in Langbank's Main Street.

Earlier that day he had been spotted at the Key To Life gym in Ashtree Road, Pollokshaws, Glasgow, 20 miles away.

The Glasgow Crime Story of the murder of Martin Toner

Detectives had initially assumed Martin had gone on the run because of his forthcoming trial and the possibility of a lengthy jail term if convicted. But his family were always convinced he'd been murdered.

His wife Michelle told the police he would never leave his children behind because he loved them too much.

Even before the body was formally identified, James Toner knew the victim was his young brother.

In an interview with the Glasgow Times in 2015 he said: "When he went missing, my initial instinct was that something was wrong.

"As time went on I know that we probably would not be getting Martin back alive.

"Part of me was hoping he had run away but realistically I was expecting the worst."

Detectives believed Martin was lured to a meeting by someone he knew and trusted, before being murdered.

But because of the victim's background they soon hit a wall of silence in their bid to find the killer.

Public appeals for information by the police and family members elicited little response, despite the prospect of a £23,000 reward.

Though they remained determined to catch his executioner, detectives also feared that his links to organised crime was preventing people from coming forward to help the murder investigation.

They were also certain that some people knew more about his last movements than they were prepared to say.

At the time one senior officer said: "Mr Toner's alleged involvement in criminality has been widely reported and may be one of the reasons why there is a reluctance on the part of some people to speak to the police."

Police also refused to identify the weapon used in the Martin's murder.

However, they revealed that the attack would have left the killer covered in blood.

After one appeal for information in 2007 James suggested that his brother's death may have been pre-planned and orchestrated.

The victim's distinctive toffee and black Berghaus sports hold-all and contents, a mobile phone, a pair of navy Adidas jogging bottoms, t-shirt, light coloured towel and bottle of Lynx shower gel, were never found.

In December 2013 - more than ten years later - detectives finally had their man or so they thought.

Policeman turned property developer Douglas Fleming, 50, was charged with his murder and stood trial at the High Court in Glasgow in March 2015.

He was alleged to have killed Martin in the grounds of Gleddoch Estate, Langbank on June 29, 2004 before dumping the body in the farmers field.

Leisure manager Ross Agnew, 38, had told police that Fleming was wearing a blood soaked shirt when they met on the day Toner died.

However in his own defence Fleming described Agnew as a liar and a fantasist adding: "I had no reason to kill him.

"I had nothing to do with it whatsoever."

Fleming said he didn't learn of Martin's disappearance until several days later and only after speaking to his wife.

He added: "I had no reason to suspect he had any reason to disappear other than his forthcoming trial.

The Glasgow Crime Story of the murder of Martin Toner

"Martin had associations with some dodgy people."

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Fleming, who served as a Constable with Central **Scotland** Police from 1985 to 1988, had become a suspect after admitting that he gave Martin a lift to Langbank on the day he went missing.

They had met earlier at the gym in Pollokshields at around 2.30pm.

He then dropped Mr Toner close to the railway station in Langbank and said that was the last he saw him.

At the end of the trial Fleming was cleared after the jury found the murder charge not proven.

Following their decision, James shouted to the jury: "You made a mistake, a big mistake.

"He's a murderer. He murdered him."

Mr Toner's widow Michelle sobbed as she told jurors: "You are wrong."

Fleming however turned to the jury and said: "Ladies and gentlemen, you did not make a mistake.

"You can be assured of that."

A murder charge against a second man was dropped earlier in the trial.

Fleming had been previously cleared in 2008 of conspiracy to import cocaine to **Scotland** from Colombia, also on a not proven verdict.

Martin Toner had been due to stand trial with Mr Fleming on the same charges.

The day he vanished was the day before their pre-trial hearing in Edinburgh.

Both men had been accused of trafficking millions of pounds' worth of the drug from Colombia through Antwerp, Belgium.

A court was told that plain-clothes officers from **Scotland**'s Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency trailed Fleming to Antigua, in the West Indies, where he met Martin Toner.

Fleming admitted knowing Toner, but said their common interest was property and denied having anything to do with drugs.

In the same 2015 interview James said: "Martin had been in prison but he was not a bad person. He would not have done that to anybody and left them in a field like that.

"He was fit and he could look after himself. But he was not a stereotypical drug dealer who used violence as part of his work.

"Nobody deserves to die that way and nobody deserves to be found by a farmer in a field.

"A human being had his life taken away from him in an unnatural way."

To this day the motive for the murder remains unclear.

Two years earlier he had been involved in a dispute with two brothers said to control the cocaine trade in **Scotland**.

The murder trial heard that in 2002, one of them had allegedly gone to Toner's house and tried to shoot him but the gun jammed and then he tried to stab him.

However Martin who was a martial arts expert was able to overpower his assailant and fend him off.

The Glasgow Crime Story of the murder of Martin Toner

To this date his murder remains unsolved.

The two brothers referred to earlier are believed to be living abroad, possibly in South America, and are wanted by the police.

It's not known why Martin went to Langbank on the day of the murder.

It has been suggested he was there to collect a large sum of money - £2100,000 - he had secretly stashed away.

James has always insisted his brother was not a big time gangster, as had been suggested in the 2015 interview he added: "When I think 'gangster' I think Al Capone. Martin was not Al Capone."

"He had been with his wife since he was 15. He was a loyal, loyal person."

"He was a family man, who was dedicated to his wife and his two kids. Everything he did, he did to provide for them."

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: CRIME, LAW ENFORCEMENT & CORRECTIONS (90%); INVESTIGATIONS (90%); MURDER (90%); NEGATIVE NEWS (90%); NEGATIVE PERSONAL NEWS (90%); CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS (89%); MISSING PERSONS (89%); CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS (78%); PRELIMINARY COURT PROCEEDINGS (78%); STABBINGS (78%); CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES CRIME (73%); SMUGGLING (73%); INTERVIEWS (71%); FAMILY (68%); COCAINE (66%); LAW COURTS & TRIBUNALS (66%)

Industry: MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, **SCOTLAND** (88%); EDINBURGH, **SCOTLAND** (58%); **SCOTLAND** (58%)

Load-Date: November 4, 2021

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When the girl next door moved out and a star arrived up

When the girl next door moved out and a star arrived up

Aberdeen Evening Express

November 4, 2021 Thursday

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Section: NWS; Pg. 12

Length: 766 words

Byline: Graeme Strachan

Body

Kylie Minogue shrugged off the North Sea chill and stripped down to her undies when she returned to Aberdeen in 1991.

Kylie first found fame by playing mechanic Charlene Mitchell in Australian soap Neighbours, before recording her debut single, Locomotion, in 1987.

Her collaboration with British producers Stock, Aitken and Waterman in the late 1980s resulted in I Should Be So Lucky, a worldwide number one.

Kylie often made the long journey to our shores, including judging a fancy dress parade in Inverness in July 1988 then meeting a six-week-old Northern Lynx.

She later went unrecognised when she turned up in Arbroath, where boyfriend Jason Donovan was making a personal appearance at Bally's nightclub.

But by 1990 she was the hottest property in pop music.

Dedicated mums and dads stayed up all night and braved the elements to get their children tickets when she performed for the first time in Aberdeen.

Tots as young as three were among the 4,500 crowd at the AECC in May 1990 when Kylie brought the house down with her catchy pop songs.

Kylie was then dating INXS singer Michael Hutchence and returned to the AECC to perform on November 3 1991 with the Let's Get to It Tour.

The show comprised an all-new wardrobe created by John Galliano, although Kylie was accused of copying Madonna's look from her Blond Ambition World Tour.

Kylie spoke before the Aberdeen concert about having no regrets at swapping her squeaky-clean image "to become a raunchy pop singer".

She said: "I don't regret my new look and I knew I was sticking my neck out going for the Bardot sex kitten image.

When the girl next door moved out and a star arrived up

"I had people telling me it was absolutely the wrong thing to do. Kylie', they would say, what are you doing? Stay nice. Smile, smile. Be the girl next door'.

"When I started going out with Michael he really brought out the real me, the me that had been suppressed for such a long time.

"But obviously, I was growing up too."

Nomad opened the Aberdeen concert with a set that included the single (I Wanna Give You) Devotion, which got to number two in the UK chart.

The house music duo warmed up the crowd before the pop princess left little to the imagination when she appeared in black fishnet stockings and stilettos.

She kicked off the evening with chart smash Step Back in Time and was joined on stage by musicians, backing singers and dancers.

There was little talk with the audience but she put on a slick and energetic show that featured a mix of chart hits and new material from Let's Get To It.

Set highlights included Wouldn't Change A Thing, Tears On My Pillow, I Should Be So Lucky, Je Ne Sais Pas Pourquoi and Hand On Your Heart.

"Clingfilm Kylie steps back in time - again" was the following day's headline, which highlighted the star's willingness "to leave the girl-next-door image behind".

The review read: "Everyone in Aberdeen expected a new-look raunchy act from Aussie superstar Kylie Minogue when she played the Exhibition and Conference Centre - but nothing has really changed in a year.

"There is no doubt that she is desperately trying to shed her cutie-from-next-door image and show the world she has grown up - but once a teenybop heroine, always one.

"Appearing on stage to an electrifying welcome - wearing what looked like a mixture of clingfilm and baking foil hiding a skimpy black leather-look bra along with fishnet stockings and stilettos - she kicked things off with the aptly-named Step Back In Time.

"The 2,500 crowd was willing her on and the pint-sized pop queen, backed by a strong six-piece band and five excellent dancers, put on a first-class show - even if its success was due to the crowd not believing her image has changed.

"The dance routines were slick and professional and, as well as showing that there is a voice there somewhere, she proved she could dance a bit too.

"After a quick exit for some much-needed energy juice she appeared back in a black satin nightdress over a skimpy pair of shorts - definitely the Kylie of old.

"She might be trying to forget her Charlene days, but for her thousands of hysterical admirers, she's still the cutie from next door, and will not be allowed to grow up."

The concert would be the last time Kylie graced the stage in Aberdeen as she went on to release a stream of smash records that helped define those times.

She did return to play in **Scotland** over the next three decades and also visited the north-east for a wedding in 2009 and to spend Hogmanay here in 2016.

Her 2019 Glastonbury set - in front of a record crowd - was testament to how much love there is for Kylie who remains the highest-selling female Australian artist of all time.

When the girl next door moved out and a star arrived up

Classification

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Journal Code: Ev

Subject: MUSIC (90%); POP & ROCK (90%); SINGERS & MUSICIANS (89%); COURTSHIP & DATING (77%); ARTISTS & PERFORMERS (74%); MUSIC GROUPS & ARTISTS (74%); DANCE (68%); DANCERS (68%)

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Person: KYLIE MINOGUE (79%); MADONNA (79%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (92%); ATLANTIC OCEAN (73%); NORTH SEA (73%); UNITED KINGDOM (73%); 7 North East

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killer remains at large

Evening Times (Glasgow)

November 3, 2021 Wednesday

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Section: Pg. 23

Length: 1260 words

Byline: Heather Graham

Body

IT was the morning of July 13, 2004, and farmer John Baxter was working in a field removing hay bales when the powerful headlights of his tractor lit up something unusual under a giant grass covered hedge.

John got off to have a closer look and was shocked to discover the decomposing body of a man, head and part of his shoulder.

The farmer immediately alerted the police who discovered that the man had been stabbed around 12 times and his throat cut.

Detectives reckoned he had been murdered elsewhere and his body dumped in the field outside the village of Langbank in Renfrewshire some time later.

The area was immediately sealed off in a bid to find any clues that would identify the killer or killers.

Police quickly discovered the identity of the victim and realised it wasn't just a murder but possibly a gangland execution.

The body found by the farmer was 34-year-old Glasgow man and father-of-two Martin Toner.

He had been reported missing by his wife two weeks earlier and had been due to appear at the High Court in Edinburgh, for a pre-trial hearing, on major cocaine smuggling charges.

The father of two was well known to the police, but that didn't mean that the murder would be investigated any less thoroughly.

Toner, who ran a bin cleaning company, was last seen on Tuesday, June 29, 2004, around 3pm in Langbank's Main Street.

Earlier that day he had been spotted at the Key To Life gym in Ashtree Road, Pollokshaws, Glasgow, 20 miles away.

killer remains at large

Detectives had initially assumed Martin had gone on the run because of his forthcoming trial and the possibility of a lengthy jail term if convicted. But his family were always convinced he'd been murdered.

His wife Michelle told the police he would never leave his children behind, because he loved them too much. Even before the body was formally identified, James Toner knew the victim was his young brother.

In an interview with the Glasgow Times in 2015 he said: "When he went missing, my initial instinct was that something was wrong.

"As time went on I knew that we probably would not be getting Martin back alive.

"Part of me was hoping he had run away but realistically I was expecting the worst."

Detectives believed Martin was lured to a meeting by someone he knew and trusted, before being murdered.

But because of the victim's background they soon hit a wall of silence in their bid to find the killer.

Public appeals for information by the police and family members elicited little response, despite the prospect of a £3000 reward.

Though they remained determined to catch his executioner, detectives also feared that his links to organised crime were preventing people from coming forward to help the murder investigation.

They were also certain that some people knew more about his last movements than they were prepared to say.

At the time one senior officer said: "Mr Toner's alleged involvement in criminality has been widely reported and may be one of the reasons why there is a reluctance on the part of some people to speak to the police."

Police also refused to identify the weapon used in the murder.

However, they revealed that the attack would have left the killer covered in blood.

After one appeal for information in 2007, James suggested that his brother's death may have been pre-planned and orchestrated.

The victim's distinctive toffee and black Berghaus sports hold-all and contents, a mobile phone, a pair of navy Adidas jogging bottoms, t-shirt, light coloured towel and bottle of Lynx shower gel were never found.

In late 2014 - more than 10 years later - detectives finally had their man, or so they thought.

Policeman turned property developer Douglas Fleming, 50, was charged with his murder and stood trial at the High Court in Glasgow the following March.

He was alleged to have killed Martin in the grounds of Gleddoch Estate, Langbank, on June 29, 2004, before dumping the body in the farmer's field.

Leisure manager Ross Agnew, 38, had told police that Fleming was wearing a blood-soaked shirt when they met on the day Toner died.

However, in his own defence Fleming described Agnew as a liar and a fantasist, adding: "I had no reason to kill him."

"I had nothing to do with it whatsoever."

Fleming said he didn't learn of Martin's disappearance until several days later and only after speaking to his wife.

He added: "I had no reason to suspect he had any reason to disappear other than his forthcoming trial."

killer remains at large

"Martin had associations with some dodgy people."

Fleming, who served as a Constable with Central **Scotland** Police from 1985 to 1988, had become a suspect after admitting that he gave Martin a lift to Langbank on the day he went missing.

They had met earlier at the gym in Pollokshields at around 2.30pm.

He then dropped Martin close to the railway station in Langbank and said that was the last time he saw him.

At the end of the trial, Fleming was cleared after the jury found the murder charge not proven.

Following their decision, James shouted to the jury: "You made a mistake, a big mistake."

"He's a murderer. He murdered him."

Martin's widow Michelle sobbed as she told jurors: "You are wrong."

Fleming however turned to the jury and said: "Ladies and gentlemen, you did not make a mistake."

"You can be assured of that."

A murder charge against a second man was dropped earlier in the trial.

Fleming had been previously cleared in 2008 of conspiracy to import cocaine to **Scotland** from Colombia, also on a not proven verdict.

Martin had been due to stand trial with Fleming on the same charges.

The day he vanished was the day before their pre-trial hearing in Edinburgh.

Both men had been accused of trafficking millions of pounds' worth of the drug from Colombia through Antwerp, Belgium.

A court was told that plain-clothes officers from **Scotland**'s Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency trailed Fleming to Antigua, in the West Indies, where he met Martin.

Fleming admitted knowing Toner, but said their common interest was property and denied having anything to do with drugs.

In the same 2015 interview, James said: "Martin had been in prison but he was not a bad person. He would not have done that to anybody and left them in a field like that."

"He was fit and he could look after himself. But he was not a stereotypical drug dealer who used violence as part of his work."

"Nobody deserves to die that way and nobody deserves to be found by a farmer in a field."

"A human being had his life taken away from him in an unnatural way."

To this day the motive for the murder remains unclear.

Two years earlier he had been involved in a dispute with two brothers said to control the cocaine trade in **Scotland**.

The murder trial heard that in 2002, one of them had allegedly gone to Martin's house and tried to shoot him but the gun jammed and then he tried to stab him.

However, Martin, who was a martial arts expert was able to overpower his assailant and fend him off.

To this date his murder remains unsolved.

killer remains at large

The two brothers referred to earlier are believed to be living abroad, possibly in South America, and are wanted by the police.

It's not known why Martin went to Langbank on the day of the murder.

It has been suggested he was there to collect a large sum of money - £100,000 - he had secretly stashed away.

James has always insisted his brother was not a big-time gangster, as had been suggested.

In the 2015 interview he added: "When I think 'gangster' I think Al Capone. Martin was not Al Capone.

"He had been with his wife since he was 15. He was a loyal, loyal person.

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Classification

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Rebecca McQuillan: No one\xE2s defending devolution, least of all the SNP and Tories

Rebecca McQuillan: No one\xE2s defending devolution, least of all the SNP and Tories

Herald Scotland

October 29, 2021 Friday

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Length: 1137 words

Byline: [Rebecca McQuillan](#)

Body

THERE are times when it feels as if the politics of the British Isles has barely moved on since wolves and *lynx* roamed the land.

Back in pre-devolution days, when the so-called Grand Committee used to perambulate around *Scotland* presided over by then *Scottish* Secretary Michael Forsyth, it called to mind an itinerant medieval court overseen by a powerful baron who was proxy to the king.

That didn\xE2t last, of course. In 1997, the Labour landslide swept away the Grand Committee and most of the *Scottish* Secretary\xE2s powers.

In its wake, at last, came devolution, offering an enthusiastic *Scottish* public the best of both worlds. But 22 years on, the spectres of the past are circling once again.

The Holyrood parliament is now under the \xE2protection\xE2 of the SNP in Edinburgh, while the Tory Westminster government keeps a hungry eye on it from afar. Imagine a medieval monarch still in her minority, who finds herself a helpless pawn in the machinations between a self-serving regent and a powerful, acquisitive uncle, and you can see what state devolution is in.

READ MORE REBECCA: Gordon Brown is right

The truth is that neither the SNP nor the Tories are truly committed to the devolution settlement, but you would never know that from their unctuous declarations of devotion.

Nicola Sturgeon and her ministers are particularly vocal in their supposed commitment to *Scotland*\xE2s parliament, sweeping in and out of TV studios whenever an opportunity presents itself to berate Boris Johnson and his cabinet for \xE2riding roughshod\xE2 over it.

This week *Scotland*\xE2s finance minister is the one expressing her indignation at the UK government for \xE2undermining devolution\xE2, after Rishi Sunak announced that \xC2170m in new funding was coming directly to *Scottish* councils from Whitehall instead of via Holyrood.

Rebecca McQuillan: No one\xE2s defending devolution, least of all the SNP and Tories

Meanwhile, UK ministers for their part say it\xE2s they who are the true defenders of devolution, insisting there\xE2s nothing at all untoward about cutting Holyrood out of the loop. \xE2We are, and always will be, one family,\xE2 the chancellor intoned in the House of Commons on Wednesday.

The insincerity of it all is palpable. If Holyrood really were a princess, she\xE2d be locking herself in the loo by now and refusing to speak to anyone but Nursey.

Is the UK government pushing into devolved jurisdiction with its new funding streams? Yes. The Levelling Up Fund, Community Ownership Fund and forthcoming Shared Prosperity Fund, a replacement for EU structural funds, should be spent in partnership with the **Scottish** Government.

READ MORE REBECCA: A load of old Boris

Spending money directly via councils in devolved areas blatantly contradicts devolution, in which everything that is not reserved is devolved. It\xE2s been more than two decades since the UK government has directly funded the renovation of **Scottish** roundabouts: that tells you something. This is an inroad, an innovation, a pushing of boundaries.

So is it driven by a desire to assert Westminster\xE2s sovereignty and extend the tentacles of control back into devolved areas of competence? Or is it driven by fear, fear of independence and a panicked sense that drastic action is required to reacquaint **Scottish** voters with the benefits of being in the UK, against a backdrop of **Scottish** ministers endlessly denying that those benefits exist?

You can detect elements of both. It\xE2s true that, even now, parts of Whitehall still regard **Scotland** as a troublesome wee region. Civil servants have often been indifferent to devolution and some fail to appreciate that the Union is now widely regarded by Scots as a voluntary union of equals.

And echoes of the Conservatives\xE2 one-time opposition to devolution can still be detected in the upper echelons of the party. Devolution was \xE2Tony Blair\xE2s biggest mistake\xE2, Boris Johnson told his backbenchers last year. Whether that was Mr Johnson\xE2s real opinion or whether he said it to curry favour with his MPs hardly matters (and he probably can\xE2t tell the difference himself): either way, it points to a jarring lack of sympathy with the devolution project.

But the Conservative Party are nothing if not pragmatic and there can be few Tory MPs even south of the border who truly believe that devolution can be reversed. It\xE2s far too popular and trying to turn back the clock would be an act of extreme provocation to **Scottish** voters. Even the most cloth-eared Conservatives get that.

No; the immediate issue the Tories are trying to grapple with is the appeal of independence. Boris Johnson wants to avoid the ignominy of the UK breaking up on his watch. His \xE2muscular unionism\xE2 is hopelessly ill-conceived and interferes with devolution, certainly. The UK Internal Market Act, designed to prevent policy divergence between the devolved administrations and Westminster, and allow the UK government to spend in devolved areas, has caused a lot of ill-will. But is the Tories\xE2 priority right now to end the devolution era and bring about another form of government? No; they\xE2re concerned with preventing independence. If there\xE2s a party that wants to see the back of devolution, it\xE2s the SNP.

It\xE2s the big standing joke of **Scottish** politics that the SNP, while posing as the defender of devolution, has sought systematically to seed the notion that it\xE2s broken beyond repair and needs to be replaced with independence. After all, you can\xE2t convince people to vote for independence if they think devolution is working.

That\xE2s why no opportunity is missed to pick fights with Westminster. Earlier this month, **Scottish** ministers were accused by the Lib Dem leader Alex Cole-Hamilton of passing bad legislation on children\xE2s rights \xE2just for grievance with Westminster\xE2.

It certainly appeared that way. The legislation, which was passed unanimously by Holyrood, was referred to the Supreme Court by the UK government on the grounds that it exceeded Holyrood\xE2s competence \xE2something **Scottish** ministers were warned of in advance but apparently chose not to act upon.

Rebecca McQuillan: No one\xE2s defending devolution, least of all the SNP and Tories

Even when the court found against the ***Scottish*** Government, the First Minister\xE2s spokesperson was unrepentant, claiming it showed the \xE2tight limits of devolution\xE2.

Devolution has no safe quarter while the SNP and the Tories are its guardians.

The frustrating element in all this is that devolution can work \xE2 it did under Labour and the Liberal Democrats \xE2 but that truth has been hopelessly distorted by the political machinations of the last decade.

We\xE2re not having a real debate about ***Scotland***\xE2s future. This isn\xE2t an earnest disagreement over a cherished institution. It\xE2s a propaganda war and Holyrood is the patsy.

Our columns are a platform for writers to express their opinions. They do not necessarily represent the views of The Herald.

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Industry: MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); PUBLIC FINANCE AGENCIES & TREASURIES (65%)

Person: BORIS JOHNSON (79%); NICOLA STURGEON (79%); RISHI SUNAK (79%); GORDON BROWN (58%)

Geographic: WESTMINSTER, ENGLAND (79%); EDINBURGH, ***SCOTLAND*** (78%); ***SCOTLAND*** (95%); UNITED KINGDOM (94%)

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End of Document

No one's defending devolution, least of all the SNP and Tories

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The Herald (Glasgow)

October 29, 2021 Friday

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The Herald

Section: Pg. 17

Length: 1084 words

Byline: Garry Scott

Body

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In its wake, at last, came devolution, offering an enthusiastic *Scottish* public the best of both worlds. But 22 years on, the spectres of the past are circling once again.

The Holyrood Parliament is now under the "protection" of the SNP in Edinburgh, while the Tory Westminster Government keeps a hungry eye on it from afar. Imagine a medieval monarch still in her minority, who finds herself a helpless pawn in the machinations between a self-serving regent and a powerful, acquisitive uncle, and you can see what state devolution is in.

The truth is that neither the SNP nor the Tories are truly committed to the devolution settlement, but you would never know that from their unctuous declarations of devotion.

Nicola Sturgeon and her ministers are particularly vocal in their supposed commitment to *Scotland's* Parliament, sweeping in and out of TV studios whenever an opportunity presents itself to berate Boris Johnson and his Cabinet for "riding roughshod" over it.

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Meanwhile, UK ministers, for their part, say it's they who are the true defenders of devolution, insisting there's nothing at all untoward about cutting Holyrood out of the loop. "We are, and always will be, one family," the Chancellor intoned in the House of Commons on Wednesday.

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Industry: MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); PUBLIC FINANCE AGENCIES & TREASURIES (65%)

Person: BORIS JOHNSON (79%); NICOLA STURGEON (79%); RISHI SUNAK (79%)

Geographic: WESTMINSTER, ENGLAND (92%); EDINBURGH, **SCOTLAND** (78%); GLASGOW, **SCOTLAND** (73%); **SCOTLAND** (97%); UNITED KINGDOM (94%); WALES (79%)

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PRIVATE EQUITY PLAYS TO ITS STRENGTHS DESPITE PANDEMIC CHALLENGES

Scottish Business Insider

October 2021

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: BUSINESS; Pg. 67,68,69

Length: 1695 words

Byline: Perry Gourley

Body

period of unprecedented uncertainty they've experienced over the past 18 months," he says.

The quarter saw another raft of acquisitions of **Scottish** businesses by overseas buyers.

Among the high-profile deals announced were the sale of Edinburgh Vegware to Novolex of the US. Vegware founder Joe Frankel said the "exceptional resources and large footprint" of the new owner will allow the brand to expand distribution across the globe.

Japan's Mitsubishi also acquired Glasgow energy management company Smarter Grid Solutions (SGS), a spin out from the University of Strathclyde, for an undisclosed sum.

In the latest of a string of deals in the whisky sector this year, online auction site Whisky Hammer sold a 49% stake in the Aberdeenshire business to Rare Whisky Holdings, a Hong Kong investment group.

The multi-million-pound deal, where Brodies acted for the sellers, delivered a bumper return for retail investors who participated in its crowdfunding campaign two years ago. Glasgow-based science curriculum specialist Twig Education was also acquired by US market leader Weld North.

The largest deal of the quarter saw Perth-based SSE agree to sell its stake in Scotia Gas Networks to a consortium including Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan Board. The transaction concludes the £2bn plus disposals programme announced by SSE last year.

Although many **Scottish** businesses fell into the hands of overseas buyers, a number of **Scottish** firms also went on the acquisition trail including IP firm Murgitroyd which continued its international expansion with the acquisition of Ireland's Hanna Moore + Curley.

All-**Scotland** deals included Falkirk-based engineering and Construction service provider AIM Group acquiring fabrication company BCS.

Fast-growing Bellshill-based IT services group Kick ICT also bought Turnkey Business Software and a sister firm in its seventh acquisition in six years, advised by Macdonald Henderson.

PRIVATE EQUITY PLAYS TO ITS STRENGTHS DESPITE PANDEMIC CHALLENGES

The quarter saw a flurry of employee buyouts, highlighting the increasing popularity of the mechanism which enables owners to pass over control to staff.

Kilmarnock-based IT support company Microtech Group became majority employee owned after founder Chris McMail turned down a number of offers for the business he founded more than 30 years ago. He retains a minority shareholding and remains managing director.

Advisers on the deal included V2 Corporate, Bannatyne Kirkpatrick France, Robertson Craig and Ownership Associates.

The quarter saw a significant number of investment deals and Macdonald Henderson's David Beveridge says private equity is continuing to play a bigger role in the **Scottish** market with the likes of N4 and Nevis Capital among the most active participants.

"In the past, seeking out a trade buyer would have been the most obvious route for businesses but PE is increasingly seen as an attractive option and there is no shortage of money at their disposal," he says.

High-profile funding deals during the period included Aberdeenbased oil and gas services firm isol8 receiving a £3.5m investment from BGF to develop its zero-emissions product portfolio.

The deal took the total investment by BGF's Central **Scotland** and Northern Ireland team to almost £33m in the first half of the year.

Paddy Graham, who heads the team, says despite the significant level of uncertainty in the market, he is "very optimistic about the outlook for growth businesses" and expects to see continued demand for funding in the months ahead as management teams look to develop new products, expand overseas, or to provide fuel to continue growing prior to a full exit.

In one of the largest investment deals of the quarter, Dundee-based The Snappy Group completed a £19.4m fundraise which will create 400 new jobs.

It saw Paypoint acquiring a stake in Snappy, whose platform connects consumers with local firms and other investors included Highland Tech, Justin King, Maven Capital Partners, Kelvin Capital and **Scottish** Enterprise.

The rapidly developing EV infrastructure sector saw a number of funding deals including the **Scottish** National Investment Bank investing £2m in charging network owner and operator Forev. The equity investment will help create a network

of over 1,700 electric vehicle charging points across **Scotland**. Advisors included Burness Paull.

Stonehaven-based Trojan Energy also secured £2.2m to address a lack of EV charging points in urban areas and create new jobs. The round was led by **Scottish** angel investors Equity Gap, and included investment from **Scottish** Enterprise, SIS Ventures and Aberdeen-based angel investors Alba Equity.

In the food and drink sector, transactions including a six-figure investment by Scotmid Coop and **Scottish** Enterprise into Glasgowbased hard seltzer producer The Alcoholic Water Company.

Major life sciences sector deals included Edinburgh-based Macomics closing a financing round worth £7.44m. The round brought in new investor Caribou Property, alongside existing investors Epidarex Capital which led the round - and **Scottish** Enterprise.

Edinburgh-based dental technology company, Calcivis, also completed a £1.52m equity fund raise, led by Archangels and featuring investment from **Scottish** Enterprise and **Lynx** Financial.

PRIVATE EQUITY PLAYS TO ITS STRENGTHS DESPITE PANDEMIC CHALLENGES

Game4Padel, backed by West Coast Capital's Jim McMahon and tennis star Andy Murray, completed its third funding round, raising £1.3m to help finance its expansion plans for the tennis/squash hybrid game.

"I first played this sport on holiday in Spain and thought it was brilliant and easy-to-play. It's a cross between tennis and squash without the hard bits. There are over six million players in Spain and it is growing like wildfire across Europe. Our ambition is to grow it across the UK building courts in various multi-sport locations, and showcasing it in shopping malls, such as Westfield Stratford in London," said McMahon.

Technology firms dominated the seed funding deals completed in the period, including one by Glasgow satellite start-up R3-IoT which closed a £3.1m round led by US-based VC Space Capital and joined by the **Scottish** National Investment Bank and the University of Strathclyde. Advisers on the investment included Harper Macleod.

Elsewhere in the space sector, Alba Orbital, which develops tiny satellites small enough to fit in a pocket, secured £2.4m from start-up accelerator programme Y Combinator in Silicon Valley.

Combinator in Silicon Valley.

The current momentum in the **Scottish** deals market means advisers are confident of a robust final quarter of the year and Graeme Bruce, Glasgow-based corporate partner

from CMS, says that after a strong 2021 most advisers in the market "fully expect activity to increase even further over the next 12 months".

Bruce, whose firm recently acted for Glasgow's Smart Metering Systems on a £175m fundraising on AIM to back its grid scale battery and smart meter rollout plans, said

sectors including renewable energy and sustainability were particularly hot with the focus on COP26.

Paul Mason, corporate finance partner at accountants Chiene + Tait, also expects strong levels of deals activity to continue into 2022 and argues conditions are favourable for those looking to dispose of assets.

"With well-funded public and private equity backed global businesses seeking to consolidate as well as add strategically important assets, the next six to nine months are looking like a very good time to be a seller," he says. !

A

lthough it has traditionally been the quietest period for deals, many **Scottish** advisers won't have strayed too far away from being able to jump on a Zoom or Teams call this summer.

With much of the negotiating and finalising of transactions now being handled virtually, a quick and productive online meeting will have helped get many deals over the line during what was a busy third quarter.

The period saw the announcement of some of 2021's largest deals so far, including energy giant SSE's £1.2bn disposal of its 33.3% stake in gas distribution operator Scotia Gas Networks.

A number of **Scotland**'s most exciting growth companies, including Smarter Grid Solutions and compostable packaging specialist Vegware, were also acquired as overseas buyers continued their pursuit of UK corporate prey.

With many businesses looking to take advantage of a surge in activity in their sectors as the economy continues to reopen, funding deals were another prominent feature of activity for **Scottish** advisors.

Paul Mason, corporate finance partner at accountants Chiene + Tait, describes the current M&A market in **Scotland** as 'buoyant' and the deals pipeline ahead strong.

PRIVATE EQUITY PLAYS TO ITS STRENGTHS DESPITE PANDEMIC CHALLENGES

"In recent weeks we've had a lot of enquiries from business owners seeking to exit their businesses, across all sectors from the traditional economy through to the more frequent technology company mandates. Cyclically high valuations are almost certainly encouraging the

level of sell-side interest," he says.

David Beveridge, managing director of Macdonald Henderson in Glasgow, says activity levels are being underpinned by a rebounding economy.

"All our clients seem to be very busy and despite the challenges of the past 18 months we are not see any signs of distress," he comments.

"Consolidation is a very big theme at the moment. Big fish have always tended to eat wee fish, but what is interesting right now is how crosssectoral the activity is."

Graeme Bruce, Glasgow-based corporate partner at CMS, says the M&A buyside activity is being partly driven by corporates which have stockpiled cash from the pandemic and looking for opportunities.

"On the sellers' side, there are many businesses which struggled through the pandemic and are now looking for an exit along with purely distressed sales and owners who are looking to sell as part of a change in lifestyle brought on by the

Many businesses which struggled through the pandemic and are now looking for an exit along with owners who are looking to sell as part of a change in lifestyle due to the pandemic Graeme Bruce, CMS (below) Despite the significant level of uncertainty, I'm very optimistic about the outlook for growth businesses Paddy Graham, BGF Central ***Scotland*** and Northern Ireland In recent weeks we've had a lot of enquiries from business owners seeking to exit their businesses Paul Mason, Chiene + Tait (below)

Graphic

Above: Online auction site Whisky Hammer, owned by Craig and Daniel Milne, sold a 49% stake in the Aberdeenshire business to Rare Whisky Holdings, a Hong Kong investment groupDental technology player:Adam Christie, (left) CEO of Calcivis and Dr John Brown, the new chairman. (Picture: Peter Devlin)Jim McMahon (second left) of West Coast Capital speaks with padel ambassador Judy Murray

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: SBI

Subject: ACQUISITIONS (90%); HOLDING COMPANIES (90%); EQUITIES (89%); PRIVATE EQUITY (89%); DIVESTITURES (79%); BUYINS & BUYOUTS (78%); MANAGERS & SUPERVISORS (76%); CROWDFUNDING (73%); MATH & SCIENCE EDUCATION (72%); CROWDSOURCING (69%); INTERNET AUCTIONS (69%); ENGINEERING (67%); TEACHER RETIREMENT (66%); TECHNICAL SUPPORT (62%); BUSINESS SOFTWARE (50%)

PRIVATE EQUITY PLAYS TO ITS STRENGTHS DESPITE PANDEMIC CHALLENGES

Company: BRODIES LLP (90%)

Industry: NAICS541110 OFFICES OF LAWYERS (90%); SIC8111 LEGAL SERVICES (90%); EQUITIES (89%); PRIVATE EQUITY (89%); COMPUTING & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (88%); RETAIL & WHOLESALE TRADE (79%); OIL & GAS INDUSTRY (78%); INTERNET AUCTIONS (69%); ENGINEERING (67%); BUSINESS SOFTWARE (50%)

Geographic: EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND (59%); GLASGOW, SCOTLAND (59%); ONTARIO, CANADA (55%); SCOTLAND (91%); UNITED STATES (79%); JAPAN (57%); National Edition

Load-Date: October 28, 2021

End of Document

Alladale Wilderness Reserve – A Rewilding Story - Scotland on Sunday Travel

Scotsman

October 24, 2021 Sunday

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Section: TRAVELPLACES

Length: 1300 words

Byline: Lisa Young, janet.christie@jpress.co.uk

Highlight: Paul Lister's vision to return native species to the ***Scottish*** Highlands is bearing fruit

Body

The dramatic appearance of a huge sea eagle swooping low over Alladale Lodge was immediately followed by the swift appearance of philanthropist Paul Lister, our host, who had raced outside, giddy with excitement, for a glimpse of the magnificentraptor. With glee, Lister, heir to the MFI fortune, explained how rare the sighting was, while the huge bird continued to soar over Alladale Wilderness Reserve, west of Ardgay village in Sutherland.

The sighting was evidence that Lister's tenacious 20-year pursuit of his vision to rewild the 23,000-acre property was bearing fruit, as more and more native species return to the ***Scottish*** Highlands.

I'd departed Edinburgh for Alladale in my Mazda CX-5 early that morning. It is an easy two-and-a-half-hour drive north, towards Inverness, followed by another hour (50-miles) northwest to the gates of the reserve.

Guests arrive by way of a winding, private track leading to the main lodge. Signs warn drivers to take it slow, to protect the red squirrels that were reintroduced to the area in 2013. Thirty-six were reintroduced and, within months, they were breedingsuccessfully.

The demise of the native red squirrel was mainly due to the introduction of its American cousin, the grey squirrel, which eats its food source and carries a disease fatal to the red squirrel, but to which it is immune.

Following the course of the River Carron, with huge adult salmon leaping up-river to spawn, I arrived at the lodge. It is surrounded by spectacular landscape of rugged green hills, and the country's most northerly ancient Caledonian pine forest.

Magnificent red deer graze the lawns, while red squirrels race up and down age-old trees and delicate birds feed from boxes, filling the air with their soothing musical sounds. In 2021, BBC's Springwatch was broadcast live from Alladale, celebrating its successful rewilling and environmental projects and, the abundance of native wildlife. Lister himself is intense, passionate and driven... yet unstuffy, always approachable and fun. With a talented team of experts to guide him, he is single-mindedly pursuing his dreams. To encourage indigenous plants and animals back

Alladale Wilderness Reserve – A Rewilding Story - Scotland on Sunday Travel

to where they belong, Lister has planted over a million trees. Next, he will reintroduce native animals including wild cats, beavers, *Lynx* and, if he has his way, wolves. There is a peatland restoration project and a huge aquaponic garden where fish waste is used to feed plants, which in turn return clean water to the fish, without any artificial inputs. "Some people will be surprised to learn that the *Scottish* Highlands were once covered by large predators and lush pine forests," Lister told me. "Yet today they are barren, because much of the flora and fauna that once thrived here have disappeared, and the landscape has altered dramatically."

Climbing into his rugged Defender, we headed into the reserve, crunching along gravel tracks and into seven-mile-long Glen Alladale. Detouring off-road, we bumped across rugged country and through River Alladale, which was shallow enough to ford. The estate's herd of free-roaming Highland cattle knew we had food onboard for them and followed us until we stopped. Clambering from the back of the Defender, I was greeted by a chorus of mooing cattle, with their long-fringed heads and sharp-pointed horns. These beautiful beasts are all part of Alladale's rewilding process, and of the *Scottish* Rural Development Programme. Their grazing and trampling breaks up the ground, and their dung is a hotbed for insects, which are, in turn, a food source for birds.

On the way back, Lister took me to see his *Scottish* wildcats (aka the *Scottish* tiger), one of the rarest cats in the world. Alladale is helping to recover the species, which hovers on the brink of extinction. For their protection, the timid felines, tested for genetic purity, are homed within enclosures set up by The European Nature Trust.

Crossbreeding with domestic cats is threatening the survival of *Scottish* wildcats but programmes like this are restoring the balance. The fenced area provides a safe home for the adults and their feisty kittens. I crouched by the fence to observe a robust, tabby-patterned female, twice the size of a domestic cat, with a large broad head and a distinctive black-tipped tail, as she laydown to feed her demanding litter.

A tiny, ferocious, spitting, wide-eyed furball ran towards me with its tail pointing straight up. Don't be fooled by their cute-sounding meow... these are not domestic pussycats. Shy and elusive, they are ready to protect themselves from potential danger in the wild. "These new kittens will be going into the breeding centre, not the wild; they will be breeders and their kittens or their kittens' kittens will go into the wild, slowly getting the numbers out there," Lister explains. "If we are reintroducing wild cats, then we should also talk about reintroducing *Lynx*, and when. If we bring *Lynx* back too soon, they will compromise the wildcat numbers, and then the *Lynx* numbers will grow because there are no longer wolves here to regulate them." The controversial reintroduction of wolves to *Scotland* is part of Lister's dream. Dinner that night was shepherd's pie, or 'stalker's pie' as Lister calls it, made with his own venison. Another night, brown trout caught on the reserve was on the menu. The following morning, I hiked over the hill behind the lodge, through boggy ground covered in heather, ferns, saplings, and pretty wildflowers, before dropping into a small valley to visit tiny Croick Church built in 1827. It figured prominently in the Clearance of Glencalvie in 1845, when 18 families were evicted to make way for sheep farming, an event recorded in messages scratched into the glass windows by some of the homeless women seeking sheltering in the church. I was staying at the main Alladale Lodge. It is beautiful, though traditional rather than luxurious, with creaky wood floors and a huge wooden staircase leading to the seven en-suite double bedrooms. The very private, contemporary and extremely comfortable Eagle's Crag cottage offers seclusion. Set in Glen Alladale, it sleeps up to eight, and has wood beams throughout. Ghillie's Rest is more intimate and sits alongside the River Alladale; it has two bedrooms and everything needed for self-catering. It has impressive views of the glen, and easy access to the entire reserve. Lastly, there's Deanich Lodge, an off-grid, rustic bunkhouse considered to be one of the most remote buildings in *Scotland*, surrounded by nature; red deer gather here and golden eagles nest in the nearby hillside. Rewilding Alladale is all rather like a big jigsaw puzzle, slowly being put together by its effervescent owner. The process is inspiring and it's wonderful to see how successful it is. It's about balance, and managing our countryside, and allowing nature and wildlife to thrive, as well as offering an inspiring retreat for human visitors.

As for the future, perhaps one day Lister will be able to put the final piece into his puzzle. The last *Scottish* wolf was shot in 1743. Is it possible that these much-misunderstood historic denizens will return to the *Scottish* Highlands?

If Paul Lister has his way... they will!

Alladale Wilderness Reserve – A Rewilding Story - Scotland on Sunday Travel

For bookings contact: Alladale Wilderness Reserve
www.alladale.comwww.mazda.co.ukwww.theeuropenaturetrust.comThe European Nature Trust creates unique experiences to connect people with nature, while raising funds for wildlife and conservation initiatives across Europe.

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Graphic

[Paul Lister, owner of the Alladale Estate has spent 20-year pursuing his vision of rewilding the 23,000-acre property in the Scottish Highlands.](#)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: LIFE FORMS (90%); MAMMALS (90%); RODENTS (90%); ANIMALS (89%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS (89%); BIRDS (78%); FISHES (78%); WILDLIFE (78%); CATS (73%); WETLANDS (72%); WATER RESOURCES (67%); WETLANDS CONSERVATION (67%); RIVERS (64%)

Industry: SOIL-LESS AGRICULTURE (78%); PUBLISHING (73%); AQUACULTURE (69%)

Geographic: EDINBURGH, **SCOTLAND** (59%); **SCOTLAND** (91%)

Load-Date: October 19, 2021

Home attack a horror but Packham is wrong

Scottish Express

October 14, 2021 Thursday

Edition 1, Scotland

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Section: NEWS; OPINION, COLUMNS; Pg. 13

Length: 340 words

Byline: Alan Cochrane

Body

FIRST a confession: I've just about had enough of Chris Packham, Britain's selfstyled saviour of the world, but I was as horrified as the rest of the country at the appalling attack on his New Forest home. I'm not at all keen on the bloke but I shall defend to the last his right to argue his case.

That said, his latest campaign, which saw him - like the Pied Piper - lead a small army of children in a march on Buckingham Palace in which they demanded, albeit politely, that the Royal Family begin to 'rewild' their massive land holdings, is completely bogus. And it's bogus for the simple fact that it doesn't spell out what rewilding would mean for large tracts of our countryside.

It would see the replacement of all the people who live in our rural areas with animals, which have for the most part been extinct in this country for centuries.

In other words, another version of the Clearances. Many of the people currently living in the UK countryside work in farming, with a smaller number employed on shooting estates.

Both of these activities are anathema to Mr Packham. He says they've despoiled the UK's green and pleasant land and so, instead of sheep and cows, he wants beasts like beaver and, yes, *Lynx* and, who knows, eventually wolves to roam the land.

It's true that in the USA wolves have been reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park but, for goodness sake, Yellowstone is bigger THANWALEs. And after they were allowed back into remote areas of France and Italy, many farmers there are furious that they're losing lambs. Mr Packham points to the success of the reintroduction of beaver in parts of the Highlands and that did work, when it was strictly controlled.

But a few daft landowners went further and introduced too many beavers into lowland areas, with the result that the Scottish Government had to issue licences to cull (kill) them because of the damage to farmland.

Mr Packham is a TV celebrity, which appears to give him the right to direct all of our countryside policies.

Mind you, rewilding isn't a policy - it's bonkers.

Classification

Home attack a horror but Packham is wrong

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DXPscot

Subject: MAMMALS (90%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (90%); REPORTS, REVIEWS & SECTIONS (79%); PUBLIC LANDS (77%); PUBLIC LANDS REGULATION & POLICY (77%); FAMILY (75%); AGRICULTURAL LANDS (74%); NATIONAL PARKS (72%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (72%); ROYALTY, NOBILITY & GENTRY (70%); EDITORIALS & OPINIONS (58%); CELEBRITIES (50%)

Industry: AGRITOURISM (75%); AGRICULTURAL LANDS (74%); FARMERS & RANCHERS (74%); NATIONAL PARKS (72%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (72%); ROYALTY, NOBILITY & GENTRY (70%); CELEBRITIES (50%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (94%); UNITED KINGDOM (92%); FRANCE (53%); Scotland

Load-Date: October 14, 2021

End of Document

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Scottish Star

October 13, 2021 Wednesday

Edition 1, Scotland

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 18

Length: 587 words

Body

FUN is a very individual thing, isn't it? For some it means a pure adrenaline rush on the Stealth roller coaster at Thorpe Park. For others it's about a therapeutic walk in nature at RHS Garden Bridgewater, or learning about royalty at Hillsborough Castle in Northern Ireland.

Lotto

VOUCHER* towards

Whatever brings you joy, the UK is packed with attractions to suit every personality. And now you can get to visit one of them for less, thanks to The National Lottery, which has teamed up with theme parks, castles, wetlands, museums and more to offer Lotto players a £25 voucher* towards a fun day out to remember.

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So what will you go for? The interactive exhibits at Bletchley Park for a vivid insight into the work of the WWII code crackers, maybe? Or the new immersive theatre experience at SS Great Britain - Bristol's dry-docked ocean liner (kids can even climb the rigging)? How about the spectacular Stirling Tapestries at Stirling Castle? However far you're willing to venture, you'll find something to delight everyone. **Source: the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions,

Stirling Castle: A jewel in **Scotland**s crown

Immerse yourself in the life of 16th century royalty at Stirling Castle as you join costumed guides who bring the spectacular rooms to life (a National Lotteryfunded refurbishment in 2011 restored them to their former glory). Highlights include the Great Hall, built by James IV in 1503 to host feasts and dances, and the Stirling Tapestries, which tell the story of the hunt for the unicorn, recreated at a cost of £2million. After you've explored the castle itself, take some time to soak up the serenity of the Queen Anne Gardens.

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Edinburgh Dungeon: Enjoy some creepy thrills

Packed with interactive and live theatrical experiences, Edinburgh Dungeon is a brilliant place to head to for a heart-thumping, superbly entertaining day out. Ideal for older teens and adult groups, this is much more than a museum. With underground rides such as the thrilling Drop Dead, and state-of-the-art special effects, you'll be transported to the dark underbelly of the city's past. Stand trial in The Courtroom, witness the witches in an interrogation chamber, and meet Burke and Hare - Edinburgh's Victorian serial killers, on the hunt for fresh corpses to sell to the medical school...

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*Subject to availability. One voucher per person. 18+ only. See www.NATIONALLOTTERYDAYSOUP.com for full Ts&Cs.

it's Use your Lotto ticket to redeem a £25 voucher* towards fun stuff near you. parks,

Graphic

HIGHLAND WILDLIFE PARK Get up close to some endangered animals from the world's mountains and tundra in the stunning setting of the Cairngorms National Park. These include bison, elk, polar bears, tigers, wolves, *Lynx*, *Scottish* wildcats and beavers.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DSTscot

Subject: PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (90%); BRITISH MONARCHS (89%); THEATER (75%); WETLANDS (72%); WILDLIFE (72%); SHIPBUILDING (65%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (63%); MURDER (62%); HOMICIDE (60%)

Industry: LOTTERIES (93%); AMUSEMENT & THEME PARKS (90%); AMUSEMENT RIDES (90%);

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AND HEAD OUT FOR A GREAT ADVENTURE AT ONE OF THE UK'S BESTLOVED ATTRAC....

DESTINATIONS & ATTRACTIONS (90%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (90%); BRITISH MONARCHS (89%);
MUSEUMS & GALLERIES (89%); BOTANICAL GARDENS (77%); SHIPBUILDING (65%)

Geographic: EDINBURGH, **SCOTLAND** (89%); **SCOTLAND** (94%); UNITED KINGDOM (91%); NORTHERN
IRELAND (58%); **Scotland**

Load-Date: October 13, 2021

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A fun day out. for less; ADVERTISING FEATURE Use your Lotto ticket to unlock a £25 voucher* and head out for a great adventure at one of the UK's bestloved attractions

Scottish Express

October 13, 2021 Wednesday

Edition 1, Scotland

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 20

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Body

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**Source: the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions, 2018.

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STEP 2 Visit www.NATIONALLOTTERYDAYSOUP.com then enter your 19-digit Lotto ticket number. Note down the code that appears: this is your £25 voucher.

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£25 voucher* towards fun stuff near you

Graphic

HIGHLAND WILDLIFE PARK Get up close to some endangered animals from the world's mountains and tundra in the stunning setting of the Cairngorms National Park. These include bison, elk, polar bears, tigers, wolves, *Lynx*, *Scottish* wildcats and beavers.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DXPscot

Subject: PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (90%); BRITISH MONARCHS (89%); THEATER (75%); WETLANDS (72%); WILDLIFE (72%); SHIPBUILDING (65%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (63%); MURDER (62%); HOMICIDE (60%)

Industry: LOTTERIES (93%); AMUSEMENT & THEME PARKS (90%); AMUSEMENT RIDES (90%);

A fun day out. for less ADVERTISING FEATURE Use your Lotto ticket to unlock a £25 voucher* and head out for a great adventure at one of the UK's bestloved attra....

DESTINATIONS & ATTRACTIONS (90%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (90%); BRITISH MONARCHS (89%); MUSEUMS & GALLERIES (89%); BOTANICAL GARDENS (77%); SHIPBUILDING (65%)

Geographic: EDINBURGH, **SCOTLAND** (89%); **SCOTLAND** (94%); UNITED KINGDOM (91%); NORTHERN IRELAND (58%); **Scotland**

Load-Date: October 13, 2021

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A fun day out. for less; ADVERTISING FEATURE Use your Lotto ticket to unlock a £25 voucher* and head out for a great adventure at one of the UK's bestloved attractions

Daily Record and Sunday Mail

October 13, 2021 Wednesday

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 16

Length: 628 words

Body

FUN is a very individual thing, isn't it? For some it means a pure adrenaline rush on the Stealth roller coaster at Thorpe Park. For others it's about a therapeutic walk in nature at RHS Garden Bridgewater, or learning about royalty at Hillsborough Castle in Northern Ireland.

Lotto

VOUCHER* towards

Whatever brings you joy, the UK is packed with attractions to suit every personality. And now you can get to visit one of them for less, thanks to The National Lottery, which has teamed up with theme parks, castles, wetlands, museums and more to offer Lotto players a £25 voucher* towards a fun day out to remember.

Besides enjoying the discount, you can also feel proud knowing that you've helped to preserve some of the UK's best-loved sites, many of which are taking part in the promotion. These include 94 of the top 100 most visited tourist attractions in the UK**, from castles to wildlife parks; botanical gardens to museums, and plenty more fun stuff in between. By playing The National Lottery, you raise £30million for good causes every week.

So what will you go for? The interactive exhibits at Bletchley Park for a vivid insight into the work of the WWII code crackers, maybe? Or the new immersive theatre experience at SS Great Britain - Bristol's dry-docked ocean liner (kids can even climb the rigging)? How about the spectacular Stirling Tapestries at Stirling Castle? However far you're willing to venture, you'll find something to delight everyone.

**Source: the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions, 2018.

Stirling Castle: A jewel in **Scotland's** crown

Immerse yourself in the life of 16th century royalty at Stirling Castle as you join costumed guides who bring the spectacular rooms to life (a National Lotteryfunded refurbishment in 2011 restored them to their former glory). Highlights include the Great Hall, built by James IV in 1503 to host feasts and dances, and the Stirling Tapestries, which tell the story of the hunt for the unicorn, recreated at a cost of £2million. After you've explored the castle itself, take some time to soak up the serenity of the Queen Anne Gardens.

A fun day out. for less ADVERTISING FEATURE Use your Lotto ticket to unlock a £25 voucher* and head out for a great adventure at one of the UK's bestloved attractions....

Edinburgh Dungeon: Enjoy some creepy thrills

Packed with interactive and live theatrical experiences, Edinburgh Dungeon is a brilliant place to head to for a heart-thumping, superbly entertaining day out. Ideal for older teens and adult groups, this is much more than a museum. With underground rides such as the thrilling Drop Dead, and state-of-the-art special effects, you'll be transported to the dark underbelly of the city's past. Stand trial in The Courtroom, witness the witches in an interrogation chamber, and meet Burke and Hare - Edinburgh's Victorian serial killers, on the hunt for fresh corpses to sell to the medical school...

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The lynx may have survived in Scotland centuries later than previously thought, new study suggests – Lee Raye

[**The lynx may have survived in Scotland centuries later than previously thought, new study suggests – Lee Raye**](#)

Scotsman

October 12, 2021 Tuesday

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Section: COLUMNISTS POLITICS ENVIRONMENT FARMING SCOTLAND NATURE

Length: 1034 words

Byline: Lee Raye

Highlight: The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries on Earth, according to a recent assessment, and ranks among the bottom ten per cent for biodiversity globally.

Body

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Some conservationists are hoping to change that by reintroducing species from the island's wilder past. One such candidate is the Eurasian *lynx* – a feline mammal.

As recently as 1974, experts like Anthony Dent, author of *Lost Beasts of Britain*, believed that lynxes belonged with cave lions in Britain's distant *prehistoric past*. But this theory was challenged by zoologist David Hetherington and colleagues in 2005, when they presented radiocarbon dating evidence that lynxes were around as late as the *fifth or sixth century AD* in north Yorkshire.

Although rare, lynxes *persisted* on isolated wooded mountains in Italy and elsewhere in western Europe as late as 1800. But until today, the most recent credible record of lynxes in Britain was a 16th-century letter from Polish author Bonarus of Balice to famous Swiss renaissance naturalist Conrad Gessner. The letter describes the best *lynx* skins as coming from Sweden, and, surprisingly, *Scotland*. In 2017 when writing about this source, *I suggested* that it most likely referred to *lynx* furs imported to *Scotland* and then re-exported. But new evidence has made me reconsider my opinion.

In a study published in the journal Mammal Communications, I present the most recent, and perhaps the most reliable British record yet. Richard Pococke's Tour of *Scotland*, published 260 years ago in the year 1760, seems to describe a population of lynxes breeding near Auchencairn, a village near Kirkcudbright in Dumfries and Galloway, southwest *Scotland*.

READ MORE: [*Lynx could be reintroduced to the UK countryside as part of rewilding plans*](#)

The missing *lynx*

The lynx may have survived in Scotland centuries later than previously thought, new study suggests – Lee Raye

I first discovered this reference while gathering data for my *Atlas of Early Modern Wildlife*, a book which will map records of wildlife made by naturalists, local historians and travel writers in Britain and Ireland before the industrial revolution.

While the last securely dated remains of *Lynx* come from two centuries after the Roman withdrawal from Britain, the new record falls in the Georgian period, not long after the Jacobite rising of 1745. The author, [Richard Pococke](#), was at that time Bishop of Ossory, and a Fellow of the Royal Society. He was a well-known travel writer and wrote detailed notes on the historical, architectural and natural points of interest in the places he visited. Pococke's record of what appears to be a breeding population of lynxes was one of these notes, made for the interest of his learned readers.

Pococke refers to 53 species over the course of Tours of [Scotland](#). Many of these records, like the golden eagle, capercaillie (a large species of grouse) and mountain hare, are exciting for modern readers, but all bar the *Lynx* are known to have been present in [Scotland](#) when Pococke visited.

Historical records of wildlife can be difficult to use. Not only is it possible that the author misunderstood what they saw and heard, but their record might be exaggerated, and our understanding of the record might be wrong. This record is an especially tricky one to interpret. One of the reasons it has escaped the notice of historians is that it refers to the species involved as "a wild cat". I suggest it is a *Lynx* based on the description. [Pococke describes](#) a mammal three times as large as a "common cat" which was "yellow-red" with white breast and side and breeds in litters of two, in trees, and took poultry and lambs.

This description fits a *Lynx* better than it fits other species known to be in the area.

Reintroducing lynxes today

This record is especially timely as the *Lynx* is now being considered for reintroduction. The [Lynx UK Trust](#) has [prepared a second application](#) to reintroduce lynxes to Kielder Forest in northeast England and a project called [Lynx to Scotland](#) has [launched a consultation](#) about reintroducing lynxes there.

Returning lynxes to the wild in Britain is controversial because, unlike the osprey, sea eagle and red kite, the *Lynx* was thought to have gone extinct much earlier. Critics of the reintroduction say that the landscape of Britain has [changed too much](#) for lynxes to fit in. But if Pococke's record is reliable, the *Lynx* may have survived in [Scotland](#) much later than previously thought, and in conditions which are more similar to today.

For comparison, [Scottish](#) beavers were hunted to extinction [in the 16th or 17th century](#) while the last breeding cranes were [recorded in 1603](#). Both species have now reestablished breeding populations.

Supporters of *Lynx* reintroduction sometimes suggest [it wouldn't affect](#) industries in [Scotland](#). But the *Lynx* in Pococke's 18th-century record was disruptive, taking lambs, poultry and grouse and enraging landowners who hired hunters to control the animals.

The *Lynx*'s diet might have been a response to human activity. In 1760, the red deer and roe deer seem to have been extinct as wild species in Dumfries and Galloway. The mountain hare was also gone, the brown hare had not yet been introduced, and the rabbit was mainly a coastal species. Although the inaccessible mountain terrain offered some sanctuary to wildlife, woodland coverage is likely to have been [below ten per cent](#). These conditions are not suitable for the woodland-specialist *Lynx*, which needs cover to ambush its prey, and likely contributed to the species' extinction.

Lynxes reintroduced today would have [double the woodland coverage](#) and plenty of natural prey, including rabbits, European hares and roe deer, giving them less reason to leave woodland and stalk sheep pasture, poultry farms or grouse moors. Compared with the situation encountered by the lonely and persecuted *Lynx* of Pococke's day, 21st-century [Scotland](#) seems far more hospitable.

The lynx may have survived in Scotland centuries later than previously thought, new study suggests – Lee Raye

[Lee Raye](#) is an associate lecturer in arts and humanities at [The Open University](#). This article is republished from [The Conversation](#) under a Creative Commons license.

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Graphic

[Lynx cubs play in a bush in their enclosure at the Highland Wildlife Park at Kincraig, Scotland \(Picture: Jeff J Mitchell/Getty Images\)](#)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: WILD CATS (93%); COPYRIGHT (90%); MAMMALS (90%); RESEARCH REPORTS (90%); WRITERS (90%); ENVIRONMENTALISM (89%); HISTORY (89%); WILDLIFE (89%); BIODIVERSITY (78%); BIOLOGY (78%); EXPORT TRADE (78%); IMPORT TRADE (78%); HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCE (77%); ZOOLOGY (77%); CATS (73%)

Industry: WRITERS (90%); PUBLISHING (78%)

Geographic: EARTH (79%); **SCOTLAND** (95%); UNITED KINGDOM (91%); EUROPE (79%); IRELAND (79%); WESTERN EUROPE (79%)

Load-Date: October 12, 2021

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Scottish Express

October 11, 2021 Monday

Edition 1, Scotland

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 18

Length: 566 words

Body

WHETHER you're eight or 80, exploring new places rekindles the adventurer inside us all.

And in the UK we're spoiled for choice, with a choice of incredible attractions to fire the imagination.

Lotto

Thrill seekers of all ages will find adrenaline-filled rides at Zip World, Thorpe Park and Legoland (all of which are running Halloween-themed events during October).

VOUCHER* towards

Those who prefer a more relaxing experience can enjoy autumn's spectacular show of colours at venues like Kew Gardens, Cardiff Castle or the recently opened RHS Garden Bridgewater - a major horticultural project near Salford.

History fans will adore a trip to the gothic ruins at Whitby Abbey, Warwick or Stirling Castle, while animal lovers can meet Ruby the red panda, born in July at Edinburgh Zoo, or three adorable tiger cubs at Highland Wildlife Park.

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National Lottery players have supported 94 of the top 100 most visited tourist attractions in the UK**, from castles to wildlife parks, botanical gardens to museums and plenty of other fun stuff.

Every adventure starts with a finger on a map. So where will yours land?

**Source: the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions, 2018.

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STIRLING CASTLE Immerse yourself in the glamour of 16th century royal life! Highlights include the Great Hall, built by James IV to host feasts and dances, and the Stirling Tapestries. After you've explored the castle, soak up the serenity of the Queen Anne Gardens.

Classification

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Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DXPscot

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Subject: PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (90%); WILDLIFE (90%); ANIMALS (89%); MAMMALS (89%); NATIONAL PARKS (89%); WILD CATS (89%); ANIMALS & SOCIETY (78%); HISTORIC SITES (77%); HALLOWEEN (76%); ENDANGERED SPECIES (75%); HISTORIC DISTRICTS & STRUCTURES (75%); MOUNTAINS (73%); CUSTOMS & CULTURAL HERITAGE (69%)

Industry: LOTTERIES (93%); DESTINATIONS & ATTRACTIONS (90%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (90%); ZOOS & AQUARIUMS (90%); NATIONAL PARKS (89%); HISTORIC SITES (77%); BOTANICAL GARDENS (75%); HISTORIC DISTRICTS & STRUCTURES (75%); MUSEUMS & GALLERIES (69%); TOURISM (67%)

Geographic: EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND (89%); CARDIFF, WALES (78%); SCOTLAND (94%); UNITED KINGDOM (91%); EUROPE (58%); Scotland

Load-Date: October 11, 2021

End of Document

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Scottish Star

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Edition 1, Scotland

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 16

Length: 580 words

Body

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Lotto

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VOUCHER* towards

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Company: BEST INC (58%)

Ticker: BEST (NYSE) (58%)

Industry: NAICS453998 ALL OTHER MISCELLANEOUS STORE RETAILERS (EXCEPT TOBACCO STORES) (58%); SIC5999 MISCELLANEOUS RETAIL STORES, NEC (58%); LOTTERIES (93%); DESTINATIONS & ATTRACTIONS (90%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (90%); ZOOS & AQUARIUMS (90%); NATIONAL PARKS (89%); HISTORIC SITES (77%); BOTANICAL GARDENS (75%); HISTORIC DISTRICTS & STRUCTURES (75%); MUSEUMS & GALLERIES (69%); TOURISM (67%)

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Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DRC

Subject: PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (90%); WILDLIFE (90%); ANIMALS (89%); MAMMALS (89%); NATIONAL PARKS (89%); WILD CATS (89%); ANIMALS & SOCIETY (78%); HALLOWEEN (76%); HISTORIC SITES (76%); ENDANGERED SPECIES (75%); HISTORIC DISTRICTS & STRUCTURES (75%); MOUNTAINS (73%); CUSTOMS & CULTURAL HERITAGE (69%)

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Industry: LOTTERIES (93%); DESTINATIONS & ATTRACTIONS (90%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (90%); ZOOS & AQUARIUMS (90%); NATIONAL PARKS (89%); HISTORIC SITES (76%); BOTANICAL GARDENS (75%); HISTORIC DISTRICTS & STRUCTURES (75%); MUSEUMS & GALLERIES (69%); TOURISM (67%)

Geographic: EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND (88%); CARDIFF, WALES (78%); UNITED KINGDOM (91%); SCOTLAND (79%); EUROPE (58%); National Edition

Load-Date: October 11, 2021

End of Document

Designer outlet: TV star John Amabile has a creative spark on screen and off

Designer outlet: TV star John Amabile has a creative spark on screen and off

Scotsman

October 7, 2021 Thursday

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Section: HOMES AND GARDENS

Length: 477 words

Byline: Kirsty McLuckie

Highlight: John Amabile is a very amiable TV personality with a 30-year career in interior design, both on and off-screen.

Body

These days he runs John Amabile Design from a studio in Milngavie, offering not only consultancy and project management work for private clients and developers, but a curated collection of home furnishings for smaller projects.

In many ways his career has been a reflection of the evolution of interior design in *Scotland*. He started with a degree course in the 1980s at Glasgow College of Building and Printing, and recalls: “In the ‘80s, employing a designer was seen as the ultimate luxury, and there was little private client work – so I have had a great deal of experience in other areas.”

John’s career proper began when he moved down south to London. He explains: “Most of the work was in retail because people were still opening shops, unlike now. I worked on high street names and Harrods. I ended up designing an Abu Dhabi duty-free and a Woolworths in Limassol.

“It gave me a great grounding in understanding technical drawings, what costs go into the process, and how to talk to builders, planners and furniture makers.”

From there, pure chance led to his career path taking a different direction. “I did work placement in TV as a student, and in the 1990s I was offered a job as a set designer for STV back in Glasgow. So I worked on films and TV programmes – designing the set for *The Singing Kettle* and then became the production designer for *Taggart*.”

John was putting in the *Wheel of Fortune* set, when he reconnected with an old friend, Carol Smillie, and the pair first appeared together on a fashion show, *Get It On*.

Following that, he presented *Better Homes* with Carol Vordemann, before going on to *60 Minute Makeover* as well as making regular appearances on daytime TV. He says: “I started John Amabile Design because I was getting requests from clients who had seen my work on TV. I think they liked the fact that nothing I did was outrageous, unlike some other TV designers.”

Designer outlet: TV star John Amabile has a creative spark on screen and off

He now takes on interior projects for showhomes on behalf of developers and builders, his latest being the Park Quadrant development, and private clients.

But John also offers a curated collection of household wares to purchase online or from the studio. "I've always believed that whether you have £50 or £500,000, there are ways to change your surroundings to make things better. And the collection is a way for people to create an elegant, layered look."

A successful YouTube channel and Instagram account has led to another new direction for the presenter in 2022 – the John Amabile Design School.

He explains: "We aim to offer a mini-course on the fundamentals of design, through case studies, how to do it yourself, how to scale up a room and plan, how the colour wheel works, and dispelling myths.

"I pride myself on the fact that me doing my job genuinely helps people. I've ticked most of my design boxes and to be able to share my experience is a great opportunity.

Graphic

[A Lynx Blush Duvet, bolstered by matching hangings](#)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: ACTORS & ACTRESSES (90%); COSTUME & SET DESIGN (90%); INTERIOR DECORATING (90%); DO IT YOURSELF HOME IMPROVEMENT (79%); PROJECT MANAGEMENT (78%); REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT (78%); VISUAL ARTS (77%); CASE STUDIES (73%); FASHION SHOWS (72%); CERTIFICATES, DEGREES & DIPLOMAS (71%); INTERNET SOCIAL NETWORKING (64%); DRAWING & ILLUSTRATION (53%)

Industry: ACTORS & ACTRESSES (90%); COSTUME & SET DESIGN (90%); FURNITURE & FURNISHINGS (90%); HOUSEWARES & FURNISHINGS (90%); DO IT YOURSELF HOME IMPROVEMENT (79%); CONSULTING SERVICES (78%); INTERIOR DESIGN SERVICES (78%); REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT (78%); VISUAL ARTS (77%); DAYTIME TELEVISION (73%); PUBLISHING (73%); FASHION & APPAREL (72%); FASHION SHOWS (72%); RETAIL & WHOLESALE TRADE (69%); FURNITURE MFG (67%); TELEVISION PROGRAMMING (65%); INTERNET SOCIAL NETWORKING (64%); DRAWING & ILLUSTRATION (53%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, [SCOTLAND](#) (73%); LONDON, ENGLAND (56%); [SCOTLAND](#) (90%)

Load-Date: October 6, 2021

Auchorachan junior bull tops Stirling at 18,000gns

Auchorachan junior bull tops Stirling at 18,000gns

The Scottish Farmer

October 2021

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Length: 1880 words

Byline: Patsy Hunter

Body

An 18,000gns young bull from Michael Durnolx E2s Auchorachan herd, saved the day amongst the Simmental breed which up until the final half hour of the sale, met a disappointing trade.

While the 57 bulls cashed in at ₦25961, up ₦2372 on the year and for five more sold, the 18,000gns lot added ₦2332 to the overall average. Clearance rates were also a disappointing 59% compared to 64% at the 2020 event.

Read more:[Breeders of our Time](#) Michael Durno

Sale leader at 18,000gns was a second prize winner from the youngest class, Auchorachan Landmark, a May, 2020-born entry from Michael DurnoxE2s 60-cow herd from Glenlivet.

Backed by home-bred genetics on both sides, he is by the Auchorachan ACDC son, Auchorachan Hercules, an ET which sired bulls to 9000gns in February. The dam is Auchorachan Holly, an Ex90-classified cow by Sterling Herkules which has bred a lot of progeny sold privately from the Ballindalloch-based herd which is also home to select herds of pedigree Aberdeen-Angus and Charolais.

Landmark sold for pedigree and commercial use to Brian Grant, Druid Temple, Inverness.

Another from Mr Durno, Auchorachan Lancelot, a March 2020-born polled son of the Ex90-classified Auchorachan Witch and dam of Farmer, that is doing so well at Corskie, made 8500gns. He is by the Roscommon purchase Auroch Hudson, and sold to TG Hamilton, Killumpha, Port Logan, Wigtownshire.

Only two other bulls sold at five figures, both of which were consigned by the Stronach family, Berryleys, Keith.

Dearest at 12,500gns, when purchased by Messrs Swanson, Quarryside, Castletown, Caithness, was the March, 2020-born Islavale Lachlan. He is a son of Ranfurly Confederate, an Ex94-classified bull bought at the Dirnanean dispersal that has bred sons to 24,000gns. The dam of this second prize winner, is the Atlow Dixon-sired heifer, Islavale Innocent VG85.

[Read more: Auchorachan Landmark tops Simmentals at Stirling Bull Sales](#)

The first prize winner from the same class that went on to stand intermediate champion then made 10,000gns to Inverdunning Farms, Dunning.

Auchorachan junior bull tops Stirling at 18,000gns

This was Islavale Lord, a similarly aged son of the Ex92 Corskie Highlander, a herd sire bought privately from Iain Green and the sire of several five-figure priced bulls. The dam, Islavale Honeypot, is a daughter of Ranfurly Confederate and one of 150 pedigree cows at Berryleys.

Islavale also sold bulls at 9000gns, 8500gns, 7800gns and 7000gns with the former, Islavale Loch Ness, another by similarly aged second prize bull by Highlander, being knocked down to pedigree breeder, Colin Inglis, Dalachy, Aberdour. His dam, Islavale Daisy 2 GP84, is another by Confederate.

Islavale Lionheart, an April 2020-born son of Curaheen Giant bred from the Woodhall Walker-sired Islavale Holly 4 Ex90, made 8500gns to Willie and John Brown, Hilton of Culsh, New Deer, Turriff.

Another by Giant, Islavale Loyal, headed in the same direction at 7800gns. Bred from the Curaheen Bandit daughter, Islavale Glee VG86, he was knocked down to J Milne and Son, Oldwhat Mains, New Deer.

The last of the big sellers from the Stronachs made 7000gns to Graham Allan, Glenturk, Newton Stewart. This was the junior champion and supreme overall, Islavale Lennon, a direct son of Giant, bred from the Confederate daughter, Islavale Harlequin VG87.

Northern Ireland breeders, Noel and Mae Kilpatrick, secured a personal best selling Ballymoney Larry for 9000gns to Delfur Farms, Rothes, Aberlour. A red ticket holder, this March 2020-born entry is a son of the 14,000gns Saltire Impressive and bred from Ballymoney Harriet \xE2 one of only 15-cows owned by the finance broker from Banbridge.

Fellow Irish breeders, Richard and Rhys Rodgers, Portglenone, received 8000gns for Hiltonstown Lorenzo, an unplaced bull by Dermotstown Delboy Ex92, out of the Ex91-classified Hiltonstown High Class.

He sold to Lancashire breeders, Michael Barlow and family, buying for their Denizes herd from Four Oaks, Leyland.

Having dispersed the Roma herd last month, Roy Weatherup, Romavale, Denholm, was back in the money with the last of his bulls selling to 8000gns for Roma Leader.

He is by Islavale Frontier out of a home-bred Dirnanean Apostle daughter headed home with J Coventry and Sons, Newbarns, Forfar.

Top price for Richard McCulloch\xE2s Overhill House herd from Armadale was 7500gns paid for one of the first sons of the 24,000gns Islavale Heston. Lindsay Currie, Pinclanty, Pinmore, Girvan was the final bidder on this May 2020-born bull out of a home-bred cow by Corbally Extreme.

Just behind, on 7200gns, Adrian Ivory, Strathisla Farms, Meigle, sold Strathisla Lynx, by Dirnanean Grafter Ex93, to John McIntosh, Genoch Mains, Stranraer. The dam is the Ex90 Strathisla S Erin\xE2s Mira.

The senior champion and reserve overall made 7000gns for Jimmy and Vicki Wood\xE2s Popes herd from Lancashire, selling to A Nicolson, Relugas Mains, Dunphail, Forres.

Popes Lockhart, a son of the 12,000gns Camus Harold, is bred from the Popes Laird family being out of the Swingletree Emporer-sired Popes Trixies Isa.

Matching that price, WD and JD Hazelton, Dungannon, sold Ranfurly Leader, up to Orkney with Maesquoy Farms.

His pedigree features Anstrim Bodybuilder onto Ranfurly Weikel 20 VG85.

Simmental females peaked at 6000gns for Corskie Kashing, a Kilbride Farm Haka-sired in-calf heifer from Iain Green, Corskie, Fochabers. A daughter of the Kilbride Farm Tarrant daughter, Corskie Dashing 12 Ex92, she sold due to Drumagarner Hughes, to EM Smith and Sons, Towie more, Drummuir, Keith.

PRISE list:

Auchorachan junior bull tops Stirling at 18,000gns

Heifers born after Sept 13, 2020 \xE2 1 and female champion, WJ and J Green\xE2s Corskie Kashng, by Kilbride Farm Haka, 4500gns to Crudie Farming, Arbroath, Angus; 2 and reserve female champion, T Hill\xE2s **Scotland** Hill Wisteria Krystal, by Popes Fent, 3000gns to Inverdunning, Perthshire; 3, T Hill\xE2s **Scotland** Hill Hermione Keira, by Popes Fendt, 2500gns to Inverdunning, Perthshire; 4, WJ and J Green\xE2s Corskie Kaylee, by Kilbride Farm Haka, 6000gns to EM Smith and Sons, Towieore, Drummuir, Keith.

Bulls born between Nov 4, 2019 to Jan 28, 2020 \xE2 1, MA Barlow\xE2s Denizes Kingsley, by Blackford Galaxy, 6000gns to A Whiteford, Moulandale, Inverurie; 2, WJ and J Green\xE2s Corskie Lumber, by Drumagarnew Huges; 3, J and P Goldie\xE2s Newbiemains Lexus, by Woodhall Fantastic, 5000gns to S Shell and Son, Priestfield, Ladybank, Fife; 4, N and N Gwynne\xE2s Chestermann Krackerjack, by Chestermann Gibble; 5, GW Smith\xE2s Drumsleed Khyber, by Drumsleed Icicap.

Bulls born between Jan 29 to Jan 23, 2020 \xE2 1, JH and VG Wood\xE2s Popes Lockhart, by Camus Harold, 7000gns to A Nicolson, Relugas Mains, Dunphail, Moray; 2, L Green\xE2s Garmouth Loon, by Kilbride Farm Haka, 6200gns to MJ and A Mill, Shawsmaill, Cardenden, Fife; 3, D and R Durno and Sons\xE2 Auchorachan Larry, by Auchorachan Impeccable; 4, J and P Goldie\xE2s Newbiemains Lorenzo, by Moorglen Hillbilly; 5, A Wilson\xE2s Bannhill Farm Lord, by Saltire Impressive.

Bulls born between Feb 24 and Mar 11, 2020 \xE2 1, MH Kilpatrick\xE2s Ballmoney Larry, by Saltire Impressive, 9000gns to Delfur Farms, Dundurcas, Rothes, Aberlour; 2, D and R Durno and Sons\xE2 Auchorachan Landrover, by Auroch Hudson, 4500gns to Genoch Mains Farms, Dunragit, Stranraer; 3, JH and VG Wood\xE2s Popes Ludo, by Denizes Impressive, 4000gns to Easter Tulloch, Laurencekirk, Kincardineshire; 4, R and A Simmers\xE2 Backmuir Lewis, by Islavale Imperial; 5, WJ and J Green\xE2s Corskie Lupin, by Dirnanean Geldof, 5800gns to F McGowan, Incheoch Farms, Blairgowrie.

Bulls born between Mar 12 and 17, 2020 \xE2 1, WS Stronach\xE2s Islavale Lord, by Corskie Highlander, 10,000gns to Inverdunning, Dunning, Perthshire; 2, WS Stronach\xE2s Islavale Lachlan, by Ranfurly Confederate, 12,500gns to Messrs Swanson, Quarryshire, Caithness; 3, WH Robson and Sons\xE2 Kilbride Farm Luther, by Sneumgaard Imperator, 4500gns to AS Leedham, Rowan, Pickering; 4, WG Macpherson\xE2s Blackford Lindor, by Ranfurly Confederate; 5, R and A Simmers\xE2 Backmuir Livewire, by Islavale Imperial.

Bulls born between Mar 18 and 27, 2020 \xE2 1, D and R Durno and Sons\xE2 Auchorachan Lancelot, by Auroch Hudson, 8500gns to TG Hamilton, Killumpha, Port Logan, Wigtonshire; 2, WG Macpherson\xE2s Blackford Lindt, by Hockenhull Waterloo; 3, GL Clark\xE2s Broombrae Lance, by Lisglass Goldstar, 4000gns to A and B Braes, West Bradieston, Montrose; 4, WS Stronach\xE2s Islavale Leon, by Ranfurly Confederate, 6500gns to CA Smith, Wester Coull, Tarland, Aboyne, Aberdeenshire; 5, AS and YA Leedham\xE2s Grangewood **Lynx**, by Ranfurly Impeccable, 3500gns to R Orr, Heights Farm, Buchlyvie, Stirling.

Bulls born between Mar 28 and Apr 3, 2020 \xE2 1, Strathisla\xE2s Strathisla **Lynx**, by Dirnanean Grafter, 7200gns to Genoch Mains, Stranraer; 2, WS Stronach\xE2s Islavale Loch Ness, by Corskie Highlander, 9000gns to C Inglis, Craegorry, Dalachy, Aberdour; 3, GW Smith\xE2s Drumsleed Landmark, by Wolfstar Gordy, 12,000gns to UA, Stirling and Genoch Mains, Stranraer; 4, LD Quarm\xE2s Annick Liberty, by Corskie Callum; 5, H Duff\xE2s Pitmudie Lockerbie, by Overhill House Eragon.

