



# The Fair City of Perth

*Application for City Status*





*First Minister Alex Salmond gives his support to Perth's bid for City Status while the three other leaders of Scotland's political parties, as on 24 February 2011, and the Provost of Perth and Kinross, John Hulbert, look on.*

*Photograph courtesy of Angus Findlay Photography*



*The arms of Perth and Kinross feature a shield bearing the lion of King William I, with superimposed, Loch Leven Castle, where Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned. The bearer is the distinctive double-headed eagle. This heraldic symbol dates back 5000 years to the Sumerian city of Lagash in Mesopotamia. In 1975 the Court of the Lord Lyon sought to remove the eagle because the newly created District Council was not sufficiently important. However, the eagle bearer was allowed as a special case, "to mark the fact that the City of Perth was a former capital of Scotland, and took precedence over all Scottish burghs, except Edinburgh.*

**RM Urquhart, Scottish Civic Heraldry, 1979**

# Introduction

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## The Claim

Perth was the first capital of Scotland, and by long standing tradition is renowned today as the “Fair City”. Until 1975 it was officially a Scottish city, with a “Lord” Provost. It now seeks to reclaim the ancient dignity of City Status, and take its place, along with Scotland’s six existing cities of Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Dundee, Stirling, Inverness and Glasgow.

Perth’s claim for City Status is based on:

- *its history as Scotland’s first capital and latterly as the official “Second City” of Scotland;*
- *its determination to be a vibrant and successful regional centre for Perth and Kinross, and to maintain a safe, secure and healthy environment for its citizens;*
- *its ambition to become a dynamic, international city offering unrivalled business, artistic, educational, cultural and sporting opportunities to its citizens and visitors.*

Perth’s claim is widely supported, not just locally, but right across Scotland, and in particular by the leaders of all the political parties in the Scottish Parliament, by all of the Scottish Members of the European Parliament, and by the Lord Provosts and Provosts of the six existing cities of Scotland.

City Status for Perth was debated without opposition in the Scottish Parliament following a motion by Murdo Fraser MSP, and in an adjournment debate in the House of Commons led by Pete Wishart MP.

## Loss of Local Government Powers and Ancient Civic Honours in 1975

Official City Status, including the right to use the title “Lord Provost”, were removed in 1975 when local government in Scotland was reorganised. The Council of the “City and Royal Burgh of Perth” was abolished and its powers then divided between Tayside Regional Council and Perth & Kinross District Council. Perth was the only place in Scotland to lose its civic honours in this way. However, despite that, Perth was still acknowledged to be ‘a special case’ by the Court of the Lord Lyon.

## Restoration of the Full Range of Local Government Powers to Perth & Kinross Council in 1996

As a result of further local government reorganisation in 1996, Perth became a regional capital of significance in the heart of Scotland, and Perth & Kinross Council is now acknowledged to be one of the leading local authorities in Scotland.

However, Perth’s former status as a city, and its right to use the title Lord Provost, were not restored.

## Summary

This document will set out the case for granting City Status to Perth and give examples of the support Perth has received from far and wide.

***“Perth so deserves the ancient title of “Fair City” and is fully entitled to the immediate restoration of official City Status.”***

**Brigadier Melville Jameson CBE, Lord Lieutenant of Perth and Kinross**

***“I’m fully supporting the campaign for City Status for the Royal Burgh of Perth.”***

**Alex Salmond, MSP, First Minister of Scotland**



# Historical Basis for Perth's Claim for City Status

**c843-1437**

## Scotland's Ancient Royal Capital

In mediaeval times a nation's capital was where the King held Court. Scotland's early monarchs frequently lived in Perth Castle or one of the local religious houses, and they were crowned on the Stone of Destiny outside Scone Abbey. Important treaties were negotiated and signed in Perth, and here the Parliament and Church Council met.

### *The Treaty of Perth*

*This followed the Battle of Largs in 1263, at which the Scots King Alexander III defeated the Norse King Haakon. Consequently the Western Isles and the Isle of Mann were ceded from Norway to Scotland.*

King James I summoned 16 parliaments during his long reign (1406-1437). Of these, 13 were held in Perth and one each in Stirling, Inverness and Edinburgh. The Church Council, the highest ecclesiastical court in Scotland, regularly met in one of the religious houses in Perth.

## Ancient Charters of the Royal Burgh of Perth

King David I granted Royal Burgh Charters to Perth and Edinburgh in c1125. However, the charters are lost, and so the seniority is not known.

King William I, 'The Lion', granted Perth a second Royal Charter in 1210, probably in gratitude for being saved from the devastating flood of 1209, which swept away his castle and the mediaeval bridge.

King Robert the Bruce granted Perth a further charter in 1314.

All these charters were combined in the 'Golden Charter', which was ratified by King James VI, in Perth in 1600. In it, Perth is referred to as a "City" for the first time.

## The Royal Burghs of Scotland.

Mediaeval Scotland had two levels of urban settlement, Burghs and Royal Burghs. The term "City" was little used and conferred no rights. Royal Burghs, created by the crown, were usually seaports and had a monopoly of foreign trade. Each Royal Burgh was represented in the Parliament and appointed magistrates with wide powers in civil and criminal justice.

**1437-1975**

## Perth - Second City of Scotland

In 1437, King James I was murdered in his apartment in Blackfriars convent in Perth. Thereafter the Royal household moved to Edinburgh, which in 1452 was officially recognised as the capital of Scotland.

Nevertheless, Perth's economic importance, which depended on its inland port and strategic position, continued to be pre-eminent as one of the three centres for the Supreme Court, and the home of the Bishops of Dunkeld. Perth was recognised officially to be second only to Edinburgh in importance.

In the late 16th century, this official status was challenged by Dundee. A bitter struggle was eventually settled in Perth's favour in 1602, by the Court of Session. Further legal clarification in 1804, confirmed that the Royal Burgh of Perth was entitled to precedence second only to Edinburgh.

At the beginning of the 17th century, the term "City" was imported from England and gradually supplanted the term "Royal Burgh".

*On State occasions such as the opening of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the parade of civic heads was led by the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, with the Lord Provost of Perth next. Since 1975, the Provosts and Lord Provosts have paraded in alphabetical order - after Edinburgh!*

***"In the 12th century Perth was the second town in Scotland; second to Berwick-upon-Tweed, and far ahead of Edinburgh, Aberdeen or Stirling in importance".***

**Prof. A.A.M. Duncan, "Perth, the First Century of the Burgh" 1974.**

*This is a mediaeval copy of the Perth Charter, probably one of several, but the only one that has survived. It is owned by Perth & Kinross Council, and displayed in the Perth Museum.*

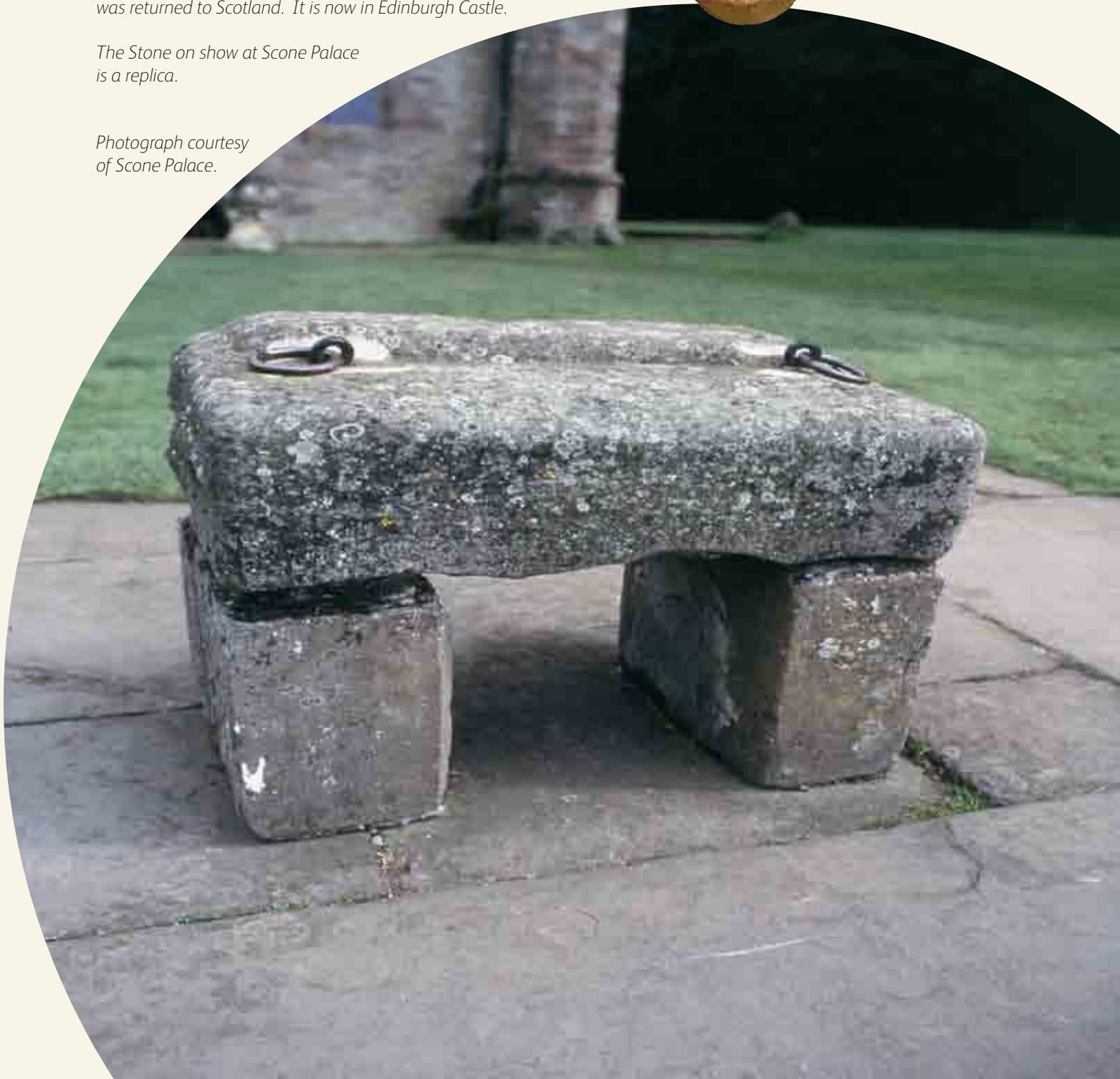


*The Stone of Destiny was brought from the West of Scotland to Scone by King Kenneth MacAlpin in about 843 AD. Subsequently it was used for all Scottish coronations until 1296, when it was taken from the Abbey of Scone by King Edward I of England and installed in Westminster Abbey, and remained there (apart from a brief episode when it was removed by some Glasgow students in 1951) until 1996, when it was returned to Scotland. It is now in Edinburgh Castle.*



