



TCFA Cuairt Litir

Tucson Celtic Festival Association



(TCFA Newsletter)

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NEXT MEETING

The next TCFA meeting, the required Annual meeting for elections, will be held at 9am on January 11, 2020 at St. Pius X Church, 1800 North Camino Pio Decimo. There will be election of some officers and Board members.



2019 SCOTTISH HIGHLAND GAMES

The following pictures were taken and contributed by TCFA member Alexandria MacPherson-Munro.

Comments reference our last Festival and Highland Games

Many athletes and representatives from Ireland commented that the "Best games ever" and were really impressed.

Father Knox has been contacted by Golder Ranch PD who want to get a group to join the hammerheads.

Sarah reports that we received good feedback from the bands. They all liked the stage.

In addition to the fabulous Festival and the World Championship Highland games that we enjoyed; Greg wanted to report on additional areas of success.

Once again, our 2019 Program-Magazine was funded by advertisements. Although several advertisers included additional funds under sponsorships, the pure advertising income exceeded \$3,250. As for Vendors, we set a record with 70 merchant and food vendors this year. Together, they

contributed another \$19,272 in revenue to the festival. This does not count the additional revenue from the Whisky Tasting tent that was generated from ticket sales. Finally, our Sponsorship shattered all previous records. This year, we received at least \$19,350 in cash, compensated products, services and discounts from our sponsors.

It takes a Celtic Village. We can all be proud of the efforts that led to this tremendous year. Thank you to all who helped us achieve these goals - from soliciting advertisements and sponsorships to helping mark lines on the food court and the fields for our vendors, it was a collective effort. As I retire from my positions, I feel very proud of the successes we have achieved together. May TCFA have even greater Festivals and Scottish Highland games in the future.

Slanté,



One of the largest groups of games athletes ever



The Illinois contingent



Pima County is planning on paving the parking lot this year.



A lass showing her talents



CELTIC HISTORY AND CULTURE

Part 9: Celtic Articles

Turn down for Druids —

"Completely unique" Iron Age party cauldrons and more unearthed in Leicestershire construction site turned out to be a 2,000-year-old ritual center full of treasure.

Annalee Newitz - 11/29/2017, 5:30 AM

Archaeologists were called to Glenfield Park, Leicestershire, just before a development company broke ground on a massive project to build a warehouse and distribution center. People walking in the grassy field between two towns on the fringes of Leicester had found what seemed to be ancient artifacts. Previous digs in the area had uncovered a few Iron Age items, so it seemed likely there might be something more to find. Indeed, there was. Much more. In fact, according to University of Leicester Archaeological Services' John Hancock, new excavations revealed a 2,000-year-old feasting center full of rare, valuable items, including 11 ceremonial cauldrons.

Archaeologists had uncovered a party town.

Archaeologist John Thomas, with University of Leicester Archaeological Services, explains what his team found in a Leicestershire field that is soon to become a large warehouse and distribution center.

Of course, the Iron Age center wasn't just for parties. Hancock and his colleagues explain in a release about their findings that it was likely a very small settlement that endured over centuries. What began as one or two roundhouses grew in the 300s BCE into several compounds. Many were rich

with artifacts like jewelry, and, in a few places, researchers found buried treasure like the 11 cauldrons, which served both ceremonial and pragmatic purposes as food preparation vessels. Finding this many cauldrons in one place is very rare, Hancock said, and indicates that this was a special place.

Said Hancock: "It is the metalwork assemblage that really sets this settlement apart. The quantity and quality of the finds far outshine most of the other contemporary assemblages from the area, and its composition is almost unparalleled. The cauldron assemblage in particular makes this a nationally important discovery."

Little is known about Iron Age beliefs in England before the Romans arrived. Julius Caesar described Druidic religions, led by local shamans. Celtic tribes had invaded the island at various times before the Romans' arrival, no doubt affecting local cultures and languages. Indeed, one of the cauldrons discovered at Glenfield Park has a stem-and-leaf pattern on its rim that's associated with Celtic designs. Archaeologists sometimes interpret burials of cauldrons and other treasures like these as offerings to Earth gods.

What's certain is that these items were buried deliberately, over a period of centuries, in a circular ditch surrounding one of the roundhouses. Some were buried upright and others upside down, probably to mark the end of the building's use. A few other cauldrons were buried throughout the settlement, likely during rituals and important events.

The cauldron had spiritual significance in pre-Roman English culture, but we know several of these cauldrons were used for

cooking, too. Some are covered in charring, and one has been extensively repaired with a copper-alloy patch that was carefully attached with several rivets. The largest of the cauldrons found could hold 550 liters, which suggests it was intended to cook or hold mead for a very large party indeed.

An up-close analysis of what the CT scans revealed about the cauldrons and how they were made.

Hancock and his team couldn't simply yank the cauldrons out of the ground to analyze them—each is made from extremely thin copper and would have fallen apart. So, they excavated each one in a block of soil and searched for a facility that had scanning equipment that would reveal the hidden treasure. Eventually, they got incredible images of their finds from a CT scanner at Paul Strickland Scanner Centre in Middlesex, which usually handles humans, not blocks of soil full of iron. But it was the only place where they found a scanner large enough to accommodate their unusual request.

Currently, conservation of the cauldrons is being done by Liz Barham at the Museum of London Archaeology, who discovered "sooty residues" on the outermost cauldron, suggesting it had been suspended over a fire. "If we're lucky, we may even find food residues from the last time they were used—over 2,000 years ago," she said.

