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Winter 2025

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# KENNEDY GAZETTE

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

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# THE KENNEDY GAZETTE

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New Hampshire Highland Games and Festival

Lincoln , NH

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L-R: Nina Eppes, Alana Williams (new member), Avril Williams (returning member)



Our motley crew, L-R: Frank (friend of Mary Jo), Sarah Bishop (KSNA honorary member, appointed as such by Lord Charles in 2010), Mary Jo LaFreniere (KSNA member), Leo Kennedy (KSNA merchandising chair), Nina Eppes (KSNA secretary), Jackie Davis (Nina's sister)

The 50th annual New Hampshire Highland Games and Festival took place Friday, September 19 through Sunday, September 21, 2025, at Loon Mountain Ski Resort in Lincoln, NH. The weather was very pleasant for all three days, generally sunny with temperatures reaching the upper 60s after rather chilly mornings.

We had good traffic at the tent, where several people expressed interest in the Kennedy Society. We also welcomed a renewing member, Avril Williams, who returned after an absence of several years, and a new member, Avril's daughter Alana Williams.

On Saturday, the Games attempted to break the Guinness world record for the largest bagpipe ensemble. Unfortunately, they fell short, but it was still impressive to see and hear over 200 pipers playing together! (The record of 333 pipers set in Sofia, Bulgaria in May 2012 still stands. See

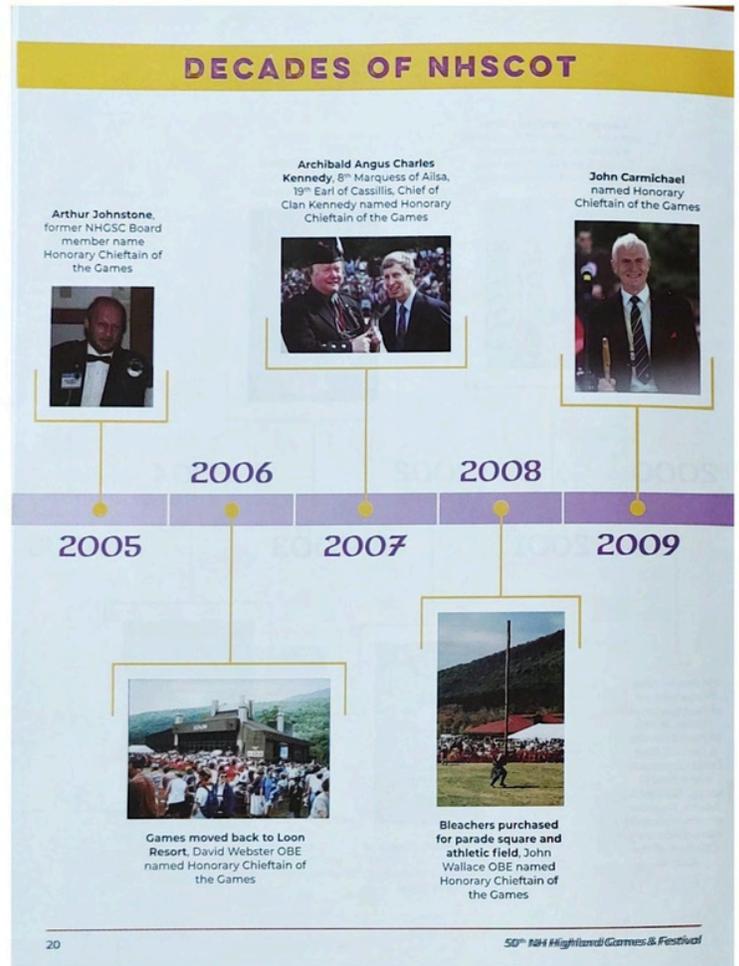
[https://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/world-records/largest-bagpipe-ensemble.](https://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/world-records/largest-bagpipe-ensemble))

Submitted by Nina Eppes, Secretary and Northeast Chieftain

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The cover of the commemorative program.