*The Stone on show at Scone Palace is a replica.*

*Photograph courtesy of Scone Palace.*





*The Kirkin' of the Council parade passes the Council Headquarters.*

*Photograph courtesy of Louis Flood Photographers.*



*The Guildry "Lockit book" or minute book dates from 1452. It contains the signatures of James VI in 1601, Charles II in 1650, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert in 1842, King George V in 1914, Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay in 1995. In the photograph above, Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, is signing the book on "Perth Day", 2 July, 2010. In the background is the Lord Dean of Guild.*

*Photograph courtesy of Graham Hood Photography.*



# A City Where Traditions are Valued

Although a modern city in so many ways, Perth proudly values its many and various traditions.

## The Kirkin' of the Council

Annually, the Provost, Councillors, Chief Executive and senior officers of the Council accompanied by members of the Scottish Parliament, the Lord Lieutenant of Perth and Kinross, senior members of the local judiciary, the military and the business community and escorted by the High Constables, parade behind a Pipe Band to the High Kirk of St John for a dedication service known as the "Kirkin' of the Council".

## The Guildry Incorporation of Perth

The Guildry is the direct descendent of the Merchant Guild which was established by the terms of the King William the Lion Charter of 1210. The Guild Court was the predecessor of the Town Council and appointed the first Lord Provosts. The right of the Lord Dean of Guild to sit as a non-elected member of the Council was not abolished until 1975, but he still takes part in important ceremonies.

Membership is hereditary and therefore widely spread geographically. However new members can buy into the society. The Guildry has invested its finances wisely and now disburses significant funds to good causes in Perth and Kinross.

## Society of High Constables

In the 17th century, "constables" were appointed by the Burgh magistrates to maintain civil law. When, in 1829, a paid police force was established, they were renamed the Society of High Constables of the City of Perth. Today there are 100 members who are appointed from Perth's leading figures. There are only three other such Societies in Scotland, in Edinburgh, Leith and Holyrood. Their main duty is to provide a ceremonial guard for the Provost and Councillors on civic occasions, when they parade in top hats and tails carrying ceremonial batons.

## Perth and The Army

### The Black Watch

In the wake of the 1715 uprising, Highlanders from the Royalist clans were recruited to assist keeping the peace. In 1739, King George II raised a new Highland Regiment of the regular army. The men were armed and dressed in a dark tartan and their duty was to "watch" the Highlands - hence the title "Black Watch".

The first muster of the new Regiment took place in Aberfeldy in Perthshire. Ever since then, a main recruiting area for the Black Watch has been Perthshire. The regiment served with great distinction in the Napoleonic Wars, the Boer Wars and in the First and Second World Wars. In the latter it formed a key element in the 51st Highland Division. In 1947 the Black Watch was granted the Freedom of Perth.

Regimental amalgamations in recent years have created the Royal Regiment of Scotland of which the Black Watch is the 3rd Battalion.

The affection for the Battalion by the people of Perth, was demonstrated by the enthusiastic reception given to the soldiers on their homecoming parade in December 2009, after their tour of Afghanistan.

The territorial battalions of the Army have also been amalgamated, and the Black Watch TA is now part of the 7th Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Scotland. Its headquarters are at Queen's Barracks in Perth.

In May 2010, the Freedom of the City of Perth was awarded to 7Scots, The 51st Highland, 7th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland in recognition of the fact that all TA soldiers now serve operational tours of duty in Afghanistan and elsewhere.

***"It is essential that Perth's place in history is recognised and that City Status is restored".***

**John Vine, CBE, QPM., Independent Chief Executive of the UK Borders Agency**

# Some of Perth's Famous People

## Freemen of the City of Perth

As with any city, the list of Freemen includes prominent Lord Provosts and local benefactors, and important national politicians, and of course, Royalty.

Perth has long had a close relationship with Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon of Glamis. In 1935, as Duchess of York, she and the Duke of York, later King George VI, opened the extension to Perth's Museum and Art Gallery, and they were both elected Freemen of Perth. In 1947, as Queen Elizabeth, she signed the Book of Freemen again, this time with Field Marshall Earl Wavell, on behalf of the Black Watch Regiment, of which she was Colonel in Chief.

Among the prominent Lord Provosts and benefactors was Lord Provost D K Thomson, who established the D K Thomson Trust, which regularly supports Perth's good causes, and A K Bell, the shy whisky magnate who set up the Gannochy Trust. Politicians are represented most notably by Sir Winston Churchill and Anthony Eden.

In recent years the trend has been to award the Freedom to military organisations. In 2004, the Royal British Legion Scotland was granted the Freedom of Perth, and it was accepted on their behalf by the 2nd Earl Haig of Bemsersyde. More recently in 2010, 7Scots, The Royal Regiment of Scotland, received the Freedom of Perth, and the right to march through the city with "Bayonets fixed, drums beating and colours flying". The honour was accepted on their behalf by Brigadier Charles Grant.

## Sir Patrick Geddes (1854-1932)

As a child Patrick roamed the woods of Kinnoull Hill, near his home on the east bank of the river and became fascinated by plants and animals. From his home he could see the City of Perth laid out like a map. He became a noted biologist and Professor of Botany but his main claim to fame is as a sociologist, philanthropist and pioneer town planner. He coined the phrase "Think Global, Act Local".

## John Buchan (1875-1940)

John Buchan, the first Baron Tweedsmuir, author of "The 39 Steps", a Member of Parliament, and later Governor General of Canada, was born in Perth and was made a Freeman of the City.

## William Soutar (1899-1943)

Perth was home to one of Scotland's acclaimed poets, William Soutar. His short life was blighted by Ankylosing Spondylitis, and he spent his last 13 years bedridden. Nevertheless his journals address the great philosophical issues of his time and he produced verse in Scots and English of great beauty and sensitivity.

## Tanya Ewing

This Perth based inventor became British Female Inventor of the Year in 2008 with her ingenious Ewgeco energy monitoring device that allows householders and businesses to monitor the energy consumption in their homes and premises.

## Catherine Glover, the Fair Maid of Perth

After Royalty, the most famous Perth person is the fictional Catherine Glover, created by Sir Walter Scott in his novel, "The Fair Maid of Perth". Ever since the novel's publication in 1828, Perth has been known as "The Fair City".

### *The Battle of the Clans*

*In 1396 King Robert III summoned the rival clans Kay and Chattan to settle their feud in a battle on the North Inch. Thirty men from each clan fought to the death, watched by the King and the people of Perth. Sir Walter Scott immortalised the account by inserting a romantic theme involving Henry or Hal o' the Wynd who volunteered to fight because the Chattans were one man short. Helped mightily by their volunteer, the Chattans prevailed killing 29 of their opponents for the loss of 19 of their own. In the aftermath Hal secured the hand of Catherine Glover, the Fair Maid of Perth.*

*Pictured here is a young boy at the Soutar Ring sculpted by David Annand. An imaginative civic sculpture at the junction of the High Street and King Edward Street. It is based on his poem, "Nae Day Sae Dark".*

*Photograph courtesy of John McPake, the big picture.*



*Konstanty Dombrovich, 'President' (Lord Provost) of Perth's Polish twin town, Bydgoszcz, sits beside the statue of the Fair Maid of Perth, sculpted by Graham Ibbeson, on a recent visit.*