Other items found at the site, including a brooch and a "horn-cap" from a ceremonial staff, were buried just like the cauldrons were. The site seems to have been used for parties, ceremonies, and other large gatherings devoted to Druidic rituals. Thousands of years ago, people must have flocked to this place from miles around for spiritual events and great, communal feasts.

But soon, it will become a warehouse and shipping center. Who knows what will remain buried beneath all those lorries and shipping crates? Sounds like the perfect start to a *Doctor Who* story.



Most people have heard of Hadrian's Wall between Scotland and England but few of this.

The following portion of a longer article was recently updated – October 24, 2019 by History.com editors



Offa's Dyke (Welsh: Clawdd Offa) is a large linear earthwork that roughly follows the current border between England and Wales. The structure is named after Offa, the Anglo-Saxon king of Mercia from AD 757 until 796, who is traditionally believed to have ordered its construction. Although its precise original purpose is debated, it delineated the border

between Anglian Mercia and the Welsh kingdom of Powys.

The dyke, which was up to 65 feet (20 m) wide (including its flanking ditch) and 8 feet (2.4 m) high, traversed low ground, hills and rivers. Today the earthwork is protected as a scheduled monument. Some of its route is followed by the Offa's Dyke Path; a 176-mile (283 km) long-distance footpath that runs between Liverpool Bay in the north and the Severn Estuary in the south.

Although the dyke is conventionally dated to the Early Middle Ages of Anglo-Saxon England, research in recent decades – using techniques such as radioactive carbon dating – has challenged the conventional historiography and theories about the earthwork.

Built at the command of the eighth-century king of Mercia, Offa's Dyke is today Britain's longest ancient monument, following the border between England and Wales. Yet despite more than a century of study, experts still do not fully understand how or when the Dyke was built, and in recent years views have diverged even about such basic questions as its purpose.

What makes a simple earth ditch-and-bank dug along the frontier between Wales and England 1,200 years ago potentially fascinating to any historically minded person living in Britain in the 21st-century?

For one thing, its length: the earthwork itself covers a distance of more than 80 miles (129km) and it ranges across a former frontier that spanned 115 miles (185km) – the latter extending from the shores of the Dee estuary in the north to Severn Estuary near Chepstow in the south. As such, this 'great work', built at the command of Offa of Mercia, one of the most remarkable kings to

have ruled much of Anglo-Saxon England, is Britain's (and arguably Europe's) longest ancient earthwork.



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Please include our 2018 Charity of the Year – Aviva and 2019 Charity of the Year – Treasures 4 Teachers of Tucson. We also thank Alan Tonelson, Howard Sloane and Jack Hamilton for the congratulation ads.



THE HISTORY OF WHISKY

Distillation of whisky has been performed in Scotland and Ireland for centuries. The first written record of whisky comes from Ireland in 1405 in the Irish Annals of Clonmacnoise, where it was written that the head of the clan died after 'taking a surfeit of

'aguæ vitae' at Christmas. The production of whisky from malted barley is first mentioned in Scotland in an entry on the 1494 Exchequer Rolls: 'Eight bolls of malt to Friar John Cor, by order of the King, wherewith to make 'aguæ vitae''

Single malt whisky is associated with the Scottish tradition, although there are also Irish and other single malts. Penderyn, the only whisky commercially produced in Wales, is also a single malt.

From the 15th century onwards, whisky was heavily taxed in Scotland, to the point that most of the spirit was produced illegally. However, in 1823, Parliament passed an act making commercial distillation much more profitable, while imposing punishments on landowners when unlicensed distilleries were found on their properties. George Smith was the first person to take out a license for a distillery under the new law, founding the Glenlivet Distillery in 1824.

In the 1830s, Aeneas Coffey refined a design originally created by Robert Stein for continuous stills which produced whisky much more efficiently than the traditional pot stills. Quickly, merchants began blending the malt whisky with the grain whisky distilled in the continuous stills, making the first blended Scotch whisky. The blended whisky proved quite successful, less expensive to produce than malt with more flavor and character than grain. The combination allowed the single malt producers to expand their operations as the blended whisky was more popular on the international market.

Single malt distilleries also exist in Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, England, France, Germany, Iceland, India, Japan,

Liechtenstein, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, USA, Wales and Norway.

Single malt whisky is malt whisky from a single distillery, that is, whisky distilled from fermented mash made exclusively with malted grain (usually barley), as distinguished from unmalted grain.

Single malts are typically associated with single malt Scotch, though they are also produced in various other countries. Under Scotch Whisky Regulations, a "Single Malt Scotch Whisky" must be made exclusively from malted barley (although the addition of E150A caramel coloring is allowed), must be distilled using pot stills at a single distillery, and must be aged for at least 3 years in oak casks of a capacity not exceeding 700 liters (150 imperial gallons; 180 US gallons). While the Scotch model is usually copied internationally, these constraints may not apply in whisky marketed as single malt that is produced elsewhere. For example, there is no definition of the term single with relation to whisky in the law of the United States, and some American whiskey advertised as single malt whisky is produced from malted rye rather than malted barley.



YOUR CELTIC EXPERIENCE

Goodbyes
are not forever,
are not the end;
it simply means
I'll miss you
until we meet again.

Irish Blessing