

This zine takes a glance at Scottish National Pride looking at the things we identify with Scotland, into the history of these symbols and how Scottish they really are. Scotland is steeped in history, with traditions still upheld in many areas, do the Scots care if looking back at history we find these symbols not to be Scottish..no because they stole them and they're Scottish now.

Scotland is the only country in the world where Coca-Cola has been beaten to the number-one soft drink by Scotlands 'other' national drink IRN BRU. The Scots may square their sausages, deep fry mars bars and have all four seasons in one day, with summer only lasting a few days in July. But for the natives nothing could make them prouder than being Scottish.

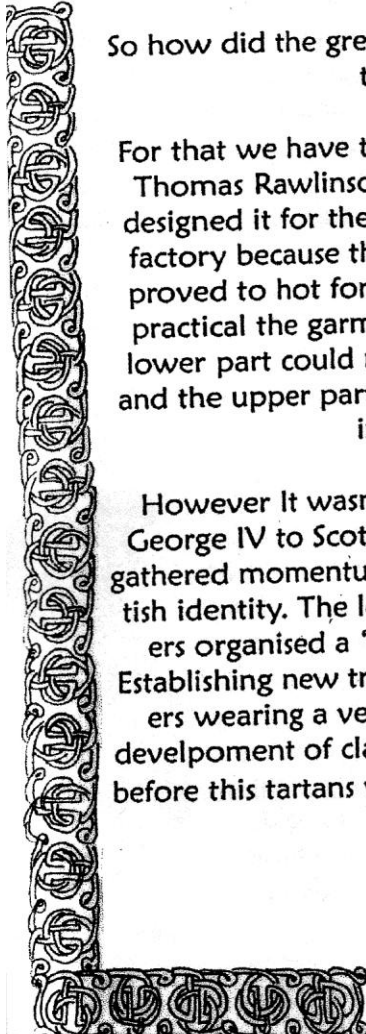
THE KILT

The Kilt...a noble, ancient garment. Ask an Irishman and he will no doubt tell you the Kilt originated in Ireland and later introduced to Scotland. (Pointing to the many stone carvings on crosses and monuments in Ireland - dating before the 11th Century - claiming the figures are wearing Kilts!)

This is INCORRECT - What they are actually wearing is a LEINE - an Irish tunic. This can NOT be related to or compared with the Kilt as a LEINE may reach the knee but it is an extension of the tunic, it is in no way a separate garment.

Evidence shows the kilt to be worn from the 16th Century, although with a lack of historical research *Braveheart* depicted highlanders and lowlanders of the late 13th Century wearing 17th Century Kilts and face paint of the 2nd Century. The first encounter - a *feilidh-mor* (great wrap) - often called, great kilt - a very long plaid which has been gathered into folds and belted around the body whose upper half can be worn as a cloak over the shoulder.





So how did the great kilt become the kilt of today?

For that we have to thank an English man. Thomas Rawlinson was claimed to have designed it for the workers in his highland factory because the traditional 'great kilt' proved to hot for work. To make it more practical the garment was cut in two, the lower part could now be worn separately and the upper part discarded when coming indoors.

However It wasn't until the visit of King George IV to Scotland in 1822 that the kilt gathered momentum as an embluem of Scottish identity. The lowlanders and Highlanders organised a "*gathering of the Gael*". Establishing new traditions, such as lowlanders wearing a version of the kilt and the developepment of clan identification by tartan, before this tartans were identified by regions.

A TRUE SCOTSMAN

When asked "what is worn under the kilt" the classic reply is .. "No, it's all in perfect working order."

This tradition of a Scots man wearing nothing under his kilt has been widely discussed, with the Scottish Tartan Authority slamming the tradition calling it unhygienic.

Yes the highlanders wore nothing under their kilts, but this was a time where there was no need for undergarments. Highlanders also tucked long tunics into their kilts, adding a layer between their modesty and the harsh woollen material!

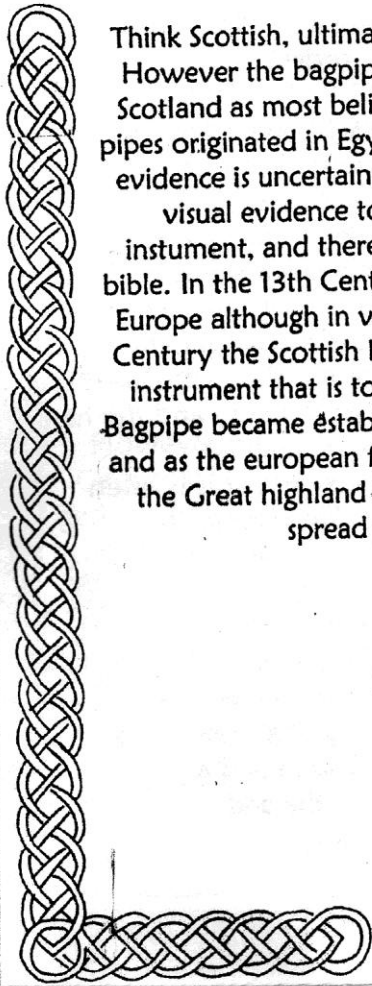
Not wearing any undergarments is often referred to as going 'Commando' or 'Regimental', both terms refer to wearing a kilt military style.