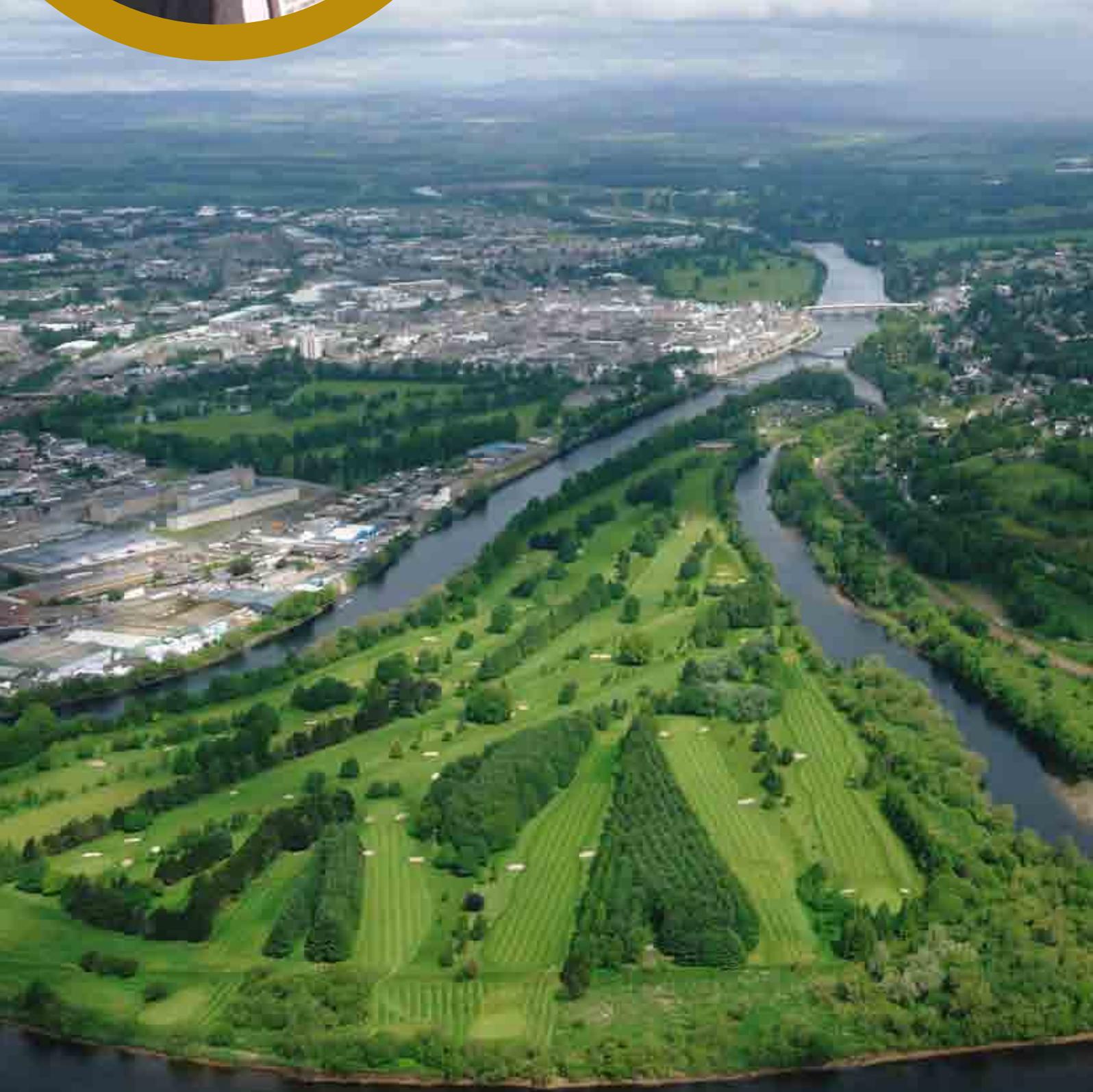


**The 51st Highland Division Memorial**

*A Dutch girl is presenting a flower to the Black Watch soldier, one of the country's liberating forces. He is carrying bagpipes, not a gun.*

*Moncreiffe Island, and the King James VI Golf Course. Opposite the apex of the Island is the centre of Perth, situated between the South and North Inches, the twin city centre parks.*

*Photograph courtesy of Sara Hulbert.*



# An Ambitious City

Perth's claim for City Status is based on much more than its Royal connections, its illustrious history as Scotland's ancient capital, and its traditions and famous residents. These are the foundations on which Perth is building a modern, dynamic international city, offering unrivalled business, artistic, educational, cultural and sporting opportunities to its citizens and visitors. It is the vigour with which Perth is pursuing these goals that merits the award of city status in HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee year.

Perth has a cosmopolitan, diverse and sharply rising population, low unemployment and a growing economy based on both indigenous and new industries. It has strong city twinning and other international links, an active and long standing tradition of community partnership and participation and a forward looking and innovative local authority.

Perth's stunning location on the River Tay, its strategic position in the very centre of Scotland at the hub of the country's transport network, and at the centre of its region, is the key to its history and its current prosperity.

Perth's strengths are its energetic and skilled people, its spread of companies from the largest to the smallest enterprises, its excellent transport links, a mix of traditional and modern architecture, a broad range of housing, modern educational, sporting and cultural facilities, a new university, high quality health and social care services and a large number of active local communities.

Situated at the centre of a ring of smaller towns and villages, Perth is the headquarters for Perth & Kinross Council, one of Scotland's leading local authorities which was praised as having *"strong and effective collective leadership... manages its finances very effectively ... and has made progress in delivering efficiency savings"* (Ref - Best Value Report by Scotland's Audit Commission 2008)

***"Perth is an intrinsic part of our Scottish history, as well as being a forward thinking, successful and dynamic place to be. I am honoured to lend my support to the Royal Burgh of Perth's application to have its ancient title of City Status restored."***

**The Rt Hon George Grubb, Lord Lieutenant and Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh**

***"In addition to your historical landmark of 800 years, myself and the City of Dundee would wish to join with you in your quest, a very deserved quest may I say, to achieve City Status which in my opinion is long overdue."***

***It is not quantity of numbers which should determine or deliver the aspiration you have, but rather quality and the City of Perth for many years has demonstrated through achievements, leadership and of course a rich Scottish history that it is comparable to any City in Scotland and better than most. Dundee will be fully supportive in any way we can to ensure your deserved success, so you can indeed depend on our friendship and determination to help your cause."***

**John Letford, Lord Provost of the City of Dundee**

***"As Provost of the City of Stirling, I have much pleasure in supporting the City of Perth in its bid to be granted formal 'City' status by Her Majesty The Queen. Given its place in the history of Scotland and its current role as a regional headquarters, Perth is well-qualified for this status and, as Provost of its neighbouring city, I wholly endorse its campaign."***

**Fergus Wood, Provost of the City of Stirling**





*Perth in 1559. No contemporary map exists, but this representation by David Simon is based on archaeological research.*

*Map: David Simon work commissioned by Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust.*



**The Carpow Log Boat**

*People have lived on the banks of the River Tay for thousands of years. The ancient social history of the area was highlighted recently by the discovery of a well-preserved Bronze Age log boat, exposed by the estuary's shifting sands. Dated to around 1000 BC, this unique artefact is being conserved for future display in Perth.*

*Photograph courtesy of Mark A Hall, Perth Museum and Art Gallery, Perth & Kinross Council.*



# Profile

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## A Confident Attractive City

Perth is a confident and attractive place, located in the heart of Scotland at the centre of the nation's transport network. In recent years, Perth and its surrounding area have experienced the highest population growth in Scotland and it is projected that this will rise by a further 21 % over the next 20 years. (Source - GROS 2008 Based Population Projections (from 2011-2031)). Moreover, this growth covers all age groups, the economically active with their families, and the retired.

Home to around 52,000 residents, Perth welcomes more than ten times that number of visitors each year. (Source - GROS 2009 Small Area Population Estimates (Data Zone Level)). They come for many reasons - to visit its major attractions, enjoy its built environment and rural scenery, spend in its unrivalled speciality shops, or attend conferences in the newest and best facilities in Scotland.

### Perth and the River Tay

The story of Perth is bound up with its great river, the longest in Scotland. With its tributaries, it drains more than 2,000 square miles (5,180 square kilometres) of central Scotland, and discharges more water into the sea than the Thames and Severn combined. The river dictated mediaeval Perth's strategic location and the communications network fanning out from it was enhanced by the construction of the earliest post Roman bridge in Scotland. This secured Perth's future as a transport hub for 1,000 years.

Serious flooding has been the inevitable consequence of Perth's location. During the great flood of 1209, sea-going ships floated up to the High Street, the mediaeval bridge and castle were carried away and King William the Lion was forced to escape in a small boat.

Nearly 800 years later in 1993, another massive flood prompted the construction of Perth's flood protection scheme, the largest and most elaborate in Scotland. It comprises five miles of embankments and walls, more than 80 gates, and two pumping stations. It has won several major awards, and greatly enhances Perth's river frontage.

### Population Growth

Perth has been growing for a thousand years. Its importance is due, in the 21st century as it was in the 11th, to its strategic location as a transport hub. As trade developed all over Europe, Perth's situation, 30 miles from the coast, at the very centre of Scotland, where sea-going vessels could connect with roads leading north, west and south, ensured its commercial success. In 1128 tax and customs revenues from Perth were more than from any other burgh in Scotland.

Nevertheless it was, by modern standards, a very small place with a population in 1291 of approximately 500. By 1550 its population had grown to around 3,000.

By 1800, the population was around 20,000, and the suburbs had breached the line of the mediaeval walls.

With the arrival of the railways in the mid 19th century, Perth's position as the hub of Scotland was greatly enhanced, with a network of lines to all points of the compass, and every city of the UK from Inverness to London. They connected Perth to its satellite burghs, boosted all kinds of trade, and brought the first tourists from the south.

*The Perth Museum and Art Gallery's fine civic architecture commands an imposing position in the centre of Perth.*

*Photograph courtesy of Graeme Hart, Perthshire Picture Agency.*

*The Perth Day parade on 2 July 2010 saw over 3,500 members of the Army, Royal Navy, Royal Air Force, youth and veteran organisations participate in the largest parade in Scotland in 2010.*

*Photograph courtesy of Graeme Hart, Perthshire Picture Agency.*



# Celebrating Perth 800 and the Diamond Jubilee

## Celebrating the 800th Anniversary of Perth's Royal Charter

In 2007, the newly elected Perth & Kinross Council decided to mount a five year programme, which would culminate in the Diamond Jubilee celebrations and an application for City Status. First the Council would promote "Homecoming 2009" enthusiastically. This was a Scotland wide series of events, sponsored by the Scottish Government, to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Robert Burns' birth. Its purpose was to attract overseas visitors to Scotland. There were more "Homecoming" events in Perth and Kinross than in any other Scottish local authority except Edinburgh and Glasgow.

