Remember Those from Whom You Came Newsletter for The House of MacAlpine

The Worldwide Organization for MacAlpine's



News We've Been Waiting For...

Lord Lyon appoints Supervising Officer to Family Convention.

The MacAlpines will hold a Family Convention, likely in early Summer 2027, to choose a Chief.

This is a major step for an honourable Highland Name which has never had a Chief, but has made great strides in organising itself and moving forward.

Details, including how to be considered for selection as a candidate for Chief and how to take part, in the Family Convention, will be announced soon.

To this end, the Lord Lyon has appointed one of his Officers of Arms to be the Supervising Officer.

Dr Joseph J. Mosrow, CVO, CBE, EC Rt Hon Lord Lyon King of Asso



H.M. NEW REGISTER HOUSE EDDBURGH, EHI JYT Talaphone 0131 556 7255

APPOINTMENT OF SUPERVISING OFFICER TO THE FAMILY CONVENTION OF MCALPINE

6 March 2024

WE, JOSEPH JOHN MORROW, Lord Lyon King of Arms, do hereby appoint Linkidagow Purvaivant Extraordinary, Professor Gillian Black, as Supervising Officer to the Family Convention of MacAlpine, to report in due course to myself.

Sough Sent Jours

Dr Joseph J Morrow, CVO, CBE, KC, FRSE The Rt Hon Lord Lyon King of Arms



Prof. Dr. Gillian Black is Professor of Scots Private Law at the University of Edinburgh, and a Commissioner at the Scottish Law Commission. In September 2021 she was appointed Linlithgow Pursuivant Extraordinary at the Court of the Lord Lyon.

Prof. Black is shown here wearing the traditional uniform of Linlithgow Pursuivant at the recent coronation of King Charles III. The tabard bears the Royal Arms in their Scottish form.

The Court of the Lord Lyon



Scotland's Heraldic Authority

https://www.courtofthelordlyon.scot/index.htm

Dr Joseph J. Morrow, CVO, CBE, KC Rt Hon Lord Lyon King of Arms



THE COURT OF THE LORD LYON
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Dr Joseph J Morrow, CVO, CBE, KC, FRSE The Rt Hon Lord Lyon King of Arms

Commander's Note

I had the opportunity to attend the Burns dinner, hosted by the Saint Andrews Society of Sarasota Florida on Thursday, January 25th.

It was an honor to be there with other MacAlpines and be asked to give an address on the MacAlpines, our connections to the highlands, and recite a bit of Burns.

Although most of Burn's poems were written in Scots, he did write several poems to "Highland Mary" including "My Hearts in the Highland", which worked well in the short talk I delivered, with a lead in the Gaelic as a nod to Highland Mary.







It was a splendid evening, well organized, and with great hosts.

I am excited about the upcoming games season, and there is a great deal of activity with MacAlpines hosting tents in numerous locations. I hope that you stop by one of them and join the festivities.

As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, the Lyon Court will be supervising a MacAlpine Family Convention at a date yet to be determined. We are all hopeful of a positive outcome after nearly twenty-five years of work.

As Commander I am once again encouraging anyone who considers him or herself a suitable candidate for Chief to make themselves known to the Society as soon as possible so that we can get everything sorted before the Family Convention. Please contact our Secretary Laura McAlpine at mclaura.248@gmail.com or Laura McAlpine 02/15 Erboll Place Glasgow Scotland G226PA0/2

I am also grateful for all of the continuing work in identifying the many old MacAlpine homesites in the Kilmartin/Knapdale area. I have visited many of them, and am anxious to get back and do some more exploring.

Our people were fishers and farmers and weavers and lime kiln tenders. They burned peat for fuel and went into battle when called.

They endured wars famine and disease, and they contributed to what we are today.

Understanding where they lived, how they lived, and why they left is an important part of our legacy. Each one of them has a story to tell.



Le gach deagh dhùrachd With every good wish, Michael T McAlpin Commander Name of MacAlpine



President's Letter

Greetings family,

So far this has been a very busy year for us. In January we had something booked nearly every weekend, beginning with the Central Florida Scottish Highland Games, Reno Nevada Robert Burns Celebration, Reno, NV and the Tallahassee Highland Games the first weekend of February.

Robin, Mike and I hosted the House of McAlpine family tent at Central Florida Games. The day of the event brought wonderful weather and attendance. Our Commander Michael was one of the honored guests and took the podium to greet the crowd with a short word. One of the great things about Mike being honored was that as a clan we had a bagpiper lead our family onto the field. I felt great pride passing by our Commander on the stage. It's always a pleasure to represent our family and heritage in this manner.