Program page showing when Lord Charles was Honorary Chieftain of the Games in 2007. He is pictured with then-governor of New Hampshire, John Lynch.

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## Stone Mountain Highland Games

## Stone Mountain, GA

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Kennedy Tent



Sue Kennedy, Billy Kennedy, Bob Davis

**It was another beautiful and successful weekend at the Stone Mountain Highland Games, October 17-19! There were 94 clans/families and 11 Scottish related societies and organizations that registered for the weekend, not to mention all of the vendors, pipe bands, dancers, and musicians. The tent was convened by Dave and Amy Carrick.**

**The Kennedy tent was very full on Saturday, with Kennedys both long-term and newer members. Some notables were Sue Kennedy, Bob and Claudette Davis, David and Irene Phelps, Samantha Dodson, and Billy and Melissa Kennedy. Not to mention Kathy Erwin and family coming down from Evansville, Indiana! Once again, Karyl Kennedy Harwell delivered some of her sumptuous Scotch eggs, and husband Bobby Harwell stopped by the tent with the Atholl Highlander pipe band to serenade us on Sunday afternoon. There were many others that stopped by not mentioned, but their support is equally appreciated!**

**The 2026 AGM will be held at Stone Mountain, so start planning to attend now!**

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**Stone Mountain Highland Games**

**Stone Mountain, GA**

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**Study Kennedy Men**



**Paying the Pipers (and drummers)**



**Getting ready for the tartan parade.  
Bill Kennedy, Dave Carrick, Melissa  
Kennedy**



**Melissa Kennedy, Irene Phelps, Amy Carrick**

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## Central Florida Scottish Highland Games      Winter Springs, Fl

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**From left to right: Ben Johnson, (past chief Chris and past newsletter editor Sue Kennedy's grandson), Lynn Johnson (Chris & Sue's daughter), Suzanne and Frank Canada (conveners), and Sue Kennedy.**

**Suzanne and Frank Canada, David Carrick, and Sue Kennedy convened the tent for the 48th Central Florida Scottish Highland Games January 17-18 in Winter Springs Florida.**

**The Titusville Fire Department Honor Guard AKA Kennedy Honor Guard under the command of Captain Frank Canada, and the Orlando International Airport Honor Guard under the direction of Danielle Shearer opened the games on Saturday to a large audience on the sidelines and full bleachers. The two Captains, accompanied by Titusville Fire Chief John Hustoles, conducted the traditional toast on the ceremony field to this year's honored guest, Rory Alexander Baillie-Hamilton Buchanan, son of Chief of the Name and Arms John Michael Baillie-Hamilton Buchanan. Mr. Bailey Hamilton Buchanan was then escorted as he inspected both honor guard units and the host band, Rosie O'Grady's Highlander**

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## Central Florida Scottish Highland Games Winter Springs, Fl cont...

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**Titusville Fire Department Honor Guard and Orlando International Airport Honor Guard. Danielle Shearer far left; new Captain Shawn Holbrook, red sash, left; outgoing Captain Frank Canada, center, red sash; Chief John Hustoles far right.**

**Following this ceremony, the two honor guards regrouped off field to collect flags and accoutrements then returned to the ceremony field to present colors.**

**Following colors, additional ceremonies were conducted back at the Kennedy tent. Captain Frank Canada and Titusville Fire Department Chief John Hustoles recognized four new Titusville honor guard members and presented them with their official pins.**

**Captain Canada is retiring this year from the Titusville Fire Department after 40 years of service, and had to select a successor as Captain of the Honor Guard. 14-year Honor Guard veteran Shawn Holbrook met all the criteria and was willing and able to assume the essential responsibilities.**

**Captain Canada called Shawn front and center, read a professional and very emotional proclamation, and formally passed the captain's sword to Captain Shawn Holbrook. To the sound of a lone piper, Frank and Suzanne Canada then linked arms and walked away from the Kennedy tent area toward the woods and out of sight, as a visual of the end of an era.**

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## Central Florida Scottish Highland Games Winter Springs, Fl cont...