Bulls born between Apr 4 and 7, 2020 \xE2 1, D and R Durno and Sons\xE2 Auchorachan Lockdown, by Auroch Hudson, 6500gns to W Young, Skerrington Mains, Hurlford, Kilmarnock; 2, WD and JD Hazelton\xE2s Ranfurly Leader, by Antrim Bodybuilder, 7000gns to Maesquoy Farm, Orkney; 3, JH and VG Wood\xE2s Popes Lightning Rod, by Raceview King, 5000gns to A Jack, Kilcoy Mains, Muir of Ord\xE2 4, Strathisla Landward, by Vale Royal Hamish, to 3500gns to R Elliott, Lordsview, High Moor, Tadcaster; 5, H Duff\xE2s Pitmudie Lomond, by Overhill House Eragon, 3000gns to A Petrucci, Outer Blair, Stranraer.

Bulls born between Apr 8 and 23, 2020 \xE2 1, WS Stronach\xE2s Islavale Lennon, by Curaheen Giant, 7000gns to Glenturk Farming, Newton Stewart; 2, Strathisla Farms\xE2 Strathisla Lumberjack, by Vale Royal Hamish, 6000gns to Stewart Farms, Balglass, Glasgow; 3, R and L Storer Smith\xE2s Storersmith Lucky Dip, by Storersmith Lucky Dip, 5200gns to CA Smith, Wester Coull, Tarland, Aberdeenshire; 4, C Inglis\xE2 Greencap Legend, by Wolfstar

Auchorachan junior bull tops Stirling at 18,000gns

Humdinger; 5, H Duff\xE2s Pitmudie Legacy, by Overhill House Eragon, 4500gns to G and A Milne, Staningstones, Banchory.

Bulls born between Apr 24 and May 20, 2020 \xE2 1, G Brown\xE2s Springfield Legacy, by Shiloh Freedom, 6500gns to J Duff and Son\xE2s Broomknowe, Brechin; 2, R McCulloch\xE2s Overhill House Link, by Islavale Heston, 7500gns to DL and S Currie, Pinclanty, Pinmore, Girvan; 3, GW Smith\xE2s Drumsleed Lely, by Wolfstar Gordy; 4, G Brown\xE2s Springfield Lethal Weapon, by Shiloh Freedom, 5000gns to J Barclay and Son, Ardiecow, Banff; 5, RS and ME Weatherup\xE2s Roma Laddie, by Islavale Frontier, 3000gns to Millburn Farm, Harray, Orkney.

Bulls born after May 21, 2020 \xE2 1, JH and VG Wood\xE2s Popes Laertes, by Camus Harold, 6000gns to Greasley Estate, Peter Muir, Eastwood, Nottingham; 2, D and R Durno and Sons\xE2 Auchorachan Landmark, by Auchorachan Hercules, 18,000gns to B Grant, Druid Temple, Inverness; 3, R and L Storer Smith\xE2s Storersmith Lionheart, by Ballinalare Farm Galaxy; 4, AS and YA Leedham\xE2s Grangewood Logan, by Ranfurly Impeccable; 5, DC Houldey\xE2s Manor Park Leon, by Ranfurly Highflier.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: AWARDS & PRIZES (89%)

Industry: BEEF CATTLE FARMING (78%); CATTLE RANCHING & FARMING (78%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, **SCOTLAND** (58%); **SCOTLAND** (73%)

Load-Date: October 23, 2021

End of Document

Rewilding: How nature recovery on a giant scale can help Scotland

Scotsman

September 28, 2021 Tuesday

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Section: ENVIRONMENT HUMAN INTEREST OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT CLIMATE
CHANGE CONSERVATION NATURE PLACES SCOTLAND

Length: 448 words

Byline: Ilona Amos, iamos@scotsman.com

Highlight: Not only is the planet amidst a climate emergency, wildlife is vanishing off the face of the earth at an alarming rate.

Body

And the two are inextricably interlinked. Loss of biodiversity is both a cause and a consequence of climate change.

Here in **Scotland** within my own lifetime almost half of all species have decreased and more than a tenth are now threatened with extinction.

Research has shown that a healthy, biodiverse environment is not just good for wildlife, it's good for us and helps tackle the climate crisis.

Nature provides countless environmental services and is probably the most efficient weapon in our arsenal when it comes to tackling climate change and protecting us against its worst impacts – from sucking up and storing carbon dioxide to helping to control water levels and pollinating crops.

It is also proven to boost human health and well-being just by being there, outside.

READ MORE: [Going wild: How Scots are working to save nature through rewilding](#)

"Imagine a **Scotland** where nature is reawakened. Where a rich tapestry of native woodlands, wetlands, wildflower meadows and grasslands is stitched back together.

"Where land and seas teem with life. Where people feel connected to the natural world, wherever they live. And where nature-based enterprises support thriving communities far and wide."

This is the vision of the **Scottish** Rewilding Alliance, a collaboration of organisations with a mission to see nature restored on a grand scale.

Rewilding is not just about wolves, bears and **Lynx**. It's about all species, animals and plants, from the smallest to the biggest .

Rewilding: How nature recovery on a giant scale can help Scotland

It's a progressive approach to conservation, encouraging nature to take care of itself and allowing natural processes to shape land and sea and repair damaged ecosystems.

The end result should be thriving habitats hosting a diverse range of species – as nature intended.

The concept has been around for a long time, but initiatives in ***Scotland*** are growing apace, with everything from tiny domestic projects in people's own gardens to massive-scale efforts like the new 500,000-acre Affric Highlands project, announced a few days ago.

READ MORE: [*COP26: Could the future of the planet hang on the summit in Glasgow?*](#)

As far as I'm concerned you can't have too much rewilding and I would love to see [***Scotland become the world's first rewilding nation***](#), as proposed by the alliance.

Now with COP26 rolling into Glasgow in a matter of weeks, it's a good time to highlight how nature-based solutions can help us all.

A message from the Editor:

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Graphic

[*A massive rewilding project - Affric Highlands, led by conservation charity Trees for Life - will restore nature across a network of landholdings potentially covering an area of more than 500,000 acres, stretching from Loch Ness across the central Highlands to Kintail in the west, and encompassing Glens Cannich, Affric, Moriston and Shiel. Picture: Grant Willoughby*](#)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: BIODIVERSITY (90%); CLIMATE CHANGE (90%); CLIMATOLOGY (90%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (90%); WILDLIFE (90%); CONSERVATION (79%); ENVIRONMENTAL RELATED SERVICES (79%); POLLINATION (79%); ANIMALS (78%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (78%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (78%); ENVIRONMENTAL INDUSTRY (78%); FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS (78%); LIFE FORMS (78%); MAMMALS (78%); SALTWATER ECOSYSTEMS (78%); WETLANDS (78%); MEDICINE & HEALTH (77%); SEWING & NEEDLECRAFTS (73%); CONSUMER BEHAVIOR (72%); CORONAVIRUSES (72%); INFECTIOUS DISEASE (72%); VIRUSES (72%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (66%); FACT CHECKING (60%)

Industry: ENVIRONMENTAL RELATED SERVICES (79%); ENVIRONMENTAL INDUSTRY (78%); PUBLISHING (73%); CONSUMER BEHAVIOR (72%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, SCOTLAND (73%); SCOTLAND (92%)

Load-Date: September 27, 2021

End of Document

'We are part of nature in Scotland and we need to work with it'

'We are part of nature in Scotland and we need to work with it'

Herald Scotland

September 27, 2021 Monday

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Length: 979 words

Body

NatureScot CEO, Francesca Osowska tells Dominic Ryan why 'rewilding' is not so much about wolves and bears but restoring the ecological balance in our natural habitats which will also help mitigate the effects of climate change

The notion of rewilding in **Scotland** has come to imply many things to many people - from biodiverse city parks to verdant sanctuaries, entirely free of humans, where wild creatures roam free: think Jurassic Park but with wolves and **Lynx** rather than velociraptors.

For Francesca Osowska, however, there needs to be a much clearer understanding of what rewilding actually means for the future of **Scotland** . . . and, indeed, the entire planet.

The CEO of NatureScot explains: "It's really topical at the moment but, as a term, it has lots of different meanings for different people, so it's helpful to say what I and NatureScot subscribe to in terms of rewilding.

"A key message is to stop thinking about the human species being separate from nature. We are part of it and we need to work with it.

"So for me rewilding is not necessarily abandonment or about excluding people. It's us working and living with nature to maintain, restore and create habitats at scale - I'm thinking about projects to return whole ecosystems into more of an ecological balance."

Francesca believes understanding this dynamic is vital in terms of addressing the climate emergency and the many nature crises the planet is facing.

Rewilding is an essential part of the solution to the climate crisis: globally, we need to rewild or face extinction - and **Scotland** can lead the way.

There are already some wonderful examples of rewilding projects happening across the country.

"Cairngorms Connect is a really fantastic example of a massive landscape-scale project," says Francesca.

"This is about creating a habitat for nature to thrive by recognising humans are part of that environment and, where necessary, we do need to help nature along but such intervention should be minimal."

'We are part of nature in Scotland and we need to work with it'

A partnership of neighbouring land managers and encompassing 600 square kilometres, Cairngorms Connect is certainly an ambitious initiative, with a projected 200-year vision aimed at enhancing habitats, species and ecological processes within **Scotland**'s world-famous national park.

Francesca adds: "It offers tremendous opportunities and it's brilliant there's a dialogue to restore nature, help combat nature degradation and address climate issues."

As the nation's official nature agency, NatureScot is adept at identifying such opportunities to meet its primary aim to improve **Scotland**'s natural environment and inspire all of us to care more about it. As part of this mission, it's leading or funding a wide range of different projects to increase nature and implement nature-based solutions in towns and cities . . . and this includes rewilding for people and nature.

"We have two very important roles," says Francesca. "The first is about creating and having the conversation about rewilding: what it is, what it isn't and trying to make the concept more current and less scary for some. The discussions are taking place at a national scale but also at a local community level.

"The introduction of beavers into **Scotland** is an example of rewilding where we are actively working with communities and local stakeholders - ensuring they're comfortable with what's being proposed is really important.

"Direct support is the second key element of our roles. As well as Cairngorms Connect, we support many other major restoration projects, working with partners."

Francesca points out, even if NatureScot projects don't always tick the boxes of rewilding, often they fit into that important category of working with nature, natural processes, ecosystems and landscape-scale change.

"The Forsinard Flows would be another great example of working with nature and restoring in some places what's been there previously."

This project in Caithness and Sutherland focuses on making space for natural processes through forest to bog restoration, offering the benefits of carbon storage for climate change mitigation and creating a habitat for wetland species.

Later this year, NatureScot will publish its research report Mainstreaming Large Scale Nature Restoration. This will include case studies in **Scotland** that have important elements of 'rewilding', including Cairngorms Connect, Forsinard Flows, Tweed Catchment, Glen Affric, Alladale Estate, Glen Tanar, Great Trossachs Forest and Sunart Oakwoods.

"It's all about understanding what happens when you rewild an area and what it does for the habitat and the nature within it," says Francesca.

Another important aspect of this entire process is what Francesca terms "rewilding ourselves".

"There's been a sense over a number of years that when we talk about nature conservation, it's 'us doing it to nature out there'," she explains.

"However, we're part of the ecosystem and we can't live apart from it. We need to see ourselves as absolutely integral to nature and part of it not apart from it.

"It's vital to have this understanding to grab the public imagination and inspire them to care about nature and all its benefits.

"So rewilding ourselves is about understanding we're part of this really dynamic, complex, exciting set of interactions with nature and not just seeing ourselves as the kind of agent of change. We're not masters of the planet, we're part of it and we need to work with it."

'We are part of nature in Scotland and we need to work with it'

Francesca adds that the forthcoming COP26 summit in Glasgow will help to further inspire greater public appreciation of nature and our existential role in it, adding: "The more people who understand this, the more they're likely to care about nature and want to see changes in the way we work with nature.

"My aspiration is this becomes a really virtuous circle and the benefits derived from nature are fully recognized in both our society and our economy."

www.nature.scot

Classification

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Rewilding plan a beacon of hope' for biodiversity

Aberdeen Press and Journal

September 25, 2021 Saturday

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Section: NWS; Pg. 21

Length: 597 words

Byline: John Ross

Body

An ambitious plan has been launched to return an area of the Highlands covering more than 500,000 acres back to nature.

The 30-year rewilding initiative would encompass four glens over an area the size of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park.

The Affric Highlands project aims to connect a swathe of landholdings as one vast nature recovery area from Loch Ness to Kintail.

It will put the area among an elite group of rewilding programmes across Europe.

It proposes restoring native woodland and peatland and improving wildlife habitats, while providing economic and community benefits.

Long-term plans could involve reintroducing species including wildcat, beaver and even *Lynx*, if approval is given following consultation.

Affric Highlands is the result of three years of consultation between Rewilding Europe, Trees For Life and local partners.

Work is due to start in 2023 and will eventually stretch over glens Cannich, Affric, Moriston and Shiel.

Twenty landowners, covering at least 25% of the total area, and six organisations already support the project.

They include the 1,200-acre Corry Farm in Glenelg and 1,262-acre Bunloit Estate near Loch Ness, as well as the Trees for Life 10,000-acre Dundreggan Estate at Invermoriston.

Affric Highlands is welcomed by Rewilding Europe as the ninth member of its prestigious network of large pioneering rewilding areas.

Already the group includes: Portugal's Greater Côa Valley; The Danube Delta in Ukraine, Romania and Moldova; Romania's Southern Carpathians; Croatia's Velebit Mountains; Italy's Central Apennines; Bulgaria's Rhodope Mountains; The Oder Delta in Germany and Poland; and Swedish Lapland.

Rewilding plan a beacon of hope' for biodiversity

Steve Micklewright, chief executive of Trees for Life, said Affric Highlands will take large-scale nature recovery to a new level.

He said: "The Highlands have huge potential to help nature to come back and so help people to thrive, and to make a leading contribution to tackling the global climate and nature emergencies."

The plan is "highly ambitious", he says, but adds: "We think in order to achieve rewilding and the recovery of nature in **Scotland** that's the scale we need to be working at."

"It's then you can start to make a real difference."

The project, which has received funding from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, will create a mosaic of wooded mountain areas of native species amid peatland and moorland.

Affric Highlands' emblem is the wildcat and the landscape is seen as ideal habitat for the species.

"If they aren't there, it's certainly the right sort of place for a potential wildcat reintroduction project," said Mr Micklewright.

"But there would need to be detailed habitat assessments and proper public consultation."

Similar discussions and approvals will be needed for any introduction of beavers and **Lynx**.

As well as connecting habitats, the project aims to strengthen connections between communities and the wildlife on their doorsteps.

This will include additional funding and job opportunities.

Some of the carbon credits received by landowners for offsetting emissions could be shared with communities, similar to levies applied to windfarm developments.

Dundreggan is part of Trees For Life's ongoing work which has seen nearly two million native trees established to restore the Caledonian Forest in the Highlands.

Rewilding Europe sees this work as a "beacon of hope" for reversing declines in habitat and wildlife.

Frans Schepers, managing director of Rewilding Europe, added: "Affric Highlands is a bold, exciting and inspiring venture for nature's recovery as **Scotland** moves up the biodiversity league table."

Classification

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Subject: BIODIVERSITY (90%); CONSERVATION (90%); MOUNTAINS (89%); WILD CATS (89%); HABITAT CONSERVATION (78%); LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (78%); LIFE FORMS (78%); NATIONAL PARKS (78%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (78%); PUBLIC LANDS (78%); WILDLIFE (78%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (76%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (75%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS CONSERVATION (70%); EXECUTIVES (50%)

Industry: NATIONAL PARKS (78%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (78%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS CONSERVATION (70%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (74%); ROMANIA (92%); EUROPE (90%); ITALY (79%); MOLDOVA, REPUBLIC OF (79%); SCOTLAND (79%); PORTUGAL (77%); CROATIA (72%); UKRAINE (72%); GERMANY (57%); BULGARIA (50%); 7 North East

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"Bear Grylls can get in danger. We're here to smell the flowers." TV's new Scottish adventurers

"Bear Grylls can get in danger. We're here to smell the flowers." TV's new Scottish adventurers

Herald Scotland

September 18, 2021 Saturday

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Length: 2365 words

Byline: [Vicky Allan](#)

Body

"WHAT is it the average human lifespan? 75 years?" Andrew O'Donnell says. "You're no going to see everything. No point rushing about. And time is strange. When you're sitting in a bird-hide it goes pretty slow, don't it?"

O'Donnell and his pal, Mark Taylor are the adventuring pair followed by the BBC's Roaming In The Wild, whose second series starts next week and who have started to garner a cult following. And while "no point rushing about" might seem a strange philosophy for such a show, that in many ways is the principle at its heart. It's about slowing down and taking in the moment - which is also what we're trying to do on the day in which we meet, even though O'Donnell has been up since 5am working on editing the show and according to his pal, Taylor, his "wee eyes" were tired. A cup of tea and a chat then a wander up into the hills just behind their home in Fintry is the plan.

For now, though, we are just talking about bird hides.

"When you're staring at a lens for 12 hours a day in a hide, you're left with only your own thoughts," says 35-year-old Taylor. "You start getting a different perspective."

"The mind drifts," 30-year-old O'Donnell adds. "We were observing goshawks this year in the hide and it was using a remote camera. They were 100 metres away, forest is quite dense. You're sitting there 18 hours a day, watching something that you don't ever actually see with your own eyes. Anything good or any observation comes at a price, which is time. But that's good. It's good to get bored."

READ MORE:Hamish Hawk: [**Scottish**](#) singer could be the next big thing

Roaming In The Wild, in its second series now, follows the pair as they take a series of journeys across [**Scotland**](#), none of which actually involve sitting in bird hides for days. But this is no high-octane adventure series - even if it does take the friends walking across Assynt in search of the Northern Lights, paddling down the River Kelvin through Glasgow, sea-kayaking on Loch Shiel, skiing in the Cairngorms and peddle-boating across Loch Ness. The show is not about reaching goals, or bagging peaks. Much of its drama and interest revolves around the distractions and diversions that can take place on a long journey.

"Bear Grylls can get in danger. We're here to smell the flowers." TV's new Scottish adventurers

That's been their style from the start. Piglets, for instance, were a feature of their first trip filmed for television, a navigation down the Forth in a canoe. They noticed a squealing litter stuck on a riverbank as they passed, and rather than ignore them, got involved in a rescue. It was a highlight of the film.

"We don't put ourselves in danger," O'Donnell says. "It's not that type of film. Bear Grylls can do that. He can fire away. We're there to smell the flowers."

READ MORE: Tidal pools to lidos. 20 (not too wild) spots to swim outdoors in [Scotland](#)

Roaming In The Wild is languorous and low-key, with a touch of slow cinema to its style. You can almost smell the flowers, or the moss, or the river water. "We're here for a long time, not a good time," O'Donnell narrates on the first episode, in a twist on the classic line.

It's also about companionship and friendship as much as nature, which makes it all the more of a pleasure to watch in this pandemic of stretched social ties. There's something about the quirky, low-key dynamic between this duo that is relentlessly watchable. That's on display even as we walk up the hill together, and they wade into bracken for a photo shoot, Taylor frequently hamming, as, eyes wide, he performs the explorer, woolly-hatted O'Donnell, the Stan Laurel of the pair, meeting him with a sad expression or wry grin.

Often, I tell them, the show reminded me of walks I've done with my friend Emily - who is herself always so much up for the distraction that we have to add around two hours onto the estimated walk-time of any trip.

"That's how it should be," says Taylor, approvingly. "Too many folks feel the need to get to the top and that's their mission. Some folk are into that and that's cool. But we're a bit more like enjoy the journey. We'll sit by the waterfall for an extra half hour if the mood takes us... I don't understand the point of bagging a Munro just to tick it off a list. And if you're going out for the mission of 'I need to go out and get my hour's walk in because I haven't reached my steps yet', are you really enjoying it? Are you really taking it all in?"

He describes how a typical filming trip or expedition might unfold for them. "We'll say we're setting off at 8am or 7am but we'll have a couple of extra coffees and then we'll set off really a bit later, and then we'll get to the place we're going and we'll have stopped off maybe or a bacon roll and donut and then we'll be there and we'll have found something interesting on the way and started filming that for a bit longer. The plans that you make sort of drift off."

The show is also a reminder that you don't have to get up onto the highest peak, or tackle the fastest of whitewater to experience the wild or challenge yourself. On their trip down the Kelvin, which takes them from the Campsie Fells into Glasgow and under the roads of Maryhill, a slow and lazy paddle down the water reaches its crescendo in a whitewater slide down a weir. Whitewater fanatics might find it prosaic, but on film, as they plunge through the water, the pair look heroic. It's a reminder that you don't have to do very extreme things to feel the glory.

Roaming in the Wild is a series that came, like Calum Maclean's wild swimming series *Dhan Uisge*, out of BBC's *The Social*. O'Donnell had been making short films for the online department, under the name Beluga Lagoon, and they contacted him and others asking for pitches for programmes. Part of its magic is the way its held together O'Donnell's relentless, gentle deadpan narration and also the music he has recorded as soundtrack.

He has an ability to twist a quaint observation and make it seem like poetry. "We were soaked through to the nipples," he says in one of their films, in his sing-song querulous accent. "It was the kind of rain that makes your waterproofs feel a little bit redundant."

His music, recorded as Beluga Lagoon, is haunting folk, sometimes suffused with O'Donnell's rousing banjo, or guttural voice, and itself deserves a wider audience.

He is, he says, a self-taught musician. "I didn't go to university. My dad showed me stuff when I was younger. I always tinkered with instruments since I was about five or six. I couldn't read music or anything but it's just something I've always done and it always just feels part of life. It's not a job, it's just something that I do. It's nice the music, it saves us money as well. It's nice as well that you know everything is relevant and the subject matter is similar."

"Bear Grylls can get in danger. We're here to smell the flowers." TV's new Scottish adventurers

The pair first came across each other when they had the same childminder in Lennoxtown where they grew up, but they bonded as friends when they were both working in a hotel there years later. At the time, Mark, the elder by five years, was 21 and still at university studying aeromechanical engineering.

Taylor recalls, "The three days off I'd be off Tuesday to Thursday, Andrew would be free I'd say what are you up to today and we'd go up the hills. From the very beginning we were camping up back of Lennoxtown. We had a mutual interest - travelling. We ended up going to Madagascar. That's where we became soulmates. Because Andrew got this idea and it just came out of the blue one day in the kitchen, saying I want to go to Madagascar. Then within a week we'd booked it. That's when we fell in love."

O'Donnell now chiefly earns his money as a wildlife cameraman. "I'm a wildlife film-maker, worked for BBC and Japanese television as well. But I would rather just sit out and look at the wildlife and go swimming and stuff. The camera is a method of doing it. I love making films now obviously but at first it was just a way of getting out."

Taylor still works in pubs and hotels. He enjoys it, though he notes how busy and stressful it can get. "In bars restaurants pubs everything is so stressful and it's so ridiculous because essentially you're just having something to eat, your dinner. But you're getting yourself so worked up and you're running around.. And then you reflect on it and go there's no need. It's like that in general day to day. You could be stressing out about your own personal projects. When you look at the bigger picture is there any need? Is it good for you?"

One of the surprises is that the two friends live together. In their house in Fintry there are children's toys and instruments arranged along one side of the room. At first I begin to wonder if they have a child together.

But, no, it turns out that Mark is living with O'Donnell's family, partner Lyndsay, baby daughter Ivy and son, Jamie. It turns out that O'Donnell had "a lockdown baby". "Uncle Mark" as O'Donnell puts it, came to look after their older child while they went into hospital for the birth of their second, Ivy, and since they had now formed a bubble, never left.

"The grandparents were all shielding," O'Donnell recalls. "Eventually they would be able to come and look in the window and like see Ivy my daughter. Mark's holding her and my mum's absolutely raging, 'That Mark, holding my granddaughter, I've no even held her yet.' Mark is not his uncle but it's one of those spiritual sort of things."

"It was good also for doing the work together," Taylor recalls. "It was quite nice. I cooked you dinner. He was just serenading the baby and I was grafting and doing the gardening."

READ MORE: Rewild **Scotland**: "Beavers in all rivers. **Lynx** and wolf back."

Luckily it seems O'Donnell's partner, Lyndsay is, by their accounts relaxed about their regular trips - and doesn't have much urge to join them in a tent. "Lyndsay is pretty glamorous," O'Donnell says, "likes nights in the town and stuff like that. She hasn't been camping yet. Likes a gastropub does Lindsay."

What's apparent from spending a little time with them is that they are pretty much as they appear in the series. "We're pals," Taylor says. "We do spend a lot of time together - we've been working together for quite a few years and we're looking to do more and more, pretty much most days we'll see each other, we'll be working together. We do get on socially, professionally, we hang out with the same people. A lot together. We just get on."

"We're both quite chilled out," O'Donnell says. "We can sit in silence for four hours and it's not awkward."

But they are also like "wee boys", they say, inclined towards doing a daft practical joke when they're out and about in the supermarket. Recently, when O'Donnell hid from Taylor under one of the shelves in B&Q, he was caught out by the fact that a couple came looking along the aisle just at that point, and he was trapped in that hiding place.

Nevertheless, there's an element of seriousness to their series. They clearly care about the natural world they roam through, even if they're not particularly preachy. They are advocates of rewilding. They bemoan the impact of litterers but seem keen to share the wilds with others. They try gently in the series to role model behaviours like

"Bear Grylls can get in danger. We're here to smell the flowers." TV's new Scottish adventurers

clearing up litter and leaving a campsite as found. Don't they get stressed about what's happening to the natural world they care so much about? About climate-change and biodiversity loss?

"You effect the things you can effect," says O'Donnell. "I've been involved in working for people who make environmental films and you try and do what you can in that sense. **Scotland** needs more biodiversity, it goes without saying."

"You always want to do more," Taylor adds, "and we're not ignorant to that. But I think there are things you can fix, and you can stress about them, and there are things you can't and there's no point in stressing over. You effect those around you, you effect the way you live, from there you hope that leads on to people within your community. I don't get overly stressed about things like climate or covid or things like that because all you can do is try and do your wee bit."

Watching the series, I felt soothed and transported. The pair have had feedback from people who have seen their first series and said they felt even watching it had been good for their mental health. One of O'Donnell's friends got in touch with him, saying had not been keeping that well and telling him how much had enjoyed the film. "He said it was kind of like going out there with my own pals and I can't go out right now, it will be a while before I can."

Is that part of the motivation of the show, to encourage people to do something that might enhance their mental wellbeing?

"I don't think that's consciously what it's about," Taylor says. "You just know what works for yourself and knowing myself that when I'm out and about away for a wee while it's that meditative way where you've not got the hassle of the day to day and I am no expert in it, I just know it recharges your battery, give you a new perspective. You read about forest bathing and things like that and how it's good for the soul. But everyone has their own issues and their own problems and what's good for someone might not be good for another. We don't want to say this is what you should be doing. You're feeling a bit blue, go out for a walk. That's a bit simplistic. I just know if I haven't been out for a while or stuck inside for whatever reason I feel a bit clogged up. I can't put my finger on it."

And in any case, O'Donnell notes, the outdoors is also not always therapeutic. "I spend loads of time on my own. I find the outdoors can be a pretty horrible place when you're stuck with your own thoughts, if things aren't going well and you've not seen anyone for about a month. That's not a good place to be."

"That's when you need to come out with Mark," his pal says. "We spur each other on. Because it can be a slog. Say if Andrew's not got the motivation, he's a bit down, you try and pick him up, and vice versa. Because we're pally, we can pick up on each other's moods and vibes."

"We know when no to annoy each other," O'Donnell adds.

"Well, do we?" Taylor replies, and it's not clear whether that's a joke, or grievance.

Roaming In The Wild is on BBC **Scotland** from Thursday September 23

Classification

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Publication-Type: Newspaper

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"Bear Grylls can get in danger. We're here to smell the flowers." TV's new Scottish adventurers

Industry: TELEVISION INDUSTRY (76%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); CAMERAS (70%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, SCOTLAND (58%); SCOTLAND (91%)

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EIF review: A Toast to the People

Scotsman

August 27, 2021 Friday

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**Section:** EDINBURGH FESTIVAL**Length:** 820 words**Byline:** David Pollock

Highlight: Across five consecutive nights at the Edinburgh International Festival's tented structure in Edinburgh University's Old College Quad, the festival collaborated with Edinburgh International Book Festival in bringing together pairings of some of the finest spoken word artists performing in the world right now. Each had been commissioned to create a new piece of work; their own 'toast to the people', inspired by the title of seminal spoken word artist Gil Scott-Heron's 1975 song with pianist Brian Jackson.

Body

The first three events followed a defined structure, allowing each of the artists half an hour to perform a set of their own choosing around their toast, with a 15-minute talk led by poet and writer Nadine Aisha Jassat at the end. Jassat introduced the performances as being themed around the concept of 'emergence'; presumably from the state of enforced hibernation which society has had to endure lately, as a number of those experienced artists appearing were anything but emerging in their careers.

On Monday, Jay Bernard and Debris Stevenson appeared, the latter a replacement for the billed Jefferson Tshabalala. Both complemented each other well, as young writers and performers from London or thereabouts ("the seam between East London and Essex," reads Stevenson's biography) whose work explores, among other things, queerness and music.

Bernard, self-described as a female-to-male transexual, hit an early crescendo for the evening with an epic exploration of their own identity which began with the shaming spark of a street fight in Berlin, in which they and a friend were randomly attacked by a man, and they fought back against him – in what they now recognise was one of those ugly, aggressive moments of performative macho anger.

Yet the incident has brought a beautiful work, in which Bernard coasts through the meaning of the full stop in literature and life, their own connection to masculinity ("I wanted *Lynx* Africa to be marketed to me!" they plead at one point), and what feels like the inevitability and futility of violence, wrapped in the same thought.

They toasted Linton Kwesi Johnson with *England Street* (Reggae fi Linton), a powerful, lyrical evocation of the literary and racial history of Brixton which made past and present feel alive all at once. Stevenson – a "dyslexic, academic grime poet" – spread the toasts around, meanwhile; to her friends, her late grandmother, her own neurodivergence, and her "homophobic parents", who were not accepting of her own sexuality.

EIF review: A Toast to the People

In *Toast to Room Two*, she toasted her brother Gary, a former star city trader turned champion of discussion around wealth inequality, comparing his success to the entrepreneurialism surrounding the grime scene she emerged from, and his thinking differently to the energy which emerges in the second room at a house party.

On Tuesday there were two poets who couldn't have been more different, even though Inua Ellams (a Fringe First winner for his 2009 solo show *The 14th Tale*) seemed somewhat starstruck by the presence of Saul Williams. Ellams himself was bright and cheerful, the sense of place and of personal connection in his work somehow not diluted by the fact he had arrived with a tablet containing all of his writings, and was selecting them purely on the basis of words shouted out by the audience and then typed into the search panel.

"Love," said one contributor. "Jollof," shouted another. "Are you hungry, bruv?" asked Ellams, with a winning smile. That even this scattershot method built an absorbing picture of his history as an artist from London with a Nigerian migrant's family history was a testament to the clarity and rich personality of his work. His toast addressed **Scotland**'s own troubled imperial history.

Where Ellams disarmed with charm, however, New York poet, rapper, writer and sometime actor Saul Williams blew in with the air of nebulous menace which rock stars used to own, and proceeded to verbally machine-gun the crowd with long, intentionally repetitive pieces which seemed to want to take a hammer to bourgeois complacency in all its forms. His work doesn't so much sweep the audience along with it, as take them on a ride in a hijacked car and leave them in a strange, seedy part of town – it was a thrill, in other words.

In very different ways, a sense of family came through from Wednesday's pairing. There's a homely charm to Wana Udobang's work, whether she's using food in homage to her mother (*White Soup*) or as a metaphor for sex (*The Banquet*), or delivering *Toast to My Women* broadly to all those who have inspired her, whether friends, family or ancestrally within her own Nigerian heritage.

A sense of the maternal pervades almost everything Hollie McNish does, meanwhile, whether this involves her own experience as a mother – smacking down the state of sex education in schools in *Yanking* and *Dear Daughters*, or bemoaning the state of playground small talk in *The Parent Bench* – or paying poignant tribute to her own grandparents; in revealingly funny style, within the opening *The Day I Stopped Nicking Teabags from Hotels*.

McNish's set was masterful, like a taboo-busting, hilarious stand-up comedy set streaked through with lines which cut to the core in their simple, universal truth. With *At Waverley*, a romantic piece about meeting her boyfriend at the station down the road, she even eulogised Edinburgh amid a week's line-up which had spent a lot of time in London.

Graphic

[Inua Ellams performs as part of A Toast to the People](#)

Classification

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Publication-Type: Newspaper

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EIF review: A Toast to the People

BIOGRAPHIES (73%); TRANSGENDER PERSONS (73%); NEGATIVE MISC NEWS (71%); RACE & ETHNICITY (67%); ECONOMIC INEQUALITY (50%); ENTREPRENEURSHIP (50%); NEURODIVERSITY (50%)

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Scottish dental tech firm raises 1.52m ahead of 2022 US launch

Scottish dental tech firm raises 1.52m ahead of 2022 US launch

Herald Scotland

August 26, 2021 Thursday

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Length: 663 words

Byline: [*Victoria Masterson*](#)

Body

A DENTAL technology firm is poised to launch in the United States after raising a further £1.52 million and restructuring its board.

Edinburgh-based Calcivis was set up in 2012 and has since raised more than £15m in funding to develop and market a dental imaging system described as the "holy grail" of preventive dentistry.

"We really are poised at a very interesting point in the development of the company, because we're about to get approval in our most important market to actually get out there and see the results of all the development work done to date," said Calcivis chief executive and co-founder Adam Christie.

The US is the world's biggest dentistry market. Calcivis plans to launch its dental imaging system in Boston in 2022 and hopes to create a new preventive dentistry market segment worth up to \$500m a year.

Scottish business angel syndicate Archangels led the £1.52m investment to fund final product development and prepare for marketing in the US.

Economic development agency **Scottish** Enterprise and **Lynx** Financial, a Shanghai-based boutique investment banking firm, also invested in the round.

Archangels and **Scottish** Enterprise first invested in Calcivis in 2012 when it was set up by Mr Christie and his co-founder Bruce Vernon. Other investors include Julz, a venture capital firm based in North Carolina.

Mr Christie said next year's soft launch in Boston, followed by a US-wide launch in 2023, would put the company in a strong position over the next 12 to 18 months to raise further substantial investment and "look at various different exit routes for existing investors."

America's Food and Drug Administration, the government regulator, is expected to fully approve the Calcivis Imaging System in the first half of 2022, having already given 'pre-market approval' last March.

Mr Christie and Mr Vernon set up Calcivis to commercialise intellectual property developed at the University of Dundee's School of Dentistry by Chris Longbottom and Nigel Pitts.

Scottish dental tech firm raises 1.52m ahead of 2022 US launch

The system combines a medical device with a glowing protein - known as a photoprotein - which shows where teeth are beginning to be damaged.

"If the protein glows, you know that the tooth decay is progressing - that's the key innovation here," Mr Christie explained. "We're trying to see the lesions on the tooth surface before they get to the point where you have to drill and fill."

Calcivis says its system is the world's first biotechnology-based dental imaging system, allowing dentists to visualise teeth decay in real time, during a patient's dental appointment, rather than waiting for three and six monthly check-ups.

The company has appointed life sciences veteran John Brown as its new non-executive chairman. He succeeds James Browning, who has stepped down from the role after eight years on the Calcivis board.

Calcivis said Dr Brown had a "long association" with Archangels, having previously chaired and overseen exits from two Archangels portfolio companies: Touch Bionics, the Livingston-based prosthetics firm that was sold to Össur of Iceland in 2016, and CXR Biosciences, the Dundee-based toxicology specialist that was bought by Manchester-based Concept Life Sciences in 2015.

Dr Brown's other previous chairmanships include Axis-Shield, the Dundee-based medical diagnostics firm and ProStrakan, the Galashiels-based drugs developer sold to Tokyo-based Kyowa Hakko Kirin in 2011.

His current appointments include chairing the Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult, a UK government-backed network to drive innovation and growth.

Vancouver-based Michael Crane, a dentistry sector specialist with 35 years' experience in the US and Europe, has also joined the Calcivis board. His previous appointments include senior vice president roles at Pennsylvania dental equipment maker Dentsply and senior positions including Johnson and Johnson Dental Products Company.

Edinburgh-based Archangels has around 100 investor members and leads investment of around £15m a year in early stage **Scottish** companies.

Classification

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Subject: DENTISTRY (90%); MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY (90%); DRUG & MEDICAL DEVICES APPROVAL (89%); BUSINESS NEWS (78%); ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (78%); INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (78%); RESIGNATIONS (78%); TOOTH DISORDERS (78%); ANGEL INVESTORS (77%); VENTURE CAPITAL (77%); APPOINTMENTS (75%); US FDA REVIEW (75%); GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS (73%); MEDICAL DEVICES (73%); PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT (73%); GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (67%); HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS (60%); EXECUTIVES (55%)

Industry: DENTISTRY (90%); MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY (90%); DRUG & MEDICAL DEVICES APPROVAL (89%); PHARMACEUTICALS & BIOTECHNOLOGY (78%); ANGEL INVESTORS (77%); MARKET SEGMENTATION (77%); VENTURE CAPITAL (77%); GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS (73%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); MEDICAL DEVICES (73%); BANKING & FINANCE (72%); INVESTMENT BANKING (67%); HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS (60%)

Scottish dental tech firm raises 1.52m ahead of 2022 US launch

Geographic: BOSTON, MA, USA (92%); DUNDEE, **SCOTLAND** (79%); EDINBURGH, **SCOTLAND** (58%); SHANGHAI, CHINA (55%); NORTH CAROLINA, USA (79%); EAST CHINA (55%); UNITED STATES (94%); **SCOTLAND** (92%); CHINA (79%)

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Edinburgh dental tech pioneer eyes US push after funding injection and board changes

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Scotsman

August 25, 2021 Wednesday

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Section: BUSINESSBUSINESSEDINBURGHFUTURE **SCOTLAND** INNOVATORSLIFE SCIENCES

Length: 586 words

Byline: Scott Reid, scott.reid@jpimedia.co.uk

Highlight: An Edinburgh-based dental tech business is preparing to sink its teeth into the US market following a restructuring of its board and the successful completion of its latest funding round.

Body

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The firm's advanced imaging system can identify active tooth decay at an early stage, allowing dentists to use preventive treatments.

Life sciences veteran John Brown has been appointed non-executive chairman, succeeding James Browning, who has stepped down from the role after eight years on the Calcivis board.

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READ MORE: [Scots business angel syndicate Archangels steps up investment in H1](#)

A message from the Editor:

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Graphic

[Adam Christie, chief executive, and Dr John Brown, incoming chairman, Edinburgh-based Calcivis. Picture: Peter Devlin](#)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: BIOTECHNOLOGY & GENETIC SCIENCE (90%); BOARD CHANGES (90%); BOARDS OF DIRECTORS (90%); DENTISTRY (90%); FINANCING ROUNDS (90%); HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS (90%); APPOINTMENTS (89%); EMPLOYMENT HISTORY (89%); EXECUTIVES (88%); ANGEL INVESTORS (78%); DENTAL, MOUTH & JAW DISORDERS (78%); MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY (78%); MUTUAL FUNDS (78%); RESIGNATIONS (78%); SECURITIES & OTHER INVESTMENTS (78%); SHAREHOLDERS (78%); TOOTH DISORDERS (78%); EQUITIES (75%); REGENERATIVE MEDICINE (73%); COVID CORONAVIRUS (72%); EPIDEMICS (69%); INFECTIOUS DISEASE (69%); CERTIFICATES, DEGREES & DIPLOMAS (68%); COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS (68%); COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS (60%)

Company: DENTSPLY SIRONA INC (74%); JOHNSON & JOHNSON (63%)

Edinburgh dental tech pioneer eyes US push after funding injection and board changes

Ticker: XRAY (NASDAQ) (74%); JNJ (NYSE) (63%)

Industry: NAICS339112 SURGICAL & MEDICAL INSTRUMENT MANUFACTURING (74%); NAICS334510 ELECTROMEDICAL & ELECTROTHERAPEUTIC APPARATUS MANUFACTURING (74%); NAICS339114 DENTAL EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES MANUFACTURING (74%); NAICS334517 IRRADIATION APPARATUS MANUFACTURING (74%); SIC3843 DENTAL EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES (74%); NAICS339115 OPHTHALMIC GOODS MANUFACTURING (63%); NAICS339113 SURGICAL APPLIANCE & SUPPLIES MANUFACTURING (63%); NAICS325620 TOILET PREPARATION MANUFACTURING (63%); NAICS325611 SOAP & OTHER DETERGENT MANUFACTURING (63%); NAICS325413 IN-VITRO DIAGNOSTIC SUBSTANCE MANUFACTURING (63%); NAICS325412 PHARMACEUTICAL PREPARATION MANUFACTURING (63%); SIC3851 OPHTHALMIC GOODS (63%); SIC3842 ORTHOPEDIC, PROSTHETIC, & SURGICAL APPLIANCES & SUPPLIES (63%); SIC3841 SURGICAL & MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS & APPARATUS (63%); SIC3829 MEASURING & CONTROLLING DEVICES, NEC (63%); SIC3089 PLASTICS PRODUCTS, NEC (63%); SIC3069 FABRICATED RUBBER PRODUCTS, NEC (63%); SIC2844 PERFUMES, COSMETICS, & OTHER TOILET PREPARATIONS (63%); SIC2841 SOAPS & OTHER DETERGENTS, EXCEPT SPECIALTY CLEANERS (63%); SIC2836 BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS, EXCEPT DIAGNOSTIC SUBSTANCES (63%); SIC2835 IN VITRO & IN VIVO DIAGNOSTIC SUBSTANCES (63%); SIC2834 PHARMACEUTICAL PREPARATIONS (63%); SIC2499 WOOD PRODUCTS, NEC (63%); PHARMACEUTICALS & BIOTECHNOLOGY (91%); DENTISTRY (90%); HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS (90%); ANGEL INVESTORS (78%); BIOPHARMACEUTICALS (78%); DENTAL EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES MFG (78%); MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY (78%); MUTUAL FUNDS (78%); ORAL CARE PRODUCTS (78%); PHARMACEUTICALS INDUSTRY (78%); SECURITIES & OTHER INVESTMENTS (78%); EQUITIES (75%); PUBLISHING (73%); GENE BASED DRUGS (70%); COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS (68%)

Geographic: EDINBURGH, **SCOTLAND** (90%); VANCOUVER, BC, CANADA (69%); BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA (90%); CANADA (93%); UNITED STATES (93%); NORTH AMERICA (92%); **SCOTLAND** (91%); EUROPE (54%)

Load-Date: August 25, 2021

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Edinburgh Evening News

August 25, 2021 Wednesday

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Graphic

[Adam Christie, chief executive, and Dr John Brown, incoming chairman, Edinburgh-based Calcivis. Picture: Peter Devlin](#)

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Geographic: EDINBURGH, **SCOTLAND** (91%); VANCOUVER, BC, CANADA (69%); BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA (90%); CANADA (93%); UNITED STATES (93%); NORTH AMERICA (92%); **SCOTLAND** (90%); EUROPE (54%)

Load-Date: August 25, 2021

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NOW WE'VE REALLY HAD OUR CHIPS! Tatty crops washed out by floods

NOW WE'VE REALLY HAD OUR CHIPS!; Tatty crops washed out by floods

Scottish Star

August 7, 2021 Saturday

Edition 1, Scotland

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 7

Length: 246 words

Byline: MARC WALKER

Body

THE UK is facing a shortage of our beloved chips due to high demand for British spuds from the continent.

A "perfect storm" of soaring inflation, labour shortages, environmental disaster, Brexit, rising fuel and distribution costs, plus the continuing impact of Covid, will trigger food shortages and spiralling bills, Lynx Purchasing reported.

Frozen chips are likely to be particularly affected, with a warning of steep price rises.

Rachel Dobson, of the catering firm, said: "Floods in Europe have affected potato growers and processors there, with varieties grown for frozen chips affected.

"UK pubs and restaurants, serving popular dishes like fish and chips, could find their usual supplier isn't able to deliver.

"The shortage abroad is likely to have a knockon effect on availability of UK-grown potatoes and, come Christmas, we could find that the roast potato, a staple of festive dinners, is also in short supply.

"The same labour shortages hospitality is seeing on the front line stretch back through the supply chain via warehousing and distribution to picking and packing."

The report also warned cooks face a global shortage of vegetable oil, while the costs of other food stuffs, such as rice and coffee, are expected to yo-yo in the coming months.

Chip-loving nations Belgium, Germany and Holland were among countries hit by flooding last month, which killed at least 228 people and destroyed homes, businesses and mainland Europe's potato crop.

The Star Says: Page 6

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

NOW WE'VE REALLY HAD OUR CHIPS! Tatty crops washed out by floods

Journal Code: DSTscot

Subject: ACCIDENTS & DISASTERS (90%); FOOD SHORTAGES (90%); LABOR SHORTAGES (90%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (90%); OUTPUT & DEMAND (90%); BREXIT (79%); COMMODITIES SHORTAGES (78%); FLOODS & FLOODING (78%); FOOD CRISES & SHORTAGES (78%); SHORTAGES (78%); WEATHER ALERTS (78%); INFLATION (77%); SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT (77%); PRICE INCREASES (73%); COVID CORONAVIRUS (72%); FOOD CHARITIES (72%)

Industry: FOOD SHORTAGES (90%); POTATO FARMING (90%); FOOD CRISES & SHORTAGES (78%); FRUITS & VEGETABLES (78%); CATERING SERVICES (77%); EDIBLE OILS (77%); RESTAURANTS (77%); PRICE INCREASES (73%); WAREHOUSING & STORAGE (72%)

Geographic: EUROPE (92%); UNITED KINGDOM (91%); **SCOTLAND** (90%); BELGIUM (79%); GERMANY (56%); NETHERLANDS (56%); **Scotland**

Load-Date: August 7, 2021

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The chips are down Spud shortage will see prices rise and even hit Xmas dinner

The chips are down; Spud shortage will see prices rise and even hit Xmas dinner

Daily Record and Sunday Mail

August 7, 2021 Saturday

Edition 3, National Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 29

Length: 177 words

Byline: MARC WALKER

Body

SCOTLAND is facing a shortage of chips due to high demand for spuds from the continent.

Experts predict our homegrown crop will be in short supply after floods decimated potato production in Europe.

A new report revealed frozen chips are likely to be particularly affected - with a warning of steep price rises.

There are also fears the turkey Christmas dinner could be under threat from the potato shortage and a dip in poultry production.

Pubs and restaurants planning for December have been advised to "order early or plan alternatives" to the traditional Yuletide roast.

Lynx Purchasing's Summer Market Update report said a "perfect storm" of soaring inflation, labour shortages, Brexit, environmental disasters, rising distribution and fuel costs, and the continuing impact of Covid- 19, will trigger ongoing food shortages and spiralling bills.

Chip-loving nations Belgium, Germany and Holland were hit by catastrophic flooding last month that destroyed much of mainland Europe's potato crop.

The report also warned that cooks face a global shortage of vegetable oil.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DRC

The chips are down Spud shortage will see prices rise and even hit Xmas dinner

Subject: CHRISTMAS (91%); FOOD SHORTAGES (90%); OUTPUT & DEMAND (90%); PRICE INCREASES (90%); PRICES (90%); COMMODITIES SHORTAGES (78%); SHORTAGES (78%); ACCIDENTS & DISASTERS (77%); COOKING & ENTERTAINING (77%); ENVIRONMENTAL ACCIDENTS & DISASTERS (77%); FLOODS & FLOODING (77%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (77%); WEATHER ALERTS (77%); BREXIT (74%); FOOD CRISES & SHORTAGES (73%); LABOR SHORTAGES (73%); INFLATION (72%); COVID CORONAVIRUS (54%); COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS (54%)

Industry: FOOD SHORTAGES (90%); POTATO FARMING (90%); PRICE INCREASES (90%); POULTRY (78%); EDIBLE OILS (77%); RESTAURANTS (77%); FOOD CRISES & SHORTAGES (73%)

Geographic: EUROPE (91%); BELGIUM (79%); GERMANY (57%); NETHERLANDS (57%); National Edition

Load-Date: August 7, 2021

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Young breeders star at National Suffolk sale at Shrewsbury

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The Scottish Farmer

August 2021

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Length: 680 words

Byline: [Patsy Hunter](#)

Body

Young breeders made their presence felt at the National Suffolk show and sale at Shrewsbury, selling several of the top priced lots including the day's best at 16,000gns.

Sale leader was January-born ET lamb from young Aberdeenshire-based, Finn Christie's Maidenstone flock from Inverurie, purchased by Chris Holmes, Worcester and Holly Bowdler, Shropshire, buying for their Rookery and Tombridge flocks respectively.

Their purchase, which is the result of a flush from a Birness ewe by Limestone Legacy, is by Crewelands Kingpin. Mr Christie's second lamb sold for 1900gns.

Second top price at the sale which saw an 82% clearance amongst the ram lambs and increased averages in all sections, was 12,000gns paid for another from Aberdeenshire in the shape of a Strathbogie entry from Jim Innes, Dunscroft, Huntly.

Jim Innes' Strathbogie lamb sold for 12,000gns

His lamb, brought out by shepherd Michael Leggat, is by the 26,000gns Forkins McCoy, while the dam, which is a full sister to the 24,000gns Strathbogie Carot, is by Strathbogie A Kind of Magic. Northern Ireland breeders, Dennis Taylor and Leslie Liggett of the Ballynacannon and Carony flocks, were the final bidders on this entry.

Strathbogie enjoyed the best of the day's trading, selling seven lambs to average £3914.

Lilia Hutchinson received 7000gns for her Howgillfoot lamb

Young Lilia Hutchinson's Howgillfoot flock from Kirkby Stephen, was another in the money, selling her pen leader for 7000gns to James Alexander, buying for his Jalex flock from Co Antrim, Northern Ireland. Her lamb, is the result of a flush from a Lakeview ewe bought privately from Gary Beacom by Lakeview Lyphardby. The sire is Howgillfoot Sniper, a 5000gns lamb sold last year at Lanark, by Limestone Limited Edition.

Best from Birness was this lamb at 6000gns

The Stuart family's Birness flock from Ellon, also had a cracking day, selling six lambs to average £3220, backed up by a lead price of 6000gns for their pen leader by Forkins Firecracker. Bred from a ewe by Limestone Legacy, he sold down to Devon with Mrs MJ Cornish of the Mardle flock.

Young breeders star at National Suffolk sale at Shrewsbury

On the other side of the coin, Birness and Stewart Lathangie, Pyeston, Glenrothes, teamed up to buy the reserve champion from Tom and Aimee Mogford, Tiverton, Devon. He is by Mullaghboy Goliath and bred from a ewe by Stockton Last Chance.

Another four lambs sold for 5000gns to include the pre-sale champion from young Dafydd Jones' Frongoy flock from Pennant Llanon, Aberystwyth. This Strathbogie Rock On Tommy-sired lamb out of a ewe by Ballynacannon Black Diamond was purchased by William Medforth buying for his Caernafon-based Penrhyn flock.

First time consignor, Jed Sharp of the Worcs-based Hawshill flock sold two lambs late in the day at 5000gns, with his pen of three lambs all by the Birness Murray son, Frongoy Firenze, averaging £4410.

First to make 5000gns was the pen leader, bred from a ewe by Forkins Tan, which was purchased by Pamela Lupton, buying for her Kexbeck flock in Yorkshire.

The second, which was an ET brother to the first, was knocked down to Stewart Craft, buying for the Lakeview flock from Fife.

The Williamsgill flock of G and FJ Soulsby, Temple Sowerby, Penrith, also went to 5000gns for the first lamb from Northamptonshire-based MJR and JA Pinny's Alloaks flock. This was a son of Redbrae *Lynx*, out of a ewe by Burnview Sniper.

Top priced female at 6000gns was Paul Delves' Bridgeview gimmer

Top priced female at 6000gns was Paul Delves Bridgeview gimmer from Churchstoke, Powys, which stood reserve female at the pre-sale show. She is by Frongoy Firenze, bred from a Forkins ewe by Forkins Black Gold and sold to Jed Sharp.

The female champion, a ewe lamb by Harpercroft Bullion, from JA Pinny's Alloaks flock realised 2400gns to the Hiddleston family, buying for their Irongray flock from Dumfriesshire.

Averages: 133 ram lambs, £1620 (+£528 for 29 more sold in 2020 and +£390 for five more in 2019); three shearling rams, £945; 13 gimmers, £1138 (+£623 for two more sold in 2019); seven ewe lambs, £1050 (+£526 for six fewer sold).

Auctioneers: Shrewsbury Livestock Market

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: LAMB & SHEEP MARKETS (77%)

Company: BEST INC (53%)

Ticker: BEST (NYSE) (53%)

Industry: NAICS453998 ALL OTHER MISCELLANEOUS STORE RETAILERS (EXCEPT TOBACCO STORES) (53%); SIC5999 MISCELLANEOUS RETAIL STORES, NEC (53%); LAMB & SHEEP MARKETS (77%)

Young breeders star at National Suffolk sale at Shrewsbury

Geographic: WORCESTER, MA, USA (58%); NORTHERN IRELAND (91%); **SCOTLAND** (90%)

Load-Date: August 6, 2021

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North Coast 500: 20 things not to miss on this epic road trip

Herald Scotland

July 25, 2021 Sunday

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Length: 2618 words

Byline: [Susan Swarbrick](#)

Body

WITH the lure of rugged mountains, glittering lochs, inviting stretches of coastline, winding passes and magnificent beaches, the North Coast 500 takes some beating.

Often billed as **Scotland's** answer to America's Route 66, the scenic 516-mile (830km) circuit - which starts and finishes at Inverness Castle - passes through Wester Ross, Sutherland, Caithness, Easter Ross, the Black Isle and Inverness-shire.

Here are some of our favourite highlights (in no particular order) to look out for on this bucket list road trip.

Rogie Falls, Inverness-shire

Found about 20 miles north-west of Inverness, Rogie Falls near Contin is an amuse-bouche to whet the appetite for what is to come.

Along the North Coast 500 (NC500) you will have the opportunity to encounter many spectacular waterfalls, including Britain's highest with the mighty Eas A'Chual Aluinn, as well as the thundering Falls of Shin and the Falls of Measach at Corrieshalloch Gorge.

Rogie Falls on the Black Water may not be the biggest or grandest on the route, but it is a magical spot. The waterfalls and a suspension bridge above the river are only a short walk from the car park. In August and September, there's an excellent chance of seeing wild salmon leaping upstream.

Visit forestryandland.gov.scot

The Fairy Lochs and US bomber crash site, near Badachro, Wester Ross

A walking route, which begins and ends near the Shieldaig Lodge, leads to the Fairy Lochs and the crash site of a Second World War B-24 Liberator.

North Coast 500: 20 things not to miss on this epic road trip

The plane had taken off from Prestwick in Ayrshire and was returning to the US, via Iceland, on June 13, 1945, when it struck the summit of Slioch. An attempted crash landing saw the aircraft collide with rocks, scattering wreckage across a wide area in and around the Fairy Lochs.

READ MORE: 10 cool and quirky places to stay in **Scotland** this summer

Today, pieces of fuselage can still be seen in the bogs, with a propeller and an engine visible in the water. The crash site - where all 15 crew and passengers perished - is classed as a war grave and a memorial plaque has been erected.

Visit shieldaiglodge.com

Clachtoll, Sutherland

The NC500 is no slouch in the beach department. One of the most charming is Clachtoll with its turquoise waters. A great base is Clachtoll Beach Campsite where the wooden walkways through the dunes will have you on the white sands within minutes.

The potential for wildlife sightings will make your heart soar. Porpoises, dolphins, minke whales, orcas, otters and birdlife, including golden eagles and sea eagles, have all been spotted here.

Must-see attractions nearby include the Stoer Lighthouse and the 60-metre-high sea stack known as the Old Man of Stoer (not to be confused with the Old Man of Storr in Skye).

Visit clachtollbeachcampsite.com

Ullapool Bookshop, Wester Ross

It would be remiss to visit Ullapool and not pop into this wonderful independent book shop. Located close to the harbour and ferry terminal, the shelves are packed with titles about **Scottish** history and landscapes, as well as outdoor pursuits such as hillwalking, kayaking and cycling.

There is also a good selection of biography, general fiction and children's books, not to forget postcards, maps and local fishing guides. Next door is Lochbroom Hardware and The Captain's Cabin which sells gifts and crafts. All three are run by the same family.

Visit ullapoolbookshop.co.uk

Whaligoe Steps, near Lybster, Caithness

How many steps are there at Whaligoe Harbour? Depending on who you ask it can be anything between 330 and 365. And no matter how many times you count them, the result is curiously different. Magic or simply bad maths? Either way, it is good fun trying to figure it out.

READ MORE: The curious tale of how the 'Corbach Wreck' became a Lochaber landmark

Whaligoe Steps, which zigzag 250ft down the cliffs to the small harbour below, were built by Captain David Brodie in the late 18th and early 19th century to serve a fleet of herring boats.

Note: Whaligoe Steps are currently closed for repair and maintenance work. Check the NC500 website for updates

Bealach na Ba, Wester Ross

This winding, single-track road through the mountains of the Applecross peninsula comes with hairpin bends and jaw-dropping views.

North Coast 500: 20 things not to miss on this epic road trip

There has been controversy and much debate in recent months, however, about whether Applecross should be withdrawn from the NC500 due to concerns about traffic issues, aka the double-edged sword of tourism. That conversation continues to rumble on.

Bealach na Ba - which means "pass of the cattle" - may not seem very far on the map, yet it packs a punch. Starting from near sea-level at Tornapress next to Loch Kishorn, the road rises to 2,053ft (626m), reaching 20 per cent at its steepest gradient.

There is a viewpoint at the top with panoramas across to Skye and beyond on a clear day. Trundle downhill into the village of Applecross where the prospect of a hearty feed awaits at the Applecross Inn and its swish chippy van Applecross Inn-Side Out.

Be sure to pay a visit to The Coalshed, a treasure trove of art and crafts, handmade jewellery, framed local photographs, toys and gifts.

Visit applecrossinn.co.uk and facebook.com/The-Coalshed-672664329417253/

Tarbat peninsula, Easter Ross

Author Helen Sedgwick recently told The Herald that Tarbat peninsula is where she goes when seeking inspiration, driving past green fields and clusters of pretty houses, with sweeping views of long sandy beaches, before following the single track to the Tarbat Ness Lighthouse.

She says: "The landscape becomes dominated by the deep, glistening grey blues of the sea, the jagged blacks and browns of the rocks, the thorned yellow of gorse, and the distinctive red and white stripes of the lighthouse. The rest of the world fades away."

Visit nlb.org.uk/lighthouses/tarbatness

Duncansby Head, Caithness

Once you have taken the requisite photograph with the John O'Groats sign for the photo album, your next stop should be Duncansby Head, the furthest point from Land's End by road (not to be confused with Dunnet Head which is the northernmost point of mainland Britain).

The Duncansby Head Lighthouse was built by David Alan Stevenson in 1924, while just off the coast stand the Duncansby Stacks, craggy red sandstone pinnacles sculpted by the waves over thousands of years, where the Pentland Firth meets the North Sea.

Visit nlb.org.uk/lighthouses/duncansby-head

The Black Isle

It might seem a bit of a cheat to give the Black Isle its own dedicated section, but there's so much packed into this little corner that it would be a disservice not to mention a few.

Wildlife lovers should head to Chanonry Point and North Kessock for dolphin watching. There are the enchanting nature-packed trails of Fairy Glen Falls at Rosemarkie and RSPB Udale Bay, a habitat for migratory pink-footed geese, can be found near the picturesque village of Jemimaville.

READ MORE: Chanonry Point: Dolphin watching, a historic lighthouse and tales of witchcraft

History buffs will enjoy a visit to Hugh Miller's Birthplace Cottage and Museum in Cromarty dedicated to the life and work of the geologist, folklorist and fossil hunter. For a caffeine fix, check out Slaughterhouse Coffee at the Ferry Slipway in Cromarty.

Visit rspb.org.uk; nts.org.uk and facebook.com/slaughterhousecoffee/

North Coast 500: 20 things not to miss on this epic road trip

Sandwood Bay, Sutherland

This natural bay with pink-hued sands is regularly hailed as one of the most beautiful beaches in Britain and with good reason: it is stunning.

Flanked by cliffs, the mile-long beach gets its colour from pinkish sandstone found in the area. To the southwest stands the sea stack of Am Buachaille, while directly behind the bay lies Sandwood Loch.

Sandwood Bay is off-the-beaten track and only accessible via a four-mile hike from the car park at Blairmore, passing lochs and through peat moorland to the coast. The path is maintained by the John Muir Trust.

Visit johnmuirtrust.org

Corrieshalloch Gorge National Nature Reserve, Braemore, Wester Ross

The name Corrieshalloch may translate from Gaelic as "Ugly Hollow", but don't let that misnomer put you off. This mile-long box canyon is a place of beauty.

A Victorian suspension bridge allows the thrilling spectacle of the fast-flowing River Droma and Falls of Measach to be observed at close quarters.

While those may be the headline stars, this National Nature Reserve has no shortage of interesting nuggets to discover, such as first-hand evidence of how glacial meltwater can sculpt our landscapes.

The surrounding woodland is home to a rare type of cranefly, while the microclimate of the gorge encourages many species of ferns to thrive.

Visit nts.org.uk

The Bone Caves, near Inchnadamph, Sutherland

Victorian geologists John Horne and Ben Peach stumbled across a collection of animal bones here in the late 19th century. Further excavations of the caves uncovered remains belonging to wolves, *Lynx*, Arctic foxes and even a polar bear, believed to date from the last glacial period.

Human bones and artefacts have also been discovered. The Bone Caves are two miles south of Inchnadamph on the A837 and easily accessed on foot along a mile-long path.

If caves are your thing, Sutherland won't disappoint. Another geological gem is Smoo Cave near Durness. Carved deep into the limestone cliffs, it comprises three impressive sections: a large sea cave entrance, a waterfall chamber and a freshwater passage.

Visit nature.scot and smoocavetours.com

Wick, Caithness

The world's shortest street can be found in Wick. Ebenezer Place was officially measured at 2.05 metres (6ft 9in) in 2006. The street has only one doorway: the entrance to No. 1 Bistro, which is part of Mackays Hotel.

In 1883, the owner of the building was instructed to display a name on the shortest side of the hotel, and this became 1 Ebenezer Place. It was officially declared a street in 1887.

Visit mackayshotel.co.uk

Loch Maree, Kinlochewe, Wester Ross

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The views from the meandering A832 road through Glen Docherty are sublime. The mountain fortress of Slioch reflected in the water is a classic calendar shot. Ditto, the photogenic backdrop of the handsome hulk of Beinn Eighe to the south.

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Beinn Eighe, which became Britain's first National Nature Reserve in 1951, forms a long ridge with many spurs and summits, two of which are Munros.

The village of Kinlochewe has some great places to eat. The Gorse Bush and Kinlochewe Hotel offer enticing menus with a cornucopia of locally sourced produce such as meat and game, fish, scallops and langoustines.

Visit nature.scot and kinlochewehotel.co.uk and thegorsebush.com

Helmsdale, Sutherland

Conjure an image of a picture postcard fishing village. There's a good chance that what you came up with would look very like Helmsdale on the east coast of Sutherland.

The area has an intriguing history with links to the Highland Clearances, herring industry, gold rush and salmon fishing - as well as being the site of a former 15th-century castle where a murder plot involving poison is reputed to have inspired William Shakespeare's Hamlet.

READ MORE: There's gold in them thar hills: The rich history of **Scotland's** highest village

Overlooking the village and harbour stands The Emigrants, a memorial statue depicting evicted families during the Highland Clearances. Be sure to visit Helmsdale's excellent museum and arts centre Timespan.

Visit timespan.org.uk

Sir William Alexander Smith Memorial Museum, Thurso, Caithness

Dedicated to the life of the Boys Brigade founder Sir William Smith, who was born at Pennyland House in Thurso, this small museum contains memorabilia - including photographs, badges and books - dating from 1883 to the present day.

Open to the public by appointment only. Visit thebbmuseum.org

Inverewe Garden and Estate, Poolewe, Wester Ross

On the shores of Loch Ewe, this incredible garden and estate is home to the world's most northerly grove of Jurassic trees. Wollemi pine was thought to have died out two million years ago, but the species was discovered in Australia in the early 1990s. Eight were planted at Inverewe in 2009.

Rare species thrive in this former wilderness area-turned-heritage garden aided by the effects of the Gulf Stream. Its exotic plants and trees include Himalayan blue poppies, Californian redwoods, daisy bushes from New Zealand, Tasmanian eucalypts and rhododendrons from China, Nepal and India.

Visit nts.org.uk

Mermaid of the North, Balintore, Easter Ross

She sits atop a rock at Balintore beach. A beautiful 10ft-high bronze cast sculpture of a mermaid whose tale - or should that be tail? - is woven into the rich tapestry of folklore in Easter Ross.

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According to legend, a local fisherman caught a mermaid and forced her into marrying him by hiding her tail. Many years later, after bearing his children, she found her tail and escaped back to sea. The fable goes that the mermaid would return to shore each day with fish for her offspring.

READ MORE: The Bathgate Hills: A Neolithic henge, abandoned silver mine and tales of mystery

Balintore is one of three small settlements, alongside Hilton and Shandwick, on this stretch of the Moray Firth coastline known collectively as the Seaboard Villages. The Mermaid of the North, created by Hilton artist Steve Hayward in 2007, forms part of the Seaboard Sculpture Trail.

Visit seaboardcentre.com

Balnakeil Craft Village, near Durness, Sutherland

Home to artists and independent businesses, Balnakeil Craft Village is a great spot to pick up gifts or treat yourself to something nice.

Highlights include Mudness Ceramics where Martina Macleod makes bowls inspired by rock pools, kelp and seaweed at nearby Balnakeil Beach.

Cast Off Crafts - as its name suggests - is filled with unusual bits and bobs. One such speciality is beach-combing finds, such as driftwood, shells and sea glass, that have been upcycled or transformed into decorative pieces.

READ MORE: 10 charming farm shops, independent boutiques and bookstores to visit across **[Scotland](#)** this summer

The chocolatier Cocoa Mountain, meanwhile, proffers a range of mouth-watering creations. Don't miss the divine hot chocolate made to an "original Highland formula".

If you are feeling adventurous, Golden Eagle Ziplines at Ceannabeinne Beach is only a 10-minute drive away. The zip line - a cable with a pulley and harness attached - is suspended 100ft (30m) above the sands and stretches 745ft (227m), with participants reaching speeds of up to 40mph.

Visit balnakeilcraftvillage.weebly.com and facebook.com/goldeneagleziplines

Dunrobin Castle, Golspie, Sutherland

With its dreamy French chateau-style conical spires and turrets, Dunrobin Castle wouldn't look out of place in a Disney fairy tale.

This sprawling pad, which boasts 189 rooms, has been home to the Earls and Dukes of Sutherland since the 13th century - it was first mentioned as a family stronghold in 1401.

The gardens were based on Versailles and laid out in 1850 by the architect Sir Charles Barry, who also oversaw the castle's Victorian extension and more famously designed the Houses of Parliament in London.

READ MORE: Chapel of the heart: How Orkney's wartime past inspired a new novel

Visitors are able to peruse 18 rooms, as well as having access to the gardens and museum. There is a tearoom selling soups, sandwiches, cakes and pastries. Falconry displays are held regularly in the gardens.

Visit dunrobincastle.co.uk

For more information on the North Coast 500, visit northcoast500.com

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The Sunday Herald (Glasgow)

July 25, 2021 Sunday

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Body

THE North Coast 500 - often billed as Scotland's answer to America's Route 66 - takes in Wester Ross, Sutherland, Caithness, Easter Ross, the Black Isle and Inverness-shire.

Among the myriad lures of this epic 516-mile (830km) road trip are rugged mountains, glittering lochs, inviting stretches of coastline, winding passes and magnificent beaches. Here are some of our favourite highlights (in no particular order) to look out for on the scenic trail.

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Visit <http://dunrobincastle.co.uk>

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The influencers: Top 10 who hold levers of power

The Herald (Glasgow)

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Body

So who runs ***Scotland***? That's been the central question of The Ferret and The Herald's week-long investigation. Along the way, we've examined the corridors of power and looked at who gets the most access to ministers - and who doesn't.

We've pored through the lobbying register, ministerial diaries, First Minister-hosted dinners and event lists, advisory panel minutes, and examined what happened to the recommendations made.

We've studied the ownership of our media, natural resources and iconic ***Scottish*** produce such as whisky, and exposed how arms firms wield unaccountable power at Westminster. We also looked at what happens to profits and links to tax havens, finding that multinationals and individuals mostly benefit while the ***Scottish*** people often don't.

But it's not just about political power and big business. The decision-making systems we rely on have also been our focus, including the power dynamics within public boards and services. We learned that power is an ever-shifting, nebulous force.

So, the individuals listed below are not the people running ***Scotland***, but a selection of some of the most influential today - a top 10 who caught our eye plus a round-up of other interesting people.

Of course, in a democracy, our elected politicians front the show - but what power and influence lies beneath? On our list are names you will not have seen on any ballot paper, but who nonetheless have more influence than most in our society. Some will be familiar - it's notable that some stayed within the establishment when political power transferred from ***Scottish*** Labour to the SNP. Others will be newer faces.

The Ferret's criteria was to look at a combination of wealth or salary, land and property, access to political power, professional influence, connections ... and then to bear in mind any X factors we found along the way. You'll notice they are white, and mostly male.

Our findings suggest the old power bases are holding firm.

Anders Povlsen

The influencers: Top 10 who hold levers of power

The Danish fashion mogul and **Scotland**'s richest man is reportedly worth £6 billion, up £1.27bn on 2020.

Thought to be **Scotland**'s biggest landowner, since buying the Glenfeshie Cairngorm estate in 2006, Povlsen, 48, has reportedly amassed 220,000 acres across 12 estates.

His ambitious 200-year plans will influence the course of **Scotland**'s rewilding future, and could drastically alter northern **Scotland**. But, as The Ferret revealed, they may be scrapped if the Sutherland spaceport goes ahead. Povlsen has previously tried to exert influence in a failed attempt to block windfarms.

His company, Wildlands, had pledged to regenerate native woodland, peatlands, wetlands, rivers, and endangered animal populations, promising to invest £50 million by 2022.

The project would reduce deer and sheep numbers and, controversially, hopes **Lynx**, bear and wolves "may be able to return".

Wildlands says it has planted four million new trees and regenerated thousands of acres of natural woodland, promising to tackle climate change and depopulation.

Ian Wood

A giant in the worlds of energy, oil and fishing, billionaire Wood is worth £1.82bn, and his family are **Scotland**'s fourth-richest according to The Sunday Times Rich List.

Wood retired from energy company the Wood Group in 2012 but remains chairman and chief executive of JW Holdings which, along with its subsidiaries, owns 1 per cent of the UK's fishing quotas. He also now chairs Opportunity North East (ONE), which aims to drive economic diversification in north east **Scotland**.

Geoff Aberdein, Alex Salmond's former chief of staff, served on the ONE board until December 2020 and is now consulting for the group, and providing counsel for Message Matters, one of **Scotland**'s biggest lobbying consultancies.

In 2013, Wood undertook a review for the UK Government on oil and gas recovery and this year he joined its Build Back Better council. He has warned against **Scottish** independence and supports Brexit.

The Wood Foundation supports youth projects in **Scotland** and Africa and has committed £62m to ONE over 10 years.

Lord Smith of Kelvin

Smith is a crossbench peer who has influenced key financial, cultural, energy, media and governmental bodies. He currently chairs organisations including **Scottish** Enterprise, which has regular **Scottish** ministerial access, and the UK Government's British Business Bank.

The trained accountant, 76, was ICAS **Scotland** president and the Financial Conduct Authority regulator's non-executive director. Like a number of people featured in Who Runs **Scotland**, he worked at RBS. He also held senior roles at Bank of **Scotland**, in private equity and financial service firms.

Smith was appointed by Alex Salmond to lead the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games organising committee, and chaired the post-referendum Smith Commission on further devolution.

A former BBC governor, head of the Broadcasting Council for **Scotland** and member of the Judicial Appointments Board for **Scotland**, he is now the University of Strathclyde's chancellor.

Smith also chaired engineering giant Weir Group, National Museums **Scotland**, SSE, and the UK Green Investment Bank.

Sir Tom Hunter

The influencers: Top 10 who hold levers of power

Worth £729m, Hunter was named as ***Scotland's*** 13th richest man this year, despite losing his billionaire status after the 2008 financial crisis.

He started Sports Division by selling trainers from the back of a van. It was sold to JD Sports for £290m in 1998.

Perhaps best known for the Hunter Foundation, in 2005 he received a knighthood for "services to philanthropy and to entrepreneurship". He also chairs and helps to fund children's charity The Kiltwalk, along with Social Bite, a social enterprise employing homeless people.

Hunter still has business and political sway. Last year, an Oxford Economics report, funded by his foundation, called for ***Scotland*** to lower taxes and increase borrowing. Signatories included Andrew Wilson, of the SNP's Sustainable Growth Commission and co-founder of Charlotte Street Partners.

The Ferret has revealed Hunter's regular access to Government.

He had 13 phone meetings with seven ministers last year. Projects in train include a £10m leadership centre at Loch Lomond, targeting teachers and head teachers.

Sir Angus Grossart

A co-founder of the ***Scottish*** merchant bank Noble Grossart in 1969, Grossart has long influenced many top financial, arts, business and media institutions. The veteran banker, 84, was vice-chair of RBS and close friend to disgraced former CEO, Fred Goodwin.

Grossart chaired the ***Scottish*** Futures Trust, overseeing public infrastructure, and has sat on the boards of financial institutions and firms like BP, and publishing giant Reach.

He chairs influential lobbying firm Charlotte Street Partners, which brought 50 of ***Scotland's*** business leaders to wine and dine with Nicola Sturgeon in 2015. Co-founder Andrew Wilson is a former SNP MSP, and Goodwin-era RBS economist and PR man.

Grossart has fronted the ***Scottish*** International think tank and was pictured at a secretive 2017 Gleneagles event alongside Donald Trump's former chief of staff, Steve Bannon.

Grossart chairs the Burrell Collection restoration, along with the boards of Glasgow Life and the Edinburgh International Culture Summit. His family wealth was estimated at £325m in 2020.

Susan Rice

Dame Susan Rice is another veteran financier who combines banking and business interests with roles on public boards interest in the arts. She is chair of ***Scottish*** Water and the ***Scottish*** Fiscal Commission.

As chief executive, and then-chair of Lloyds TSB ***Scotland***, she became the first woman to head a UK clearing bank in 2000. In 2012, she was also the first woman elected as president of the ***Scottish*** Council for Development and Industry.

She has long been respected by Government. In 2009, she chaired the 2020 Group, set up in response to the Climate Change Bill, which aimed to reduce carbon emissions by 42 per cent of 1990 levels by 2020 and 80% by 2050.

In 2014, the ***Scottish*** Government announced it had reached the first target six years early.

She still has plenty of business interests and is a senior independent director of J Sainsbury plc.

Benny Higgins

The influencers: Top 10 who hold levers of power

Banker Benny Higgins has a wide-ranging profile taking in finance, property, the arts and advisory roles for the **Scottish** Government.

He became chief executive of retail banking at RBS just a year before Fred Goodwin joined as deputy CEO. In 2005, he went to NatWest Retail Banking, then to Tesco Bank in 2008.

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In 2006, he was elected convener of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority and more recently served as chair of Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd which is responsible for 11 airports across **Scotland**.

The influencers: Top 10 who hold levers of power

He was awarded Public Sector Leader of the Year at the Scottish Leadership Awards 2012 and made an OBE in 2014 for services to tourism and hospitality.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: HER

Subject: HOLDING COMPANIES (89%); INVESTIGATIONS (89%); MAMMALS (89%); POLITICS (89%); WETLANDS (89%); LOBBYING (79%); ELECTIONS & POLITICS (78%); SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY (78%); TRENDS & EVENTS (78%); TYPES OF GOVERNMENT (78%); UK LABOUR PARTY (78%); LIVESTOCK RESEARCH (75%); WEALTHY PEOPLE (74%); DEMOCRACIES (73%); ENDANGERED SPECIES (73%); WAGES & SALARIES (63%); TAX HAVENS (54%); agriculture (%); business (%); crime (%); education (%); wales_community (%); health terms (%); political parties (%); sport (%); weather (%)

Industry: MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (78%); LIVESTOCK RESEARCH (75%); WIND ENERGY (72%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, SCOTLAND (73%); SCOTLAND (95%); WALES (79%)

Load-Date: July 16, 2021

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Revealed: The rich and powerful who influence SNP Government decisions

Revealed: The rich and powerful who influence SNP Government decisions

Herald Scotland

July 16, 2021 Friday

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Length: 3508 words

Byline: [The Ferret - Who Runs Scotland](#)

Body

So who runs **Scotland**? That's been the central question of The Ferret and The Herald's week-long investigation.

Along the way we've examined the corridors of power and looked at who gets the most access to ministers - and who doesn't.

We've pored through the lobbying register, ministerial diaries, First Minister-hosted dinner and event lists, advisory panel minutes, and examined what happened to the recommendations made.

We've studied the ownership of our media, natural resources and iconic **Scottish** produce such as whisky, and exposed how arms firms wield unaccountable power at Westminster. We also looked at what happens to profits and links to tax havens, finding that multinationals and individuals mostly benefit while the **Scottish** people often don't.

But it's not just about political power and big business. The decision-making systems we rely on have also been our focus, including the power dynamics within public boards and services. We learned that power is an ever-shifting, nebulous force.

So, the individuals listed below are not the people running **Scotland**, but a selection of some of the most influential today - a top ten who caught our eye plus a round-up of other interesting people.

Of course, in a democracy our elected politicians front the show - but what power and influence lies beneath? On our are names you will not have seen on any ballot paper but nonetheless have more influence than most in our society. Some will be familiar - it's notable that some stayed within the establishment when political power transferred from **Scottish** Labour to the SNP. Others will be newer faces.

The Ferret's criteria was to look at a combination of wealth or salary, land and property, access to political power, professional influence, connections...and then to bear in mind any x factors we found along the way. You'll notice they are white, and mostly male. Our findings suggest the old power bases are holding firm.

Anders Povlsen

Revealed: The rich and powerful who influence SNP Government decisions

The Danish fashion mogul and **Scotland**'s richest man is reportedly worth £6bn, up £1.27bn on 2020. Thought to be **Scotland**'s biggest landowner, since buying the Glenfeshie Cairngorm estate in 2006, Povlsen, 48, has reportedly amassed 220,000 acres across 12 estates.

His ambitious 200-year plans will influence the course of **Scotland**'s rewilding future, and could drastically alter northern **Scotland**. But, as The Ferret revealed, they may be scrapped if the Sutherland space port goes ahead. Povlsen has previously tried to exert influence in a failed attempt to block wind farms.

READ MORE: SNP Government held hundreds of secret lobbying meetings in 2020

His company, Wildlands, had pledged to regenerate native woodland, peatlands, wetlands, rivers, and endangered animal populations, promising to invest £50m by 2022.

The project would reduce deer and sheep numbers and, controversially, hopes *Lynx*, bear and wolves "may be able to return". Wildlands says it has planted four million new trees and regenerated thousands of acres of natural woodland, promising to tackle climate change and depopulation.

Ian Wood

A giant in the worlds of energy, oil and fishing, billionaire Wood is worth £1.82bn, and his family are **Scotland**'s third richest according to the Sunday Times Rich List.

Wood retired from energy company the Wood Group in 2012 but remains chairman and chief executive of JW Holdings which, along with its subsidiaries, owns one per cent of the UK's fishing quotas. He also now chairs Opportunity North East (ONE), which aims to drive economic diversification in north east **Scotland**.

Geoff Aberdein, Alex Salmond's former chief of staff, served on the ONE board until December 2020 and is now consulting for the group, and providing counsel for Message Matters, one of **Scotland**'s biggest lobbying consultancies.

In 2013, Wood undertook a review for the UK Government on oil and gas recovery and this year he joined its 'Build Back Better' council. He has warned against **Scottish** independence and supports Brexit.

The Wood Foundation supports youth projects in **Scotland** and Africa and has committed £62m to ONE over 10 years.

Lord Smith of Kelvin

Smith is a crossbench peer who has influenced key financial, cultural, energy, media and governmental bodies. He currently chairs organisations including **Scottish** Enterprise, which has regular **Scottish** ministerial access, and the UK Government's British Business Bank.

The trained accountant, 76, was ICAS **Scotland** president and the Financial Conduct Authority regulator's non-executive director. Like a number of people featured in Who Runs **Scotland**, he worked at RBS. He also held senior roles at Bank of **Scotland**, in private equity and financial service firms.