Traditionally Scottish Regiments did not wear anything under their kilts, and when on parade would be asked to "stand at ease", so the drill instructor who had a stick with a mirror on the end could check if they were correctly dressed.

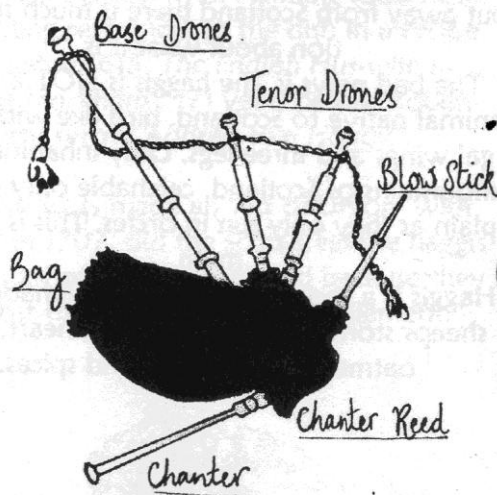


BAGPIPES

Think Scottish, ultimately you'll think bagpipes. However the bagpipes did not originate from Scotland as most believe. It is thought the bagpipes originated in Egypt, However pre-medieval evidence is uncertain, but there are textual and visual evidence to indicate forms of the instrument, and there is even a mention in the bible. In the 13th Century the bagpipe was across Europe although in varied form and in the 14th Century the Scottish Highlanders developed the instrument that is today. This Great Highland Bagpipe became established in the British military and as the european forms of bagpipes declined, the Great highland bagpipes still has a wide-spread prominence.



The Great Highland Bagpipes



The bag is an airtight reservoir that can hold air and regulate its flow while the player keeps the bag inflated by blowing into the blowstick. The melody is created with the air passing through the reed then the chanter which consists of a number of finger holes. The drones lay over the shoulder and are responsible for creating a constant humming.

haggis

The haggis may be Scotland's national dish, but away from Scotland there is much speculation about what it is.

The bad news is, the haggis is NOT a small animal native to Scotland, bird like with vestigial wings and three legs. Only inhabiting the mountains of Scotland, catchable only on flat plain as they only run in circles. This is only a myth.

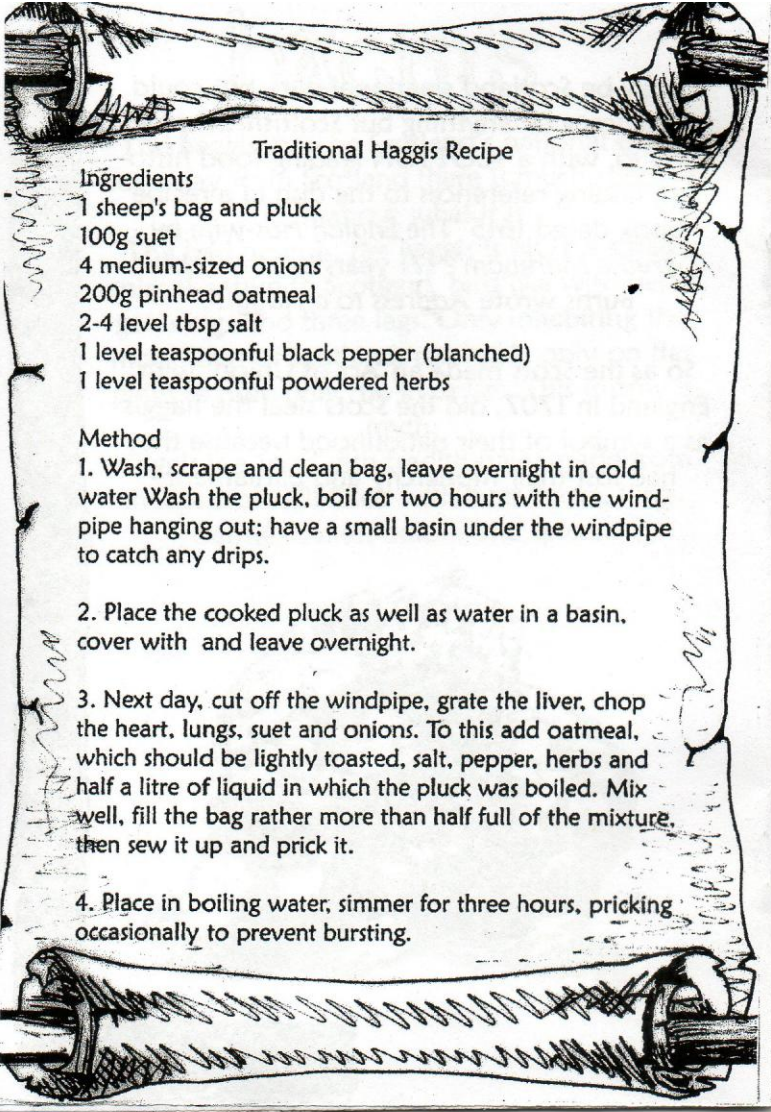
Haggis is a food dish traditionally made from sheeps stomach filled with liver, heart, lung, oatmeal, suet, onions and spices.