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**Shawn Holbrook  
and Frank Canada**



**Annual toast to Lord Charles**



**Frank and Suzanne  
Canada**

After Frank and Suzanne returned to the tent, and all of the honor guard members were out of official Fire Department uniform, the toast to Lord Charles was conducted. All Titusville Guard members raised a Stella in memory and respect to "LC", as he was affectionately known, a tradition ongoing since his passing in 2015.

In another ceremony, the guard members presented Frank a a wooden chest. Looking puzzled, he opened it up to reveal a beautiful carved drinking horn, commemorating his many many years of dedication to the Titusville/Kennedy Honor Guard. Frank was absolutely amazed and grateful. He promptly hung it on his belt, filled it with Stella, and wore it around for the rest of the weekend. It is now proudly displayed at home resting on a horn stand.

With all the formalities taken care of, the rest of the weekend was all about fun and friendship, meeting new guests, and welcoming current members. We are both very grateful to David Carrick and Sue Kennedy for spending the weekend with us. Sue also brought her wonderful daughter Lynn with her and it was such a joy to meet her. Of course we were all missing Chris. David had thoughtfully brought and displayed a framed photo of Chris, so he was with us there in spirit.

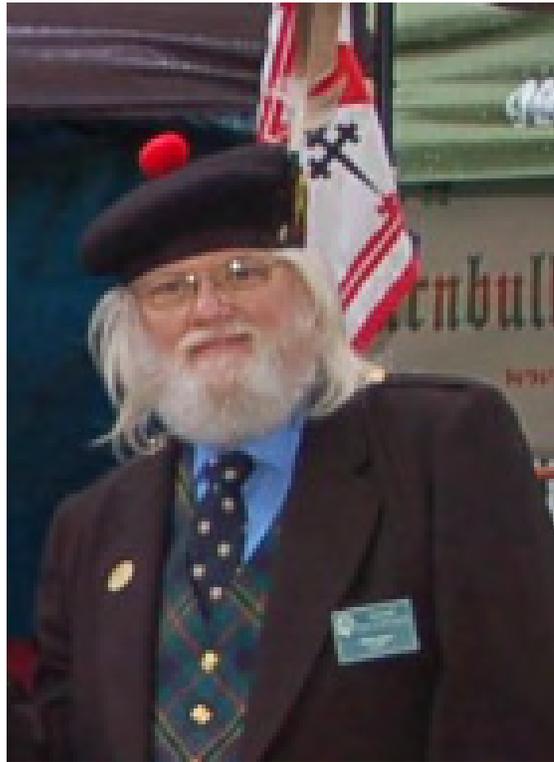
**Frank and Suzanne Canada**

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## Kona Grant

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**Congratulations to Kona Gant! Kona is part of the 2025 class of Inductees that will be brought into the International Santa Claus Hall of Fame this year! There were 150 nominations. Kona was selected by a review board of Hall of Fame members based on his work with the Clan Claus Society. This is a huge honor - one that Kona is very humbled by. His class will be the 15th group of Santa's and Mrs. to be inducted. The date and location of the Induction Ceremony is yet to be determined. We will update you as we have more information!**

**Kona, as you probably know, is the founder of the Clan Claus Society and is the Great Lakes Chieftain of the Kennedy Society.**

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## Lord Archie of, Earl of Cassillis

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Lord Archie, Earl of Cassillis &  
Dave Carrick Chief First Class Retired

## Lord Archie will be a Distinguished Guest of the Stone Mountain Highland Games.

We are happy to announce that Lord Archie, Earl of Cassillis has agreed to be a Distinguished Guest at the 2026 Stone Mountain Games so he will be in attendance for our 2026 AGM. We are intending on having a special AGM banquet at the games hotel. I would like to thank David for his setting this up.