Smith was appointed by Alex Salmond to lead the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games organising committee, and chaired the post-referendum Smith Commission on further devolution.

A former BBC governor, head of the Broadcasting Council for **Scotland** and member of the Judicial Appointments Board for **Scotland**, he is now the University of Strathclyde's chancellor.

Smith also chaired engineering giant Weir Group, National Museums **Scotland**, SSE, and the UK Green Investment Bank.

Sir Tom Hunter

Revealed: The rich and powerful who influence SNP Government decisions

Worth £729m, Hunter was named as **Scotland**'s 13th richest man this year, despite losing his billionaire status after the 2008 financial crisis.

He started Sports Division by selling trainers from the back of a van. It was sold to JD Sports for £290m in 1998.

Perhaps best known for the Hunter Foundation, in 2005 he received a knighthood for "services to philanthropy and to entrepreneurship". He also chairs and helps to fund children's charity The Kiltwalk, along with Social Bite, a social enterprise employing homeless people.

READ MORE: **Scotland**'s top lobbyists who most frequently met with Government revealed

Hunter still has business and political sway. Last year an Oxford Economics report, funded by his foundation, called for **Scotland** to lower taxes and increase borrowing. Signatories included Andrew Wilson, of the SNP's Sustainable Growth Commission and co-founder of Charlotte Street Partners.

The Ferret has revealed Hunter's regular access to government. He had 13 phone meetings with seven ministers last year. Projects in train include a £10m leadership centre at Loch Lomond, targeting teachers and head teachers.

Sir Angus Grossart

A co-founder of the **Scottish** merchant bank Noble Grossart in 1969, Grossart has long influenced many top financial, arts, business and media institutions. The veteran banker, 84, was vice chair of RBS and close friend to disgraced former CEO, Fred Goodwin.

Grossart chaired the **Scottish** Futures Trust, overseeing public infrastructure, and has sat on the boards of financial institutions and firms like BP, and publishing giant Reach.

He chairs influential lobbying firm, Charlotte Street Partners, which brought 50 of **Scotland**'s business leaders to wine and dine with Nicola Sturgeon in 2015. Co-founder Andrew Wilson is a former SNP MSP, and Goodwin-era RBS economist and PR man.

Grossart has fronted the **Scottish** International think-tank and was pictured at a secretive 2017 Gleneagles event alongside Donald Trump's former chief of staff, Steve Bannon.

Grossart chairs the Burrell Collection restoration, along with the boards of Glasgow Life and the Edinburgh International Culture Summit. His family wealth was estimated at £325m in 2020.

You can also tune in to our special edition of the Brian Taylor Podcast, LIVE now with @akmaciver @mrjamesmack @Karin_Goodwin and @alistairgrant #WhoRunsScotland <https://t.co/F68cJK5psh>

- The Herald (@heraldscotland) July 15, 2021

READ MORE: Third of **Scotland**'s big wind farms linked to tax havens including Cayman Islands

Susan Rice

Dame Susan Rice is another veteran financier who combines banking and business interests with roles on public boards interest in the arts. She is chair of **Scottish** Water and the **Scottish** Fiscal Commission.

As chief executive, and then chair of Lloyds TSB **Scotland**, she became the first woman to head a UK clearing bank in 2000. In 2012, she was also the first woman elected as president of the **Scottish** Council for Development and Industry.

She has long been respected by government. In 2009 she chaired the 2020 Group, set up in response to the Climate Change Bill, which aimed to reduce carbon emissions by 42 per cent of 1990 levels by 2020 and 80 per cent by 2050. In 2014 the **Scottish** Government announced it had reached the first target six years early.

Revealed: The rich and powerful who influence SNP Government decisions

She still has plenty of business interests and is a senior independent director of J. Sainsbury's plc.

Benny Higgins

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READ MORE: Two-thirds of **Scotland**'s whisky distilleries owned by non-Scots firms

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READ MORE: The three billionaires who own ten of **Scotland**'s major newspapers

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He was awarded Public Sector Leader of the Year at the **Scottish** Leadership Awards 2012 and was made an OBE in 2014 for services to tourism and hospitality.

The media

Scotland's media is dominated by firms outside **Scotland**, The Ferret has revealed, with three billionaires owning 10 national titles.

Only The Sunday Post is **Scottish**-owned, while as many as 25 are owned by firms in London, eight of which belong to parent companies in the US and Asia.

The influence of the media can be significant. The Vow, a Daily Record front page featuring the leaders of the Tories, Labour and Lib Dems promising further devolution has been cited as a factor in **Scotland**'s rejection of independence in 2014.

Murray Foote - the newspaper's then-editor - is now the SNP's head of communications.

In recent years, ventures such as The Ferret and Bella Caledonia have changed **Scotland**'s media landscape, while women have been appointed as editors of some of the biggest selling titles. Last year Lorna Hughes became the first female editor of a national newspaper for over 20 years. In March 2021 Gill Smith became **Scottish** Sun editor, while Catherine Salmond has edited **Scotland** On Sunday since June.

Justice and public bodies

Two of the top legal roles in **Scotland** are now held by women, with influence at the heart of government. Dorothy Bain QC is Lord Advocate and principal legal adviser to the **Scottish** Government, while Ruth Charteris QC was appointed Solicitor General in June 2021. It is the first time these roles have been held simultaneously by women.

Scotland's most senior judge is Colin Sutherland, aka Lord Carloway, head of the judiciary. Iain Livingstone holds the top role at Police **Scotland** as Chief Constable.

Some of the most powerful people leading public bodies include Linda Hanna, interim chief executive of **Scottish** Enterprise, the government's business agency. The chief executive of Glasgow City Council, **Scotland**'s largest local authority, is Annemarie O'Donnell, while Andrew Kerr holds the same position at Edinburgh City Council, the second biggest council.

Scottish Government

Special advisors, known as Spads, give government ministers advice on policy matters, exerting significant influence over which laws the First Minister and cabinet colleagues bring forward. They are usually appointed thanks to being perceived experts, or allies.

The current list, last updated in February 2020, includes former party advisor and head spin doctor Liz Lloyd as chief of staff, fellow former spin doctor Colin McAllister as policy chief, and former Daily Mail political editor Stuart Nicolson as communications chief.

READ MORE: UK Government held thousands of closed doors talks with Scots-based arms giants

Revealed: The rich and powerful who influence SNP Government decisions

UWS media lecturer and former BBC journalist Ewan Crawford consults on EU and constitutional issues. Most Spads are party insiders such as parliamentary officers and researchers. Others include former Aberdeen MP, Callum McCaig, who lost his seat in 2017, and Katy Bowman, who was Alex Salmond's private secretary and office manager.

Permanent Secretary Leslie Evans is a longtime government employee who leads more than 6,500 civil servants in supporting and developing government policy. She is due to exit following criticism over the handling of the accusations against Alex Salmond.

Local Government

Councillors can have notable access to power, with some speaking regularly to high-profile ministers about local and national issues, our analysis of 2020 ministerial engagements reveals. The Inverclyde Council leader, Labour's Stephen McCabe, spoke with ministers 33 times, mostly with John Swinney about education and Covid-19.

COSLA president and Labour Aberdeenshire councillor Alison Evison was another with regular access to ministers. She spoke 29 times, mostly about local government and Covid-19 with then-communities secretary Aileen Campbell.

Argyll and Bute leader, Lib Dem Robin Currie met ministers 19 times, mostly talking health and social care with then-health secretary Jeane Freeman.

Glasgow and Edinburgh receive the most public funding for their councils. Glasgow leader, the SNP's Susan Aitken chairs the city region cabinet and convenes three committees, including those which delegate council functions and appoint senior officers.

Edinburgh leader Adam McVey convenes four, covering the Edinburgh Partnership, leadership advisory panel, policy and recruitment. His Labour coalition partner leader, Cammy Day vice convenes policy and sustainability.

UK Government

The UK Government wields significant influence over **Scotland** more than 20 years after devolution and the forming of the **Scottish** Parliament. Many tax and welfare powers, as well as drug laws, immigration, foreign affairs and defence are still held at Westminster.

We revealed that five companies employing around three quarters of **Scotland**'s arms industry workers had thousands of closed door meetings with the UK Government between 2011 and 2020. The firms enjoyed special access to government meetings, many alongside representatives from the Prime Minister's office.

READ MORE: **Scotland**'s gender pay gap exposed as women board members paid half a million less

The UK Government's **Scotland** Office is headed by Dumfries and Galloway MP, Alister Jack. The millionaire landowner and businessman reportedly made £20m through his self-storage firm. The Herald reported in 2017 that he was criticised for owning £70,000 of shares in a firm registered in the tax haven, Bermuda.

The other **Scotland** Office ministers are former oil and gas worker, Banff and Buchan MP David Duguid and Hamilton-born Milton Keynes MP, Iain Stewart.

Landowners

Scotland's richest man, Anders Povlsen is also the country's biggest landowner, but far from the only key player. The Duke of Buccleuch, Richard Scott, owns 189,000 acres though Buccleuch Estates, largely in southern **Scotland**.

Billionaire former Lego boss Kjeld Kirk Kristiansen owns the Strathconon Estate in central Ross-shire. The Ferret revealed the 82,800-acre estate's deer forest claimed full business rates relief from the taxpayer for its 2019 bill.

Revealed: The rich and powerful who influence SNP Government decisions

The billionaire ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum owns the 63,000 acre Inverinate Estate in Wester Ross. Lisbet Rausing, daughter of Hans Rausing who was one the world's wealthiest people, owns the 57,000-acre Corrour Estate near Rannoch Moor.

Donald Houston, the second largest donor to the Better Together campaign, owns the 30,000 acre Ardnamurchan Estate.

Other major landowners include government agencies and public bodies, as reported by the BBC. These include the National Trust for **Scotland**, Forestry and Land **Scotland**, the Crown Estate, NatureScot, and local authorities.

Civil society and academia

Civil society might have less space at the table than big business but there are figures who have significant influence here too. Fiona Duncan, chief executive of funder Corra, which administers several **Scottish** Government funds, also chaired the Independent Care Review, which published its report The Promise last February.

Derek Feeley, a former chief executive of NHS **Scotland**, published his Independent Review of Social Care this February, which called for a National Care Service.

Figures such as Andrew Burns, convenor of the **Scottish** Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) and Dr Sally Witcher, former chief executive of Inclusion **Scotland** and chair of **Scottish** Commission on Social Security, are also noteworthy.

Meanwhile in academia, University principles hold plenty of sway. Economist and University of Glasgow principal Anton Muscatelli was a member of the **Scottish** Government's advisory committee on economic recovery. Fellow university principles include Professor Peter Mathieson of Edinburgh University and Professor Sally Mapstone of St Andrews.

The Unions

The power that the unions once had in the twentieth century may be diminished but many of **Scotland's** key union reps, including Mary Senior of UCU and Rozanne Foy and Dave Moxham of STUC were well represented both on the lobbying register and at the table in discussion with **Scottish** ministers.

Unions say their lobbying is more democratic - the STUC represents over half a million members. Notable influence helped save the BiFab yards after the **Scottish** Government stepped in.

Outside the corridors of power smaller unions have shown their might this year too, with campaigns by Better than Zero and Unite's hospitality wing led by Bryan Simpson, bringing profile to the need for action on zero hours contracts, and living wages. The emergence of Living Rent, the tenants union, has also highlighted renters rights.

People powered campaigns

It's not just unions that have found power and influence can be found through collective voice - from successful community land buy-outs to Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST)'s successful campaign for a Marine Protected Area around the islands, community voices can - and do - cut through.

One-off recent examples include protests in Glasgow's Kenmure Street when the local community and activists blocked a Home Office migration van on an enforcement raid. The two men - Sumit Sehdev and Lakhvir Singh - were later released after Police **Scotland** backed down.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY (90%); HOLDING COMPANIES (89%); INVESTIGATIONS (89%); LOBBYING (89%); MAMMALS (89%); POLITICS (89%); WEALTHY PEOPLE (89%); WETLANDS (89%); TRENDS & EVENTS (78%); UK LABOUR PARTY (78%); ELECTIONS & POLITICS (77%); TYPES OF GOVERNMENT (77%); LIVESTOCK RESEARCH (75%); DEMOCRACIES (73%); ENDANGERED SPECIES (73%); WAGES & SALARIES (63%); ANIMALS (60%); TAX HAVENS (54%)

Industry: WIND ENERGY (89%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (78%); LIVESTOCK RESEARCH (75%); ENERGY & UTILITIES (72%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (98%)

Load-Date: July 16, 2021

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RE-WILDING? CLEARANCE BY ANOTHER NAME

RE-WILDING? CLEARANCE BY ANOTHER NAME

Scottish Express

July 15, 2021 Thursday

Edition 1, Scotland

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Section: NEWS; OPINION, COLUMNS; Pg. 13

Length: 110 words

Byline: Alan Cochrane

Body

THE increasingly strident demands for the so-called re-wilding of much of **Scotland** is attracting a fair bit of wholly misguided support from those members of the public who, frankly, haven't a clue about rural life.

Filling hills and glens with wolves and/or **Lynx**, as well as other species absent for centuries, and actively discouraging sheep farms while outlawing shooting estates is the militant demand of the re-wilders.

However, the one thing they'd love to achieve is a countryside where there wouldn't be much room for people, like the crofters, hill farmers and gamekeepers who live there now. A second version of the Highland Clearances is their fond desire.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DXPscot

Subject: REPORTS, REVIEWS & SECTIONS (89%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (87%); FARM LABOR (85%); EDITORIALS & OPINIONS (58%)

Industry: FARM LABOR (85%); SHEEP FARMING (70%); SHEEP & GOAT FARMING (55%)

Geographic: **SCOTLAND** (90%); **Scotland**

Load-Date: July 15, 2021

RE-WILDING? CLEARANCE BY ANOTHER NAME

End of Document

THE BRAINBOX

THE BRAINBOX

Scottish Star

July 14, 2021 Wednesday

Edition 1, Scotland

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 6

Length: 174 words

Body

- 1 What was the alter ego of cartoon superhero Eric Wimp, who lived at 29 Acacia Road, Nuttytown?
- 2 Which team has the record for the fewest goals conceded in a English Premier League season, 15 in 2005?
- 3 What is the name of the German band in the pic?
- 4 Which novel by Charles Dickens features a pompous character called Mr Bumble?
- 5 Which American is the world No1 male golfer?

ASK US ANOTHER

Q What takes both Marty McFly and King George VI 99 minutes? HUGH PETERS

A The things in the title of the films happen 99 minutes in - going Back To The Future and The King's Speech.

Text DSTAR with your question and name to 85525. Cost 25p + network rate

ANSWERS: 1) Bananaman; 2) Chelsea; 3) Kraftwerk; 4) Oliver Twist; 5) Dustin Johnson.

BRAINS OF BRITAIN

We asked you for a type of cat found in the wild:

1 Tiger 2 Lynx 3 Lion 4 Bobcat 5= Puma, Wildcat 7 Ocelot 8 Scottish Wildcat 9 Cheetah, Thomas O'Malley, furry, a big one, mac, cougar, moggy, bedraggled, jaguar

Join the BoB panel. Email StarLetters@dailystar.co.uk to get the next batch of questions

Graphic

ROBOT POP: Name the band.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DSTscot

Subject: SOCCER (90%); WILD CATS (90%); BRITISH MONARCHS (79%); CARTOONS & COMICS (78%); SPORTS & RECREATION (78%); PROFESSIONAL SPORTS (77%)

Industry: BRITISH MONARCHS (79%); CARTOONS & COMICS (78%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (90%); UNITED KINGDOM (74%); UNITED STATES (73%); Scotland

Load-Date: July 14, 2021

End of Document

Letters: Why don't the Tories look at why the Yes vote is so high?

Letters: Why don't the Tories look at why the Yes vote is so high?

Herald Scotland

June 25, 2021 Friday

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Length: 1432 words

Byline: [Letters](#)

Body

IT is not difficult to agree with Iain Macwhirter that registering **Scottish**-born voters resident in the rest of the UK for a second independence referendum would be problematic ("It would be wrong to make Indyref2 about ethnicity", The Herald, June 23).

However unfair it might seem to those voters (and I was once one of them), the practical arguments must favour those who are resident, work and pay their taxes here. There is, though a wider and more telling point.

Pollsters advising the UK Government apparently believe that including these non-resident voters would add several percent to the No vote. What the UK Government should be much more concerned with is why the Yes vote is regularly around, or even over, 50 per cent. Strange to relate, there was a time when the SNP vote did not often rise above 30%.

If the UK Government could properly understand why the Yes vote is where it currently stands and adopt policies to return it to those lower levels, I feel confident that any concern it may claim about the say of non-resident **Scottish** voters would vanish. But as such policies would run quite contrary to the prevailing strain of Conservatism, we can be confident that they are of no interest to the UK Government.

Cllr Alasdair Rankin (SNP), City of Edinburgh Council, Edinburgh.

FRANCHISE PLAN IS ILLOGICAL

I CAN see (if I squint) that a case can be made for allowing residents of the rest of the UK who were born in **Scotland** to vote in any future **Scottish** independence referendum. It's not one I agree with, but it's an argument. However, that case would clearly also mean those born in other UK countries (or outside the UK) and now resident in **Scotland** not being allowed to vote in it.

This seems thoroughly abhorrent to me, that people who have made their lives here should be denied the opportunity to vote on the future of the country that is now their home. The added bureaucracy of vetting the electorate to ensure only those born in **Scotland** were permitted to vote is a minor detail. However, if you are to base the right to vote on birthplace rather than domicile it would at least be logically consistent.

Letters: Why don't the Tories look at why the Yes vote is so high?

A situation where birthplace was made the criteria for some and domicile the criteria for others on the basis that it suited your side would, on the other hand, be simply corrupt gerrymandering, no better than the voter suppression tactics used by Republican state legislatures in the United States.

David Clinton, Hamilton.

SNP HAS RIGGED THE RULES BEFORE

WHILE I tend to agree with much of Iain Macwhirter's article, I have a few issues.

First, the SNP has already changed the franchise itself by allowing impressionable 16 and 17-year-olds the vote, seeing this as obviously in its favour. Before the argument about fighting for country and marriage kicks off I don't believe they are old enough for that either.

Secondly, Nicola Sturgeon is on record as stating she wants to create an independent ***Scotland*** for all Scots. What then are those Scots-born people living in the rest of the UK? Non-Scots by decree of Holyrood with non-Scots residents and, dare I say, it felons preferred? We can't accuse Westminster of trying to rig the vote while not discussing the SNP's actions.

Alan Shepherd, Forfar.

THE CITIZENSHIP CONUNDRUM

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Normally keen to virtue signal its concern with rights and identity, the SNP has legislated to allow prisoners, 16-year-olds, and recent immigrants to vote and tried to make it easier for people who self-identify as a gender other than that stated on their birth certificates to legally change gender. Anxious to ensure that EU citizens in the UK would be able to vote in the EU elections in 2019, SNP MP Joanna Cherry tweeted: "Today I asked @theresamay to make sure all #EUcitizens living in the UK can vote tomorrow by making the UC1 form available at polling stations. As PM she could do this but has refused. I wonder why?"

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DIVISIVENESS IS DOING US DOWN

THE response delivered by the First Minister in response to perfectly legitimate comments made by Michael Gove when questioned about a potential independence referendum in this UK Parliamentary term was little short of

Letters: Why don't the Tories look at why the Yes vote is so high?

childish and demonstrates a complete lack of respect towards any alternative opinion to her own ("Sturgeon hits back at 'sneering, arrogant' Gove over Indyref2", The Herald, June 24). The First Minister belittled her position as national leader and, as usual when she is confronted by somebody who does not follow her nationalist beliefs, she resorts to petty, small-minded personal attacks.

However there might just be another reason for her intemperate language and perhaps it was designed to grab the headlines away from easyJet's sad decision to cancel its proposed flight links between Manchester and Edinburgh/Aberdeen following her travel "ban" between the two regions. This decision, pretty much unenforceable by law as admitted by the police, was the First Minister showboating at her best.

This showboating has serious economic consequences for a supposedly outward-looking **Scotland**. The **Scottish** economy and its wealth creators can ill afford any reduction in UK connectivity and once again, the First Minister demonstrates the unpleasantness, parochialism and divisiveness of her brand of separatism to the detriment of the **Scottish** people.

Richard Allison, Edinburgh.

WE MUST SHOW MORE AMBITION

SCOTLAND crashed out of Euro 2020 with a dismal performance, two losses and a draw. Despite this Nicola Sturgeon has congratulated the team and told them that they have done **Scotland** proud.

This is hardly surprising given their record at the Euros was on a par with the SNP's record in government, where Ms Sturgeon thinks she's doing **Scotland** proud.

The First Minister claimed education was her priority and asked to be judged on this. The delayed OECD report finally released shows that **Scotland** has failed a generation of children. **Scottish** education used to be the envy of the world, that's no longer the case.

Sadly there are far too many people in **Scotland** who are willing to celebrate a 0-0 draw against England with the same intensity most countries use to celebrate winning the World Cup and equally as sad is the fact that there are too many who continue to vote for a Government that continues to fail **Scotland** at every opportunity.

Whether it is our national football team or our Government, **Scotland** needs ambition, because ambition is critical.

Matt Davies, Inverness.

LINKS BETWEEN SNP AND GREENS

I NOTED with interest that the **Scottish** Greens want to reintroduce the **Lynx** to **Scotland** as part of any co-operation agreement with the SNP ("Greens urged to include rewilding in any co-operation agreement with SNP", The Herald, June 23). I'm in favour of rewilding schemes. However, to seal the deal, all the Greens need to do is to tell the SNP that **Lynx** can vote in a future independence referendum.

David Bone, Girvan.

MAKING A **SCOTTISH** PLAY

A SHORT response to the Andy Burnham issue: the coronavirus shall be over when Burnham comes to Dunsinane.

John McAulay, Kirkcudbright.

Read more: Tories' ethnic nationalism has no place in **Scotland**

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Letters: Why don't the Tories look at why the Yes vote is so high?

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY (90%); VOTERS & VOTING (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); REFERENDUMS (89%); SEPARATISM & SECESSION (89%); VOTER SUPPRESSION (89%); CONSERVATISM (78%); ELECTION CRIME (78%); POLITICAL & SOCIAL IDEOLOGIES (78%); RIGHT TO VOTE (78%); SCOTLAND INDEPENDENCE REFERENDUM (78%); VOTING LAWS (78%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (75%); ELECTORAL REDISTRICTING (73%); POLLS & SURVEYS (73%)

Geographic: EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND (73%); SCOTLAND (97%); UNITED KINGDOM (95%); UNITED STATES (79%)

Load-Date: June 25, 2021

End of Document

Why don't the Tories look at why the Yes vote is so high?

Why don't the Tories look at why the Yes vote is so high?

The Herald (Glasgow)

June 25, 2021 Friday

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The Herald

Section: Pg. 19

Length: 1423 words

Byline: Drew Allan

Body

IT is not difficult to agree with Iain Macwhirter that registering Scottish-born voters resident in the rest of the UK for a second independence referendum would be problematic ("It would be wrong to make Indyref2 about ethnicity", The Herald, June 23).

However unfair it might seem to those voters (and I was once one of them), the practical arguments must favour those who are resident, work and pay their taxes here. There is, though, a wider and more telling point.

Pollsters advising the UK Government apparently believe that including these non-resident voters would add several per cent to the No vote. What the UK Government should be much more concerned with is why the Yes vote is regularly around, or even over, 50%. Strange to relate, there was a time when the SNP vote did not often rise above 30%.

If the UK Government could properly understand why the Yes vote is where it currently stands and adopt policies to return it to those lower levels, I feel confident that any concern it may claim about the say of non-resident Scottish voters would vanish. But as such policies would run quite contrary to the prevailing strain of Conservatism, we can be confident that they are of no interest to the UK Government.

Cllr Alasdair Rankin (SNP), City of Edinburgh Council, Edinburgh.

Franchise plan is illogical

I CAN see (if I squint) that a case can be made for allowing residents of the rest of the UK who were born in Scotland to vote in any future Scottish independence referendum. It's not one I agree with, but it's an argument. However, that case would clearly also mean those born in other UK countries (or outside the UK) and now resident in Scotland not being allowed to vote in it.

This seems thoroughly abhorrent to me, that people who have made their lives here should be denied the opportunity to vote on the future of the country that is now their home. The added bureaucracy of vetting the electorate to ensure only those born in Scotland were permitted to vote is a minor detail. However, if you are to base the right to vote on birthplace rather than domicile it would at least be logically consistent.

Why don't the Tories look at why the Yes vote is so high?

A situation where birthplace was made the criteria for some and domicile the criteria for others on the basis that it suited your side would, on the other hand, be simply corrupt gerrymandering, no better than the voter suppression tactics used by Republican state legislatures in the United States.

David Clinton, Hamilton.

SNP has rigged the rules before

WHILE I tend to agree with much of Iain Macwhirter's article, I have a few issues.

First, the SNP has already changed the franchise itself by allowing impressionable 16 and 17-year-olds the vote, seeing this as obviously in its favour. Before the argument about fighting for country and marriage kicks off I don't believe they are old enough for that either.

Secondly, Nicola Sturgeon is on record as stating she wants to create an independent **Scotland** for all Scots. What then are those Scots-born people living in the rest of the UK? Non-Scots by decree of Holyrood with non-Scots residents and, dare I say it, felons preferred? We can't accuse Westminster of trying to rig the vote while not discussing the SNP's actions.

Alan Shepherd, Forfar.

The citizenship conundrum

ANGUS Robertson, the SNP's newly-appointed Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, recently described the idea of allowing the 800,000 Scots living in the rest of the UK to vote in any future referendum on separation as "half-baked".

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Matt Davies, Inverness.

Links between SNP and Greens

I NOTED with interest that the **Scottish** Greens want to reintroduce **Lynx** to **Scotland** as part of any co-operation agreement with the SNP ("Greens urged to include rewilding in any co-operation agreement with SNP", The Herald, June 23). I'm in favour of rewilding schemes. However, to seal the deal, all the Greens need to do is to tell the SNP that **Lynx** can vote in a future independence referendum.

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Making a **Scottish** play

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John McAulay, Kirkcudbright.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Why don't the Tories look at why the Yes vote is so high?

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: HER

Subject: SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY (90%); VOTERS & VOTING (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); REFERENDUMS (89%); SEPARATISM & SECESSION (89%); VOTER SUPPRESSION (89%); CONSERVATISM (78%); ELECTION CRIME (78%); POLITICAL & SOCIAL IDEOLOGIES (78%); RIGHT TO VOTE (78%); SCOTLAND INDEPENDENCE REFERENDUM (78%); VOTING LAWS (78%); NEGATIVE PERSONAL NEWS (76%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (75%); ELECTORAL REDISTRICTING (73%); POLLS & SURVEYS (73%); education (%); health terms (%); political parties (%)

Geographic: EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND (73%); GLASGOW, SCOTLAND (58%); SCOTLAND (95%); UNITED KINGDOM (95%); UNITED STATES (79%)

Load-Date: June 25, 2021

End of Document

It's time to bring back both lynx and beaver pleas to boost environment

It's time to bring back both lynx and beaver; pleas to boost environment

Daily Record and Sunday Mail

June 24, 2021 Thursday

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 8

Length: 232 words

Byline: MIKE MERRITT

Body

LYNX and beaver reintroductions should be part of any Green agreement with the SNP, says a coalition of conservation groups.

The native Eurasian **lynx** was driven to extinction in **Scotland** some 500-1000 years ago through hunting and habitat loss.

It has been reintroduced to many areas of Europe, including in areas used for farming, hunting, forestry and tourism.

Lynx are shy and solitary woodland hunters that avoid humans, say campaigners.

Research suggests the Highlands has enough habitat to support 400 **lynx**, which could help to restore nature's balance by controlling numbers of roe deer, the cat's preferred prey. But farming and other groups oppose its return.

Scottish Rewilding Alliance convener Steve Micklewright said: "The **Scottish** Greens have committed to restoring nature through rewilding, including a trial **lynx** reintroduction.

"If they reach an agreement with the SNP that includes this commitment, many will see this as a sign they can achieve real change through cooperation."

A poll by Survation for the alliance showed 52 per cent of Scots supported a pilot reintroduction of **lynx**.

The alliance also wants a better approach to beaver relocation, to help stop their "needless killing".

Beavers create wetlands that can reduce flooding, improve water quality and benefit fish and other wildlife.

The poll showed 66 per cent of Scots support beaver relocation to their authorised killing.

Graphic

It's time to bring back both lynx and beaver pleas to boost environment

ON THE PROWL Lynx can restore nature's balance

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DRC

Subject: WILD CATS (94%); AGREEMENTS (90%); CONSERVATION (90%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (90%); RODENTS (90%); WILDLIFE (79%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (78%); MAMMALS (78%); UK POLITICAL PARTIES (78%); WETLANDS (78%); LAND RECLAMATION (77%); POLLS & SURVEYS (76%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (73%); WATER QUALITY (64%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (90%); EUROPE (73%); National Edition

Load-Date: June 24, 2021

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Greens urged to include lynx in deal

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Evening Times (Glasgow)

June 24, 2021 Thursday

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Section: Pg. 18

Length: 199 words

Byline: Heather Graham

Body

GREENS are being urged to make a trial project to reintroduce lynx to Scotland, as well as the widespread reintroduction of beavers, a key part of any future co-operation agreement with the SNP government.

Talks are taking place between the two parties over the possibility of a formal deal - which Nicola Sturgeon has already indicated could potentially include the appointment of Green ministers.

The Scottish Rewilding Alliance noted that the Greens' manifesto for the May election supported "the gradual reintroduction of species native to Scotland where appropriate and in co-operation with local communities, including a lynx reintroduction trial".

The Eurasian lynx was driven to extinction in Scotland between 500 and 1000 years ago. The creatures have now been reintroduced to some parts of Europe, including in areas used for farming, hunting, forestry and tourism, with research suggesting the Highlands could be home to around 400 of the big cats.

Campaigners argue such a move would help restore balance in nature, by controlling roe deer numbers - with the deer being the lynx's preferred prey. Polling for the group showed more than half of Scots support a pilot reintroduction of lynx.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: ETI

Greens urged to include lynx in deal

Subject: WILD CATS (91%); MAMMALS (90%); RODENTS (90%); **SCOTTISH** NATIONAL PARTY (90%); CATS (70%); health terms (%); political parties (%)

Person: NICOLA STURGEON (79%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, **SCOTLAND** (73%); **SCOTLAND** (94%); EUROPE (79%)

Load-Date: June 24, 2021

End of Document

Greens urged to include rewilding and reintroduction of lynx to Scotland in pact with SNP

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Herald Scotland

June 23, 2021 Wednesday

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Length: 547 words

Byline: [Jody Harrison](#)

Body

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As discussions over a deal - which would not be a full coalition - continue, campaigners said including a commitment on rewilding would be seen as a sign the Greens could achieve "real change".

READ MORE: Why does Nicola Sturgeon want a pact with the Greens?

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Lorna Slater and Patrick Harvie - Co-leaders of the Scottish Greens

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Scottish Rewilding Alliance convener Steve Micklewright told PA Scotland: "The Scottish Greens have committed to restoring nature through rewilding, including a trial lynx reintroduction."

"If they reach an agreement with the SNP that includes this commitment, many will see this as a sign they can achieve real change through co-operation."

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"A trial reintroduction of lynx will have very strong public support and there would be no clearer signal that Scotland intends to become the world's first rewilding nation."

READ MORE: **Scotland** leading global role as 'rewilding nation'

The **Scottish** Rewilding Alliance, a coalition of more than 20 environmental organisations, is calling on the **Scottish** Government to declare **Scotland** the world's first "rewilding nation" - with rewilding taking place within 30% of the country's land and seas within a decade.

Polling for the group showed more than half (52%) of Scots support a pilot reintroduction of lynx, with just 19% opposed to this.

Beavers were re-introduced to **Scotland** more than a decade ago

While beavers were reintroduced in **Scotland** in 2009, the poll showed 66% supported their wider relocation - with campaigners claiming there are a possible 100,000 hectares of potential beaver habitat in **Scotland**.

Mr Micklewright said that local communities and landowners wanted the "benefits" of beaver reintroduction, such as reduced flooding.

He said: "Public opinion is in favour of beaver relocation and we have huge areas where they could be moved to. The Greens must ensure that this can happen."

Scottish Greens environment spokesman Mark Ruskell said: "We won't provide a running commentary on co-operation talks with government, but clearly we committed to restoring **Scotland's** natural environment in our manifesto, and we recognise that means urgent and transformative action, including reintroducing lost species."

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: **SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY** (91%); WILD CATS (91%); AGREEMENTS (90%); RODENTS (90%); UK POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (78%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (75%); LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (73%); MAMMALS (73%); POLLS & SURVEYS (73%); CATS (68%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (60%)

Person: NICOLA STURGEON (90%)

Geographic: **SCOTLAND** (98%); EUROPE (79%)

Load-Date: June 23, 2021

Greens urged to include re-wilding in any co-operation agreement with SNP

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The Herald (Glasgow)

June 23, 2021 Wednesday

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The Herald

Section: Pg. 10

Length: 361 words

Byline: By Katrine Bussey, PA **Scotland** Political Editor

Body

Greens are being urged to make a trial project to reintroduce **Lynx** to **Scotland**, as well as the widespread reintroduction of beavers, a key part of any future co-operation agreement with the SNP Government.

Talks are taking place between the two parties over the possibility of a formal deal - which Nicola Sturgeon has already indicated could potentially include the appointment of Green ministers.

As discussions over a deal - which would not be a full coalition - continue, campaigners said including a commitment on rewilding would be seen as a sign the Greens could achieve "real change".

The **Scottish** Rewilding Alliance noted that the Greens' manifesto for the May election supported "the gradual reintroduction of species native to **Scotland** where appropriate and in co-operation with local communities, including a **Lynx** reintroduction trial".

The Eurasian **Lynx** was driven to extinction in **Scotland** between 500 and 1,000 years ago.

The creatures have now been reintroduced to some parts of Europe, including in areas used for farming, hunting, forestry and tourism, with research suggesting the Highlands could be home for around 400 of the big cats.

Campaigners argue such a move would help restore balance in nature, by controlling roe deer numbers - with these being the **Lynx**'s preferred prey. **Scottish** Rewilding Alliance convener Steve Micklewright said: "The **Scottish** Greens have committed to restoring nature through rewilding, including a trial **Lynx** reintroduction."

"If they reach an agreement with the SNP that includes this commitment, many will see this as a sign they can achieve real change through co-operation."

He added: "A trial reintroduction of **Lynx** will have very strong public support and there would be no clearer signal that **Scotland** intends to become the world's first rewilding nation."

The **Scottish** Rewilding Alliance, a coalition of more than 20 environmental organisations, is calling on the **Scottish** Government to declare **Scotland** the world's first "rewilding nation" - with rewilding taking place within 30 per cent of land and seas within a decade.

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Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: HER

Subject: WILD CATS (93%); **SCOTTISH** NATIONAL PARTY (91%); AGREEMENTS (90%); RODENTS (90%); UK POLITICAL PARTIES (79%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (78%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (75%); MAMMALS (74%); CATS (69%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (50%); POLITICS (%); agriculture (%); health terms (%); political parties (%)

Person: NICOLA STURGEON (79%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, **SCOTLAND** (73%); **SCOTLAND** (96%); EUROPE (79%)

Load-Date: June 23, 2021

End of Document

Advisory: First issued under embargo

Advisory: First issued under embargo

PA Newswire: Scotland

June 23, 2021 Wednesday

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Section: PA Newswire: ***Scotland***

Length: 528 words

Body

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Advisory: First issued under embargo

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Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newswire

Subject: WILD CATS (91%); AGREEMENTS (90%); SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY (90%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (89%); RODENTS (89%); UK POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (75%); EMBARGOES & SANCTIONS (73%); LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (73%); MAMMALS (73%); POLLS & SURVEYS (73%); CATS (68%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (66%); SCOTLAND Rewilding (%)

Person: NICOLA STURGEON (79%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (98%); EUROPE (79%)

Load-Date: June 22, 2021

Sixty years of Rewilding with the UK's most trailblazing conservationists

Scotsman

June 19, 2021 Saturday

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Section: BOOKSTHINGS TO DOMUST READTRAVELOUTDOORS

Length: 2674 words

Byline: Janet Christie, janet.christie@jpress.co.uk

Highlight: One of the UK's most trailblazing conservationists talks about his life of working to restore some of the country's extinct species.

Body

Roy Dennis lives surrounded by his life's work. Based in Moray, just south of Forres, the ornithologist and wildlife consultant is close to the River Findhorn and Bay, nowadays a hot spot for feeding ospreys, one of the species he helped reintroduce and champion in **Scotland**. It's a place he has known since coming to monitor and research ospreys since 1968.

"It's fantastic. When you've translocated ospreys and then one comes back from Africa to where you want it to be, that's just special," he says.

The magnificent birds are just one of the species the man regarded as the UK's pre-eminent conservationist has been behind the reintroduction, relocation and recovery of in **Scotland** and elsewhere. Along with sea eagles, kites, goldeneye, red squirrels and beavers, they are flourishing as Rewilding becomes more and more popular, not least because of the economic advantages - sea eagles and the tourist pound are worth £5m a year to the Isle of Mull and £3m to Skye. And if Dennis's hopes are realised, lynxes, wolves and even bears could one day be seen again in **Scotland**.

Over his 60 years working in the field in the Highlands and Islands, as bird warden on Fair Isle, as a conservationist with the RSPB and then for his own foundation, since 2016 The Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation, he kept filed books and diaries. With the approach of his 80th birthday last year, he decided to write it up into a book and the result is Restoring the Wild: Sixty Years of Rewilding Our Skies, Woods and Waterways.

"I decided to do the kind of introduction," he says of "Then maybe in a year or so I could write up the rest." He laughs.

A fascinating and entertaining book, it follows his own journey from childhood in Hampshire to that of the birds and animals he has worked with - the sea eagles that were flown from Scandinavia to **Scotland** on RAF Nimrods, the ospreys, eagles and kites, the red squirrels that crossed mountains and swam across rivers and the beavers that are spreading across our waterways and rivers.

Sixty years of Rewilding with the UK's most trailblazing conservationists

There are tales of talking solely in bird sounds out in the woods with an expert in Scandinavia, getting up close to wolves and bears from the Yukon to the Europe, being dangled from a rope in sea rescue exercises in exchange for RAF lifts and marvelling at red kites soaring over the M25.

One of Dennis's most successful reintroduction projects has been with red kites, a bird that was so plentiful during the reign of Henry VIII that they could be seen on the streets of London.

"When we brought them back there was a lot of opposition but there are four or five thousand pairs now in Britain. A few years ago when I was going down to the Isle of Wight for the white-tailed eagle project, coming round the M25 there's a kite above me. When I saw that I thought, we did something great there," says therewilder who picked up an MBE for services to nature conservation in 1992 and the RSPB Golden Eagle Award for being the person who had done most for nature conservation in **Scotland** in the last 100 years in 2004.

However popular the birds, there is still reticence over the reintroduction of wolves and **Lynx** in **Scotland**, something he attributes to our being an island.

"The chances of seeing those animals here are zero compared to mainland Europe. I say to people, 'you go on holiday to Spain, Portugal, Italy, and there are wolves all over the place, and they say, 'Yeah well I never saw any', but if they were in **Scotland**, you wouldn't see them either. You might hear them howling on an evening, that's all. It was useful that I'd seen wolves in Greenland and places in Europe. I wasn't frightened, not at all. I was frightened in the Yukon when I looked out my tent and saw a grizzly bear though." He laughs.

What did he do?

"Kept really quiet."

But is **Scotland** big enough to bring bears back?

"Yes, there are brown bears in Northern Spain, 600 to 700 nowadays. Our brown bears are not as aggressive as those in Northern Canada and America. They wouldn't be challenging. But it doesn't help when you say 'well there are far more people killed by pet dogs'.

So is it the farmers and landowners who are scared, because of their livestock, rural residents or the general public?

"Well, with wolves, farmers are about protecting their livelihood from sheep, but they know what to do - shoot them or get compensation. I think it's more ordinary people, 'would we be safe if we went for a walk, would our children be safe when they were canoeing down a river?' I think there are genuine worries and the important thing for us as conservationists is to really know these species and be respected as someone who is sensible. Quite a few conservationists can be a bit wacky."

Has he ever been called wacky, or obsessive?

He laughs. "No."

Red Squirrels are one thing, who doesn't love watching a red squirrel in their garden bird feeder? But does he really see it happening with wolves and **Lynx**, maybe even bears?

"The **Lynx**, yes, I can't see why not. I think wolves and bears will be much more difficult. It will happen one day, but there would need to be a way they would remain in the main Central Highlands.

For Dennis it's political support that is crucial, a factor in reintroducing sea eagles back to the Isle of Wight.

"I think the major reason for that was Michael Gove, the environment secretary, had a 25-year plan for England and Wales that included seeing the white-tailed eagle back, we were knocking at an open door. I don't think we've ever

Sixty years of Rewilding with the UK's most trailblazing conservationists

had that sort of political steam behind us in **Scotland**. For all these more difficult projects you need a politician who is prepared to stand up and say we want this to happen. If they do, there are people who can help."

So in the current crop of **Scottish** political leaders, does he think there are any likely to champion rewilding?

"I think there are in the new government and they could. I wish they would. Public opinion is pretty positive towards **Lynx** and very positive toward beavers. There are concerns from farmers and the like, but those have to be put in perspective with the greater social good and social wishes."

Would **Lynx** and wolves have to be in an enclosed space and require management?

No **Lynx** can be just anywhere from Perth northwards.

And wolves?

At the present time that would be much more challenging to decide how to do. There are landowners who have backed it - Paul Lister, for example, wanted them in a big enclosure, but people didn't like that.

If the animals have to be in an enclosure, is there any point, is that rewilding?

I don't like it, but you could fence in an area maybe 20 miles by 20 miles, and that's not really fencing. In some ways the most effective fence is the amount of buildings between Glasgow and Edinburgh that stops anything coming from the North. Often there are already major fences, but not in a traditional way. There are massive areas fenced off for forestry or all sorts of things. For animals to cut across country nowadays is much more difficult because of man made barriers."

And yet they do, for example Dennis and his colleagues discovered that the diminutive yet determined red squirrel can scale mountains and swim across rivers if they have to.

"We were pleasantly surprised by that. The squirrel was all but exterminated in **Scotland** in Victorian times or earlier and then various landowners, but particularly Lady Lovat at Beauly near Inverness, decided to bring them back. They exploded and went everywhere and I think they walked. When numbers build up, they're very territorial and fight like heck, and they thought it's better to walk over this mountain to the next wood than stay here and get beaten up all the time. It was a natural dispersion."

For Dennis rewilding started when he was a child, first with a jackdaw and shelduckings, then later as an adult with with a red squirrel orphan Timmy, who occasionally lodged in his jumper and went with him to the pub, then one day walked off into the woods at Loch Garten and never looked back.

"When I reared those sorts of things I always had them part in the wild because I didn't want to keep them as a pet, so they could run off when they wanted. Then they get to the stage where they just decide not to come back, and that's good. But the jackdaw, I think I did think it was a pet." He laughs.

"The value of that is - and it's something children can't do now, because it's illegal or it's not socially acceptable - learning how to identify a healthy animal or an animal that's dying. Are their eyes bright? When you found a baby rabbit and looked after it and suddenly one day that its eyes are a bit cloudy, your mum would say 'that's going to die tomorrow'. You need to know that things die."

During lockdown Dennis and his wife Moira bought six hens that his 12-year-old daughter looks after.

"I think that's good because she sees some lay very well and she can make a bit more pocket money, while others don't. And one day one of them will die. And that's just part of life."

"I worry that nowadays young people don't get so much of that opportunity. It's difficult, field work means taking children in the countryside. When I went as a kid, oh god, the people looking after us let us do anything - now they would be prosecuted." He smiles.

Sixty years of Rewilding with the UK's most trailblazing conservationists

In Dennis's view something has been lost and we need to compensate.

"From age seven my little gang could wander off into the woods and our parents didn't worry too much. Now, sadly, parents are much more worried, so the distance you're allowed free rein is much shorter. You need to make up for it. How do we teach children to know nature, to be safe in nature?

Dennis's own brood of four had the advantage of a father involved in rewilding, although they didn't all follow in his footsteps up trees and into hides for a living.

Talking to Dennis and reading his book, time and again there's an idea for a project and Dennis plants seeds, but it can take a decade or longer to germinate. Is patience the most important thing in Rewilding?

"It is. And chance. You can't do anything about chance. You do your best and you hope. At Poole Harbour in Dorset, where we've taken these ospreys, a female recognised there were young ones so came back ready to breed in 2018 but there was no young male suitable. The next year one came back but was too young, and we thought next year will be perfect. He never arrived - maybe ran into bad weather and was killed. This year she's back again, but a young male arrived too late to breed. So you hope both of them survive and come back next year - and that will be the first successful breeding.

"You're trying to get it as close to perfect as possible, but there's still a lot of chance. When you get first breeding of a new population, then you know that things are going to go. It takes time."

At 81 does Dennis think he will get to see wolves and *Lynx* in *Scotland*?

"I always said I'd love to see those before I die, so it's an encouragement to live." he laughs.

Looking to the future Dennis is energised by the younger generation's awareness of climate change, how they are infused with a sense of urgency that may be missing in older people. On top of this there's the shot in the arm delivered by the global pandemic.

"I think the issues for young people are much greater and I believe they should have much more say about politics. I got into trouble recently because I said young people should be able to vote from 14 and when you reach 60 you lose your vote - you've had your go."

I point out that this would mean he wouldn't get to vote himself.

"Yeah, but they can give advice," he says and smiles.

In terms of favourite projects over the years, it's always whatever he's working on right now.

"At the moment I'd say the white tailed eagles in England are probably the most interesting and exciting thing we're doing. If we were suddenly having *Lynx* in the country, it would be that."

In terms of wider public opinion what have been the most popular projects? Red squirrels, beavers?

"Lots and lots of people are really interested in ospreys," he says, "Maybe because there are ospreys all over the country now and webcams."

Check out <https://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/things-to-do/watch-wildlife-online/loch-of-the-lowes-webcam/> to see the chicks on the nest right now.

"Red squirrels are popular too, people are thrilled to have them into their gardens, now up in Ullapool too. It's important you have populations big enough that some can go into people's gardens."

What does Dennis think is the best way to change people's minds about the reintroduction of species?

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"To be recognized as knowing what you're talking about and not telling people what to do, to work with them and in the end regard them as friends. Work in a way where they don't think of you as just being a bloody menace. It's the human touch. I love having a crack with keepers, shepherds, farmers and landowners, going into the house and having a cup of tea. I don't just talk about birds or mammals, I love to hear how they're getting on with shooting deer or catching salmon or clipping sheep, and you can also talk about the issues."

Would you say you're optimistic about the future of rewilding?

"You have to be. Humans are amazingly capable of doing things. If you think of the money spent on this pandemic worldwide, that's the sort of money that should be spent sorting out problems with the environment and climate."

"There are young people now who really understand this stuff. The people who need educated are the politicians, councillors and business executives. But we are very pleased so many think about these things. When I go around now and hear how many big estates that used to be just killing stuff have decided to go into rewilding, or to go into regenerative agriculture, it's very encouraging," says Dennis.

"In the last 20 years there's been a tremendous change and what is going to push it even further is that young people are now involved and worried about the future of the planet. The things we do now are much more accepted."

Today Dennis is involved in exporting white-tailed eagles from ***Scotland*** to England and about to start collecting 12 young birds from the Hebrides for the next year's Isle of Wight project, which has exceeded expectations.

"People said, 'There's no room in southern England for eagles', but they're fitting in extremely well. There's a huge amount of food: rabbits, hares, fish in the sea and lakes and introduced Canada geese everywhere. Now people in lockdown are writing saying 'we're stuck in our gardens, looking up and this monster bird flies over at about 1,000 feet and it's made not just our day, but our year.'"

Over the years Dennis has seen the opponents of rewilding change along with their opinions.

"That used to be gamekeepers, farmers and landowners, but now I have friends who say 'I love what you're doing but when I was young I didn't like it at all.' And young people take over farms and crofts and realise there may be more money in ecotourism than in rearing sheep."

"If you're suggesting new things you'll always get opposition. For example, we would like to see the ***Lynx*** back and people will say, 'Well the reason we haven't got them is because we got rid of them. But why did they get rid of them? Not because they were nuisances, probably because they were trapped for fur. The same with beaver. There's no doubt they make rivers and wetlands much richer for fish, as well as all the other invertebrates and birds.'

"The Victorian attitudes of kill everything that's not what you want, which is grouse, salmon, pheasants and deer, those days are going."

Restoring the Wild: Sixty Years of Rewilding Our Skies, Woods and Waterways by Roy Dennis is published by William Collins, in hardback, £18.99

The Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation (www.roydennis.org)

[Read More](#)

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Graphic

[*Roy Dennis at an osprey nest site in Strathspey.*](#)

Classification

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Publication-Type: Newspaper

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Industry: BRITISH MONARCHS (78%); PUBLISHING (73%)

Geographic: LONDON, ENGLAND (78%); **SCOTLAND** (95%); UNITED KINGDOM (94%); EUROPE (78%)

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End of Document

Late show sees Pirates slam eight past Lynx Skating down memory lane A LOOK BACK THROUGH THE ARCHIVES WITH THE PAISLEY PIRATES With the current season put on ic....

Late show sees Pirates slam eight past Lynx; Skating down memory lane A LOOK BACK THROUGH THE ARCHIVES WITH THE PAISLEY PIRATES With the current season put on ice, we've linked up with Paisley Pirates stalwart and media guru Bill Elliot to relive some of the club's most dramatic and successful moments. Today we are looking back on a thumping win over Aberdeen Lynx in 2015.

Paisley Daily Express

June 16, 2021 Wednesday

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 22

Length: 519 words

Body

Paisley Pirates headed north to the Granite City in early 2015 for a highly anticipated league clash against the Lynx from Aberdeen.

The hosts were no longer the whipping boys for teams either at home or away.

With a solid looking team, comprising a good goalie, a deadly striker and a physical presence on the ice generally, they had grown into a match for most teams.

Particularly on their own ice, where they were able to attract near capacity crowds which made for a good atmosphere at home games, unlike the unimpressive aura at some arenas where crowds were not able to generate the same heady environment.

Pirates also iced a good looking team well capable of holding its own against any other side in the Scottish National League, and thus the stage was set for an entertaining encounter.

Pirates took the ice with virtually a full side, the only absentee being Conaboy who was that season making a comeback to the team after a period of retiral.

Alas, his welcome return proved to be short lived and injury again forced him onto the sidelines, this time for good.

Pirates had the edge in the opening session and in spite of having the better of the exchanges, they went behind in the ninth minute when Hogg scored for the home side.

It was not until the 16th minute that the Pirates levelled the score as Hassan found the net to beat Kynoch on the powerplay.

Late show sees Pirates slam eight past Lynx Skating down memory lane A LOOK BACK THROUGH THE ARCHIVES WITH THE PAISLEY PIRATES With the current season put on ic....

Despite the visitors outshooting the hosts by almost two to one, these proved to be the only goals of the opening twenty minutes, leaving the scores delicately poised at 1-1.

The visitors acted quickly to improve on the scoreline at the start of the middle session, and within two minutes they had taken the advantage as skipper McCamley demonstrated his prowess in front of goal to make it 2-1 with an unassisted marker.

In a purple period Leyden equalised for the hosts before Orr reinstated Pirates' lead at the halfway juncture.

The game swung from end to end with the visitors' lead lasting less than a minute before Leyden restored parity to make it 3-3.

In spite of excellent chances at both ends, and both sides playing short handed at various junctures, no further changes to the scoreboard came to pass in the remaining nine minutes of the second session.

With everything to play for in the final 20 minutes Pirates came out for the final session determined to take control of the match.

They managed just that after scoring in just over a minute through an unassisted goal from Wilson to take the lead for the third time.

On this occasion there was to be no comeback for the hosts, as the same player netted his second, and his side's fifth, on 45 minutes.

Only two minutes later he completed his hat-trick to make it 6-3 and give the visitors some welcome breathing space.

Just for good measure, he scored again on the powerplay with five minutes to go, before Turley applied the finishing touches with 90 seconds remaining to sign off an emphatic 8-3 victory.

While the size of the winning margin perhaps did not seem likely at the beginning of the session, the returning Pirates fans weren't complaining after seeing their team emphatically win on the road.

Classification

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Late show sees Pirates slam eight past Lynx Skating down memory lane A LOOK BACK THROUGH THE ARCHIVES WITH THE PAISLEY PIRATES With the current season put on ic....

End of Document

Farming: Highland Show live stream proves big hit on first day

Farming: Highland Show live stream proves big hit on first day

Scotsman

June 15, 2021 Tuesday

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Section: FARMING

Length: 791 words

Byline: Brian Henderson

Highlight: With more than 35,000 views of the live stream of yesterday's Royal Highland Showcase logged by 5pm, the organisers were both delighted and relieved by the uptake of the groundbreaking initiative.

Body

"Such a high rate of uptake has provided proof of concept and showed that the ambitious idea of staging and live-streaming the event has been achievable," said Alan Laidlaw, chief executive of the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of **Scotland** (RHASS) which organises the show.

"Clearly our first choice would have been to stage a normal event, but to pull the showcase together from an idea originally conceived less than 80 days ago is a reflection of the hard work and dedication of the team who managed to do this while often working from home through Zoom meetings during Covid restrictions."

And with other major shows – such as the Great Yorkshire – which had proposed to run a public event on the expectation that restrictions would be further relaxed waiting with baited breath for the latest announcement, Laidlaw said that working closely with **Scotland**'s deputy National Clinical Director for health had seen the Highland showcase set up in such a way that it was unlikely to be affected by any changes to expected relaxations.

Serving as the nerve-centre for the broadcasting operations, the new £5 million members' pavilion took on its first farming role, having served as a Covid vaccination centre. The show's operations manager Mark Currie said that recent investment in infrastructure which included fibre optic cabling around the showground meant that the site was amongst the best provisioned in **Scotland**.

This view was supported by Simon Cousins, hired as executive producer for the broadcasts, who said that the equipment and manpower required for coverage of the showcase was comparable to that of a major international event such as the Commonwealth Games.

With a £750,000 investment in the showcase, the **Scottish** Government's new Rural Affairs cabinet secretary, Mairi Gougeon was taking the opportunity to meet with farmers at the event.

But while policy development might have ranked highly on the agenda of those who spoke with her, other than a reaffirmation of the manifesto promise to set up an implementation board during the first hundred days, the secretary offered no firm timescale.

Farming: Highland Show live stream proves big hit on first day

However she said that the farmer led group (FLG) reports – which were completed prior to the election – were all being reviewed as were the reports from the Farming for 1.5 degrees group and the recent update to the Scottish Government's Climate Change plan, along with others.

But while names had not yet been selected to sit on the implementation board, Gougeon indicated that the body would be up and running by the middle of August, with pilot projects to be set up shortly after this to test new schemes.

Stressing that engagement with the industry was critical, she said that continuing the positive approach of the FLG reports would help to make Scotland a world leader in sustainable farming – and having held a meeting recently with the chairs of the groups, she was aware of the desire to move forward with the practical, industry led proposals.

On the often contentious issue in farming circles of rewilding, while the new cabinet secretary demurred from going as far her predecessor in promising Lynx would only be introduced ‘over my dead body’, Gougeon said that she wasn’t looking at species reintroduction: “What we do with our land can be an emotive issue – and we hope that the creation of Rural Land Use Partnerships, some of which have already been set up on a pilot basis, will allow us to move forward on a collaborative basis.”

Cattle

The cattle native interbreed title went to T&D Harrison, Stocksfield, Northumberland for their champion Hereford bull, with the Galloway cow from J and A Finlay, Castle Douglas lifting the reserve.

In the native pairs section the title was lifted by the Aberdeen Angus toppers from Brailes Livestock, Moreton-in-marsh and Donald Rankin, Isle of Skye

Other winners

Beef shorthorn

Champion and reserve: Alan Jackson, Headlind Partners, Lanrakshire.

Highland

Her Majesty the Queen, Ballater; reserve – Kevin Carnegie, Angus.

Lincoln Red

Champion and reserve – Andrew Mylius,Fife

Sheep

The mv accredited sheep interbreed title went to the Charollais ewe from the Ingrams' Logie Durno flock with the reserve being picked up by a Texel gimmer from Aberdeenshire breeder Robbie Wilson's Milnbank flock.

Other winners

Hampshire Down

J&R McFarlane, Stirling; reserve – A Goldie and L Forest, Lockerbie.

Suffolk

Champion and reserve – Roy Hiddleston, Dumfries

Zwartbles

Farming: Highland Show live stream proves big hit on first day

N Millar, Dumfriesshire; reserve - N Henderson, Stirlingshire

Berrichon

E Burgess, Dumfries and Galloway; reserve – B Evans, Powys, Wales.

Border Leicester

Laidlaw, Drennans, Ayrshire; reserve – J Borrowman, Stranraer.

Blue Texel

K Watret, Annan; reserve – Corra Farms, Castle Douglas.

Bleu du Maine

L Daff, Renfrewshire; K O'Conner, Carstairs.

Graphic

RHASS chairman Bill Gray and chief executive Alan Laidlaw outside the new members' pavilion

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A NEW HOME AND ERA BEGAN FOR THE PIRATES A LOOK BACK THROUGH THE ARCHIVES WITH
THE PAISLEY PIRATES SKATING DOWN MEMORY LANE

A NEW HOME AND ERA BEGAN FOR THE PIRATES; A LOOK BACK THROUGH THE ARCHIVES WITH THE PAISLEY PIRATES SKATING DOWN MEMORY LANE

Paisley Daily Express

June 9, 2021 Wednesday

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Byline: MEMORY LANE

Body

With the future of Paisley Pirates currently hanging in the balance due to the uncertainty surrounding Braehead Arena, club stalwart and media guru Bill Elliot has produced a twopart feature looking back on the history of the club.

This second installment looks back on how the team started 2005 without a home having just won the ***Scottish Cup***.

The situation appeared hopeless, although for several months Pirates continued to keep faith by playing their away matches.

But it was clear that without home ice on which to play games to gather spectator admission revenue, and to practice and train, this was a sticking plaster applied to a problem which needed major surgery.

The players bravely played on, but took a number of heavy defeats in the process, sometimes going weeks without training, while the cost of travelling to the north of England was quickly draining the limited financial resources left to the club.

However, in November 2006, at the point where the club committee had reluctantly come to the conclusion that they couldn't continue, the situation was resolved literally at the last minute.

The management of Braehead Arena agreed to install the required ice to allow ice activities to recommence, albeit it would take until February 2007 for the process to be completed.

Prior to that opening night, thousands of tickets were given away under supervision to local schools and community groups, and on the night a massive crowd - still a ***Scottish*** National League record attendance of 2,446 - watched Pirates beat Aberdeen ***Lynx*** 15-2 to open the new era in style.

In addition, while they had missed most of the regular season, they still had time to win the Spring Cup, beating Dundee Tigers 15-8 on aggregate in front of another four-figure crowd and having recorded a number of large attendances during intervening matches en route to that cup winning night.

A NEW HOME AND ERA BEGAN FOR THE PIRATES A LOOK BACK THROUGH THE ARCHIVES WITH THE PAISLEY PIRATES SKATING DOWN MEMORY LANE

In the summer of 2007, there was a new ice hockey league formed comprising teams from Scotland and the north of England, not to mention a team from Northern Ireland.

This league comprised players of a higher standard than that which Pirates had been used to for a few years, allowing a limited number of imports and with British trained players mostly playing at a higher level than the Scottish League.

Pirates certainly had the aspirations to play on a higher plane, but unfortunately their hopes were not matched by results in this respect, and for the next three years they struggled badly under new management, with wins few and far between, while crowds dwindled as spectators, fed on a diet of regular defeats, slowly drifted away.

Eventually, the club was once again on the point of going under at the end of the 09/10 season, before new management, in the form of the Turley family from Erskine, took over the reins.

the club had no money, no strips and their residency at Braehead was in some doubt.

But with help from various corners, not the least of these being Renfrewshire Council who provided the club with last minute grant aid, the club was dragged away from the brink and took its place in the Scottish National League in September 2010.

Player-coach Ian Turley assembled a new team from scratch, taking the remnants of the disbanded side from the unsuccessful previous three seasons and augmenting them with exciting new talent and returning players from previous spells.

Two runners up positions in their first two seasons could be regarded as a success for a club who nearly didn't make it at all.

The re-building continued, the club got stronger as word got about that the Paisley Pirates put on a good show, and in the third season, 2012-13, the club got its reward for several years of hard work when on a memorable night they defeated Belfast Giants 17-6 at Braehead Arena to clinch their first league title since their inaugural season twenty years earlier in 1992-93.

That gave the success-starved fans, at least in recent times, something to celebrate.

the club continued to consolidate its position in a league which was more within its comfort zone, and off-ice awards began to come the way of the club. It picked up a 'Team of the Year' trophy, with the coach picking up a 'Coach of the Year' award and the secretary winning a 'Volunteer of the Year' accolade.

That showed that Pirates were getting it right off the ice as well, and in 2016 they won the Scottish Cup with a 9-0 demolition of Edinburgh.

The following year, they won the Scottish League title again, although they could never quite get their hands on the play-off title, which appeared to escape their grasp in an almost annual disappointment.

However, having failed to win it in years when they started as the team most likely to, in season 2018-19 they started very definite second favourites against Murrayfield Racers who had in that year swept all before them.

In a never to be forgotten final in Dundee, the underdogs recorded an amazing 5-0 whitewash, lifting the trophy for the first time as they belied the statistics.

Indeed, due to prevailing circumstances, they remain the current holders of the trophy.

Because of the pandemic, and like all other activities, ice hockey terminated before the end of the following season in February 2020 did not take place in season 2020-21 at all, so Paisley Pirates remain play-off Champions.

A NEW HOME AND ERA BEGAN FOR THE PIRATES A LOOK BACK THROUGH THE ARCHIVES WITH THE PAISLEY PIRATES SKATING DOWN MEMORY LANE

In normal circumstances (if you can call a pandemic normal) Pirates, like most other ice hockey teams, would be anticipating a return to activities in a few months' time.

However, due to the current uncertainty over the future of the Braehead Arena, they, the Glasgow Clan, and a whole host of other ice-related clubs await the outcome of discussions between the Clan and Global Mutual.

They will determine not just if Clan can take ownership of the ice rink and preserve the status of all ice users, but whether the Paisley Pirates have a future beyond their 75th year.

Graphic

Built from scratch Player-coach Ian Turley Line-up The Pirates squad (above and below) in 2014. Pics by Al Goold Champs Pirates win the Scottish Cup in 2016. Pic by Al Goold

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: PDE

Subject: STADIUMS & ARENAS (90%); ICE HOCKEY (79%); WINTER SPORTS (79%); CIVIC & SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS (78%); TICKET SALES (75%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (73%); SURGERY & TRANSPLANTATION (55%)

Organization: PITTSBURGH PIRATES (86%)

Industry: TICKET SALES (75%); EDUCATIONAL SERVICES (70%)

Geographic: DUNDEE, SCOTLAND (79%); ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (72%); SCOTLAND (94%); ENGLAND (90%); NORTHERN IRELAND (67%); National Edition

Load-Date: June 9, 2021

Bid to save the endangered Scottish wildcat is resuscitated

Bid to save the endangered Scottish wildcat is resuscitated

Herald Scotland

June 8, 2021 Tuesday

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Length: 589 words

Byline: [Martin Williams](#)

Body

A BID to save the **Scottish** wildcat from extinction has been resuscitated with the help of vital funding.

One in nine species, including wildcats, were threatened with extinction according to the national State of Nature report for 2019 which gave at that point, the clearest picture to date of the status of species across land and sea.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature's Cat Specialist Group also concluded there is no longer a viable wildcat population living wild in **Scotland**.

So led by the wildlife conservation charity and based at Highland Wildlife Park, the Saving Wildcats project aimed to prevent the extinction of the critically endangered species by breeding and releasing wildcats into the wild.

But funding for the project was hit by the Covid-19 pandemic, which forced the closures of Highland Wildlife Park and Edinburgh Zoo, costing the Royal Zoological Society of **Scotland** over £1.5 million.

Now the vital partnership has received a funding boost, with a £400,000 **Scottish** Government grant to the Royal Zoological Society of **Scotland**.

RZSS has also received an additional £278,000 from the **Scottish** Government's zoo and aquarium conservation fund to ensure efforts can continue to protect other threatened native species, including the pine hoverfly, pond mud snail and flapper skate.

Dr Helen Senn, head of conservation and science programmes at RZSS, said, "Every visit to Highland Wildlife Park and Edinburgh Zoo supports our work to protect threatened species around the world, including on our doorstep in the Cairngorms National Park.

"The past year has been an incredibly difficult time for our charity, with the closure of our parks for a total of five months cutting off our main source of income.

"While we still face significant financial pressures, this £678,000 **Scottish** Government funding to help protect native species and support our work with partners is very welcome."

Bid to save the endangered Scottish wildcat is resuscitated

Saving Wildcats is a partnership between RZSS, NatureScot, the Cairngorms National Park Authority, Forestry and Land **Scotland**, as well as European partners Norden's Ark from Sweden and Spain's Junta De Andalucía, which have led the successful recovery of the Iberian *lynx*. The six-year project is supported by £3.2 million of EU funding. It is also co-funded by **Scotland**'s nature agency NatureScot and a wide variety of partners. Conservation experts are hopeful the first wildcats can be released in 2023, with potential locations being explored in the Cairngorms. "On top of the funding concerns, the project team have had to meet a series of practical challenges," said Dr Senn. "These included delays to the construction of the breeding for release centre at Highland Wildlife Park, caused by the pandemic and severe winter weather. The breeding facility is now up and running in a secluded, off-show area at Highland Wildlife Park.

"Releasing carnivores to the wild is incredibly complex but we are planning to release the first wildcats in 2023, which will be very exciting."

Dr Jo Judge, chief executive of the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA) added: "It is fantastic to have **Scottish** Government supporting the ground-breaking work of Edinburgh Zoo and Highland Wildlife Park. "The proposed reintroductions are the culmination of decades of work conserving this species, including breeding, education and scientific work with many zoos and other partners working together. "The iconic **Scottish** wildcat is on the very brink of extinction, but with support we can avoid a future without wildcats."

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: CONSERVATION (91%); WILDLIFE (91%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (90%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (90%); THREATENED & SENSITIVE SPECIES (90%); ZOOLOGY (90%); LIFE FORMS (89%); MOUNTAINS (89%); NATIONAL PARKS (89%); PUBLIC LANDS (89%); BIOLOGY (78%); ENDANGERED SPECIES (78%); GRANTS & GIFTS (78%); WILD CATS (78%); WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (78%); GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS & AUTHORITIES (77%); CATS (73%); NEGATIVE NEWS (73%); PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT (70%); COVID CORONAVIRUS (69%); COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS (69%); EPIDEMICS (69%); INFECTIOUS DISEASE (69%); PANDEMICS (69%); EUROPEAN UNION (61%); SEVERE WINTER WEATHER (50%)

Organization: ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF **SCOTLAND** (83%); INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURE & NATURAL RESOURCES (57%)

Industry: ZOOS & AQUARIUMS (93%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (90%); NATIONAL PARKS (89%)

Geographic: EDINBURGH, **SCOTLAND** (73%); ANDALUSIA, SPAIN (79%); **SCOTLAND** (96%); SPAIN (79%)

Load-Date: June 8, 2021

Readers' Letters: How successful has vaccine roll-out been?

Readers' Letters: How successful has vaccine roll-out been?

Scotsman

June 8, 2021 Tuesday

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Section: LETTERS

Length: 1626 words

Byline: Scotsman Letters

Highlight: The strategy of gradual release of COVID-19 restrictions in the UK relies on the prediction that the highly touted vaccination roll-out will prevent, or at least mitigate any resultant rise in infection rates. However we now see evidence of a third wave in ***Scotland***. Cases are surging especially in the most densely populated areas with Edinburgh and Glasgow now recording 7 day positive infection rates per 100,000 of 149.7 and 147 respectively, contrasting with the overall rate for ***Scotland*** of 88.1.

Body

But paradoxically, vaccination rates are the lowest in any local authority in ***Scotland***. In Edinburgh 65.4 per cent of over 18 year-olds have received their first dose with 39 per cent receiving two doses. For Glasgow the figures are 66.2 per cent and 38.2 per cent respectively – rates substantially lower than the overall figures for ***Scotland*** (75.6 per cent and 50.1 per cent). With such low vaccination rates, it is totally unsurprising that infection rates in both cities have been rising exponentially.

Immunisation rates in major cities should exceed those of the country as a whole – firstly because large population densities favour viral transmission indicating an urgent medical need, and secondly because the logistics of delivery are far simpler than in less densely populated areas. So what has gone wrong? Who has failed to monitor the roll-out effectively and invoke remedial action? Yes, we now hear of “surge vaccination”, but is this not a classic example of “shutting the stable door after the horse has bolted”?

So, no, the vaccine roll-out has not been the unqualified success that the government claims. A major aspect has been badly mishandled leading to increasing infection rates in the two largest cities which will inevitably lead to more hospital admissions and, sadly, some avoidable deaths.

(Prof) Richard Halliwell, Edinburgh

Covid success

According to Grant Frazer “we have a UK government mired in corruption and deceit where our PM lies with impunity” (Letters, 7 June). Would this be the same UK government led by Prime Minister Boris Johnson which backed the AstraZeneca vaccine from the experimental stage to a not for profit contract, and supported a lauded vaccination programme which has already saved 13,000 lives in the UK alone, and is now used in 166 countries?

Readers' Letters: How successful has vaccine roll-out been?

Last year to initiate vaccine development the UK government provided £900 million; last month the Business Secretary Alok Sharma backed the boffins at Oxford University and Imperial College London with a further £84m. Pascal Soriot, CEO of AstraZeneca said " I would like to thank HM Government for its commitment to the vaccine and welcome its leadership and generosity for its help in expanding access beyond the UK".

*William Loneskie, Lauder, **Scottish Borders***

Just a minute...

Last week in the Scotsman, the Conservative MSP Murdo Fraser recommended that future elections to Holyrood should be by proportional representation using the Single Transferable Vote system. At the same time, the **Scottish** Nationalist MP Kenny MacAskill was advocating Home Rule for **Scotland** within the United Kingdom. Both these proposals have been Liberal policy for many years and would do much to improve the divisive nature of the present political situation in **Scotland**.

David Hannay, Gatehouse of Fleet, Dumfries and Galloway

Unequal 'war'

As a user of both cars and bikes to travel around, I am disappointed to see any breach of the rules of the road, and more enforcement is definitely a good thing. I have noted some correspondence with regards to bike users, and commentary regarding a "war on motorists". Would these correspondents please try cycling for just a few days? You will find a courteous minority that give you the space you need, and you will give those drivers a friendly wave. You will find that there is a larger minority that shout abuse at you, overtake dangerously close, and/or turn left just in front of you. You will regularly see rubbish (including lit cigarette ends) thrown out of the vehicle into whatever is behind, which could be you. The state of the roadsides will horrify you, but you will soon become normalised to it.

The negative events, unfortunately, are daily occurrences, and whilst some moments can be heart-stopping, you will become accustomed to the bad behaviour.

You will need extra wits about you – there is no tonne of metal protection, seat belt pre-tensioners or umpteen air bags. You just have the polluted air that cars, vans and lorries produce.

And the conclusion you will come to is that motorists win the war each and every day.

Iain MacDonald, Broughty Ferry, Dundee

READ MORE:[Scotland may need a new Suffragette movement as feminists who argue biology is real risk prison – Susan Dalgety](#)

Malta easers

Why is Malta not on the UK Green List for overseas travel? Their incidence of Covid is currently 7.5 per 100,000 compared to the UK at 27, Gibraltar is on the Green List at 23. We were told assessments were based on a range of factors, such as the proportion of the population vaccinated, rates of infection, emerging new variants and reliable scientific data. To go to Malta one needs a negative test on arrival, a mandatory ten-day quarantine at home, and two more Covid tests (about £190). Malta is dependent on UK tourism and the Maltese government wonders, rightly, if political factors are at play, given the lowest Covid rate in the EU and one of the highest vaccination rates in the world. This is yet another example of **Scotland** being undermined by the UK Government wanting an all-British approach. When the pandemic began, in March 2020, we could not emulate a country of similar size like Denmark as we could not close our borders, stop flights coming in and impose a rapid lockdown. Deaths in Denmark are one third of **Scotland's**.

Today the **Scottish** Government seems all too willing to commit to an all-UK approach to the detriment of our travel industry ie our airports, the airlines and travel agents. It would benefit **Scotland** to initiate unilaterally a mandatory vaccination passport. Pre-Covid, the tourism accounted for five per cent of GDP. While welcoming UK tourists who

Readers' Letters: How successful has vaccine roll-out been?

wish to staycation here, we must ease restrictions with those countries where incidence of Covid is far less than the UK, not just Gibraltar (size 2.6 sq miles). If not, certain airlines, whose business was so hard won by **Scotland**, may move away.

John V Lloyd, Inverkeithing, Fife

Wild ideas

I refer to Steve Micklewright's article, "Rewilding is a beacon of hope", (Scotsman, 5 June). He mentions the survey, commissioned by the **Scottish** Rewilding Alliance, in which 75 per cent of those who expressed an opinion supported rewilding. I would contend that this conclusion is not truly representative of the views of **Scottish** country dwellers, in particular those who live and work on the land, and those who risk their lives at sea to produce the high quality food on which our increasingly urbanised population depend. Mr Micklewright also states that rewilding "can be achieved with no loss of productive farmland", another contentious issue.

Furthermore, his reference to beavers and **Lynx**, however well-intentioned, can only add to the reservations of those who consider that rewilding must be approached with caution and sensitivity.

Iain M Thomson, Tain, Ross-shire

Enquiry within?

Nicola Sturgeon wants to see the terms of reference for a "four nations" Covid public enquiry before agreeing to participate. When they're published we'll know what the gold standard is and the standard a **Scotland**-only enquiry should follow. You'd think she'd welcome the chance to show how well she's done compared to the UK. The only way she can be forced into participating in the UK enquiry, or a **Scottish** copy, is if the Greens use their casting votes to force her. There's fat chance of that, a re-run of the Salmond enquiry is more likely.

Allan Sutherland, Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire

Pivot point

Susan Dalgety (Perspective, 5 June) points out the very real danger of the right of free speech being outlawed in **Scotland**, illustrated by the plight of Marion Millar, who appears at Glasgow Sheriff Court in July. Women must be free to speak out against the false argument that the rights of trans men and the rights of women are mutually exclusive, and other misconceptions of this debate, without fear of state persecution. This is a pivotal moment for modern **Scotland**. The madness must stop before more women are harassed and threatened with imprisonment. It is no exaggeration to say that if Millar is convicted it may not be long before Dalgety will be receiving a knock on her door for writing the kind of perfectly reasonable article she penned for this newspaper on Saturday.

Jim Daly, Edinburgh

Rocketing costs

The furore over the cutting of Foreign Aid has left me with a dilemma. In principle I am in total agreement that richer countries should help poorer, and I was disappointed at the decision to cut the UK amount, however marginally.

Yet there are poor and poor countries. That Pakistan and India – both with full and horrendously expensive nuclear arsenals and developing space exploration programmes – could be among the biggest recipients of aid I find genuinely shocking. Surely aid going to these countries merely eases their problems with paying for their weapons.

So, rather than an across the board cut, perhaps a more focused approach would have been better and we would know the money would have been going to those in desperate need, not to help facilitate nuclear arsenals.

Alexander McKay, Edinburgh

Write to The Scotsman

Readers' Letters: How successful has vaccine roll-out been?

We welcome your thoughts. Write to lettersts@scotsman.com including name, address and phone number – we won't print full details. Keep letters under 300 words, with no attachments, and avoid 'Letters to the Editor' or similar in your subject line.

A message from the Editor

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Graphic

[*A member of the public receives a Covid vaccination at a car park in Glasgow \(Picture: Jeff J Mitchell/Getty Images\)*](#)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: POPULATION DENSITY (93%); VACCINATION & IMMUNIZATION (93%); VACCINES (91%); COVID CORONAVIRUS (90%); COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS (90%); INFECTIOUS DISEASE (90%); LETTERS & COMMENTS (90%); COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS REGULATION & POLICY (89%); DRUG DESIGN & DISCOVERY (89%); REPORTS, REVIEWS & SECTIONS (79%); NEGATIVE MISC NEWS (78%); NEGATIVE NEWS (78%); CITY LIFE (76%); ELECTIONS (75%); BIOLOGICS MFG (72%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (71%); PRIME MINISTERS (71%); NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS (70%); POLITICS (68%); COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS (65%); DRIVING & TRAFFIC LAWS (60%); EXECUTIVES (60%)

Company: ASTRAZENECA PLC (57%)

Ticker: AZN (STO) (57%); AZN (NYSE) (57%); AZN (LSE) (57%)

Industry: NAICS325412 PHARMACEUTICAL PREPARATION MANUFACTURING (57%); SIC2834 PHARMACEUTICAL PREPARATIONS (57%); VACCINATION & IMMUNIZATION (93%); VACCINES (91%); DRUG DESIGN & DISCOVERY (89%); PHARMACEUTICALS INDUSTRY (78%); PUBLISHING (73%); BIOLOGICS MFG (72%); COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS (65%); DRIVING & TRAFFIC LAWS (60%)

Person: BORIS JOHNSON (79%); PASCAL SORIOT (54%)

Geographic: EDINBURGH, **SCOTLAND** (89%); LONDON, ENGLAND (79%); GLASGOW, **SCOTLAND** (73%); **SCOTLAND** (99%); UNITED KINGDOM (94%)

Readers' Letters: How successful has vaccine roll-out been?

Load-Date: June 7, 2021

End of Document

World Environment Day: Declaring Scotland a 'Rewilding Nation' ahead of United Nations Cop26 climate summit would create a beacon of hope for the world – Steve

World Environment Day: Declaring Scotland a 'Rewilding Nation' ahead of United Nations Cop26 climate summit would create a beacon of hope for the world – Steve Micklewright

Scotsman

June 5, 2021 Saturday

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Section: COLUMNISTSENVIRONMENTPOLITICSCLIMATE CHANGENATURESCOTLAND

Length: 1047 words

Byline: Steve Micklewright

Highlight: Today is World Environment Day, the United Nations day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action to protect our environment. As the UN launches its Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the global call is for urgent action to revive our damaged ecosystems.

Body

The world body is highlighting how we are losing and destroying nature – and so the foundations of our own survival – at an alarming rate. From forests to peatlands to coasts, the situation is grim.

Here in ***Scotland***, the government has signed up to bold action to tackle the nature and climate crises over the next decade through the Edinburgh Declaration. But we are one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world.

Only 1.5 per cent of our land is national nature reserves. Just four per cent is native woodland. A quarter of our land no longer supports the nature-rich forests, peatlands and river systems it should. Red squirrels, wild cats, capercaillie and great yellow bumblebees are at risk or declining. Seabirds are feeding their chicks plastic waste. Rural landscapes support fewer people than previously.

This is where rewilding – the large-scale restoration of nature – offers hope in what so often seems a hopeless world. As the UN says, it's time to be bold not timid – and to be active not anxious.

READ MORE: [Call for Scotland to become world's first Rewilding Nation](#)

By working with nature instead of against it, rewilding can restore life to our hills, glens, rivers and seas. It can offer new opportunities to local communities and economies. It can help solve other problems we have created – including climate breakdown, flooding, pollution, and degraded soils.

That's why the ***Scottish*** Rewilding Alliance – a coalition of over 20 environmental organisations – is calling on the ***Scottish*** government to declare ***Scotland*** the world's first Rewilding Nation.

World Environment Day: Declaring Scotland a 'Rewilding Nation' ahead of United Nations Cop26 climate summit would create a beacon of hope for the world – Steve

The campaign calls for the rewilding of 30 per cent of ***Scotland***'s land and sea within a decade. This involves growing more wild native forests, genuinely protecting large areas of sea, and restoring peatlands, moorlands, grasslands and wetlands.

This can be achieved with no loss of productive farmland, while offering landowners and farmers fresh diversification opportunities for managing marginal land in a more nature-friendly way.

Habitat restoration should be accompanied by appropriate reintroduction of keystone species, including rehoming beavers beyond their current limited range, and considering a pilot reintroduction for Eurasian ***Lynx*** where there is appropriate habitat and – crucially – local support and stakeholder buy-in.