The very next weekend we were off to Reno, NV to attend Nevada Scottish Society Robert Burns. This event is well attended by over 400 Scottish family members. They great program, starting early with whisky tasting, Scottish music and dancing. The crowd is then piped into the banquet hall for dinner. Once everyone is settled in, the haggis ceremony commences with a parade of pipers and celebrants presenting the haggis. Ode to a Haggis by Robert Burns poem was performed with passion.



MacAlpine's at Reno Burn's Dinner

Our Ann McAlpine, Chief of the Burn's Dinner

Ode to the Haggis

Our former newsletter editor and Treasurer Janet McAlpine was honored posthumously for her many years of service to Nevada Scottish Society. The presentation was made to Janet's grandchildren. It was a beautiful presentation and brought many to tears. We miss Janet deeply. Janet's daughter Ann follows in her mother's footsteps with her years and passion for service in the NSS as well, as Chief of the Burn's celebration.

The first week of February brought the Tallahassee Highland Games. We set up on Friday afternoon, then reported for an evening of dinner and celebration where we Malcol Ian Sinclair, the 20th Earl of Caithness and Hereditary Chief of Clan Sinclair. His personal piper played for us. The Chief was given custom made sgiandubh Scottish by a local blacksmith. It was so beautiful, but not on this Scotsman's budget.

We have a full calendar of Highland Games hosted by various family members. If you are interested in hosting or co-hosting a tent in your area, you can visit https://highlandgamesandfestivals.com/u-s-events/ to find games near you.

In Kinship,

Dale



Unregistered Crests

Submitted by Robin McAlpine

This is the final in a series of articles relating to the MacAlpine arms.

While all the past articles in this series have been about the arms that have been officially registered with the Court of the Lord Lyon or another country's registry, as in Duncan from Canada, the crests in this article are ones that have been used by our family and others that are not registered in any manner.

The Boar's Head

No MacAlpine Chiefly Arms have been recorded in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland by the Court of the Lord Lyon. Therefore, the Court has advised us against the use of any crest in a strap and buckle.

A former Lord Lyon described the family's ancient crest as a boar's head. We used that when the Society was formed in 2000.

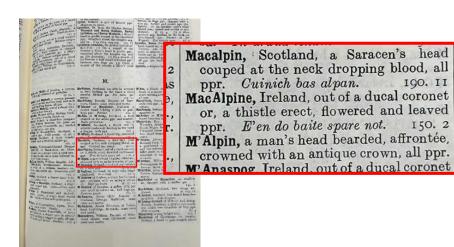
Another crest in common usage today is that of a bearded man's severed head dripping

blood which is taken from "Fairbairn's Book of Crests" (as pictured left).





In the 1905 publishing of "<u>Fairbairn's Book of Crests of the families of Great Britain and Ireland</u>," there is mention of Macalpin, MacAlpine and M'Alpin. Two of these mention the Saracen's head and one, MacAlpine, "out of a ducal coronet, or, a thistle erect, flowered and leaved." The example is shown on Plate 150 (as shown below).





Again, because no MacAlpine Chiefly Arms have ever been recorded in the Lyon Register, either of these crests is considered by the Court to be "fictitious" and, accordingly, we strongly advise against the use of these crests.

A family's Crest Badge is essentially related to the Armorial Bearings (Coat of Arms), of which the crest is a part, of the Chief of said family and represents the family loyalty to a particular individual. Members of the family are permitted to wear the Chief's crest in a "Strap and Buckle Crest Badge" as a show of loyalty to the Chief.

The Homestead Project - McAlpins at Strathmill

Submitted by Mark S.C. McAlpin Sennachie elect

Kilmichael Church is about five miles south of Kilmartin. Of the many MacAlpines buried in the Churchyard is James McAlpin who died in 1862 at the age of 61.