We are working on a banquet, with details forthcoming. Members are encouraged to book rooms ASAP at the Hilton Atlanta Northeast on Peachtree Industrial Blvd. per the Stone Mountain Highland Games website. Call the Hilton at (770) 447-4747 and ask for the SMHG rate or use the link [Hilton-Stone Mountain.](#)

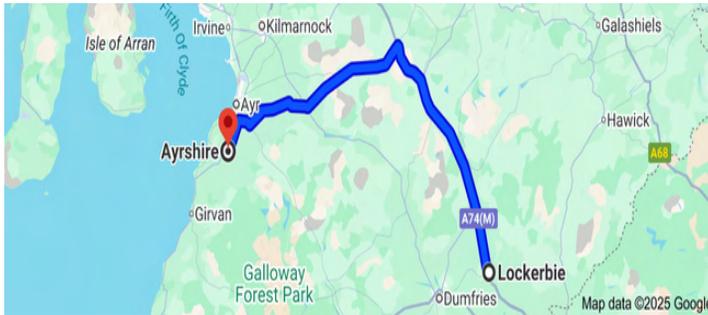
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## THE WOMEN OF LOCKERBIE SCOTLAND

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Perhaps you will remember the name of this town, Lockerbie, just about 80 miles from Ayr Scotland. Lockerbie was the site of the Pan Am Flight 103 disaster on December 21, 1988. The plane exploded, from a terrorist bomb, above Lockerbie, killing 259 passengers and crew and 11 residents of the small Scottish village.



“The Women of Lockerbie” refers to a 2003 play by Deborah Brevort inspired by the real-life event in 1988. The play dramatizes the efforts of the Lockerbie women to bring comfort and closure to the grieving families by washing the clothing of the passengers and returning them to the families. This play was chosen by Lakeside High School, in Evans Georgia, to be their entry for the one-act competition in their district this November.

My granddaughter, Abby Johnson, a junior at Lakeside, was chosen for the character, Olive Allison, one of the leads in the play. Now I must pause here for just a minute to tell you a little about Abby and her family. Abby is the daughter of Ted and Lynn Johnson. Lynn is our daughter and was raised on Highland Games and “all things Scottish”. So, Abby has also attended many Highland Games and of course was excited when her drama program chose a Scottish-themed play. When it came to choosing the skirt she would wear for the play it had to be of Kennedy tartan, not just any old tartan.

But, I digress. So, competition begins, the play is presented, and Abby wins an ALL STAR AWARD for her performance! Now, of course the whole family was proud of her accomplishment, but I think even more importantly, we were proud of her obvious pride in her Scottish heritage. I guess it goes to show that often our children are listening, and are proud of their connection. **THE WILD AND MIGHTY KENNEDYS ARE HERE!**



**Ben, Ted, Lynn and  
Abby Johnson  
(Big brother Chris was  
at  
Graduate School)**



**Abby**

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## A Message from the Chief

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As I sit at my desk contemplating life, the universe and everything, I realized that today is birthday of one of the most famous sons of Ayrshire, Robert Burns, Scotland's National Bard, was born in Alloway, Ayrshire, on January 25, 1759.

Just a short 25 days ago, many of us sang one his most well-known poems, "Auld Land Syne". "Auld Lang Syne" means "old long since" or "for old times' sake," and the song is a nostalgic call to remember and cherish old friendships and shared past experiences, emphasizing goodwill and connection as time passes, especially at New Year's. Its lyrics ask if old acquaintances should be forgotten, answering with a resounding "no," and proposing to "take a cup o' kindness yet" to honor those bygone days.

I am pleased to announce that Lord Archibald "Archie" Kennedy, Earl of Cassillis has agreed to be a Distinguished Guest at the 54 th Stone Mountain Highland Games and the site of the 2026 KSNA AGM. We are planning a banquet in his honor for Saturday, October 17 th . We will be putting information on the website when we have secured location. Lord Archie is excited to be coming over the Pond and looks forward to interacting with our membership over the weekend.