Rewilding our towns and cities is also essential, to ensure we all have opportunities to reconnect with nature – vital for our health and well-being, and so important for so many during the pandemic.

The campaign also calls for rewilding to be added as a driver to the ***Scottish*** government's economic strategy, with more investment in natural solutions.

All of this would be popular too. Three-quarters of Scots who expressed an opinion supported it in polling by respected market research organisation Survation.

Meanwhile, practical rewilding and nature restoration action is underway and rapidly increasing.

Scottish members of the new [***Rewilding Network***](#) – which is bringing together landowners, farmers, land managers, community groups and local authorities from across Britain – will soon cover some 200,000 acres of land between them.

These inspiring sites include the Borders Forest Trust's Wild Heart of Southern ***Scotland***; John Muir Trust's Glenlude in the ***Scottish*** Borders and its land at Knoydart, Li and Coire Dhorrail; the Bamff Estate and the Bunloit Estate in the Highlands; Creag Meagaidd and Mar Lodge in the Cairngorms; and the Trees for Life Dundreggan Estate near Loch Ness.

Complementing this network of major landscape-scale sites, the Northwoods Rewilding Network – recently launched by charity ***Scotland***: The Big Picture – is enabling more smaller landholdings of 50 to 1,000 acres to play a bigger role in restoring and connecting rich habitats full of life.

Northwoods is filling in the gaps in local areas and joining together a tapestry of smaller nature recovery sites and wildlife corridors. It already includes 12 initial land partners – farms, crofts, small estates and community-owned land – covering 3,500 acres between them. The project hopes to expand to at least 10,000 acres within two years.

Signs of hope are emerging all over. In Dumfries and Galloway, the South of ***Scotland***'s largest community buyout was recently legally completed following one of the most ambitious community fundraising campaigns ever. After raising £3.8 million, the Langholm Initiative charity successfully purchased 5,200 acres of Langholm Moor from Buccleuch, to create the vast new Tarras Valley Nature Reserve.

The Community of Arran Seabed Trust (Coast) marine recovery in Lamlash Bay on Arran shows what communities can achieve in terms of establishing vital no-take zones and protected areas – and how incentives for lower-impact fisheries around our coastline would help degraded habitats and fish populations recover, and regenerate our harbours and coastal towns.

So hope is there, and it's growing. But with the world facing overlapping nature, climate and health crises – all worsened by our broken relationship with the natural world – much more needs to happen, and fast. This means our politicians need to step up.

World Environment Day: Declaring Scotland a 'Rewilding Nation' ahead of United Nations Cop26 climate summit would create a beacon of hope for the world – Steve

By declaring **Scotland** to be a Rewilding Nation ahead of the global Cop26 climate conference in Glasgow later this year, the **Scottish** government would be showing positive leadership. It would be a world first, as long as someone else doesn't beat us to it.

This could see **Scotland** establish itself as a world leader in saving nature and ourselves. Rather than lagging behind, we could be one of the first countries to not only halt biodiversity loss – but to reverse it.

We have the space, political influence and public backing to do this. Rewilding can ensure our landscapes and seascapes – today increasingly silent and sterile – are restored and rich in life again. **Scotland** can be a beacon of hope, and the opportunity is there if we want to seize it.

Steve Micklewright is chief executive of rewilding charity [Trees for Life](#)

A message from the Editor:

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Graphic

[The Bamff Estate is taking part in a ground-breaking rewilding project to help boost diversity and benefit the environment](#)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: UNITED NATIONS (92%); CONSERVATION (90%); ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION (90%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS (90%); FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS (90%); LAND RECLAMATION (90%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (90%); SALTWATER ECOSYSTEMS (90%); UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTIONS (90%); WETLANDS (90%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (89%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (89%); LAND CONSERVATION (89%); LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (89%); RODENTS (88%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (78%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (78%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS CONSERVATION (78%); HABITAT CONSERVATION (78%); MAMMALS (78%); NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (78%); POLLUTION (78%); WETLANDS CONSERVATION (78%); WILD CATS (78%); WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (78%); LAND DEGRADATION (77%); AGRICULTURAL LANDS (75%); BIRDS (74%); RIVERS (74%); CLIMATE CHANGE (73%); POLLUTION & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS (73%); COMMUNITY ACTIVISM (70%); CATS (69%); PLASTIC WASTE (68%); SOIL HEALTH (64%); MEDICINE & HEALTH (50%)

Industry: FORESTS & WOODLANDS CONSERVATION (78%); AGRICULTURAL LANDS (75%); PUBLISHING

World Environment Day: Declaring Scotland a 'Rewilding Nation' ahead of United Nations Cop26 climate summit would create a beacon of hope for the world – Steve

(73%); PLASTIC WASTE (68%); SOIL HEALTH (64%); MARKET RESEARCH & ANALYSIS (60%); MARKET RESEARCH FIRMS (50%)

Geographic: EDINBURGH, **SCOTLAND** (59%); **SCOTLAND** (94%)

Load-Date: June 4, 2021

End of Document

Why Hibs striker Kevin Nisbet could be Scotland's Leigh Griffiths at Euro 2020

Why Hibs striker Kevin Nisbet could be Scotland's Leigh Griffiths at Euro 2020

Edinburgh Evening News

June 5, 2021 Saturday

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Section: HIBERNIANS/SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP

Length: 522 words

Byline: Patrick McPartlin, patrick.mcpartlin@jpimedia.co.uk

Highlight: **Scotland** manager Steve Clarke insisted it was no surprise to see Kevin Nisbet hit the target in just his second international appearance, because the Hibs striker promised he would score if he got game-time.

Body

It is precisely that sort of confidence – just the right side of arrogance – that could be hugely beneficial to the **Scotland** squad in Euro 2020.

That Nisbet's first **Scotland** goal came against the Netherlands, and a defence with a combined transfer fee total of [more than €130 million](#), will only boost that confidence.

There must be a good chance of Nisbet starting at the Stade Josy Barthel against Luxembourg on Sunday and if he can get amongst the goals again then Clarke will have a nice dilemma going into the Euro 2020 opener against the Czech Republic on Monday, June 14.

Even if he opts to start Che Adams and Lyndon Dykes the **Scotland** boss will have the 24-year-old among his substitutes and there are few managers who wouldn't relish having an in-form Nisbet as an option off the bench.

Prove the doubters wrong

Nisbet had an impressive season following his arrival at Easter Road from Dunfermline, hitting 18 goals and eight assists in 44 games. If there was one lingering criticism of him it was that he didn't do enough in big games – although three goals and an assist against Celtic and Rangers and the opener in the **Scottish** Cup semi-final suggests he isn't far off greater consistency.

But there is something different about Nisbet. Three years ago he was released by Partick Thistle. Since then he has hit double figures for Raith Rovers, Dunfermline, and Hibs.

He is open about the path he is on. He wants to reach the top, and he's going to work damn hard to get there.

Higher and higher

Why Hibs striker Kevin Nisbet could be Scotland's Leigh Griffiths at Euro 2020

There was an advert on TV for a time about Royal Navy careers. The script followed the pattern: "If you can fix a bike, you can fix a car; if you can fix a car, you can learn to fix a Lynx Mark 8 helicopter, a Pacific 24 sea boat, a four-and-a-half inch naval gun, a Samson radar system, or a Type-45 destroyer, and when you can fix all that, you'll be a Royal Navy engineer."

One senses Nisbet is following a similar mantra: "If you can score goals in League One, you can score goals in the Championship; if you can score goals in the Championship, you can score goals in the Premiership; if you can score goals in the Premiership, you can get a Scotland call-up and score goals for your country, and when you can do all that, you'll be an elite footballer."

That he's making his mark for Scotland at the tail-end of one of the most difficult seasons for him off the pitch speaks volumes for his personal strength, drive and determination.

His habit of being in the right place at the right time has borne fruit for Hibs and, so far, for Scotland. He offers something different to Adams, and Dykes. He can hit a mean free kick, and score goals with his head and both feet.

Scotland may not have a Leigh Griffiths for the Euros, and when they take on England. But they do have Kevin Nisbet and on recent form, that's not a bad replacement.

A message from the Editor:

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Graphic

[Nisbet hit 18 goals and 8 assists in 44 games for Hibs](#)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: MANAGERS & SUPERVISORS (90%); SCOTTISH FOOTBALL (90%); NAVIES (89%); SOCCER TOURNAMENTS (78%); NAVAL WEAPONS (62%); ATHLETES (60%)

Industry: NAVIES (89%); MILITARY VESSELS (77%); PUBLISHING (73%); RADAR SYSTEMS (72%); NAVAL WEAPONS (62%)

Geographic: EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND (74%); SCOTLAND (96%); NETHERLANDS (73%); CZECH REPUBLIC (57%)

Why Hibs striker Kevin Nisbet could be Scotland's Leigh Griffiths at Euro 2020

Load-Date: June 4, 2021

End of Document

Showcasing the industry - and meeting the new Minister

The Scottish Farmer

June 2021

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Length: 500 words

Byline: [Ken Fletcher](#)

Body

SCOTLAND'S NEW rural affairs cabinet secretary, Mairi Gougeon, met with farmers at this week's Royal Highland Showcase, where she pledged to take forward the 'positivity and ambitious recommendations' of the farmer-led groups (FLGs) to help **Scottish** agriculture meet its carbon reduction targets.

Ms Gougeon said the 'first 100 days' pledges of the new SNP government were foremost in her planning, giving a time-scale up to mid-August, but she hoped that an implementation board would be set up prior to that, and tasked with disseminating the FLG reports and 'carry forward the recommendations and this will help shape our future policy'.

From this and also with input from other reports, like 'Farming for 1.5°', pilot schemes will be set up and used as a tester. She said she had met with the chairs of the various FLGs last week and was struck by their positivity.

"They were keen to work with me to take **Scotland** forward as a world leader in sustainable farming practices. With the COP26 Climate Change conference coming to **Scotland** in November, there's a really exciting opportunity here for us to showcase to a massive world stage the really great work we are doing to meet our climate change targets," she said.

"We want, of course, to crack on with our plans but this will be a pivotal moment for agriculture and we need to make sure that we use this opportunity to get it right."

When asked about any possibility of gene editing being allowed in **Scotland**, given that there is currently debate within the EU about using the technology, Ms Gougeon said she would be following that debate with interest, adding that ScotGov policy was to maintain alignment with European standards.

She also voiced frustration on behalf of the seed potato industry in **Scotland**, which had lost a lucrative export market almost overnight following Brexit, but hoped that any changes to the NI Protocols could encompass the dynamic alignment necessary to allow the resumption of that trade.

On re-wilding, while she did not quite go as far as her predecessor who famously said 'over my dead body' with regard to **Lynx**, Ms Gougeon said that ScotGov had no plans for any further species re-introductions. She added that with the massive challenges facing land use policy, re-wilding would not be a priority for the five recently set up pilot Rural Land Use Partnerships.

She said she was aware of farmers' fears that there was a lack of balance in some areas with regard to sea eagle re-introduction: "With my role also including the islands, it's my intention to get out and about and meet with crofters and farmers and I'm sure that will come up as one of the topics we'll be discussing."

Showcasing the industry - and meeting the new Minister

Speaking to The SF at Ingliston where the Royal Highland Showcase took place this week, she said that the show society's ambitious plans to livestream the best of ***Scottish*** agriculture had opened up the event to a new worldwide audience. The livestreaming on Monday's Showcase of cattle and sheep attracted an online audience of 35,000.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: CABINET OFFICES (90%); CLIMATE ACTION (90%); GOVERNMENT ADVISORS & MINISTERS (90%); TALKS & MEETINGS (90%); LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (89%); CLIMATE CHANGE (87%); CONFERENCES & CONVENTIONS (78%); EUROPEAN UNION (78%); FARM LABOR (78%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (78%); SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (78%); AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES MARKETS (77%); LAND USE PLANNING (77%); BREXIT (74%); ***SCOTTISH*** NATIONAL PARTY (74%); SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (73%); EXPORT TRADE (61%); GENE EDITING (50%)

Industry: AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY (78%); FARM LABOR (78%); SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (78%); AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES MARKETS (77%); LAND USE PLANNING (77%); FRUITS & VEGETABLES (73%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); POTATO FARMING (73%); SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (73%)

Geographic: ***SCOTLAND*** (97%); EUROPE (79%)

Load-Date: June 18, 2021

End of Document

Animal welfare officer adopts dog which was buried alive in the Highlands

Animal welfare officer adopts dog which was buried alive in the Highlands

Herald Scotland

May 31, 2021 Monday

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Length: 326 words

Byline: [Stephen McIlkenny](#)

Body

A dog that was found buried alive has been adopted by one of the animal welfare officers who rescued him.

Border collie Jake was discovered by hillwalkers after being left for dead under a pile of rocks in the Highlands in November last year.

They alerted the [**Scottish**](#) SPCA who rescued him and took him to a vet.

READ MORE: [**Scottish**](#) SPCA: Beloved family dog saved from under garage in Glasgow

He had several skull and jaw fractures and was blind in one eye.

Jake shortly after he was rescued ([**Scottish**](#) SPCA)

[**Scottish**](#) SPCA inspector Yvonne Sloss said: "This was truly one of the worst cases I have ever experienced."

"When I first saw Jake I felt shock, sadness and disbelief that someone had deliberately done this to him."

READ MORE: Rewild [**Scotland**](#): "Beavers in all rivers. [**Lynx**](#) and wolf back."

"His head was so swollen and he was in a terrible way. We didn't think there was any way he would make it."

"He was in a comatose state when we arrived at the vet where he received emergency treatment."

"Miraculously, Jake survived the night. It was only when he was transferred to our Glasgow vet clinic that we found out how bad it actually was."

"Poor Jake was in need of a lot of care to help him recover both mentally and physically."

Jake had several operations to remove the damaged eye and broken teeth.

After just under six weeks of treatment at around Christmas, Ms Sloss's colleague, inspector Mark Greener, who took part in the rescue, decided to take him home.

Animal welfare officer adopts dog which was buried alive in the Highlands

Mr Greener said: "When Jake came home with me, he was still incredibly fragile. His fractures hadn't completely healed and he was unable to close his jaw.

"Jake required specialist care and it took time for him to come round and really heal. It took him a while to trust me but now that he does, we're bonded forever.

"We are always outside and Jake loves to play. I really couldn't imagine life without him now. I'm so thankful to the passers-by who found Jake. Without them he may not have survived that day."

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: ANIMAL SHELTERS & RESCUES (90%); ANIMAL WELFARE (90%); DOGS (90%); MAMMALS (78%); FACIAL INJURIES (76%); HEAD INJURIES (76%); EYE DISORDERS & INJURIES (75%); TOOTH DISORDERS (71%)

Industry: VETERINARY SERVICES (78%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, **SCOTLAND** (73%); **SCOTLAND** (90%)

Load-Date: May 31, 2021

End of Document

Lynx, aurochs, elk, wolf, bear. Scotland's missing big five

Lynx, aurochs, elk, wolf, bear. Scotland's missing big five

Herald Scotland

May 25, 2021 Tuesday

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Length: 438 words

Byline: [Vicky Allan](#)

Body

The fauna roaming **Scotland** is vastly different from what lived here 7000 years ago. Many that played vital roles in ecosystems are gone. We have exterminated all large predators. Reintroduction pioneer Roy Dennis, in his new book Restoring The Wild: Sixty Years Of Rewilding Our Skies, Woods And Waterways, lists some key animals that are missing in our landscape - some of which we might want to bring back.

Aurochs

The wild ox, the ancestor of all domestic cattle, was a giant beast standing two metres at the shoulder, and with horns that spread over a metre. Images of them appear in the Lascaux cave paintings and during the Mesolithic period there were around 84,000 of them in Britain. These magnificent species are now extinct, so there is now chance of reintroducing them. However, conservation Roy Dennis believes that wild cattle, hardy breeds like the Highland cows, should be introduced to conservation areas as they perform a key role in "recycling plant material".

Lynx

It's a source of great disappointment to Roy Dennis that the **Lynx** has not been reintroduced already. He thought it would have happened long ago, since this would be, he believes, a relatively easy reintroduction - and would bring great benefits to its habitats. "It would contribute markedly to ecosystem functions by hunting and disturbing roe deer, as well as acting as a potential predator on middle-guild mammal predators such as fox, badger and marten".

READ MORE. ROY DENNIS INTERVIEWED IN OUR FEATURE ON REWILDING: [Rewilding Scotland: 'Beavers will be in all our rivers. Lynx and wolf back'](#)

Wolf

Numerous tales exist about the last wolf in **Scotland** and they appear to have been expunged entirely from these lands by the middle of the 18th century. But occasionally a landowner, Paul Lister in Alladale for instance, will propose their reintroduction. Roy Dennis writes: "Do we think we will have wolves back in **Scotland** sometime soon, or at any time? I'm not sure. What I do know is that, unlike in other countries in Europe, they cannot walk here across our borders. If we want them, we have to intervene."

Lynx, aurochs, elk, wolf, bear. Scotland's missing big five

Brown Bear

Once native here, though exterminated around a thousand years ago. Dennis observes that he has seen them in the wild in Romania, where they "seem to survive alongside humans in countryside not unlike where I live in Scotland".

Elk

The mighty elk, or moose, once roamed throughout Scotland. Though still a mammal of the northern forests of Europe, and also of Russia and North America, it is has long been absent here. It has been estimated that around 7000 years ago the elk population in wooded Britain was around 65,000 animals.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: ANIMALS (90%); CONSERVATION (90%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (90%); MAMMALS (90%); FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS (89%); WILD CATS (78%); WILDLIFE (78%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS (77%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS CONSERVATION (77%); LAND CONSERVATION (77%)

Industry: FORESTS & WOODLANDS CONSERVATION (77%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (97%); EUROPE (90%); ROMANIA (79%); UNITED KINGDOM (73%)

Load-Date: May 25, 2021

End of Document

Rewilding Scotland: 'Beavers will be in all our rivers. Lynx and wolf back'

Herald Scotland

May 25, 2021 Tuesday

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Length: 2749 words

Byline: [Vicky Allan](#)

Body

THE rugged landscape of the Highlands is a place of loss. It has not been until relatively recently that we in **Scotland**, have properly started to perceive that. For years it was just synonymous with the wild, nature's domain. What was missing was rarely on our minds, as we focussed on sporting icons – the deer, the grouse, the heather.

But now the monarch of the glen, is being dethroned and emphasis is being given to the nurturing and return of other species – both those that are all-too rare and those that are absent. Many species have disappeared over centuries, even millennia, mostly as a result of human impact. We don't notice their absence because we have never known them to be there.

Two new books, Roy Dennis's Restoring The Wild and Andrew Painting's Regeneration, are testimonies to the long list of flora and fauna that are missing and the project of bringing them back. At a time when rewilding is the buzzword, so commonly used its sometimes hard to get a handle on what it really means, pioneers like Painting and Dennis are at the forefront of creating restorative change. They bring us stories of hope as well as alarm – stories that are not just about the species themselves, but also we humans, and what our presence should or could be like on the land. For, among the species Andrew Painting feels is missing from the Highlands, or not quite in its rightful place, is homo sapiens.

Ornithologist and reintroduction pioneer, Roy Dennis, lists some of the large mammals which had roamed our lands since the last ice age but are now long gone: the wolf, the **Lynx**, the brown bear, the wild boar, the elk, the beaver, the auroch. There is a host of species missing, he says. There's a lovely skull of an auroch in our local museum in Forres. These animals, a kind of giant wild cattle, were around in the early millennia following the Ice Age in Britain. It was in the 1980s when I started talking to people in other countries, I began to recognise that because significant animals weren't there our countryside was damaged. The beaver was probably the most important because it had such an impact on rivers.

READ MORE:[Fellowship of the rings: Why we must protect our ancient trees](#)

Rewilding Scotland: 'Beavers will be in all our rivers. Lynx and wolf back'

The 80-year-old is talking from his home in Moray, where he has just come in from his daily outing to check osprey nests to see if eggs have been laid yet. His email bears an automatic reply that says,, \xE2Raptor fieldwork season started from now to end July - will try to answer asap".

Restoring The Wild is testimony to his long-running battle to bring species back and a lifelong attitude of stubborn persistence. \xE2\xE2m a great believer,\xE2 he says, \xE2in the idea that we just need to get it done. \xE2m afraid too many organisations now are just too big and they talk all the time. Talking rarely gets things done. No one thought we would be allowed to release white-tailed eagles on the Isle of Wight, nor did they think they could possibly live down there. And within two years that\xE2s all changed. People are thrilled to bits having them there after 240 years of absence. One of my friends sent me a photograph today of one of the eagles lifting a fish out of a lake, a kind of coarse fish. It\xE2s brilliant that these birds have learnt so well to catch these things.\xE2

Often these days when we talk about rewilding the impression is given that the best answer is just for humans to step back and let nature do its own thing. But, Dennis points out, without help, the spread of animals like osprey and white eagles across the country is going to be infinitely slow. \xE2We know that the natural spread is only 4km per year in that the male birds want to nest where they were reared. So when they come back from Africa after several years, they want to be near their natal sites. With white eagles it\xE2s a bit more, about 10km \xE2 that means it could be 100 years for them to get back.\xE2

Other species are still less likely to return on their own. \xE2With species like the *Lynx* and the beaver there\xE2s no way they can come back to ***Scotland*** unless humans bring them back. But you need to be able to demonstrate that you can do it properly to those who live and work there. And the farmers and landowners and foresters should have the respect that you know what you\xE2re doing and you get on with them.\xE2

From youth, Dennis recalls, being aware of the loss in British nature. He recalls how growing up in Hampshire, a nature-loving kid who loved to roam, he got into birdwatching and collecting eggs, as well as reading natural history books. On one occasion, he even took a trip to Culver cliffs on the, a location he knew had been, in 1780, the last breeding site of the white eagle along the south coast of England. When, at 19, he was field ornithologist at the Fair Isle Observatory on Shetland, he heard stories of how there had once been two pairs of \xE2ernes\xE2, sea eagles, on the island. They had last bred there, on Sheep Rock, before 1840.

On Fairisle, he would be involved in his mentor George Waterson\xE2s first failed attempt to reintroduce white-tailed eagles to the island, and, since then, he has been instrumental in introducing white-tailed eagles, red kites and beavers to the UK, as well as increasing osprey numbers.

As much as his book is a chronicle of the marvels of successful reintroductions and translocations, it's also a catalogue of attempted projects that got blocked at some stage or another. What\xE2s clear is that he expected far more animals to have been reintroduced by now. \xE2It\xE2s still a disgrace that the ***Scottish*** government is not allowing us to restore the beaver to all river systems. And then of course looking at some of the predators like wolf and *Lynx*. *Lynx* is the easiest one to do. We\xE2ve known that since the early 1990s and we\xE2ve not been able to get on with it. They have an impact on the animals like badger and fox and marten and so on, the middle predators whose numbers get so high that they damage things like lapwings and oystercatchers and curlews and woodcock.\xE2

Often we talk about biodiversity loss, we focus on the more charismatic mammals, but one of the biggest stories of loss is not so much of an individual species, but of a whole ecosystem \xE2 the Caledonian pine forests. Vast stretches of it, which once blanketed the land have, have been replaced over centuries by moor and heather, and with it the homes of many a native species. Andrew Painting\xE2s book, Regeneration, is about one of the many experiments taking place across ***Scotland***, to bring them back \xE2 the restoration of the woodlands at Mar Lodge estate, where he is assistant ecologist.

The Mar Lodge story is a fascinating one that I was drawn to when working on my own book, For The Love Of Trees. Since the 18th century the estate had been managed for the sport of hunting deer. As a result, Painting says, \xE2people were cleared from the land to make way for deer to hunt and there were so many deer for such a long time that it was really more than the woods could cope with.\xE2

Rewilding Scotland: 'Beavers will be in all our rivers. Lynx and wolf back'

Red deer really are a woodland species ultimately," he says. "You find them in woods. But there were so many red deer at Mar Lodge for so long that the woods weren't regenerating. Whenever a pine tree or a young birch tree would raise its head above the heather it would be nibbled back and that happened for 200 years. Combine that with forestry events that happened in the 19th century, early 20th century, particularly in the second world war large areas were lost, and you're looking at a steady attrition of what were once large, connected Caledonian pinewoods.

Then, in 1995, the estate was taken over by the National Trust and a 200 year plan was developed with three pillars of management environmental conservation sport and access for everyone. Key in this was the restoration of woodland.

What it started to do then was something quite extraordinary. The largest national nature reserve in the country, a formerly iconic sporting estate with royal connections, as Painting puts it, just down the road from Balmoral, began in to operate what it called a zero tolerance campaign. It began to shoot not just a few of its deer, but a lot.

This was at first hugely controversial - especially because at first there seemed few signs of the expected regeneration. It seemed like nothing was happening. But then after ten years signs became clear of the woodland returning. Since the start that deer control policy numbers in the area have been reduced from 3500 to less than 2000.

The aim, Painting says, was not to totally get rid of red deer. They are really important woodland animals and of course it's the largest nature reserve in the country, we want to have the UK's largest land mammal on the estate. It was just, as he points out, there were far too many.

It took a long time to get that whole process right and the trust got a lot of criticism from both sporting interests and conservationists. The sporting interests were saying it was the end of red deer sport and they were saying some pretty nasty things. On the other hand you had conservationists saying why aren't you pushing faster? It's a really tricky one because environmentalists don't want to kill things. We really like red deer. They're one of my favourite species and you're left in this horrible position where you have to reduce their numbers.

He has never shot a deer himself, but he has, he says been out stalking with the keepers. They don't trust me with a rifle," he laughs. "They've seen me with a shotgun at the clay pigeon grounds and they've decided, 'Nah he's not good enough.' I sort of made a point of going out with them though because I feel like you can't go round advocating reducing deer numbers and not know what goes on behind that.

Painting was not there for those early years of criticism. He first came to work at Mar Lodge, as assistant to ground-breaking ecologist Dr Shaila Rao, in 2016, at a point when the impact of the deer control was starting to result in a significant regeneration and increase in biodiversity. At that point, he started to ask, Why aren't people talking about this as much as they should be? I thought we were sitting on quite a big landscape scale story, that the time had come for it.

He felt this was a story of cultural significance, that spoke of how **Scotland**'s approach to the land could evolve. This was one of the first estates which you could call a Highland sporting estate and one with royal connections just down the road in Balmoral. With all the history it has I just thought the story had a lot of relevance for what the rest of the Highlands could look like in the future, if we want them to.

Mar Lodge, he notes, is managed for the people of **Scotland**. I would like to see more land managed for the nation rather than for whoever happens to own them at any given moment.

His own hopes for the future, not just of the estate, but of the **Scottish** landscape are, he says, "I'd like to see a more joined up approach towards managing our landscapes. I'd like to see the word managing go out of fashion as well. And a move towards living with our landscapes rather than living on them or managing them. Going into the

Rewilding Scotland: 'Beavers will be in all our rivers. Lynx and wolf back'

future, I would really like to see us bringing nature back and creating a landscape that is for nature and for people as well.\xE2

READ MORE:\xC2Bow to the boughs. Our special connection with trees

The remains, he observes, of hundreds of shielings, and eight illicit whisky stills have been found by archeologists in glens there that were cleared. We too have disappeared in this area. \xE2Archeologists have also found mesolithic presence of humans going on at Mar Lodge. Basically we can say that since the last Ice Age, deer, Scots pine and humans have been at Mar Lodge for the same amount of time.\xE2

What\xE2s interesting about the kind of restoration that Painting is talking about, is the way that it envisions people as part of the system. What he says he would like to see is us there, but working \xE2with\xE2 the land, rather than managing it. \xE2It\xE2s about people living with nature rather than on top of it or against it. I think it\xE2s a case of shifting the goalposts of how you perceive the environment and our place in it. The ultimate end goal for the Mar Lodge woodland is to see trees, deer and people reunited." \xE2

He describes what is being done at Mar Lodge, not as rewilding, but \xE2landscape-scale ecological restoration\xE2. He even calls it \xE2rewilding\xE2. \xE2It\xE2s what you do before you start rewilding and also the plan here started before rewilding was a term. I guess the problem with rewilding as a term, to its detractors, is that it suggests another level of Highland clearances. And I can absolutely see why people would think that \xE2 wild does have connotations of danger and absence of people. But done properly it can do the opposite. You just reframe people as being part of a wilder landscape.\xE2

He also hopes that Mar Lodge, as well as being a showcase for woodland restoration and also demonstrate \xE2what a deintensified sporting landscape could look like.\xE2 Part of the estate, after all, is still managed for sport \xE2 but with a light touch. \xE2We\xE2ve stopped muirburn there," he says. "We don\xE2t do much intensive management of it at all. That\xE2s quite challenging for some sporting folk because a lot of management is tied up in what the landscape looks like. So I think gamekeepers are very keen on muirburn because people have always done it, it\xE2s part of the sporting landscape. But if the SNP go through with their plans for licensing of grouse moor and changes to deer management legislation then basically Mar Lodge is sort of showing what a deintensified moorland and sporting landscape could look like into the future. I think that\xE2s something Mar Lodge is showing \xE2 that you can have sporting landscapes sitting alongside woodland regeneration, carbon sequestration, water retention. Waders, hen harriers. You can have grouse shooting and you can have hen harriers on the same moors.\xE2

Talking to Dennis and Painting, what comes across is both alarm and frustration, but also hope. Painting, at 31 years old, is one of a new generation of ecologists involved in shaping our future, and one of the delights of chatting with him is in hearing his positivity. It's there in descriptions of new orchids found on the estate or the growth in montane scrub. \xE2I forget," he says, "about the declines in other places when I\xE2m out and about. I was out this morning looking at hen harriers. I thought oh this is brilliant, we\xE2ve got hen harriers everywhere and then you start to look at raptor persecution.com and find out that another two have been shot. This was another reason I wanted to write the book. Stories of hope are really important. It\xE2s important to know how bad the situation is, but it\xE2s equally important so that you don\xE2t despair to know that there is hope for the future and that we can turn things around.\xE2

Roy Dennis meanwhile, at 80 years old, with a conservation career behind him of immense achievement \xE2 though clearly he is frustrated that more was not pushed through. He shares a few of his hopes and fears for the future. \xE2I think the situation over biodiversity and climate is critical. I think Scotland in that time will be a much more greatly wooded landscape. We won\xE2t have those bare hills. But they won't be replaced by Sitka spruce plantations, I\xE2m talking about mixed woodlands which include Scots pine and other things that can be harvested for wood. What I think we need is for 50 percent of the land to be managed to help with climate amelioration, preventing floods, holding water, creating oxygen, creating clouds, creating insects, all of that. I believe that 50 percent of the land and 50 percent of the seas need to have that special management."

Rewilding Scotland: 'Beavers will be in all our rivers. Lynx and wolf back'

There's a faith there that this will happen. \xE2I do see that coming about and I \xC2also think\xC2beavers will be in all rivers on the mainland, Lynx will be there, wolf will be back as well.\xE2

Regeneration: The Rescue of A Wild Land by Andrew Painting is published by Birlinn

Restoring The Wild: Sixty Years Of Rewilding Our Skies, Woods And Waterways by Roy Dennis is published by William Collins

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: MAMMALS (90%); ANIMALS (89%); BIRDS (89%); LIFE FORMS (77%); WILD CATS (77%); ORNITHOLOGY (71%)

Industry: MUSEUMS & GALLERIES (66%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (90%); UNITED KINGDOM (73%)

Load-Date: March 14, 2022

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Advisory: First issued under embargo

Advisory: First issued under embargo

PA Newswire: Scotland

May 22, 2021 Saturday

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Section: PA Newswire: [Scotland](#)

Length: 414 words

Body

CONSERVATIONISTS TO 'REWILD' 200 ACRES IN [SCOTLAND](#) OVER NEXT CENTURY

By Thomas Hornall, PA [Scotland](#)

Conservationists have revealed an ambitious 100-year project to restore wetlands and native woodland to a large chunk of land in Dumfries and Galloway.

The National Trust for [Scotland](#) said over the next century it will transform 200 acres of countryside at Kelton Mains, on the trust's Threave Estate, boosting biodiversity and allowing different species to flourish.

The first steps in the Threave Landscape Restoration Project will see the land ``undrained'' as large chunks of it are a floodplain for the River Dee.

This will allow the water to ``revert to more natural flow patterns'' and lead to better wetlands, expanding the habitats for a wide range of native and migrant waterfowl, as well as other animals, said the conservation charity.

Another key focus will be planting and creating 74 acres of native woodland, as well as ``exploring how livestock can be managed in new ways to balance agricultural production with nature recovery''.

Saturday marks the International Day for Biological Diversity.

Dr Sam Gallacher, Dumfries and Galloway operation manager for the National Trust for [Scotland](#), said researchers and experts have been probing the best methods of rewilding the area for the past four years.

He said: ``Studying holistically the whole site, we have put together both an immediate and long-term plan to help kickstart and support natural processes, but also use this site as a massive experiment to help us find best practice and methods that we hope will be useful and inspire others in similar settings whether in [Scotland](#) or further afield.'

``It will be an exciting experience for our visitors and members to learn and engage with landscape restoration in action and showcase the work our charity does to protect [Scotland](#)'s natural heritage.''

Advisory: First issued under embargo

Funding for the project comes from the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme and the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Politicians were recently urged to seize the social and economic benefits that would come with making Scotland the world's first ``rewilding nation".

The Scottish Rewilding Alliance called for parties to commit to policies such as rewilding 30% of public land as well as reintroducing key species to Scotland.

This includes re-homing beavers, as well as considering a pilot project to reintroduce the Eurasian Lynx to Scotland, where there is both a suitable habitat for the creatures and local support. end

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newswire

Subject: CONSERVATION (91%); BIODIVERSITY (90%); ENVIRONMENTALISM (90%); LAND RECLAMATION (90%); WETLANDS (90%); WETLANDS CONSERVATION (90%); LAND CONSERVATION (89%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (79%); LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (79%); PUBLIC LANDS (79%); ANIMALS (78%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (78%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS (78%); PUBLIC LANDS REGULATION & POLICY (78%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (77%); RODENTS (76%); BIRDS (74%); WATER QUALITY (74%); WILD CATS (74%); EMBARGOES & SANCTIONS (73%); AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT (72%); BEST PRACTICES (71%); FLOOD ZONES (70%); SOCIETY, SOCIAL ASSISTANCE & LIFESTYLE (68%); **SCOTLAND** Biodiversity (%)

Industry: LIVESTOCK (73%); AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT (72%); FLOOD ZONES (70%); AGRICULTURE (52%); LOTTERIES (50%)

Geographic: **SCOTLAND** (94%)

Load-Date: May 21, 2021

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Ambitious 100-year plan to 'rewild' 200 acres in Scotland

Scotsman

May 22, 2021 Saturday

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Section: ENVIRONMENT

Length: 395 words

Byline: Thomas Hornall

Highlight: Conservationists have revealed an ambitious 100-year project to restore wetlands and native woodland to a large chunk of land in Dumfries and Galloway.

Body

The National Trust for ***Scotland*** said over the next century it will transform 200 acres of countryside at Kelton Mains, on the trust's Threave Estate, boosting biodiversity and allowing different species to flourish.

The first steps in the Threave Landscape Restoration Project will see the land "undrained" as large chunks of it are a floodplain for the River Dee.

This will allow the water to "revert to more natural flow patterns" and lead to better wetlands, expanding the habitats for a wide range of native and migrant waterfowl, as well as other animals, said the conservation charity.

Another key focus will be planting and creating 74 acres of native woodland, as well as "exploring how livestock can be managed in new ways to balance agricultural production with nature recovery".

Saturday marks the International Day for Biological Diversity.

Dr Sam Gallacher, Dumfries and Galloway operation manager for the National Trust for ***Scotland***, said researchers and experts have been probing the best methods of rewilding the area for the past four years.

He said: "Studying holistically the whole site, we have put together both an immediate and long-term plan to help kickstart and support natural processes, but also use this site as a massive experiment to help us find best practice and methods that we hope will be useful and inspire others in similar settings whether in ***Scotland*** or further afield."

"It will be an exciting experience for our visitors and members to learn and engage with landscape restoration in action and showcase the work our charity does to protect ***Scotland's*** natural heritage."

Funding for the project comes from the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme and the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Politicians were recently urged to seize the social and economic benefits that would come with making ***Scotland*** the world's first "rewilding nation".

Ambitious 100-year plan to 'rewild' 200 acres in Scotland

The **Scottish** Rewilding Alliance called for parties to commit to policies such as rewilding 30% of public land as well as reintroducing key species to **Scotland**.

This includes re-homing beavers, as well as considering a pilot project to reintroduce the Eurasian *Lynx* to **Scotland**, where there is both a suitable habitat for the creatures and local support.

Conservationists have revealed an ambitious 100-year project to restore wetlands and native woodland to a large chunk of land in Dumfries and Galloway.

Graphic

The National Trust for Scotland said over the next century it will transform 200 acres of countryside at Kelton Mains, on the trust's Threave Estate, boosting biodiversity and allowing different species to flourish.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: CONSERVATION (91%); BIODIVERSITY (90%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (90%); ENVIRONMENTALISM (90%); LAND CONSERVATION (90%); LAND RECLAMATION (90%); WETLANDS (90%); WETLANDS CONSERVATION (90%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (79%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS (79%); LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (79%); PUBLIC LANDS (79%); ANIMALS (78%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (78%); PUBLIC LANDS REGULATION & POLICY (78%); RODENTS (77%); WATER QUALITY (75%); BIRDS (74%); SOCIETY, SOCIAL ASSISTANCE & LIFESTYLE (74%); WILD CATS (74%); BEST PRACTICES (73%); FLOOD ZONES (71%)

Industry: LIVESTOCK (73%); PUBLISHING (73%); FLOOD ZONES (71%); AGRICULTURE (54%); LOTTERIES (50%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (93%)

Load-Date: May 21, 2021

Massive rewilding 'experiment' in Scotland may help find way to slow alarming rate of species extinction – Scotsman comment

Massive rewilding 'experiment' in Scotland may help find way to slow alarming rate of species extinction – Scotsman comment

Scotsman

May 22, 2021 Saturday

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Section: COLUMNISTS ENVIRONMENT POLITICS NATURE SCOTLAND

Length: 408 words

Byline: Scotsman comment, [N/A](#)

Highlight: The 18th century landscape gardener Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown “almost damned himself to historical obscurity through creating a product so good, subsequent generations of visitors have given nature herself the credit”, according to the National Trust.

Body

His [creations on country estates](#) were undoubtedly beautiful, but they were very much a human’s idea of what the natural world should be like.

Now the National Trust for [Scotland](#) is set to create a very different kind of ‘garden’ with plans to rewild 200 acres of land on its Threave Estate in Dumfries and Galloway over the course of the next 100 years.

Land will be “undrained” with the River Dee allowed to “revert to more natural flow patterns”, allowing wetlands to form, which will encourage native and migrant waterfowl as well as other animals. Some 74 acres of native woodland are to be planted, while they are also looking into ways to manage livestock that “balance agricultural production with nature recovery”.

The trust’s Dr Sam Gallacher said the site would be a “massive experiment to help us find best practice and methods that we hope will be useful and inspire others in similar settings whether in [Scotland](#) or further afield”.

READ MORE: [Call for Scotland to become world's first Rewilding Nation](#)

Separately, the [Scottish](#) Rewilding Alliance has called for politicians to commit to rewilding 30 per cent of public land as well as continuing to reintroduce species like beavers and to consider a pilot project to return the Eurasian [lynx](#) to [Scotland](#) – if there is both a suitable habitat and local support.

There are people who will be understandably nervous about bringing back a “big cat” after its long absence, however timid around humans it may be. Others may be concerned about beavers damaging commercial forestry and flooding farmland. And a human “rewilding” process may be deemed by some to be as artificial as any Capability Brown creation.

Massive rewilding 'experiment' in Scotland may help find way to slow alarming rate of species extinction –
Scotsman comment

However, [with a quarter of Britain's native mammals](#), including red squirrels and wildcats, at risk of extinction and the world experiencing rates of species loss on a par with the Fifth Mass Extinction Event, which killed off the dinosaurs 66 million years ago, it is imperative that we do something.

And, given humans are largely responsible for what some are already calling the Sixth Mass Extinction Event, attempting to mimic nature seems like a good place to start.

A message from the Editor:

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Graphic

[Beavers have already been returned to parts of Scotland and other species may follow \(Picture: Ben Birchall/PA Wire\)](#)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: MAMMALS (89%); RODENTS (89%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS (78%); WETLANDS (78%); AGRICULTURAL LANDS (77%); BIOLOGY (77%); FACT CHECKING (77%); LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (77%); PUBLIC LANDS (77%); ANIMALS (76%); PREHISTORIC LIFE (76%); WILD CATS (76%); BIRDS (71%); TIMBER TRACT OPERATIONS (70%); BEST PRACTICES (68%); VIRUSES (64%); CONSUMER BEHAVIOR (60%); CORONAVIRUSES (50%)

Industry: AGRICULTURAL LANDS (77%); LIVESTOCK (73%); PUBLISHING (73%); FORESTRY & LOGGING (70%); TIMBER TRACT OPERATIONS (70%); CONSUMER BEHAVIOR (60%); AGRICULTURE (54%)

Geographic: [SCOTLAND](#) (93%)

Load-Date: May 21, 2021

Restrictions turning us into idiots abroad

Daily Record and Sunday Mail

May 13, 2021 Thursday

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 12

Length: 253 words

Body

IF travel broadens the mind, travel RESTRICTIONS must narrow it.

How else do you explain the geography dunces who contacted a US travel site to ask what language they speak in France and if New Zealand is a real place?

A lot of Americans also thought Africa was a country. D'oh! Everyone knows it's a Lynx deodorant. ?Line Of Duty was the mostwatched TV series during the pandemic.

In fact, with the final episode pulling in a huge audience of 15.25million, it's officially the No1 telly drama of the 21st century.

Sure, the disappointing finale had its critics, but here's my prediction: I still reckon it'll be remembered for having a better ending than Katie Price's EIGHTH engagement.

Then again, Katie says she's definitely marrying Carl Woods and she can't wait to be Katie Woods. So it could be the real deal as she knows this one's surname.

. ?Scotland's biggest light festival - The Enchanted Forest at Pitlochry - has been cancelled. Is that due to Covid? Or, looking at the weather we're currently "enjoying" was it solarpowered?

Suggestion: move it to the east end of Glasgow and FINALLY make some use of Celtic's disco lights.

. ?A lucky student from the West Midlands won £250,000 on a scratch card just before going on a first date with his new lockdown love.

The same thing happened to me years ago - I won £250k before a first date.

At least, that's what I told her. And I have to say I had a cracking night... She had the last laugh, though. Let's just say a Lottery card wasn't the only thing I scratched that week.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DRC

Subject: COVID CORONAVIRUS (71%)

Industry: TELEVISION PROGRAMMING (71%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, **SCOTLAND** (54%); NEW ZEALAND (79%); **SCOTLAND** (79%); UNITED STATES (79%); FRANCE (58%); National Edition

Load-Date: May 13, 2021

End of Document

Pirates strike late to pilfer points from Lynx

Paisley Daily Express

May 12, 2021 Wednesday

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: SPORT; Pg. 22

Length: 581 words

Body

With the current season put on ice, we've linked up with Paisley Pirates stalwart and media guru Bill Elliot to relive some of the club's most dramatic and successful paisley pirates 6
aberdeen *Lynx*.....5

As mentioned in earlier flashbacks, season 2012-13 proved to be one of Paisley Pirates' least successful.

They would go on to finish a disappointing fifth in this *Scottish* National League season, after a title winning year only the year before.

On this particular night they faced up to the Aberdeen *Lynx*, a team with potent force among the forwards in the shape of Leyden, a prolific goal scorer for the Northern Lights outfit, while at the back the McEachran brothers, sounding like a Wild West duo, usually formed a strong defensive and physical partnership.

It was not unusual for at least one of that pair to prematurely leave the scene of the action as a result of a moments. Today we look back on a dramatic clash with Aberdeen in 2012 that went right down to the wire at Braehead Arena.

misdemeanour incurring the wrath of the officials.

However, on this occasion, the absence of the battling brothers suggested the men in charge might have a slightly quieter evening.

In the event, the match might have been less physical through their absence, but those players who did make it certainly served up a rip-roaring sixty minutes of ice hockey.

The Pirates and *Lynx* served up a proverbial cracker as this game went to the wire, both teams coming back from two goal deficits, with the home team nicking it in the last two minutes to claim both points.

The hosts hit the ground running from the face off and were ahead with less than a minute on the clock as Wilson beat Kynoch in the visitors' goal to put Pirates ahead.

The stunned goalie was picking the puck out of the net again less than a minute later, as this time skipper Churchill, from McCamley, applied the coup de grace to double his team's advantage before some of the *Lynx* players had actually touched the puck.

Pirates strike late to pilfer points from Lynx

The home side were hit by no fewer than four minor penalties in the first session and these disadvantages allowed the visitors to come into the game, and on the final powerplay of the period arch sniper Leyden halved Lynx's deficit to leave the score at 2-1 to Pirates after 20 minutes.

Pirates suffered from a middle session slump and this enabled Aberdeen to equalise after 25 minutes through Leyden again.

Parity was soon lost, however, as Wilson restored the hosts' narrow advantage.

Respite was brief as with McCamley sitting out a minor penalty Lynx equalised again within a minute through Malcolm, then went ahead through Hogan with just over five minutes of the period remaining to lead 4-3 going into the final session.

The hosts' chances looked bleak only two minutes into the last period as Leyden completed his hat trick.

But Miller pulled Pirates back into the game within three minutes to make it 5-4 on the powerplay.

The home side continued to push for an equaliser but with Kynoch in fine form it looked as if it might not come.

However, with less than five minutes to go Wilson had the crowd on its feet as he beat the Aberdeen netminder to tie the score at 5-5 with his hat-trick goal.

Then, with only a minute remaining, the arena was in uproar as McCaig netted, squeezing the home side over the line for a breathless 6-5 win.

The Pirates and Lynx served up a proverbial cracker

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: PDE

Subject: ATHLETES (79%); ICE HOCKEY (79%); WINTER SPORTS (79%); WILD CATS (78%); NEGATIVE PERSONAL NEWS (73%); CRIME, LAW ENFORCEMENT & CORRECTIONS (67%); MISDEMEANORS (67%)

Organization: PITTSBURGH PIRATES (94%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (90%); SCOTLAND (73%); National Edition

Load-Date: May 12, 2021

Rewilding Scotland: can we see the wood for the trees?

Scotsman

May 9, 2021 Sunday

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Section: ENVIRONMENT

Length: 2621 words

Byline: Ilona Amos

Highlight: Scotland's landscape was once a rich tapestry of grasslands, bog, heath, scrub and trees, lots of them.

Body

Forests covered great swaths of the country, brimming with native species including Scots pine, aspen, birch, oak, rowan, holly, willow and alder.

Wild Lynx, wolves, bears, aurochs, elk and beavers roamed, while the air thronged with insects and birdlife and rivers and lochs were jumping with fish.

But that was a few thousand years ago. Today less than a fifth of Scottish land is covered with trees and wildlife is vanishing at an alarming rate, with more than one in ten species at risk of extinction.

Environmentalists warn of twin crises facing the modern world - biodiversity loss and the planet heating up to a point of catastrophe. And now, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, we have a third - economic collapse.

Perhaps trees could hold some of the solutions.

Wanted: dead or alive

A variety of woodland types occur naturally across Scotland, with local geology, topography, soils and climate determining which trees thrive in what places.

Whether it's the Atlantic rainforests of the west coast or montane scrub on the highest hillsides, woodlands provide habitats for a massive array of other life - from wee beasties, fungi and lichens you can barely see to iconic animals such as pine martens, red squirrels, wildcats and birds of prey.

Trees are also one of the most effective weapons in the battle against climate change due to their ability to suck up and store carbon, preventing its release into the atmosphere to drive further warming. Research suggests forests across the world absorb almost 40 per cent of the 38 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide created by mankind each year.

Rewilding Scotland: can we see the wood for the trees?

Trees also hold great value once they have been cut down - timber products are used to make everything from construction materials and musical instruments to medicines, clothes, engine oils and even flexible LCD screens.

Growing our own timber in a sustainable way also cuts impacts on the environment, reducing emissions generated through transportation and helping reduce deforestation in other countries.

And the forestry sector provides much-needed rural jobs, around 25,000, while bringing in £1 billion for the **Scottish** economy.

So let's get more trees in the ground

Today around 18.5 per cent of **Scotland** is covered in trees. The figure's not great compared to the European average of 43 per cent, but it's a massive increase from 100 years ago, when coverage was more like five per cent.

Scotland has set out national targets to increase this to 21 per cent by 2032, with a current planting target of 15 hectares each year but rising to 18 hectares annually from 2024.

In recent years four out of five of all new trees in the UK were planted in **Scotland** - including state-owned forestry and private sector operations. But there is still a way to go, and plenty of challenges ahead.

Planting new forests

Trees for Life (TfL), a conservation charity based near Loch ness in the Highlands, champions rewilding. It is working to restore **Scotland**'s native Caledonian forests, which have been reduced to a few scattered remnants covering around one per cent of their original extent.

The team believes rewilding the landscape can help tackle "overlapping nature, climate and health crises" by bringing back wildlife, benefiting health and well-being and creating sustainable jobs in rural areas.

Richard Bunting, a spokesman for TfL, said: "Despite **Scotland**'s dramatic landscapes, the country is an ecological shadow of what it could and should be."

"Issues such as deforestation, overgrazing of woodlands by deer and sheep and the widespread planting of non-native exotic conifers have left **Scotland** as one of the world's most nature-depleted countries – its landscapes supporting fewer people than previously as a result."

"**Scotland** could be a nature-restoration trailblazer. But right now, despite many superb conservation initiatives, it is lagging behind other countries."

He maintains that returning large areas to a natural state is both essential and completely achievable. "**Scotland** has the space and opportunity to take a fresh approach, with people working with nature instead of against it," he said. "It's perfectly placed to be a world leader in rewilding."

Around a third of all **Scottish** woodlands are part of the national forest estate, managed by Forestry and Land **Scotland** (FLS). These include native woodlands at iconic sites such as Glen Affric as well as newly planted commercial forests, where trees are harvested for timber.

The organisation plants around 25 million trees each year and fells just over a third of that number.

Jo Ellis, head of planning and environment for FLS, believes the importance of conifer plantations is vastly underestimated. "There is a lot more to commercial forestry and its huge potential than meets the eye, and many people would be surprised to learn just how vital, versatile and valuable **Scotland**'s conifer forests are," she said.

With advances in technology being made all the time, **Scotland**'s home-grown conifers are still to reach their fullest potential.

Rewilding Scotland: can we see the wood for the trees?

Ellis said "Everyone knows that conifer trees are felled to produce sawn wood and engineered wood – the timber frames for housing, the 'I' beams, and panel board for use in partitions, flooring and kitchen worktops – the applications that lock in carbon for decades.

"And then there are the goods ranging from face-masks to fence posts, from freight pallets to cardboard packaging.

"Some might also know that Sitka spruce, for example, is even used in shipbuilding and has acoustic qualities that make it ideal for making sounding boards in pianos, guitars and other musical instruments. Its bark can even be used to make particle boards and has been used in Europe in absorbent materials to control oil spills."

Are all trees equal or are some 'greener' than others?

We have a slightly uneasy relationship with commercial forestry in ***Scotland*** due to lessons learned from the sort of large-scale plantations that became commonplace in the 1970s - massive dark-green stands of Christmas trees stretching across the countryside as far as the eye could see.

These mono-culture blocks of densely packed non-native conifers were put up in places where it seemed like not much else was going on, but their detrimental effect on local environments has been recognised.

Peatlands became damaged through drying out, wildlife disappeared due to lack of habitat and soils were depleted.

A mixture of native species planted in a way that mimics nature is widely considered to be the best way to restore woodland cover and provide maximum benefits for the environment.

This has resulted in the perception: broadleaves good, conifers bad. However, it's certainly not that simple.

All trees, evergreen or deciduous, are good for soaking up carbon emissions. Studies show conifers such as Douglas fir and Sitka spruce are more efficient at rapid carbon sequestration than their broad-leaved counterparts.

Ellis said: "Native broadleaves, which are slow-growing, will do this over a long period of time but faster-growing species like Sitka spruce - which can grow as much as 1.5m in height a year in the right conditions - are better for more immediate carbon storage.".

And if planted correctly, commercial conifer forests are far from ecological deserts, hosting a far greater abundance of other wildlife than was previously thought.

Studies have identified as many as 2,000 species - some rare and threatened - making their homes in plantations.

"For many people the term 'biodiversity' conjures up images of animals such as deer, eagles, wildcats or otters but these perennial public favourites are only the tip of the iceberg – and often the most high-profile - part of ***Scotland's*** biodiversity," Ellis added

"Get beyond that and you find that ***Scotland's*** conifer forests are an absolute heaven for thousands of species - beetles, hoverflies, bryophytes and fungi and a whole host of other less 'cuddly' species that play a crucial part in keeping habitats healthy.

"Raptors often prefer planted forests as nesting sites, and pine marten - another species that thrives in plantations – has largely had its fortunes revived throughout the 20th century thanks to commercial forestry. In fact, many well-loved species, such as capercaillie, red squirrels and ***Scottish*** crossbills, would struggle to survive in ***Scotland*** if the plantations were not there."

The Future Forest Company (FFC), which has three ***Scottish*** sites, has set out its mission in no uncertain terms - "unf*cking the future". All its forests will be permanent features, managed carefully to maximise the amount of carbon dioxide that can be taken out of the atmosphere and provide the biggest benefits to the environment.

"Natural habitat provides a range of essential services and resources that most people are barely aware of," said Jim Reilly, forestry manager for FFC.

Rewilding Scotland: can we see the wood for the trees?

"For example, homes for insect pollinators, without which some crop types would not reproduce.

"Forest biodiversity encompasses not just trees, but a whole host of plants, fungi, animals and microorganisms.

"Our forests are home to a wide variety of animals from deer, squirrels and badgers to tiny voles. We also think that natural habitats are important to human well-being.

"Each decision we make in planning takes into account the wider impact to the forest's living inhabitants."

But he agrees that all forests, even commercial plantations have a role to play if designed well. "It is correct, Sitka spruce plantations are very good at capturing carbon," he said.

"They grow very fast, they get very big - some of the largest trees on earth are Sitka spruces - and they can reach great ages.

"While they are not very pretty to look at, they do support much more wildlife than supposed. In some cases, equal to or more than some native woodland types."

Stuart Goodall is chief executive of Confor, the trade body for 1,500 forestry and wood-using businesses across the UK. He believes today's commercial conifer plantations unfairly get a bad rap due to past history and insists there is no need for a trade-off - forests can provide both homes for wildlife and the timber that builds homes for people.

"Planting trees soaks up carbon, making products from wood stores carbon - and using more wood in construction substitutes carbon-heavy materials like steel and concrete," he said.

"According to the ***Scottish*** Government's own advisers on forestry, newly planted modern productive forests reduce carbon in the atmosphere more than native woodland.

"The sector is also helping to tackle the nature crisis through modern forestry design – the UK Forest Standard ensures that landscape and deep peat are fully considered alongside measures to promote biodiversity in all modern productive forests.

"Monoculture forestry has not happened in ***Scotland*** for a generation and we ask critics to judge the industry fairly, based on what it does now and not what happened a generation ago."

The right trees in the right places

Although FFC's goal is to create 'natural' woodlands across the UK, including its flagship site on Mull, the team accepts that commercial conifers also have a role.

"The issue with Sitka spruce plantations from a carbon and wildlife perspective is not what they are, more how they are managed," he said.

"Mono-cultures are not always bad. A field of wheat, for example, is not bad if you want to eat bread. That said, mono-cultures are not always what you want. They can lack visual and habitat diversity and are generally more vulnerable to disease. Our preference is mixed and multi-structured woodland."

Management and planning of commercial forest has come a long way in the past 50 years.

FLS plans to plant five trees for every person in ***Scotland*** this year. That means digging in around two million trees - with a 40/60 conifer/broadleaf split.

Every FLS forest – big or small, simple or complex – has a land management plan that details what will happen, where and when, showing long-term development of the forest.

Rewilding Scotland: can we see the wood for the trees?

These plans, drawn up before a single tree is felled or planted, aim to balance the economic benefits of jobs and timber production with the social and environmental benefits of being pleasant, welcoming places that are essential for climate change mitigation and enjoyment for people.

"Planting trees is only one part of our work," Ellis said. "We also fell trees every year, and in the 30, 40 or more years between planting and felling a commercial crop, we also nurture those woodlands so that they stay robust and healthy and can provide benefits such as food and shelter for plants and animals, carbon capture for climate change mitigation and places for people to walk, cycle and relax."

"This process – the forest cycle – is a long-term commitment and balancing all of the different elements is hugely complicated. That's why planning is so important."

She added: "Conifers and plantations have had a pretty rough ride over the years but it's a view that's often rooted in memories of plantation forestry from decades ago.

"Modern, sustainable forestry is much more attuned to things like landscape design and visual impact, protecting water courses and important habitats, and recognises the benefits of including a mix of species – including broadleaves.

"This diversification is good for biodiversity and also makes our forests more resilient to pests and diseases - and to a changing climate.

"The many benefits of conifer plantations are often overlooked. Many people won't appreciate that they are vitally important for biodiversity and provide the setting for some of our best-loved places for recreation."

And don't forget the jobs

Scotland is the only part of the UK to have set targets for wood use in construction - with the aim of increasing this from 2.2 million cubic metres in 2018 to three million by 2032.

With global demand for wood predicted to triple by 2060, all parts of the UK need to produce more wood to avoid putting pressure on forests overseas - the UK currently imports around 80 per cent of the wood it uses, the world's second largest net importer after China.

In **Scotland** we produce only around a quarter of the wood we need, so growing more would have both environmental and financial gains.

Confor's Goodall said: "It's not just about carbon, forestry and wood is a major rural industry in **Scotland**.

"A survey more than five years ago showed it delivers £1 billion annually in added value to the **Scottish** economy and employs more than 25,000 people. The updated study, due in 2022, is expected to show more jobs and more economic benefit, as the industry is growing.

"This green growth - with economic and environmental benefits going hand in hand - is vital to the green recovery from Covid-19."

Ellis added: "One hectare of Sitka spruce will provide more than three times the volume of timber twice as quickly than one hectare of native broadleaved woodland. And all of that timber crop will be processed into products that are used in an ever-greater number of industries and applications, often replacing more carbon-intensive materials such as concrete and steel or plastics. And every tonne of timber grown in **Scotland** is one less tonne that needs to be shipped in from overseas."

Embrace forests - become a tree-hugger

Scotland is home to the oldest tree in the UK, the Fortingall Yew, which grows in a churchyard near Aberfeldy in Perthshire. The ancient conifer is thought to be around 5,000 years old, perhaps older, and has survived all sorts of

Rewilding Scotland: can we see the wood for the trees?

adversities and historical happenings. That tenacious tree surely stands as a great symbol of endurance and hope as we battle the current crises facing our world.

Tree-hugger is no longer a pejorative term. It's probably a compliment. And if you go down to the woods, you could do worse than putting your arms around a spruce.

Graphic

[Tree hugging: Planting more trees and then felling some of them will help Scotland boost biodiversity](#)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: FORESTS & WOODLANDS (90%); LIFE FORMS (90%); MAMMALS (90%); RODENTS (90%); WILD CATS (90%); EPIDEMICS (89%); BIODIVERSITY (79%); BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION (79%); CLIMATE CHANGE (79%); CONSERVATION (79%); DEFORESTATION (79%); EMISSIONS (79%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (79%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (79%); ENVIRONMENTALISM (79%); FORESTRY & ENVIRONMENT (79%); LAKES (79%); POLLUTION & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS (79%); POLLUTION MONITORING, PREVENTION & REMEDIATION (79%); SUSTAINABILITY (79%); TIMBER TRACT OPERATIONS (79%); WILDLIFE (79%); ANIMALS (78%); THIS DAY IN HISTORY (76%); ECONOMIC CRISIS (75%); ENVIRONMENTAL ACCIDENTS & DISASTERS (75%); RAIN FORESTS (74%); BIRDS (73%); CLIMATE ACTION (73%); CLIMATOLOGY (73%); INSECTS & ARACHNIDS (72%); CORONAVIRUSES (69%); INFECTIOUS DISEASE (69%); VIRUSES (69%); GEOLOGY & GEOPHYSICS (68%); RURAL EMPLOYMENT (63%); PANDEMICS (54%); MUSIC (50%); MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS (50%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (50%)

Industry: AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING & HUNTING (89%); FORESTRY & LOGGING (89%); DEFORESTATION (79%); EMISSIONS (79%); FORESTRY & ENVIRONMENT (79%); TIMBER TRACT OPERATIONS (79%); WOOD CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS (78%); PUBLISHING (73%); MONITORS & DISPLAYS (50%); MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS (50%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (94%); UNITED KINGDOM (78%)

Load-Date: May 8, 2021

Parking problems for Galloway farmers

The Scottish Farmer

May 2021

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Length: 487 words

Byline: [Ken Fletcher](#)

Body

It would appear that ambitious plans for making a Galloway National park are dividing the region's farmers and an anecdotal survey tells us that most are, at best, hesitant about getting behind the plan. At worst, they fear ever-more interference with the way they are allowed to farm - indeed, for the more intensive units, there's the dread of not being able to continue in any sustainable fashion at all.

Their fears are real. Many areas that would be enclosed by any National Park ring fence include highly productive and progressive farms, and that must be respected and any reservations fully addressed. So far, they have not been.

This is not about the preservation of Beatrix Potter countryside and its dog and stick management of Herdwick sheep; nor is it about ski slopes with reindeer. This is, by and large, a living, working 'farm' making the best use of the resources available to it. That goes whether it's a well-run extensive hill farm, or a highly productive dairy farm.

Therefore, there needs to be some recognition that these farms have shaped the very landscape and topography that already makes Dumfries and Galloway a popular tourist destination - the argument for more of which is one of the main planks of the 'For' argument.

The 'Against' platform only need to look over their shoulders to see the drastic effects that the re-introduction of sea eagles and beavers - let alone *Lynx* and wolves! - have had on farming in other parts of *Scotland* and will view with some suspicion that National Park status would lead to such restoration. They, quite rightly, fear this will have a hugely negative impact on farms and farmers.

Therefore, if progressive farms are to be subjugated to be within any National Park, there must be an acceptance that any interference in the way they work be made with full consultation and compensation should it be necessary. There should also be a lighter touch to any future - and inevitable -planning curbs that might impact on any infrastructure that will be needed to meet the expected increase in tourist traffic.

That goes for any residential requirements needed to house them, but probably more so for the logistics of getting around the region. Indeed, the main artery through D and G, the A75, is already clogged to capacity by traffic and the veins which spread out from that are totally insufficient to cater for much more than local movement.

A full investment in this should be made as a pre-requisite for any future plans. There is no point in putting the cart before the horse, when the horse can't travel!

Parking problems for Galloway farmers

If these plans are to progress - and they seem to have at least some local farming and political support - then there needs to be a concerted effort to 'sell' the plan to the rest of those that already make the region's geography so attractive.

Should these fears not be addressed properly, then maybe this is an idea that should be 'parked' until they are?

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: NATIONAL PARKS (91%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (90%); MAMMALS (88%); LEISURE TRAVEL (71%); SUSTAINABILITY (71%); SKIING (68%); SUSTAINABLE FASHION (56%)

Industry: NATIONAL PARKS (91%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (90%); DESTINATIONS & ATTRACTIONS (78%); DAIRY FARMING (73%); FASHION & APPAREL (71%); LEISURE TRAVEL (71%); TOURISM (67%); SUSTAINABLE FASHION (56%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (92%)

Load-Date: May 27, 2021

End of Document

Claire Taylor: Indyref2 and a blinkered green agenda could harm Scottish farming's future

Claire Taylor: Indyref2 and a blinkered green agenda could harm Scottish farming's future

Herald Scotland

April 27, 2021 Tuesday

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Length: 1069 words

Byline: [Claire Taylor](#)

Body

SCOTLAND'S FARMING future could be in strong, capable hands with the SNP, if it wasn't for the prospect of a looming independence referendum and a blinkered approach to tree planting, which puts the future of the industry under threat.

Independence supporters are the first to lament the loss of seamless trade with the EU, so why then after witnessing our food exporters being strangled by red tape and additional costs, would they be so brash as to put our producers through another tumultuous break-up.

The SNP has pledged to re-join the EU in an independent **Scotland**, despite the fact our biggest trading partner is right here on our doorstep - with nearly 70% of **Scotland's** food exports sold within the UK single market.

The London School of Economics has estimated that independence would be between two and three times as costly as Brexit, even if **Scotland** regains membership with the EU.

Make no mistake, our ties with the UK are deeper and stronger than those we shared with our European neighbours, which will make a separation longer and more painful, putting hundreds of thousands of jobs at risk that rely on trade with the rest of the UK.

Over the past week I have studied the rural manifesto's of **Scotland's** major parties and all are centred around the role of rural **Scotland** in paving the way for net zero, with investment in the environment and tree planting targets top of the agenda.

There was little disagreement across the board from the five main parties who have all committed to incentivising a shift to low carbon food production, improving local food supply chains, investing in nature restoration, offering support for new entrants to get a step on to the farming ladder and cracking down on rural crime.

Since leaving the EU, the **Scottish** Government has had the opportunity to create a bespoke agricultural support system shaped to **Scotland's** unique farming profile but has chosen to maintain equivalent EU funding until 2024, in order to offer the industry stability and time to adapt to a future system.

Claire Taylor: Indyref2 and a blinkered green agenda could harm Scottish farming's future

The **Scottish** Greens have criticised this approach in their manifesto, calling for the next government to fast track a new system which will reward farmers to deliver a range of public benefits including the likes of soil conservation, peatland restoration, flood management and agroecology. All admirable and important objectives but they appear to have left an important public good off their list - food production.

The SNP, however, remains committed to supporting food production with direct payments. By 2025, they have pledged to shift half of all funding for farming and crofting from unconditional to conditional support with targeted outcomes for biodiversity gain and a drive towards low carbon approaches.

READ MORE: Claire Taylor: Blue Peter has no right to push an anti-meat agenda

With numerous new faces soon to join the SNP's ranks, both green with experience and in their ambition, **Scottish** farming would benefit from the stability of having Fergus Ewing return to the helm of the rural remit. Over the past five years, Mr Ewing has taken time to listen to the concerns and demands of the industry, understanding the balance which has to be struck between producing food and supporting our environment and will be a strong voice in Holyrood when demands on the public purse tighten and rural funding could be in the firing line.

He understands that there is much to be gained from integrating woodlands with existing farm enterprises, however, do others in the party? Will the new recruits be as opposed to whole farm afforestation?

It is clear from the SNP's rural manifesto that their funding priorities for the years ahead lies with big investment in restoring natural habitats, planting trees, and boosting biodiversity, but they must be careful not to allow key sectors of **Scotland**'s rural economy to slip through the funding net in the process.

Their pledge to establish a £15m fund to support food processors and manufacturers transition to low carbon operations, pales in comparison to their £500m pledge to address biodiversity loss.

No detail is given on plans to invest in a local abattoir network across **Scotland** in order to reduce the distance of animals to slaughter, which would cut down food miles and ensure money is retained in rural communities through supporting local employment.

It is all very well to commit to turning over vast areas of our land to wildflower meadows to boost bird populations and pollinators, but farmers must be recognised for the work they are already doing in supporting biodiversity alongside producing food for our nation.

Unsurprisingly, the **Scottish** Greens have the most ambitious plans for the environment by pledging to give Forestry Land **Scotland** an additional £200 million to grow the public forest by approximately 50,000 hectares - doubling **Scotland**'s woodland coverage to 40%.

READ MORE: Claire Taylor: A farmer's workplace is not your amusement park

Despite not wanting to offer subsidy support for food production, the Greens have refreshing ideas around supporting local food supply chains. They have pledged to establish local crofter and producer food co-ops to sell direct to the public and the hospitality and tourist trade, as well as a multitude of initiatives to build shorter supply chains and improve distribution networks between rural and urban areas.

They might want to rethink their pledge to support a **Lynx** reintroduction trial as part of their species reintroduction plans, as it ignores the concerns from farmers around the devastation this could have on **Scotland**'s sheep flocks. But perhaps this is all part of their other manifesto proposal to reduce sheep numbers. It is one which will lose them favour with the farming fraternity.

During a political hustings last week, concerns arose around blanket tree planting targets which could threaten **Scotland**'s productive farming land. Fergus Ewing called for more to be done in persuading the panel on climate change to recognise the contribution of permanent grassland in sequestering carbon.

Claire Taylor: Indyref2 and a blinkered green agenda could harm Scottish farming's future

With all parties boasting ambitious tree planting targets as their answer to achieving net zero, maybe it is time to take off the blinkers and start recognising that grass is a carbon sink and grazing animals is not only an effective sequestration tool but has additional advantages of boosting biodiversity, injecting money into rural communities and feeding the nation.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: EUROPEAN UNION (90%); SEPARATISM & SECESSION (90%); BREXIT (79%); UK POLITICAL PARTIES (79%); AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS & IMPORTS (78%); AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT (78%); **SCOTLAND** INDEPENDENCE REFERENDUM (78%); CONSERVATION (77%); BIODIVERSITY (76%); EUROPEAN UNION ACCESSION (76%); EXPORT TRADE (76%); FOOD EXPORTS & IMPORTS (76%); MEAT EXPORTS & IMPORTS (76%); REFERENDUMS (73%); WETLANDS (69%); BUSINESS EDUCATION (68%); WETLANDS CONSERVATION (63%); FLOOD CONTROL (50%); SOIL CONSERVATION (50%)

Industry: AGRICULTURE (89%); FOOD & BEVERAGE (89%); AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS & IMPORTS (78%); AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT (78%); FOOD EXPORTS & IMPORTS (76%); MEAT EXPORTS & IMPORTS (76%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%)

Geographic: **SCOTLAND** (99%); UNITED KINGDOM (93%); EUROPEAN UNION MEMBER STATES (91%)

Load-Date: April 27, 2021

End of Document

Chernobyl providing inspiration and income 35 years after disaster

Herald Scotland

April 26, 2021 Monday

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Length: 865 words

Body

Thirty five years after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, Ukrainians view the site not only as a baleful monument to human mistakes but also as a source of inspiration, solace and income.

Reactor No 4 at the power plant 65 miles north of the capital Kyiv exploded and caught fire deep in the night on April 26, 1986, shattering the building and spewing radioactive material high into the sky in what remains the world's worst nuclear accident.

Soviet authorities made the catastrophe worse by failing to tell the public what had happened. Although the nearby plant workers' town of Pripyat was evacuated the next day, the two million residents of Kyiv were not informed despite the fallout danger. The world learned of the disaster only after heightened radiation was detected in Sweden.

Eventually, more than 100,000 people were evacuated from the vicinity and a 1,000-square-mile exclusion zone was established where the only activity was workers disposing of waste and tending to a hastily built sarcophagus covering the reactor.

Radiation continued to leak from the reactor building until 2019, when the entire building was covered by an enormous arch-shaped shelter. As robots inside the shelter began dismantling the reactor, officials felt new optimism about the zone.

"This is a place of tragedy and memory, but it is also a place where you can see how a person can overcome the consequences of a global catastrophe," said Bohdan Borukhovskyi, Ukraine's deputy environment minister.

"We want a new narrative to appear - it was not a zone of exclusion, but a zone of development and revival."

For him, that narrative includes encouraging tourism.

"Our tourism is unique, it is not a classic concept of tourism," he said. "This is an area of ??meditation and reflection, an area where you can see the impact of human error, but you can also see the human heroism that corrects it."

Chernobyl recorded a twofold increase in tourism after the lauded HBO television mini-series of the same name in 2019, and officials hope that level of interest will continue, or grow, once the global pandemic has receded.

Chernobyl providing inspiration and income 35 years after disaster

One of the prime draws for tourists is to see the ruins of Pripyat, the once-modern town of 50,000 now being taken over by decay and vegetation. Work is underway to build paths to make it easier for visitors to navigate the ruins.

The Chernobyl plant is out of service, but there is still much work to be done at the decommissioned plant. Mr Borukhovskiy said all four of its reactors would be dismantled only by 2064.

Ukraine also has decided to use the deserted zone as the site for its centralised storage facility for the spent fuel from the country's four remaining nuclear power plants, and that is to open this year. Until recently, the fuel was disposed of in Russia.

Storing the spent fuel at home will save the country an estimated 200 million dollars (£144 million) a year.

"We are doing everything possible so that this territory, where it is now impossible for people to live, is used with benefit and gives the country a profit," said Serhiy Kostyuk, head of the agency that manages the exclusion zone.

Although the radiation level in the zone is low enough that tourists can visit and workers can carry out their jobs, permanent residence is banned.

However, more than 100 people still live in the zone that extends 18 miles around the nuclear power plant, despite orders to leave the site.

Among them is 85-year-old former teacher Yevgeny Markevich, who said: "It's a great happiness to live at home, but it's sad that it's not as it used to be."

Today, he grows potatoes and cucumbers on his garden plot, which he takes for tests "in order to partially protect myself".

Long-term effects on human health remain the subject of intense scientific debate. Immediately after the accident, 30 plant workers and firefighters died from acute radiation sickness. Later, thousands of people died from radiation-related illnesses such as cancer.

To the surprise of many who expected the area might be a dead zone for centuries, wildlife is thriving: Bears, bison, wolves, *lynx*, wild horses and dozens of bird species live in the people-free territory.

According to scientists, the animals were much more resistant to radiation than expected, and were able to quickly adapt to strong radiation. Ukrainian scientists are researching this phenomenon together with colleagues from Japan and Germany.

"This is a gigantic territory ... in which we keep a chronicle of nature," said biologist Denis Vishnevskiy, 43, who has been observing nature in the reserve for the past 20 years. "The exclusion zone is not a curse, but our resource."

Ukrainian authorities are calling for the exclusion zone to be included in the UNESCO World Heritage List, since the object is a unique place "of interest to all mankind".

The Ministry of Culture of Ukraine has already taken steps to recognise the zone as a monument, which will attract more funding and tourists.

"Chernobyl should not become a wild playground for adventure hunters," said Ukrainian Culture Minister Oleksandr Tkachenko. "People should leave the exclusion zone with the awareness of the historical memory of this place and its importance for all mankind."

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Chernobyl providing inspiration and income 35 years after disaster

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER (91%); NUCLEAR ACCIDENTS (90%); ENVIRONMENTAL ACCIDENTS & DISASTERS (78%); HAZARDOUS WASTE (78%); INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS (78%); NUCLEAR WASTE (78%); FACTORY WORKERS (77%); ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENTS (71%); PANDEMICS (50%)

Industry: CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER (91%); NUCLEAR ACCIDENTS (90%); NUCLEAR ENERGY (90%); ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS (89%); ENERGY & UTILITIES (89%); HAZARDOUS WASTE (78%); NUCLEAR FUEL (78%); NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS (78%); NUCLEAR WASTE (78%); FACTORY WORKERS (77%); WAREHOUSING & STORAGE (76%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); TELEVISION MOVIES & MINISERIES (60%)

Geographic: KIYEV, UKRAINE (92%); UKRAINE (94%); RUSSIAN FEDERATION (79%); SWEDEN (79%)

Load-Date: April 26, 2021

End of Document

Politicians are urged to make Scotland world's first rewilding nation'

Politicians are urged to make Scotland world's first rewilding nation'

Aberdeen Press and Journal

April 19, 2021 Monday

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Section: NWS; Pg. 15

Length: 223 words

Byline: Prestige Page Manager 4

Body

Politicians are being urged to seize the social and economic benefits that would come with making **Scotland** the world's first "rewilding nation".

The **Scottish** Rewilding Alliance is calling on political parties to commit to key policies that it says will help achieve this.

More than three-quarters (76%) of Scots backed the principle of rewilding, a poll last year for the Alliance found.

Now it wants parties to sign up to policies such as a commitment to rewilding 30% of public land and setting up a special fund to support rewilding in towns and cities.

Political leaders are also being urged to support the reintroduction of key species to **Scotland**, including beavers, as well as consider a pilot project to reintroduce the Eurasian **Lynx** to **Scotland**, where there is both a suitable habitat and local support.

The Alliance, which is campaigning for **Scotland** to declare itself the first rewilding nation, insists that bold measures are needed to help tackle the nature and climate crises.

The organisation believes policies it is proposing -which include an inshore recovery zone in **Scotlands** waters where dredging and trawling are prohibited - could protect biodiversity and boost employment.

Steve Micklewright, convener of the **Scottish** Rewilding Alliance, said: "We know the public wants to see politicians make real progress on rewilding."

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Pr

Politicians are urged to make Scotland world's first rewilding nation'

Subject: ELECTIONS & POLITICS (92%); POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS (90%); POLITICS (90%); SOCIETY, SOCIAL ASSISTANCE & LIFESTYLE (90%); GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (79%); POLITICAL PARTIES (77%); BIODIVERSITY (75%); LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (75%); CLIMATE CHANGE (69%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (68%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (89%); SCOTLAND (92%); 7 North East

Load-Date: April 19, 2021

End of Document

Politicians called on to make Scotland the world's first 'rewilding nation'

Politicians called on to make Scotland the world's first 'rewilding nation'

The Herald (Glasgow)

April 19, 2021 Monday

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The Herald

Section: Pg. 2

Length: 390 words

Byline: By Katrine Bussey, PA **Scotland** Political Editor

Body

Politicians are being urged to seize the social and economic benefits that would come with making **Scotland** the world's first "rewilding nation".

The **Scottish** Rewilding Alliance is calling on political parties to commit to key policies that it says will help achieve this.

More than three-quarters (76 per cent) of Scots backed the principle of rewilding, a poll last year for the alliance found.

Now it wants parties to sign up to policies such as a commitment to rewilding 30% of public land and setting up a special fund to support rewilding in towns and cities, thereby making the benefits of wide spaces available to more Scots.

Political leaders are also being urged to support the reintroduction of key species to **Scotland**, including re-homing beavers, as well as considering a pilot project to reintroduce the Eurasian **Lynx** to **Scotland**, where there is both a suitable habitat for the creatures and local support.

The alliance, which is campaigning for **Scotland** to declare itself the first rewilding nation, insists that bold measures are needed to help tackle the nature and climate crises.

The organisation believes policies it is proposing, which also include establishing an inshore recovery zone in **Scotland's** waters where dredging and trawling are prohibited, and "robust" management of the country's deer population, could protect biodiversity and also provide a boost in terms of rural employment.

Steve Micklewright, convener of the **Scottish** Rewilding Alliance, said: "The parties and the public face many choices at this election, including major decisions which will shape the future of **Scotland's** lands and seas.

"We can do so much better than the status quo, which has left us with damaged and unproductive lands and seas, degraded carbon sinks, and a biodiversity crisis in parallel with the climate crisis.

Politicians called on to make Scotland the world's first 'rewilding nation'

"The **Scottish** Rewilding Alliance is today urging all the political parties to commit to five key policy decisions over the next session, measures which can unlock rural and coastal economic potential, help us protect against climate change and reduce our emissions, while allowing our plants and wildlife to come back in strength.

"We know the public wants to see politicians make real progress on rewilding, and we would encourage people to take these issues into account when they're looking at the parties' manifestos."

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: HER

Subject: ELECTIONS & POLITICS (92%); POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS (90%); POLITICS (90%); SOCIETY, SOCIAL ASSISTANCE & LIFESTYLE (90%); BIODIVERSITY (89%); BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION (89%); CLIMATE CHANGE (89%); GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (89%); POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (88%); WILDLIFE (79%); OCEAN ECONOMY (78%); PLATFORMS & ISSUES (77%); PUBLIC LANDS REGULATION & POLICY (77%); LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (75%); MAMMALS (74%); RURAL EMPLOYMENT (74%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (73%); CLIMATE ACTION (73%); COASTAL AREAS (70%); EMISSIONS (67%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (64%); agriculture (%)

Industry: EMISSIONS (67%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, **SCOTLAND** (73%); **SCOTLAND** (95%)

Load-Date: April 19, 2021

End of Document

Scotland could play leading global role as 'world's first rewilding nation'

Scotland could play leading global role as 'world's first rewilding nation'

Herald Scotland

April 19, 2021 Monday

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The Herald

Length: 424 words

Byline: [Ciara Fullarton](#)

Body

Politicians are being urged to make **Scotland** the world's first "rewilding nation" and seize the encompassed social and economic benefits.

The **Scottish** Rewilding Alliance is appealing to political parties to commit to a series of key policies to achieve this.