"Homecoming" was a precursor to "Perth 800", a year long celebration of the 800th anniversary of the King William the Lion Charter of 1210. Its objectives were to:

- 1 *engage local communities and encourage Civic pride;*
- 2 *stimulate economic growth through tourism;*
- 3 *enhance the national and international profile of Perth;*
- 4 *lay the foundation for a bid to restore formal City Status to Perth.*

There were over 100 events ranging from international conferences to heraldry competitions for primary school children, from a concert by the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra to a "Home and Away Street Carnival" led by the world renowned Brazilian drummer, Nana Vasconcelos, and from international curling to the "Twinning Olympics", a sporting championship between young people from Perth and our twin towns of Aschaffenburg and Bydgoszcz.

The highlight was "Perth Day" on 2 July when a 3,500 strong military Armed Forces Day parade with

massed pipe and brass bands was presided over by Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, and attended by the mayors of all of Perth's twin cities. Following a Royal reception in the Museum and Art Gallery, there was a food festival in the Concert Hall organised by the Chamber of Commerce.

Perth 800 surpassed all its objectives, but it was especially successful in boosting tourism. In 2010 the average hotel room occupancy for Perth city hotels increased by 4.5% from 2009, and at 80% was at its highest level for a number of years. While the emphasis of most of the events was on local participation, some were focussed acutely on an international market.

The initiative brought a renewed sense of pride to Perth's residents, a significant boost to profile on the international stage and the involvement of hundreds of businesses, voluntary organisations and interest groups, communities and individuals across the region.

Perth people enjoyed Royal visits, Scotland's largest armed forces parade, a huge carnival, a winter Lightnight Festival and a range of sporting events including international orienteering, canoeing and motor sports.

Perth Visitor Attractions	No of Visitors (2009)
Perth Museum and Art Gallery	107,438
Scone Palace	103,000
Black Watch Regimental Museum	14,128
Fergusson Gallery	11,144
Huntingtower Castle	8,533
Branklyn Gardens	8,450
St John's Kirk	8,370

***"Aberdeen City Council are very supportive to our friends in Perth, and their claim for the restoration of its former City Status. The beautiful township of Perth carries its historic past graciously, and is after all, the Gateway to the Highlands. It would be quite wonderful in the Diamond Jubilee Year of 2012, if City Status was bestowed."***

**Peter Stephen, Lord Provost of the City of Aberdeen**





*Perth “laid out like a map” as the young Patrick Geddes would have seen it, early in the 20th century. The mediaeval grid of roads and vennels survives to this day.*

*Photograph courtesy of Mr Alan Gilruth.*

*Perth Harbour is less than a mile from the city centre, but within the City boundary. It trades with ports around the North Sea, the Baltic and North America.*

*Photograph courtesy of John McPake, the big picture.*



## A Well Connected City

Modern Perth is still the hub of Scotland, at the gateway to the Highlands, at a rough mid-point between Glasgow and Aberdeen, Inverness and Edinburgh, and between the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs and the Cairngorms National Parks. Ninety percent of Scotland's population lives within 90 minutes travelling time of the Fair City.

Perth's strategic location is the key to its economic success. An exemplar is the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI). Perth is landlocked in the centre of Scotland, and Perth and Kinross has no seaboard or lifeboat stations. Yet the RNLI has established its Scottish headquarters and maintenance base in Perth because of the excellent transport links.

### Road

Perth's location has been strengthened immeasurably by the design of the trunk road network, most of which is now dual carriageway. This network like its mediaeval predecessor, and the railway, follows the contours of Scotland's geography. Perth's by-pass, and the Friarton Bridge over the River Tay, keep the considerable amount of through traffic out of the city centre, reducing congestion and pollution.

### Sea

Perth Harbour offers cheap and easy bulk transport to all parts of Northern England, Europe and the Baltic coasts.

Its cargoes cover a wide range from animal feed and fertiliser, grain, timber, chemicals and barite ore. This last is mined locally and used in the oil and electronics industries, and in the production of paint, paper and pharmaceuticals.

Much of the building material for the Council's six new Community Campuses in the last two years, was transported by ship to Perth Harbour, greatly reducing the impact on road transport.

### Rail

Perth Railway Station is an important hub in Scotland's rail network. There are regular and fast links to all the other cities of Scotland and to the Midlands of England and London.

Perth & Kinross Council plans to develop the area in front of the station as a bus terminus, and so create a public transport hub.

### Air

Perth Airport, just outside the city boundary, is a rapidly developing private airfield catering for business and recreational aviation. It provides easy access to Gleneagles, St Andrews, and other destinations for the many sporting and other celebrities who come to Scotland.

Edinburgh Airport, the main commercial airport for east central Scotland, is 30 miles away, and Glasgow airport is 80 miles, both by fast motorway links.

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## A Regional Capital

An important element in Perth's prosperity is the surrounding ring of towns that complement Perth's facilities, and depend on Perth for services and leadership. Kinross, Blairgowrie, Coupar Angus, Aberfeldy and Crieff were once proud burghs, each with its own Town Council and Provost. These towns provide important local services, which complement those provided by Perth itself, but none challenges Perth's dominance.

In addition, there are some other small towns, a huge number of villages, large and small, farm steadings and isolated houses.

This hinterland, comprising nearly two thirds of the 147,780 population of Perth and Kinross, looks to Perth to provide the retail, educational, health, commercial, professional, industrial and administrative services, upon which their prosperity depends. *(Source - National Records of Scotland (NRS) Mid 2010 Population Estimates)*

As well as providing a market for Perth's services, they also contribute enormously to the attractiveness of Perth as a place in which to live permanently, to visit for a holiday, or as a location for a new business venture.



Whisky distillers The Edrington Group gifted this 21ft statue of a red grouse to Perth in November 2010 as part of its support for the Perth 800 celebrations. The imposing statue, built by Ruarig Maciver, can be found on the Broxden roundabout, a key gateway to Perth.

Photograph courtesy of the Edrington Group.



A Stagecoach bus in Perth.

Photograph courtesy of John McPake, the big picture.

## Our Growing Economy

Perth's economy is healthy. Unemployment at 2.6% (2011) is well below the Scottish average (4.3%). However average annual earnings at £22,360 are below the Scottish average of £25,376.

Perth's economic strength lies in its diversity, its propensity to innovate, and in particular in the balance between large companies, the public sector, a broad range of small and medium sized enterprises many employing ten people or less, and many who are self-employed.

New developments, new technologies and new practices are being developed in Perth with sustained vigour. Developments in renewable energy, insurance, manufacturing, leisure, health and transport are stimulating employment.

New ways of working have revived the fortunes of Perth's Royal Infirmary, and a new approach to the care of offenders requiring mental health treatment, is bringing a £95 million redevelopment of Perth's Murray Royal Hospital. In February 2011 the University of the Highlands and Islands, of which Perth College is the largest unit, achieved full university status.

Tourism is the single most important industry, employing 13% of the workforce. The Council's strategy to promote events has helped Perth's tourism sector to buck the trend of the recession and to enable its hotels and guest houses, alone among Scottish cities, to increase their trade last year.

This has also helped the retail sector, visitor attractions such as Scone Palace, and the many restaurants and cafés in the city to prosper.

The construction sector, though affected by the recession, has been cushioned by the building of six new Community Campuses within the Perth and Kinross area, two new primary schools, a Special Needs school, and the redevelopment of the Murray Royal Hospital. House-builders have also gained through a £10 million programme to build new Council houses.

In the last two years, the Council has allocated nearly £3 million per year to stimulate the economy.

### Major Employers in Perth City Area

Employer	Employees (approx)
Perth & Kinross Council	6,000
NHS Tayside	2,300
Scottish and Southern Energy	2,000
Aviva (insurance)	1,250
Perth College UHI	540

A number of companies of national and international importance are based in Perth.

### Scottish and Southern Energy

Established in 1943 as the North of Scotland Hydro Electric Board, Scottish and Southern Energy is now a major electricity and gas utility, and the largest company registered in Scotland. It employs 5,000 people overall and 2,000 in Perth. The company is a leading player in the rapidly developing field of renewable energy - hydro, onshore and offshore wind and tidal power. It has the UK's largest onshore gas storage facility and is the UK's fourth largest telecoms network company.

### Stagecoach

With its global headquarters in Perth, Stagecoach Group plc is a leading international transportation company, operating bus, train, tram, ferry and express coach operations, and is listed on the London Stock Exchange. Founded in 1980 by Perth born Brian Souter and his sister Ann Gloag, the company has grown to touch all five continents around the globe.

*"We are an international public transport group with 35,000 employees and an annual turnover of around £2 billion. We are proud of our roots and it is a sign of our confidence in Perth that we still have our global headquarters here. Not only is it a great place to do business, Perth offers a quality of life rivalled by few other places. I'm delighted to support the bid to restore City Status to Perth."*

**Brian Souter, Chief Executive, Stagecoach Group**





*Public art in many forms is on display along the Norie Miller Walk in Perth's Riverside Park.*

*Photograph courtesy of Roben Antoniewicz.*



*The stylish Headquarters of The Edrington Group, one of the best modern commercial buildings in Perth, perfectly sited on the banks of the Tay, with Kinnoull Hill in the background.*

*Photograph courtesy of The Edrington Group.*



## Highland Spring

Although based at Blackford, some 15 miles west of Perth, at the centre of the catchment area for its bottled water, Highland Spring depends on Perth for all the facilities of an international company. Established in 1979, it is now the UK's leading brand of bottled water, and the only one whose whole catchment area is certified Organic by the Soil Association.