Thank you for all of your thoughts and prayers for Tammy and me over the last year. We just found out that Tammy will need to have surgery to remove the tumor from her brain. It is still growing and now it is impacting her brain stem as well as her thalamus. While the surgery has been looming over us for a while, we are now at the point that it has to be done. Please continue to pray that the surgery will be successful and Tammy will be able to get back to her normal self after her recovery and rehabilitation.

Up the Coast!  
Avisé la fin!

Sean Carrick



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# Did You Know?

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Area: 78,789 sq km (30,420 sq miles) including the islands. About twice the size of the Netherlands and almost the same size as South Carolina in the US. Scotland counts 787 islands from which around 130 are inhabited.

Size: Scotland measures 441 km (274 miles) from north to south. From east to west it varies from 38.8 km to 248 km. The overall coastline including the islands is 10,000 km! (69% of the total UK coastline)



<https://www.scotlandinfo.eu/scotland-facts-and-figures/>

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**President/Chief**



**Samantha Dodson**  
**Vice President/Deputy**  
**Chief**



**David Carrick**  
**Chief First Class, Retired**  
**District Director, TN/S. Carolina**



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**Society Secretary**  
**New England Chieftain**



**Rick Hageman**  
**Society Treasurer**



**Kona Gant**  
**Great Lakes**  
**Chieftain**



**Mike Kennedy**  
**Western Chieftain**



**Leo Kennedy**  
**Southern New England Chieftain**

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## Future Games

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Including the games that have already occurred, the Kennedy Society will be represented at the Upcoming games for the few months:

Loch Norman, Huntersville NC 4/ 18 & 4/19, Sean Carrick

Smoky Mountain Scottish Festival, 5/16 & 5/17, Townsend, TN, Rob & Karen Kennedy, Dave & Amy Carrick

Gallabrac, 5/22 & 5/23, Greenville, SC, Dave & Amy Carrick

Georgia Mountain Scottish Festival, 6/6 & 6/7, Hiawassee, GA, David and Irene Phelps

West Virginia Wild and Wonderful Celtic Festival and Highland Games, 6/20, Beverly, WV, Colleen & Dan Caldwell

Grandfather Mountain, 7/9,7/10,7/11, & 7/12 Linville, NC, Samantha Dodson, Rick & Kim Hageman

Ligonier Highland Games, 7/18, Ligonier, PA, Dan & Colleen Coldwell

Minnesota Scottish Fair & Highland, 7/18, St Paul, MN, Allison Lares

Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games, 8/7, 8/8 & 8/9, Fergus, ON, Canada, Middle Tennessee Highland Games, 9/12 & 9/13 Hendersonville Tn Bill & Melissa Kennedy

Scotland Connecticut Highland Games, Brooklyn CT 10/12 Leo Kennedy

Stone Mountain 10/17 - 19 Dave & Amy Carrick

Many games are more than one day. The website only allows for one date to be listed, so the Saturday date is the default listing. The respective game's link will identify the actual dates.

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## DUES REMINDER

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Did you know that you can pay in-person at events where Kennedy Society of North America members host a tent? Check our Events Calendar on the website for locations.

Credit card payments can be made on the website by responding to the automatic email reminder. If that link has expired, or you don't receive one, email me at [caldwellkids@earthlink.net](mailto:caldwellkids@earthlink.net).

Paying your dues with a check? Send it to the address below. Please let me know if you are sending a personal check in the mail so that I can watch for it.

Colleen Caldwell  
KSNA Membership  
278 Reservoir Road  
Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666

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Membership dues are \$35 for one year, payable to Kennedy Society of North America.