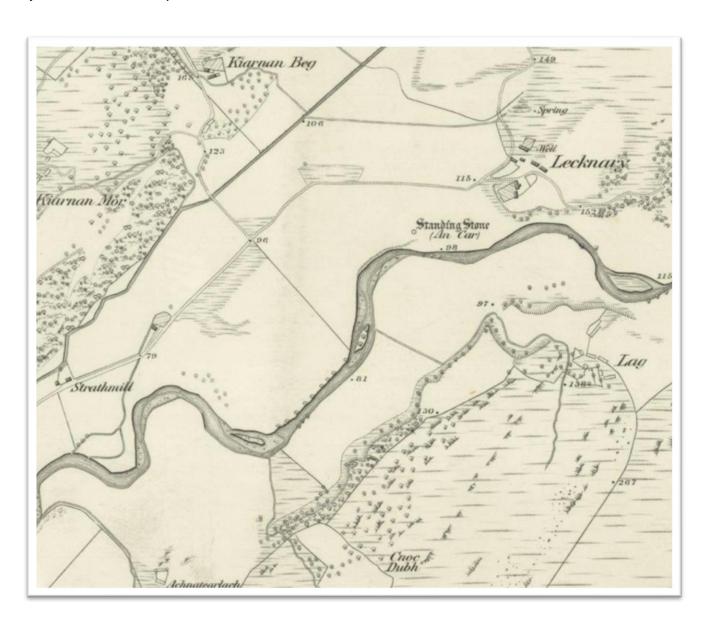
The inscription on his tombstone reads "late farmer of Strathmill Glasary".

Strathmill was located on a small burn near the Add River, and the foundations are still visible. Originally, there were three structures, including one over the burn, presumably the mill.



After James death, the mill and cottages at Strathmill fell into disrepair and any stone walls were likely repurposed for field dykes. Today, there is only one structure still standing.

It is adjacent to the MacAlpines of of Drimvore, and Rhudle Mill.



The Homestead Project, Mapping the MacAlpine Homestead Locations

Submitted by Mark S.C. McAlpin Sennachie elect

As Sennachie elect, the Commander asked me some years ago to take on the project of compiling and mapping out the known old MacAlpine homesteads in the Kilmartin/Kilmichael/Knapdale area. By carefully reviewing the Hearth Tax and Land Roll Tax records, court records, and census records, we have put together a list of 117 homesteads/places where MacAlpines once had made their home.

Many MacAlpines have participated in the quest, visiting the sites when they are in the area. Dozens have been located and photographed, but there are still a large number to be explored.

Usually, one can locate the named site on Canmore Maps, a database compiled and maintained by Historic Environment Scotland, containing information from all its survey and recording work.

Additional site locations have been found on the Pont Maps of Kilmartin, where in the late 1500's Timothy Pont, a young graduate of the University of St Andrews, undertook the remarkable task of mapping Scotland. His maps of Scotland are at the National Library of Scotland and have been digitized for access. Pont recorded, in detail, natural features such as mountains, rivers, coasts, lochs, and trees, as well as settlements, towns, bridges, mills, and churches.

His map of the Kilmartin Glen highlights settlements and structures familiar to the MacAlpines.

According to the records their occupations included but were not limited to paupers, farmers, smiths, scholars, soldiers, and agents for the large estates.

Several of these sites are well known and have been excavated and recorded. For example, the well-known Kilmory Oib has been largely researched and is the subject of an archaeological paper by the Kilmartin Museum. Others are less known, some with structures still standing, or foundations, some are still being used as homes or in a few cases art studios.

The project intends to not only mark the locations that we have found, but to make this information more accessible, eventually attaching pictures of the sites, and link history and family trees to the homesteads where possible. It is a work in progress and will take a long time to complete.

If you know the cottage or placename your ancestors lived in, please contact me at mcalpin@hotmail.com and put the homestead project in the title.

The Homestead Project, Mapping the MacAlpine Homestead Locations (continued)



(Commander Michael T. McAlpin in front of one of homestead buildings at Kilmory Oib)

Resources:

Taxation Records

https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/taxation-records

Knapdale People (Documents and searchable database.