## The Famous Grouse

In 1897, Matthew Gloag first created "The Grouse" blend, later named "The Famous Grouse", and now the best selling whisky brand in Scotland for the last 30 years. In 1999 the company was taken over by The Edrington Group Ltd. The company has consistently supported Perth. It has sponsored the Perth Festival of the Arts for 33 years and the Perth Show for many years.

## General Accident and Aviva

The General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Company was established by Francis Norie-Miller in 1885. In 1900 it built new headquarters, which are now the offices of Perth & Kinross Council. By 1998 a series of mergers and acquisitions saw the company absorbed into Aviva - the sixth largest insurance company in the world. The Perth office is one of Aviva's "centres of excellence", and employs around 1,250 people.

## EADS - European Aeronautical Defence and Space Company

Perth has a thriving aeronautical sector, which started as the Government's Defence Aviation Repair Agency (DARA). This was privatised three years ago, and is now part of EADS. The Perth site specialises in the overhaul and repair of transmissions and hydraulic components for military jet aircraft and helicopters. It has 300 highly skilled employees, and its total output is estimated at £30 million.

## Aeronautical Engineering Training

This company is based at Perth Airport in Scone. The courses are run in partnership with Air Service Training Ltd, part of the Perth College UHI Group. Some 12,000 engineers for airlines, maintenance organisations and the military, from over 150 countries, have been trained there during the past 75 years.

## Spectraglass

The history of glass making in Perth extends back 400 years to the first patent for glass in Scotland in 1610. In the mid 20th century Perth was famous for decorative glass - in particular Monart Ware by the Moncrieff and Ysart families and later Caithness Glass. Paperweights and other decorative glass are still made, but the factories are now in Crieff, some 18 miles to the west of Perth.

In 1983, Spectraglass was established. It is now an international market leader, and the UK's main manufacturer of specialized industrial glass, exporting to over 100 countries. It made the special lamps to carry the Olympic flame by air around the world.

## Motor Car Retailing

Perth's car dealerships, most of which are independently owned, are concentrated on the Dunkeld Road, Perth's "Motor Mile". Car retailing in Perth is very successful, comprising 10% of new car sales in Scotland, far more than Perthshire's population proportion.

## Open Road Hire

This is an example of a one-person business that started four years ago. It hires Caterham 7 sports cars for people to enjoy the scenery of Perthshire and other parts of Scotland. Trip Advisor, the world's largest travel site, rated Open Road Hire Ltd as the 'number one attraction in Scotland', for the second year running.

***"Perthshire Chamber of Commerce fully supports Perth's bid for City Status. Achieving City Status for Perth could bring benefits for all those living, working and visiting the area. City Status is a tool which can be used to help regenerate, grow and promote the whole of Perthshire, with the City of Perth at its heart."***

**Stephen Leckie, President of the Perthshire Chamber of Commerce, Chair of Scottish Tourism Forum, Chair of the Government's Tourism Leadership Group**



*HRH Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay is pictured on a recent visit to Perth's Farmers' Market. It is the source of great local pride that the idea of a modern Farmers' Market was first revived in Perth in 1999.*

*Photograph courtesy of Angus Findlay Photography.*



*Perth & Kinross Council offices bedecked with summer floral displays.*

# The Public Sector

## Perth & Kinross Council

Perth and Kinross is the fifth largest local authority area in Scotland with a total population of 147,780. (Source - National Records of Scotland (NRS) Mid 2010 Population Estimates.) Perth city area is the main conurbation with around a third of the area's total population.

The Council's objectives are to:

- provide a safe, secure and welcoming environment;
- promote healthy, caring communities;
- build a prosperous, sustainable and inclusive economy;
- develop educated, responsible and informed citizens;
- support confident, active and inclusive communities.

The Council has a partnership approach to its community planning, with energetic inputs from a range of local organisations including, among others, Tayside Police, Tayside Fire and Rescue Service, NHS Tayside, and importantly, the voluntary sector.

The Council's activity demonstrates the local authority's position as one of the leading councils in Scotland. Its 2009/10 performance report recorded many achievements during the last year. These include:

### Economic

- Establishing an Economic Leadership Board, comprising senior councillors and Council officers, and representatives from the business community. This has been particularly successful as a forum for exchanging information, and in fostering a co-operative approach to tackling the local problems of the recession.
- Providing business investment through various schemes. Last year it offered advice to some 250 new and growing businesses and provided grant aid to a further 100 businesses, generating £864,000 of private investment and safeguarding or creating 235 jobs.

- Promoting tourism through financial support for events and conferences. Last year this support helped to contribute £16 million to the local economy.
- Delivering the Department for Works and Pensions employability initiative "Future Jobs Fund". In 2010 this secured more than £500,000 to help create employment for long-term unemployed young people.
- Managing a Health and Social Care Academy to provide an introduction to this type of work for long-term unemployed people.
- Delivering a Tourism Academy programme and a supported employment pilot project with St Johnstone Football Club. Both of these schemes have created long-term jobs for local people.
- Working with major local employers such as Aviva and Scottish and Southern Energy to improve transport links for their workforce.
- Planning new transport links to the city's industrial estates, continued development of its rail links, new road links to Perth Harbour, improved park and ride facilities and a new transport interchange at Perth Railway Station.

### Social Care and Community Safety

In its activities to maintain and enhance its social care within Perth and the surrounding area, the Council has delivered a wide range of services including:

- jointly leading, along with the local police, a communities equalities advisory group to increase prevention and detection of crime and promote safe communities;
- addressing social inequalities through projects which tackle homelessness and fuel poverty;
- supporting adults with mental health needs and those with learning difficulties;
- responding to an increasing elderly population through "care at home" services and a joint project with partners, to support patients living with dementia.

## Children and Young People

The Council is widely recognised for its work with children and young people. Keeping children safe and protected is positively promoted in a number of initiatives. An example is the Children Exploitation and Online Protection Centre which has been recognised as a model of good practice. More than 400 staff have been trained to deliver internet safety training to children, young people, parents and carers.

## Culture and Sport

The Council actively promotes sport and culture including:

- *promoting a “culture matters” campaign which has increased attendances and visits to its many galleries, libraries and museums;*
- *plans to attract more major international exhibitions and a Gaelic cultural development project;*
- *providing some of the best sporting facilities in Scotland attracting international sporting events.*

## Environment

The Council’s Environment Service has a wide remit, including:

- *waste management - 50 % of municipal waste is now recycled;*
- *a commitment to Scotland’s climate change Declaration.*

## Prisons

HM Prison Perth serves the whole of Tayside. Although built originally for French prisoners from the Napoleonic wars, much of it has been redeveloped to a very high standard in recent years.

## The Health Service

Perth’s primary health care needs are well served by purpose built health centres distributed throughout the city.

## Perth Royal Infirmary (PRI)

Perth Royal Infirmary has been incorporated into Dundee’s Teaching Hospital and medical school.

New facilities have been set up, in particular new orthopaedic operating theatres, a stroke treatment centre, dialysis unit and laboratory. Dundee University has also established medical research facilities at PRI.

## Murray Royal Hospital

Due to open in late 2012, the £95 million redevelopment of the Murray Royal Hospital will create state-of-the-art facilities for adult in-patients, out-patients and day-patients from across Tayside.

In addition, the new “medium secure unit” will be one of three such units in Scotland and will serve the north east of the country.

***“Channel 4 is a major UK broadcaster and I manage the company’s creative content outside London, I support any initiative that unlocks or advances creativity in the UK’s cities. As a citizen of Perth with family ties to the area, I fully support Perth’s City Status.”***

**Stuart Cosgrove, Channel 4**

*Perth Royal Infirmary delivers key medical services to the community as part of NHS Tayside's wide-ranging health care provision.*

*Photograph courtesy of Roben Antoniewicz.*



*The High Court has convened in Perth since the 13th century. It meets now in the imposing Sheriff Court House, a listed building situated on the banks of the River Tay. The District Court was united with the Sheriff Court in 2009.*



*Although well provided with a modern, covered shopping mall as well as a major retail park, Perth has one of Scotland's best selection of independent retailers offering a wide range for discerning shoppers.*

*Photograph courtesy of Roben Antoniewicz.*



**Perth & Kinross Council  
Headquarters**

*Built for General Accident  
Insurance Company in 1900  
and extended in 1958.  
It became the Council  
Headquarters in 1984.*

*Photograph courtesy of  
Roben Antoniewicz.*



## Our Civic Governance

Perth is the regional centre within Perth & Kinross Council, one of Scotland's 32 local authorities. The Council has 41 members elected by proportional representation to twelve multi-member wards. Of these, 3 wards with 12 Councillors are entirely within the city area, and 3 more wards with 11 members cover the more peripheral parts of the city, as well as substantial parts of rural Perthshire.

In addition, Perth City is represented in the Scottish Parliament by the elected MSPs from the Perthshire North and Perthshire South and Kinrossshire Constituencies along with a further 7 MSPs representing the Mid Scotland and Fife Region.

Citizens are further represented in the UK Parliament and at the European Parliament.

At a community level, Perth City has six community councils.

The governance of Perth City is enhanced by the strong working relationships between the Council and its public sector partner organisations and the Scottish Parliament.

The Council operates within a culture of openness and transparency. It strives to continually improve its engagement with all residents, the business community, charities, those working in the voluntary sector, and other partners in the public sector.