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# Membership Updates

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**Colleen Caldwell Membership Chair**

## Welcome to these new members:

Avril Williams of Fayetteville, PA  
(returning)

Alana Williams of Millington, MD  
(new)

Michele Kennedy of Bobcaygeon,  
ON, Canada (Lifetime)

## **Winter Membership Update:**

**The New Year is upon us!**

**Are you making your plans for 2026? What about 2027?**

**I am already looking towards 2027 because during these next few months, my husband and I will be drafting plans for a 2027 Kennedy Tour to Scotland (see more info in this Gazette). If that sounds exciting to you then be sure to put it on your calendar. I hope you will join us!**

**Colleen Kennedy Caldwell  
Membership Chair**



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## Membership Updates

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# Is a Trip to Scotland in your future? Kennedy Society Summer 2027

### **ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A TRIP TO SCOTLAND?**

**Join us on a Kennedy Society tour of Scotland in the summer of 2027!**

We plan to visit various cultural and historical sites of general interest, and sites associated with the Kennedys. Please let us know if you are interested in participating in a group tour and what locations or areas of Scotland you would like to visit.

Contact Dan and Colleen Caldwell 304-216-4005 or [caldwellkids@earthlink.net](mailto:caldwellkids@earthlink.net)



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# Winter Recipe

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## Creamy Neeps

### INGREDIENTS

- 400ml double cream
- 150ml semi-skimmed milk
- 2 garlic cloves
- 2 (about 1.5kg) swedes, quartered
- Thinly sliced Butter, for greasing
- 175g crumbly goat's cheese, plus extra to scatter over the top

### Instructions

- Preheat the oven to 190°C/fan170°C/gas .
- Heat the cream, milk and whole garlic cloves in a small pan over a low heat boiling. Remove from the heat and set aside to infuse for at least 15 minutes.
- Blanch the swede in a pan of boiling salted water for 4-5 minutes until almost tender, drain, then layer in a medium buttered oven proof dish with the cheese and lots of seasoning. Pour over the cream, discard the garlic, and sprinkle with the extra cheese.
- Bake for 30-35 minutes until the swede is cooked and the dish is bubbling and golden



### **Nutrition**

Calories: 367k cal | Carbohydrates: 11.5g | Protein: 7.7g | Fat: 33.7g | Saturated Fat:21.1g saturated |Sodium: .05g | Fiber: 2g | Sugar: 10.6g

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**Kid's Corner for the Wee Ones!!**

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# **Culzean Castle**

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## Here are some fun facts about Culzean Castle:

Culzean Castle, pronounced "Kull-ane" (with a silent 'z'), is a dramatic 18th-century Scottish castle perched on a cliff edge in Ayrshire. Built for the Earls of Cassillis, it features a stunning oval staircase, a massive collection of 700+ antique pistols, and even a "ghostly piper" said to wander the grounds on stormy nights.

### Fun Facts:

- **Presidential Apartment:** The top floor was given to American General (and later President) Dwight D. Eisenhower to say "thank you" for his role in World War II. He visited four times and loved it!
- **Secret Sea Caves:** Hidden beneath the castle are deep, dark sea caves. Legend says the piper went down into them and never came back.
- **Massive Playground:** The grounds feature "Adventure Cove" and "Wild Woodland" play areas, designed for kids to explore and burn off energy.
- **A Famous £5 Note:** For many years, Culzean Castle was featured on the back of the Royal Bank of Scotland £5 note.
- **Giant Deer Park:** The castle is surrounded by 240 acres of parkland, which is about the size of 180 football fields.
- **A "Ship of Bones":** Inside, there is a detailed model of a ship (the Hortense) that is believed to be made from bones carved by prisoners.
- **It's Haunted!:** Besides the piper, people say they have seen a "White Lady" ghost and another ghost in a long dress wandering the corridors.
- **Culzean Castle is protected and managed by the National Trust for Scotland.**

## Spring Edition

It's never too early to start preparing for our next edition. Due to recent changes in formatting it's taken a while to get everything put together nicely for you. Please remember that the deadline for the next edition will be April 15th, 2025

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