http://www.knapdalepeople.com

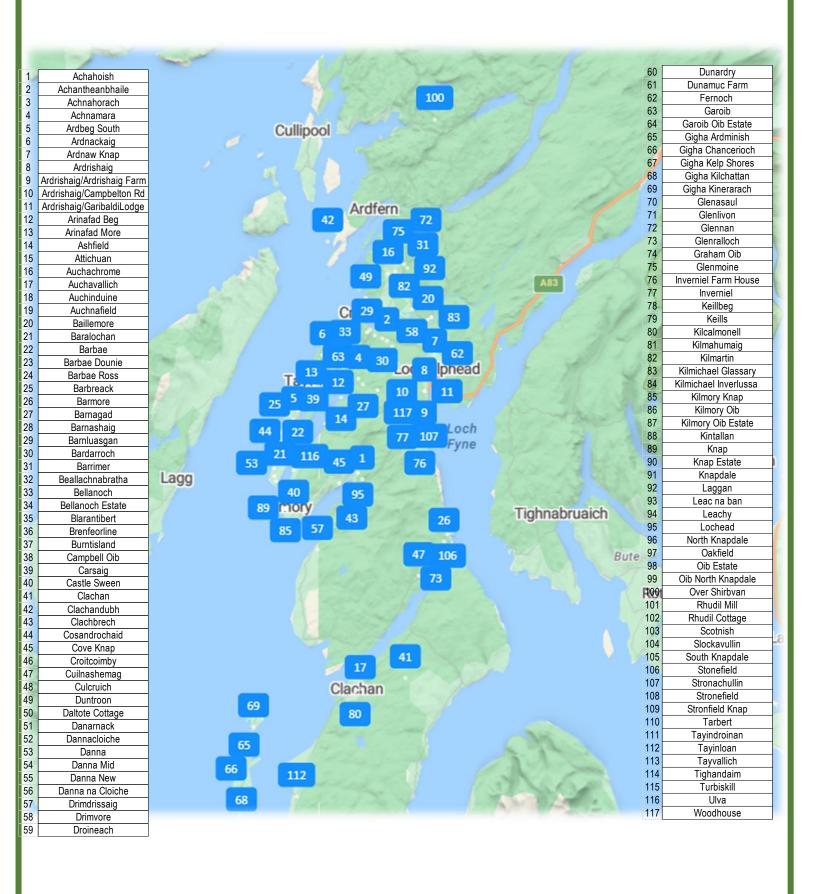
National Library of Scotland

https://maps.nls.uk/

Scotland Places

ScotlandsPlaces

The Homestead Project, Mapping the MacAlpine Homestead Locations (continued)



Kilmartin Church

The Church of Scotland consolidated the parishes at Kilmichael, Kilmartin and Ford, and now hold a single service at a modern facility in Kilmartin. Consequently, they placed all three churches on the market about four years ago.

There are over 40 marked MacAlpine graves in the Kilmartin churchyard, and likely many more that are unmarked. Many MacAlpines were married and baptized in the church. Additionally, there are many, many in the



surrounding churchyards at Kilmory, Kilmichael and many others. We are of course very interested in preserving them.

The Kilmartin Church was acquired by Dr. Ewen Campbell, an archeologist at the University of Glasgow and used as a storage facility for the last four years.

We have worked with Dr. Campbell, John Renshaw Architects, the Dunadd Community to evaluate potential uses of the church, and to evaluate if there were an opportunity of the MacAlpines to either acquire the church or to assist in a community effort to acquire it.

The church has many difficulties, it needs structural repair, water seeps into it from the roof and windows, it has no water, nor facilities, and it is only the footprint of the church that is for sale. There is no parking, and bringing facilities to it is daunting as graves would have to be disturbed.

The community has evaluated potential uses and has not been able to develop a sound plan. We have looked at the costs to rehab the church, and several potential uses but have been unable to develop a sound plan either.

Dr. Campbell has placed the church back on the market, and potentially someone else may take responsibility for it. Although it will be marketed at a very attractive price, the cost to stabilize it will be in the hundreds of thousands of pounds.

There have been at least three churches at this location, this one was built in 1834-1835 replacing the church built on the site in 1601. The 1601 church replaced the church at this location that was built in the 13th century.

Unfortunately, there are many churches that have been sold by the Church of Scotland, and they can't all be saved. In speaking with a consultant that specializes in abandoned churches his view is that it will make an attractive ruin.

We will keep a watchful eye on what follows.

Flowers of the Forest

Our condolences to Clan Malcolm/MacCallum on the passing of their chief.

Robin Neill Lochnell Malcolm, 19th Laird of Poltalloch and Hereditary Chief of Clan MacCallum/Malcolm passed Saturday, March 2nd. Robin was born in Edinburgh on February 11, 1934. He was a 2nd Lieutenant with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. He was first married to Susan Freeman and later to Patricia Currie.

Robin was passionate about the 5,000-acre Poltallach Estate two miles south and west Kilmartin and lived in nearby Duntrune Castle.





Commander: Michael T. McAlpin

Society Board Members:

President: Earl Dale McAlpine Vice President: Mark SC McAlpin Secretary: Laura McAlpine Treasurer: Teala Pennel Membership: Robin McAlpine

Member At Large: Fin Stavnsbo Alpin Newsletter Editor: Robin McAlpine

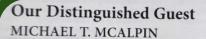
The Central Florida Highland Games

January 13 - 14, 2024

The Central Florida Highland Games are held in the Central Winds Park, which is in the beautiful city of Winter Springs, Florida.