More than three quarters of Scots support the principle of rewilding, according to a poll run by the organisation last year.

Convener of the **Scottish** Rewilding Alliance, Steve Micklewright, said: "The parties and the public face many choices at this election, including major decisions which will shape the future of **Scotland's** lands and seas.

"We can do so much better than the status quo, which has left us with damaged and unproductive lands and seas, degraded carbon sinks, and a biodiversity crisis in parallel with the climate crisis.

READ MORE: New Highland Clearances: Firm warn over anti-business feeling that could drive people away

"The **Scottish** Rewilding Alliance is today urging all the political parties to commit to five key policy decisions over the next session, measures which can unlock rural and coastal economic potential, help us protect against climate change and reduce our emissions, while allowing our plants and wildlife to come back in strength."

The organisation aims to get parties to commit to rewilding 30% of public land and establishing a special fund to support rewilding in towns and cities - to maximise the number of Scots benefiting from wild spaces.

The Alliance also encouraging political leaders to support the reintroduction of key species to **Scotland**, where there is a suitable habitat and local support - including rehoming beavers and launching a pilot project to reintroduce Eurasian **Lynx**.

Additionally, it promotes the establishment of an inshore recovery zone in **Scotland's** waters where dredging and trawling are prohibited, and robust management of the country's deer population.

READ MORE: Poll finds public back ban on damaging fishing in protected areas

Scotland could play leading global role as 'world's first rewilding nation'

The Alliance believes that these policies could protect biodiversity and boost rural employment.

It insists that bold measures are needed to tackle nature and climate crises.

Micklewright concluded: "We know the public wants to see politicians make real progress on rewilding, and we would encourage people to take these issues into account when they're looking at the parties' manifestos."

"The opportunities here are substantial, for our climate, biodiversity, and for a wide range of potential social and economic benefits associated with making **Scotland** the world's first rewilding nation."

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: ELECTIONS & POLITICS (92%); POLITICS (91%); GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (90%); POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); SOCIETY, SOCIAL ASSISTANCE & LIFESTYLE (90%); BIODIVERSITY (89%); BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION (89%); CLIMATE CHANGE (89%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (88%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (78%); OCEAN ECONOMY (78%); PLATFORMS & ISSUES (77%); POLLS & SURVEYS (77%); PUBLIC LANDS REGULATION & POLICY (77%); COASTAL AREAS (75%); LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (75%); WILDLIFE (75%); CLIMATE ACTION (74%); EMISSIONS (74%); MAMMALS (74%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (67%); RURAL EMPLOYMENT (67%)

Industry: FISHING REGULATION & POLICY (77%); EMISSIONS (74%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%)

Geographic: **SCOTLAND** (95%)

Load-Date: April 19, 2021

End of Document

Advisory: First issued under embargo

Advisory: First issued under embargo

PA Newswire: Scotland

April 19, 2021 Monday

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Section: PA Newswire: [Scotland](#)

Length: 445 words

Body

PARTIES URGED TO BACK POLICIES TO MAKE [SCOTLAND](#) WORLD'S FIRST REWILDLING NATION

By Katrine Bussey, PA [Scotland](#) Political Editor

Politicians are being urged to seize the social and economic benefits that would come with making [Scotland](#) the world's first ``rewilding nation''.

The [Scottish](#) Rewilding Alliance is calling on political parties to commit to key policies that it says will help achieve this.

More than three quarters (76%) of Scots backed the principle of rewilding, a poll last year for the Alliance found.

Now it wants parties to sign up to policies such as a commitment to rewilding 30% of public land and setting up a special fund to support rewilding in towns and cities, thereby making the benefits of wide spaces available to more Scots.

Political leaders are also being urged to support the reintroduction of key species to [Scotland](#), including re-homing beavers, as well as consider a pilot project to reintroduce the Eurasian [lynx](#) to [Scotland](#), where there is both a suitable habitat for the creatures and local support.

The Alliance, which is campaigning for [Scotland](#) to declare itself the first rewilding nation, insists that bold measures are needed to help tackle the nature and climate crises.

The organisation believes policies it is proposing, which also include establishing an inshore recovery zone in [Scotland](#)'s waters where dredging and trawling are prohibited, and ``robust'' management of the country's deer population, could protect biodiversity and also provide a boost in terms of rural employment.

Steve Micklewright, convener of the [Scottish](#) Rewilding Alliance, said: ``The parties and the public face many choices at this election, including major decisions which will shape the future of [Scotland](#)'s lands and seas.

Advisory: First issued under embargo

``We can do so much better than the status quo, which has left us with damaged and unproductive lands and seas, degraded carbon sinks, and a biodiversity crisis in parallel with the climate crisis.

``The **Scottish** Rewilding Alliance is today urging all the political parties to commit to five key policy decisions over the next session, measures which can unlock rural and coastal economic potential, help us protect against climate change and reduce our emissions, while allowing our plants and wildlife to come back in strength.

``We know the public wants to see politicians make real progress on rewilding, and we would encourage people to take these issues into account when they're looking at the parties' manifestos.

``The opportunities here are substantial, for our climate, biodiversity, and for a wide range of potential social and economic benefits associated with making **Scotland** the world's first rewilding nation." end

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newswire

Subject: ELECTIONS & POLITICS (91%); POLITICS (90%); SOCIETY, SOCIAL ASSISTANCE & LIFESTYLE (90%); BIODIVERSITY (89%); BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION (89%); CLIMATE CHANGE (89%); POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS (89%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (87%); PLATFORMS & ISSUES (79%); GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (78%); POLITICAL PARTIES (78%); PUBLIC LANDS REGULATION & POLICY (78%); OCEAN ECONOMY (77%); LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (74%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (73%); EMBARGOES & SANCTIONS (73%); MAMMALS (73%); WILDLIFE (73%); CLIMATE ACTION (72%); COASTAL AREAS (70%); RURAL EMPLOYMENT (67%); EMISSIONS (66%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (64%); **SCOTLAND** Rewilding (%)

Industry: EMISSIONS (66%)

Geographic: **SCOTLAND** (95%)

Load-Date: April 18, 2021

End of Document

Take a talk on the wild side

Take a talk on the wild side

Daily Record and Sunday Mail

April 19, 2021 Monday

Edition 2, National Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 12

Length: 57 words

Body

PRESSURE group the **Scottish** Rewilding Alliance want political parties to back their conservation plans.

It believes the country could reap social and economic benefits from becoming the world's first "rewilding nation".

Ideas included the reintroduction of key species such as re-homing beavers and a pilot project to reintroduce the Eurasian **lynx**.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DRC

Subject: GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (88%); POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS (88%); SOCIETY, SOCIAL ASSISTANCE & LIFESTYLE (88%); ELECTIONS & POLITICS (86%); WILD CATS (85%)

Geographic: **SCOTLAND** (73%); National Edition

Load-Date: April 19, 2021

Take a talk on the wild side

Take a talk on the wild side

Daily Record and Sunday Mail

April 19, 2021 Monday

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: NEWS; TEASERS; Pg. 12

Length: 57 words

Body

PRESSURE group the **Scottish** Rewilding Alliance want political parties to back their conservation plans.

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Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DRC

Subject: GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (88%); POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS (88%); SOCIETY, SOCIAL ASSISTANCE & LIFESTYLE (88%); ELECTIONS & POLITICS (86%); WILD CATS (85%)

Geographic: **SCOTLAND** (73%); National Edition

Load-Date: April 19, 2021

Why reintroduce sea eagle if natural prey scarce?

Why reintroduce sea eagle if natural prey scarce?

Aberdeen Press and Journal

April 14, 2021 Wednesday

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Section: AGD; Pg. 26

Length: 199 words

Byline: Prestige Page Manager 4

Body

Sir, - The reintroduction of the sea eagle has undoubtably been a success, but at what cost? It's been a well-known fact for some time that, compared to central and eastern Scotland, the natural prey required for the golden eagle in the west is scarce.

Why, when this was known, was the sea eagle - a competitor - introduced to the west coast of Scotland?

Is it really a surprise that the sea eagle has been forced to take lambs to survive? Surely the availability of natural prey must have been priority when the reintroduction of the sea eagle was first discussed between NatureScot and the National Sea Eagle Stakeholder Panel? If not, why not? There's also concern for the future of the west coast golden eagle population, as some have abandoned traditional eyrie sites due to continual harassment by the sea eagle.

Although there is greater toleration today, what crofting communities and shepherds are now experiencing may well partly explain the reason why the sea eagle was hunted to extinction during the 18th Century. The relocation of the sea eagle is only a taste of things to come. Next come the Lynx and wolf. Interesting times lie ahead.

Peter Fraser,

Crathie, Ballater, Aberdeenshire.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Pr

Geographic: ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (74%); SCOTLAND (90%); 7 North East

Why reintroduce sea eagle if natural prey scarce?

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End of Document

Rural affairs need a louder voice in the Holyrood poll

The Herald (Glasgow)

April 6, 2021 Tuesday

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The Herald

Section: Pg. 17

Length: 885 words

Byline: Alan Simpson

Body

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I say this rather facetiously as there are of course some politicians who do fantastic work representing rural areas, but cue election time and suddenly the hordes appear out of the woodwork to lend an empathetic ear to rural communities - despite having spent the majority of their political career pursuing an urban agenda.

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The feeling amongst rural workers is that serious change is needed within Holyrood to greater represent the breadth and diversity of voices across the entire country. The co-ordinator of **Scotland**'s moorland groups said: "There is a growing disquiet on river and land. People have been pushed far enough. They want a type of politics which reflects the rich role they play in **Scottish** life."

In recent years, the **Scottish** Government has often chosen to listen to the opinions of a vocal minority who are not themselves embedded in the fabric of rural life, over that of the experts who themselves live and breathe the land, day in, day out.

To focus on one such example is the growing obsession with rewilding **Scotland**. Only last month a number of MSPs pledged their support for a parliamentary motion which would seek to establish **Scotland** as the world's first rewilding nation - a sexy headline intended to impress at the upcoming COP26 in Glasgow. But it is important to learn from past experiences before such a notion is considered.

Rural affairs need a louder voice in the Holyrood poll

Farmers and crofters in the west of **Scotland** have been plagued by the reintroduction of White-Tailed Eagles back in the 1970s and their subsequent rapid expansion - 130 pairs were recorded in 2017, but this figure is forecast to rise to 900 pairs by 2040.

These magnificent but deadly birds have a wingspan of up to 2.5 metres and sit at the top of the food chain, raining havoc as they predate on sheep flocks along the west coast - threatening the viability of many hill farms.

Despite years of thorough evidence from farmers and crofters demonstrating the destruction of these birds - and an acknowledgement by NatureScot that they are killing healthy live lambs - the carnage continues, the birds go unmanaged, and many feel their concerns fall on deaf ears.

I have been covering this issue for the past three years, and in that time, there has been little change to the heart-breaking stories I hear from the farmers and crofters who are left to deal with the aftermath of these horrific attacks, knowing fine well that they are fighting a losing battle.

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Farmers and crofters are often the lifeline of economically fragile rural communities, but with added pressures to farming life, such as White-Tailed Eagle predation, our hills are being cleared of livestock and replaced by **Scottish** Government-backed forestry initiatives.

It is not only **Scotland**'s hills which are at risk of depleting rural activity but if the **Scottish** Greens have their way, they will seek an end to **Scotland**'s grouse moors.

It is no secret that many members of the public aren't supportive of grouse shooting, but what is lesser known are the benefits that grouse moors bring to rural areas through local employment and investment in fragile communities but also a host of biodiversity benefits.

The grouse shooting season runs from August 12 to December 10, but throughout the entire year, grouse moor keepers play an active role in the conservation of local wildlife and supporting carbon capture and storage by careful management of muirburn and peat reserves. Many are taking active steps to reverse the decline of wading birds.

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Claire Taylor is The **Scottish** Farmer's political affairs editor

Classification

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Industry: FARM LABOR (79%); SHEEP FARMING (79%); SHEEP & GOAT FARMING (74%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); FORESTRY WORKERS (70%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, SCOTLAND (88%); SCOTLAND (97%)

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Claire Taylor: Rural affairs need a much higher priority at Holyrood election

Claire Taylor: Rural affairs need a much higher priority at Holyrood election

Herald Scotland

April 6, 2021 Tuesday

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Length: 943 words

Byline: [Claire Taylor](#)

Body

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According to a recent **Scottish** Greens election flyer, 3000 people would lose their jobs in the process of phasing out grouse moors, but they have offered vague assurances that this would be justified as new rural jobs would be created in their place. I'm sure that will soften the blow to the individuals and their families who would be facing redundancy.

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Subject: RURAL COMMUNITIES (94%); ELECTIONS (90%); ELECTIONS & POLITICS (90%); POLITICS (90%); BIRDS (84%); CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS (78%); FARM LABOR (78%); RURAL EMPLOYMENT (78%); PUBLIC POLICY (77%); FORESTRY WORKERS (70%); SPORT FISHING (69%)

Industry: FARM LABOR (78%); SHEEP & GOAT FARMING (74%); SHEEP FARMING (74%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); FORESTRY WORKERS (70%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, SCOTLAND (58%); SCOTLAND (99%)

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Rural affairs need a louder voice in the Holyrood poll

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Herald Scotland

April 6, 2021 Tuesday

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The Herald

Length: 1058 words

Byline: [Claire Taylor](#)

Body

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Supporting ghillies, keepers, rangers, fencers, equine workers, farmers, herds, crofters, foresters, dykers...the list is endless! Rural workers across **Scotland** uniting today to ask that their voices are heard #RWP21 pic.twitter.com/HKQdQCkxV2

- Sarah-Jane Laing (@SJLaing) March 19, 2021

In recent years, the **Scottish** Government has often chosen to listen to the opinions of a vocal minority who are not themselves embedded in the fabric of rural life, over that of the experts who themselves live and breathe the land, day in, day out.

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A White-Tailed Eagle captured by Rae Mckenzie, on Islay

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The aftermath of sea eagle attacks on Skye. Crofters stressing increasing lamb losses / hefted flocks disappearing / hill clearances in parts of the island & dwindling ewe lambs to chose from impacting breeding flock - not to mention emotional stress of attacks! @scottishfarmer pic.twitter.com/Vr4YVP1NkV

- Claire Taylor (@cjaylor92) January 29, 2020

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Industry: FARM LABOR (78%); INTERNET SOCIAL NETWORKING (76%); FORESTRY WORKERS (75%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); SHEEP & GOAT FARMING (69%); SHEEP FARMING (69%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, **SCOTLAND** (58%); **SCOTLAND** (99%)

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Farmers to be at the helm of future policy direction in a new Holyrood

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The Scottish Farmer

April 2021

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Length: 1400 words

Byline: [Claire Taylor](#)

Body

FUTURE FARMING policy must be 'determined and delivered' by farmers, not the **Scottish** Government or the civil service.

This message came from the SNP's Fergus Ewing during NFU **Scotland**'s parliamentary hustings event, which invited the rural spokespeople of the five major political parties to put forward their priorities for the future of **Scottish** agriculture ahead of the upcoming Holyrood election.

In his opening address, Mr Ewing took the opportunity to quell rising concerns that the work of farmer-led groups is being ignored: "Future policy post 2024 must be determined by farmers...not by myself or civil servants but by yourselves, with an implementation board, working with all stakeholders, but with farmers at the centre of advising and delivering a new **Scottish** built system for continuing excellence in food production and farming in our country."

The **Scottish** Greens' candidate Mags Hall called on the **Scottish** Government to fast track the delivery of this new support system: "The **Scottish** Government's current 'stability and simplicity' strategy is about maintaining a now defunct version of the CAP for the years ahead, but everyone including the EU has moved on and **Scotland** is now lagging behind. The next parliament needs to fast track delivery of a new agricultural support system, one in which climate change and biodiversity are no longer just 'nice to haves' but core objectives."

Catriona Bhatia of the **Scottish** Liberal Democrats agreed that a future system must reward environmental goods but mustn't add new levels of bureaucracy: "Farmers are there to farm, they are not there to be continually filling out forms and databases. They are constantly having to account for everything they do. We need to have a reasonable and rational approach to this, to make sure people are not overwhelmed by new levels of bureaucracy."

The **Scottish** Conservative and Unionist's Jamie Halcro Johnston pledged to set out a blueprint for the future of farming support in the first 100 days of the next parliament, stating that this will give farmers and crofters time to adjust rather than waiting till 2024.

Candidates were asked whether they believe livestock numbers should be cut back to help reduce carbon emissions. **Scottish** Labour's Rhoda Grant replied: "It is now commonly recognised that grass is better as a carbon sink than trees so actually taking animals off the land is going to be damaging to our carbon sequestration," adding that a fall in numbers will have a domino impact on the likes of abattoirs, which she said could close shop and animals would have to travel longer for slaughter.

Mr Halcro Johnston warned that reducing numbers would result in a double edge sword: "All we would be doing is seeing demand being met by other countries," which he claimed would not be to the same standard.

Farmers to be at the helm of future policy direction in a new Holyrood

The Green's Ms Hall outlined her party's proposal to establish a local food development fund to help improve local food supply chains and reduce food miles, and to set up producer led cooperatives to help local farmers supply their produce directly into the hospitality sector. She then went on to address poor facilities in rural areas: "Our councils have been chronically under resourced. We need to fast track funding to deliver more local and appropriate tourist facilities, so people aren't automatically going on to farms. We need to direct the public where to go so farmers aren't having to be the ones cleaning up the mess."

Mr Halcro Johnston reported that the cost of rural crime has doubled over the past few years and flagged instances of flytipping where action hasn't been taken due to resources being stretched: "We certainly want to see tougher penalties and we want to support local authorities to prosecute those involved in the likes of flytipping," he said.

Ms Bhatia highlighted her concerns around rural policing numbers: "We don't have the same levels of rural policing that we used to have and certainly don't have the same local knowledge within local police forces since Police **Scotland** was centralised."

The **Scottish** Liberal Democrats want to establish a restoration fund which will utilise proceeds of convicted rural criminals to alleviate costs facing farmers, but she added that the solution has to lie with education: "There is not enough rural education in urban schools so when people visit the countryside they don't know how to behave."

This viewpoint was shared by all five spokespeople who agreed to back calls for agriculture, food, and farming to be introduced into the national curriculum.

Mr Ewing called for more to be done in persuading the panel on climate change to recognise the contribution of permanent grassland in sequestering carbon. Responding to concerns that forestry targets are threatening good farming land, Mr Ewing stressed that arable land is protected already

"Farming, forestry and field sports are staple parts of the rural economy. There needs to be a better balance, we all have to work together. Farmers can and do benefit from forestry. Agroforestry can provide shelter belts for animals, flood prevention and diversification opportunities.

"I will build on our recently announced farming and crofter scheme where for those who cannot afford the initial capital outlay, there will be a 50% grant available to defray the costs of planting, fencing and so on."

The **Scottish** Liberal Democrats have committed to planting 36 million trees to help with carbon reduction. Pressed on whether good farming land could risk being turned over to trees, Ms Bhatia called on urban areas to step up to the mark: "To be frank, our urban friends and relatives need to pull their weight on tree planting. In our urban areas, you can't see the trees for the houses, gardens are beautifully manicured. There is not enough incentive or education on how we can maximise biodiversity within towns and cities rather than saying all of this has to be done in our rural areas."

Scottish Labour's Ms Grant went on to address concerns around protected species such as the White-Tailed Eagle, which members of NFUS have reported issues with for a number of years, due to their predation on sheep flocks on the west coast: "I'm all for protecting species," she said, "but when you protect a species to the detriment of something else then there are issues there. With the White-Tailed Eagles, there was no management plan in place, not enough wildlife to feed them."

Commenting on potential future species introduction she added: "We have to say how are we going to manage this, what numbers can we sustain and how can we compensate those who are damaged by it, and that has to be done ahead of time and needs to be monitored."

The **Scottish** Greens have outlined in their manifesto support for a ***Lynx*** reintroduction trial here in **Scotland**, despite warnings from farmers of the devastation this could pose to sheep flocks.

Turning to gene editing, Mr Ewing reaffirmed the SNP's position in favour of a GM free **Scotland**, but acknowledged the difference between GM and gene editing: "We shouldn't shut our ears or eyes to scientific advancement which is taking forward matters which could be beneficial to us."

Farmers to be at the helm of future policy direction in a new Holyrood

Ms Grant argued that it would be 'silly' to rule out gene editing technologies but stressed that **Scotland** would need to be careful not to compromise its reputation for high quality food: "If the difference is looking at this and looking at chemicals, which are causing more harm, gene editing is speeding up something which would happen with breeding eventually. We need to be open to this and use it to put an end to world hunger."

The **Scottish** Greens issued a word of warning over gene editing technologies: "There are some really fundamental questions around the patenting and ownership of the basic tools of agriculture and our food system. We don't always see this in **Scotland** but it has a massive impact in the global south and developing nations and we need to be showing solidarity with farming communities around the world."

Mr Halcro Johnston concluded by arguing that **Scotland** needs to be led by the science on adopting gene editing technologies: "There are so many challenges we face going forward in terms of food production, in terms of finding new ways of increasing produce but also dealing with pests and making crops more hardy. If we have an opportunity to do that then we all need to support that. Food production has to be key going forward."

Classification

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Industry: AGRICULTURE REGULATION & POLICY (90%); FARM LABOR (77%); AGRICULTURE (73%); LIVESTOCK (73%); EMISSIONS (70%); ANIMAL SLAUGHTERING & PROCESSING (63%)

Geographic: **SCOTLAND** (99%)

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End of Document

BOOTROOM

Daily Record and Sunday Mail

March 30, 2021 Tuesday

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 47

Length: 267 words

Body

DAILY POLL

SHOULD Steve Clarke go with two strikers against the Faroes tomorrow night?

QUICK QUIZ 1 Mick Schumacher, son of Formula One great Michael, made his debut for which team this weekend?

2. Who was Manchester City's first non-British manager?

3 Hope Powell manages which team? 4 Tennis player Ons Jabeur was born in which country?

5 England paceman Devon Malcolm took nine for 57 against which side? 6 How many Olympic gold medals did gymnast Simone Biles win at Rio 2016? 7 In which UK country were the first recorded shot put competitions held? 8 Who beat Jason Kenny to men's sprint gold in the '08 Olympic final? 9 The winner of which race receives the Borg-Warner Trophy?

10 Which US state is home to sports franchises the Lynx, Timberwolves, Twins, Vikings and Wild?

ON THIS DAY 2013: Rangers drew 0-0 at Montrose to claim Third Division title at the first attempt after being demoted to the fourth www.tier.TV

SPORT

FOOTBALL: World Cup qualifier - Wales v Czech Republic (Sky Sports Main Event, 7.30pm); Gibraltar v Northern Ireland (Sky Sports Premier League, 7.40pm); Azerbaijan v Serbia (Sky Sports Main Event, 5pm).

CRICKET: Second Test - West Indies v Sri Lanka (BT Sport 1, 2.45pm); Second T20 International - New Zealand v Bangladesh (BT Sport 2, 6.30am).

BASKETBALL: Denver Nuggets v Philadelphia 76ers (Sky Sports Main Event, 2am Wednesday).

GOT A STORY?

Phone sports desk on 0141 309 3535 Tweet us at @Record_Sport Or email us sport@dailyrecord.co.uk

Minnesota.

BOOTROOM

10.

500;

Indianapolis 9.

Hoy;

Chris

Sir 8.

Scotland; 7.

Four; 6.

Africa;

South 5.

Tunisia; 4.

Brighton; 3.

Eriksson;

Goran

Sven- 2.

Haas; 1.

ANSWERS:

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DRC

Subject: SPORTS & RECREATION (92%); ATHLETES (90%); SPORTS AWARDS (90%); BASKETBALL (89%); FORMULA ONE RACING (89%); PROFESSIONAL SPORTS (78%); SOCCER (78%); SOCCER TOURNAMENTS (78%); SPORTS & RECREATION EVENTS (78%); 2016 RIO SUMMER OLYMPICS (77%); SUMMER OLYMPICS (77%); OLYMPICS (76%); THIS DAY IN HISTORY (76%); TENNIS (72%)

Company: BORGWARNER INC (55%)

Organization: PHILADELPHIA 76ERS (51%); DENVER NUGGETS (51%)

BOOTROOM

Ticker: BWA (NYSE) (55%)

Industry: NAICS336390 OTHER MOTOR VEHICLE PARTS MANUFACTURING (55%); NAICS336350 MOTOR VEHICLE TRANSMISSION & POWER TRAIN PARTS MANUFACTURING (55%); SIC3714 MOTOR VEHICLE PARTS & ACCESSORIES (55%)

Person: SIMONE BILES (79%)

Geographic: INDIANAPOLIS, IN, USA (78%); DENVER, CO, USA (70%); MANCHESTER, ENGLAND (58%); PHILADELPHIA, PA, USA (52%); AFRICA (79%); ENGLAND (79%); NEW ZEALAND (79%); **SCOTLAND** (79%); WALES (79%); FAROE ISLANDS (78%); GIBRALTAR (77%); NORTHERN IRELAND (77%); UNITED KINGDOM (77%); CZECH REPUBLIC (72%); SERBIA (69%); AZERBAIJAN (53%); National Edition

Load-Date: March 30, 2021

End of Document

No Headline In Original

No Headline In Original

Aberdeen Press and Journal

March 30, 2021 Tuesday

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Section: SPT; Pg. 53

Length: 256 words

Byline: Sean Martin

Body

1 Mick Schumacher, son of Formula One great Michael, made his debut for which team this weekend?

2 Who was Manchester City's first non-British manager?

3 Former England boss Hope Powell manages which Women's Super League team?

4 Tennis player Ons Jabeur was born in which country?

5 Former England paceman Devon Malcolm took nine for 57 against which country?

6 How many Olympic gold medals did gymnast Simone Biles win at Rio 2016?

7 In which UK country were the first recorded shot put competitions held?

8 Who beat Jason Kenny to men's sprint gold in the 2008 Olympic final in Beijing?

9 The winner of which race receives the Borg-Warner Trophy?

10 Which US state is home to the sport franchises Lynx, Timberwolves, Twins, Vikings and Wild?

1895 - The Oxford and Cambridge University Boat Race became the first regular British sporting event to be captured on film.

1993 - Manchester United's French striker Eric Cantona was fined £1,000 for spitting at supporters of his former club Leeds.

2012 - Aston Villa captain Stiliyan Petrov announced he had been diagnosed with acute leukaemia.

2013 - Rangers drew 0-0 at Montrose to claim the Scottish Third Division title.

2016 - Gary Neville was sacked by LaLiga club Valencia after four months.

Eddie Jordan (motor sport) - former team owner of Jordan Grand Prix, born 1948.

Sergio Ramos (football) - Real Madrid and Spain captain and defender, born 1986.

No Headline In Original

1. Haas; 2. Sven-Goran Eriksson; 3. Brighton; 4. Tunisia; 5. South Africa; 6. Four; 7. **Scotland**; 8. Sir Chris Hoy; 9. Indianapolis 500; 10. Minnesota.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Pr

Subject: ATHLETES (90%); OLYMPICS (90%); SOCCER (90%); SPORTS & RECREATION (90%); SPORTS & RECREATION EVENTS (90%); FORMULA ONE RACING (89%); PREGNANCY & CHILDBIRTH (78%); SPORTS AWARDS (78%); 2016 RIO SUMMER OLYMPICS (77%); SUMMER OLYMPICS (77%); AUTO RACING (73%); MOTOSPORTS (73%); SPORTS TEAM OWNERSHIP (73%); TENNIS (72%); BOAT RACING (70%); DISEASES & DISORDERS (66%); LEUKEMIA (66%); FINES & PENALTIES (52%)

Company: BORGWARNER INC (55%); MANCHESTER UNITED PLC (54%)

Ticker: BWA (NYSE) (55%); MANU (NYSE) (54%)

Industry: NAICS336390 OTHER MOTOR VEHICLE PARTS MANUFACTURING (55%); NAICS336350 MOTOR VEHICLE TRANSMISSION & POWER TRAIN PARTS MANUFACTURING (55%); SIC3714 MOTOR VEHICLE PARTS & ACCESSORIES (55%); NAICS711211 SPORTS TEAMS & CLUBS (54%); SIC7941 PROFESSIONAL SPORTS CLUBS & PROMOTERS (54%)

Person: SIMONE BILES (79%); ERIC CANTONA (78%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, **SCOTLAND** (91%); MADRID, SPAIN (79%); INDIANAPOLIS, IN, USA (78%); BEIJING, CHINA (76%); MANCHESTER, ENGLAND (73%); NORTH CENTRAL CHINA (76%); **SCOTLAND** (92%); ENGLAND (88%); CHINA (79%); SPAIN (79%); UNITED KINGDOM (79%); 7 North East

Load-Date: March 30, 2021

End of Document

'It's soul destroying' - The ongoing plight of farmers as sea eagles dominate coastal farms during lambing

'It's soul destroying' - The ongoing plight of farmers as sea eagles dominate coastal farms during lambing

Scotsman

March 21, 2021 Sunday

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Section: ENVIRONMENTNEWS

Length: 1009 words

Byline: Katharine Hay

Highlight: Kevin Kennedy is getting ready for lambing season, the busiest two weeks of his year, preparing his croft for the delicate task of delivering lambs.

Body

But every spring, the challenge for the careful shepherd on Lewis is not just the dangers of birth.

For the sea eagle, with a wingspan reaching up to 8ft and a beak like a meat-cleaver, is on the lookout for food to feed its young.

Once extinct, these enormous birds, the biggest bird of prey in the UK, now thrive in parts of the Highlands and Islands following a successful reintroduction initiative in the 1970s.

But for Mr Kennedy, 41, the apex predator has become a haunting reminder of the deeply contentious topic of rewilding - a major threat to his livelihood.

Annually he has watched sea eagles feast on his newborn lambs since they came over from Rum where they were reintroduced.

"It's soul destroying when you deliver twin lambs after sleepless nights watching your flock then see one of them snatched away," he said.

A Sea Eagle Management Scheme has been set up since the species' reintroduction to help farmers and crofters deter the birds.

But it involves 'scaring techniques' which the shepherd said are futile as the eagles become "more comfortable" at the crofts.

"There isn't enough food for them, it was inevitable," he said.

"We had a good deterrent before - the golden eagle – which doesn't hunt livestock.

'It's soul destroying' - The ongoing plight of farmers as sea eagles dominate coastal farms during lambing

"One used to nest nearby and protect the croft from predators, including the sea eagle. But it's disappeared and I see less of them now because of the sea eagle."

Domhnall Mcsween, who works on a community-run estate on Lewis, said lamb predation shows how the Highlands and Islands has become "a playground for townies."

"I saw a study that claimed 76 per cent of Scots want to see the country rewilded," he said, "what does that figure mean?"

"A lot of those votes are likely coming from uneducated urbanites who have no idea what it's like living off the land.

"Shows like Countryfile and Chris Packham have romanticised the idea of rewilding for an urban audience.

"I get on board with some rewilding initiatives, but some of these groups that have their own agenda ignore what bringing back wolves and big cats will do to communities living in the areas they're looking at."

David Colthart, a farmer in Argyll, said he fears the public are unaware of their predicament as limited information is being shared by organisations like the RSPB about the negative impact the birds can have on livestock.

"Lambs are a ready meal for these sea eagles," said Mr Colthart.

"There are too many birds for the amount of wild food available. We see the aftermath of sea eagles attacks on our lambs and in the monitored areas of our farm we had unaccounted losses of 96 lambs in 2020. That is unsustainable on marginal hill land like ours."

With some reintroduced species, such as beavers, farmers are allowed to obtain a licence to control them if they cause significant damage.

But the sea eagles, as an apex predator have the highest level of protection.

"Our hands are tied," said Mr Colthart.

"As a NatureScot sea eagle monitor farmer we have been trialling a lot of different methods to deter the birds but it's a painfully slow process and nothing is working at the moment to stop the killing."

A different story

But for Duncan Orr-Ewing, head of species and land management at the RSPB, the story of sea eagles is a different tale.

Among the 130 pairs in **Scotland**, he said "a small fraction" are having a "minimal" impact on lambs.

"Lambs die for many reasons and the sea eagles should not be treated as the scapegoat," he said, claiming that they feed mainly on fish and seagulls.

"What's being said about them attacking livestock is inflammatory and people are basing their opinions on what they perceive to be the case rather than reality."

Mr Orr-Ewing said a growing interest in reintroducing species coupled with the current climate crisis shows that "times are changing" and the need to reconfigure managed landscapes such as crofts and farms.

It's a sentiment echoed by Peter Cairns of **Scotland** The Big Picture, a charity currently researching the reintroduction of Eurasian **Lynx** among other species.

He said: "My question to the crofters is if we don't rewild and encourage eco-restoration now, then when?

"Crofters need to adapt to these changes.

'It's soul destroying' - The ongoing plight of farmers as sea eagles dominate coastal farms during lambing

"They perceive rewilding as change that they don't want because it is change imposed upon them by decisions they were excluded from.

"But with this backdrop of a global climate crisis, there is ecological justification to restore an abundance of species."

He said rewilding is as much about changing mindsets as it is about changing the country's physical landscape.

"People equate rewilding to de-peopling, like the clearances, but it's instead about making gradual reintroductions."

'No one size fits all'

Mark Nicolson's Mar estate in the Cairngorms National Park has been viewed by both Mr Orr-Ewing and Mr Cairns as somewhere where both managed and wild stretches of land work together.

Mr Nicolson's estate, which stretches over thousands of acres with managed grouse moor, farming and vast swathes of untouched wild land, saw the arrival of two sea eagle chicks last year - a first for Deeside in about 200 years.

Despite having livestock nearby, the proprietor said the birds of prey aren't known to interfere with lambs because the estate has "plenty of food for them."

"We have lots of mountain hares on the grouse moor," he said, "which they love to eat.

"If there isn't wildlife for them to eat then then they will turn to lambs. This conflict was not unforeseeable."

He said large parts of unmanaged land in ***Scotland*** lie empty, with little to eat for the sea eagles.

He added: "My agenda on rewilding is how much of ***Scotland***, which is really not that big, has enough food to support the reintroduction of these large apex predators? And if we get rid of farmland, what will we eat?"

A message from the Editor:

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Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: BIRDS (90%); MAMMALS (90%); INFANTS & TODDLERS (78%); ANIMAL WELFARE (77%); CATS (71%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (69%); FARM LABOR (69%)

Industry: SHEEP FARMING (90%); LIVESTOCK (89%); PUBLISHING (73%); FARMERS & RANCHERS (72%); FARM LABOR (69%)

'It's soul destroying' - The ongoing plight of farmers as sea eagles dominate coastal farms during lambing

Geographic: SCOTLAND (91%); UNITED KINGDOM (79%)

Load-Date: April 15, 2021

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Hopes rest on little Nell to claw back wildcats from extinction

Hopes rest on little Nell to claw back wildcats from extinction

The Herald (Glasgow)

March 17, 2021 Wednesday

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The Herald

Section: Pg. 3

Length: 624 words

Byline: George Mair <george@saltirenews Com>

Body

HOPES are being pinned on the first wildcat to be introduced to a new conservation breeding centre designed to help save the critically endangered species from extinction in Scotland.

Saving Wildcats, the lifeline partnership project which aims to restore the animals to the wild, said the young female, named Nell, is the first of 16 wildcats to arrive at the new breeding for release centre over the next few weeks.

The facility is seen as a last chance for the iconic species also known as the "Highland tiger", after a report concluded that there was no longer a viable population living naturally in Scotland.

Located at the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland's (RZSS) Highland Wildlife Park near Aviemore in Invernessshire, it will provide breeding space, veterinary care, remote monitoring and training to prepare the cats for life in the wild.

Nell, a captive-bred wildcat born last summer at Alladale Wilderness Reserve in Sutherland, entered an enclosure at the new centre earlier this month and is said to have "settled well".

It is hoped that any kittens Nell rears will be among the first cats released into the Scottish Highlands next year.

The project is led by RZSS in collaboration with NatureScot, Forestry and Land Scotland, the Cairngorms National Park Authority, Norden's Ark and Junta de Andalucía, which have led the successful recovery of the Iberian Lynx.

David Barclay, Saving Wildcats conservation manager and co-ordinator of the UK conservation breeding programme, said: "Saving Wildcats is an incredibly exciting partnership bringing together the necessary resources and expertise to save Scotland's iconic wildcat.

"Nell is the first cat to be introduced into our breeding for release centre at Highland Wildlife Park and she has settled well into her new surroundings.

"A further 15 cats will be arriving at the centre in the coming weeks, giving us a healthy, genetically diverse population to breed from.

Hopes rest on little Nell to claw back wildcats from extinction

"Offspring will then be transferred to larger pre-release enclosures as they mature where they will undergo a dedicated training programme to prepare them for life in the wild."

"We hope the first cats will be ready to be introduced into a site in the **Scottish** Highlands in 2022."

The **Scottish** wildcat is the only wild member of the cat family to survive in Britain. The same subspecies of wildcat found in continental Europe, it has been separate since the end of the last Ice Age, around 9,000 years ago.

Now on the brink of extinction, the greatest threat to the species is posed by hybridisation with feral and domestic cats, while other threats include historical and accidental persecution, disease and collisions with vehicles on roads.

Wildcats in the new centre will be housed in breeding pairs. Offspring will stay with the parents until the natural dispersal age of around seven to eight months, when they will be moved and housed individually in the larger pre-release enclosures.

The RZSS has created a molecular studbook so that only the best wildcats are paired to breed, with its "matchmaking" based on genetics and appearance - the cats' pelage score.

Nell was one of three wildcats born in a litter at Alladale Wilderness Reserve last summer, together with two males that were named Innes and Paul, which will be placed in other captive breeding facilities.

Pieter-Paul Groenhuijsen, general manager at Alladale Wilderness Reserve, said: "We are very proud to be a part of this project, which is so needed to effectively save the **Scottish** wildcat."

"Nell is the first wildcat to be rehomed in the new breeding for release centre and it would be a wonderful conclusion of our efforts if her first offspring can be released into the wild."

Some 57 wildcat kittens were born in the UK last year in a "record year".

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: HER

Subject: CATS (90%); CONSERVATION (90%); ENDANGERED SPECIES (90%); NATIONAL PARKS (90%); WILD CATS (90%); WILDLIFE (90%); ANIMAL WELFARE (89%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (88%); ANIMALS (78%); MAMMALS (78%); PUBLIC LANDS (78%); ZOOLOGY (77%); PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT (74%); MOUNTAINS (70%); agriculture (%); education (%); health terms (%)

Organization: ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF **SCOTLAND** (57%)

Industry: NATIONAL PARKS (90%); ZOOS & AQUARIUMS (90%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (88%); VETERINARY SERVICES (77%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, **SCOTLAND** (73%); **SCOTLAND** (94%); EUROPE (79%); UNITED KINGDOM (73%)

Hopes rest on little Nell to claw back wildcats from extinction

Load-Date: March 17, 2021

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#RWP21: Rural workers protest Scottish Government over policies for the countryside

Scotsman

March 16, 2021 Tuesday

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Section: ENVIRONMENTPOLITICSNEWS

Length: 944 words

Byline: Katharine Hay, katharine.hay@jpimedia.co.uk

Highlight: Rural workers are to hold an online protest on Friday amid growing anger and frustration at the Scottish Government's policies in the countryside.

Body

They claim that rural policies are often made using “emotive campaigns”, that politicians are often detached from rural life and that the Scottish Government is more focused on pleasing urban voters and environment NGOs rather than those who are working on the ground.

The Rural Workers Protest 2021, set to take place on Friday, has been organised by Scottish Gamekeepers Association (SGA) and will be supported by all of Scotland's seven moorland groups.

Support for the protest has come from all over the country and abroad from fishing ghillies to chefs, international visitors to crofters who have been sharing the #RWP21 across social media over the last few weeks.

More than 1,000 people have responded to the event on Facebook so far which is expected to last all day.

Alex Hogg, chairman of the SGA and who is heading the protest said: “We are protesting because we have had enough, we will be pushed no further.

“The Scottish Government is draconian with its policies in rural areas.

“And what’s worse is the people making the policies rarely come out and actually see what rural life is really like.

“We are calling on politicians to make more of an effort to see how some of us work and what we do before making decisions for rural industries.

“We are protesting because we are tired of being ignored, tired of not being listened to, and it’s time for change.

“Enough of this Central Belt ruling what we do.”

#RWP21: Rural workers protest Scottish Government over policies for the countryside

Mr Hogg explained some of the rural workers' concerns include the government's failure to curb the expansion of fish farming, which is blamed for a decline in numbers of wild salmon and trout which has impacted river ghillies.

He also said the government-run Forestry Commission is treating deer "like rats" with extensive culls to protect trees, and criticised the absence of support in promoting local venison initiatives.

"Our sector has not had a fair deal from this parliament," Mr Hogg added.

"And the gamekeepers are not the only rural workers affected.

"Farmers and crofters also share a lot of the same anger as ourselves over policies such as the curbs on muirburn, the latest restrictions on fox management, which saw only one politician come out to try and understand it from our perspective, and the reintroduction of species such as the Lynx."

Mr Hogg also spoke about issues with rural vandalism where the countryside repeatedly faces problems with litter and claimed that the Scottish Government "through its agencies, seem only to be visible on the issue talking about how important access to nature is, in glossy magazines".

The Scottish Government responded saying it "did not recognise these claims."

Gamekeeper Peter Fraser told STV this week: "They [Scottish Government] don't take into consideration the benefits of what we do not only for conservation but for business in the rural communities."

Arthur Fernie, who has been working as a gamekeeper for 25 years, added: "There's a real concern that we are just being traded for Green votes."

After May's election, Mr Hogg said the SGA wants a specific cross-party forum established at Holyrood where politicians can hear rural workers' issues first hand and for practical demonstration visits to be planned.

Lianne MacLennan, coordinator of Grampian Moorland Group, said: "This protest is overdue.

"Workers in our traditional rural industries want a different politics, one where the vast practical knowledge they have is reflected in laws and bills.

"That's not what they are getting.

"Scottish Government's heads seem to have been turned by campaign groups and untested visions of how rural communities could be.

"By not acting for traditional rural workers who are there, now, it is putting local economies, jobs and families at risk. People are fed up of bad laws when they are the ones facing the brunt of them."

MSP Fergus Ewing, speaking about gamekeepers on STV, said: "They're not just for the toffs and the titles, they're for the ordinary folk up and down the country, and they generate a huge number of benefits for the industry."

A Scottish Government spokeswoman responded by pointing to a £1 billion investment in tourism and the rural economy, including support for farmers and crofters to plant trees and restore peatland.

She added: "We make no apology for supporting economic activity in rural and island areas which supports thousands of jobs and livelihoods. That includes aquaculture, which generates billions in GVA for the Scottish economy with 75 per cent of the supply chain supporting fish and shellfish farms also being based in Scotland.

"And no government has done more to support creel fishermen through the pandemic and now the Brexit chaos – recently we announced a package of support worth £7.75 million which they will benefit from, as part of our efforts to guarantee the future of this vital fishing industry in our coastal communities.

#RWP21: Rural workers protest Scottish Government over policies for the countryside

"We are also clear that we must tackle the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss with measures like better deer management to protect carbon in our woodlands and grassland. But there will be opportunities in all of this for rural industries and workers too to secure green, clean and new jobs. We know that rural communities will be at the forefront of this and we will work with all partners and sectors to support them to benefit from all the activity we plan as part of our green recovery."

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Graphic

[Alex Hogg, chairman of the Scottish Gamekeepers Association picture: supplied](#)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: RURAL COMMUNITIES (98%); RURAL EMPLOYMENT (92%); ELECTIONS & POLITICS (90%); GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (90%); PROTESTS & DEMONSTRATIONS (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); AGRICULTURE REGULATION & POLICY (89%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (89%); FISHES (89%); MAMMALS (89%); NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (89%); POLITICS (89%); CONSERVATION (79%); FARM LABOR (79%); INTERNET SOCIAL NETWORKING (78%); SOCIAL MEDIA (78%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (77%); VOTERS & VOTING (72%); VANDALISM (50%)

Company: FACEBOOK INC (56%)

Ticker: FB (NASDAQ) (56%)

Industry: NAICS519130 INTERNET PUBLISHING & BROADCASTING & WEB SEARCH PORTALS (56%); AGRICULTURE REGULATION & POLICY (89%); FARM LABOR (79%); FORESTRY & LOGGING REGULATION & POLICY (78%); INTERNET SOCIAL NETWORKING (78%); SOCIAL MEDIA (78%); PUBLISHING (73%); INTERNATIONAL TOURISM (70%); AQUACULTURE (63%); ANIMAL AQUACULTURE (50%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (98%)

Load-Date: April 15, 2021

End of Document

#RWP21: Rural workers protest Scottish Government over policies for the countryside

Edinburgh Evening News

March 16, 2021 Tuesday

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Section: ENVIRONMENTPOLITICSNEWS

Length: 944 words

Byline: Katharine Hay, katharine.hay@jpimedia.co.uk

Highlight: Rural workers are to hold an online protest on Friday amid growing anger and frustration at the **Scottish** Government's policies in the countryside.

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#RWP21: Rural workers protest Scottish Government over policies for the countryside

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Graphic

[Alex Hogg, chairman of the Scottish Gamekeepers Association picture: supplied](#)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

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Geographic: EDINBURGH, **SCOTLAND** (92%); **SCOTLAND** (96%)

Load-Date: April 15, 2021

End of Document

9 animals made extinct in Scotland since the Roman occupation

Scotsman

March 11, 2021 Thursday

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Section: HERITAGE

Length: 220 words

Byline: David McLean, david.mclean@jpimedia.co.uk

Highlight: Since the Romans departed **Scotland** in the early third century AD, much of the nation's indigenous fauna has vanished too.

Body

Whether by the slow though often dramatic march of climate change, habitat loss brought about by the hand of man, or simply over-hunting, a growing list of birds and mammals survive in **Scotland** only in the history books and through fossil records.

Travelling back around 1,500 years and we find our ancestors living cheek by jowl with large predators now more associated with the wilderness of North America and Eurasia.

Early Scots shared their pristine lands with bears, wolves and **Lynx**. Even the moose, also known as the elk, was not an uncommon sight.

But while most of these species continue to exist and thrive outside of **Scotland**, some, such as the beaver, boar and elk, have been successfully reintroduced.

Others have not been quite so fortunate. The great auk, large flightless birds that once occupied our most remote islands, were hunted to complete extinction in the 19th century.

We take a look at 9 animals made extinct in **Scotland** in the last 2,000 years.

A message from the Editor:

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9 animals made extinct in Scotland since the Roman occupation

Graphic

[European brown bear.](#)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: ANIMALS (92%); BIRDS (90%); MAMMALS (90%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (78%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (78%); ISLANDS & REEFS (73%); PAYWALLS (70%); FACT CHECKING (67%); CONSUMER BEHAVIOR (66%); CORONAVIRUSES (51%); VIRUSES (51%)

Industry: PUBLISHING (73%); PAYWALLS (70%); CONSUMER BEHAVIOR (66%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (94%)

Load-Date: April 15, 2021

End of Document

Pirates tame the Lynx in away day mauling Skating down memory lane A LOOK BACK THROUGH THE ARCHIVES WITH THE PAISLEY PIRATES

**Pirates tame the Lynx in away day mauling; Skating down memory lane A
LOOK BACK THROUGH THE ARCHIVES WITH THE PAISLEY PIRATES**

Paisley Daily Express

March 3, 2021 Wednesday

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 22

Length: 610 words

Body

With the current season put on ice, we've linked up with Paisley Pirates stalwart and media guru Bill Elliot to relive some of the club's most dramatic and successful moments.

Today we're looking back at a more recent clash between the Pirates and Aberdeen Lynx back in January last

ABERDEEN LYNX2 PAISLEY PIRATES8

Pirates headed for the home of the Northern Lights in January 2020 expecting a dramatic match which normally accompanied their trips to the oil capital of Scotland.

When Aberdeen had first joined the Scottish League some years earlier, the matches had usually been played in front of a handful of spectators.

The fixture had also generally been won handsomely by the visiting team, and generally the occasion was decided well in advance of the final buzzer.

Those days were long since gone. Aberdeen were now one of the teams in the upper echelon of the Scottish League, playing to capacity crowds most weeks.

Along with live local radio coverage of matches, spectators had to book their tickets in advance to be assured of a seat such had their popularity soared.

Gone were the days of the regulation heavy home defeats and, indeed, the Lynx had inflicted regular losses to most teams in their own arena.

That included the Pirates, where towsy affairs had become more of an expectation.

In this respect if you had made the long trip north, you were not left wanting on this particular night.

Pirates, minus the suspended Turley and Andreucci with Donaghy taking on netminding duties, took both points with an excellent display against the home side.

Pirates tame the Lynx in away day mauling Skating down memory lane A LOOK BACK THROUGH THE ARCHIVES WITH THE PAISLEY PIRATES

The visitors were six ahead before the home side even got on the board in a game which saw no fewer than 135 minutes awarded in penalties during a game which was niggly throughout.

Play was fairly even throughout the first period, with both goalies called into action.

It wasn't until the 14th minute that Waler and Abercrombie combined to let the former beat Chalmers for the only goal of the session, one which saw several minor penalties given against both teams for minor misdemeanours.

The middle session saw the visitors really open up and put the game to bed with a burst of five goals in under ten minutes.

It was not until the 26th minute that Pirates actually doubled their lead when a fine move involving Walker, Speirs and Abercrombie ended with the latter firing home.

The same threesome were on the powerplay just over a minute later for Walker to apply the finishing touch in a period which saw the hosts concede seven penalties in the session.

Abercrombie completed his hat-trick with two in a minute, before Crawford scored a rare marker to take it to six.

Pirates comfortably played out the rest of the session to take a dominant 6-0 advantage into the last sessions.

The hosts finally got on the board in the 44th minute when, with Duncan sitting out a minor for high sticking, Malcolm beat Donaghy to break his team's duck.

However within a minute Thorp made it a six goal difference once again with a superb goal.

Then, to rub it in, Walker completed his hattrick on the powerplay to push the scoreline even further to 8-1.

By this time, the penalty count had risen significantly with a host of minor calls, while ex-Pirate MacEachran participation in the game had ended entirely Pirates' Crawford and Wallace had also taken lengthy bench-warming breaks, but eventually the ice hockey took centre stage again and the game came to a close.

Even so, penalties continued to be handed out like confetti right up until the last buzzer sounded and the Pirates headed home to Paisley with two points safely in tow.

Graphic

Sliding into action Paisley Pirates players Zak Kenneth and Dean Hamilton (Both pictures by Al Goold)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: PDE

Pirates tame the Lynx in away day mauling Skating down memory lane A LOOK BACK THROUGH THE ARCHIVES WITH THE PAISLEY PIRATES

Subject: FINES & PENALTIES (71%); CRIME, LAW ENFORCEMENT & CORRECTIONS (62%); MISDEMEANORS (60%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, **SCOTLAND** (90%); EDINBURGH, **SCOTLAND** (57%); **SCOTLAND** (90%); National Edition

Load-Date: March 3, 2021

End of Document

Success of Cairngorms estate told in new book

Aberdeen Press and Journal

March 3, 2021 Wednesday

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Section: NWS; Pg. 20

Length: 598 words

Byline: Neil Drysdale

Body

The transformation of the Mar Lodge Estate in the Cairngorms is one of the biggest ecological success stories of recent times.

But efforts to halt the decline in a region which boasts a vast expanse of Caledonian woodlands, sub-Arctic mountains, bogs, moors, burns and lochs, have required co-operation and a bold vision in the last 25 years.

It used to be a place where environmental conservation and Highland field sports existed in harmony.

But by 1995, when the National Trust for Scotland acquired the estate, the area's ancient Caledonian pine woods were dying and those leading the bid to rescue them had to act swiftly and decisively.

That struggle is documented in a new book, Regeneration, by Andrew Painting, an ecologist who studied environmental anthropology at Aberdeen University.

He witnessed the sometimes fractious relationship between those who preserve the land and its iconic wildlife, such as salmon and stags, and those who have abused nature.

After a quarter century of hard work, and in the NTS's 90th anniversary year, the spectacular landscape is returning to its former glory, oblivious to recent floods and the severe impact of the pandemic.

But while Andrew is rightly proud of the industry and innovation that has turned things round at Mar Lodge Estate, he realises he and his colleagues must still adapt to new circumstances and respond to new controversies.

There are regular issues around raptor persecution and deer management, rewilding and reintroducing creatures such as Lynx, beaver and wolves to Scotland, and whether field sports should be allowed to continue in their present form or more tightly regulated.

Andrew said: "The stories in this book are mostly focused on good news, but nothing has been immune to the ravages of Covid-19, so we must deal with the bad news as well."

"Faced with the horrors of death, illness, lockdowns and job losses, 2020 was the year in which so many people rekindled their love of the natural world."

"But it was also the year in which the thin green line of conservation workers got even thinner and almost breached. Because, when Covid hit, the UK's environmental charities were ill-equipped to deal with the fallout."

Success of Cairngorms estate told in new book

"There are many complex social and political reasons for this, but this is one of the biggest: we like the idea of wildlife, but, as a society, can't bring ourselves to pay for it."

Andrew Painting has not shirked in describing how a lack of cash has been a pivotal battleground in the ecological debate.

In 2018-19 the annual budget for ***Scottish*** Natural Heritage, the public body that protects our environment, was less than the wage bill of Celtic FC.

Mar Lodge was shielded from the worst impact of job cuts by its ability, as a large diverse estate, to generate significant income of its own, but even so, two staff were made redundant.

Yet, despite these recent travails, Andrew has been impressed by the resilience of those who have helped Mar Lodge Estate avoid disaster.

His book oozes positivity and passion for its subject.

"Mar Lodge is no paradise, and there is no single perfect way' to manage a landscape," he says.

"There have been times when it has been a real challenge to strike the correct balance between all the different and sometimes conflicting ideas of what the land should look like and how it should be managed.

"But now, 25 years later, the woodlands are expanding, bringing with them benefits for nature, carbon sequestration and flood mitigation.

"Some of the genetic work that is now being done routinely in conservation, with species as diverse as willows and wood ants, is astonishing."

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Pr

Subject: MOUNTAINS (91%); BOOK REVIEWS (90%); ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (90%); CONSERVATION (89%); COVID CORONAVIRUS (89%); MAMMALS (89%); WILDLIFE (89%); LAYOFFS (85%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (78%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (78%); ENVIRONMENTALISM (78%); DEATH & DYING (75%); COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS (71%); EPIDEMICS (71%); INFECTIOUS DISEASE (71%); ANTHROPOLOGY & ARCHAEOLOGY (70%); ANNIVERSARIES (67%); LAYOFFS & DISMISSALS (66%); WAGES & SALARIES (66%)

Industry: BOOK REVIEWS (90%); BUDGETS (63%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, ***SCOTLAND*** (90%); ***SCOTLAND*** (90%); UNITED KINGDOM (72%); 7 North East

Load-Date: March 3, 2021

Success of Cairngorms estate told in new book

End of Document

Big cat will not be returning to the Borders for the first time in more than 500 years

Big cat will not be returning to the Borders for the first time in more than 500 years

The Southern Reporter

March 2, 2021

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Section: HERITAGEOUTDOORENVIRONMENTFARMING

Length: 466 words

Byline: Paul Kelly, paul.kelly1@jpress.co.uk

Highlight: A big cat that was native to the Borders more than 500 years will not be making a return just yet.

Body

Rachael Hamilton MSP has been given reassurance that there are no planned reintroductions of *Lynx* in the region at present.

In a parliamentary answer from the cabinet secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, it was confirmed that there are currently no plans to reintroduce *Lynx* or large carnivore species in *Scotland*, following correspondence from concerned constituents.

However, there is still the option for applications for a licence from NatureScot, which the Borders MSP believes leaves the possibility open for a reintroduction in the future.

The SNP minister stated that 'anyone seeking to reintroduce *Lynx* or another species into *Scotland* would require a licence from NatureScot. Thus far, no licence applications for the reintroduction of *Lynx* have been submitted'.

The *Lynx* UK Trust's first application to bring six *Lynx* into Northumberland was rejected by the former environment secretary Michael Gove in 2018.

Yet the Trust are looking to resubmit the licence application for three *Lynx* in Kielder Forest, pending final consultations.

Mrs Hamilton believes the move to reintroduce *Lynx* is 'wholly inappropriate' and risks damaging farmers' livelihoods along the Border.

She wants the *Scottish* government to rule out any future reintroduction of *Lynx* in *Scotland*, and has called on the cabinet secretary to look at removing reintroduction licences specifically for *Lynx* through NatureScot.

Rachael Hamilton MSP said: "I am glad the *Scottish* government have confirmed there are no plans to reintroduce *Lynx* in *Scotland* at present."

Big cat will not be returning to the Borders for the first time in more than 500 years

"Nonetheless, there is still the licensing process through NatureScot, which anyone in the future could apply for a licence to try and reintroduce Lynx to the Borders.

"The Lynx Trust want to bring back Lynx to Kielder Forest just three years after their failed attempt.

"What is crucial now is that their application is turned down in Northumberland, as it is wholly inappropriate.

"Farmers have raised the issue of sheep worrying and the potential loss of income should the Lynx move out of the area identified for reintroduction.

"I have written to the Defra minister George Eustice to urge him to ensure that we see any reintroduction stopped over the border".

Debbie Playfair, Lothian & Borders regional chair said: "NFU Scotland remains crystal clear that any proposals to re-introduce predators such as Lynx are wholly unacceptable to Scottish farmers and crofters.

"Kielder Forest is adjacent to the Scottish Borders and wildlife is no respecter of National boundaries.

"On a study trip to Norway in Autumn 2017, an NFUS delegation heard that Norwegian farmers lost 20,000 sheep to predators. The Norwegians told us that to reintroduce predators into our country would be an absolute catastrophe. Their experience has simply strengthened our resolve."

Graphic

[Eurasian lynx.](#)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: CABINET OFFICES (90%); GOVERNMENT ADVISORS & MINISTERS (90%); LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (90%); LICENSES & PERMITS (90%); WILD CATS (90%); ANIMAL WELFARE (89%); MAMMALS (89%); ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENTS (78%); SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY (78%); WILDLIFE (78%)

Industry: PUBLISHING (73%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (97%); NORWAY (93%); UNITED KINGDOM (79%)

Load-Date: April 15, 2021

Commitment to a Just Transition' key

Aberdeen Press and Journal

March 2, 2021 Tuesday

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Section: AGD; Pg. 27

Length: 831 words

Byline: Reporter

Body

It has been noted that global warming scepticism in some UK newspapers is calming down, shriller voices now muted. This is not thought to be in response to the Arctic icecap melting.

Commentators instead attribute the apparent climatic change within the Tory press to something else. Evidence of 10 Downing Street seeking support for the PM's "10-point plan for a green industrial revolution which will create and support up to 250,000 British jobs".

This was announced in November. But months earlier, some perhaps rather unexpected players joined the fight to save the planet. Brewdog, the internationally successful producer of craft beers which began life in a rented building in Fraserburgh, was one.

Its owners said that after meeting Sir David Attenborough and undertaking research, they became convinced they had to do more.

Last summer, the company announced it had purchased more than 2,000 acres of land north of Loch Lomond, currently used for grazing. Here it plans to create 1,500 acres of broadleaf native woodland.

"Over the next few years, we will plant over one million trees. Restored peatlands are highly effective for CO₂ sequestration, which is why we are dedicating 550 acres to peatland restoration..." There will also be a sustainable campsite in the Brewdog Forest. A rare example of a brewery organising a pitch-up.

More recently there has been speculation that Brewdog had also acquired the 9,309-acre Kinrara Estate near Aviemore. When asked for this column whether it was true and what was planned, the company said "...we won't be giving comment at this time".

A non-denial is often taken as confirmation in the media. At any rate, marketing material for Kinrara highlighted certain things that would appear to fit Brewdog's environmental strategy: "Considerable afforestation and potentially valuable carbon capture opportunity. Great conservation potential, 400 acres low ground with productive pasture, existing forestry and further planting opportunity."

It is interesting these details are now seen as selling points, along with information traditionally associated with estate sales - grouse moor and red deer averages; pheasant shooting and roe deer stalking; and salmon fishing.

Commitment to a Just Transition' key

Green opportunities are now attractive marketing tools. They mean new estate owners can tap into the significant public money available to help the drive to a zero-carbon economy. The **Scottish** Government is committed to investing half a billion pounds in tree planting and peatland restoration over the next 10 years.

It has also been noticeable that those campaigning for the rewilding of **Scotland** are now laying greater store by the contribution their goals could make to the fight against climate change.

Where once they were seen as a few eccentrics pursuing the return of the wolf and the **Lynx** to **Scotland**, they are seeking recognition as significant players in the drive towards a zero-carbon economy.

There is already serious money behind this, not least that of **Scotland**'s largest private landowners, Danish billionaires Anders Holch Povlsen and his wife Anne, who own more than 220,000 acres in the Highlands.

While every contribution to the mitigation of global warming should be applauded, the impact on the price of Highland land could prove a matter of concern. With more land being bought by private or corporate parties of good green intent, prices are likely to rise.

The aspirations of communities to take control of their land could be frustrated as the **Scottish** Land Fund's resources become increasingly stretched.

Ministers should remember their commitment to growing an inclusive, net-zero economy is founded on a "Just Transition". A commission has been established to ensure principles of a Just Transition are built into the process.

These include helping address inequality and poverty, and ensuring transition does not negatively affect the current workforce and overall economy.

Would these principles really be respected if the bulk of public money available to rural climate change projects goes to wealthy private landowners, however environmentally enlightened?

That would seem a likely outcome. The **Scottish** Government's own estimates point to 57% of rural land being owned by large private landowners, with only 3% in community ownership.

Almost certainly, however, a far higher proportion of community owners have already launched green projects compared to their large private counterparts.

From the 800 hectares of broadleaf trees planted in Assynt and the hydro scheme up the road, to the award-winning integrated power system on Eigg, and the Dancing Ladies wind turbines on Gigha, they have long since proven their green credentials.

It would be wrong if the distribution of significant public funds unintentionally prevented other local communities from taking control of their land and making similar contributions in the future.

David Ross is a veteran Highland journalist and author of an acclaimed book about his three decades of reporting on the region

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Pr

Commitment to a Just Transition' key

Subject: CLIMATOLOGY (90%); GLACIERS & ICEBERGS (90%); CLIMATE CHANGE (89%); LOW CARBON ECONOMY (89%); WETLANDS CONSERVATION (87%); BRITISH PRIME MINISTERS (78%); GLOBAL WARMING (78%); GREEN ECONOMY (76%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS (73%); LAND RECLAMATION (73%); CONSERVATION (72%); CARBON CAPTURE & STORAGE (71%); BIRDS (66%); FISHES (66%); GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (63%)

Industry: LOW CARBON ECONOMY (89%); GLOBAL WARMING (78%); GREEN ECONOMY (76%); BEER & ALE (69%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (90%); SCOTLAND (90%); UNITED KINGDOM (88%); ARCTIC (79%); 7 North East

Load-Date: March 2, 2021

End of Document

John Deeres come out on top

John Deeres come out on top

The Scottish Farmer

March 2021

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Length: 274 words

Byline: [Julie Wight](#)

Body

A line-up of John Deere tractors proved popular at Border Livestock Exchange's online farm sale on behalf of N and M Charlton and Sons Greenshouses, Cramlington, when a John Deere 8370R tractor, topped the sale at £94,100.

Inputs realised £59,500 for a NH90 90 elevation combine.

LEADING prices

£94,100 JD 8370R tractor; £94,000 JD 6195R tractor; £67,000 Claas Lexicon 580 combine; £49,900 Lemken Solitair 9 4m combi drill; £47,600 JD 7920 tractor; £35,000 JD 7530 tractor; £28,100 JD 6930 tractor; £18,500 JCB 535-60 loadall; £18,400 Kuhn 6m power harrow HR6004; £16,000 Simba 8.2 m unipress; £15,400 Sumo trio 4m cultivator + airseeder; £14,100 Vaderstad rapid A600S 6m drill; £12,400 JPM 18t grain trailer; £12,000 JPM 18t grain trailer; £10,900 JD 724 24m trailed sprayer; £10,000 Kuhn ventra LC302 3m combi drill; £9300 KV 5 F rev plough; £9100 McConnel hedgecutter; £9000 KV 5 F Rev plough auto reset; £8100 Vaderstad rexius 820 8.2m rollers; £6900 ECE 1200 rear discharge muck spreader; £6900 New Holland 565 square baler; £6500 Herbst 16t low loader; £5900 Richard Western 14t grain trailer; £5500 He-Va front roller 3m; £5500 Draper pick up header; £4900 Lynx 4m front press; £4700 Simba 3.5m flatliner; £3900 Simba series 4.2m discs; £3600 Kuhn GMD 700 G11 mower; £3500 Kuhn Axis 30.1 fert spreader; £3200 KV 6F convention plough; £2600 KV 5.4m slodov.

Inputs - £59,500 NH90 90 elevation combine; £42,500 MF 7718 dyna - VT tractor; £8700 Kuhn primor 3570 M straw chopper; £5,600 Lemken Europal 7 F plough; £4800 Opico Sward Grassland Lifter; £3300 Large Vee snow plough; £2500 Simba Versa tilth 6m cultivator; £1900 Einbrick grass harrow.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: PRICES (73%)

Industry: AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT (89%); LIVESTOCK (78%)

John Deeres come out on top

Load-Date: March 31, 2021

End of Document

LYNX EFFECT; Cops check deodorant over pepper spray attack

Scottish Star

February 26, 2021 Friday

Edition 1, Scotland

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 19

Length: 267 words

Byline: TOM SEWARD

Body

POLICE asked the makers of Lynx deodorant if it contains the same ingredients as pepper spray after a man attacked his neighbour.

Detectives contacted Unilever to check whether their Lynx deodorant factory used the same substances as found in the irritant.

It followed comments from Steven Stratton, who told police he had blasted Lynx in his victim's face and not pepper spray before finally admitting the truth.

Stratton, 50, believed the man, who he had known for 10 years, had stolen money from him and, in January 2019, went to his house.

They argued and Stratton went back to his home then returned a short while later with what was found to be cannister of pepper spray, which he'd ordered off the internet.

Health Stratton, of Swindon, Wilts, sprayed the man in the face. His victim was forced to go to the hospital along with his girlfriend.

Appearing before Swindon Crown Court Stratton pleaded guilty to administering a noxious substance with intent to injure or annoy.

Emma Handslip, mitigating, said her client experienced poor mental health and was suffering from psychosis. The court heard Stratton had 32 previous convictions for 69 offences, but had not been in trouble since 2010.

Judge Jason Taylor QC said he acknowledged Stratton had mental health issues and had been out of trouble for nine years.

Imposing 10 months' imprisonment suspended for two years, Judge Taylor said: "You deliberately armed yourself with the pepper spray - and that is a clear aggravating factor."

Stratton must abide by an eight month curfew and complete 15 rehabilitation activity requirement days.

news@dailystar.co.uk

Graphic

LIES: Steven Stratton and Lynx can

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DSTscot

Subject: CRIME, LAW ENFORCEMENT & CORRECTIONS (90%); TEAR GAS (90%); MEDICINE & HEALTH (74%); CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS (73%); GUILTY PLEAS (73%); TRIAL COURTS (73%); MENTAL HEALTH (72%); LAW COURTS & TRIBUNALS (68%)

Company: UNILEVER PLC/NV (58%)

Ticker: UNIA (AMS) (58%); UNA (BIT) (58%); UNA (AMS) (58%); UN (NYSE) (58%); ULVR (LSE) (58%); UL (NYSE) (58%)

Industry: NAICS325620 TOILET PREPARATION MANUFACTURING (58%); NAICS325611 SOAP & OTHER DETERGENT MANUFACTURING (58%); NAICS311412 FROZEN SPECIALTY FOOD MANUFACTURING (58%); NAICS311411 FROZEN FRUIT, JUICE & VEGETABLE MANUFACTURING (58%); NAICS311225 FATS & OILS REFINING & BLENDING (58%); COSMETICS & TOILETRIES (90%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (89%); Scotland

Load-Date: February 26, 2021

End of Document

Agenda: Room for grouse moor management and rewilding in Scotland

Herald Scotland

February 22, 2021 Monday

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Length: 536 words

Byline: [Agenda](#)

Body

By Dee Ward

VERY few issues are simple, despite the often-polarised nature of public debate - especially on social media. In rural **Scotland** the discourse is just as stark - particularly when it comes to the pros and cons of grouse shooting and the benefits of rewilding.

Recently gamekeepers have been wading through snow drifts to ensure a good supply of food for birds on estates across the country. This hidden conservation continues mainly unnoticed. At the same time, media attention has been gained by groups proposing to introduce Eurasian *Lynx* to **Scotland**.

In the rewilding debate, the historic management of land in **Scotland** is often overlooked. Tree cover has been reduced over centuries by the activities of man which has led to the extinction of large herbivores and apex predators. At the time of the Romans, **Scotland** had less tree cover than it has today so this is not a new problem, and during the 20th century a lot of ancient meadows were ploughed up to produce food for the war effort. Tied to this was the introduction of fertilisers and pesticides in the 1960s that left few places for wildlife to prosper.

Where wildlife has thrived is on estates with gamekeepers. Typically, wild habitat was encouraged for shooting so not every inch was commercially farmed. Foxes, crows and stoats were kept in check so smaller birds could survive and breed.

Against this imperfect background I draw my own experience from my estate in the Angus Glens which is a modest yet beautiful upland estate with some grouse and a lot of wildlife. We have high densities of hares and 100 different bird species including nesting eagles, peregrines and merlin but this has taken a lot of work. We have planted 250,000 trees in the last 15 years, mainly along riverbanks and on the lower slopes of the moor, re-meandered burns, restored peatland as well as reducing the number of mesopredators like stoats, weasels and foxes, and planted lots of bird-friendly crops. The results have been amazing and one of the outcomes has been increased numbers red grouse.

We decide in early August each year after our counts, how many surplus grouse can be shot. Shooting of grouse and deer sits comfortably with the other tourism and wildlife-based aims of the estate, and brings in much-needed

Agenda: Room for grouse moor management and rewilding in Scotland

income, often from European visitors. Each person coming to **Scotland** from abroad spends money in our cities as well as locally in the Angus Glens. This revenue benefits local tradespeople, pubs, hotels and other businesses as well as our wildlife and biodiversity plans.

Sustainable grouse moor management can deliver biodiversity - red grouse, black grouse, mountain hares, ring ouzels, curlew, lapwing, golden plover and a host of raptors just as sustainable farming can deliver good quality food, using fewer pesticides whilst allowing wildlife corridors, wetland and natural areas. Rewilding can deliver the Caledonian pine forests with beavers, elk that many crave.

There is room for all of this in **Scotland** but we need to work together with local communities and rural workers like gamekeepers to ensure we can deliver these nature-based solutions.

Dee Ward is owner of Rottal Estate near Kirriemuir, and vice-chair of **Scottish** Land & Estates

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: BIRDS (90%); MAMMALS (90%); WILDLIFE (90%); BIODIVERSITY (89%); CONSERVATION (78%); LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (78%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (78%); SPORT HUNTING (78%); WETLANDS (78%); WETLANDS CONSERVATION (77%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS (76%); SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (76%); SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY (74%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (71%); PESTICIDES (71%); SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (71%); WILD CATS (71%); LAND RECLAMATION (70%); MOUNTAINS (67%)

Industry: MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (78%); SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (76%); SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY (74%); HOTELS & MOTELS (73%); PESTICIDES (71%); SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (71%); FERTILIZERS (67%)

Geographic: **SCOTLAND** (97%)

Load-Date: February 22, 2021

End of Document

Room for both sides in rural land debate

The Herald (Glasgow)

February 22, 2021 Monday

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The Herald

Section: Pg. 19

Length: 540 words

Byline: Drew Allan

Body

VERY few issues are simple, despite the often-polarised nature of public debate - especially on social media. In rural Scotland the discourse is just as stark - particularly when it comes to the pros and cons of grouse shooting and the benefits of rewilding.

Recently, gamekeepers have been wading through snow drifts to ensure a good supply of food for birds on estates across the country. This hidden conservation continues mainly unnoticed. At the same time, media attention has been gained by groups proposing to introduce Eurasian Lynx to Scotland.

In the rewilding debate, the historic management of land in Scotland is often overlooked. Tree cover has been reduced over centuries by the activities of man, which has led to the extinction of large herbivores and apex predators. At the time of the Romans, Scotland had less tree cover than it has today, so this is not a new problem. And during the 20th century a lot of ancient meadows were ploughed up to produce food for the war effort. Tied to this was the introduction of fertilisers and pesticides in the 1960s that left few places for wildlife to prosper.

Where wildlife has thrived is on estates with gamekeepers. Typically, wild habitat was encouraged for shooting, so not every inch was commercially farmed. Foxes, crows and stoats were kept in check so smaller birds could survive and breed.

Against this imperfect background I draw my own experience from my estate in the Angus Glens, which is a modest yet beautiful upland estate with some grouse and a lot of wildlife. We have high densities of hares and 100 different bird species, including nesting eagles, peregrines and merlin, but this has taken a lot of work. We have planted 250,000 trees in the last 15 years, mainly along riverbanks and on the lower slopes of the moor, re-meandered burns, restored peatland as well as reducing the number of mesopredators, such as stoats, weasels and foxes, and planted lots of bird-friendly crops. The results have been amazing and one of the outcomes has been increased numbers red grouse.

WE decide in early August each year after our counts, how many surplus grouse can be shot. Shooting of grouse and deer sits comfortably with the other tourism and wildlife-based aims of the estate, and brings in much-needed income, often from European visitors.

Room for both sides in rural land debate

Each person coming to **Scotland** from abroad spends money in our cities as well as locally in the Angus Glens. This revenue benefits local tradespeople, pubs, hotels and other businesses, as well as our wildlife and biodiversity plans.

Sustainable grouse moor management can deliver biodiversity - red grouse, black grouse, mountain hares, ring ouzels, curlew, lapwing, golden plover and a host of raptors - just as sustainable farming can deliver good quality food, using fewer pesticides whilst allowing wildlife corridors, wetland and natural areas. Rewilding can deliver the Caledonian pine forests with beavers and elk that many crave.

There is room for all of this in **Scotland**, but we need to work together with local communities and rural workers like gamekeepers to ensure we can deliver these nature-based solutions.

Dee Ward is owner of Rottal Estate near Kirriemuir, and vice-chairman of **Scottish** Land & Estates.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: HER

Subject: BIRDS (90%); MAMMALS (90%); WILDLIFE (90%); BIODIVERSITY (89%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (89%); PESTICIDES (79%); SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (79%); CONSERVATION (78%); LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (78%); WETLANDS (78%); SPORT HUNTING (77%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS (76%); WETLANDS CONSERVATION (76%); SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (74%); SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY (74%); LAND RECLAMATION (73%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (71%); WILD CATS (71%); MOUNTAINS (67%); agriculture (%)

Industry: PESTICIDES (79%); SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (79%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (78%); FERTILIZERS (74%); SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (74%); SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY (74%); HOTELS & MOTELS (73%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, **SCOTLAND** (73%); **SCOTLAND** (94%)

Load-Date: February 22, 2021

End of Document

Plans on paws Call for peace talks with farmers over returning the lynx to Scotland

Plans on paws Call for peace talks with farmers over returning the lynx to Scotland

The Sunday Herald (Glasgow)

February 21, 2021 Sunday

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Section: Pg. 17

Length: 835 words

Byline: Caroline Woollard

Body

HE famously helped rescue and movingly rehabilitate lynx cats in Russia for a BBC series.

Now, top wildlife cameraman Gordon Buchanan has called for peace talks with farmers and other opponents over the controversial reintroduction of the apex predator into the Scottish countryside.

In a webinar last week conducted for the Scottish Rewilding Alliance - a coalition of over 20 organisations - Mr Buchanan admitted "we should not be foisting predators on people".

He said any proposal has to be done with discussion and a clear long-term aim. Conservations with concerned groups like the National Farmers' Union Scotland "have to be had", he added.

"It is a logical step especially for a species like lynx because they would be at home very, very quickly in lots of places around Scotland and it would be many, many years before anyone detected the presence of those animals," said Mr Buchanan. "But they would be working their magic and contributing to those ecosystems in their unique way."

The cameraman said he grew up in Mull where you would have once "struggled" to find any farmer or crofter in favour of the reintroduction of sea eagles.

But now, 30 years on, the reverse is true with the jobs and "huge" tourist revenue that Britain's biggest bird of prey has brought to the local economy.

Mr Buchanan added that any reintroduction of the lynx was "more controllable" now with the use of technology.

A poll for the alliance showed that 52 per cent of people backed the return of the lynx with only 19% against.

He added: "Why is so much of our land so bare - where's the life that was there? A mighty medley of creatures once filled Scotland's woodlands, wetlands and seas, life hummed and thrummed, weaved and wallowed, butted and bellowed, and people were part of it all in tune with the extraordinary rhythms of life."

Plans on paws Call for peace talks with farmers over returning the lynx to Scotland

"But over time we changed, we fell out of step with those precious beats pushing creatures to extinction and squandering seas and soil.

"Our wildlife is fragmented, muted. But tomorrow can be different we can reconnect with the rhythms and help nature flourish. We call it rewilding. It turns up the volume of nature allowing to grow and flow, bloom and boom.

"Rewilding gives us the chance to create a future where the *Lynx* can roam and rivers run wild, where birds fly free and woodlands thrive, and we can move in tune with those magnificent beasts."

Last week, the outgoing leader of Scotland's farmers warned over the "Pandora's box" of reintroducing more species - such as wolves and *Lynx* - into the countryside.

In his final address as NFU Scotland, president Andrew McCornick said those involved had "no intention of taking responsibility for the unintended consequences".

A consortium of conservationists that hopes to release wild *Lynx* into the Scottish Highlands has launched a year-long study to see whether the public supports their reintroduction.

The study, part-funded by two billionaire Danish estate owners in the Highlands, Anders Povlsen and Lisbet Rausing, will test whether farmers, landowners and rural communities will agree to a pilot project in a remote area of Scotland.

The *Lynx*, Europe's largest native cat, became extinct in northern Britain more than 500 years ago through habitat loss, hunting and persecution, but proposals by other rewilding advocates to reintroduce the species into the UK have foundered.

Conservationists believe the new project, run by the Vincent Wildlife Trust and Trees For Life, alongside campaigners at Scotland: The Big Picture, has a significant chance of success.

It follows the reintroduction of sea eagles - Britain's bird of prey - and beavers north of the Border in recent years, which have upset many farmers.

Crofters claim they have lost hundreds of sheep to sea eagles while it is thought as many as 240 beavers may have been culled in the Tayside area in recent years before the mammals were protected.

Mr McCornick told the NFU Scotland annual meeting: "For those affected, this issue is massive. Introducing an apex predator impacts not only farmers and crofters but also biodiversity and ecosystems, especially if there are no mechanisms to limit their impact.

"People are ever ready to throw open a Pandora's box by proposing introductions or protections with no intention of taking responsibility for the unintended consequences. Legislators and NGOs need to be constantly educated on what is happening or being proposed."

Only 1.5 per cent of Scotland's land is national nature reserves and just 4% native woodland, while 25% is severely nature depleted and does not support the nature-rich forests, peatlands and river systems it should. Rural landscapes now support fewer people than previously.

"We're being seriously outpaced by climate breakdown and biodiversity loss, so trying to save nature piecemeal isn't enough. Scotland has the opportunity to restore the web of life that supports our health and wellbeing, while acting as a rewilding inspiration globally," said Peter Cairns, director of Scotland: The Big Picture.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Plans on paws Call for peace talks with farmers over returning the lynx to Scotland

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: SHE

Subject: PEACE PROCESS (90%); TALKS & MEETINGS (90%); WILD CATS (90%); WILDLIFE (90%); BIRDS (89%); ANIMALS (78%); CATS (78%); FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS (78%); MAMMALS (78%); WETLANDS (78%); SALTWATER ECOSYSTEMS (74%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (73%); ECONOMY & ECONOMIC INDICATORS (50%); agriculture (%); business (%); crime (%); health terms (%)

Industry: TOURISM (52%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, SCOTLAND (73%); SCOTLAND (95%); RUSSIAN FEDERATION (78%); UNITED KINGDOM (73%)

Load-Date: February 21, 2021

End of Document

We need to talk about lynx

We need to talk about lynx

Scottish Express

February 21, 2021 Sunday

Edition 1, Scotland

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 26

Length: 352 words

Byline: Mike Merritt

Body

A TOP wildlife cameraman has called for peace talks with opponents to controversial plans to reintroduce lynx into the Scottish countryside.