The Council works with its community planning partners, including NHS Tayside, Tayside Police, Tayside Fire and Rescue Service, the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, the voluntary and private sectors. It agrees its annual plan and single outcome agreement with the Scottish Government on the basis of joint working across public and private sector partners.

In 2010, the Council's overall performance was assessed by the Audit Commission's Best Value Audit which said that the Council "*shows strong leadership and very good relations between elected members and senior officers.*"

***"This matter was discussed by Highland Council at our last Council meeting on 3 March 2011, where the Council agreed to endorse your bid for City Status. In agreeing to this, the Council recognises the strategic significance of Perth in terms of business, tourism, culture and commerce. The Council also recognises your historical city ties where, in the words of one of our Members, Councillor Roy Pedersen, "Perth has been a city for 800 years".***

***On behalf of Highland Council, Provost Gray and I wish Perth the very best as it endeavours to resurrect City Status as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations next year."***

**Sandy Park, Convener of Highland Council and  
Jimmy Gray, Provost of the City of Inverness**



*Residents and visitors to Perth alike can relax and enjoy a meal, or drink outdoors in the café quarter.*

*Photograph courtesy of John McPake, the big picture.*



*A new sculpture celebrating the 2011 anniversary of twinning links with Cognac. A number of villages near the French city are twinned with villages around Perth.*

*Photograph courtesy of Roben Antoniewicz.*

# A Dynamic International City

The Council and the people of Perth look outwards to Europe and beyond in order to broaden horizons, attract people to Perth, and develop our tourist ambitions.

## Europe Flag

Perth has just been awarded, in April 2011, the prestigious Council of Europe Flag of Honour, the second stage in the Europe Prize competition organised by the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers.

## Retail Specialists

Perth is recognised as having one of Scotland's best selections of independent retailers complementing its modern covered shopping mall and a retail park close to the city centre. In addition, Perth & Kinross Council has been careful to protect the viability of its town centre and has actively encouraged a café culture.

Retail specialists, including Scotland's last remaining privately owned department store, range from clothes, hats and shoes to the finest butchers and delicatessens, designer labels, antiques, arts and crafts, home furnishings, fine glass and china, leather ware and jewellery. Many businesses have been trading in the city centre for decades.

## Twinning Links

There are strong official twinning links between Perth and four European cities, Haikou in China and Perth in Ontario, Canada, and a special relationship with our 'daughter' city of Perth in Western Australia.

## Aschaffenburg in Germany

Perth's oldest and most fruitful twinning link, established in 1956, is with the Bavarian city of Aschaffenburg. This year at least 10 exchanges of football teams, choirs, brass bands, walking groups and others are planned as well as a visit by the Provost to the opening of Aschaffenburg's renovated theatre, and a visit by 40 council officers from Aschaffenburg to explore the similarities and differences in the way city authorities work in the two countries.

## Cognac in France

Perth's link with Cognac in France is founded on our mutual involvement in distilling. Also around Cognac there is a cluster of villages that are twinned with villages near Perth. This links the whole region of the Charente with Perth and Kinross.

## Bydgoszcz in Poland

This Polish town is the birthplace of the pianist, composer, diplomat and politician, Ignacy Paderewski, and it is a very musical city. In 2009, Perth Concert Hall held a series of musical events entitled "Polish Spring", and the Bydgoszcz Symphony orchestra performed. There is an annual musical festival for young people in the city, and Perth regularly sends groups to participate.

## Pskov in Western Russia

Over the last four years, "The Friends of Pskov" reactivated our twinning links and last year initiated an annual essay competition, in English, for senior High School pupils in Pskov. The prize was a fully funded visit to Perth for the winning pupil and a teacher.

## Perth, Ontario, Canada

For many years, the two communities forged relationships and friendships and this culminated in a formal twinning arrangement in 2000.

## Haikou in China

In March 2008, Perth High School became Scotland's first centre of excellence for the teaching and learning of Chinese language and culture. A Confucius Hub was set up to provide a central point in our region of Scotland for teachers and pupils to learn Mandarin. It complements our twinning link with Haikou in the Hainan Province of China.

## Links Across the Globe

In addition, there are a number of projects which link Perth with many schools and organisations in every continent. Full use of information technology is made, especially in maintaining links with countries such as Bangladesh and Malawi.

*This flashy Art Deco cinema was built in just seven weeks in 1933. Marble and redbrick with wrap around Crittall windows, it typifies the architecture of the era. The interior is now subdivided into seven cinemas. It has profited from the recent increase in cinema attendance.*

*Photograph courtesy of Roben Antoniewicz, Perthshire Photographic Society.*

*Perth Concert Hall has made a major difference to the arts and cultural sector throughout Perth and Kinross, as well as the local economy. Greater opportunities to enjoy the arts, and for Perth to host major conferences and events have become available since it opened in 2005.*

*Photograph courtesy of Jeff Condliffe, Perth & Kinross Council.*



## Our Artistic Heritage

Perth's reputation as a cultural centre has been growing steadily due to a rich arts scene rooted in a cultural heritage which draws artists and performers from across the globe. There are two important factors; the strong local appetite for cultural events, and the large number of excellent venues.

Perth has lecture halls, and exhibition space at the Museum and Art Gallery, the Fergusson Art Gallery, and the A K Bell Library, and conference and other facilities at Dewars Centre and McDiarmid Park. There are also numerous churches and church halls, including, in particular, St Ninian's Cathedral.

### Perth Concert Hall

This modern concert hall was opened by Her Majesty The Queen in 2005. It makes a huge contribution to the arts across the whole region and it is also an important architectural statement in the centre of Perth. Its versatile auditorium, "break out" spaces, and small hall, can cope with everything from classical and pop concerts to conferences, formal dinners and much more. It has attracted international artists from the Prague Symphony Orchestra to Morrissey and offers a year round programme of concerts, dance, musicals, contemporary art, film and community events.

### Perth Theatre

Perth's "A" listed Edwardian theatre, is decorated with all the gold leaf and plush red velvet of that period. It complements the concert hall in its programming. It was the home of Scotland's first repertory company, is a mainstay in Scotland's regional arts calendar and stages award-winning professional productions as well as a full community based programme of music and drama productions and workshops.

Plans are well advanced for a £13 million refurbishment, which will preserve its ambience, modernise its facilities, and also upgrade a smaller space, "The Soutar Theatre", for youth productions. £6.5 million has already been raised, and an appeal for the remainder has recently been launched.

Last year, some 425,000 people attended events at both the theatre and concert hall and it is estimated that together these venues contribute over £9 million annually to the local economy.

### Perth Festival of the Arts

There are musical and artistic events in Perth throughout the year, but a highlight is the Perth Festival of the Arts at the end of May. This year the Festival celebrates its 40th year with an international programme of events ranging from performances by the Bolshoi Symphony Orchestra, Jools Holland, the Academy of St Martin in the Fields and a range of opera, comedy and popular music. In addition there are exhibitions and recitals, school concerts and outdoor art sales.

The critically acclaimed festival has expanded its visitor numbers year on year. In 2010, it recorded a 5% increase in attendance with a record 40% of tickets sold to people from outwith Perth and Kinross.

### Arts and Crafts in Perth

Among the many specialised retailers in Perth are several commercial galleries which sell contemporary art. Around Perth there are a huge number of artists, artisans and craftsmen and women both full-time and part-time. Their work covers a broad range of creative talent from textiles to jewellery, ceramics, art and glasswork, and annually they contribute some £8 million to the economy of Perth and Kinross. Over 100 of them have come together to form the Perthshire Open Studios. Many of them also take up stalls in the Perth Festival of the Arts outdoor art sale.

### Amateur Participation in the Arts

Perth has an astonishing range of amateur participation in the arts, particularly in music. All age groups in the schools are offered tuition in singing and instrumental music, coming together at an Easter camp, and performing in the Concert Hall. Perth Youth Orchestra has a very high standard and regularly sends young people to the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland, and on to study music for a profession.

There are brass bands, chamber groups, folk groups and many choirs for all ages.

The Fair City Singers, and the Jamboree Choir both cater for children and both have performed on TV and toured abroad. The "Perform in Perth" competition in March gives children an opportunity to compete and is widely respected.

For adults there are two amateur opera companies, each putting on week long performances of high class work with orchestras. "Guys and Dolls" was performed this year by the Perth Amateur Operatic Society in Perth Theatre, and in the autumn it will be the turn of the Perth City Opera Society and "Carousel".

The Perth Symphony Orchestra has a renowned reputation, as has Chansons, a local choir and the Perth Choral Society. This last one puts on two concerts per year, including one at Christmas with the Band of the Royal Marines.

There is a strong piping tradition in Perth and Kinross, with all the old burghs having their own bands. The Perth and District Pipe Band leads all the official Council parades, for example on Remembrance Day and at the Kirkin' of the Council.

### **Perth Museum and Art Gallery**

Built in 1824, this is the oldest museum building in the UK still used for its original purpose.

Because Perth is built on alluvial silt, artefacts buried as the city developed are particularly well preserved. Perth has therefore the best record of archaeological finds of any Scottish town or city.

A Museums Recognition Scheme was launched by the Scottish Government in December 2006 to recognise and support important collections held outwith the National Galleries, the National Museum and the National Library.

Perth & Kinross Council was the first local authority to be successful in having its entire collection officially designated a 'Recognised Collection of National Significance'. In 2010, the Museum attracted 107,000 visitors.