It may be Scotland's national dish, but could this delicacy be anything but Scottish?...Apparently so, with a SCOTTISH leading food historian finding references to the dish in a recipe book dated 1615 '*The English Hus-wife* by Gervase Markham'. 171 years before Robert Burns wrote '*Address to a Haggis*'.

So as the Scots made an 'Act of Union' with England in 1707, did the Scots steal the haggis as a symbol of their nationhood because they had lost their monarchy and parliament.





Traditional Haggis Recipe

Ingredients

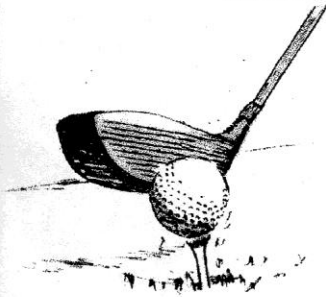
- 1 sheep's bag and pluck
- 100g suet
- 4 medium-sized onions
- 200g pinhead oatmeal
- 2-4 level tbsp salt
- 1 level teaspoonful black pepper (blanched)
- 1 level teaspoonful powdered herbs

Method

1. Wash, scrape and clean bag, leave overnight in cold water. Wash the pluck, boil for two hours with the windpipe hanging out; have a small basin under the windpipe to catch any drips.
2. Place the cooked pluck as well as water in a basin, cover with and leave overnight.
3. Next day, cut off the windpipe, grate the liver, chop the heart, lungs, suet and onions. To this add oatmeal, which should be lightly toasted, salt, pepper, herbs and half a litre of liquid in which the pluck was boiled. Mix well, fill the bag rather more than half full of the mixture, then sew it up and prick it.
4. Place in boiling water, simmer for three hours, pricking occasionally to prevent bursting.

GOLF

With their temperamental weather the Scots invented a game which spends approximately 4 hours outside. Although stick and ball games had been around for many centuries, these games were missing one important feature, the hole. Golf was played on the east coast of Scotland as early as the 14th Century. With the 'Old Course' in St Andrews being the oldest golf course in the world. In the beginning the player would hit a pebble with a stick around a natural course of hills, sand dunes and rabbit holes. Unlike the 18 holes a golf course is made up of today, centuries ago courses ranged in the number of holes. The clubs and balls played with have also developed over the years, with wooden clubs and balls made out of stretched leather stuffed with feathers, used in the earliest days of the game. Today golf is played all over the world, popular with people from all walks of life.



whisky

The term whisky derives originally from the Gaelic '*uisge beatha*' meaning 'water of life'. Whisky is a type of distilled alcoholic beverage made from fermented grain mash. this distilling process can be traced back as far as 1494.

Scotch whisky is whisky made in Scotland and can be divided into five categories - Single Malt, Scotch Whisky, Blended Grain Scotch Whisky and Single grain Scotch Whisky. No whisky made anywhere else in the world can be called Scotch whisky due to first 'Scotch Whisky Order in 1990.

Scotch Whisky is world famous with one bottle of rare Dalmore 62 Single highland Malt Scotch Whisky bought for £32,000 in 2005.



SEE YOU JIMMY

Apparently wearing a 'see you jimmy' hat you become instantly recognisable as a Scot... because every Scotsman has red hair and wears tartan all the time!

However it may be that red hair favours the Scots because of the bad weather, with 8% of the Scots population being red heads. The research is founded on idea that red heads have fair skin and more prone to skin burn and cancer - these are unhelpful characteristics in the hunter-gatherer societies. The ginger strain would die out in large societies in sunny climates. Ginger hair remained in Scotland because the Celts stayed in stable rural communities where people carrying the genes could meet. The high frequency of ginger hair allow for it to persist over time. Giving us famous red heads such as Alex McLeish, Gordon Strachan and presenter Jackie Bird.



MORE INFO

If your interested in further reading :-

- albanach.org/kilt.html
- www.scottishgolfhistory.net
- www.bagpipes.co.uk
- whisky.com/history.html

• You should also visit
Scotland for you own
experience of this country!