Gordon Buchanan said detailed discussions were needed with all parties to ensure all the pros and cons of the project were known.

A poll for the Scottish Rewilding Alliance - a coalition of more than 20 environmental groups - revealed 52 per cent of people backed the return of lynx, with only 19 per cent against.

In an online discussion, Mr Buchanan asked: "Why is so much of our land so bare? Where's the life that was there? A mighty medley of creatures once filled Scotland's woodlands, wetlands and seas, life hummed and thrummed, weaved and swallowed, butted and bellowed and people were part of it all, in tune with the extraordinary rhythms of life."

He added that humans, over time, have pushed "creatures to extinction" while "squandering seas and soil".

However, he believes "we can reconnect with the rhythms and help nature flourish" through rewilding to give "us the chance to create a future where the lynx can roam and rivers run wild, where birds fly free and woodlands thrive".

He continued that lynx "would be at home very quickly", and hopes it would take years before their presence was detected, all the while "working their magic and contributing in their unique way".

But Mr Buchanan admitted conversations with concerned groups such as the National Farmers Union (NFU) Scotland "have to be had".

Last week, the outgoing leader of Scotland's farmers warned about the "Pandora's Box" of re-introducing more species - such as wolves and lynx - into the countryside.

NFU Scotland president Andrew McCormick said those involved had "no intention of taking responsibility for the unintended consequences".

The lynx, Europe's largest native cat, became extinct here more than 500 years ago through habitat loss, hunting and persecution but proposals by other rewilding advocates to reintroduce the species UK have failed.

We need to talk about lynx

Conservationists believe the project has a significant chance of success and follows the re-introductions of sea eagles and beavers in recent years.

Graphic

WILD: Gordon and a Lynx

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: SXPscot

Subject: TALKS & MEETINGS (90%); WILDLIFE (90%); WILD CATS (89%); BIRDS (78%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (78%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (78%); MAMMALS (78%); WETLANDS (78%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (73%); ENVIRONMENTALISM (73%); PEACE PROCESS (73%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (71%)

Industry: FARMERS & RANCHERS (73%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (94%); EUROPE (78%); UNITED KINGDOM (59%); Scotland

Load-Date: February 21, 2021

End of Document

Scotland should be working with nature instead of against it - Steve Micklewright

Scotland should be working with nature instead of against it - Steve Micklewright

Scotsman

February 19, 2021 Friday

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Section: OPINION

Length: 854 words

Byline: Steve Micklewright

Highlight: The eyes of the world will be on Scotland this November when the global climate conference – COP26 – rolls up in Glasgow, Covid permitting.

Body

The Scottish Government will see this as an opportunity to promote its position as a world leader in dealing with climate change. It could be a moment when Scotland leads again by being the first country in the world to declare itself a ‘rewilding nation’ – one that wants to solve our problems by working with nature instead of against it.

But is Scotland up to the challenge?

The world faces the overlapping emergencies of climate breakdown, devastating loss of nature across the planet, and a health crisis most likely triggered by our broken relationship with nature.

The global situation is so bad that the United Nations has declared the 2020s the decade of ecosystem restoration, and Scotland has signed up to bold action on this through the Edinburgh Declaration.

So what could this bold action be? How can we reset our relationship with nature to meet the scale of the challenges we face when Scotland – despite its beauty – is currently one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world?

The Scottish Rewilding Alliance is calling on Scotland to declare itself the world’s first rewilding nation and to commit to three ‘bold actions’ to start to make it happen.

The first bold action is to ensure large areas of Scotland’s land and sea – at least 30 per cent – is rewilded in the next 10 years. This can be achieved without loss of productive farmland.

Among other things, this would mean both increasing the amount of peatland being restored and allowing natural woodlands to regenerate – helping to lock away carbon, restore nature and prevent flooding.

Scotland should be working with nature instead of against it - Steve Micklewright

It involves reversing decades of straightening and canalising rivers, bringing back the winding rivers that nature intended. This has been shown to reduce flooding downstream, provide habitat for aquatic creatures, and support salmon and trout.

Action at sea requires genuinely protecting large areas as 'no-take zones' – so nature can recover within them, and the fishing industry can benefit by taking the replenished stocks that emerge just outside of these zones.

The second big commitment is to make rewilding a third pillar of **Scotland's** economic strategy, alongside increasing competitiveness and tackling inequality. This would lead to a change in emphasis – with the government investing in solutions that worked with nature in farming, forestry, fisheries and development.

The third commitment would be to rewild our communities, from streets to parks and gardens to road verges, so we can all reconnect with nature – something that has been so important for so many during the pandemic.

Above all, declaring a rewilding nation would be a long-term commitment to working with nature and finding natural solutions to our problems.

This would mean, for example, allowing beavers to be moved within **Scotland** to establish new wild colonies, because these 'ecosystem engineers' are nature's own rewilders. The dams they build provide a place for countless aquatic creatures, which in turn provide food for birds and fish. Their dams also prevent flooding downstream – potentially a free alternative to expensive flood defences.

It might also include allowing the return of **Lynx** to **Scotland**. This Labrador-sized feline preys on deer. The absence of such predators means we currently spend millions fencing off land to prevent deer browsing on young trees grown for forestry.

There are many powerful reasons to declare a rewilding nation in **Scotland**, but perhaps one that might sway politicians is public opinion.

In opinion polling undertaken by Survation for the **Scottish Rewilding Alliance**, 76 per cent of Scots said they supported rewilding, with only 7 per cent opposed. This is proof – if proof were really needed – that people understand we need to fundamentally change our relationship with nature.

Furthermore, 57 per cent supported rewilding being added as a third pillar of the government's economic strategy – demonstrating that Scots want to see action emerging from any declaration in support of restoring nature.

The survey also found that 76 per cent supported beavers being moved to new areas instead of being shot if they cause localised issues for farmers, such as crop damage. Perhaps most surprising of all, the opinion poll showed that 52 per cent supported the reintroduction of **Lynx** to **Scotland**.

There is growing demand and support for rewilding in **Scotland**. Over 5,000 people attended an online event to launch our call for a rewilding nation on Wednesday – just some of the many people looking for a positive way out of some very dark and frightening times. They see rewilding as something of a beacon of hope.

Also among the audience were landowners and investors who want to be part of the solution.

Now focus moves on to Holyrood with MSPs being asked to sign a motion calling for a rewilding nation to be declared.

While the devil might be in the detail of what this means in the long-term, such a bold declaration could once again make **Scotland** a world leader at a time when the spotlight will be shining brightly upon us.

Steve Micklewright is convener of the Scottish Rewilding Alliance and chief executive of rewilding charity Trees for Life

Scotland should be working with nature instead of against it - Steve Micklewright

Graphic

[Is Scotland up to the challenge of becoming a 'rewilding nation' – one that wants to solve its problems by working with nature instead of against it. Picture: Glencoe Lochan/Jane Barlow/PA](#)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: CLIMATE CHANGE (89%); FINFISH FISHING (89%); RIVERS (86%); FISHES (85%); COVID CORONAVIRUS (78%); ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION (78%); EPIDEMICS (78%); FLOODS & FLOODING (78%); FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS (78%); SALTWATER ECOSYSTEMS (78%); WETLANDS (78%); CONSERVATION (77%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (74%); LAND RECLAMATION (74%); REPORTS, REVIEWS & SECTIONS (74%); CONFERENCES & CONVENTIONS (73%); UNITED NATIONS (73%); BONE FRACTURES (71%); AGRICULTURAL LANDS (70%); OCEAN ECONOMY (70%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS CONSERVATION (69%); WETLANDS CONSERVATION (69%); EDITORIALS & OPINIONS (59%)

Industry: FINFISH FISHING (89%); PUBLISHING (73%); AGRICULTURAL LANDS (70%); AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING & HUNTING (69%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS CONSERVATION (69%); FISHING, HUNTING & TRAPPING (67%)

Geographic: EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND (59%); GLASGOW, SCOTLAND (58%); SCOTLAND (93%)

Load-Date: February 18, 2021

End of Document

RECALL OF THE WILD turning back nature's clock Nation backs plan to bring back creatures from past and boost endangered species

RECALL OF THE WILD; turning back nature's clock Nation backs plan to bring back creatures from past and boost endangered species

Daily Record and Sunday Mail

February 17, 2021 Wednesday

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 8

Length: 623 words

Byline: gordon robertson

Body

SCOTS overwhelmingly support "rewilding" the nation in a bid to boost the environment and help save threatened wildlife.

A study has found 76 per cent of those surveyed support the large-scale restoration of nature to neglected parts of the country.

The findings come as conservationists launched a campaign for **Scotland** to become the world's first "Rewilding Nation".

Steve Micklewright, convenor of the **Scottish** Rewilding Alliance, said: "The world faces overlapping nature, climate and health crises but **Scotland** has the opportunity to show bold leadership by becoming the world's first Rewilding Nation."

The Alliance wants the **Scottish** Government to commit to rewild 30 per cent of our land and sea by 2030.

They say that by the end of the decade the country can benefit from expanding woodlands, moorlands, peatlands, rivers and marine habitats, and without loss of productive agricultural land.

The initiative to improve natural habitats will help save threatened species and encourage the return of wildlife previously lost to **Scotland**.

Sea eagle

PERSECUTION and egg theft drove the sea eagle to extinction in 1918, before being reintroduced to **Scotland** from Norway in the 70s.

Sea eagles now range across much of western and eastern **Scotland**. For most people, they're a welcome success but only 100 pairs breed where there should be many hundreds more across the whole of the British Isles.

Beaver

THE **Scottish** Government announced beavers were to remain in **Scotland** after a successful trial period.

RECALL OF THE WILD turning back nature's clock Nation backs plan to bring back creatures from past and boost endangered species

The beaver became extinct in Britain in the 16th century and its return is one of the most welcome reintroductions.

Few creatures have such a positive effect on biodiversity than the industrious beaver.

Capercaillie

THE largest of the grouse family, the capercaillie became extinct in **Scotland** in the 18th century but was reintroduced in the 1800s.

Due to the destruction of its natural habitat, the bird that is found in hills and mountains is under threat again.

The decline in numbers of capercaillie has been described as "dramatic" by conservationists.

Lynx

A YEAR-long consultation is under way on the reintroduction of the **Lynx** to **Scotland**.

The wild cat died out in the UK hundreds of years ago due to hunting and a loss of habitat.

Highlands. but a return

The National Farmers Union have said the idea is "wholly unacceptable" over fears for livestock.

Great yellow bumblebee

THE great yellow bumblebee was found across the UK until the 60s, but after suffering a massive decline is now only found in a few places in **Scotland**'s remote north-west.

The location makes the species difficult to monitor - leaving experts uncertain about exactly where it still survives.

The Bumblebee Conservation Trust has been doing some good work monitoring the species which would benefit from rewilding.

Pine marten

IT WAS once Britain's second most common carnivore but was pushed into the most remote pockets of the wooded Highlands.

Now protected by law and expanding into new areas, this cat-sized stoat is playing an unexpected role in helping the red squirrel as it preys on the non-native grey squirrel.

Red Squirrel

THE number of Red squirrels in **Scotland** is thought to be about 120,000 but was once many times more.

The fall in the population is due to the threat from non-native grey squirrels and disease. There are various projects to protect the red population, including one to reintroduce the iconic woodlands creature to 10 sites in the north-west Highlands.

A year-way on **Lynx**

Lynx WOLVES are found in every country in Europe except the UK. Plans to reintroduce them to the Highlands were first mooted in the 60s but a fearful public are considered resistant to the idea. Any return of the wolf to the **Scottish** wilderness is likely to be some way off.

Classification

RECALL OF THE WILD turning back nature's clock Nation backs plan to bring back creatures from past and boost endangered species

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DRC

Subject: WILDLIFE (91%); BIOLOGY (90%); CONSERVATION (90%); ENDANGERED SPECIES (90%); THREATENED & SENSITIVE SPECIES (90%); WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (90%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (89%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (89%); ENVIRONMENTALISM (89%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (89%); WILD CATS (89%); BIODIVERSITY (78%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (78%); HABITAT CONSERVATION (78%); MAMMALS (78%); MARINE BIOLOGY (78%); NEGATIVE NEWS (78%); POLLS & SURVEYS (78%); RESEARCH REPORTS (78%); WETLANDS (78%); AGRICULTURAL LANDS (74%); MOUNTAINS (66%)

Industry: AGRICULTURAL LANDS (74%); LIVESTOCK (73%); FARMERS & RANCHERS (69%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (97%); UNITED KINGDOM (94%); National Edition

Load-Date: February 17, 2021

End of Document

Scots urged to heed call of the wild

Scots urged to heed call of the wild

Scottish Express

February 17, 2021 Wednesday

Edition 1, Scotland

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 24

Length: 333 words

Byline: George Mair

Body

A CAMPAIGN for the rewilding of **Scotland** is launched today.

The effort features an animated documentary designed to encourage support for the repair of damaged ecosystems, the reintroduction of lost species and the restoration of native woodlands.

Entitled Rhythms of Life, the film is narrated by wildlife filmmaker and presenter Gordon Buchanan.

The campaign is being launched by the **Scottish** Rewilding Alliance (SRA), a coalition of more than 20 organisations, and aims to make **Scotland** the world's first Rewilding Nation.

A survey found three-quarters of Scots support the idea.

Leadership

Spokesman Steve Micklewright said: "The world faces overlapping nature, climate and health crises but **Scotland** has the opportunity to show bold leadership by becoming the world's first Rewilding Nation."

"We have the space, political influence and public backing to become a world leader in saving nature and ourselves."

The SRA says that **Scotland** could be a "nature-restoration trailblazer".

But it adds that "despite many superb conservation initiatives, the nation is lagging behind other countries - with nature in steep decline and landscapes among the world's most nature depleted".

It points to the fact that just 1.5 per cent of **Scotland**'s land is in national nature reserves.

Only four per cent is native woodland and 25 per cent is severely nature-depleted and unable to support the natural forests, peatlands and river systems that it otherwise could.

Declining or at-risk species in **Scotland** include red squirrels, wild cats, capercaillie and great yellow bumblebees.

Recovery of species such as beavers, cranes, sea eagles and pine martens happens slowly. Elk and **Lynx** are extinct but could be re-established.

Scots urged to heed call of the wild

Rebecca Wrigley, the chief executive of Rewilding Britain, said: "**Scotland** can lead the way. By working with nature instead of against it, rewilding can restore life to hills, glens, rivers and seas, while tackling climate breakdown and offering fresh opportunities for farming and local economies."

Graphic

The **Lynx** is one of the species that could feature in rewilding ScotlandGordon Buchanan narrates new film

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DXPscot

Subject: CONSERVATION (91%); DOCUMENTARY FILMS (90%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS CONSERVATION (90%); FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS (90%); LAND CONSERVATION (90%); MAMMALS (89%); SALTWATER ECOSYSTEMS (89%); FILM (78%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS (78%); WETLANDS (78%); WILDLIFE (78%); RODENTS (77%); VISUAL ARTISTS (73%); CATS (72%); POLLS & SURVEYS (71%); EXECUTIVES (70%); ECONOMY & ECONOMIC INDICATORS (50%)

Industry: DOCUMENTARY FILMS (90%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS CONSERVATION (90%); FILM (78%); VISUAL ARTISTS (73%)

Geographic: **SCOTLAND** (94%); **Scotland**

Load-Date: February 17, 2021

End of Document

Nature groups launch radical campaign to rewild Scottish land New survey shows strong support for Scottish re-wilding until it can support itself

Nature groups launch radical campaign to rewild Scottish land; New survey shows strong support for Scottish re-wilding until it can support itself

The Herald (Glasgow)

February 17, 2021 Wednesday

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The Herald

Section: Pg. 3

Length: 706 words

Byline: George Mair <george@saltirenews.com>

Body

MORE than three-quarters of Scots supports rewilding in ***Scotland***, according to a new study published today

The research shows that 76 per cent of Scots support the large-scale restoration of nature to the point it is allowed to take care of itself. Only 7% were opposed to large-scale rewilding, according to the poll.

The study was carried out for the ***Scottish*** Rewilding Alliance, a coalition of more than 20 organisations, which will today launch a campaign for ***Scotland*** to become the world's first "Rewilding Nation".

To achieve their ambition, the alliance will call on the ***Scottish*** Government to commit to rewilding 30% of the country's land and sea within a decade, ahead of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) to be held in Glasgow in November.

The campaign will launch with an inspiring new animation, Rhythms of Life, narrated by wildlife presenter and filmmaker Gordon Buchanan, showing how rewilding can help make ***Scotland*** a place where "nature recovers, wildlife flourishes and people prosper".

Steve Micklewright, convenor of the ***Scottish*** Rewilding Alliance and chief executive of Trees for Life, said: "The world faces overlapping nature, climate and health crises, but ***Scotland*** has the opportunity to show bold leadership by becoming the world's first Rewilding Nation."

"We have the space, political influence and public backing to become a world leader in saving nature and ourselves."

With habitats and species being eradicated rapidly worldwide, the United Nations has declared 2021-30 the Decade of Ecosystem Restoration.

The ***Scottish*** Government has committed itself to bold action to tackle the crisis facing biodiversity through its Edinburgh Declaration.

Nature groups launch radical campaign to rewild Scottish land New survey shows strong support for Scottish re-wilding until it can support itself

The **Scottish** Rewilding Alliance says **Scotland** could be a "nature-restoration trailblazer" but adds that, "despite many superb conservation initiatives, the nation is lagging behind other countries - with nature in steep decline and landscapes among the world's most nature-depleted". It points to the fact that only 1.5% of **Scotland's** land is in national reserves and just 4% native woodland, while 25% is severely nature depleted and does not support the nature-rich forests, peatlands and river systems it should.

Declining or at risk species include red squirrels, wild cats, capercaillie and great yellow bumblebees.

Recovery or return of species such as beavers, cranes, sea eagles and pine martens happen slowly, while elk and **Lynx** are among the species already made extinct.

The **Scottish** Government has put 37% of **Scotland's** seas into forms of designation, but damaging activities such as scallop dredging and bottom trawling are only banned from less than 5% of coastal waters.

Wild salmon populations are at historically low levels and seabirds are feeding their chicks plastic waste.

Rebecca Wrigley, chief executive of Rewilding Britain, said: "It's past time to reboot our relationship with the natural world, and **Scotland** can lead the way.

"By working with nature instead of against it, rewilding can restore life to hills, glens, rivers and seas, while tackling climate breakdown and offering fresh opportunities for farming and local economies."

The alliance says rewilding at least 30% of **Scotland's** land and sea by 2030 can be achieved by restoring and expanding woodlands, moorlands, peatlands, rivers and marine habitats, and without loss of productive agricultural land.

Hugh Raven, chairman of Open Seas, said the results of the poll of 1,000 people north of the Border had highlighted public awareness of nature's importance.

He said: "Incentivising lower impact fisheries around our coastline would help degraded habitats and fish populations recover, and regenerate our harbours and coastal towns.

"Recovery in places like Lamlash Bay (in Arran) shows what can be achieved by communities, but we urgently need to rewild larger areas of our seas."

Tom Bowser, farm owner and Ranger with Argaty Red Kites, a project set up near Doune in Perthshire in 1996 to provide a safe haven for the bird of prey, said: "Declaring ourselves a Rewilding Nation would be a powerful statement of intent that we're serious about tackling the climate and nature crises, reconnecting people with nature, and regenerating our communities."

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: HER

Subject: POLLS & SURVEYS (90%); WILDLIFE (90%); CONSERVATION (89%); MAMMALS (89%); RODENTS (89%); SHELLFISH FISHING (89%); BIODIVERSITY (79%); CLIMATOLOGY (78%); ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION (78%); FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS (78%); RESEARCH REPORTS (78%); COASTAL

Nature groups launch radical campaign to rewild Scottish land New survey shows strong support for Scottish re-wilding until it can support itself

AREAS (77%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (77%); LAND RECLAMATION (77%); NATIONAL PARKS (77%); SALTWATER ECOSYSTEMS (77%); WETLANDS (77%); UNITED NATIONS (74%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (73%); BIRDS (73%); CATS (73%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS (73%); EXECUTIVES (71%); CLIMATE CHANGE (69%); ANIMATION (68%); VISUAL ARTISTS (68%); PLASTIC WASTE (50%); agriculture (%); business (%); health terms (%)

Company: SCOTTISH RE GROUP LTD (58%)

Industry: NAICS524130 REINSURANCE CARRIERS (58%); NAICS524113 DIRECT LIFE INSURANCE CARRIERS (58%); SIC6311 LIFE INSURANCE (58%); SHELLFISH FISHING (89%); NATIONAL PARKS (77%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); ANIMATION (68%); VISUAL ARTISTS (68%); PLASTIC WASTE (50%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, SCOTLAND (88%); EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND (73%); SCOTLAND (96%)

Load-Date: February 17, 2021

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Rosemary Goring: Town and country could soon be at each other's throats

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Herald Scotland

February 17, 2021 Wednesday

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Length: 1087 words

Byline: [Rosemary Goring](#)

Body

GAMEKEEPERS have had a mixed press over the years, in no way helped by DH Lawrence's controversial novel, Lady Chatterley's Lover, where a member of the servant class enjoys a dangerous liaison with the landowner's wife. The era of Mellors and his laconic lyricism, however, is long gone, as is the entrenched social chasm between the ordinary man in tweeds and gaiters with cocked gun on his arm, and the red-coated huntsman or stag hunter who, at day's end, leaves the gralloching and gutting to lesser mortals.

Today's keepers are professionals, trained in conservation and land management. They might come from the upper echelons, or from the inner city, but most likely hail from somewhere in between. Whatever their provenance, the countryside is in their blood, and at the moment, that blood is at boiling point.

Infuriated at Holyrood initiatives which encroach on their livelihoods and ultimately - they fear - threaten their line of work, the [**Scottish**](#) Gamekeepers' Association (SGA) has planned a Rural Workers' Protest. The first such demonstration is to be held online on March 19 but, when pandemic restrictions ease, might be reconvened in person later in the year.

READ MORE ROSEMARY: Country Life

This is a significant move, an indicator of how tense the relationship has become between those who work the land, and those in government, who legislate for its upkeep and preservation.

The list of grievances nursed by gamekeepers and some members of the rural community is long. It dates back decades, but the latest aggravation was the proposal late last year to license grouse shooting estates. This step, or so parliament and various wildlife agencies and charities hope, will reduce the illegal killing of raptors on grouse estates. Gamekeepers, on the other hand, view it as a weasel move, aimed at eventually wiping out the sport. They believe the SNP and the Green Party are pursuing "anti-rural" policies.

Comments posted by Alex Hogg, the SGA's chairman, show how high feeling runs: "I am angry beyond expression at the way a community of working people is being treated today in this country and the strain they and their families are constantly having to face as they cope with the never-ending scrutiny and inquiry driven by elite

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charities with big influence over politicians and axes to grind against a people who produce so much for Scotland yet ask little back."

Hogg talks of the "endless battering" the rural sector has taken from parliament. Hoping to draw support from farmers and other rural workers, the SGA is encouraging them to join the protest. Whether farmers will ally with them remains to be seen. Their interests do not always coincide or even overlap with that of estate owners. And, in the court of public opinion, farmers are on the winning side, while shooting estates, rightly or wrongly, still carry archaic overtones of elitism.

Yet it is not just those running such estates who are feeling under-appreciated and sidelined. At a recent meeting to discuss the trial reintroduction of Lynx in the Highlands, farmers and crofters expressed dismay at the prospect of having an "apex predator" on the loose that could attack their sheep. More broadly, farmers are increasingly required to demonstrate their environmentally friendly credentials, and to adopt radically new ways of operating to meet an ever-higher bar of sustainability.

To look at an idyllic country view, whether a heathland dotted with grumbling grouse or a fieldscape of grazing cattle and spring wheat, you'd never guess at the political cloud hanging overhead. Holyrood, naturally, is quick to point out its substantial investment in rural tourism and other businesses. Protecting and improving the environment is one of its top priorities, and it is perhaps inevitable that where their interests meet those who live off the land, there will be friction.

The problem, however, is not of taking sides. Nobody wants the countryside to be harmed or depleted. The urgency of combatting global warming is evident to all, even if there are arguments over how best to achieve that. The furore over the practice of muirburn - where heather is set alight to promote fresh growth - showed how heated diverging views can grow.

Right now there needs to be an ameliorative approach from the Scottish Government, to show it is listening closely to the concerns of rural managers, whether on estates, farms, crofts or rivers. Sensitivity is essential in balancing competing interests in a way that allows productive discussion and cooperation. Riding roughshod over one particular body, or ignoring their point of view, merely fuels suspicion and entrenches a sense of persecution that is deeply unhealthy.

Clearly, the game-keeping fraternity feels beleaguered. Like it or not, blood sports are a traditional part of rural life. If sporting estates fear they are in danger of being hounded to extinction, that must be discussed: rationally, reasonably and openly. It does nobody any good to create a climate in which what appears to be an urban-minded parliament dictates how the countryside is run, without fully understanding how it works or the consequences of their decisions and dictats.

READ MORE ROSEMARY: Homes for sale: When it comes to our homes, it's a case of bless this mess

Meanwhile, possible rewilding initiatives make the headlines because those who do not live off the land like the idea of restoring indigenous creatures and recalibrating the ecosystem. In theory wolves will kill deer, preventing herds growing out of control and destroying habitat and trees. But what do we non-experts really know? Would you be happy to have a hungry wolf prowling in the woods near your door? While a herbivorous beaver is demonstrably of benefit to waterlands, a wolf or Lynx inarguably poses a hazard to other creatures.

None of this is simple. But, at a time where politics is worryingly polarised, the last thing we need is a split between town and country. We are a small country with a number of big problems, but this should not be one of them. In English Pastoral, his manifesto for a better way of farming, the Cumbrian shepherd James Rebanks writes that the way ahead depends on voters as well as politicians: "We have to flex our political muscles in our millions to create a politics that sees the land and what happens on it as being at the heart of building a more just and decent country."

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Rosemary Goring: Town and country could soon be at each other's throats

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: LEGISLATIVE BODIES (89%); NEGATIVE MISC NEWS (89%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (89%); RURAL EMPLOYMENT (89%); SHOOTING SPORTS (89%); SPORT HUNTING (79%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (78%); NOVELS & SHORT STORIES (78%); **SCOTTISH** NATIONAL PARTY (78%); LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (77%); CONSERVATION (75%); MAMMALS (75%); NATURAL RESOURCES (75%); NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (75%); WILDLIFE (75%); CITY LIFE (72%); GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (69%); ELECTIONS & POLITICS (64%)

Industry: AGRITOURISM (89%); FARMERS & RANCHERS (74%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%)

Geographic: **SCOTLAND** (94%)

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Town and country could soon be at each other's throats

Town and country could soon be at each other's throats

The Herald (Glasgow)

February 17, 2021 Wednesday

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The Herald

Section: Pg. 17

Length: 1048 words

Byline: Caroline Woollard

Body

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Classification

Language: ENGLISH

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Journal Code: HER

Subject: LEGISLATIVE BODIES (89%); NEGATIVE MISC NEWS (89%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (89%); RURAL EMPLOYMENT (89%); SHOOTING SPORTS (89%); SPORT HUNTING (79%); WILDLIFE (79%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (78%); GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (78%); LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (78%); **SCOTTISH** NATIONAL PARTY (78%); PRIVATE LANDS (77%); CONSERVATION (75%); MAMMALS (75%); NATURAL RESOURCES (75%); NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (75%); CITY LIFE (73%); ELECTIONS & POLITICS (73%); NOVELS & SHORT STORIES (73%); agriculture (%); wales_community (%); wales electoral ward (%); health terms (%); political parties (%); weather (%)

Industry: AGRITOURISM (89%); FARMERS & RANCHERS (79%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, **SCOTLAND** (73%); **SCOTLAND** (92%); WALES (92%)

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Abandoned islands to nuclear deserts: Cal Flyn tours the world's deserted places

Abandoned islands to nuclear deserts: Cal Flyn tours the world's deserted places

Herald Scotland

February 7, 2021 Sunday

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Length: 1138 words

Byline: [Dani Garavelli](#)

Body

Islands of Abandonment: Life in the Post-Human Landscape.

Cal Flyn

William Collins, £16.99

Review by Dani Garavelli

IT was the photograph on the front cover of Cal Flyn's new book that first drew me in. Captioned Last House on Holland Island, it shows a mottled grey structure, its roof lined with pelicans, perched on a rocky outcrop in Chesapeake Bay, Maryland. The photograph was taken in May 2010; five months later, the house surrendered to the sea.

Like many people, I find forsaken places beguiling. In 2019, I took a trip to Ulva, off the coast of Mull, to write about its future but became fixated instead on the vestiges of its past: obsolete fish farms, ruined stone crofts studding fields like rotting teeth, and the "big house", unlivied-in, but still furnished, curtains billowing round draughty windows, plants growing up through the balcony.

This is the ghostly terrain explored by Flyn's scintillating book, Islands of Abandonment. The author, who is from the Highlands, takes the reader from the "urban prairies" of Detroit - the defunct car capital of the world - to the Stalinist-era collective farms of Estonia; from the buffer zone in Cyprus to the forbidden forest on the site of the Battle of Verdun, and looks at what happens when disasters - natural, industrial or territorial - render places uninhabitable. She writes beautifully, capturing the distinctive sights, sounds and smells of each location, but also conjuring a visceral sense of its individual haunting. At an old mill in Paterson, New Jersey, she stands inside "the immense ribcage of an animal still breathing its last breaths". In Rose Cottage on the abandoned island of Swona off Scotland's north coast, "the air is thick with dust, motes of which rise and fall in asynchrony through shafts of light".

Abandoned islands to nuclear deserts: Cal Flyn tours the world's deserted places

Nor, despite the title, is Flyn's book bereft of people. Everywhere she goes, she seeks out those forced to leave, or those who have clung on against all odds; either way they are grieving. In Cyprus, Yiannakis Rousos yearns for the home he can see but has been unable to enter since Turkish troops invaded in 1974. In Detroit, Constance King refuses to move from her blighted neighbourhood. She goes on tending the empty property next door until one day, she hears a "bam, bam, bam", and realises it is being torn down. "Murals of every colour [bloom] across the sides of empty buildings," Flyn writes. "And in all these, the unspoken refrain: this is home; this is home; this is home."

Islands of Abandonment examines the fate of tampered-with and toxified land within the context of climate change. It is about rewilding, refugia, and the ability of species to flourish in the most unforgiving of environments. Flyn's research is meticulous, but what makes the book so extraordinary is the originality of her thought. In her debut, *Thicker Than Water*, she mulled over her own response to discovering that a distant relative, once revered as a pioneer, had been a murderer of Aborigines. In *Islands of Abandonment*, she scatters observations like seeds, and you find them taking root in your brain. "I think: the skin cells of previous occupants," she writes about the dust motes in Rose Cottage. "And find I can't unthink it." No more can the reader.

Her subject could hardly be more timely. During the pandemic we have become accustomed to images of "nature's return" - fish in the now-clear waters of Venice's canals, deer strolling through shopping malls. Many people will also be familiar with what has happened at Chernobyl. Radiation in the worst-affected areas was assumed to have killed every mammal within hours. And yet, after a few seasons, animals reappeared: *lynx*, boar, beavers and - most famously - wolves and bears.

Flyn visits the Chernobyl exclusion zone. She speaks to some "samosely" - literally, "self-settlers" - who have chosen to make an illicit return, and holds up for examination James Lovelock's provocation: that aversion methods - "the more frightening and insidious the better" - could be the most effective way of keeping people out of nature reserves.

The more interesting chapters, however, are those which take place in lesser-known locations. In one, she visits Arthur Kill, a strait between Staten Island and New Jersey, peppered with wrecks: "rust-red, spectral, and lit with the roseate glow of the dawn."

The ships, gathered and then abandoned by the owner of a nearby scrapyard, are "ghosts of industry past". So too is Shooter's Island, a former oil refinery and shipyard which has become a bird sanctuary - a haven for ibises, herons and cormorants. Some of the factories that bled into Arthur Kill produced polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), which are fatal to most species, including killifish, and yet, the killifish have adapted to their environment, becoming 8,000 times more resistant to industrial pollution than killifish elsewhere. What probably happened - Flyn posits - is that some of the killifish had genetic mutations that made them less sensitive to toxicity. They survived where others didn't and passed that genetic mutation onto their offspring. Flyn calls this "unnatural selection"; scientists call it "rapid evolution".

Islands of Abandonment finds nature thriving in unexpected places and landscapes adapting to change. In Amani, Tanzania, colonists introduced alien species, including *maesopsis eminii*, which spread, threatening the existing biodiversity. But the worst didn't happen; the native species fought back and the *maesopsis* carved itself a useful role, providing shade and feeding the local fauna. Such "eco-systems" are considered by some to be "novel ecosystems", created by man, yet self-sustaining.

The book, then, is surprisingly optimistic - an antidote to climate change defeatists who believe we are on an unstoppable course. But it is not naive. Flyn doesn't pretend these moments of redemption offer more than slivers of light. Nor does she spare the reader the more doom-laden scenarios of "the Earth's climate spinning ever more rapidly out of control, as increasing temperatures create positive feedback loops that amplify the effects of climate change".

One possible criticism is that she pivots too much between these two poles. In the last chapter, she quotes Julian of Norwich's promise that "all shall be well and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well", but she also invokes the Book of Revelation. She cautions against overly interventionist methods of conservation, but she also

Abandoned islands to nuclear deserts: Cal Flyn tours the world's deserted places

urges the reader to have "faith enough to fight". Then again, the world is messy, and this is where we are: caught between terror and hope, action and inaction, unsure what to do for the best.

Cal Flyn is at the Paisley Book Festival on February 27. The festival runs online from Feb 18-27. For programme and ticket details visit <https://paisleybookfest.com>

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: ISLANDS & REEFS (89%); ANIMAL WELFARE (78%); BLIGHTED PROPERTIES (78%); PAINTING (78%); CLIMATE CHANGE (77%); CLIMATOLOGY (77%); ECONOMIC BLIGHT (77%); ANIMALS (74%); WRITERS (72%)

Industry: BLIGHTED PROPERTIES (78%); PAINTING (78%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); WRITERS (72%); FINFISH FARMING (69%)

Geographic: MARYLAND, USA (77%); NEW JERSEY, USA (54%); **SCOTLAND** (93%); CYPRUS (92%); ESTONIA (55%); TURKEY (55%)

Load-Date: February 7, 2021

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Pirates storm to incredible Scottish Cup turnaround

Paisley Daily Express

February 4, 2021 Thursday

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: SPORT; Pg. 22

Length: 732 words

Body

Skating down memory lane A LOOK BACK THROUGH THE ARCHIVES WITH THE PAISLEY PIRATES

With the current season put on ice, we've linked up with Paisley Pirates stalwart and media guru Bill Elliot to relive some of the club's most dramatic and successful moments.

Today, we are looking back at a **Scottish** Cup semi-final comeback win against the odds in March 2018.

PAISLEY

PIRATES

LYNX.....1 (Pirates win 9-7 on aggregate)

Paisley Pirates had the proverbial mountain to climb when they lined up against Aberdeen Lynx at Braehead Arena on March 24, 2016.

They had suffered a heavy 6-2 defeat at the hands of their northern opponents in the first leg of the **Scottish** Cup semi-final the previous weekend, meaning the odds favoured the latter to make it to the final against the Dundee Comets.

That was, of course, unless the home team could produce the kind of exceptional performance required to overcome a four-goal deficit.

In the event, the home supporters were treated to a display to be remembered.

Pirates blew away **Lynx** with a sensational late, late show which saw them overcome a substantial first leg deficit and proceed to the **Scottish Cup** final to play against their perennial rivals Comets.

The home side got off to the quickest of starts and were ahead after less than two minutes when Thorp took advantage of good work by Walker to beat Chalmers and give the hosts exactly what they wanted.

Pirates storm to incredible Scottish Cup turnaround

However, in spite of their lightning opening and repeated forays on the Aberdeen goal, Pirates were unable to capitalise on their early opener and, with the Lynx netminder showing excellent form, he was able to keep the score at 1-0 after the opening 20 minutes.

The second period followed the pattern of the first in many respects, as Pirates put on the pressure via countless attacks with Chalmers turning away all but one of the 20 shots that rained in on him.

Speirs fired home after 23 minutes to double the score on the night, but the hosts still had a mountain of work to do if they wanted to reach the final.

The defender shot home to give his side a 2-0 advantage on the night, but the Pirates were still trailing 4-6 on aggregate, with only one period remaining in which to fix the damage caused by the stinging defeat the week before in Aberdeen.

The hosts came out the blocks with all guns blazing in the final session and, after only 33 seconds, the aggregate deficit was down to one as Crute got on the end of good work by Dobson and skipper Turley to make it 3-0.

This time it wasn't just going to be a one-goal period and, with the decibel reading in the stands threatening to go off the scale, Pirates proceeded to stick four past the hapless Chalmers.

First, Thorp got his second and his team's fourth, before Dobson found the net within a couple of minutes to put his team ahead 5-0 on the night, and 7-6 on aggregate.

On-fire Thorp completed his hat-trick then added some zing to the scoreline with a seventh, all within the space of only seven minutes.

Aberdeen immediately went up the ice to ruin Meechan's shut out through Thompson less than 20 seconds later.

But, with Pirates comfortably ahead at 7-1 on the night and 9-7 on aggregate, the stunning turnaround was complete and it was the home team who took the rapturous applause of the crowd as the final buzzer sounded.

Graphic

Star man Thorp shouts his delight after scoring
All smiles Pirates players celebrate their incredible victory
On-form Dobson fires home for Pirates

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: PDE

Subject: SCOTTISH FOOTBALL (90%); STADIUMS & ARENAS (79%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (90%); DUNDEE, SCOTLAND (79%); SCOTLAND (90%); National Edition

Pirates storm to incredible Scottish Cup turnaround

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Lynx reintroduction study shunned by farming representatives

The Scottish Farmer

February 2021

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Length: 691 words

Byline: [Claire Taylor](#)

Body

NEW EFFORTS to promote the reintroduction of *Lynx* into the **Scottish** Highlands have been dismissed by both farmers and ScotGov.

A new year-long study, '*Lynx* to **Scotland**', is underway by a partnership of charities including **Scotland**: The Big Picture, Trees for Life and Vincent Wildlife Trust, to assess people's views about the possible reintroduction of Eurasian *Lynx* as a means to control deer populations.

Advocates for their return believe the species' deer predation would help regenerate natural woodlands. However, livestock farmers have warned of the devastation this could potentially pose to their flocks.

Oban hill farmer and NFU **Scotland**'s Environment and Land Use Committee chairman, Angus MacFadyen, was keen to reassure farmers and crofters that whatever emerges from the study, it will not equate to an application for *Lynx* release in **Scotland**: "In our opinion, no local consensus nor political consensus has ever been secured. This latest survey in **Scotland** is unlikely to change that, given farmers and livestock predation were not included in its launch release.

"Farmers and crofters in **Scotland** can be confident that the union, as a member of the **Scottish** National Species Reintroduction Forum, will take all necessary steps to ensure their interests are protected were a formal application ever to be made," he explained.

Highland Perthshire hill farmer and NFUS vice president Martin Kennedy took part in a study trip to Norway in 2017, where he heard that Norwegian authorities had paid out compensation on 20,000 sheep lost to predators: "Of the sheep killed in Norway, wolverine accounted for around 34% of losses with the *Lynx*, bear and wolf accounting for 21%, 15% and 9% respectively."

Due to the pressures of predation, he reported that around 1000 hill farmers had given up in the past 10 years. "The Norwegians told us that to reintroduce predators into our country would be an absolute catastrophe," he continued. "Their experience has simply strengthened our resolve."

Almost three years ago to the very day, **Scottish** rural economy secretary Fergus Ewing said *Lynx* would be reintroduced over 'his dead body'. A spokesperson confirmed: "The **Scottish** Government has absolutely no plans to reintroduce *Lynx* to **Scotland**. Any private organisation wishing to release *Lynx* in **Scotland** would need a licence from NatureScot. Any applications to release large carnivores in **Scotland** would be very carefully scrutinised and we would ensure that the views of all those who would be likely to be affected were properly taken into account."

Lynx reintroduction study shunned by farming representatives

However, the charities behind the new study believe that *Lynx* must be considered for conservation purposes. "With a global biodiversity crisis, we have a responsibility to have open and constructive conversations around restoring key native species to the *Scottish* landscape - and science shows that apex predators like *Lynx* play a vital ecological role in maintaining healthy living systems," said Peter Cairns, executive director of *Scotland*: The Big Picture.

Citing research that suggests the Highlands has sufficient habitat to support around 400 wild *Lynx*, the charities stressed that roe deer is the species' preferred prey: "*Scotland* has more woodland deer than any other European country, and their relentless browsing often prevents the expansion and healthy regeneration of our natural woodlands," said chief executive of Trees for Life, Steve Micklewright. "By preying on roe deer, *Lynx* would restore ecological processes that have been missing for centuries, and provide a free and efficient deer management service."

Jenny MacPherson of the Vincent Wildlife Trust, which will lead the study, added: "Reintroducing *Lynx* would inevitably bring challenges. '*Lynx* to *Scotland*' will actively include stakeholders representing the full range of perspectives, in order to produce meaningful conclusions about the level of support or tolerance for *Lynx*, and therefore, the likely success of any future reintroduction."

Mr Cairns added: "It may be that this study shows that the *Scottish* public isn't ready to live alongside a top predator, in which case we will know that and we will walk away."

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: WILD CATS (94%); MAMMALS (90%); WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (90%); CONSERVATION (89%); LIFE FORMS (89%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (78%); ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (78%); WILDLIFE (78%); BIODIVERSITY (77%); BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION (77%); CHARITIES (77%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (77%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS CONSERVATION (77%); FARM LABOR (75%); LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (75%); RESEARCH REPORTS (73%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (73%); POLLS & SURVEYS (71%); LAND USE PLANNING (70%)

Industry: LIVESTOCK (89%); ANIMAL FARMING & BREEDING (78%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS CONSERVATION (77%); FARM LABOR (75%); LAND USE PLANNING (70%)

Geographic: *SCOTLAND* (95%); NORWAY (94%)

Load-Date: February 4, 2021

George Milne - Farming's environmental benefits must be recognised and rewarded

The Scottish Farmer

February 2021

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Length: 839 words

Byline: [Gordon Davidson](#)

Body

There is a four-way competition for the two vacant vice-presidential roles at NFU **Scotland**.

Rather than the traditional round of regional hustings, the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions have obliged the candidates to make their case for election via virtual meetings. The elections will take place at the union's virtual council meeting on Friday, February 12, with online voting arrangements for council members in place.

Here, we offer each candidate space to introduce themselves and comment on the pressing issues facing **Scottish** farming ... next on our list is George Milne, of Kinaldy, St Andrews, Fife

"I FARM near St. Andrews with 400 breeding ewes plus an additional 300 ewe lambs bought each year and sold as gimmers, a herd of pedigree Aberdeen Angus cattle and two years ago we diversified into agri-tourism setting up educational farm tours

I have more than 20 years' experience in Agri politics engaging with politicians at Holyrood, Westminster and Brussels. During this time, I have held the positions of chairman and Development officer of National Sheep Association **Scotland** and I am currently a Board member of QMS, where I chair the beef and lamb marketing group, and the remuneration committee as well as being a member of the audit and risk management committee. This has enabled me to influence policy and I have been able to contribute to the climate change agenda, promoting the role that sheep play in less favoured areas, improvements in farm efficiency and improved animal health and welfare.

If elected, I will use the experience that I have gained in these roles to ensure that every sector within **Scottish** agriculture is represented by taking forward the views of NFUS members to officials and most importantly acted upon by both **Scottish** and UK Governments.

The sector is currently facing some major issues, the future of farm support and obtaining recognition for the contribution that farmers deliver to the sustainability agenda are critical to the future success of our industry. During the last 10 months the **Scottish** farming sector has demonstrated its resilience, however, the coming years as we recover from Covid-19 and respond to the challenges of Brexit are going to be critical. The proposed changes to transport regulation, gene editing, re-wilding and potential threats from future trade deals allowing cheap food into the UK are just some examples of future challenges.

Transport regulation and gene editing could potentially lead to differences between **Scotland** and the rest of the UK. If transport regulation is implemented more rigorously in England then when we move stock from **Scotland** to

George Milne - Farming's environmental benefits must be recognised and rewarded

England we will have to comply with their rules. If England make use of gene editing and we don't then there will be immediate problems with livestock and feeding material crossing the border.

NFUS is in an ideal place to engage, discuss and challenge government on these issues in order to deliver proper solutions.

Re-wilding and predators pose threats to our countryside, our way of life and how we protect our livestock. The sea eagle population is out of control and needs addressed urgently - I was previously at the forefront of opposing the reintroduction of Lynx and will continue to do so.

Clearly England has a different direction of travel from Scotland regarding future support and we are fortunate to have a Cabinet Secretary that recognises the importance of agriculture and food production. Scotland produces food to the highest standards with a worldwide reputation for quality and our PGI status for Scotch beef and lamb puts us ahead of the rest. QMS have done a fantastic job in promoting our Scotch beef PGI, Scotch lamb PGI and Specially Selected Pork. The 'Make it' campaign has been relentless on social media along with a return to television advertising. This amount of air time needs funding, hopefully the long awaited levy repatriation will help to build on this in the future.

I am determined to ensure that Scotland's farmers receive the same recognition and respect by our consumers as NZ and Australia have.

Scottish farmers are expected to produce more food to meet Scotland's food and Drink ambition of doubling output to £30 billion by 2030. Yet the government have also increased tree planting targets to 18,000 ha by 2025. We also provide public goods, delivering environmental benefits and access to the countryside. It is time this was properly recognised and directly attributed to the farming community.

Climate change will be the driver for change going forward. The Suckler Beef climate plan has been produced and its recommendations are moving fast. This will be the blueprint for other sector plans, the Hill and Upland, Dairy, Pig, and Arable. We will have to adapt to help deliver the targets, I am however concerned that the industry is suitably recognised for future improvements and any changes are evidence based.

It would be an honour to become part of the NFUS team as a Vice President and I would welcome your support to allow me to help make a difference."

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS (90%); ELECTIONS & POLITICS (90%); POLITICS (90%); COVID CORONAVIRUS (89%); COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS REGULATION & POLICY (89%); INFECTIOUS DISEASE (89%); MAMMALS (89%); TRANSPORTATION LAW (84%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (78%); ELECTIONS (78%); EMPLOYMENT HISTORY (78%); ANIMAL WELFARE (77%); BOARDS OF DIRECTORS (77%); CLIMATE CHANGE (77%); COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS (77%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (77%); SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (77%); TALKS & MEETINGS (77%); VIDEO CONFERENCING (77%); ANIMALS (75%); AGRICULTURAL SUBSIDIES (73%); BREXIT (73%); SECURITIES TRADING (69%); RISK MANAGEMENT (65%); GENE EDITING (64%)

Industry: AGRITOURISM (90%); TRANSPORTATION LAW (84%); AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING & HUNTING (78%); LIVESTOCK (78%); SHEEP FARMING (78%); SHEEP & GOAT FARMING (77%);

George Milne - Farming's environmental benefits must be recognised and rewarded

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (77%); VIDEO CONFERENCING (77%); AGRICULTURAL SUBSIDIES (73%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); SECURITIES TRADING (69%); RISK MANAGEMENT (65%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (79%); SCOTLAND (95%); ENGLAND (93%); UNITED KINGDOM (93%)

Load-Date: February 7, 2021

End of Document

Lynx announces arrival of new monster dyno

The Scottish Farmer

February 2021

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Length: 519 words

Byline: [Ken Fletcher](#)

Body

ACCURATELY assessing engine performance of some of the world's biggest combines and tractors, is now possible in the UK thanks to the arrival of new Eggers dynamometer technology at [Lynx](#) Engineering.

It has added a mobile Eggers 735 kW PT 501 G+ PTO brake dynamometer to its range which is capable of accurately measuring and verifying the torque, power and performance of engines up to 1000hp.

Claimed to be the most powerful of its type in the UK, this new addition to the range sold by [Lynx](#) complements its mobile 600 kW PT 301 units which are designed for testing engines up to a maximum of 455hp for full-load curve testing and 800hp for rapid testing.

[Lynx](#) is the sole UK importer of the dynamometers from Germany-based KL Maschinenbau, which specialises in the development and manufacture of dynamometers for agricultural machinery and engines.

Dealers across the UK and Ireland can either book dyno tests to be conducted by a [Lynx](#) technician on the dealer's premises, or dynamometers can be purchased through [Lynx](#).

As with other units in the range, this giant measures torque and rotational speed separately. The generator, which is used to load the engine, incorporates a hub to measure torque and a speed sensor to record revolutions per minute.

From these precisely measured values, the electronics calculate the performance of the engine under test against a specified power profile. Because the generator is used as a braking medium with the sole task of loading the engine and not for power measurement, any potential inaccuracies, such as constantly changing efficiencies of the generator, are eliminated.

Its innovative control system is centred on special software software, which helps iron out any anomalies that affect engine performance, such as prevailing weather conditions.

The PowerControl software compensates for this differential by controlling the delivery of an engine's rated performance at a constant air intake temperature of 20°C and an air pressure of 1013 mbar. If the same power unit is measured in colder conditions, say at 5°C, the software back-calculates the performance to replicate the original testing parameters.

This makes it possible to have comparable measurements from a single tractor or harvester, the first of which could be in summer and the second in winter.

Lynx announces arrival of new monster dyno

Such dynamometers are a vital item of equipment used on the inspection lines of major manufacturers, including John Deere, Claas, Deutz-Fahr, Case IH, Fendt and others.

"Testing a tractor or a harvester in summer and then in winter can yield completely different results from the same input data. The Eggers technology provides a common standard, irrespective of outside air temperature, to give consistently accurate and reliable results whatever the time of year," explained Lynx managing director, Nick Ewbank.

"With this new addition, we can offer our dealers a first-class testing service on any harvester or tractor, saving them a substantial financial outlay on special tools and training which they would otherwise need to support the sales and servicing of the very latest high-horsepower machines," he added.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: ENGINEERING (90%)

Industry: ENGINEERING (90%); MANUFACTURING (89%); AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT (78%);
AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT MFG (78%); ELECTRONIC SENSORS & DETECTORS (66%)

Geographic: UNITED KINGDOM (90%); SCOTLAND (73%); GERMANY (56%); IRELAND (56%)

Load-Date: February 15, 2021

End of Document

From brocks and tod .. to linties and laverocks

The Scottish Farmer

February 2021

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Length: 148 words

Byline: Community contributor

Body

Sir, - A few lines about **Scottish** wildlife.

There's plenty wildlife on this fairm,

Ah'd scrieve a list lang's ma airm,

Oo've brocks, tod's an' lowgrund maukin,

An' roe deer free fare ony stalkin'.

Oo've mavis, linties, laverocks tae

An' gleds an' hoolits oot for prey.

There's whyles a heron seekin' fish

Or a puddock for his evenin' dish.

Oo've corbies black as winter nights

An' hedges fu' o' yellae'yites...

The "powers that be" they say they're rare,

But oo've a wheen and even mair,

Sae whit's the point in bringin' **Lynx**,

Ah'd raither see oor ain gowdspinks,

For there's a bonnie sicht tae see,

Lord save us frae the powers that be.

PS: I've no doubt that your older readers will relate to the auld Scots terms, still used throughout the Borders, for badgers, foxes, hares, song thrushes, linnets, skylarks, hawks, owls, yellow hammers, carrion crows and goldfinches!

From brocks and tod .. to linties and laverocks

John M Nisbet

Auchencrow Mains,

Reston.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: BIRDS (90%); WILDLIFE (90%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (88%)

Load-Date: February 8, 2021

End of Document

LIGHT UP YOUR LIFE Tired of being cooped up indoors? It might be time to plan a bucket-list trip to the once seen, never forgotten Northern Lights BRIDGET MCGRO....

LIGHT UP YOUR LIFE; Tired of being cooped up indoors? It might be time to plan a bucket-list trip to the once seen, never forgotten Northern Lights
BRIDGET MCGROUTHER DO YOU KNOW A DESTINATION BRIDGET
SHOULD FEATURE? CONTACT HER AT B.MCGROUTHER@ SUNDAYMAIL.
WWW.CO.UK FOLLOW HER ON TWITTER @BSMCGROUTHER

Daily Record and Sunday Mail

January 31, 2021 Sunday

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: SEVEN DAYS;FEATURES; Pg. 14

Length: 955 words

Byline: Bridget McGrouther

Body

The sky's the limit For the Aurora hunter, Bjorkliden is a dream destination, set under unpolluted skies in Swedish Lapland between the Abisko National Park and Norwegian border. Guests stay at the Bjorkliden Mountain Resort and enjoy activities such as an Aurora Photo Tour led by a professional photographer, snowmobile excursion, dog sled ride and a visit to the Aurora Sky Station in Abisko. A five-night, half-board package costs from £1783pp based on two sharing and includes return flights from Edinburgh on December 12, 2021, and private transfers. See www.sunwil.co.uk Polar n-ice Early winter in Arctic Spitsbergen is a unique time to visit this remote region, where you may spot a polar bear as well as the Northern Lights. This exciting four-night itinerary (or five incl an independent overnight stay in Oslo) allows adventurous travellers to explore Longyearbyen by electric fatbike, on a walking tour of the snowy Arctic tundra, on board a ship bound for a former Russian settlement and beer tasting at the world's northernmost brewery. Prices from £1050pp based on B&B twin share in Miners' Cabins and flights from Edinburgh during Oct/ Nov 2021. See www.ganeandmarshall.com Snow time Give the family the magical festive season with a snowy adventure deep inside the Arctic Circle in Lapland.

Stay in a thermal glass igloo, spot the Northern Lights, ski the winter wonderland and more. Those booking a seven-night Lapland stay with Inghams can add a new great-value Santa Experience package, which could save up to £257pp on a range of experiences from a sled-dog ride or reindeer safari to a meeting with the big man himself. Three-night half board at Akas (Snow Elf) Hotel costs from £929pp departing Manchester on November 28, 2021. See www.inghams.co.uk Sea stars One of Fred. Olsen's new ships is called Borealis and it is fitting that she is setting sail from Liverpool on November 16, 2021, in search of her namesake. Other mesmerising attractions include whale watching and viewing native wildlife like bears, wolves and *lynx* at the Polar Park. Prices from £1999pp for a 16-night In Search Of The Aurora Borealis cruise. See www.fredolsencruises.com A golden opportunity For those who want more personal space, this Iceland Northern Lights & Golden Circle 'Plus' tour features small groups of 12, private transport and 50 per cent off solo rooming. Journeying from Reykjavik, travellers will explore lava caves in the Bláfjöll Mountains, visit an

LIGHT UP YOUR LIFE Tired of being cooped up indoors? It might be time to plan a bucket-list trip to the once seen, never forgotten Northern Lights BRIDGET MCGRO....

Icelandic horse farm, swim in hot springs and marvel at gushing geysers. After traditional dinners, travellers have two evenings to hunt for the Northern Lights. A four-night circular tour costs from £807pp (was £949pp) if booked today (Jan 31) for October 17, 2021, departure (www.gadventures.com). Trip excludes flights, which cost around £188 return with EasyJet (www.easyjet.com) from Edinburgh to Reykjavik. Swedish massage After dog sledding and snowmobile tours, unwind at the Aurora Spa at Ripan Hotel in Kiruna in Swedish Lapland. Surrounded by forests and rivers, the spa offers treatments, saunas and icy outdoor plunge pools. The five-night B&B trip includes all these activities, a spa ritual experience, an Aurora photo tour, a Northern Lights dinner, a moose safari transfer and return flights from Edinburgh to Kiruna via Stockholm. From £1986pp based on two sharing, departing December 12, 2021. See www.sunvil.co.uk Seeing green The greenest way to see the Northern Lights is to stay in **Scotland** and watch for the 'Mirrie Dancers'. They've already been on show this year in the north and the best bets are cloudless nights in rural hideaways in the Highlands and islands. When it's safe to travel, rent a cottage in the Cairngorms or Skye or drive the North Coast 500 before the long, dark nights end - or perhaps plan for next winter. Check www.softservenews.com for a daily Aurora Borealis forecast.

Hide and seek

Yorkshire Hideaways has joined the Hideaways Holiday Group. The latest addition provides an exciting portfolio of properties such as dog-friendly accommodation, a castle, a lighthouse near Whitby and even a librarian's cottage on the Castle Howard estate. Other Hideaways regional brands include Cornwall, the Cotswolds, Dorset, Norfolk and Suffolk. See www.yorkshirehideaways.co.uk.

Made with love

Why not treat your Valentine to a restaurant-worthy dinner at home from The Griffin at Dale, Pembrokeshire? Their new menu boxes will be delivered to your door on February 12 with easy-to-cook instructions. Menus include king prawns with sundried tomato sauce as a starter and either fillet steak or cod loin for mains, with sticky toffee pudding to finish. From £58 for a three-course meal for two plus UK delivery. To order, email menubox@grieffindale.co.uk or call 01646 636227.

Peace of mind

Tailor-made tour operator Audley Travel (www.audleytravel.com) has now extended its flexibility promise. Clients exploring short-haul trips such as Croatia, Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Iceland, Scandinavia, Jordan, Egypt and Morocco can cancel up to 14 days before departure for a full refund, when they book by March 31, 2021, and travel by November 30. This extra flexibility is extended to some long-haul destinations such as the Maldives, Seychelles, Caribbean, Mauritius and Dubai.

Expo-dition

Postponed from last year, the UAE will welcome the world with Expo 2020 Dubai from October 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022. In the meantime, the Expo 2020 Pavilions Premiere has been launched to experience Terra - The Sustainability Pavilion, built to be net zero for both energy and water. Open until April 10, 2021, it's a must-see once travel restrictions are lifted. Around £5 per visit, book at www.expo2020dubai.com/en/pavilions-premiere.

Graphic

ROOMS WITH A VIEW Camp Ripan Hotel in Sweden GLOW FOR IT Bjorkliden Mountain Resort in Lapland

Classification

LIGHT UP YOUR LIFE Tired of being cooped up indoors? It might be time to plan a bucket-list trip to the once seen, never forgotten Northern Lights BRIDGET MCGRO....

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: SML

Subject: MAMMALS (89%); MOUNTAINS (89%); NATIONAL PARKS (89%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (89%); MARINE MAMMALS (88%); DOG SLEDDING (77%); PHOTOGRAPHY SERVICES (77%); SLED SPORTS (77%); WINTER SPORTS (77%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (74%); WILDLIFE (74%); PHOTOGRAPHY (72%); SKIING (72%); VISUAL ARTISTS (72%)

Company: SKY'S THE LIMIT (93%)

Industry: NAICS451120 HOBBY, TOY & GAME STORES (93%); SIC5945 HOBBY, TOY, & GAME STORES (93%); NATIONAL PARKS (89%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (89%); DESTINATIONS & ATTRACTIONS (78%); RESORTS (78%); TRAVEL, HOSPITALITY & TOURISM (78%); HOTELS & MOTELS (77%); PHOTOGRAPHY SERVICES (77%); BEER & ALE (72%); PHOTOGRAPHY (72%); SNOWMOBILES (72%); VISUAL ARTISTS (72%); BREWERIES (67%); MOTOR VEHICLES (57%)

Geographic: LONGYEARBYEN, SVALBARD (79%); REYKJAVIK, ICELAND (79%); OSLO, NORWAY (78%); EDINBURGH, **SCOTLAND** (72%); MANCHESTER, ENGLAND (72%); ARCTIC (93%); ICELAND (92%); SVALBARD & JAN MAYEN (92%); NORWAY (79%); National Edition

Load-Date: January 31, 2021

End of Document

Culling time - the great deer debate

The Herald (Glasgow)

January 27, 2021 Wednesday

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The Herald

Section: Pg. 15

Length: 500 words

Byline: Vicky Allan

Body

HOW fickle is our human love. The red deer is one of **Scotland's** most iconic animals, the glorious Monarch of the Glen, but the brouhaha around this species now centres on whether we are killing enough of these animals - and if this Covid period is seeing a worrying increase in numbers. Deer has almost, in recent times, been talked of as if it were a kind of vermin.

So, what's the problem?

Part it's that we're not eating enough of them. A side-effect of the pandemic in the UK has been that, with the closure of restaurants, venison consumption has taken a slide. The anticipated result is more deer - which also means more chewing away at juvenile trees and destruction of young forest as well as all-round biodiversity. Trees and forestry are seen as answers to both our climate and biodiversity crises.

Among those who have raised concerns is Simon Hodgson, chief executive of Forestry and Land **Scotland**, who earlier this week observed: "Venison purchases by the hard-hit hospitality sector have dropped, and there are knock-on effects for prices paid to deer managers for deer carcasses. The winter cull has been reduced due to lockdown restrictions and we can only expect much larger deer populations this year." **Scotland's** forests, he noted, "are expected to play a central role" in achieving our net zero emissions targets. "Our woodlands look impressive and contribute greatly to **Scotland's** rural economy, and this is in no small part down to effective deer management."

Do we really have too many deer?

Deer numbers in **Scotland** are estimated to have increased from around 511,000 in 1990 to between 750,000 and one million as of 2020. The last few decades have seen stabilisation, due to increased culling, but many still argue that if biodiversity-rich and carbon-sink forests are what we want, populations are far too high. It has been estimated we have deer densities more than 10 times higher than many other European countries.

So, we just shoot more?

Culling time - the great deer debate

The **Scottish** Government's Deer Working Group report, published last year, recommended that the population should be halved in some areas. **Scottish** Environment Link, a coalition of conservation groups, last year proposed "statutory regulation" to cut deer numbers across **Scotland**, which would mean landowners would be told how many to cull. However, deer management groups, made up of local landowners and sporting estates, which set their voluntary target for culling, are unsurprisingly, not happy with such ideas - which they say would damage an important rural industry.

Any other bright ideas not involving guns?

The return of the **Lynx**? Centuries back, numbers were kept in check by wolves and **Lynx**. A group of charities recently launched a study to assess public views on its reintroduction to the Highlands. Steve Micklewright, Chief Executive of Trees for Life, said: "By preying on roe deer, **Lynx** would restore ecological processes that have been missing for centuries, and provide a free and efficient deer management service."

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: HER

Subject: BIODIVERSITY (90%); MAMMALS (90%); EXECUTIVES (88%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS (88%); LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (88%); BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION (78%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (78%); EPIDEMICS (78%); COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS REGULATION & POLICY (77%); NEGATIVE NEWS (77%); DEFORESTATION (74%); MANAGERS & SUPERVISORS (74%); CLIMATE ACTION (73%); COVID CORONAVIRUS (72%); BUSINESS CLOSINGS (70%); EMISSIONS (69%); PRICES (69%); AIR QUALITY REGULATION (65%); CHARITIES (64%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (64%); agriculture (%) ; health terms (%)

Industry: MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (78%); DEFORESTATION (74%); RESTAURANTS & FOOD SERVICE INDUSTRY (74%); TRAVEL & TOURISM REGULATION & POLICY (74%); RESTAURANTS (70%); EMISSIONS (69%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, **SCOTLAND** (73%); **SCOTLAND** (94%); EUROPE (79%); UNITED KINGDOM (79%)

Load-Date: January 27, 2021

They shoot deer, don't they? Scotland's culling controversy.

They shoot deer, don't they? Scotland's culling controversy.

Herald Scotland

January 27, 2021 Wednesday

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Length: 507 words

Byline: [Vicky Allan](#)

Body

HOW fickle is our human obsession. The red deer is one of **Scotland**'s most iconic animals, the glorious Monarch of the Glen, but the brouhaha around this species now centres on whether we are killing, or culling as it is often termed, enough of these animals - and if this Covid period is seeing a worrying increase in numbers. Deer has almost, in recent times, been talked of as if it were a kind of vermin.

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So, we just shoot more?

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Landowners snub new research calling for drastic cull of deer

Any other bright ideas that don't involve guns?

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Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: BIODIVERSITY (90%); MAMMALS (90%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS (88%); LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (88%); BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION (78%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (78%); COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS REGULATION & POLICY (77%); EPIDEMICS (77%); NEGATIVE NEWS (77%); SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (77%); MANAGERS & SUPERVISORS (74%); CLIMATE ACTION (73%); DEFORESTATION (73%); COVID CORONAVIRUS (72%); EXECUTIVES (72%); BUSINESS CLOSINGS (69%); EMISSIONS (69%); PRICES (69%); AIR QUALITY REGULATION (65%); CHARITIES (64%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (63%)

Industry: MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (78%); RESTAURANTS & FOOD SERVICE INDUSTRY (74%); TRAVEL & TOURISM REGULATION & POLICY (74%); DEFORESTATION (73%); RESTAURANTS (70%); EMISSIONS (69%)

Geographic: **SCOTLAND** (95%); EUROPE (79%); UNITED KINGDOM (79%)

Load-Date: January 27, 2021

Cash crisis: Clouds gather in the mission to save Scotland's rare rainforests

Cash crisis: Clouds gather in the mission to save Scotland's rare rainforests

Herald Scotland

January 27, 2021 Wednesday

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Length: 836 words

Byline: [Martin Williams](#)

Body

It is the unique combination of ancient woodlands, open glades, boulders, crags, ravines and river gorges that make up **Scotland**'s answer to the tropical rainforests.

Once found all along Europe's Atlantic coast the temperate rainforest has dwindled over thousands of years.

And the west coast of **Scotland** is one of the last strongholds of this spectacular habitat with its array of lichens, fungi, mosses and ferns - some found nowhere else in the world.

But **Scotland**'s rainforest is in trouble. As little as 75,000 acres remain - a mere 2% of **Scotland**'s woodland cover.

Now a cash crisis has emerged in a bid to make the first wave of new steps to save the ancient forest in **Scotland** which is being lost to overgrazing by deer and livestock, invasive plant species and disease.

These are currently two that "ready to go" schemes in **Scotland** to save the rainforest in Argyll and Morvern, but are critically short of funds to launch.

The £3.8m Saving Morven's Rainforest project led by RSPB **Scotland** is facing a funding gap on the Morvern bid which the charity can't afford the risk of underwriting in the current financial climate of at least £500,000 and that is without the hoped for £2.3m funding from the EU LIFE programme, which is still in the melting pot despite Brexit.

READ MORE: New plan to introduce **Lynx** to **Scotland** after 1000 years will help save forests

Even if they are successful in their bid to the LIFE fund, the whole project could fall if they don't find sufficient match funding.

And the Argyll's Rainforest project is looking for £350,000 to allow for the first phase of its programme.

Argyll is home to more than half of the remaining rainforest habitat in **Scotland**.

The Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust (ACT), was invited to develop an application to the National Heritage Lottery Fund in March 2020 in connection with the project.

Cash crisis: Clouds gather in the mission to save Scotland's rare rainforests

Due to the Covid-19 crisis however, the fund was "put on hold as it understandably turned its attention to schemes countering effects of the virus", said the Alliance for **Scotland's** Rainforest.

Julie Stoneman, the Alliance's Saving **Scotland's** Rainforest project manager said: "The rainforest crisis comes from multiple threats to the rainforest - particularly rhododendron invading the habitat and high numbers of deer preventing regeneration, though there are other issues, including nitrogen pollution.

"However, this globally important habitat has a surprising low profile, which means it hasn't had the attention it deserves to tackle these threats - so we need to raise that profile urgently to those that can make a difference.

"We have identified a number of landscape scale projects in key areas to help the situation, but recognises that public policy also needs to change if we are to tackle these threats across the entire zone.

"There's a cash crisis for two reasons. Firstly because we are living in very precarious times financially.

READ MORE: Thousands back 'national nature emergency' declaration call to save **Scotland's** wildlife

"The second is that importance of the habitat and the urgency to save it doesn't seem to be recognised. Bids for both projects have also failed in the past for other reasons; and it's even been suggested that we can only apply for one rainforest project at a time across the whole rainforest zone which is huge, stretching from north Sutherland to south of Argyll.

"The longer we leave it, the worse it gets, particularly when it comes to rhododendron."

Last March, an Expression of Interest in the Argyll project was accepted, only for it to be almost immediately withdrawn due to the Covid pandemic.

It is the sheer quantity of rain, coupled with a mean annual temperature that is neither too hot nor too cold, that enables temperate rainforests to thrive in **Scotland** and in other isolated pockets around the world.

But the rainforests have become fragmented with around 50 per cent having been destroyed already and the habitats have become even more endangered than their more famous tropical counterparts.

Two years ago, **Scottish** Natural Heritage launched a widespread plan to kill the rhododendron bushes from the unique ancient Celtic rainforests along the west coast as they become increasingly choked with the plant which is causing the climate to change on the forest floor.

The action plan with other conservation charities would see the invasive species have their roots killed so they die slowly.

But last year the dangers, and plans to regenerate the forest, were set out in a report by the Atlantic Woodland Alliance.

The alliance of 16 charities and organisations found that almost all of the rainforest is over-grazed to a degree that prevents trees and other plants from re-growing, says the alliance. Invasive rhododendron can be found in 40% of rainforest sites where it threatens to choke the woodlands.

Ash dieback, which is caused by a fungus, threatens the future of northern and western ash woods. And climate change and air pollution also risks the clean air needs for most of the forest's plants to survive.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Cash crisis: Clouds gather in the mission to save Scotland's rare rainforests

Subject: RAIN FORESTS (93%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS (90%); MAMMALS (89%); LIFE FORMS (76%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (76%); BREXIT (73%); INFECTIOUS DISEASE (73%); INVASIVE SPECIES (73%); EUROPEAN UNION (72%); COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS (68%); PROJECT MANAGEMENT (67%); COVID CORONAVIRUS (60%); POLLUTION & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS (50%)

Industry: LIVESTOCK (73%); LOTTERIES (50%)

Geographic: ATLANTIC OCEAN (79%); **SCOTLAND** (98%); EUROPE (73%)

Load-Date: January 27, 2021

End of Document

Is there woolly thinking in evidence over wild lynx scheme? - Andrew Arbuckle

Is there woolly thinking in evidence over wild lynx scheme? - Andrew Arbuckle

Scotsman

January 25, 2021 Monday

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Section: COLUMNISTS FARMING

Length: 647 words

Byline: Andrew Arbuckle

Highlight: You do not get much in the way of correspondence in this job. Most of what does come through the letterbox or its modern-day equivalent, the iPad, casts doubts on your views. Some even question your parentage.

Body

However, this past week there popped into my inbox a letter from a sheep.

Yes, a sheep – one of these woolly four-legged animals that roam the hills and at the end of its life provides a tasty leg of lamb.

You may be doubting the existence of this communication but there is evidence of sheep talking, for example Baa Baa Black sheep, who according to the nursery rhyme told his master he had three bags of wool, but there may be political sensitivities in mentioning that nowadays.

It was quite a serious letter and it claimed to come from an organisation unknown to me – the Sheep Protection Society.

Best to quote direct from the sheepy letter.

"You will have noticed there is yet another plan to introduce Lynx to Scotland," it starts.

"You humans will be aware that there is nothing a wild Lynx likes better than a tasty mouthful of lamb or even a stringy chunk of mutton for its breakfast, lunch and dinner.

"If it goes ahead, we sheep could be contently munching grass when one of these imported hooligans starts to tear us limb from limb. My members are baaing in discontent at the mere thought of this. To coin a phrase, we sheep would seem to be the sacrificial lambs in this project. Especially as, at long last, the Scottish Government is doing something to curb attacks on our kith and ovine kin by uncontrolled dogs and unmentionable owners."

The letter goes on to highlight the other species that view sheep as a tasty bite. This list includes ticks as those who want to keep their grouse moors clear of the little blood-sucking biting bugs use a sacrificial flock of sheep as "tick

Is there woolly thinking in evidence over wild lynx scheme? - Andrew Arbuckle

mops". More recently white-tailed eagles have been brought into the country to swoop down on unsuspecting sheep and these big birds seem to be thriving on a diet of quality Scotch Lamb

I decided to check out the rewilding plan and found out that it is only a trial to see how the occasionally deadly *Lynx* will fare in bonnie **Scotland** but the letter writing sheep had beaten me to it.

"Don't be kidded by this 'only a trial' nonsense," he, or probably she, wrote. "You can bet some of the *Lynx* will be encouraged to escape. It happened with beavers and now these big rodents are building dams and clogging up rivers all over the country."

Having read the missive so far, I recalled a visit to **Scotland** only a couple of years ago by a group of Norwegian farmers. They knew at first hand the damage *Lynx* had done to their flocks of sheep and their descriptions of carcasses being torn limb from limb was not pretty.

The Norwegian sheep farmers also had to battle other predators such as wolverine and bears and many had just given up shepherding faced with these adverse odds. A figure of 20,000 sheep being killed annually by these predators was given which makes life a tad difficult for those wanting to be a Norwegian shepherd.

I thought this latest trial aimed at bringing *Lynx* to **Scotland** would flounder as other earlier plans have done. But I am not too sure this time around as there is some serious money behind this proposal thanks to two of **Scotland's** largest landowners, billionaire Danes Anders Povlsen and Lisbet Rausing, chipping into the project kitty.

Those behind the project claim they want to see how the public react to the arrival of *Lynx* in **Scotland**. I don't think they actually mean releasing a bus load of tourists in the *Lynx* enclosure to see what happens although that might be fun, according to my sleepy letter writer.

The final word on the project will come from the **Scottish** Government. Fergus the Furious aka Cabinet Secretary, Fergus Ewing has been supportive of sheep farmers on the rewilding issue.

However, I suppose it is only a matter of time before some scientist cobbles together the DNA of a prehistoric saber-toothed tiger and claims it should be rewilded in **Scotland**. That will not put the cat among the pigeons, but it would put the big cat among the sheep.

Graphic

[Wild Lynx could be introduced in Scotland](#)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: WILD CATS (91%); MAMMALS (90%); ANIMALS (89%); WRITERS (79%); RODENTS (78%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (70%); BIRDS (69%)

Industry: SHEEP & GOAT FARMING (89%); SHEEP FARMING (89%); WRITERS (79%); PUBLISHING (73%)

Is there woolly thinking in evidence over wild lynx scheme? - Andrew Arbuckle

Geographic: SCOTLAND (94%); NORWAY (91%)

Load-Date: January 24, 2021

End of Document

Letters: We need imaginative thinking to get the country out of this lockdown mess

Letters: We need imaginative thinking to get the country out of this lockdown mess

Herald Scotland

January 25, 2021 Monday

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Length: 906 words

Byline: [Letters](#)

Body

WE cannot continue with this general lockdown. There is no end date being given and no plan except the very broad statements about getting the numbers down and vaccinating the vulnerable. For a spell here in Scotland during the summer we got down to very few cases and very few deaths, but we let it slip away. Now here we are with England having the highest death rate in the world and us not that far behind.

On Friday you had an article about phone apps and the fact that most people want more enforcement ("Support for app to track virus violators", The Herald, January 22). None of these apps in themselves would be sufficient. We need to get a number of people authorised to go and knock on doors without prior notice and if there is anyone breaking the rules they need to be dealt with harshly. Close monitoring of adherence to the rules is a necessity and there are enough people unemployed to fill the posts.

We need to be more imaginative in thinking of ways to get out of this mess. Most countries have done better than UK and we must look at what they have done and take some of the ideas on board. But we must also have some real brainstorming to make some improvement.

With schools, surely a system could be put together to allow everyone to go to school part-time?

Let us open shops but restrict the number of people in them at any one time. Make the shops open longer if they wish to open.

Accommodation and leisure facilities should be allowed to open but again, restrict the numbers.

Keep the rules about mixing in homes as this is a big risk.

I know that there will be plenty of people ready to come up with reasons why you cannot implement any change but we have to do something. I am 85 and I need some enjoyment before I go. I am looking forward to getting vaccinated this coming week but what is there for me to do once I get it?

Jim McAdam, Maidens.

Letters: We need imaginative thinking to get the country out of this lockdown mess

KEEP GOING WITH THE FLYERS

JESSICA Williams (Letters, January 21) complains about Nicola Sturgeon bombarding us with media and postal flyers. I must admit that I too have received postal flyers, however watching and listening to news, I have commented to my wife that they are talking to the converted. A huge proportion of the population does not watch or listen to the mainstream media. The only way to get through to those people is via flyers, which I can say that after being read are also useful for lighting the fire.

Steve Barnet, Gargunnock.

RETHINK THE WINTER FUEL ALLOWANCE

GORDON Brown introduced the Winter Fuel Allowance following the severe level of winter deaths during 1997-97. It was set at £200 for each eligible household. Since that point there has been no inflationary increase while inflation itself has risen in the period since by in excess of 80 per cent. Additionally, there must be an annual administration cost, which no doubt has increased by at least inflation.

Would it not therefore be beneficial to the Government, and pensioners, to have the state pension increased by a more realistic annual amount, which in turn would be subject to an annual increment in line with inflation? Could we then see a Government reduction in annual administration costs?

Alternatively, or additionally, the Government must recognise that there is a significant discrepancy between the cost of heating similar properties in the south of England and the north of Scotland. Again, it would therefore appear logical to apply a range of winter fuel allowances between the geographical areas? Not so long ago, jobs of an equal pay scale and for whatever reason necessitating moving south, would be subjected to a London weighting allowance. I therefore submit that the Government has the ability to apply different rates according to geographical address.

I find this is a logical argument. Will it ever be considered or applied? No, because whoever approaches such an alternative will be seen to be taking a benefit away from the punters and no politician can be seen to be denying a voter's benefit.

Stewart Lightbody, Troon.

HOW TO SAVE OUR ANCIENT FOREST

MARTIN Williams's recent feature ("The Lynx effect: How a long lost predator could help save forests", The Herald, January 20) highlighted the fact that vast numbers of deer destroy the saplings of the few remaining, often lone, Scots pines still surviving from the ancient Caledonian Forest. The report argues that if the carnivorous Lynx were reintroduced, the deer numbers would be considerably reduced, so allowing the saplings to survive and grow into mature Scots pines and so help regenerate the Caledonian Forest.

May I suggest that instead of reintroducing hungry Lynx, with the accompanying threat to wildlife and livestock, would it not be much easier, and cheaper, simply to plant Scots pine whips, or better still container-grown young trees, enclosed in deer-proof fencing, randomly in the areas of the remaining fragments of the once great Caledonian Forest? Then, in time, our ancient forest could not only be saved, but also be partially returned to its formal glory.

Dr David K Gemmell, Lanark.

LIVING IN A CLIMATE OF FEAR

DUNCAN McIntyre's interesting anecdote about questioning an instruction at National Service square-bashing (Letters, January 22) suggests that he was more fortunate than I.

Letters: We need imaginative thinking to get the country out of this lockdown mess

At the RAPC training centre in Devizes, no platoon member would have dared to open his mouth in response to any words shouted, nay screamed, by the drill sergeant.

It's an unfair world.

David Miller, Milngavie.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: VACCINES (90%); DEATH RATES (78%); UNEMPLOYED PERSONS (73%); POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS (72%)

Industry: VACCINES (90%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); MOBILE APPLICATIONS (70%)

Person: NICOLA STURGEON (78%); GORDON BROWN (56%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (91%); ENGLAND (79%); UNITED KINGDOM (73%)

Load-Date: January 25, 2021

End of Document

We need imaginative thinking to help get country out of this lockdown mess

We need imaginative thinking to help get country out of this lockdown mess

The Herald (Glasgow)

January 25, 2021 Monday

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The Herald

Section: Pg. 17

Length: 903 words

Byline: Drew Allan

Body

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Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: HER

Subject: VACCINES (90%); DEATH RATES (78%); POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS (73%); UNEMPLOYED PERSONS (73%); agriculture (%); health terms (%); weather (%)

Industry: VACCINES (90%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); MOBILE APPLICATIONS (70%)

Person: NICOLA STURGEON (78%); GORDON BROWN (56%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, SCOTLAND (73%); SCOTLAND (79%); ENGLAND (73%); UNITED KINGDOM (73%)

Load-Date: January 25, 2021

End of Document

Mark Smith: Do not be afraid - the case for reintroducing the lynx to Scotland is compelling

Mark Smith: Do not be afraid - the case for reintroducing the lynx to Scotland is compelling

Herald Scotland

January 21, 2021 Thursday

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Length: 709 words

Byline: [Mark Smith](#)

Body

WHAT will **Scotland** look like 100 years from now? Imagine your great-great-grandchildren visiting the Highlands and what they might see. Imagine a landscape completely different to the way it is now. Imagine more woodland and less moorland. And imagine looking up and glimpsing, just for a second, through a gap in the trees, or up on the crest of a hill, an animal of a different kind.