### **The Fergusson Gallery**

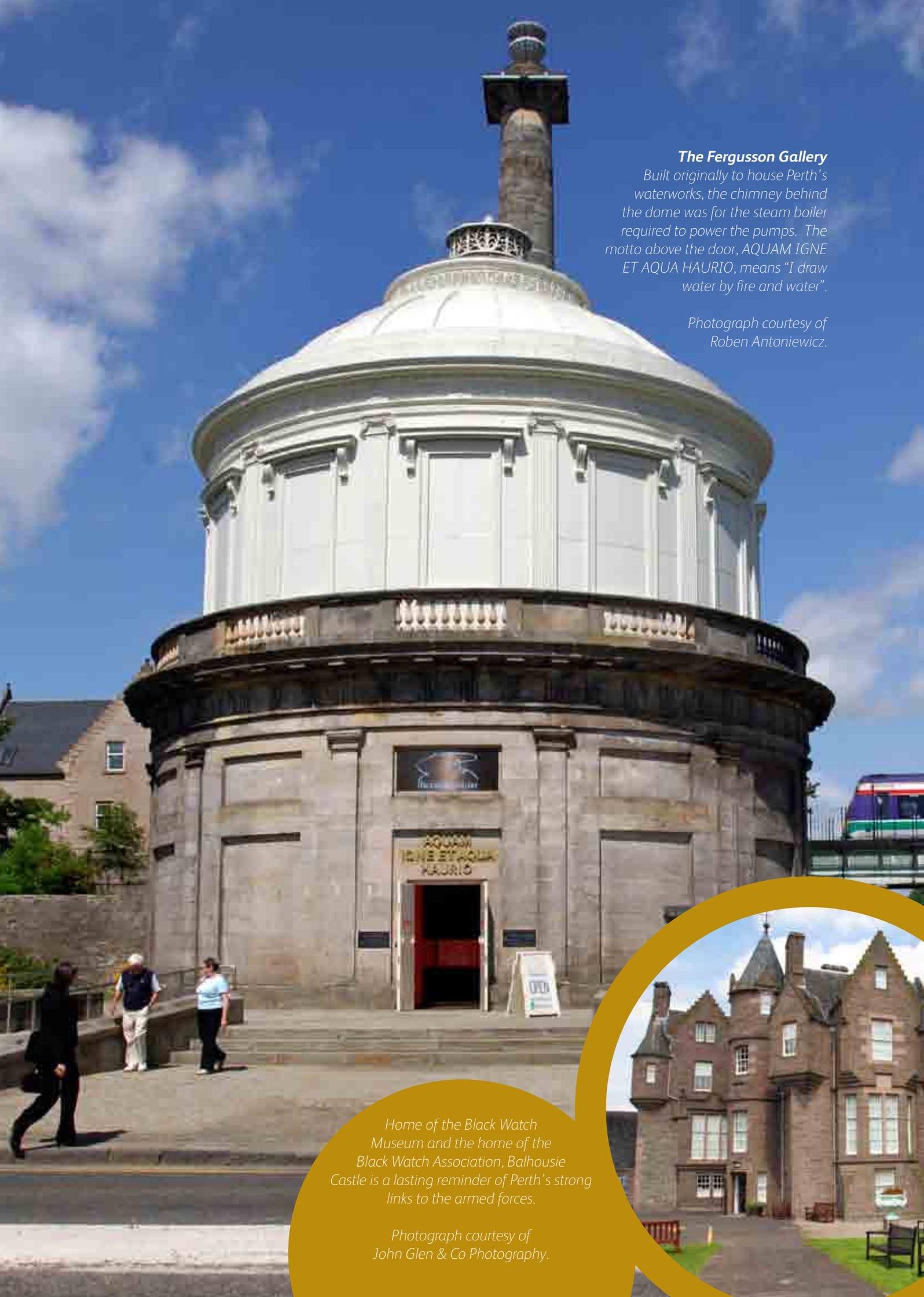
This was built in 1827 in the style of a Roman Doric temple to house the new Perth waterworks. The architect was Adam Anderson, the rector of Perth Academy. The upper domed rotunda contained the vast cast iron cistern. By 1992 it was redundant, and at that time the executors of the noted Scottish colourist J D Fergusson were looking for a site to display the pictures and artefacts from his estate. The two came together and the result is the most imaginative conversion of Georgian work anywhere in Scotland. It is a bright, well planned gallery for exhibitions of Fergusson's work, and also those of his contemporary colourists.

Recently Perth & Kinross Council accepted the gift of the Margaret Morris Archive. Margaret Morris was Fergusson's lifelong partner, and an artist in her own right, a famous choreographer, dancer and founder of the Margaret Morris Movement. She died in 1980, nearly 20 years after Fergusson, and left an extensive archive of several thousand items including programmes, photographs, correspondence, daybooks, sketchbooks, costumes, drawings, watercolour and oil paintings.

The gift allows the Council to bring these two complementary archives together, thus providing a huge potential for study and research, and raising Perth's profile significantly within the artistic and academic communities.

### **Balhousie Castle**

Balhousie Castle is the home of the Black Watch Regimental Museum and houses memorabilia, uniforms, medals, documents, paintings and artefacts pertaining to the Black Watch Regiment. An appeal for £3.2 million has been launched to extend and refurbish the building and display its contents. Already £1.9 million has been raised, and the first stage of a heritage lottery fund application has been passed. Perth & Kinross Council has supported the appeal and the Council's curatorial staff are advising on the preservation and display of the collection.



**The Fergusson Gallery**

Built originally to house Perth's waterworks, the chimney behind the dome was for the steam boiler required to power the pumps. The motto above the door, *AQUAM IGNE ET AQUA HAURIO*, means "I draw water by fire and water".

Photograph courtesy of Roben Antoniewicz.

Home of the Black Watch Museum and the home of the Black Watch Association, Balhousie Castle is a lasting reminder of Perth's strong links to the armed forces.

Photograph courtesy of John Glen & Co Photography.



*The 17th century Fair Maid's House, and adjacent arcaded Lord John Murray's House, are now the headquarters of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society.*

*Photograph courtesy of Jeff Condliffe, Perth & Kinross Council.*

*The North Inch Community Campus is one of six new, state-of-the-art facilities built for the Council to improve education, leisure and community provision in the local area.*

*Photograph courtesy of John McPake, the big picture.*



# Our Innovative Skills and Education

A massive transformation in learning has been taking place in Perth in recent years.

Perth city area has 14 Council run primary and five secondary schools and two private schools with a total school age population of some 7,000 pupils.

In recent years, the city has achieved national and international recognition for promoting positive health and wellbeing, and supporting pupils with additional needs. It has initiated some unique approaches to engaging young people who are disadvantaged. The city's Youth Council led on "The Right Blether", part of a national exercise organised by Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People, and many pupils recently attended the Pupil Council conference to debate and evaluate all of the city's education services.

In April 2010, a new meeting place opened as a place for all young people to come together to meet, share information and gain free internet access. The centre is regularly used by young people from all social backgrounds.

This year, Perth Grammar School is a finalist in the Scottish Education Awards which recognises schools who are providing opportunities for all children to have full and vibrant access to education. This is one of many awards which Perth's educational services have won in recent years.

Aviva, in conjunction with Perth & Kinross Council, and Perth College UHI have set up a new training scheme and qualification for school pupils. It is an industry first and is designed to enhance the reputation of and attract good quality recruits to the insurance profession.

## Community Campuses

This year 2011, sees the completion of six new Community Campuses - two within the city area and others in nearby towns. These, along with two new primary schools in nearby villages and a new special needs school mean new teaching places for 25 % of all our school age pupils.

These campuses also provide state-of-the-art facilities for the whole community with their libraries, sports facilities, meeting and conference rooms and even recording suites. This major £136 million investment was delivered through an innovative public and private partnership.

*"The new Community Campuses are the biggest financial investment this Council has ever made. It is clear from what we hear from people of all ages that these facilities are drawing people in with many exciting events and opportunities."*

**Councillor Ian Miller, Leader of Perth & Kinross Council**

## The University of the Highlands and Islands - Perth College

The University of the Highlands and Islands is the UK's newest university, achieving full university status in February 2011. UHI is a partnership of thirteen widely dispersed colleges and research institutions, each of which contributes to the UHI's distinctive organisation. Two are relatively large colleges in the urban centres of Perth and Inverness. The administration is based in Inverness, but Perth is the largest partner in terms of student numbers.

Perth College UHI has 500 staff, and 9,500 students including nearly 200 from over 40 overseas countries. 20 % of students are in the higher education sector, and 80 % are in further education, 84 % of students are part-time and 85 % live within a 30-mile radius of Perth.

UHI supports 3,300 full-time jobs, and contributes £191 million to Scotland's economy annually.

*"Our success in achieving university title will support economic development and help sustain our rural areas. We remain at the heart of the Perthshire community working closely with our local schools and community."*

**Dr Thomas Moore, Principal and Chief Executive of Perth College UHI**

## Royal Scottish Geographical Society

Two years ago, the society, one of Scotland's most prestigious institutions with 2,500 members world-wide, relocated its headquarters and its internationally acclaimed archive from Glasgow to Perth. It has taken over two of Perth's oldest secular buildings, and this year completed a £3.5 million refurbishment project, with the aid of a grant from the Town Centre Regeneration Fund. It is a major addition to the academic environment of Perth.

**Perth in Bloom**

The enthusiasm of Perth residents to improve their environment has led to many successes at national and international level.

Photograph courtesy of The Environment Service, Perth & Kinross Council.



Signage at the Council's unique outdoor education centre - the Waste Education Boardwalk, based at Friarton Recycling Centre in Perth. This facility is designed to help educate and raise awareness of waste and recycling among local schools and community groups.