Dale and I drove our RV over from Lakeland, FL and were able to join Mike and camp onsite. The great thing about staying onsite at games that offer this option, the commute is a short walk or golf cart ride across that parking lot.

We were blessed with decent weather this year, but still had to shore up our tent with painter tarps to keep the warm air from our propane heaters inside. Believe it or not, Florida is cold in January.



Clan Commander of Clan MacAlpin

Family MacAlpin(e) is an armigerous clan without a hereditary chief. In 2014, following a petition to the Lord Lyon King of Arms, a family convention was held whereby Michael Todd McAlpin Sr. was unanimously recommended for the role of Commander. His knowledge of the MacAlpin history, his years of service to the society and his love for his heritage are what they desired from a leader.

On April 19, 2017, he received his commission as Commander

of MacAlpin. This empowered him to do and perform all acts and

functions proper for a period of ten years or until a chief is name

We were pleased to see the committee had made Michael a "Distinguished" guest. He was on the viewing

stand on Sunday and was invited to say a few words. We did not hear what he said, because, the one thing I dislike about these games, the clans are still standing outside the arena waiting to march through while the program takes place. Maybe in future they will address this and fix it.

One thing I really love about these games, the pipe bands come right through the clan area and play for us. It really is uplifting to

hear the pipes all day as we enjoy meeting new friends and connecting with old ones.

Next year, the games will be held January 17 - 18, 2025. Put it on your calendar.



Lucky Mud Music Group





The Tallahassee Highland Games Aka Tally Highland Games

February 3 & 4, 2024, Apalachee Regional Park



Dale and I attended the Tally Games because he promised someone at Stone Mountain we would come. The games had been on hiatus for many years and this was their second year back. They were trying to get clans to participate. Since Dale promised, we went.

Since they are trying to grow the games, we decided to buy a sponsor package. This allowed us to attend a welcome dinner where we met Malcol Ian Sinclair, the 20th Earl

of Caithness and Hereditary Chief of Clan Sinclair, The honored clan of the games. He even brought his own piper (this is important later).

These games are heavy on athletics, although we could not see much from where our tent was, but we could hear that the crowds were enjoying them. We did hear that a World Record was set in some heavy log lifting category.

For me, the biggest piece missing from these games was there were no Pipe Band Competitions, therefore, no pipers. They did have one or two for the march of the clans, that's it. Part of the joy of attending the games for me is hearing the pipers warm up and the bands practice.

They did have a nice variety of craft vendors and food vendors. We enjoyed checking them out. We also made a point to stop by each clan tent and say hello. It was good to see our friends, the McEwen's there.

Saturday, we had beautiful weather, but we were rained out for Sunday! If you're in the Florida Panhandle area, stop by next year and check them out.

Scotish highland games log lift new world record 343 18 yr Christian Suggs and then broke his own record at 353



contest. My son would have enjoyed this (my son has a great beard).



UPCOMING HIGHLAND GAMES

Mark your calendar & Look for the MacAlpine Tent



Join us at the Loch Norman Highland Games

April 20 – 21, 2024

4431 Neck Rd,

Huntersville, NC 28078



Join us at the Savannah Highland Games May 4, 2024 Bethesda Academy 9570 Ferguson Ave. Savannah, GA 31406



Join us at the Fairview Highland Games May 18, 2024 Fair Hill Fairgrounds 4640 Telegraph Rd Elkton, Maryland



Join us at the Greenville Highland Games May 24 - 25, 2024 3300 Poinsett Highway Greenville, SC 29613

UPCOMING HIGHLAND GAMES (continued)



Join us at the Grandfather Highland Games

July 11 - 14, 2024

4210 Mitchell Avenue, Suite 2 Linville, NC 28646



Join us at the Fergus Highland Games

August 9 - 11, 2024

550 Belsyde Ave E, Fergus, ON N1M 2W5, Canada



Join us at the Stone Mountain Highland Games

October 19 - 20, 2024

Stone Mountain Park 1000 Robert E Lee Blvd Stone Mountain, GA 30083

Update on the McAlpin DNA Project at Family Tree DNA

Submitted by Eric McAlpine, Project Co-Administrator

As many of you know, the MacAlpine Society initiated and for some time has administered a project through Family Tree DNA related to DNA testing and the surname McAlpin and all of its variants. The project primarily involves Y-chromosome testing and patrilineal descent. As I mentioned in my last update for the 4th Quarter of 2022, we have started breaking the participants into more detailed sub-groupings to show common ancestry groups.