I'm talking about the **lynx**. That beautiful cat with the tufts of black on its ears, and that distinctive ruff under its chin, and the slashes of gold and brown along its back and down its legs. The Eurasian **lynx** is one of nature's most elegant pieces of design, but it hasn't been around in **Scotland** for 1000 years. Could it come back? It's a compelling idea: the big cat in the big country, the return of the wild, the triumph of how we used to be.

But maybe you have worries. Maybe you're a sheep farmer and have heard about the thousands of sheep killed every year by **lynx** in Norway. Maybe you think the **Scottish** Government would end up paying out millions of pounds in compensation. Maybe you think **Scotland** is too small. Or perhaps you just think the benefits of reintroducing **lynx** and other predators have been exaggerated. All of this is understandable.

READ MORE: New plan to introduce **lynx** to **Scotland** after 1000 years will help save forests

And if you have worries, now is the time to speak up. Three major charities that support rewilding - **Scotland**: The Big Picture, Trees for Life and the Vincent Wildlife Trust - have just announced they're going to be carrying out a major consultation on the idea. They say there's never been a big, formal, rigorous study of public attitudes towards the possible reintroduction of the **lynx** and now is the time to do it.

Obviously, you need to bear in mind that the charities concerned are coming at the subject from a particular point of view: they believe the reintroduction of a major predator like the **lynx** will help to maintain and restore **Scotland's** woodlands, and they believe it for a simple reason. Deer eat trees, **lynx** eat deer, therefore less deer and more trees. That is the crux of their argument.

And it has to be said, the evidence is compelling. Look at Yellowstone National Park in the States for example. Wolves were released there in the 90s and the changes have been remarkable. First, the numbers of deer were

Mark Smith: Do not be afraid - the case for reintroducing the lynx to Scotland is compelling

reduced so more trees grew. Which meant more birds, and more fish where the trees provided shade on the water. The regrowth also encouraged beavers, which in turn encouraged fish, frogs, and reptiles. It was a profound transformation of the ecosystem, a cascade effect all the way down from the predator at the top of the food chain.

The same could happen with *Lynx*, although we cannot be sure of course. I've spoken to people in the gamekeeping community who say *Lynx* can have unforeseen consequences: animals that are fearful of the big cats, they say, can herd together for safety and do even more damage to forests. Gamekeepers also argue that reintroducing the *Lynx* would require serious management and monitoring which is surely against the principles of rewilding.

I think those concerns are understandable, particularly when you have livelihoods to protect, but you also have to look at the data from around the world and it's convincing. *Lynx* do not tend to take many sheep at all, and Norway is probably a special case because the sheep there are less likely to be kept in enclosed pastures and more likely to be grazing free in forests. Where sheep farming is more controlled, the *Lynx* are barely a problem.

READ MORE: Five *Scottish* caves with eerie tales of mystery and adventure

Also, consider this: the *Lynx* thrives in countries that are more densely populated than we are: France for example. And think of how *Scotland* might be in 200 years. Maybe we won't be dividing the land into smaller and smaller parcels and trying to extract as much from it as we can. Maybe humans will have stopped sticking their oar in and getting it wrong. And maybe your great-great-grandchildren will look up one day and catch a glimpse, through the trees, of the glorious *Lynx*.

Our columns are a platform for writers to express their opinions. They do not necessarily represent the views of The Herald.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: WILD CATS (91%); MAMMALS (90%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (78%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS (77%); WILDLIFE (77%); WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (77%); NATIONAL PARKS (76%); REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS (76%); FISHES (68%); LAND RECLAMATION (64%)

Industry: PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (78%); NATIONAL PARKS (76%); SHEEP FARMING (67%)

Geographic: *SCOTLAND* (94%)

Load-Date: January 21, 2021

Do not be afraid - we should bring back the lynx

Do not be afraid - we should bring back the lynx

The Herald (Glasgow)

January 21, 2021 Thursday

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The Herald

Section: Pg. 19

Length: 662 words

Byline: Garry Scott

Body

WHAT will **Scotland** look like 100 years from now? Imagine your great-great-grandchildren visiting the Highlands and what they might see. Imagine a landscape completely different to the way it is now. Imagine more woodland and less moorland. And imagine looking up and glimpsing, just for a second, through a gap in the trees, or up on the crest of a hill, an animal of a different kind.

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Industry: PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (78%); NATIONAL PARKS (76%); SHEEP FARMING (74%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, *SCOTLAND* (73%); *SCOTLAND* (92%)

Load-Date: January 21, 2021

LYNX COURSE FOR SCOTS

Daily Record and Sunday Mail

January 21, 2021 Thursday

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 12

Length: 101 words

Body

A STUDY is being launched to discover what Scots think about the idea of a big cat population being reintroduced.

Research has suggested that the return of the Eurasian ***Lynx*** could bring environmental benefits and help manage deer populations.

Speaking about the ***Lynx*** to ***Scotland*** project, Peter Cairns of charity ***Scotland***: The Big Picture said: "With a global biodiversity crisis, we have a responsibility to have open and constructive conversations around restoring key native species to the ***Scottish*** landscape - and science shows apex predators like ***Lynx*** play a vital role in maintaining healthy living systems."

Graphic

BIG CAT A ***Lynx***

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DRC

Subject: WILD CATS (93%); BIODIVERSITY (88%); CATS (88%); MAMMALS (88%); BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION (87%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (87%); LIFE FORMS (87%); CONSERVATION (71%)

LYNX COURSE FOR SCOTS

Geographic: SCOTLAND (88%); National Edition

Load-Date: January 21, 2021

End of Document

When the going gets tough, the toffs get owing IT'S THE POSH WHO CAN'T BE TRUSTED WITH DOSH,
CLARKSON

When the going gets tough, the toffs get owing; IT'S THE POSH WHO CAN'T BE TRUSTED WITH DOSH, CLARKSON

Scottish Star

January 21, 2021 Thursday

Edition 1, Scotland

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 22,23

Length: 924 words

Byline: NATASHA WYNARCZYK; NADINE LINGE

Body

BIGMOUTH Jeremy Clarkson has sparked fury after claiming hard-up families would spend food vouchers on "fags and scratchcards".

The presenter, who boasts a £44million fortune, made his sneering comments in a newspaper column, which the Daily Star reported earlier this week.

He ranted: "I heard a woman on the news the other day demanding that she be given £30 to provide lunch for her child. Where's she going to take him? Fortnum & Mason?

"Another said it was no good providing actual food for her kid and she wanted a voucher instead. Presumably, so that she could exchange it at the supermarket for fags and scratchcards."

It appears Clarkson believes the less well-off can't be trusted with money. But as NATASHA WYNARCZYK and NADINE LINGE discover, plenty of the most privileged and rich in society have frittered away fortunes...

LORD BROCKET

CHARLES Nall-Cain, 3rd Baron Brocket, also known as Lord Brocket or Charlie Brocket, enjoyed a playboy lifestyle, spending large sums of money on cars including 42 Ferraris.

But Brocket racked up huge debts of £16million, and the polo-playing pal of Prince Charles was convicted of a £4.5m insurance fraud. He served two and a half years of a five-year sentence for the crime, which saw him falsely claim four of his valuable vehicles had been stolen.

In 2004, he came fourth in I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here!

But in 2017 he made another reality TV appearance on bailif fshow Can't Pay?

We'll Take It Away - when the presenters attempted to get back £8,000 Brocket owed to his accountant, only to find that the disgraced peer was on holiday.

SAFA ABDULLA AL-GEABURY

When the going gets tough, the toffs get owing IT'S THE POSH WHO CAN'T BE TRUSTED WITH DOSH,
CLARKSON

A SWISS billionair gambling problem Al-Geabury man blow an eye-water lion in just two ho London casino.

Al-Geabury claims be worth at least £1bil lion, but despite his huge wealth a che he gave staf f a Mayfair's the Club for the losing roulette chips bounced.

The tycoon was taken to court by the casino company, which demanded the total debt owed with 438 a day interest added on top of that.

Brazen Al-Geabury then counter-sued the casino for 5.4m, claiming the staff"should have known" he had a gambling problem .

Unsurprisingly, he lost the case and in 2016 was handed a 10-month prison sentence at the High Court after he still refused to pay the huge debt, which at that point had hit a total of £3.2m.

LORD MAGAN

FORMER Conservative Party Treasurer Lord George Magan was once said to be worth a massive £200million.

He owned ireland's "most beautiful" estate Castletown Cox and a £6million home in Kensington, west London.

The tycoon was also good friends with former Prime Minister David Cameron after giving more than £1.4m in political donations to the Conservative Party.

But last November, the spendthrift posho was declared bankrupt with debts in excess of £14m, and he was evicted from his plush homes.

it is unknown exactly how he squandered his vast wealth, but reportedly it was partly due to the fact that he was entangled in a "financial dispute" with the Bank of ireland, of which Magan was once a Deputy Governor.

Although he was made a life peer in the House of Lords in 2011, Lord Magan has since been removed.

JOCELYN WILDENSTEIN

DUBBED "Catwoman" and the "Bride of Wildenstein" due to her extensive plastic surgery, she bagged a £2billion fortune in her 1999 divorce from French art dealer Alec Wildenstein.

As well as that jaw-dropping sum, Jocelyn was also awarded £78.6million every year for the following 13 years.

Known for her extravagant lifestyle, the American socialite once calculated her yearly phone bill at £60,000, plus food and wine costs at £547,000.

She also kept pets, including a Lynx and capuchin monkey.

In 2018 she filed for bankruptcy, claiming her ex-husband's family had cut her off.

Jocelyn listed her only income as a £709 benefits cheque each month.

Now 80, she was last spotted in December at a party with her fashion designer boyfriend Lloyd Klein, 53.

MARQUESS OF BRISTOL

MARQ A MEMBER of the Br John Hervey, 7th M He inherited £1million when he w £4m when he turne wealth of £35m. B Ladies Victoria I drug-fuelled lifesty he splashed out y once piloted helicopt w ww ut on yachts, sports cars and wild parties and d his helicopter while snorting cocaine offthe map he was using for navigation.

The fire extinguisher on board the chopper was said to have been emptied and re-filled with vodka.

When the going gets tough, the toffs get owing IT'S THE POSH WHO CAN'T BE TRUSTED WITH DOSH,
CLARKSON

His family residence, Ickworth House in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, had been handed over to the National Trust but they let Hervey live there as he battled ill health.

He was not happy sharing the country house with visitors, once firing a shotgun repeatedly into the air and shouting, "F***ing peasants".

Despite several jail spells he could not kick his drugs habit.

He died, penniless, in 1999 from multiple organ failure related to his drug abuse.

LORD LUCAN

ONE of the UK's most famous missing person cases, Richard John Bingham, 7th Earl of Lucan, disappeared on November 8, 1974 after being suspected of murder.

The toff had left his job at a London-based merchant bank to become a professional gambler, but his losses usually exceeded his winnings.

He owed more than £250,000 when he fled after the family's nanny, Sandra Rivett, was bludgeoned to death in the basement of the Lucan family home.

Lucan's wife was also attacked and identified her husband as her assailant.

The Lucan family sold their silver and used money from the family trust to repay his debts.

He was officially declared dead in 2016. One theory is that Lord Lucan was bumped off by his gambling pals after they helped him flee to Switzerland.

Graphic

? GUT FEELING: Clarkson certainly hasn't needed food vouchers

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DSTscot

Subject: FAMILY (90%); FOOD STAMPS (90%); REPORTS, REVIEWS & SECTIONS (90%); SOCIETY, SOCIAL ASSISTANCE & LIFESTYLE (90%); SENTENCING (87%); CELEBRITIES (78%); FOOD CHARITIES (78%); SUITS & CLAIMS (78%); WEALTHY PEOPLE (77%); CRIME, LAW ENFORCEMENT & CORRECTIONS (71%); CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS (71%); JAIL SENTENCING (71%); NEGATIVE NEWS (71%); GAMBLING ADDICTION (66%); INSURANCE FRAUD (65%); LAW COURTS & TRIBUNALS (60%); POLITICAL PARTIES (50%)

When the going gets tough, the toffs get owing IT'S THE POSH WHO CAN'T BE TRUSTED WITH DOSH,
CLARKSON

Industry: CASINOS (86%); GAMBLING (85%); CELEBRITIES (78%); ACCOUNTING (70%); GROCERY STORES & SUPERMARKETS (70%); GAMBLING ADDICTION (66%); REALITY TELEVISION (64%)

Person: CHARLES III, KING OF THE UNITED KINGDOM (74%)

Geographic: LONDON, ENGLAND (75%); **SCOTLAND** (90%); **Scotland**

Load-Date: January 21, 2021

End of Document

Lynx effect: Reintroducing extinct predator to Scotland may have benefits but are we ready for big cats roaming free? – Scotsman comment

Lynx effect: Reintroducing extinct predator to Scotland may have benefits but are we ready for big cats roaming free? – Scotsman comment

Scotsman

January 20, 2021 Wednesday

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Section: COLUMNISTS ENVIRONMENT POLITICS **SCOTLAND**

Length: 321 words

Byline: Scotsman comment, N/A

Highlight: Given many people would be nervous on encountering an angry swan, the idea of returning Lynx to the Scottish countryside may feel like a step too far, even if attacks on humans are virtually unknown.

Body

Once native to Britain, they became extinct about 1,300 years ago so this country has managed without them for a considerable time.

But now three environmental charities are looking into whether reintroducing this big cat could be done with sufficient public support. It is believed there is enough suitable habitat in the Highlands to support a population of 400.

There would be a number of benefits. Without any predators, deer numbers can soar to unsustainable levels and environmentalists and animal rights activists agree they need to be culled for their own sake. Failing to do so would see herds of starving animals roaming the countryside, desperate for food. As Steve Micklewright of Trees for Life noted, Lynx would provide a “free and efficient deer-management service”.

READ MORE: [Rewilding Scotland: Hopes of returning bison, wolves and lynx should not overshadow loss of less high-profile species – Stephanie Wray](#)

And the cats may well have a similar impact as the wolves reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park in the US, which resulted in a surprising number of welcome environmental changes that demonstrated the importance of apex predators to a healthy ecosystem.

However, alongside worries about human safety, farmers will be concerned about the potential threat to livestock like lambs.

Attitudes to the reintroduction of lost species are changing amid growing concern about the alarming rate of extinction of animals and plants, but we wait with interest to see if Scotland is ready to bring back the Lynx. If it ever gets to the stage where we are, The Scotsman would favour a cautious approach.

Lynx effect: Reintroducing extinct predator to Scotland may have benefits but are we ready for big cats roaming free? – Scotsman comment

A message from the Editor:

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Graphic

An adult female European Lynx in a birch forest in Bardu, Norway (Picture: Peter Cairns/scotlandbigpicture.com/PA Wire)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: CATS (91%); ANIMALS (90%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (90%); MAMMALS (90%); WILD CATS (90%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (78%); ENVIRONMENTALISM (78%); LIFE FORMS (78%); ANIMAL WELFARE (77%); ANIMALS & SOCIETY (77%); CONSUMER BEHAVIOR (77%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (77%); SAFETY (77%); WRITERS (74%); ANIMAL RIGHTS (73%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (73%); VIRUSES (72%); NATIONAL PARKS (70%); CORONAVIRUSES (66%); INFECTIOUS DISEASE (66%); FACT CHECKING (63%)

Industry: LIVESTOCK (78%); CONSUMER BEHAVIOR (77%); WRITERS (74%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (73%); PUBLISHING (73%); NATIONAL PARKS (70%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (93%); UNITED STATES (79%)

Load-Date: January 19, 2021

End of Document

Advisory: First issued under embargo

Advisory: First issued under embargo

PA Newswire: Scotland

January 20, 2021 Wednesday

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Section: PA Newswire: Scotland

Length: 455 words

Body

STUDY TO INVESTIGATE VIEWS ON RETURNING LYNX TO SCOTLAND

By Lucinda Cameron, PA Scotland

A study to assess people's views about the possible reintroduction of Eurasian Lynx to Scotland is being launched by a group of charities.

The project's partners said ecological research has shown that extensive areas of Scotland could support Lynx, while the animals could bring environmental benefits and help with managing deer populations.

A new partnership of the charities Scotland: The Big Picture, Trees for Life and Vincent Wildlife Trust is launching a year-long Lynx to Scotland consultation to assess public and stakeholder attitudes around the idea of Lynx reintroduction, including in rural communities.

The charities said returning the shy and elusive animal to Scotland is less about science and more about people's willingness to live alongside the species.

Jenny MacPherson, science and research programme manager with the Vincent Wildlife Trust, which will lead the study, said: ``Reintroducing Lynx would inevitably bring challenges.

``Lynx to Scotland will actively include stakeholders representing the full range of perspectives, in order to produce meaningful conclusions about the level of support or tolerance for Lynx, and therefore the likely success of any future reintroduction.''

The Eurasian Lynx is native to the UK but was driven to extinction some 500 to 1,000 years ago through hunting and habitat loss.

Lynx are now expanding in range and numbers across mainland Europe following changes in hunting laws and a softening in public attitudes towards large predators.

Advisory: First issued under embargo

Partners in the project said that reintroducing Lynx to the Scottish Highlands could bring ecological benefits.

Peter Cairns, executive director of Scotland: The Big Picture, said: ``With a global biodiversity crisis, we have a responsibility to have open and constructive conversations around restoring key native species to the Scottish landscape - and science shows that apex predators like Lynx play a vital ecological role in maintaining healthy living systems."

Research suggests the Highlands has sufficient habitat - and more than enough roe deer, the animal's preferred prey - to support about 400 wild Lynx.

The charities said that as a shy and solitary woodland hunter, Lynx are rarely glimpsed and attacks on humans are virtually unknown.

Steve Micklewright, chief executive of Trees for Life, said: ``Scotland has more woodland deer than any other European country, and their relentless browsing often prevents the expansion and healthy regeneration of our natural woodlands.

``By preying on roe deer, Lynx would restore ecological processes that have been missing for centuries, and provide a free and efficient deer management service." end

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newswire

Subject: WILD CATS (96%); ANIMALS (90%); CHARITIES (90%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (90%); WILDLIFE (90%); WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (90%); ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (89%); EXECUTIVES (89%); LIFE FORMS (89%); MAMMALS (89%); BIODIVERSITY (79%); CONSERVATION (79%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (79%); ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH (79%); EXPERIMENTATION & RESEARCH (79%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (78%); INVESTIGATIONS (78%); NEGATIVE NEWS (78%); RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT (78%); ALLIANCES & PARTNERSHIPS (77%); MANAGERS & SUPERVISORS (77%); BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION (76%); SPORT HUNTING (76%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (75%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (74%); EMBARGOES & SANCTIONS (73%); NEW PRODUCTS (72%); AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING & HUNTING LAW (71%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (69%); ENVIRONMENT Lynx (%)

Industry: NEW PRODUCTS (72%); AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING & HUNTING LAW (71%); HUNTING & TRAPPING REGULATION & POLICY (70%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (95%); EUROPE (90%); UNITED KINGDOM (78%)

Load-Date: January 19, 2021

Views of public wanted on catâ(EURO)(TM)s possible return

Aberdeen Press and Journal

January 20, 2021 Wednesday

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Section: NWS; Pg. 17

Length: 452 words

Byline: Prestige Page Manager 3

Body

A study to look at peopleâ(EURO)(TM)s views on the possible reintroduction of Eurasian *Lynx* to *Scotland* is being launched by a group of charities.

The projectâ(EURO)(TM)s partners said ecological research has shown extensive areas of *Scotland* could support the cat, while the animals could bring environmental benefits and help with managing deer populations.

A new partnership of the charities *Scotland*: The Big Picture, Trees for Life and Vincent Wildlife Trust is launching a year-long *Lynx* to *Scotland* consultation to look at public attitudes around the idea of *Lynx* reintroduction, including people living in rural areas.

The charities said returning the shy and elusive animal to *Scotland* is less about science and more about peopleâ(EURO)(TM)s willingness to live alongside the species.

Jenny MacPherson, science and research programme manager with the Vincent Wildlife Trust, which will lead the study, said: â(EURO)oeReintroducing *Lynx* would inevitably bring challenges.

â(EURO)oeLynx to *Scotland* will actively include stakeholders representing the full range of perspectives in order to produce meaningful conclusions about the level of support or tolerance for *Lynx* and therefore the likely success of any future reintroduction.â(EURO)

The Eurasian *Lynx* is native to the UK but was driven to extinction some 500 to 1,000 years ago through hunting and habitat loss.

Lynx are now expanding in range and numbers across mainland Europe following changes in hunting laws and a softening in public attitudes towards large predators.

Partners in the project say reintroducing the cat to the *Scottish* Highlands could bring ecological benefits.

Peter Cairns, executive director of *Scotland*: The Big Picture, said: â(EURO)oeWith a global biodiversity crisis, we have a responsibility to have open and constructive conversations around restoring key native species to the *Scottish* landscape -and science shows that apex predators like *Lynx* play a vital ecological role in maintaining healthy living systems.â(EURO)

Research suggests the Highlands has sufficient habitat - and more than enough roe deer, the animalâ(EURO)(TM)s preferred prey - to support about 400 wild *Lynx*.

Views of public wanted on catâ(EURO)(TM)s possible return

The charities said that as a shy and solitary woodland hunter, Lynx are rarely glimpsed and attacks on humans are virtually unknown.

Steve Micklewright, chief executive of Trees for Life, said: â(EURO)oeScotland has more woodland deer than any other European country, and their relentless browsing often prevents the expansion and healthy regeneration of our natural woodlands.

â(EURO)oeBy preying on roe deer, Lynx would restore ecological processes that have been missing for centuries and provide a free and efficient deer management service.â(EURO)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Pr

Subject: WILD CATS (96%); ANIMALS (90%); CHARITIES (90%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (90%); WILDLIFE (90%); WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (90%); ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (89%); EXECUTIVES (89%); LIFE FORMS (89%); MAMMALS (89%); ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH (78%); EXPERIMENTATION & RESEARCH (78%); RESEARCH REPORTS (78%); ALLIANCES & PARTNERSHIPS (77%); BIODIVERSITY (77%); CONSERVATION (77%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (77%); MANAGERS & SUPERVISORS (77%); RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT (77%); SPORT HUNTING (76%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (75%); NEW PRODUCTS (73%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (72%); AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING & HUNTING LAW (71%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (55%)

Industry: NEW PRODUCTS (73%); AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING & HUNTING LAW (71%); HUNTING & TRAPPING REGULATION & POLICY (69%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (89%); SCOTLAND (95%); EUROPE (88%); UNITED KINGDOM (78%); 7 North East

Load-Date: January 20, 2021

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Should Scotland once again have big cats roaming wild in Highland forests?

Should Scotland once again have big cats roaming wild in Highland forests?

Scotsman

January 20, 2021 Wednesday

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Section: ENVIRONMENT HUMAN INTEREST FARMING MUST READ OUTDOORS NEWS ENVIRONMENT
CLIMATE CHANGE CONSERVATION NATURE POLITICS **SCOTLAND**

Length: 638 words

Byline: Ilona Amos, iamos@scotsman.com

Highlight: Are Scots ready to have big cats roaming the country's forests?

Body

This is the question being asked as a new consultation is launched to get feedback on the potential reintroduction of wild **Lynx** to **Scotland**.

The species was once native to the UK but became extinct around 1,300 years ago.

These large cats are Europe's third-largest predator, after bears and wolves, and will normally feed on deer, mountain hares and other small mammals.

Now a new partnership made up of the environmental charities **Scotland**: The Big Picture, Trees for Life and Vincent Wildlife Trust is investigating bringing the felines back to **Scotland**.

Ecological research has shown that extensive areas of **Scotland** are suitable to support **Lynx**, but the charities say returning the animals to the wild is less about science and more about people's willingness to live alongside a species that has become forgotten on these shores.

The year-long consultation, **Lynx** to **Scotland**, aims to impartially and accurately assess public and stakeholder attitudes towards the idea - particularly in rural communities.

Peter Cairns, executive director of rewilding group **Scotland**: The Big Picture, said "With a global biodiversity crisis we have a responsibility to have open and constructive conversations around restoring key native species to the **Scottish** landscape – and science shows that apex predators like **Lynx** play a vital ecological role in maintaining healthy living systems."

Lynx are now spreading in range and numbers across mainland Europe as hunting laws are tightened and public attitudes to large predators soften.

Several reintroductions since the 1970s have brought ecological and environmental benefits to countries more densely populated than **Scotland**, including areas used for farming, hunting, forestry and tourism.

Should Scotland once again have big cats roaming wild in Highland forests?

YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE: [Scottish wildcats to be reintroduced in the Highlands to stave off extinction](#)

Lynx are solitary woodland hunters that are rarely glimpsed, with attacks on humans virtually unknown.

Research suggests there is sufficient habitat and prey – particularly roe deer – in the Highlands to support around 400 of the cats.

Steve Micklewright, chief executive of Trees for Life, said: “**Scotland** has more woodland deer than any other European country, and their relentless browsing often prevents the expansion and healthy regeneration of our natural woodlands.

“By preying on roe deer, **Lynx** would restore ecological processes that have been missing for centuries and provide a free and efficient deer-management service.”

READ MORE: [Bid to reintroduce Lynx to Britain rejected by Government](#)

Jenny MacPherson, science and research programme manager at the Vincent Wildlife Trust, which will lead the study, said: “Reintroducing **Lynx** would inevitably bring challenges.

“**Lynx** to **Scotland** will actively include stakeholders representing the full range of perspectives in order to produce meaningful conclusions about the level of support or tolerance for **Lynx**, and therefore the likely success of any future reintroduction.”

A bid to release **Lynx** in the Kielder Forest in Northumberland, spearheaded by rewilding campaign group **Lynx** UK Trust, was turned down by Westminster in 2018.

The then UK environment secretary Michael Gove said government advisers had “particular concerns in a number of areas” – including “organisational resilience”, funding and reliance on volunteers.

Lynx to **Scotland** runs from January 2021 to February 2022 and is not associated with any other previous or current initiatives to restore **Lynx** to Britain.

A message from the Editor:

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Graphic

*The European Lynx was once native to **Scotland**, but has been extinct here for around 1,300 years. Photograph: Peter Cairns/**Scotland: The Big Picture***

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Should Scotland once again have big cats roaming wild in Highland forests?

Subject: WILD CATS (93%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS (91%); CATS (90%); CONSERVATION (90%); ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (90%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (90%); LIFE FORMS (90%); MAMMALS (90%); WILDLIFE (89%); WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (89%); EXECUTIVES (87%); BIODIVERSITY (79%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (79%); ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH (79%); ANIMALS (78%); BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION (78%); MOUNTAINS (78%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (78%); SPORT HUNTING (77%); EXPERIMENTATION & RESEARCH (75%); NEGATIVE NEWS (75%); RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT (75%); MANAGERS & SUPERVISORS (74%); AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING & HUNTING LAW (73%); GOVERNMENT ADVISORS & MINISTERS (73%)

Industry: AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING & HUNTING LAW (73%); PUBLISHING (73%); HUNTING & TRAPPING REGULATION & POLICY (65%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (95%); EUROPE (93%); UNITED KINGDOM (93%)

Load-Date: January 19, 2021

End of Document

The lynx effect: How a long lost predator could help save forests

The lynx effect: How a long lost predator could help save forests

The Herald (Glasgow)

January 20, 2021 Wednesday

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The Herald

Section: Pg. 3

Length: 717 words

Byline: Martin Williams

Body

IT is the forgotten predator that disappeared from Scotland more than 1,000 years ago due to fur hunting and habitat loss.

With the brown bear and the wolf also now absent from the landscape, the Scottish countryside has been devoid of any carnivores bigger than a fox or badger for centuries.

However, new plans have been revealed to reintroduce the Eurasian lynx, which is considered the most suitable candidate for carnivore restoration in Britain.

A group of three charities believe that their introduction as a natural predator of deer will have an indirect benefit to maintaining Scotland's woodlands.

As a shy and solitary woodland hunter, lynx were rarely glimpsed and attacks on humans are virtually unknown. Research suggests the Highlands has sufficient habitat - and more than enough roe deer, the cat's preferred prey - to support around 400 wild lynx.

But the charities are not going to go forward with any plan until they conclude what they see as Scotland's first extensive and impartial study to assess people's views about the Lynx's possible reintroduction to the Scottish Highlands.

The charity partnership of Scotland: The Big Picture, Trees for Life and Vincent Wildlife Trust, which is to carry out the year-long consultation, says there are extensive areas of Scotland that could support lynx.

But charities believe returning the shy and elusive animal is less about science and more about "people's willingness to live alongside a species that's become forgotten on these shores".

The groups say the loss of lynx has had an impact on Scotland biodiversity.

Scotland's "excessively high numbers" of woodland deer, which currently lack natural predators, can have a major impact on forestry and on wildlife habitats through heavy browsing.

The lynx effect: How a long lost predator could help save forests

In taking the Caledonian Forest as an example, they say only a tiny proportion of the original forest remains, spread across scattered fragments. Most are now mainly made up of lone "granny" pines, which can be over 200 years old.

They say many of these ancient trees are dying as they stand, with no young trees to succeed them. But where seeds manage to germinate, **Scotland's** excessive numbers of deer destroy the saplings.

Spokesman for the groups, Richard Bunting, said: "A major benefit of a healthy **Lynx** population would be to reduce the impacts and costs of browsing by deer.

"The return of such an apex predator would likely have cascade affect, allowing native forests to regenerate, with associated benefits for woodland wildlife.

"Impact on red deer is unlikely to be significant because **Lynx** are shy ambush-hunters, which avoid open areas. Instead **Lynx** prefer smaller woodland deer such as roe and sika. By preying on roe deer, **Lynx** could play a vital role in maintaining healthy woodlands."

The charities say that **Lynx** are now expanding in range and numbers across mainland Europe as hunting laws are enforced and public attitudes to large predators soften.

They say successful **Lynx** reintroductions since the 1970s have brought ecological and environmental benefits to countries more densely populated than **Scotland**, and in areas used for farming, hunting, forestry and tourism.

Across Europe, there was once just 700 individual cats but now there are now estimated to be 10,000 of them and successful reintroductions have been organised in countries including Germany, France and Switzerland.

The charities say that based on evidence from other countries, a **Lynx** reintroduction would have no significant impact on threatened species such as wildcats and capercaillie.

Steve Micklewright, chief executive of Trees for Life, said: "**Scotland** has more woodland deer than any other European country, and their relentless browsing often prevents the expansion and healthy regeneration of our natural woodlands. By preying on roe deer, **Lynx** would restore ecological processes that have been missing for centuries."

Jenny MacPherson, science and research programme manager with the Vincent Wildlife Trust, which will lead the study, added: "Reintroducing **Lynx** would inevitably bring challenges. **Lynx** to **Scotland** will actively include stakeholders representing the full range of perspectives, in order to produce meaningful conclusions about the level of support or tolerance for **Lynx**, and therefore the likely success of any future reintroduction."

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: HER

Subject: WILD CATS (93%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (90%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS (90%); MAMMALS (90%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (89%); WILDLIFE (89%); BIODIVERSITY (79%); WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (78%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS CONSERVATION (77%); WILDERNESS (77%); ANIMALS (74%); NEW PRODUCTS (70%); agriculture (%); business (%); crime (%); health terms (%)

The lynx effect: How a long lost predator could help save forests

Industry: FORESTS & WOODLANDS CONSERVATION (77%); NEW PRODUCTS (70%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, SCOTLAND (73%); SCOTLAND (93%); EUROPE (78%); UNITED KINGDOM (58%)

Load-Date: January 20, 2021

End of Document

New plan to introduce a predator to Scotland after 1000 years will help save forests

New plan to introduce a predator to Scotland after 1000 years will help save forests

Herald Scotland

January 20, 2021 Wednesday

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Length: 907 words

Byline: [Martin Williams](#)

Body

IT is the forgotten predator that disappeared from **Scotland** due to fur hunting and habitat loss over 1000 years ago.

Since then the British countryside has been devoid of large carnivores and any memory of living alongside anything larger than a fox or badger has been lost with the brown bear and the wolf also now absent from the landscape.

Now new plans have been revealed to reintroduce one predator to **Scotland** - the Eurasian **Lynx**, which is considered the most suitable candidate for carnivore restoration in Britain.

A group of three charities believe that their introduction as a natural predator of deer will have an indirect benefit to maintaining **Scotland**'s woodlands.

As a shy and solitary woodland hunter, **Lynx** were rarely glimpsed and attacks on humans are virtually unknown. Research suggests the Highlands has sufficient habitat - and more than enough roe deer, the cat's preferred prey - to support around 400 wild **Lynx**.

But they are not going to go forward with any plan until it concludes what they see as **Scotland**'s first extensive and impartial study to assess people's views about their possible reintroduction to the **Scottish** Highlands.

The charity partnership of **Scotland**:The Big Picture, Trees for Life and Vincent Wildlife Trust which is to carry out the year-long consultation say there are extensive areas of **Scotland** that could support **Lynx**.

But they say but they say returning the shy and elusive animal is less about science and more about "people's willingness to live alongside a species that's become forgotten on these shores".

The groups say the lost of **Lynx** has had an impact on **Scotland** biodiversity.

Scotland's "excessively high numbers" of woodland deer - which currently lack natural predators - can have a major impact on forestry and on wildlife habitats through heavy browsing.

New plan to introduce a predator to Scotland after 1000 years will help save forests

READ MORE: Thousands back 'national nature emergency' declaration call to save **Scotland's** wildlife

In taking the Caledonian Forest as an example, they say only a tiny proportion of the original forest remains, spread across scattered fragments. Most are now mainly made up of lone 'Granny' pines, which can be over 200 years old.

They say many of these ancient trees are dying as they stand, with no young trees to succeed them. But where seeds manage to germinate, **Scotland's** excessive numbers of deer destroy the saplings.

"A major benefit of a healthy **Lynx** population would be to reduce the impacts and costs of browsing by deer. The return of such an apex predator would likely have cascade affect, allowing native forests to regenerate, with associated benefits for woodland wildlife," said Richard Bunting, a spokesman for the groups.

"Impact on red deer is unlikely to be significant because **Lynx** are shy ambush-hunters, which avoid open areas. Instead **Lynx** prefer smaller woodland deer such as roe and sika. By preying on roe deer, **Lynx** could play a vital role in maintaining healthy woodlands."

The charities say that **Lynx** are now expanding in range and numbers across mainland Europe as hunting laws are enforced and public attitudes to large predators soften.

They say successful **Lynx** reintroductions since the 1970s have brought ecological and environmental benefits to countries more densely populated than **Scotland**, and in areas used for farming, hunting, forestry and tourism.

READ MORE: Brexit threatens to wipe out **Scotland's** rarest animals and put at risk iconic landscapes

Across Europe, there was once just 700 individual cats but now there are now estimated to be 10,000 of them and successful reintroductions have been organised in countries including Germany, France and Switzerland.

The charities say that based on evidence from other countries, a **Lynx** reintroduction would have no significant impact on threatened species such as wildcats and capercaillie.

"**Lynx** are known to routinely prey on foxes, which do prey on capercaillie and can compete with wildcats for food, so there are potential benefits for capercaillie and wildcats," said Mr Bunting.

"But the charities involved recognise that the **Lynx**'s return could bring challenges too, so in our view this consultation - and a respectful dialogue with those who live and work in the countryside - is essential before any reintroduction could ever happen.

"To our knowledge there has been no formal, rigorous study of public attitudes towards **Lynx** reintroduction like this before for the areas we are looking at, which is the Highlands and Argyll."

Video: Reintroducing Europe's Wildest Cat

It is not the first time the idea has been mooted.

The **Lynx** UK Trust was denied a licence to release **Lynx** in Kielder Forest, Northumberland, in 2018.

Steve Micklewright, chief executive of Trees for Life, said: "**Scotland** has more woodland deer than any other European country, and their relentless browsing often prevents the expansion and healthy regeneration of our natural woodlands. By preying on roe deer, **Lynx** would restore ecological processes that have been missing for centuries, and provide a free and efficient deer management service."

Jenny MacPherson, science and research programme manager with the Vincent Wildlife Trust, which will lead the study, said: "Reintroducing **Lynx** would inevitably bring challenges. **Lynx** to **Scotland** will actively include stakeholders representing the full range of perspectives,in order to produce meaningful conclusions about the level of support or tolerance for **Lynx**, and therefore the likely success of any future reintroduction."

New plan to introduce a predator to Scotland after 1000 years will help save forests

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: WILD CATS (93%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (90%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS (90%); MAMMALS (90%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (89%); WILDLIFE (89%); BIODIVERSITY (78%); WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (78%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS CONSERVATION (77%); WILDERNESS (77%); ANIMALS (74%)

Industry: FORESTS & WOODLANDS CONSERVATION (77%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (95%); UNITED KINGDOM (73%)

Load-Date: January 20, 2021

End of Document

Lynx study bid

Evening Times (Glasgow)

January 20, 2021 Wednesday

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Section: Pg. 3

Length: 39 words

Byline: Stewart Ward

Body

A STUDY to assess people's views about the possible reintroduction of Eurasian *Lynx* is being launched by a group of charities.

Scotland: The Big Picture, Trees for Life and Vincent Wildlife Trust are teaming up for the year-long study.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: ETI

Subject: WILD CATS (90%); WILDLIFE (88%); WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (88%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, **SCOTLAND** (73%); **SCOTLAND** (58%)

Load-Date: January 20, 2021

Natural balance

The Scottish Farmer

January 2021

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Length: 473 words

Byline: [Ken Fletcher](#)

Body

RE-WILDING has become a noisy topic both on-line and in the national press, but there is a temptation to argue that it's very much a minority that is seeking to drive change.

For want of a better expression, it would appear that the Great British (***Scottish***) public don't give a monkeys about beavers, sea eagles and ***Lynx***. Yes, they would probably like to see them on their way to littering our countryside, but it cannot be argued that their life would be immeasurably worse off without them.

So, it's nice to see that there is more of a balance in the stakeholder input into curbing so-called rogue individual birds by the sea eagle management scheme. It's now readily accepted that some birds do severe damage to livestock in certain areas and equally that farmers accept their managed right to be in their locale. The key is in the word 'managed'.

It's a thorny and potentially politicised subject that will probably not raise its head above the parapet until after the ***Scottish*** elections later this year, but there is a growing feeling that management will, indeed, mean that in some areas a cull will have to take place.

Some argue that this should involve relocation as being an option, instead of a lethal solution. But, in the same way the ludicrous notion that not producing beef in ***Scotland*** will save the planet thus seeing production 'exported', then sending difficult birds to new locations will only transpose the problem.

It's also been hinted that beavers should not be shot - as they are allowed to be under licence at the moment - but re-located instead.

We have a ready-made solution. Send them to Knapdale, in Argyll, where the original and sanctioned re-wilding project seems to need 'topping up' on a regular basis as they keep disappearing. It seems that they don't like the wild west!

Game-changer

The production of Covid-19 vaccines is not just a game-changer for the restrictions we currently face, but it is also potentially a way forward for those who champion gene editing of farm-scale crops.

For these new vaccines have, indeed, been produced by gene-editing using CRISPR techniques, in much the same way that scientists can manipulate, or edit the make-up of important food crops to make them more pest, disease and drought resistant.

Natural balance

It's been a subtle point taken up by Defra's George Eustice, who wants the UK to embrace the technology.

While **Scotland**, on the face of it, remains opposed to any form of GM, including gene editing, this is as much a political move to keep in line with aspirations of independence and thus a resumption of EU membership, than any real concerns for food safety. However, this may radically change if the EU was to relax its rules in a forthcoming debate on the subject.

Which all means that the mountain of **Scottish** expertise in this area might not actually be lost to its host nation.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: SAFETY (89%); VACCINES (87%); GENE EDITING (84%); GENETIC ENGINEERING (84%); PRODUCT SAFETY (70%); EUROPEAN UNION (67%); FOOD SAFETY (64%); COVID CORONAVIRUS (60%); COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS (60%); INFECTIOUS DISEASE (60%)

Industry: VACCINES (87%); LIVESTOCK (73%); PRODUCT SAFETY (70%); BEEF CATTLE FARMING (68%); FOOD SAFETY (64%)

Geographic: **SCOTLAND** (94%); UNITED KINGDOM (90%); EUROPEAN UNION MEMBER STATES (73%)

Load-Date: January 14, 2021

End of Document

No need for a lynx release in Scotland

The Scottish Farmer

January 2021

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Length: 163 words

Byline: *Community contributor*

Body

SIR, - Further to your front page headline 'Problem birds must be removed' this prompts me to suggest that certain problem animals should never be allowed on our shores. I am, of course, referring to lynx.

In my opinion, it is sheer madness to contemplate the release on the basis that no lynx has been known to attack humans but, indeed, the principal prey will be sheep.

Two years ago when studying capercaillie release plans, I had the privilege of visiting a lynx release site in Eastern Poland. This was only a partial success, for once the deer had been eaten, raw meat had to be provided as frontier feeding by the keepers. I was assured there were no sheep within 500km of the release area.

Whilst it is suggested that lynx would help control the Scottish deer population, they would find killing sheep considerably easier. I thought the whole matter had been dropped after the Kielder debate.

Don't let us go there.

Keith Chalmers-Watson

Fenton Barns,

North Berwick,

East Lothian,

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: MAMMALS (90%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (90%)

No need for a lynx release in Scotland

Load-Date: January 31, 2021

End of Document

Predators need managing for nature to thrive

The Scottish Farmer

January 2021

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Length: 326 words

Byline: *Community contributor*

Body

Sir, - Your Editorial in The ***Scottish*** Farmer, January 16, made some eminently sensible proposals for dealing with rogue sea eagles.

The net needs to be widened, though, to include other avian and mammalian species which are largely responsible for the natural balance in this country having become so out of kilter, in favour of predators.

It is all very well for armchair conservationists to howl with protest at the mention of 'control' and trot out the usual platitude that nature will find its own balance. This, of course, is never going to happen while we are around, since man has controlled nature since Neolithic times.

At the top end of the apex predator lists are badgers, buzzards, foxes, and sparrowhawks, to mention just a few. They have no natural enemies and so it is hardly surprising that with the added benefit of protected status (except foxes) their numbers have just gone on multiplying, while their prey, like songbirds and waders, have gone in totally the opposite direction.

This has, not surprisingly, resulted in nature being out of balance and unless man is allowed to intervene more than current legislation permits, it is almost certain that we will not only see the demise of some of our best known and loved bird and small animal species, but attacks on livestock will only increase.

In an article about the threat posed by growing deer populations in The Scotsman on January 19, Duncan Orr-Ewing, of the RSPB, stated: "Nature seeks balance to thrive and by managing our deer populations, we can help nature to flourish." It is not just deer populations which need managing for nature to thrive.

The idea of introducing even more apex predators, like ***Lynx*** and wolves, should be treated with extreme caution as they can only contribute to the balance of nature going even further in the wrong direction once they become established and allowed to multiply unchecked.

Colin Strang Steel

Chairman of SongBird Survival,

Threepwood,

Galashiels.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: BIRDS (90%); MAMMALS (90%); POPULATION GROWTH (89%); CONSERVATION (78%); LIFE FORMS (78%); ANIMALS (77%); ENVIRONMENTALISM (56%)

Industry: LIVESTOCK (73%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (90%)

Load-Date: February 1, 2021

End of Document

Hutchinsons' David Bouch on what's trending for 2021's spring sowing

The Scottish Farmer

January 2021

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Length: 514 words

Byline: [Ken Fletcher](#)

Body

David Bouch, Hutchinsons national seeds manager, provides his thoughts on spring 2021 and recommendations for spring seed varieties across the UK.

As we approach a spring likely to be vastly different to that of 2020, we can look back on a year when a large proportion of farmers had never experienced such a cropping year - and hopefully never will again.

There was a very sizeable amount of spring cropping entered into the ground because of a delayed drilling season.

This has subsequently been followed with a projected wheat area this autumn of circa 1.8m ha, coupled with another significant fall in winter OSR and a shortfall, despite a derogation, in winter bean supply.

We now have to look ahead and assess the prospects and challenges for spring 2021 accordingly.

Spring barley will again be in demand, albeit with a fall back to the more 'normal' area of the previous two years. However, the supposition that there will be a plentiful supply of seed, may well be based on a slightly false pretence.

It is certainly becoming apparent that although there was a very large crop planted and harvested, the quality of some of those crops is beginning to present a problem. Germination is looking poor and therefore availability perhaps not the given it is perceived.

RGT Planet, Laureate and LG Diablo (now fully approved for both malting and distilling) will be the main three varieties in terms of market share, with newly recommended Tungsten and SY Splendor (under test) and Cosmopolitan (provisional recommendation) also competing within the sector.

Barley still offers the best competition for black-grass and therefore offers both an end market as well as agronomic benefit.

These barleys also offer high yield and can hold their own against out and out feed varieties, such as Fairway and Prospect.

Spring wheat will also have a more traditional uptake, but invariably sells out and certainly varieties such as KWS Chilham, KWS Cochise and KWS Giraffe (very little available 2021) will be popular alongside Mulika as the only group one and Hexham may also see some uptake on the back of limited volumes this spring.

Hutchinsons' David Bouch on what's trending for 2021's spring sowing

Spring oats will definitely be in tight supply with Canyon still being the millers' preference, but now seeing yield competition from WPB Isabel, Delfin and Elison.

Spring pulses will be sought after, with beans being in demand after a shortfall in winter bean supply and a large reduction in winter OSR.

Lynx will be the likely No 1 variety by area for spring 2021 with interest in LG Raptor and Ghengis likely to increase, depending upon availability.

Peas will in all likelihood also see an increase in demand and advice should be sought as to the preferred end markets before final varietal choice is decided upon.

Certainly, I would strongly advise that any pulse requirements are attended to at an early juncture to avoid disappointment!

Finally, there will again be a resurgence in spring oilseeds to give a rotational balance where required. We certainly saw greater volumes of linseed and spring OSR in 2020 and these patterns may well be followed again next year.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: AGRONOMY (75%); OUTPUT & DEMAND (75%); SHORTAGES (74%)

Industry: MISC GRAIN FARMING (89%); WHEAT FARMING (78%); AGRICULTURE (77%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); MARKET SHARE (64%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (73%); UNITED KINGDOM (58%)

Load-Date: January 15, 2021

End of Document

Paddy's Punts; ADVERTISING FEATURE

Daily Record and Sunday Mail

December 26, 2020 Saturday

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 44

Length: 276 words

Body

To quote Slade: It's Christmasssss! Season's greetings, folks. Hope it's a good one.

Despite 2020 being, erm - well, who knows what that was? - we all got what we wanted.

What did we want?

Scottish football drama. It is, after all, the gift that keeps on giving. You can keep your Lynx Africa giftsets - I want the fitba under my tree.

Santa's done well, too. Rangers have a doubledigit lead. Celtic have a quadruple treble. David Martindale has Livingston. Neil Doncaster has a stocking full of coal. Perfect.

We've even got a packed schedule tomorrow to round off the year. A day full of good old-fashioned 3pm kick offs. Apart from Rangers and Hibs that is - they just had to be difficult.

Before that, there's time to burn the turkey and accidentally insult the inlaws. What more could you want?

7/4

LIVINGSTON TO BEAT KILMARNOCK

PADDY'S POWER PLAY Killie's form has been very hit and miss recently. Like a present from your dodgy uncle - you never quite know what you're going to get. I'm backing the Lions here.

MORTON TO DRAW WITH 12/5 INVERNESS

It's not been a good year for Morton. Or anyone else for that matter. Saying that, they're actually doing rather well. Inverness need to bounce back though, so it'll be close.

10/11

FALKIRK TO BEAT PARTICK THISTLE

Some people call this the disappointment derby. When I say some people, I mean me. It's certainly a year to forget for both sides. Expect Falkirk to take this one.

Paddy's Punts; ADVERTISING FEATURE

RANGERS TO WIN AND BOTH TEAMS TO SCORE

STAR BET

Rangers' opponents have finally noticed there is a net behind Allan McGregor. They've even remembered to put the ball into it. It shouldn't change the outcome, however.

17/10 www.paddypower.com/bet

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DRC

Subject: SCOTTISH FOOTBALL (77%); SOCCER (72%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (72%); National Edition

Load-Date: December 26, 2020

End of Document

Issue of the day. Isn't it time the Queen rewilded Balmoral?

Issue of the day. Isn't it time the Queen rewilded Balmoral?

Herald Scotland

December 22, 2020 Tuesday

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The Herald

Length: 503 words

Byline: [Vicky Allan](#)

Body

OTHER landowners are rewilding their estates, restoring forests, and talking about *Lynx* reintroduction, but the Queen's Balmoral shows no sign of changing from its current state as the iconic *Scottish* grouse moor estate. Isn't it, some campaigners are saying, time the royals got more eco and dedicated their land to the ultimate public good, combating the climate and biodiversity crises?

What's the problem with a grouse moor?

Probably most significant is the way it's managed to boost the grouse population by a process known as muirburn - the controlled burning of heather, gorse bushes and grasslands - which destroys bushes, trees and other shrubs that might provide a habitat for other wildlife.

Who has been drawing attention to it?

Rewilding advocate Guy Shrubsole, in an article in the excellent conservation newsletter, Inkcap, earlier this month, blamed Queen Victoria and Prince Albert and their purchase of Balmoral - which triggered the trend amongst the elite for grouse moor sporting estates - for the degraded state of *Scottish* uplands today. "The Royals started this trend," he wrote, "and they have it within their power to end it. Given Prince Charles' well-known environmentalism and Prince William's nascent interest in it, what better time to do so?"

Shrubsole, author of Who Owns England?, is not alone in having postulated that our royals could be doing more to. Nick Kempe of the blog Parkswatchscotland has been urging Prince Charles to stop the moorland burning on the Balmoral estate and allow it to rewild. "The royal family is at the apex of sporting estate owners," he said. "If they were to stop muirburn [moorland burning] then other *Scottish* grouse estates might follow."

Why pick on Balmoral?

Perhaps it seems unfair to pick on the Queen and her grouse, when there is so much history around Balmoral and it certainly looks very lovely in episodes of The Crown. We could, of course, pick on other targets for rewilling like farms which are growing food and helping keep people alive.

Isn't HRH a little bit behind-trend on this occasion?

Issue of the day. Isn't it time the Queen rewilded Balmoral?

Yes, that does seem to be so. Rewilding is on trend with some of Scotland's other significant landowners, including Paul Povlsen at Glenfeshie, Paul Lister at Alladale and the recent announcement by Hugh Macleod, clan chief of Clan MacLeod that he intends to rewild his estate around Dunvegan Castle, Skye. Already Balmoral's neighbouring, National Trust-run estate at Mar Lodge is seeing a young forest take root, following a zero tolerance approach to deer, it looks like the royal family may be last to jump on this latest biodiversity and planet-saving trend. When will they realise that it's now all about keeping up with the Povlsens?

But is rewilding likely to help save the planet?

A scientific study, published in the journal, Nature, in October found that restoring natural landscapes damaged by human exploitation could be one of the most effective and cheapest ways to combat the climate crisis while also boosting dwindling wildlife populations.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: BRITISH ROYALTY (90%); CONSERVATION (90%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS (90%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS CONSERVATION (90%); LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (90%); ROYALTY, NOBILITY & GENTRY (90%); BIODIVERSITY (89%); TRENDS (89%); TRENDS & EVENTS (88%); BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION (78%); BRITISH MONarchs (78%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (78%); ENVIRONMENTALISM (78%); FOREST FIRES (78%); LAND RECLAMATION (78%); PRESCRIBED FIRES (78%); WILD CATS (78%); WILDLIFE (78%); MAMMALS (77%); FIRES (75%); WRITERS (73%); RESEARCH REPORTS (68%); BLOGS & MESSAGE BOARDS (64%)

Industry: BRITISH ROYALTY (90%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS CONSERVATION (90%); ROYALTY, NOBILITY & GENTRY (90%); BRITISH MONarchs (78%); PRESCRIBED FIRES (78%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); WRITERS (73%); BLOGS & MESSAGE BOARDS (64%)

Person: CHARLES III, KING OF THE UNITED KINGDOM (89%); WILLIAM, PRINCE OF WALES (79%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (94%); ENGLAND (79%)

Load-Date: January 4, 2021

EYEWITNESS: Aberdeen athlete Mel Edwardsâ(EURO)(TM) exploits still evoke rich memories

EYEWITNESS: Aberdeen athlete Mel Edwardsâ(EURO)(TM) exploits still evoke rich memories

Aberdeen Evening Express

December 20, 2020 Sunday

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Section: SOC; Pg. 10

Length: 1176 words

Byline: Neil Drysdale

Body

He was one of lifeâ(EURO)(TM)s rare characters, a man who always accentuated the positives even as he dealt with slings and arrows of occasionally outrageous fortune.

Come winter, summer, spring or fall, Aberdeen athlete, charity fundraiser and all-round top bloke Mel Edwards was a whole-hearted champion for the benefits of healthy exercise and enjoying nature and a natter on his daily runs, which continued well into his eighth decade.

Despite fighting a lengthy battle with cancer, he relished fresh challenges and adventures.

As a way of giving back to the charities which had bolstered him, he carried out a 70-minute run on his 70th birthday and a century of 100m runs when he turned 75.

Global stage

Mel died a year ago this month, but sport and philanthropy are obviously in the familyâ(EURO)(TM)s DNA, because his son, Myles, has followed in his footsteps by representing his country on the global stage and creating countless opportunities for underprivileged youngsters in Kenya through his thriving foundation.

He is a peripatetic fellow with a shed-load of initiatives and ideas in both **Scotland** and Africa, but I caught up with Myles for a chat about his dadâ(EURO)(TM)s influence. And it soon became clear that there canâ(EURO)(TM)t be many people in the north-east sporting firmament whose unstinting work ethic, effervescent energy and sheer sense of fun left such an indelible impression.

The plaudits poured in from far and wide. And one of the most heartfelt tributes was delivered by Colin Youngson, an international runner who competed for Aberdeen University and Aberdeen Amateur Athletics Club, and who also just happens to be a former three-times **Scottish** marathon champion.

Positively beautiful

He regarded Mel with a heady mixture of admiration and affection. In fact, his paean extends further than that and struck me as positively beautiful.

EYEWITNESS: Aberdeen athlete Mel Edwardsâ(EURO)(TM) exploits still evoke rich memories

As he told me: â(EURO)oeMeldrum Barclay Edwards was a one-of-a-kind character: relentlessly optimistic, enthusiastic, energetic, dedicated, determined, uncomplaining, brave. And I can remember umpteen encounters with this marvellous human being.

â(EURO)oeWhen I was in first year, I saw him - the Sixth Form runner hero - winning the Aberdeen Grammar School Mile. His family home was only quarter of a mile from mine, so I often walked up to see him.

â(EURO)oeln 1967, near the end of my first year, getting fitter (or so I thought), I joined him one afternoon for a hard five-mile run round the Links Golf Course, with Mel talking non-stop, telling me how well I was going.

â(EURO)oelt was my only training session of the day; but it turned out that it was his third, and he had an evening one to come later on. Four times fast round the same route. He was almost at his marathon fitness peak.

â(EURO)oel After he gave up top-level road-running due to leg injuries, I wondered how on earth he could have transformed into a record-breaking ultra-distance hill runner. But he did.

â(EURO)oel Much later, in 1988, Mel was part of the four-man AAAC team that won the **Scottish** Veterans Cross-Country title in Clydebank.

â(EURO)oel won the M40 contest, with Graham Milne third, and looked round to see Mel outsprinting Roddy MacFarquhar to become M45 champion. Melâ(EURO)(TM)s delight was infectious - it was his first **Scottish** title since he won the 1964 **Scottish** Junior National event - where he defeated future greats Ian McCafferty and Lachie Stewart.

â(EURO)oel A few years later, the AAAC eight-man squad won the **Scottish** Veterans Alloa to Bishopbriggs road relay. On the drive home, we stopped to celebrate at the famous Gleneagles Hotel, since, if we proved victorious, I had promised to buy everyone a beer.

â(EURO)oel We were all wearing totally inappropriate jeans, sweatshirts and trainers, so even Mel pushed me in front to negotiate with the posh doorman - who kindly let us into the American Bar, which did not have a dress code.

â(EURO)oel When he became Meldrum Barclay Edwards, Member of the Order of the British Empire (or MBE squared, as he called it) no one could have deserved the honour more. Everyone admired and liked him.

â(EURO)oel When he first contracted cancer, I visited him in hospital and we laughed our way through my collection of Alf Tupper - The Tough of the Track - photocopies.

â(EURO)oel could add so many more memories. His tales of dawn jogging at Rubislaw in Aberdeen, saying hello to the fox that trained there at the same time; the seventy-minute run aged 70; and so many charitable ventures which he embarked upon. He was remarkable.â(EURO)

Charity marathon

Myles, for his part, is an entrepreneurial spirit with plenty of his dadâ(EURO)(TM)s drive and determination.

He organised a special charity marathon last December, with the proceeds going to Friends of ANCHOR and Clan, who supported Mel for many years.

He said: â(EURO)oel My dad and I would go for runs together and he always took me to races that he, I, or both of us were doing. It was lovely that we shared a common interest and it made us as much like friends as we were father and son.

â(EURO)oel There are so many memories of my dad that I cherish and I think about regularly. From a young age, I loved watching him race or attending **Lynx** Pack running sessions with him.

EYEWITNESS: Aberdeen athlete Mel Edwardsâ(EURO)(TM) exploits still evoke rich memories

â(EURO)oeThe thing which stands out most is that after every run, session or race, he would be so interested in how it went - no matter if we were in the same country at the time or not. He sometimes called or messaged me before the run had even finished!

â(EURO)oelf I felt that things could have gone better, he would always immediately have a positive comment or solution and if it had gone well, he would be super excited. It is these moments with him which I miss the most.

â(EURO)oeHe would travel to almost all of my races whether they were local, national or international and, just before I went down to the start, he would always say: Have a good oneâ(EURO)(TM) - I liked that because it meant that there was no pressure to perform, it was all about enjoying the sport.

â(EURO)oeHaving him there at my ***Scottish*** Championship 1500m victory in 2015 and seeing how proud he was meant more to me than the victory itself.

â(EURO)oeWe miss him every day, but we speak about him often and, as a family, try to do him proud. I canâ(EURO)(TM)t wait for my daughter Dahlia to be old enough to try running sessions with Aberdeen AAC - that would have made him very happy as he was very proud to be her grandpa.â(EURO)

Infectious personality

I recall having a terrific conversation with Mel where he spoke about the importance of the younger generation learning to enjoy the great outdoors.

There was nothing fuddy-duddy about his attitude. On the contrary, it would be difficult to imagine a human with more joie de vivre and infectious positivity.

As he told me: â(EURO)oeThereâ(EURO)(TM)s nothing like the feeling when you get out there in the morning and start running and feel the air in your lungs. It is just so exhilarating and inspiring.â(EURO)

The latter word is perfect in summing up why Mel Edwards may be gone, but his memory will never be forgotten.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Ev

Subject: CHARITIES (90%); RUNNING (89%); AMATEUR SPORTS (77%); FUNDRAISING (77%); PHILANTHROPY (77%); EXERCISE & FITNESS (76%); FOUNDATIONS (75%); ETHICS (73%); SPORTS & RECREATION (73%); CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS & TEENS (72%); GOLF (72%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, ***SCOTLAND*** (90%); ***SCOTLAND*** (90%); AFRICA (70%); KENYA (70%); 7 North East

Load-Date: December 20, 2020

UP TO £5

UP TO £5

Scottish Star

December 4, 2020 Friday

Edition 1, Scotland

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 24

Length: 162 words

Body

Fair Isle socks (2 pack), £5, Marks & Spencer

I Heart Wine Socks and Chocs gift set, £5, Sainsbury's

Natural Extracts body butter duo gift set (2x50ml), £4, Tesco

Disney Collection Mr Incredible Bob Parr plush (6in), £4.99, The Range

Travel mug and ear muff set, £2, Poundland

Harry Potter Gryffindor water bottle, £5, B&M

Lynx Gold gift set, £4, Morrisons

Paint your own bear money box, £3, Hobbycraft

George faux fur penguin slippers (0-12 months), £4.50, Asda

Bloom pink peony hand wash and hand lotion set, £5, Superdrug

UP TO £10

Embroidered socks (5 pack), £10, Next

Super Colour doodle board, £10, Smyths

01 Balance candle, £8.50, White Stuff

Crosshatch Quartz rubber strap watch, £10, Sports Direct

Sparkle grapefruit & patchouli reed diffusers (2), £10, Dunelm

Pocket Pal llama hand warmer, £10, Oliver Bonas

Faux fur cat print ballet slipper socks, £10, Marks & Spencer

Chilli shot challenge set, £8, Wilko

UP TO £5

Holdsworth champagne truffles (100g), £8, John Lewis

Magician set, £7, The Works

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DSTscot

Subject: MAMMALS (78%)

Company: MARKS & SPENCER GROUP PLC (58%)

Ticker: MKS (LSE) (58%)

Industry: NAICS452210 DEPARTMENT STORES (58%); SIC5311 DEPARTMENT STORES (58%)

Geographic: Scotland

Load-Date: December 4, 2020

End of Document

Take a stork on the wild side... and let's have beavers, eagles and wolves too How reintroducing lost species can restore the UK's nature-depleted countryside t....

Take a stork on the wild side... and let's have beavers, eagles and wolves too; How reintroducing lost species can restore the UK's nature-depleted countryside to its full natural glory

Scottish Express

November 23, 2020 Monday

Edition 1, Scotland

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 18,19

Length: 1481 words

Byline: Simon Barnes

Body

THEY came fizzing down the river like two furry bath-toys, as if their rubber bands had been wound up as tight as they would go. They made it safely to the shore where their mother was sitting back on her haunches chewing thoughtfully on a strand of twiggy vegetation.

She looked at the same time impossibly big and completely natural. It was hard to believe my eyes, and yet what I was looking at seemed utterly ordinary. For here was a family of beavers, living their free and wild lives in Britain on the confusingly named River Otter in Devon.

Beavers were once common across Britain, and were great shapers of the British countryside. But they were hunted to extinction 500 years ago, for their fur and also for a substance called castoreum, thought to have medicinal value.

Now they are www.back.No one is quite sure how the Devon beavers got there, or if they are, they aren't saying.

They escaped from somewhere, or they were illegally released. At first, the plan was to kill them off, but when it was established that they had been living free for some years without anyone noticing, there was a rethink.

This year Defra announced that they could stay: despite some opposition, beavers are back in England.

They have been back in **Scotland** a while longer: there was an official release at Knapdale in 2009 and another unofficial release on the River Tay. Both populations are increasing.

THRIVING: beavers Devon and

Many landowners are keen to have "trial" populations of beavers on their land: that is to say, managed and enclosed, but thriving in the landscape. They create wild habitat for many species, and by making wetlands they also play a significant role in flood prevention. Now it's widely accepted that beavers are a good thing.

This is part of a trend of reintroduction of lost and nearly-lost species. The species chosen tend to be large and spectacular - sexy beasts, headline grabbers.

Take a stork on the wild side... and let's have beavers, eagles and wolves too How reintroducing lost species can restore the UK's nature-depleted countryside t....

And they often divide the crowd - some people very much in favour, others furiously antagonistic.

White-tailed eagles went extinct in Britain in the 19th century, shot in the course of the great Victorian persecution of all birds of prey. They are huge with a wingspan getting on for 8ft - birds that darken the sky and thrill the soul.

They were introduced on the island of Rum in the 1970s, and have since expanded their range to become **Scottish** stars.

The nearby island of Mull has a booming tourist industry based on eagles; Mull offers two species of eagle and two locally-distilled single malt whiskies.

There have since been further releases of white-tailed eagles on the Isle of Wight. But plans to release them in Suffolk were shelved indefinitely after a furious campaign by local farmers - some of whom maintained the eagles would carry off their www.pigs.No one is wholly rational about reintroductions.

I don't suppose for a second that the release of wild boars in England would have got past public objections.

They are imposing beasts. A big male can weigh 23st, they have formidable tusks and they're pretty swift. They can be aggressive when around their young. This animal is dangerous and defends itself when attacked.

But in the 1990s there was a restaurant craze for wild boar meat. The animals the meat came from were farmed, but they were at best semi-domesticated - and the inevitable happened.

Families of back in **Scotland**

They are strong animals, and they dig hard with their noses. It's difficult and expensive to build a boar-proof enclosure. So a number got out, and no doubt a good few more were released when they became inconvenient or uneconomic.

As a result, there are wild populations in many parts of the country, most notably the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire. They're not universally popular, but we have reached a stage when it would be difficult and very expensive to get rid of them.

The release of some species does manage to win universal approval. The large blue butterfly went extinct in this country in the 1970s. The story of the way these butterflies were brought back is one of scientific heroism and required profound research into the way they live. They turned out to be totally dependent on their relationship with a single species of ant - so if you want large blue butterflies, you must first look after your ants.

This has been done, and there are now good populations of large blues in a dozen or so sites in the West Country.

I HAVEN'T heard a word spoken against the reintroduction of cranes either: impossibly graceful birds which stand 4ft high and dance like ballerinas.

They went extinct in Britain about 500 years ago, perhaps because they formed part of too many medieval banquets, but they came back to the Broads spontaneously in 1979, and have been spreading from there ever since - very, very slowly.

So a project was formed to move them back into the equally suitable habitats of the Somerset Levels. It was a large-scale and expensive process, and there are now freelifing cranes back in the lovely wet landscape of the Levels.

Perhaps the most obvious introduction has been the red kites: the angular, fork-tailed birds of prey you can see if you travel on the M40. They are now almost ridiculously common in the Chilterns, where the first birds were released in the 1990s: birds that were more or less extinct in England are now common even in well-populated areas. They are carrion feeders and road-killed pheasants have helped them to prosper.

Take a stork on the wild side... and let's have beavers, eagles and wolves too How reintroducing lost species can restore the UK's nature-depleted countryside t....

This year the weeks of lockdown were cheered by the news that white storks had nested in Britain for the first time in 600 years. They were reintroduced as part of the excellent rewilding project at Knepp Castle in Sussex.

This is a classic sexy-animal project but it would take a heart of stone to wish them away again - and if any pair of storks wishes to build a cartwheel nest on my chimney, they are heartily welcome.

What next? The unexpected answer is European bison.

These are seriously imposing creatures, and can weigh up to a ton. The plan is to bring an enclosed population of one male and three females to Blean Woods in Kent in 2022.

The species went extinct in the wild not just in this country but globally; the last one was shot in 1927. But there were 60 left in zoos and from these, free-roaming populations have been established in many countries, including Germany, Switzerland, Poland, Belarus and Lithuania.

It will be fascinating to see what effect these animals have on the ecology of the Kentish woodland.

They will, of course, have no natural predators to contend with, but then, that's true of every British mammal above the size of a spaniel.

Our deer live in the lap of luxury, with no need ever to break into a run. But suggest that what Britain needs is a few large predators and you will find opposition, even if the suggested predators were once good British species.

The Lynx is the favourite candidate for rewilding enthusiasts.

They lived here once and there is little doubt that if they were released in wild parts of the country - Kielder Forest has been suggested - they would settle down pretty well, eating rabbits and small deer, and no one but field naturalists would notice they were there.

There are organisations pressing Defra for a licence for such a project, but so far they have met with refusal.

Recently I was in the Highlands, looking at an excellent re-forestation project. The owner of Alladale Wilderness

Reserve, Paul Lister, had planted more than 800,000 native trees in these fine hills.

ANT AND large blue a single

It's a sound conservation project as it stands, but Lister has an ambition still further, of the lupine variety.

He is convinced that a population of wolves would do well here. They would be enclosed by the same sort of game fences they use in private game reserves in South Africa.

So far he has won little more than a reputation as a visionary or madman; you must take your pick. There are wild wolf populations across Europe. They keep away from humans, and yet they are a powerful tourist draw. I would love to set eyes on a wild wolf.

Wolves were reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park in the United States and have had a powerful and positive effect on the ecology of the place. It's easy to put together a sound argument for the reintroduction of wolves to the Highlands.

It is, however, even easier to scare up an emotional opposition. And besides, there are other things perhaps more deserving of the few quid we spare for wildlife conservation.

We have lost 40 million birds since 1970. We fancy ourselves a nation of nature-lovers but we live in one of the most nature-deprived countries on earth.

Take a stork on the wild side... and let's have beavers, eagles and wolves too How reintroducing lost species can restore the UK's nature-depleted countryside t....

We need to manage our countryside better and that is where the best rewilding must begin.

CHECK: The depends on species of ant ??The History of THEWORLD in 100 Animals by Simon Barnes (Simon & Schuster, £25) is out now. For free UK delivery, call Express Bookshop on 01872 562310 or order via www.expressbookshop.co.uk

Graphic

CAT FLAP: Defra turned down plans to bring back the lynx
ANT AND CHECK: The large blue depends on a single species of ant
IMPOSING: Aggressive wild boar, top, and the soaring white tailed eagle
NESTING: White storks raise young in Britain for the first time in 600 years
Pictures: DAN KITWOOD/GETTY

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DXPscot

Subject: BIRDS (90%); MAMMALS (90%); CONSERVATION (78%); WETLANDS (78%); WILDLIFE (76%); ISLANDS & REEFS (75%); LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (75%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (70%); NEW PRODUCTS (66%)

Industry: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES (83%); NEW PRODUCTS (66%); DISTILLED LIQUORS (60%); TOURISM (50%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (94%); UNITED KINGDOM (91%); ENGLAND (79%); Scotland

Load-Date: November 23, 2020

End of Document

Scotland in pictures: new e-book captures beauty of ancient land

Herald Scotland

November 15, 2020 Sunday

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The Herald

Length: 901 words

Byline: [Sandra Dick](#)

Body

Scotland's pine forests and woodlands are picture-perfect in a new book, writes Sandra Dick

Touching the sky or with roots gnarled and knotted on the ground, they tell a story of a once magical, massive forest which provided shelter for timid wildlife, materials for fuel and building, and peaceful sanctuary.

Over centuries, nearly all of the trees of the vast boreal forest which once shrouded huge areas of northern **Scotland** were lost, along with the **Lynx**, bears, wild boar and wolves that made it their home.

And although just two per cent of **Scotland's** ancient forest remain, as these stunning images show, the woodlands remain breathtakingly beautiful - a reminder of how precious they are, and how important it is to ensure that they are not only protected for generations to come but allowed to thrive and grow.

The images are among a selection which appear in a new, free ebook which has been produced by nature charity **Scotland: The Big Picture**, which aims to highlight the benefits that could come from allowing the land to once again dictate its own course, without the intervention of human hand.

Captured as the morning sun begins to rise, through mist or warmed by the deep orange glow of the setting sun, with furry and feathered residents going about their business or reflected on the mirror-like surface of a deep, still loch, the images bring forest life within touching distance - so clear and close you can almost smell the pine and hear the tap of a woodpecker.

For those who spent their tiny allocation of outdoor exercise during lockdown exploring the woods and forests close to home - or escaped to their shelter as the rules lifted - these stunning images are a reminder of why the soft moss underfoot, the rough bark and the glimpse of blue sky through the upper branches raised spirits and made everything a bit better.

Saving, reviving and regenerating them is crucial, says Mark Hamlin, executive director of **Scotland: The Big Picture**, and whose photographs appear in the book alongside the work of others from the charity and freelance photographers.

Scotland in pictures: new e-book captures beauty of ancient land

"This year a lot of people got out to their local woods and discovered places on their own doorsteps which they perhaps had not been to for a long time or at all," he said. "However, we are the least wooded country in the whole of Europe and pinewoods and their inhabitants - some of which are quite fragile - are facing pressures and challenges.

"The more people that appreciate what they have close by, and the more people that care about the natural environment around them, the better chance these woodlands have to survive."

The wild wood remnants of **Scotland**'s ancient pine forests still provide sanctuary to a wealth of species. On the ground thrive rare plants and insects, like twinflower and pine hoverfly. Above, the **Scottish** crossbill and crested tit flutter from branch to branch.

Red and roe deer shape the landscape, osprey, goshawk and golden eagle take up occupancy in the high canopy to raise a new generation.

"This is a dynamic landscape full of life," Hamlin said. "While these pinewoods retain much of their magic, they remain diminished and fragmented, and fall well short of their true ecological potential. **Scotland**'s pinewoods need revitalising, but why bother?

"Pine forests sequester huge amounts of carbon and are net producers of oxygen. They provide shelter, building materials, fuel and stability for fragile soils," he said. "They are sponges that regulate the flow of water into rivers. These are all things that matter to society - things we take for granted, things that keep our own house in order."

There is more: "On warm summer days, wafts of pine-scented molecules are released with each step trodden over resin-coated needles. This intoxicating aroma is just one of the many joys of spending quiet time among the pines," Hamlin added.

"If you sit a while, with your back against a gnarled trunk, the often-shy inhabitants of the forest begin to reveal themselves. The excited trilling of a crested tit, the scampering of claws as a red squirrel scales a nearby tree, or a glimpse of a roe deer moving silently in the shadows."

For the lucky ones, there might be a glimpse of a pine marten or capercaillie. The very lucky might see a flash of **Scottish** wildcat fur.

"While it's important to learn from historical mistreatment of the Great Wood, we need to look to the future," he said.

"Across **Scotland**, ambitious, landscape-scale woodland restoration projects are revitalising and reconnecting our native pinewoods. These are projects on a huge scale, never before undertaken in our lifetime.

"The full results won't be seen for generations but, already, thousands of hectares of deforested glens and hillsides are spawning young trees."

Becoming involved is the ultimate altruistic act. "The quote is along the lines of 'plant a tree under whose shade you will never sit'," he added. "It is difficult for people to think of what they can do to support forests when we are not going to be around to see them mature. But just starting to get interested and campaigning or organising for changes in Government policy so we can see more woodland expansion is a start.

"It's not just woodlands," he cautioned. "We need hedgerows and wetlands."

"So much habitat has been diminished, and there's so much that can be done."

- The ebook, Pinelands, can be downloaded free of charge from www.scotlandbigpicture.com/Store

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: FORESTS & WOODLANDS (90%); MAMMALS (90%); PLANT CONSERVATION (78%); WILDLIFE (78%); CHARITIES (77%); INSECTS & ARACHNIDS (77%); PHOTOGRAPHY SERVICES (73%); PHOTOGRAPHY (72%); FREELANCE EMPLOYMENT (60%); VISUAL ARTISTS (60%)

Industry: ELECTRONIC BOOKS (90%); ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING (90%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); PHOTOGRAPHY SERVICES (73%); PHOTOGRAPHY (72%); VISUAL ARTISTS (60%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (96%); EUROPE (79%)

Load-Date: November 15, 2020

End of Document

Trees of life

The Sunday Herald (Glasgow)

November 15, 2020 Sunday

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sundayherald

Section: Pg. 15

Length: 889 words

Byline: Andrew Clark

Body

Touching the sky or with roots gnarled and knotted on the ground, they tell a story of a once magical, massive forest which provided shelter for timid wildlife, materials for fuel and building, and peaceful sanctuary.

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Trees of life

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Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: SHE

Subject: MAMMALS (90%); WILDLIFE (90%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS (89%); INSECTS & ARACHNIDS (79%); CHARITIES (78%); PLANT CONSERVATION (78%); PHOTOGRAPHY SERVICES (70%); PHOTOGRAPHY (61%); VISUAL ARTISTS (61%); FREELANCE EMPLOYMENT (60%); agriculture (%); health terms (%); weather (%)

Industry: MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); PHOTOGRAPHY SERVICES (70%); ELECTRONIC BOOKS (68%); ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING (68%); PHOTOGRAPHY (61%); VISUAL ARTISTS (61%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, SCOTLAND (73%); SCOTLAND (93%); EUROPE (79%)

Load-Date: November 15, 2020

End of Document

Beaver, lynx and maybe wolves... how we're going back to the wild

Beaver, lynx and maybe wolves... how we're going back to the wild

Scottish Express

October 24, 2020 Saturday

Edition 1, Scotland

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 44,45

Length: 528 words

Body

PRESSURE is growing to reintroduce animals that were hunted to extinction. Conservationists want to bring back wolves and *Lynx*, while ministers are planning a consultation on reintroducing beavers. Environment Editor JOHN INGHAM investigates. BEAVERS are tricky chaps. They only tend to be as busy as beavers at night which means spotting them is far from easy.

But by the morning these engineers will have left behind huge clues as to their presence. This is how I came to be standing on top of one of their dams on a gentle stream in south Devon.

The River Otter is a main stronghold of European beavers, thanks to a reintroduction programme that's caused controversy.

And the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is preparing to launch a consultation on returning beavers across the country.

They were hunted to extinction 400 years ago for their fur, meat and scent glands but a few have now been released.

This and other reintroductions may offer a lifeline for Britain's beleaguered natural world where 40 per cent of species have declined since 1970.

It's a shameful statistic but the beavers' foremost champion, Derek Gow, says they could help turn the tide.

A softly spoken Scot, Derek, 55, now farms in Cornwall and is also an expert on reintroducing water

Vanished voles, which were once found on virtually every waterway but have vanished from 90 per cent thanks to the release of mink, which eat them, and human ruination of river banks. Derek said: "Life is haemorrhaging from our landscapes and that is truly horrifying.

"Beavers help create life. They create wetlands which hold more life than any other habitat."

From the top of the dam it was easy to see the impact of these sharp-toothed creatures. Behind it - one of a network of three built by the beavers on this tributary -

the water level had risen by at least a foot.

Beaver, lynx and maybe wolves... how we're going back to the wild

Downstream a small lake had formed. Dragonflies and damselflies were shimmering in the sunshine, and visits by cormorants revealed the presence of fish.

For the first time in ages a water rail - a skulking, secretive relative of the moorhen - has been seen.

Better still, the beavers offer a solution to flooding. Their naturally created wetlands store water, slowing river flows during deluges.

Ed Lagdon of Clinton Devon Estates, whose 25,000 acres the beavers are reshaping, said: "East Budleigh used to get flooded every year. Since the beavers arrived, there have been no floods."

After the trial led by Devon Wildlife Trust, the Government is assessing how beavers can be reintroduced across the country.

But not everyone is happy. Phil Jarvis, from the National Farmers' Union, said: "Beavers create dams that can undermine riverbanks, and impede farmland drainage with waterlogged fields becoming unsuitable for grazing or cropping."

Derek said: "The question is where will the money come from to mitigate these problems. Hopefully it will come from the Government. And there will be areas where beavers cannot live.

"But having them back is a partnership that requires understanding and tolerance. We, as a species, aren't good at tolerance." ?? Bringing Back The Beaver, a book by Derek Gow, is out now (Chelsea Green, £20).

Graphic

Very busy beavers... our man John Ingham at a dam; a beaver, top; and Derek Gow, below
Pictures: JONATHAN BUCKMASTER

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DXPscot

Subject: MAMMALS (90%); ANIMALS (89%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (89%); RIVERS (89%); WETLANDS (89%); AGRICULTURAL LANDS (78%); AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENTS (78%); ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS (78%); ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENTS (78%); ENVIRONMENTALISM (78%); WILDLIFE (78%); WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (78%); LAND RECLAMATION (72%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (69%)

Industry: AGRICULTURAL LANDS (78%); AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENTS (78%); CANALS & WATERWAYS (76%)

Beaver, lynx and maybe wolves... how we're going back to the wild

Geographic: SCOTLAND (93%); UNITED KINGDOM (79%); Scotland

Load-Date: October 24, 2020

End of Document

Pirates partied after Scottish Cup triumph; Skating down memory lane A LOOK BACK THROUGH THE ARCHIVES WITH THE PAISLEY PIRATES

Paisley Daily Express

October 21, 2020 Wednesday

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: SPORT; Pg. 22

Length: 659 words

Body

With the current season put on ice, we've linked up with Paisley Pirates stalwart and media guru Bill Elliot to relive some of the club's most dramatic and successful moments.

To kick us off, we are looking back at a **Scottish** Cup win laced with drama and goals 15 years ago.

St George's Day, April 23 2005 was an eventful one for the Paisley Pirates as they headed north to the **Lynx** Arena in Aberdeen to take on the Edinburgh Capitals in the final of the **Scottish** Cup.

The Solway Sharks had sprung a surprise in an earlier round by knocking out a strongly fancied Fife side, before they themselves were on the receiving end of a heavy aggregate defeat inflicted by the Pirates.

The Paisley side beat them 9-1 in the first leg played at The Lagoon, before cruising to a 6-6 draw in Dumfries which saw them qualify for the final on a comfortable 15-7 aggregate.

That was probably a more comfortable passage to the final than might have been expected against a very useful Solway side.

Edinburgh were no walkovers paisley pirates5 edinburgh capitals.....0 either and, indeed, were well fancied in some quarters to take the cup home with them to the capital.

In the main event Pirates kept some of their inspired form of the semifinal in hand for the final, much to the delight of their hordes of travelling fans who invaded the northern city and created an atmosphere which made it effectively a home game for the side from the west side of **Scotland**.

The Paisley side started the game strongly and were ahead after less than two minutes.

John Churchill picked up the puck on the right wing, and with a trademark dip of the shoulder moved inside before firing an unstoppable bullet into the top corner of the net to give his side the perfect start and settle any nerves which might have been in the camp before the puck was dropped.

The side from the East came back strongly but Pirates' defence was snuffing out much of the threat, with netminder Darryl Findlay in particular repelling all boarders to ensure his team retained their one goal advantage.

Pirates partied after Scottish Cup triumph Skating down memory lane A LOOK BACK THROUGH THE ARCHIVES WITH THE PAISLEY PIRATES

That lead was doubled just before the first interval as Alan Maitland tapped in a simple pass to make it 2-0.

The Edinburgh side complained bitterly to the referee that he had actually kicked the puck into the net, but the official was having none of it, much to the relief of the Pirates' fans.

In the middle session, Pirates stepped up the pace and went three ahead as skipper Myles Watson took a rebound from the boards to fire home and put a rosy glow into the very large support which had followed them north and who were beginning to get a very good feeling about the day.

With netminder Findlay continuing to defy the best attempts of the Edinburgh forwards to get their side back into the game, and with the rest of the team adopting a 'they shall not pass' approach, the goals were only going to come at one end of the ice - and they did.

Watson repeated his earlier rebound goal, this time the puck coming off the keeper's pads and falling perfectly for the number nine to stick it away and take the score to 4-0.

The goal appeared to inspire the Lagoon-based side as they swarmed all over their opponents and it wasn't too long before defender Brian Taylor skated forward and smashed a slapshot home from the blue line to go nap with a five goal lead, effectively ending the match as a contest.

With 20 minutes of the final session to go, the outcome of the match was a formality, although Edinburgh tried valiantly but in vain to grab some consolation on the scoreboard, Findlay was having none of it as he continued to turn away the best efforts coming in his direction, with the defence sweeping up and standing shoulder to shoulder to ensure his shut out.

The forwards were content to play out time, and Pirates duly counted down the clock to record their first **Scottish** Cup success in eight years.

It's fair to say their army of fans partied well into the night.

Graphic

Goal hero John Churchill

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: PDE

Subject: **SCOTTISH** FOOTBALL (90%); SPORTS & RECREATION EVENTS (79%); SPORTS OFFICIATING (79%); STADIUMS & ARENAS (79%); INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (78%)

Pirates partied after Scottish Cup triumph Skating down memory lane A LOOK BACK THROUGH THE ARCHIVES WITH THE PAISLEY PIRATES

Geographic: EDINBURGH, **SCOTLAND** (90%); ABERDEEN, **SCOTLAND** (73%); **SCOTLAND** (90%); National Edition

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How autumn's natural glories can help Scots cope with coronavirus

Herald Scotland

September 27, 2020 Sunday

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Length: 2107 words

Byline: [Garry Scott](#)

Body

AT THE heart of Scone Palace's Victorian pinetum, where giant conifers soar to more than 40 metres, a *Tsuga heterophylla* (Western hemlock) is under the care of specialists. This tree, part of an avenue of hemlocks that marches through the pinetum, had been showing signs of fungal attack, so every two years it undergoes a Picus tomograph - the sonic equivalent of an x-ray - in order to determine the state of its health.

In its native Pacific North West, the Western hemlock can live for up to 1200 years, so the 130-year-old stripling at Scone is barely an adolescent, too young to be discarded if it can be saved.

"At one time trees such as this one would have been felled at the first signs of disease, but now we know that some can recover and that their seed may have genetic resistance," says head gardener Brian Cunningham, who is responsible for one of the most famous designed landscapes in [Scotland](#), where a sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) planted in 1617 by King James VI still flourishes despite having a limb torn from its trunk in the storm that swept through the estate a decade ago.

From Monday, until Tuesday, December 1, Scone Palace will be participating in the [Scottish](#) Tree Festival, the annual celebration of woodland heritage. Gardens, estates and nurseries across the country will be taking part, with real and virtual events, and organisers, Discover [Scottish](#) Gardens, hope that locals, 'staycationers' and those joining in from the comfort of their sofas, will experience the beauty of the season as it makes its progress through the leaf canopy of our largest plants.

At Attadale Gardens in Wester Ross, tours will take place every Thursday throughout the festival, giving visitors the chance to explore both mature woodland and new trees planted to replace those brought down by severe storms in the 1980s. Amongst the many highlights in this garden, set against the dramatic backdrop of Loch Carron, is a Wollemi pine, known only from the fossil record until 1994 when a grove of them was rediscovered in a steep-sided gorge in New South Wales.

At Cluny House Gardens, near Aberfeldy, the collection of trees from North America and the Himalayas includes a *Torreya taxifolia* or 'Stinking cedar', a relative of the yew, which has almost been wiped out in its native Florida, yet which, like so many trees from many diverse parts of the world, has found a safe haven in [Scotland](#).

How autumn's natural glories can help Scots cope with coronavirus

At Cluny it grows amongst glowing acers and a Champion redwood, which is the widest tree of its kind in the UK. And at Gordon Castle near Fochabers there's a chance to discover more about the 280 fruit trees that line the recently-restored walled garden.

Trees are so much part of the landscape that sometimes we fail to notice them until they put on their autumn clothes, but Catherine Erskine, chair of Discover ***Scottish*** Gardens, thinks that the events of this year have brought them into sharper focus.

"We are seeing a need for people to connect more closely with nature," she says. "The idea of forest bathing, where you immerse yourself amongst trees, is increasingly being seen as way to improve wellbeing."

At Cambo, her own estate near St Andrews, festival-goers will be able to walk slowly through woods, savouring the sights and smells of autumn, before enjoying wood-fired feasts beneath trees festooned with sparkling lights.

At Hopetoun House, on the outskirts of Edinburgh, rangers will take visitors into the past with tours that weave history and folklore and at Blair Castle there will be the chance to discover the legacy of the 'Planting Dukes of Atholl', who through the 18th and 19th centuries planted 27 million trees, transforming the southern approach to the Cairngorms in the process.

The planting mania of this era was fuelled by arrivals from the New World and it was Scots, such as David Douglas, who was born at Scone, and naval surgeon Archibald Menzies who were at the forefront of exploration and introduction.

The landscape that we see today owes much to their endeavours, from the Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), which clothes so many hillsides, to the Monkey Puzzle (*Araucaria araucana*), found on old estates and, incongruously, in small gardens whose owners fail to realise that they have welcomed in a Chilean giant.

Yet during the years when these new trees were arriving to dazzle us, ***Scotland***'s own sylvan heritage was fading fast. At one time, the great Caledonian Forest covered 15,000 square kilometres but by the time conservation group Trees for Life was formed in 1993 only tiny fragments survived, scattered in remnants across the Highlands and on the brink of extinction as a result of felling, over-grazing and the loss of apex predators.

Trees for Life's ambitious rewilding efforts may not have gone as far as reintroducing either wolf or ***Lynx*** to curtail red deer, but the charity has worked closely with landowners to protect those remnants of the forest that remain and they have planted two million new trees in the process, harnessing the efforts of an army of volunteers who share their vision of seeing Scots pines once more dominate the landscape, giving shelter to the Western capercaillie and the ***Scottish*** crossbill, which breed nowhere else.

That the Caledonian Forest has not been consigned to folklore is in a large part due to their efforts but there is another ***Scottish*** forest that also needs rescuing. The Atlantic oak woods of the west coast are in fact temperate rainforest. Dripping with moisture, they are carpeted in moss and covered with lichens, some of which are found nowhere else in the world.

But there is a problem, this ancient woodland is not regenerating and unless the damage caused by deer and invasive Rhododendron ponticum can be reversed, then this magical environment could be lost.

According to the Woodland Trust this rare environment, which thrives only in oceanic climate zones, is one of the most diverse habitats for plants and wildlife in the UK, yet only 93,000 hectares remain. Plantlife ***Scotland***'s 'Secrets of the Celtic Rainforest' project aims to raise awareness of the international importance of places such as Glen Nant in Argyll and Culag Woods in Assynt, while Forestry and Land ***Scotland*** has a programme of removing non-native species and replanting so that Slender Mouse-Tail moss, Greater Whiptwort and other bryophytes and lichens will continue to flourish beneath a lush canopy of oak, hazel and birch.

On Skye, the John Muir Trust is planting 28,000 trees as part of project to restore native, broadleaf woodland on the Strathaird peninsula, but on the Sleat peninsula it is the imported conifer, Silver fir (*Abies alba*) growing in groves around Armadale Castle, that dominates the skyline.

How autumn's natural glories can help Scots cope with coronavirus

These towering firs provide a shelter belt behind which many rare and exotic trees, many from the Southern Hemisphere, flourish, including a Giant redwood (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) into whose soft and spongy bark, generations of children have sunk their fingers.

As part of the **Scottish** Tree Festival visitors will be able to follow trails through the trees, while children will be encouraged to clamber into branches and play on fallen trunks.

Christine Davis, of Armadale Castle, believes that it is these early encounters that sow the seeds for a lifetime's love of nature and an awareness of the importance of trees in our lives.

"Amongst the trees here at Armadale are some of the originals that were planted in the 1820s, when the garden was established. They have witnessed so much history and survived so long that you can feel as if you have a connection with them."

Christine's favourite trees on the estate include the lime trees (*Tilia x europaea*) that once formed an impressive avenue, and the numerous acers that were part of a new wave of planting carried out in the 1970s.

"Their brilliant colours are just starting to emerge now and they are stunning."

Higher in the canopy ash trees (*Fraxinus excelsior*) are also beginning to change colour and we should enjoy these while we can, because they are one of several species currently under threat. Ash dieback is a fungal disease that has swept across Europe and which may in time kill as many as 80% of all the ash trees in this country.

It comes hard on the heels of *Phytophthora ramorum* which has devastated larch trees (*Larix decidua*) and at a time when Dutch elm disease is still progressing northwards since its arrival in southern England in the late 1960s, supposedly arriving on timber imported from Canada to renovate the Royal dockyards on the Thames. It has taken its time to get here, but last year Aberdeen city was forced to fell hundreds of elms (*Ulmus procera*) that until now had remained untouched.

Yet it is not all bad news. There is hope that young trees bred from the few mature specimens that did not fall prey to the disease will see elms reclaiming their place in the landscape and the same may be true in the future for larch and ash.

It's a message that's not lost on a world that is awaiting its own miracle to see off the coronavirus. Perhaps if we learn to heal our woodlands and forests then we can heal ourselves too and emerge into a world where green shoots really do herald a recovery.

A full list of events is available from discoverscottishgardens.org/tree-festival

Tree Tales

The stature and longevity of trees has given them a special significance in the lives of those who live among them. Myths and legends have grown up around some, but sometimes the facts are even stranger than fiction.

Meiklour Beech Hedge

At 30m high and 530m in length, the Meiklour Beech Hedge near Blairgowrie is the longest hedge in Britain and the highest of its kind anywhere in the world. The trees that make up the hedge were planted in 1745 and legend has it that the men who planted it left to fight in the Jacobite Rebellion and never returned.

The Fortingall Yew

The Fortingall Yew, which grows in a village churchyard in Perthshire, is believed to be one of the oldest living things in Europe. Its age has been estimated at more than 3,000 years.

Cabbage palm trees

How autumn's natural glories can help Scots cope with coronavirus

At 400 metres, the avenue of cabbage palm trees (*Cordyline australis*) that lines the drive to Logan Botanic Garden in Galloway is the longest of its kind in the UK.

Robert the Bruce's arrows

Botanist and landscape Maxine Ross has identified what she believes to be a longbow plantation on the Dalzell Estate in Lanarkshire. For the past four years, Maxine has been delving into the history of the yews (*Taxus baccata*) that grow along the Clyde Valley and she believes that the unusually straight yew trees growing within a ridge and furrow system on the estate were originally planted to be harvested for medieval warfare, perhaps by Thomas Dalzell who, in 1314, fought alongside Robert the Bruce at Bannockburn.

Giant redwoods

Benmore Botanic Garden in Argyll has launched an appeal to save its avenue of Giant redwoods. These giant trees are being weakened by root compaction and climate change and £80,000 is needed to carry out remedial works.

Slow growers

The Bristlecone Pine (*Pinus longaeva*) which grows in the mountains of California can live for more than 5,000 years, making it the longest-living tree on the planet. Bristlecone pines grow so slowly, surviving in cold winters, with very little water and in the teeth of such ferocious winds that in some years they do not make an annual growth ring.

Monkey Puzzles

In 1795, at a dinner given by the Governor of Chile, Archibald Menzies, botanist and surgeon who was born near Aberfeldy, stashed seeds from his dessert in his pocket. Once back on board his ship, The Discovery, he sowed them in frames and raised five seedlings. These became the first Monkey Puzzle trees to reach Europe from the New World.

Chance find

The tall, thin columnar Dawyck beech (*Fagus sylvatica 'Dawyck'*) was a chance seedling, found in 1860 by the owner of the Dawyck estate near Stobo in the Borders. Today Dawyck is a world-renowned arboretum and tree that carries its name still grows there.

Apple of our eyes

It was only with the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, when botanists from the West were finally able to visit Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan and share in the knowledge of local plant hunters who had been suppressed or died under Stalin, that the source of the domestic apple (*Malus domestica*) was revealed. Until then it was supposed the Romans had bred eating apples from sour crab apples (*Malus sylvestris*.)

Tea caddy tree

The glowing, mahogany-coloured bark of the Tibetan cherry (*Prunus serrula*) has made it a favourite tree for adding interest to the garden in winter, but in its native China sections of the trunk were traditionally polished to be made into tea caddies.

Classification

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Industry: FESTIVALS (90%); DOMESTIC TOURISM (64%)

Geographic: HIMALAYAS (52%); NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA (52%); **SCOTLAND** (93%); NORTH AMERICA (79%); UNITED KINGDOM (73%); AUSTRALIA (69%)

Load-Date: September 27, 2020

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Lynx have new men at the top

Lynx have new men at the top

Aberdeen Evening Express

September 26, 2020 Saturday

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Section: SP; Pg. 33

Length: 258 words

Byline: Prestige Page Manager 2

Body

Aberdeen Lynx have announced the appointment of a new chairman and vice-chairman.

The Granite City ice hockey side revealed the news after their annual general meeting.

Former player, coach and vice chairman John Colley - who also serves as Ice Hockey UKâ(EURO)(TM)s commercial director - has returned to the Lynx committee as chairman, while Mike Dixon, previously of the Telford Tigers, has been named as his deputy.

Colley said: â(EURO)oeI am delighted to be back directly involved with the Aberdeen Lynx organisation.

â(EURO)oeThe club has a fantastic membership, an incredibly committed group of volunteers that make everything work, and the best group of fans in the league.

â(EURO)oeI am keen to understand what has changed and what our immediate priorities are, while helping to develop our long-term strategic plan for the club.

â(EURO)oeI am really looking forward to working with everyone again.â(EURO)

Dixon said: â(EURO)oeTelford Tigers has, over the years, become a fantastic organisation with an enviable junior development programme, producing several players at GB national level.

â(EURO)oeThe junior set-up is key to any clubâ(EURO)(TM)s success and I look forward to bringing some of my previous experience to the table to support the clubâ(EURO)(TM)s aims and especially the development of young players.â(EURO)

Recently, the Lynx - who are waiting to find out when their senior side will return to Scottish National League action after the Covid-19 shutdown - revealed long-time player Jordan Leyden had replaced Owen Reynolds as head coach.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Lynx have new men at the top

Journal Code: Ev

Subject: APPOINTMENTS (90%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (90%); ICE HOCKEY (90%); PERSONNEL CHANGES (90%); WINTER SPORTS (90%); COACHES & TRAINERS (89%); TALKS & MEETINGS (78%); STRATEGIC PLANNING (75%); COVID CORONAVIRUS (63%); COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS (50%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (90%); SCOTLAND (79%); 7 North East

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Animal extinction is worry for us all

Stirling Observer

September 18, 2020

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 23

Length: 1219 words

Byline: Keith Graham

Body

At the moment, the word on lots of lips at the moment is extinction. Quite rightly, there is universal concern at the number of insects, birds and animals we are losing.

Extinction is a real threat and it is a phenomenon that exists on every continent across the world.

Perhaps the most worrying factor in this drama is the volume of rainforest we are losing in Africa, Asia and in the Americas where the massive Amazon forest is sadly becoming less and less by the day.

Anyone who watched Sir David Attenborough's TV programme on the topic this week could not help but be both concerned and alarmed at the litany of failures at the hand of man to ensure that the world as we know it remains unchanged.

And the fact is that we in **Scotland** are not immune to this catastrophe. I'm sure that there even now people reading this article who, for instance, will identify with the loss of the **Scottish** wildcat which may even now be on the brink of extinction. The problem has been caused by the existence of feral cats, perhaps former farmyard animals that have forsaken the comfort of farmyard meals and simply gone wild.

Unfortunately wildcats have bred with these feral cats producing a hybrid strain and consequently diluting the purity of the true indigenous cat.

The news that captive wildcats housed at the Highland Wildlife Park have recently produced four kittens is indeed welcome, for these four youngsters may well at some time in their lives be returned to the wild and themselves breed and save the wildcat from total extinction. In some parts of the Highlands there has also been a project launched to neuter feral cats and thus restrict their ability to breed.

Let's hope that this scheme is successful and that as a consequence, the cross- breeding of wild animals with feral ones will come to an end.

Habitat loss is another problem and the destruction of the rainforests for beef farming or to make way for growing soya for use in animal feeds, further degrades the habitat of thousands of creatures. In other parts of the world, rainforests are also making way for vast palm plantations for the production of oil which rob further legions of animals, insects and birds of their natural habitat.

Animal extinction is worry for us all

Pictures of pathetic orangutans held in miserable captive conditions rightly appalls us all and in Africa, resorting to the production of what is called 'bush meat' results in the slaughter of our nearest animal relative, the gorilla, amongst other animals.

However, I must also voice my personal concern that the movement now holding protests such as the recent blockade of printing presses as a result threatens the freedom of speech that we currently enjoy. My fear is that other people with very different causes at heart are threatening to take over from the true believers. The Extinction Movement should be extremely watchful of the fanatics who are simply using the movement as a cover for other less worthy causes. I cannot believe that painting graffiti on the statue of Sir Winston Churchill has anything to do with the Extinction Movement.

And, whilst these protests are being made, in England it has just been announced that seven new areas have been identified for the further control of badgers by culling. Bovine TB is a dreadful disease but surely the badger, which is after all protected under an Act of Parliament, deserves better. Culling continues to defy the best scientific knowledge that the alternative - vaccination - would solve the problem without this brutal intervention. Opponents of the cull have previously criticised the practice as "ineffective and inhumane".

I'm sure that some voice the opinion that losing such animals as rhinos, gorillas, orangutans and badgers doesn't really matter and there are those who believe that whatever we do, the planet will somehow recover. However, I suspect that in the long term, our existence as inhabitants of this planet may also eventually lead to the extinction of the human race.

We are very much at the end of that line and we ignore at our peril, the nefarious activities of those who attempt to scrape some sort of a living by slaughtering gorillas, without recognising that the poverty that exists across the world is the driver of such happenings.

And we also ignore climate change at our peril. The world is heating up and if it continues at the current rate, the threat of total extinction is very real.

Recent scientific research has revealed that 55 million years ago, huge volcanic eruptions may have caused deepsea mass extinction by warming up sea temperatures. It is thought that the eruptions took place in an area around what is now Iceland and sent huge amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere which was then absorbed by the oceans over thousands of years consequently increasing the temperatures.

As a result, many marine species were killed or impaired but those same scientists are warning that the current effects of human-generated pollution are far worse than during that event all those millions of years ago. Yet the Presidents of the United States and Brazil simply don't believe these facts so the first thing we must do is to persuade politicians that the course we are currently steering can only end in disaster for generations as yet unborn.

It is a global problem that requires our politicians to act now, not tomorrow or the day after. They must start thinking outside the box of 'profit at any cost' and instead think of those future generations and the long term prospects for us and our planet.

It isn't that here in **Scotland**, we have not experienced the extinction of various birds and animals. The osprey disappeared after a so-called naturalist shot the last breeding pair on Speyside. The sea eagle and the red kite went the same way. Both were exterminated during a period in our history when war was waged on all raptors.

The polecat was also destroyed in **Scotland** and long before that of course, the wolf, the **Lynx** and the brown bear. There are those who want to restore some of these creatures to the **Scottish** landscape. However, the landscape has changed vastly since the days of the wolf, bear and **Lynx**. And extensive livestock farming, particularly with regard to sheep, covers large areas of the Highlands.

Indeed, the economy of Highland **Scotland** is still dependent upon these factors, albeit that the re-introduction of beavers - less contentious perhaps - has restored these one-time residents to the **Scottish** landscape.

Animal extinction is worry for us all

The recent proposal that [lynx](#) should be released in the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park has unsurprisingly caused much concern in the farming community who strongly resist the proposal. Surely, the fact is that we need to look after what we have got rather than introduce more animals and doubtless light another fire of disquiet and conflict.

By using large amounts of pesticide and herbicide we are also doing further damage by killing insects, the pollinators that drive the entire eco-system.

The reduction in farmland birds in this country is perhaps explained by our manic obsession to get rid of anything that is not productive such as insects and weeds, the very things that many farmland birds depend upon.

Man's capacity for destruction seems to know no bounds. It's about time we started to think much more constructively about our future and about the future generations.

Graphic

Badger Culling has extended into seven new areas in England Wildcat May be on edge of extinction

Classification

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Journal Code: STO

Subject: ANIMALS (91%); CATS (90%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (89%); INSECTS & ARACHNIDS (89%); RAIN FORESTS (89%); WILDLIFE (89%); DEFORESTATION (78%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (77%); PRIMATES (76%); PET SPAYING & NEUTERING (73%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (71%); PROTESTS & DEMONSTRATIONS (50%)

Industry: DEFORESTATION (78%); ZOOS & AQUARIUMS (78%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (71%); BEEF CATTLE FARMING (62%); LIVESTOCK FEED (60%); TELEVISION PROGRAMMING (55%); ANIMAL FOODS (50%)

Geographic: AFRICA (88%); [SCOTLAND](#) (74%); ASIA (73%); National Edition

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Wildlife park in mourning after death of snow leopard

Aberdeen Press and Journal

September 18, 2020 Friday

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Section: NWS; Pg. 11

Length: 362 words

Byline: Sean Mcangus

Body

Staff at the Highland Wildlife Park are mourning the loss of a snow leopard after the animal caught a highly infectious disease.

Eight-year-old Chan arrived at the Royal Zoological Society of Scotlandâ(EURO)(TM)s wildlife park in 2015 from Krefeld Zoo in Germany.

He paired with female Animesh, who came from Marwell Zoo in England, later the same year.

Last September the couple had a litter of cubs.

The popular but endangered animal, which originates from Central and South Asia, was described as â(EURO)oebeautifulâ(EURO) and â(EURO)oemagnificentâ(EURO).

The wildlife park near Kincraig was forced to put him down after he showed symptoms of feline herpesvirus (FHV).

FHV is a highly infectious illness that is one of the major causes of upper respiratory infections or flu in cats.

After getting infected, big cats become lifelong carriers of the virus.

Despite Chan only displaying mild symptoms, the leopard threatened the health of his cubs and female mate.

As a consequence, devastated animal keepers made the â(EURO)oedifficult decisionâ(EURO) to put him to sleep and â(EURO)oeprevent future sufferingâ(EURO).

Dozens of heartbroken visitors took to the parkâ(EURO)(TM)s social media channels to send their â(EURO)oethoughts and hugsâ(EURO) to staff.

The head of living collections at the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, Darren McGarry, said: â(EURO)oewe are sad to say our male snow leopard Chan has been put to sleep under veterinary advice.

â(EURO)oChan had feline herpesvirus and was also a carrier of an inherited disorder, which causes eye problems and can be very painful.

â(EURO)oAfter exhausting all alternatives, we took the very difficult decision to put him to sleep to prevent future suffering.

Wildlife park in mourning after death of snow leopard

While Chanâ(EURO)(TM)s symptoms were not yet severe, they were worsening.

The condition also posed a significant risk to Chanâ(EURO)(TM)s family and all of the other cats living at Highland Wildlife Park, including our Amur tiger, Lynx and wildcats.

Chan will be missed and our thoughts are with everyone who worked with him.â(EURO)

The animalâ(EURO)(TM)s one-year-old female cubs Leannain and Stardust and partner Animesh are doing well.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Pr

Subject: DISEASES & DISORDERS (98%); WILD CATS (96%); WILDLIFE (93%); ANIMALS (90%); CATS (90%); DEATH & DYING (90%); INFECTIOUS DISEASE (90%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (90%); EUTHANASIA (89%); VIRUSES (89%); ENDANGERED SPECIES (78%); HERPES VIRUSES (78%); MAMMALS (78%); CONGENITAL DISORDERS (73%); GENETIC DISEASES (73%); RESPIRATORY DISORDERS & INJURIES (73%); INFLUENZA (69%); SOCIAL MEDIA (50%)

Industry: ZOOS & AQUARIUMS (92%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (90%); SOCIAL MEDIA (50%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (74%); GERMANY (79%); ENGLAND (73%); SCOTLAND (59%); SOUTHERN ASIA (57%); 7 North East

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Highland Wildlife Park: Sad news as snow leopard Chan is put to sleep

Highland Wildlife Park: Sad news as snow leopard Chan is put to sleep

Scotsman

September 17, 2020 Thursday

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Section: HUMAN INTEREST

Length: 351 words

Byline: Rachel Mackie

Highlight: Chan had feline herpesvirus (FHV) and was put to sleep to prevent more suffering.

Body

There is heartbreaking news from the Highland Wildlife Park as snow leopard Chan is put to sleep.

Chan had feline herpesvirus (FHV) and was put to sleep to prevent more suffering.

READ MORE: [Labour urged to stop 'phoney war' around indyref2](#)

FHV is easily transmitted and can cause upper respiratory infections (URIs) in cats.

Darren McGarry, head of living collections at the Royal Zoological Society of **Scotland**, said: "We are sad to say our male snow leopard Chan has been put to sleep under veterinary advice.

"Chan had feline herpesvirus (FHV) and was also a carrier of an inherited disorder, which causes eye problems and can be very painful.

"After exhausting all alternatives, we took the very difficult decision to put him to sleep to prevent future suffering. While Chan's symptoms were not yet severe, they were worsening.

"The condition also posed a significant risk to Chan's family and all of the other cats living at Highland Wildlife Park, including our Amur tiger, **Lynx** and wildcats.

"Chan will be missed, and our thoughts are with everyone who worked with him."

Chan arrived at the park in 2015 where he was paired with female Animesh and the couple had their first cubs last year.

Mum and the two cubs are doing well.

A message from the Editor:

Highland Wildlife Park: Sad news as snow leopard Chan is put to sleep

Thank you for reading this story on our website. While I have your attention, I also have an important request to make of you.

With the coronavirus lockdown having a major impact on many of our advertisers - and consequently the revenue we receive - we are more reliant than ever on you taking out a digital subscription.

*Subscribe to [scotsman.com](https://www.scotsman.com) and enjoy unlimited access to **Scottish** news and information online and on our app. With a digital subscription, you can read more than 5 articles, see fewer ads, enjoy faster load times, and get access to exclusive newsletters and content. Visit <https://www.scotsman.com/subscriptions> now to sign up.*

Our journalism costs money and we rely on advertising, print and digital revenues to help to support them. By supporting us, we are able to support you in providing trusted, fact-checked content for this website.

Graphic

[Chan had feline herpesvirus \(FHV\) and was put to sleep to prevent more suffering.](#)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: WILD CATS (97%); VIRUSES (93%); WILDLIFE (92%); EUTHANASIA (91%); HERPES VIRUSES (91%); CATS (90%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (90%); PAYWALLS (89%); JOURNALISM (78%); MAMMALS (78%); CORONAVIRUSES (77%); INFECTIOUS DISEASE (76%); FACT CHECKING (73%); RESPIRATORY DISORDERS & INJURIES (72%)

Organization: ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF **SCOTLAND** (57%)

Industry: PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (90%); PAYWALLS (89%); PUBLISHING (73%)

Geographic: **SCOTLAND** (91%)

Load-Date: December 1, 2020

Five Scottish caves with eerie tales of mystery and adventure

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The Gazette

September 13, 2020 Sunday

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Length: 480 words

Byline: Susan Swarbrick

Body

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Border Telegraph

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Helensburgh Advertiser

September 13, 2020 Sunday

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HELENSBURGH ADVERTISER

Length: 480 words

Byline: *Susan Swarbrick*

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Geographic: SCOTLAND (90%); UNITED KINGDOM (74%)

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Dumbarton Reporter

September 13, 2020 Sunday

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Length: 480 words

Byline: Susan Swarbrick

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Geographic: SCOTLAND (90%); UNITED KINGDOM (74%)

Load-Date: September 13, 2020

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Central Fife Times

September 13, 2020 Sunday

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Length: 480 words

Byline: [Susan Swarbrick](#)

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Geographic: SCOTLAND (90%); UNITED KINGDOM (74%)

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Clydebank Press

September 13, 2020 Sunday

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Byline: [Susan Swarbrick](#)

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Ayr Advertiser

September 13, 2020 Sunday

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Five Scottish caves with eerie tales of mystery and adventure

Geographic: SCOTLAND (90%); UNITED KINGDOM (74%)

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Cumnock Chronicle

September 13, 2020 Sunday

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Length: 480 words

Byline: Susan Swarbrick

Body

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And West of Fife Advertiser

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Barrhead News

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Ardrossan Herald

September 13, 2020 Sunday

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Irvine Times

September 13, 2020 Sunday

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IrvineTimes

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East Lothian Courier

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Greenock Telegraph

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Peeblesshire News

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Byline: *Susan Swarbrick*

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Visit nts.org.uk

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Visit skyehighlandadventures.co.uk and skyakadventures.com

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Immerse yourself in a Cannibal's Cave homage to Bean at the Edinburgh Dungeon.

Visit thedungeons.com

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: SMUGGLING (91%); FOLKLORE (90%); PARANORMAL PHENOMENA (90%); HISTORY (89%); MAMMALS (89%); BRITISH MONARCHS (78%); FICTION LITERATURE (78%); GLACIERS & ICEBERGS (77%); MARINE MAMMALS (76%); GEOLOGY & GEOPHYSICS (73%); NOVELS & SHORT STORIES (73%); RELIGIOUS PILGRIMAGES (69%); CANOEING & KAYAKING (65%); BOATING & RAFTING (50%)

Industry: BRITISH MONARCHS (78%); MUSEUMS & GALLERIES (78%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%)

Person: BEN STILLER (56%)

Five Scottish caves with eerie tales of mystery and adventure

Geographic: SCOTLAND (90%); UNITED KINGDOM (74%)

Load-Date: September 13, 2020

End of Document

Five Scottish caves with eerie tales of mystery and adventure

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Largs and Millport News

September 13, 2020 Sunday

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Length: 480 words

Byline: Susan Swarbrick

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Industry: BRITISH MONARCHS (78%); MUSEUMS & GALLERIES (78%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%)

Person: BEN STILLER (56%)

Five Scottish caves with eerie tales of mystery and adventure

Geographic: SCOTLAND (90%); UNITED KINGDOM (74%)

Load-Date: September 13, 2020

End of Document

Rewilding Scotland: Hopes of returning bison, wolves and lynx should not overshadow loss of less high-profile species – Stephanie Wray

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Scotsman

September 7, 2020 Monday

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Section: COLUMNISTS ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION NATURE **SCOTLAND**

Length: 892 words

Byline: Stephanie Wray

Highlight: Scotland is in danger of losing the rich diversity of species that live in its countryside unless action is taken, writes Stephanie Wray.

Body

The recent news that a pair of golden eagles in the Scottish Highlands had reared offspring for the first time in four decades was hailed by many as a rewilding story beyond anyone's wildest dreams.

Elsewhere in Scotland there have been other successful recent rewilding efforts. Beavers have been successfully returned to the wild, the first mammal to be officially reintroduced in the UK. And it's not just in Scotland either: red kites have been saved from being a globally-threatened species in the 1980s and are now thriving across England, white-tailed eagles have been brought back in southern Britain for the first time in more than 200 years and pine martens making a comeback after near extinction. Soon, bison will be introduced for the first time in Kent and before long we could even be seeing the likes of Lynx and wolf roaming parts of Britain.

READ MORE: [Plans for world's first 'rewilding centre' earmarked for Highlands](#)

But these success stories mask the fact we're facing a wider crisis in conservation. While newsworthy species like golden eagles and bison make the headlines, a recent report by the Mammal Society shows that a quarter of mammals native to the UK are at risk of extinction with the likes of greater mouse-eared bats on the critically endangered list and another 45 native species – many of which we take for granted – at risk.

Rewilding allows species to act as 'nature's engineers' in creating a sustainable working landscape, repairing land battered through climate change, overdevelopment or over-intense farming. Bison, for example, are unique in that they fell trees by rubbing up against them and eat bark, creating areas of space and light in the woods and providing deadwood that assist other plants and animals. Beaver dams create new wetland areas that allow frogs, fish, waterbirds and otters to thrive. Pine martens can help control grey squirrels. Lynx and wolves could help keep roe deer populations under control more naturally.

Rewilding Scotland: Hopes of returning bison, wolves and lynx should not overshadow loss of less high-profile species – Stephanie Wray

Not surprisingly, the prospect of wild or exotic animals that have been lost for hundreds of years or never before seen in Britain being re-introduced into our countryside generates plenty of excitement. But with much of the focus on bringing in ‘superstar species’ at the top of the ladder, we risk losing sight that rewilding requires a ground-up, as well as a top-down approach in order for the whole biodiversity chain to thrive.

As the Mammal Society report makes clear, species that are an essential part of the ecosystem are in decline. The society classes familiar animals such as the red squirrel and water vole as endangered – the second most urgent category in its report – and even hedgehogs fall into the vulnerable bracket.

These species are just as important as the more exciting ones that create the headlines. Water voles, for example, improve bankside plant diversity through the creation of their burrow networks, crucial to crucial for a thriving wetland ecosystem. Hedgehogs are an indicator species for the wider health of the environment because they feed on soil invertebrates, so a significant fall in numbers suggests the quality of the natural world has substantially decreased.

Many people’s perception of what rewilding means has been influenced by stories of the re-introduction of long-lost species, but in fact rewilding can be anything from reintroducing the likes of wolves to an area to more basic interventions such as digging ponds, introducing dormice or beavers to a site, planting trees or reinstating peatland, or simply leaving land to ‘do its own thing’. The crucial thing is that we need a whole system approach.

One positive of Covid-19 was that many of us started to re-appreciate the rich diversity of our environment. A survey published by *Scottish* National Heritage found the number of people venturing outside to explore the countryside, enjoy wildlife and boost their mental and physical health increased substantially during lockdown. The re-introduction of ‘box-office draws’ like bison, wolves or *Lynx* may be thrilling but they will, after all, be limited to restricted areas. Most of us, when we go outside to enjoy the countryside, will still be more likely to wander through quieter woodland or pond environments. But the rich diversity of species that live there will be lost forever in the future unless we heed the warnings of today.

Stephanie Wray is an ecologist and managing director of RSK Biocensus

A message from the Editor:

Thank you for reading this article on our website. While I have your attention, I also have an important request to make of you.

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Our journalism costs money and we rely on advertising, print and digital revenues to help to support them. By supporting us, we are able to support you in providing trusted, fact-checked content for this website.

Joy Yates

Editorial Director

Graphic

Rewilding Scotland: Hopes of returning bison, wolves and lynx should not overshadow loss of less high-profile species – Stephanie Wray

[Like many mammals native to the UK, red squirrels are endangered \(Picture: Jeff J Mitchell/Getty Images\)](#)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION (90%); MAMMALS (90%); ANIMALS (89%); BIODIVERSITY (89%); BIRDS (89%); CONSERVATION (89%); LIFE FORMS (89%); RODENTS (89%); WILD CATS (89%); WRITERS (79%); CLIMATE CHANGE (78%); ENDANGERED SPECIES (78%); FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS (78%); MARINE MAMMALS (78%); THREATENED & SENSITIVE SPECIES (78%); WETLANDS (78%)

Industry: WRITERS (79%); PUBLISHING (73%)

Geographic: [SCOTLAND](#) (94%); UNITED KINGDOM (90%); ENGLAND (79%)

Load-Date: November 27, 2020

End of Document

Five Scottish caves with eerie tales of mystery and adventure

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Herald Scotland

September 7, 2020 Monday

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Length: 480 words

Byline: [Susan Swarbrick](#)

Body

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Industry: BRITISH MONARCHS (78%); MUSEUMS & GALLERIES (78%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%)

Person: BEN STILLER (56%)

Five Scottish caves with eerie tales of mystery and adventure

Geographic: SCOTLAND (92%); UNITED KINGDOM (78%)

Load-Date: September 11, 2020

End of Document

Spectacular calves hit 5030 online

The Scottish Farmer

September 2020

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Length: 487 words

Byline: [Patsy Hunter](#)

Body

A cracking show of top quality calves for Aberdeen and Northern Marts' online Spectacular sale was topped by a heifer from Perthshire producers John and Craig Robertson, at £5350.

The event, held in conjunction with SellMyLivestock, saw 16 calves change hands, with three selling across the water to Northern Ireland and another heading south to Bristol.

John Angus, head of livestock at Aberdeen and Northern Marts, said the sale had been a phenomenal success, despite the usual Thainstone Spectacular show and sale format not being able to take place due to Covid-19 guidelines.

"The online sale attracted more than 50 registered bidders from all corners of the UK and saw frantic bidding throughout for tremendous calves from well-known commercial cattle breeders," he said.

"Averages held up extremely well, with 13 heifers averaging £2377.27 and five steers at £1264."

Topping the trade at £5350 when selling to Northern Ireland with T Davenney, Sixmilebridge, was a 12-month-old Limousin cross heifer from the Robertsons of Newton of Logierait, Dunkeld, who sold six calves to average £2436.67.

Their entry, which stood champion in the Aberfeldy Online Show, is by Calogale Irresistible and out of a Limousin cross cow. Her brother sold for £6000 at the Thainstone Spectacular in 2017 and went on to stand reserve champion at the Agri Expo.

Three other Newton of Logierait calves sold at £2800, £2250, £1600. Dearest was an 11-month-old Limousin cross heifer by a home-bred cross bull which sold to Norman Budge, Kilmuir, Portree.

Selling south to Bristol at £2250 with M Lanfear, Woodside Farm, Pilning, was a November, 2019-born Limousin cross heifer by Glenrock Inferno.

She is out of a dam that bred a former £4000 Royal Northern Spring Show champion and two other calves at £2400 and £1800.

Second top price of £3050 was paid for a six-month-old Limousin cross heifer from Ian Miller of Miller Farms, North Lurg, Midmar, purchased by Blair Duffton, Huntly. She is by Melys Label.

Spectacular calves hit 5030 online

Next best at £2050 was a 15-month-old Limousin cross heifer from Balfour Baillie, Sebay View, Orkney. She is by Glenrock Humdinger, and sold to D Lumgair and Son, Gask, Letham, Forfar.

Mr Baillie also sold a 16-month-old Limousin cross heifer for £1700 - a daughter of Ronick Magoo - to Cameron Sinclair, Brewthin, Cullerlie, Skene.

Mark Munro and family from Invercharron, Ardgay, sold three calves for £2050, £1850 and £1550 apiece. Dearest from the Invercharron consignment was a 12-month-old Limousin cross heifer by Lodge Hamlet, purchased by Blair Duffton, while the Stewarts from Gunhill, Pitciple, Inverurie, paid £1850 for the family's 17-month-old Limousin cross heifer by Powerhouse Lynx.

Top price from Michael Robertson and family of Easter Fodderletter, Tomintoul, was £1900 for an 11-month-old Limousin cross heifer. The first calf by the 10,000gns Homebyres Nistleroy to be sold, she was purchased by Seafield Park, Park Farm, Nairn.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: MAMMALS (89%); COVID CORONAVIRUS (55%); COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS (55%)

Industry: BEEF CATTLE FARMING (78%); CATTLE RANCHING & FARMING (78%); LIVESTOCK (78%)

Geographic: ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (88%); NORTHERN IRELAND (73%); SCOTLAND (73%); UNITED KINGDOM (58%)

Load-Date: September 10, 2020

End of Document

500 big cats are prowling the Duk Pumas and leopards among 1.3k sightings

500 big cats are prowling the Duk; Pumas and leopards among 1.3k sightings

Scottish Star

August 30, 2020 Sunday

Edition 1, Scotland

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 8

Length: 415 words

Byline: ISO BEL ICKINSON

Body

HUNDREDS of big cats the size of pumas are prowling the British countryside, it is claimed.

Experts say they have strong evidence of their existence following years of rumoured sightings.

And they claim that up to 500 of the animals could be roaming free.

Dr Andrew Hemmings, from the Royal Agricultural University in Cirencester, Glos, has identified five animal carcasses with huge bite marks.

He said the bones had been gnawed with giant tooth imprints that could only be made by a cat the size of a leopard or puma.

And Dr Hemmings, above, also said the teeth marks were definitely made by a feline animal and not a dog or other native carnivore.

He added: "If you look at the upper carnassial teeth there are three projections from the tooth, and the distance between two of them is far wider in cats - probably double that found in a similar imprint from a dog."

"In the past six years we have analysed more than 100 skeletal remains and from that we have 16 good carnassial samples.

"Five of those we are relatively confident come from a medium to largesized felid [cat].

"The others are more suggestive of small carnivores but five certainly do fit the bill as far as puma or melanistic [black] leopard."

Dr Hemmings said that five of his colleagues at the university had reported seeing a big cat, with one having seen a mountain lion, also known as a puma.

As part of the study they fed black leopards and pumas at Exmoor Zoo to see whether the tooth imprints matched their samples, which they did.

500 big cats are prowling the Duk Pumas and leopards among 1.3k sightings

He added: "It's really no surprise to me any more that these things are out there, it's just a search for the documentary, empirical and objective evidence."

Some believe the animals were dumped in the countryside after the introduction of the Dangerous Wild Animals Act in 1976, which banned keeping big cats as pets. Big-cat expert Rick Minter, who worked as a policy officer for Countryside Commission, recorded more than 1,300 sightings. He believes around 500 cats are on the loose; half of them black leopards, half pumas.

Mr Minter added: "Most witnesses and informants are reliable people - police officers, military personnel, scientists. The way [these cats] kill deer is something which is taught behaviour. "Farmers say it is so different from a dog killing deer or sheep. It's so clinical."

Their findings come as a documentary planned for next year claims to have evidence of the animals.

Britain's Big Cat Mystery explores sightings around the country.

DAILY STAR SUNDAY SAYS - PAGE 6

Graphic

| HUNTERS: A blurry sighting of a big cat-like animal. Inset, a Lynx.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DSSscot

Subject: CATS (91%); WILD CATS (91%); MAMMALS (90%); ANIMALS (89%); RURAL COMMUNITIES (89%); ANIMAL WELFARE (78%); CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS (78%); PETS (78%); WITNESSES (78%); WILDLIFE (77%); ARMED FORCES (50%)

Industry: ZOOS & AQUARIUMS (77%); ARMED FORCES (50%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (92%); UNITED KINGDOM (90%); Scotland

Load-Date: August 30, 2020

Fears over the missing lynx; HOT

Daily Record and Sunday Mail

August 23, 2020 Sunday

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 29

Length: 141 words

Byline: lesley roberts

Body

Everyone's thinking about www.lynx.No, not the body spray for men but the big cat, which probably doesn't smell quite as good if it sprays on your skin (yuck).

There are moves afoot to reintroduce wild *lynx* to *Scotland* some 1300 years after they were wiped out. The *Lynx* Trust is in talks with *Scottish* Natural Heritage about releasing some cats in the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park near Aberfoyle. It says there's an overpopulation of deer, which are destroying the forest ecosystem. So the theory goes: Bring in natural predators, not trigger-happy bozos with rifles.

The trust is seeking local support for the conservation experiment but they could have a catfight on their hands. Farmers are concerned the *lynx* could develop a taste for lamb as well as venison. Some of us jittery types have other concerns - how do they feel about the taste of human?

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: SML

Subject: WILD CATS (91%); CATS (78%); MAMMALS (78%); WEAPONS & ARMS (69%)

Geographic: National Edition

Load-Date: August 23, 2020

Fears over the missing lynx HOT

End of Document

Trossachs targeted as new lynx home

Stirling Observer

August 19, 2020

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 9

Length: 452 words

Byline: ALASTAIR MCNEILL

Body

A forest park which takes in the Trossachs could become the first site in **Scotland** to see wild cats reintroduced.

Territory for the **Lynx** has been earmarked in an area of Queen Elizabeth Forest Park which extends from Loch Lomond to the Menteith Hills near Callander and Loch Ard Forest near Aberfoyle.

The medium-sized cat, hunted for its pelt, became extinct in **Scotland** 1300 years ago.

The **Lynx** UK Trust point out the predators' absence has contributed to the overpopulation of deer in **Scotland**, the cat's favourite prey.

Sheep farmers, however, are concerned that the animals could threaten their flocks.

If permission is granted three Eurasian **Lynx** (one male and two females) will be reintroduced in the Queen Elizabeth Forest park for a five-year period. They will wear satellite collars to monitor their movements.

Information gathered will be examined and could inform plans for a wider reintroduction at multiple sites across **Scotland**.

Other shortlisted sites had been Glen Feshie in the Cairngorms National Park and the Kintyre peninsula in Argyll.

Lynx UK Trust director Paul O'Donoghue said: "The Queen Elizabeth Forest Park is a **Lynx** paradise.

"It ticks all the boxes: high deer densities, extensive forest cover, extremely low human population density and no major roads.

"We have identified a 350 square kilometre project area site after discussion with **Scottish** Natural Heritage.

"It is vital to point out that we hope to develop widespread community support for our plans.

"This will not be imposed on anyone. Rather we see this as an opportunity to build strong networks with partners and stakeholders to deliver what is undoubtedly the most exciting and largescale conservation project ever proposed in **Scotland**."

A consultation on the plan is set to begin in Aberfoyle early next month.

Trossachs targeted as new lynx home

A spokesperson for **Scottish** Natural Heritage said: "We met with the organisation on March 9 for an informal pre-application discussion at the request of the applicant.

"During the meeting we clarified what information would be expected to support an application to reintroduce **Lynx** to **Scotland**, in line with the **Scottish** Code for Conservation Translocations.

"We are aware that there are strong views about these proposals and, in the event that an application is submitted, would expect extensive consultation to take place to ensure plans take the views of the public, livestock and land managers into account along with any socio-economic and crossborder impacts."

Dr O'Donoghue said: "We can't wait to meet the community and explain our plans".

The first public consultation event will be at the Forth Inn, Aberfoyle, between 2-4pm on Wednesday September 9.

More information can be found on the website at www.lynxuk.org.

Graphic

Wild cats **Lynx** could be living in Queen Elizabeth Forest ParkProposal The blue line shows the chosen area

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: STO

Subject: WILD CATS (91%); CATS (90%); MAMMALS (90%); CONSERVATION (89%); NATIONAL PARKS (89%); POPULATION DENSITY (89%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (87%); TALKS & MEETINGS (87%); PUBLIC LANDS (78%); LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (77%); MOUNTAINS (73%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (73%)

Industry: NATIONAL PARKS (89%); LIVESTOCK (78%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (73%); SHEEP & GOAT FARMING (70%); SHEEP FARMING (70%)

Person: ELIZABETH II, QUEEN OF THE UNITED KINGDOM (88%)

Geographic: **SCOTLAND** (94%); UNITED KINGDOM (88%); National Edition

Load-Date: August 18, 2020

Claws are out as site chosen for the return of the lynx to Scottish wild

Claws are out as site chosen for the return of the lynx to Scottish wild

The Herald (Glasgow)

August 17, 2020 Monday

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The Herald

Section: Pg. 11

Length: 658 words

Byline: John Paul Holden

Body

They last roamed our valleys and forests more than a thousand years ago.

Now moves to bring the *Lynx* back have taken a big step forward with confirmation that the first dedicated re-introduction site north of the Border has been selected.

Located less than 30 miles from Glasgow, the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park was chosen following an ecological feasibility study.

The *Lynx* UK Trust has also announced the start of a public consultation programme to enable plans that would see the species re-established.

It said discussions with *Scottish* Natural Heritage (SNH) had already taken place, adding that the agency, which cares for the nation's nature and landscapes, would be kept fully informed.

Dr Paul O'Donoghue, the director of *Lynx* UK Trust, said: "The Queen Elizabeth Forest park is a *Lynx* paradise. It ticks all the boxes - high deer densities, extensive forest cover, extremely low human population density and no major roads.

"We have identified a 350 square kilometre project area site after discussion with *Scottish* Natural Heritage."

Lynx were wiped out in the UK by fur-hunting combined with loss of habitat about 1,300 years ago.

The absence of the medium-sized cat has contributed to an over-population of their favourite prey, deer, resulting in damage to the native forest ecosystem and problems all the way down the food chain.

Some experts believe the presence of a predator such as the *Lynx* would help control their numbers.

The animal is also considered something of a success story in European conservation. There are now more than 10,000 of the cats living wild across the continent, with successful re-introductions carried out in countries including Germany, France and Switzerland.

Claws are out as site chosen for the return of the lynx to Scottish wild

Experts at the Trust insisted the species would be a perfect re-introduction candidate.

They also said no attacks on humans had ever been recorded by a healthy, wild Eurasian *Lynx* anywhere in the world, and that the average annual kill rate across Europe was low.

Over the past year, the Trust has carried out an extensive ecological feasibility study, in collaboration with the University of Lancaster, to assess habitat suitability.

The conclusions are that vast tracts of the *Scottish* countryside could support well over 250 individuals.

Trust experts said a series of preliminary consultation events had also been held at various potential release sites, with the data highlighting the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park as an excellent location for the first re-introduction.

However, the plans have been criticised by the National Farmers' Union of *Scotland* (NFUS).

NFU *Scotland*'s Environment and Land Use Committee chairman, Angus MacFadyen, a hill farmer from Oban, said: "NFU *Scotland* remains crystal clear that any proposals to re-introduce predators such as *Lynx* are wholly unacceptable to *Scottish* farmers and crofters.

"Farmers and crofters can be reassured that whatever emerges from this group does not, in any way, equate to an application for release in *Scotland*. Were that to ever happen, we can categorically reassure our members that the process for securing permission for the trial release of *Lynx* is long and complex and any application will be subject to considerable analysis and debate."

A spokesman for SNH said: "We are aware of plans by *Lynx* UK Trust to submit a licence application for the reintroduction of *Lynx*.

"We met with the organisation on March 9 for an informal pre-application discussion at the request of the applicant.

"During the meeting we clarified what information would be expected to support an application to reintroduce *Lynx* to *Scotland*, in line with the *Scottish* Code for Conservation Translocations.

"We are aware that there are strong views about these proposals and, in the event that an application is submitted, would expect extensive consultation to take place to ensure plans take the views of the public, livestock and land managers into account along with any socio-economic and cross border impacts."

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: HER

Subject: FORESTS & WOODLANDS (90%); MAMMALS (90%); WILD CATS (90%); ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (89%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (89%); POPULATION DENSITY (89%); LAND USE PLANNING (79%); WILDLIFE (79%); LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (78%); CATS (77%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (76%); ANIMALS (75%); agriculture (%); business (%); crime (%); education (%); health terms (%)

Industry: LAND USE PLANNING (79%)

Claws are out as site chosen for the return of the lynx to Scottish wild

Person: ELIZABETH II, QUEEN OF THE UNITED KINGDOM (76%)

Geographic: GLASGOW, **SCOTLAND** (88%); **SCOTLAND** (95%); UNITED KINGDOM (91%); EUROPE (79%); FRANCE (73%); GERMANY (54%)

Load-Date: August 17, 2020

End of Document

Forest near Glasgow picked out as perfect spot for lynx

Forest near Glasgow picked out as perfect spot for lynx

Evening Times (Glasgow)

August 17, 2020 Monday

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Section: Pg. 6

Length: 586 words

Byline: Stewart Ward

Body

MOVES to return the Lynx to Scotland's valleys and forests after more than a thousand years have taken a major step forward.

The first dedicated re-introduction site has been confirmed as the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park - located less than 30 miles from Glasgow - after an ecological feasibility study.

The Lynx UK Trust has also announced the start of a public consultation programme to enable plans that would see the species re-established.

It said discussions with Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) had already taken place, adding that the agency, which cares for the nation's nature and landscapes, would be kept fully informed.

Dr Paul O'Donoghue, the director of Lynx UK Trust, said: "The Queen Elizabeth Forest Park is a Lynx paradise. It ticks all the boxes - high deer densities, extensive forest cover, extremely low human population density and no major roads."

"We have identified a 350 square kilometre project area site after discussion with SNH."

Lynx were wiped out in the UK by fur-hunting combined with loss of habitat about 1300 years ago.

The absence of the medium-sized cat has contributed to an over-population of their favourite prey, deer, resulting in damage to the native forest ecosystem and problems all the way down the food chain.

Some experts believe the presence of a predator such as the Lynx would help control their numbers.

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Experts at the Trust insisted the species would be a perfect re-introduction candidate.

Forest near Glasgow picked out as perfect spot for lynx

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The conclusions are that vast tracts of the *Scottish* countryside could support well over 250 individuals.

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"We are aware that there are strong views about these proposals and, in the event that an application is submitted, would expect extensive consultation."

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: ETI

Subject: FORESTS & WOODLANDS (90%); MAMMALS (90%); WILD CATS (90%); ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (89%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (89%); POPULATION DENSITY (89%); LAND USE PLANNING (79%); WILDLIFE (79%); LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT (78%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (77%); ANIMALS (76%); CATS (76%); agriculture (%); crime (%); health terms (%)

Industry: LAND USE PLANNING (79%)

Person: ELIZABETH II, QUEEN OF THE UNITED KINGDOM (77%)

Forest near Glasgow picked out as perfect spot for lynx

Geographic: GLASGOW, **SCOTLAND** (90%); **SCOTLAND** (95%); UNITED KINGDOM (91%); EUROPE (79%); FRANCE (74%); GERMANY (54%)

Load-Date: August 17, 2020

End of Document

The big cat is out the bag.. forest earmarked for lynx project ; Predator set for reintroduction

The big cat is out the bag..; forest earmarked for lynx project ; Predator set for reintroduction

Daily Record and Sunday Mail

August 17, 2020 Monday

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 17

Length: 231 words

Byline: JACKIE GRANT

Body

A HIGHLAND forest has been earmarked as a location for reintroducing the **Lynx** to the wild in **Scotland**.

Queen Elizabeth Forest Park near Aberfoyle has been selected for a public consultation on whether to reintroduce the big cats to the area.

If the proposals get the go-ahead, the cats will wear state of the art satellite collars to monitor their movements over a five-year period.

They will be studied in a bid to find out whether it would be possible to reintroduce them to multiple other sites in **Scotland**.

Lynx UK Trust director Dr Paul O'Donoghue said: "The Queen Elizabeth Forest park is a **Lynx** paradise, it ticks all the boxes; high deer densities, extensive forest cover, extremely low human population density and no major roads."

Lynx were wiped out in the UK by fur-hunting combined with loss of habitat about 1300 years ago. The absence of the cats has contributed to an over-population of their favourite prey, deer.

Currently estimated at double the sustainable population size, the UK's deer species are damaging the UK's native forest ecosystem.

Once decimated across Europe to just 700, there are now more than 10,000 Eurasian **Lynx** and successful reintroductions have been staged in Germany, France and www.Switzerland.No attacks on humans have ever been recorded anywhere in the world. A male Eurasian **Lynx** can weigh about 18 to 30kg - about the same size as a border collie.

Graphic

The big cat is out the bag.. forest earmarked for lynx project ; Predator set for reintroduction

Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park PAWS FOR THOUGHT The Lynx could return after 1300 years

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: DRC

Subject: WILD CATS (93%); CATS (91%); MAMMALS (90%); POPULATION DENSITY (89%); POPULATION SIZE (89%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (78%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS (78%); WILDLIFE (78%); DOGS (73%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (73%)

Person: ELIZABETH II, QUEEN OF THE UNITED KINGDOM (73%)

Geographic: UNITED KINGDOM (91%); SCOTLAND (88%); EUROPE (79%); FRANCE (68%); GERMANY (53%); National Edition

Load-Date: August 17, 2020

End of Document

Park selected as lynx reintroduction site

Scotsman

August 16, 2020 Sunday

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Section: ENVIRONMENT

Length: 344 words

Byline: Jane Bradley

Highlight: A forest park 30 miles from Glasgow has been selected as the first site to reintroduce *Lynx* into *Scotland* after 1,300 years.

Body

A public consultation is to be held by the *Lynx* UK Trust into introducing the cats into The Queen Elizabeth Forest Park, following an ecological feasibility study and initial community consultation.

Lynx were wiped out in the UK by fur-hunting combined with loss of habitat about 1,300 years ago. The absence of the medium-sized cats has contributed to an over-population of their favourite prey, deer, which are damaging the UK's native forest ecosystem, causing problems all the way down the food chain.

It is expected that the *Scottish* countryside could host up to 250 *Lynx* in total.

The trust says that no attacks on humans have ever been recorded by a healthy, wild Eurasian *Lynx* anywhere in the world.

Dr Paul O'Donoghue, the Director of *Lynx* UK Trust said: "The Queen Elizabeth Forest park is a *Lynx* paradise, it ticks all the boxes; high deer densities, extensive forest cover, extremely low human population density and no major roads."

He added: "It is vital to point out that we hope to develop widespread community support for our plans. This will not be imposed on anyone, rather we see this as an opportunity to build strong networks with partners and stakeholders to deliver what is undoubtedly, the most exciting and large scale conservation project ever proposed in *Scotland*."

Successful reintroductions have been staged in countries including Germany, France and Switzerland.

A message from the Editor:

Thank you for reading this story on our website. While I have your attention, I also have an important request to make of you.

Park selected as lynx reintroduction site

The dramatic events of 2020 are having a major impact on many of our advertisers - and consequently the revenue we receive. We are now more reliant than ever on you taking out a digital subscription to support our journalism.

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By supporting us, we are able to support you in providing trusted, fact-checked content for this website.

Joy Yates

Editorial Director

Graphic

[Lynx have not lived in Scotland for over 1,000 years.](#)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: WILD CATS (94%); CATS (90%); ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (90%); MAMMALS (90%); POPULATION DENSITY (89%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS (79%); NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS (79%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (78%); PAYWALLS (78%); WILDLIFE (78%); JOURNALISM (69%); FACT CHECKING (62%)

Industry: PAYWALLS (78%); PUBLISHING (73%)

Person: ELIZABETH II, QUEEN OF THE UNITED KINGDOM (73%)

Geographic: **SCOTLAND** (92%); UNITED KINGDOM (90%); FRANCE (53%); GERMANY (53%)

Load-Date: November 17, 2020

End of Document

PITCH PERFECT There's never been a better time to camp out in ultimate comfort under the stars with an endless choice of luxury glamping sites across the UK

PITCH PERFECT; There's never been a better time to camp out in ultimate comfort under the stars with an endless choice of luxury glamping sites across the UK

Daily Record and Sunday Mail

August 16, 2020 Sunday

Edition 1, National Edition

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Section: SEVEN DAYS;FEATURES; Pg. 12

Length: 562 words

Byline: BRIDGET MCGROUTHER

Body

Heli-pad Close to Blackpool and with easy access to the M55, Ream Hills Holiday Park enjoys a scenic, rural location. In addition to accommodating touring caravans, motorhomes and trailer tents, this dog-friendly site also offers handmade glamping pods, luxury lodges with hot tubs or even a converted Westland Lynx helicopter (www.reamhills.co.uk). On the beach Choose from stylishly designed treehouses or beach cabins with sweeping vistas of the farmlands and sand dunes at Harvest Moon (www.harvestmoonholidays.com) near Dunbar in East Lothian. On the sandy shores of Tyningshame Beach, the luxurious hideaways sleep six/eight people with woodburning stoves, en suite toilets and hot showers. On site, there is also a farm shop, BBQ and campfire facilities and a Kids Corner with chickens, alpacas, bunnies and pygmy goats.

Go wild For every booking of a bell tent or yurt made at Home Farm Glamping (www.homefarmglamping.com), just 15 miles from central London, a donation is made to Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust. This helps fund the work of the Trust, while guests can experience local wildlife and the scenic surroundings, including Winnie the Pooh's 100 Aker Wood. Cooked breakfasts, afternoon tea, picnic hampers and evening meals can be pre-booked.

Water view A luxury boat house with rooftop terrace is ideal for nightly stays at Lets Go Hydro (www.letsgohydro.com), the new watersports and activity resort in Carryduff, near Belfast. Other glamping options include pods in the Tree Garden, the Hedged Village or Open Meadow. Enjoy on-site facilities such as a coffee shop, Swedish BBQ huts, picnic tables and fire pits or exciting activities like the Aqua Park, cable watersports, open water swimming, an outdoor pool or drive-in cinema.

Flock here Looking for the ideal romantic hideaway? Then the glamping shepherd's hut in the 12-acre ornamental family-run Glenwhan Gardens (www.glenwhangardens.co.uk) near Stranraer and the seaside village of Portpatrick seems hard to beat. Boasting garden and sea views across to the Isle of Man, you may spot the odd red squirrel, too. Enjoying cosy surroundings with a kitchen and wood-burning stove, a single dog is welcome, but no children.

Sun, sea and sand Glamp under the stars and fall asleep to the sound of sea waves as you pitch up for the night in luxury bell tents at Lusty Glaze Beach, Newquay, in Cornwall. The beach is reserved exclusively for guests and

PITCH PERFECT There's never been a better time to camp out in ultimate comfort under the stars with an endless choice of luxury glamping sites across the UK

offers a three-day retreat with options of sunrise yoga, jet ski adventures and delicious dining on the water's edge (www.lustyglaze.co.uk).

Van's the plan On the Isle of Wight, Windmill Campersite (www.windmillcampersite.com) offers some truly zany accommodation including a helicopter, Victorian shack or shepherd's huts. You can also take your pick of a Bollywood themed campervan, 'Scotty the Static', the hive camping pods and even a hobbit house (www.windmillcampersite.com).

Lastminute choice Princess Cruises (www.princess.com) has announced British Isles voyages of between eight and 12 nights from April and October 2021. The cruises will sail roundtrip from Southampton on Crown Princess, which will be based in the UK next year. Fares start from £649pp for eight-night cruise and £799pp for a 12-night cruise with third and fourth guests from £149pp, so there are some great family deals. Visits Guernsey, France, England, Ireland and Scotland.

Graphic

ACTION PACKED Let's Go Hydro site near Belfast EXCLUSIVE Lusty Glaze Beach, Cornwall GLAMP IT UP Home Farm Glamping in Middlesex and Harvest Moon in East Lothian, above

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: SML

Subject: CAMPING (90%); MAMMALS (90%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (90%); WILDLIFE (90%); DOGS (89%); PET FRIENDLY BUSINESSES (89%); RESTAURANT REVIEWS (89%); WATER SPORTS (87%); AGRICULTURAL LANDS (76%); BEACHES (76%); WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (67%)

Industry: PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (90%); RESTAURANT REVIEWS (89%); TRAILER PARKS (89%); HELICOPTERS (79%); AGRITOURISM (78%); PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (78%); RESORTS (78%); WATER PARKS (78%); AGRICULTURAL LANDS (76%); AMUSEMENT & THEME PARKS (73%)

Geographic: BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND (57%); LONDON, ENGLAND (57%); UNITED KINGDOM (88%); ISLE OF MAN (79%); National Edition

Load-Date: August 16, 2020

No Headline In Original

No Headline In Original

Aberdeen Press and Journal

August 15, 2020 Saturday

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Section: YL; Pg. 36

Length: 742 words

Byline: Prestige Page Manager 2

Body

1. When was the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland established?

A. 1909

B. 1915

C. 1921

2. Edinburgh Zooâ(EURO)(TM)s pandas are named Tian Tian and Yang Guang, but what do their names mean in English?

A. Sugar and Sunbeam

B. Sweetie and Sunshine

C. Syrup and Sunlight

3. Sir Nils Olav is a king penguin who lives at Edinburgh Zoo, he is also an honorary member of which kingâ(EURO)(TM)s guard?

A. Danish Kingâ(EURO)(TM)s Guard

B. Norwegian Kingâ(EURO)(TM)s Guard

C. Swedish Kingâ(EURO)(TM)s Guard

4. What is the name of the polar bear cub born at Highland Wildlife Park in December 2017?

A. Hamish

B. Harvey

C. Harry

5. A koala is a type of bear.

True or false?

No Headline In Original

6. How many species of penguin live at Edinburgh Zoo?

A. Two

B. Three

C. Four

7. We have a large troop of Japanese macaques at Highland Wildlife Park. The species often go by another name, what is it?

A. Rain monkey

B. Snow monkey

C. Sun monkey

8. How many horns (each) do Edinburgh Zooâ(EURO)(TM)s greater one-horned rhinos, Qabid and Sanjay, have?

A. One each

B. Two each

C. None

9. What animal, which can be seen at both the zoo and the park, is also known in Scotland as the â(EURO)oeHighland tigerâ(EURO)?

A. Red panda

B. Vicuna

C. Wildcat

10. What is the name of the red panda kit that was born at Edinburgh Zoo in 2019?

A. Richard

B. Ronald

C. Ruaridh

11. Highland Wildlife Park is home to Bactrian camels. How many humps does a Bactrian camel have?

A. One

B. Two

C. Three

12. Edinburgh Zoo recently welcomed the birth of three Asiatic lion cubs, named after the Gir forest where the species is found in the wild. What are they called?

A. Mitaali, Keshari and Kushanu

B. Sikara, Manushri and Kunwar

C. Shafali, Trusanu and Chandu

No Headline In Original

13. A small herd of domestic yak can be found at Highland Wildlife Park. In the wild, they can tolerate very low temperatures of up to what?

- A. -20C
- B. -30C
- C. -40C

14. Edinburgh Zoo is home to two binturong, an animal which is commonly said to smell like what?

- A. Peppermint
- B. Pineapple
- C. Popcorn

15. We currently have one Amur tiger at Highland Wildlife Park. What is her name?

- A. Delila
- B. Dianna
- C. Dominika

16. RZSS supports work in which forest in Uganda to help western chimpanzees in the wild?

- A. Budongo
- B. Bugoma
- C. Busingiro

17. Edinburgh Zoo is home to which species of bird that is extinct in the wild?

- A. Guam kingfisher
- B. Hawaiian crow
- C. Socorro dove

18. Visitors to the zoo can see a small group of Eastern pygmy marmosets, the smallest monkey species in the world. How much do they weigh?

- A. 6oz
- B. 16oz
- C. 60oz

19. Highland Wildlife Park is home to a breeding pair of northern *Lynx*. The scientific name for this species is â(EURO)oelynx *Lynx* lynxâ(EURO).

True or false?

20. What was the first-ever animal held at Edinburgh Zoo?

- A. A cormorant

No Headline In Original

B. A gannet

C. A seagull

21. The zoo is home to a troop of chimpanzees, but how many fingers does a chimp have?

A. Three

B. Four

C. Five

22. Highland Wildlife Park is home to a herd of Przewalskiâ(EURO)(TM)s horses. The species was previously extinct in the wild - true or false?

23. There are two European elk at the park, Cas and Raven. Eurasian elk are the largest living animal of which species?

A. Cow

B. Deer

C. Horse

24. Otto and Gloria are the zooâ(EURO)(TM)s two pygmy hippos. What are hipposâ(EURO)(TM) closest living relative?

A. Elephant

B. Rhino

C. Whale

25. Edinburgh Zoo is home to a Sumatran tiger called Dharma. What is the name for a group of tigers?

A. Stake

B. Steak

C. Streak

26. Highland Wildlife Park is home to four polar bears. Under their fur, what colour is a polar bearâ(EURO)(TM)s skin?

A. Black

B. Orange

C. Pink

27. The park recently celebrated the birth of a litter of rare snow leopard cubs. Is it true that snow leopards canâ(EURO)(TM)t roar? True or false?

28. Edinburgh Zoo is home to three types of lemur. What is the name for a group of lemurs?

A. Conspiracy

B. Plot

No Headline In Original

C. Scheme

29. There are two groups of meerkats at the zoo. On average, how tall will an adult meerkat grow?

A. 15cm

B. 30cm

C. 50cm

30. When you visit Edinburgh Zoo, you can spot a small herd of zebra. But is it true no two zebraâ(EURO)(TM)s stripes are the same? True or false?

1. 1909

2. Sweetie and Sunshine

3. Norwegian Kingâ(EURO)(TM)s Guard

4. Hamish

5. False, a koala is a marsupial

6. Three (gentoo, king and northern rockhopper)

7. Snow monkey

8. One each

9. Wildcat

10. Ruaridh

11. Two

12. Mitaali, Keshari and Kushanu

13. -40C

14. Popcorn

15. Dominika

16. Budongo

17. Socorro dove

18. 6oz

19. True

20. A gannet

21. Five

22. True

23. Deer

No Headline In Original

- 24. Whale
- 25. Streak
- 26. Black
- 27. True
- 28. Conspiracy
- 29. 30cm
- 30. True

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: Pr

Subject: MAMMALS (90%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (90%); PRIMATES (90%); WILDLIFE (90%); ANIMALS (89%); WILD CATS (89%); BIRDS (76%); MARINE MAMMALS (71%)

Industry: ZOOS & AQUARIUMS (91%); PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS (90%)

Geographic: EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND (90%); ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND (74%); SCOTLAND (74%); UGANDA (50%); 7 North East

Load-Date: August 15, 2020

End of Document

IN PICTURES: Classic cars turn heads on Helensburgh and Lomond road trip

IN PICTURES: Classic cars turn heads on Helensburgh and Lomond road trip

Helensburgh Advertiser

August 14, 2020 Friday

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Length: 292 words

Byline: [Ross Hanridge](#)

Body

STUNNING scenery and scorching sunshine made for the perfect trip through Helensburgh and the Rosneath peninsula last weekend for members of the [Scottish](#) Western Thoroughbred Vehicle Club (SWTVC).

Classic car enthusiasts got behind the wheel of their prized possessions to pass through the villages on Saturday, with locals stopping along the route to admire the vintage motors on show.

The highlight of the tour was a drive along the single-track Barbour Road through Kilcreggan where the panoramic views to the Arrochar Alps in the north and the island of Arran in the south made members' day.

A motorcycle up front acted as the road marshal to help avoid tricky manoeuvres.

READ MORE: Kilcreggan 'petrolhead' David describes enduring appeal of classic cars

Fifteen cars made the trip and included such old classics as the Riley [Lynx](#) from 1933 and the Morris 8 from 1938.

The war years had a huge impact on car production in the UK but by the 1950s production was again on the rise, and on show from that era were two P4 Rovers as well as two MG Magnets.

Another mid-century car running with some style was a Daimler Barker Drophead (a soft-top) which had a pre-select gearbox.

LATEST HEADLINES: Helensburgh Boys' Brigade renews appeal for more adult volunteer helpers

Of similar age and a real head-turner was the Beardmore Taxi, built down south although the company originated from Paisley.

Completing the Renfrewshire connection was one of the first Hillman Imps from the early '60s - a Morris 1000 Traveller.

More modern older cars included Triumph, MG and Mercedes sports cars.

IN PICTURES: Classic cars turn heads on Helensburgh and Lomond road trip

A summer 'festival of cars' is scheduled to take place next year at Cove Burgh Hall.

READ MORE: Catch up with all the latest Helensburgh and Lomond news headlines by [clicking here](#)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: CAR ENTHUSIASTS (90%); NEWS BRIEFS (76%); TRENDS & EVENTS (73%); VOLUNTEERS (50%)

Organization: BOYS' BRIGADE (53%)

Industry: MOTOR VEHICLES (91%); AUTOMOBILE MFG (90%); AUTOMOTIVE MFG (77%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); SPORTS CARS (71%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (90%); UNITED KINGDOM (55%)

Load-Date: August 14, 2020

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Farmers slam Loch Lomond Lynx release 'sham'

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The Scottish Farmer

August 2020

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Byline: [Gordon Davidson](#)

Body

BIG CATS would be released on Ben Lomond under a new plan being pushed by the 'rewilding' charity, the [Lynx](#) UK Trust.

Over recent years, the controversial trust, led by Dr Paul O'Donoghue, has been attempting to put the reintroduction of [Lynx](#), a species extinct in [Scotland](#) for over 1000 years, onto the political agenda, arguing that the predator would benefit the environment by reducing deer numbers, and in turn encouraging forest regrowth.

Those efforts have so far been roundly rebuffed, with the trust's first formal application for a re-release trial, in the Kielder Forest that sits across the [Scotland](#)-England border, rejected by both the [Scottish](#) and English governments in 2018. [Scotland](#)'s minister for rural affairs, Fergus Ewing, is firmly on the record saying that there will be no [Lynx](#) release on his watch.

Read more - [Lynx](#) reintroduction bid rejected

However, the trust's strategy may be to try, try and try again, and hope that repeated headlines about the possibility of [Lynx](#) release may gradually shift public and political opinion, by normalising the idea in people's minds.

Thus today it has once again declared the launch of a public consultation on its new target reintroduction site - the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park, which sits on the east bank of Loch Lomond, roughly mapped out as a triangle from Drymen in the south, north-west to Inversnaid and east to Callander.

NFU [Scotland](#) did not mince its words in reaction to this news. Its Environment and Land Use Committee chairman, Angus MacFadyen, a hill farmer from Oban said: "NFU [Scotland](#) remains crystal clear that any proposals to re-introduce predators such as [Lynx](#) are wholly unacceptable to [Scottish](#) farmers and crofters.

"The past three to four years have seen a long line of brazen and presumptuous claims from [Lynx](#) UK Trust about the imminent reintroduction of [Lynx](#) to the UK. Its only application to date, to reintroduce [Lynx](#) to Kielder, was rejected. A sham consultation exercise from that single issue group already took place in Loch Lomond, Argyll and the Highlands last year with NFUS members in attendance," recalled Mr MacFadyen.

Read more - Angry scenes at Inverary [Lynx](#) meeting

"Farmers and crofters can be reassured that whatever emerges from this group does not, in any way, equate to an application for release in [Scotland](#). Were that to ever happen, we can categorically reassure our members that the process for securing permission for the trial release of [Lynx](#) is long and complex and any application will be subject to considerable analysis and debate.

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"In our opinion, no local consensus nor political consensus has ever been secured and this latest supposed 'consultation' in **Scotland** by a discredited organisation will not change that," he said. "Farmers and crofters in **Scotland** can be confident that the union, as a member of the **Scottish** National Species Reintroduction Forum, will take all necessary steps to ensure their interests are protected were a formal application ever to be made."

NFU **Scotland** vice president Martin Kennedy, a hill farmer from Highland Perthshire, added: "On a study trip to Norway in Autumn 2017, an NFUS delegation heard that Norwegian authorities paid out compensation on 20,000 sheep lost to predators. Of the sheep killed in Norway, wolverine accounted for around 34% of losses with the **Lynx**, bear and wolf accounting for 21%, 15% and 9% respectively."

"Feverish press coverage of previous proposals to reintroduce **Lynx** saw a welcome commitment in public from **Scotland's** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy Fergus Ewing that he would never support such a reintroduction," noted Mr Kennedy.

"Predation in Norway has reduced over the past decade - not because of fewer predators, but the fact that hill farmers have simply stopped keeping sheep. The Norwegian NFU believe that around 1000 hill farmers have given up in the 10 years as they simply cannot carry on at the levels of predation."

"The Norwegians told us that to reintroduce predators into our country would be an absolute catastrophe," he stressed. "Their experience has simply strengthened our resolve."

Read more - Norwegian lessons on livestock predators

In its latest announcement, the **Lynx** UK Trust has asserted that Eurasian **Lynx** are 'something of a success story' in European conservation, with over 10,000 of them at large, and once again claimed that they are 'not significant livestock predators', with an average kill rate across Europe of 0.4 sheep, per **Lynx**, per year.

With regard to the species' suitability to the hills above Loch Lomond, Dr O'Donoghue said: "The Queen Elizabeth Forest park is a **Lynx** paradise, it ticks all the boxes; high deer densities, extensive forest cover, extremely low human population density and no major roads. We have identified a 350 square kilometre project area site after discussion with **Scottish** Natural Heritage.

Read more - Big cat fight back

"It is vital to point out that we hope to develop widespread community support for our plans. This will not be imposed on anyone, rather we see this as an opportunity to build strong networks with partners and stakeholders to deliver what is undoubtedly, the most exciting and large scale conservation project ever proposed in **Scotland**."

A spokeswoman for SNH confirmed that the nature and environment body was aware of **Lynx** UK Trust's plans to submit a licence application for the reintroduction of **Lynx** - but stressed that licence applicants did not require 'approval or agreement' from SNH to hold a consultation or submit an application, and that SNH had given no such approval or endorsement to the project which, like any other application, would be assessed in line with its licencing responsibilities.

"We met with the organisation on March 9 for an informal pre-application discussion at the request of the applicant," said the SNH spokeswoman. "During the meeting we clarified what information would be expected to support an application to reintroduce **Lynx** to **Scotland**, in line with the **Scottish** Code for Conservation Translocations.

"We are aware that there are strong views about these proposals and, in the event that an application is submitted, would expect extensive consultation to take place to ensure plans take the views of the public, livestock and land managers into account along with any socio-economic and cross border impacts."

Lynx UK Trust's own consultation exercise will begin with an open meeting to be held between 2 and 4pm on September 9 at the Forth Inn, Main St, Aberfoyle, Stirling. More information can be found on the website at www.lynxuk.org

Classification

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Person: ELIZABETH II, QUEEN OF THE UNITED KINGDOM (58%)

Geographic: SCOTLAND (95%); UNITED KINGDOM (93%); ENGLAND (79%)

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NSA Scotland tackles latest Scottish Lynx release consultation

The Scottish Farmer

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Length: 175 words

Byline: [Gordon Davidson](#)

Body

NSA'S **SCOTTISH** region has criticised the **Lynx** UK Trust following the announcement that it is pursuing a consultation on the re-introduction of **Lynx** to Central **Scotland**.

NSA noted that the trust had already been denied licences to release the Eurasian **Lynx**, an apex predator, into the British countryside - and once again reminded the proposers to note the devastating effects this could impact on the UK's sheep industry in the future.

Regional chairman Jen Craig said: "NSA **Scottish** Region will continue to represent the views of sheep farmers and crofters in **Scotland** who would be greatly impacted by any reintroduction of species into the country. The last consultation to date carried out by **Lynx** UK Trust was flawed and subsequently denied.

"It is also worth remembering that the Cabinet Secretary Fergus Ewing has also made his disapproval of any reintroduction in the past quite clear and we will continue to ensure that view is maintained in **Scotland**. Yet another predator to our flocks is certainly not required in these very tumultuous times."

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No choice but to be more efficient

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The Scottish Farmer

August 2020

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Length: 259 words

Byline: [a correspondent](#)

Body

Sir, - There's an old tale about an exchange between a minister and one of his congregation.

Looking at John's (the parishioner) immaculate garden, the minister remarked: "You and the good Lord have done a wonderful job, John". To which John responded: "Aye but you should remember whit a mess it was in when he had it a' tae himsel."

According to Messrs Arbuckle's fine volume, 'Farming facts and fake news', yields of oats in the best arable areas peaked at about 60 bushels per acre (about 900kg per acre) in 1918, and several times below the average yield 100 years later.

Your regular letter writer, Angus MacDonald, might like to put religion at the heart of agricultural policy, but it is a tad disingenuous to put all the blame on humanity for 'natural' disasters and let almighty God off the hook when, as we see so often, many innocent lives are cut short all across the spectrum of life.

In any case, we have no real choice but to make food production more efficient. A growing and vocal percentage of the population demand that wildlife and rewilding projects command a greater share of the limited area of land and continental shelf available.

They are not going to be reasonable about this because much of their case (as with the **Lynx** Trust) is not based on reason, or reliable scientific evidence. Surely the disturbance to the economic world should have shown them that reliance on even more global trading with the burden being borne by the countries least able to bear it cannot have a pleasant outcome.

Sandy Henderson

Faulds Farm,

Braco,

Dunblane.

Classification

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No choice but to be more efficient

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