Please remember that this is a work in progress – as new members join, the groups will be refined. While the McAlpin DNA Project has grown, the number of participants is still too small to draw any conclusions but we can definitely see some family groupings, especially in the "Kilmartin" McAlpines.

Please note that there are two types of DNA testing available from FamilyTree DNA - Short Tandem Repeat (STR) testing, and Single-Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) testing. A description of the different testing methodologies can be found at the link below:

https://help.familytreedna.com/hc/en-us/articles/5579319716111-A-Comparison-of-Our-Y-DNA-Tests#snps-0-0

At a high-level, STR testing is helpful for finding people that may be related to you and is less expensive, but SNP testing is more precise for establishing definitive ancestral relationships. STR testing can be used to suggest a high-level common ancestry (for example, common ancestry within the last 2000 years), but the results can sometimes be misleading for more recent family branches.

Where participants have done the more detailed SNP testing, I have grouped them with the more detailed results. For those participants that have only done STR testing, I used a free tool called Nevgen to make as detailed of a grouping as it can suggest.

If you are a member of the project, please take a look and feel free to add comments or questions on our message board. I will try to respond as soon as I can.

In order to get a clearer picture, we need more members to participate in the project and DNA testing. We'd like to encourage all McAlpin's / McAlpine's (and those with one of the 80+ variant spellings detailed on the Home page of the Society webpage) to have a male in their patrilineal line tested. And if you have done one of the STR tests (e.g., Y-37 or Y-111) already, please consider upgrading to the Big Y to get a more precise picture.

A description of the project and current pricing for genetic tests can be reviewed at:https://www.familytreedna.com/group-join.aspx?Group=McAlpin

Burn's Night in France

Submitted by Artair Macailpein Siegwart

For the Burn's night of 2024 the MacAlpine clan from France gathered in the town of Thirons-Gardais. This town was once home to the monks who founded the Lowland distillery in Scotland: Lindores.

We did the incredible ceremony: the clan call, with torches and bagpipes. Then we ate, sang, drank the famous MacAlpine clan whiskey and its new peated version. I thank the many members who came. A distinguished guest was present: Marion's son who is none other than a recognized Stuart descendant. Another great year.



A Day in June

Submitted by Laura McAlpine

June 15th, 2023 was an incredibly beautiful day in Scotland. I had purchased a ticket to tour around Bass Rock in North Berwick in an attempt to get a peek or two of some darling Puffins, affectionately known as the Clown of the Sea. I could never have planned my trip for the weather. You just never know what you're going to get as it seems the weather changes with each gust of wind nearly all year round.

North Berwick (pronounced Barick) is located in East Lothian, just a 30 minute train ride East of Edinburgh. The trainline actually has its last stop in N. Berwick. It's a sweet seaside town that boasts many Chippy Shops, golf courses and beautiful views of the Firth of Forth and Bass Rock. The Bass Rock, as they like to say, is an ancient volcanic rock that sits 347 feet above sea level and from a distance could be mistaken for an iceberg due to the white glaze coating the rock wears from all the bird habitation that calls 'The Rock' home, including the largest Gannet colony in the world.

The Scottish Seabird Centre is at the foot of the walkway leading to the water and offers many types of boat tours around Bass Rock. Not terribly far from Bass Rock is Tantallon Castle, but that was not part of my tour that day. The Catamaran was my choice for the day, and the tour was a full one hour. Of course, the weather was stellar that day, so the tour was packed with great views, lots of bird activity and cameras clicking mostly every second of the ride. The bird activity was endless and the water was amazingly blue. Sadly, Puffins weren't on display that day, but the viewing was fabulous, just the same. The different companies around the harbor area offer tours daily through the "season of sightings" which runs from April through September. The cost for this tour is GBP 28 for an adult (17 and over), and GBP 12.00 for children ages 4-16. A concession price of GBP 27 is available. However, no guarantees are made and no refunds if the weather isn't pleasant. They may offer you another day but since the weather in Scotland is 90% rain (maybe

If you don't know the history of The Bass Rock, I would encourage you to read about it here:

https://hiddenscotland.co/listings/the-bass-rock/

that's a little exaggeration) you take the risk.