Photograph courtesy of The Environment Service, Perth & Kinross Council.

# Our Stunning and Sustainable Environment

Perth sits on the banks of the River Tay and is surrounded by stunning Highland and Lowland landscapes. Sir Walter Scott said, *“If an intelligent stranger were asked to describe the most beautiful province in Scotland, it is probable that he would name the County of Perth”*.

Perth and its environs are recognised as one of the leading sustainable areas in Europe where residents, businesses and visitors all care passionately about the environment.

## Perth in Bloom

Twenty one years ago, Perth and its surrounding towns and villages first entered the Scotland in Bloom and Britain in Bloom contests. The motive was to brighten up the city, tackle the problems of litter and vandalism and encourage tourism.

Success came quickly in 1992. Since then Perth has won the Scotland in Bloom (now Beautiful Scotland) Large Town Trophy 14 times, and has been six times Champion of Champions.

In the Britain in Bloom contest Perth has won the Large Town trophy nine times.

As well as these main trophies, Perth has won many other national and international awards, such as the World in Bloom Challenge for “horticultural excellence”.

The success has been due to many factors: the enthusiasm of the horticulture team; volunteering; local sponsorship, and the involvement of the Bloom Team which gives young offenders an opportunity to help with the hanging baskets and flower beds.

Where Perth leads, the towns and villages across the Council area have followed.

Since 1993 they have won 53 awards in the Scotland in Bloom, and 13 in the Britain in Bloom competitions, as well as numerous other awards, including several international competitions in France and Canada.

This year, 2011, Perthshire communities are represented in three of the five categories in the Britain in Bloom “Champion of Champions” competition - Perth (Large Town), Pitlochry (Small Country Town) and Comrie (Large Village).

## Cittaslow

Perth is the first place in Scotland to become a member of the Cittaslow movement, and the surrounding area is the only Scottish Cittaslow supporting area. Cittaslow started in Italy and is a growing international network of over 140 towns in 20 countries in Europe and Asia that have adopted a set of common principles to enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors. Membership depends on satisfying a comprehensive examination relating to environmental and planning matters, and crucially on the availability of locally sourced food and its use in restaurants and cafés.

Last year, Perth hosted the Cittaslow International Co-ordinating Committee. This was the first time this prestigious committee, with delegates from as far afield as Korea and Hungary, had met in the UK. At the same time delegates from the UK Cittaslow towns held their AGM in Perth.

## Fair Trade

Perth & Kinross Council was the first Scottish Local Authority to become officially designated “Fair Trade”.

***“Perth’s claim for the restoration of its City Status is an overwhelming one. Its importance historically, socially and politically is impressive and its present and future is in the forefront in Scotland’s growth and development - it really deserves to succeed in this bid.”***

**Baroness Linklater of Butterstone**

## Environmental Projects

- A low carbon business centre supported by £100,000 investment by the local authority and the European Regional Development Fund. Its objective is to create a renewable energy business cluster.
- A “green” resorts scheme supported by many of the leading hotels of the area including the world famous Gleneagles Hotel. They are implementing advanced green technology to reduce carbon emissions and waste in their businesses and so gain recognition and support from their customers.
- An area wide “heat mapping” project to support the development of low-carbon district heating schemes in Perth and Kinross.
- A drive to increase domestic recycling. Already at 50% Perth & Kinross Council is one of the leading authorities in Scotland in recycling its household waste.
- A commercial waste collection service.
- A local community led initiative in one of Perth’s housing schemes to reduce its carbon footprint, by providing a home energy check.
- A garden share project which matches residents without gardens to those who have garden space and so encourage growing fruit and vegetables.
- The Perth Bike Station where unwanted bikes and cycling accessories are made fit for re-use or recycling. This gives important opportunities for unemployed young people to get work experience.
- A volunteer scheme by Aviva employees to help Countryside Rangers to improve one of the city area’s most popular places to walk and cycle.
- A garden project for adults with mental health needs.

**“Perth and Highland Perthshire hold a pre-eminent position as a “must visit” destination in Scotland combining first class facilities and accommodation with world class events. Each year visitors make some 870,000 trips to the city and its region and UK and international visitors contribute some £186 million to its tourism economy.**

**“I fully support Perth’s bid to become one of the UK’s great cities.”**

**Dr Mike Cantlay, Chairman, VisitScotland**

*A wide range of services maintain, enhance and protect the environment including waste management and recycling services.*

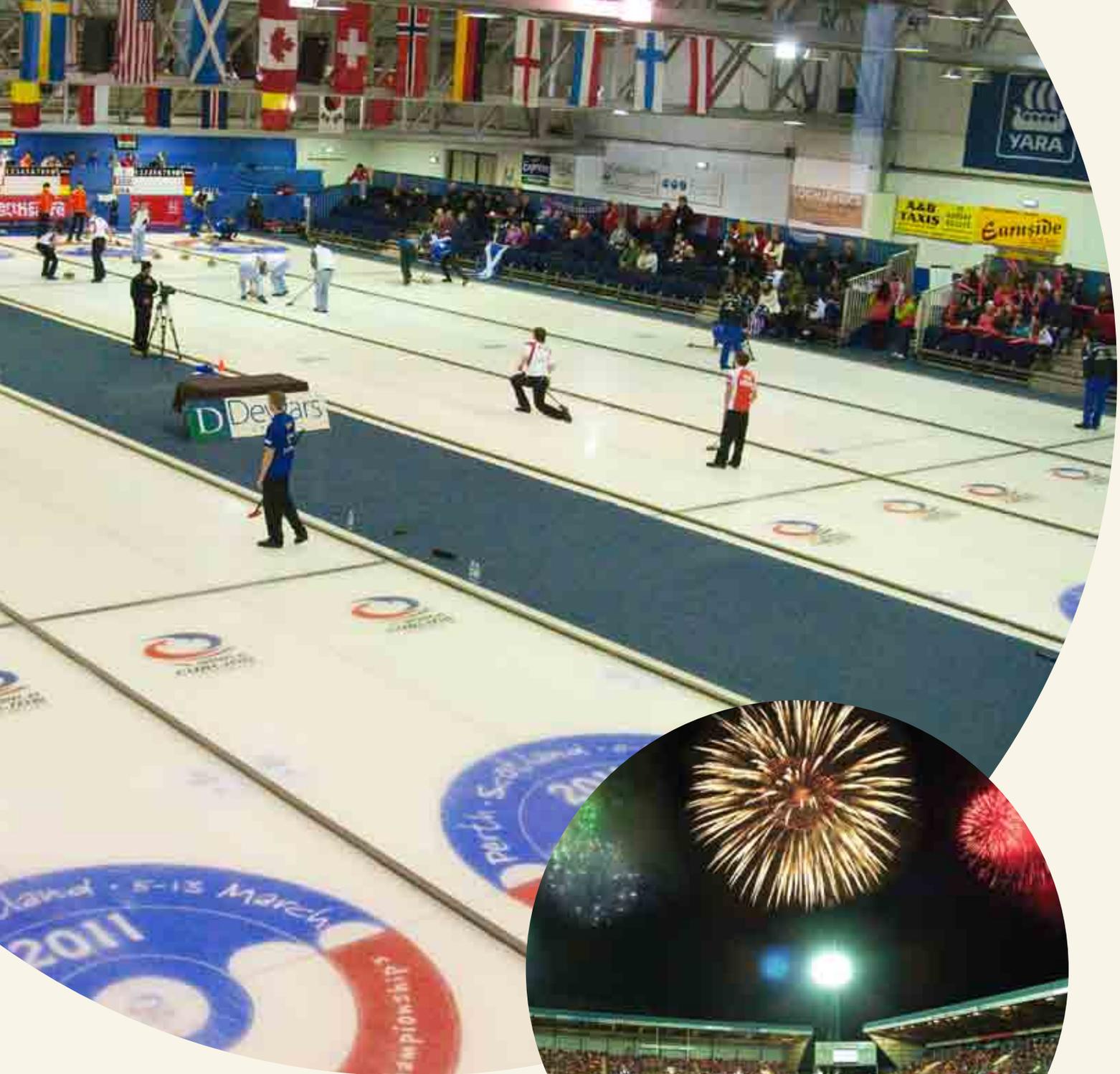
*Photograph courtesy of Roben Antoniewicz.*



*Volunteers from Aviva have been working with the local Countryside Rangers to improve one of Perth's most popular green spaces.*

*Photograph courtesy of The Rangers Service, Perth & Kinross Council.*





*The sport of curling takes place in Dewars Centre with major competitions held regularly. The rinks are however also a popular venue for conferences, meetings and events. The rinks pictured here are of the Junior World Championships 2011.*

*Photograph courtesy of Tom Brydone, Perth & Kinross Council.*



*A celebration at the home of St Johnstone FC which was one of the UK's first purpose-built all-seater football stadiums and as well as hosting regular matches by 'the Saints', it has also enabled Perth to welcome international fixtures in football and rugby.*

*Photograph courtesy of John McPake, the big picture.*



## Our Active Sports and Leisure

Perth has enviable sports and leisure facilities and has hosted very many world, international and national championship events. The area's overall approach, "to enhance opportunities for people of all ages to get involved in sports and other physical activity", recently received national recognition from SportScotland, the national sports agency.

With numerous local clubs and societies ranging across a wide variety of sports, the city area maintains a year-round healthy and active programme of activity.

### Parks and Open Spaces

Perth has an abundance of open public green space for sports and leisure activities:

- *The North and South Inches, two large parks adjacent to the city centre, were given to Perth in 1377 by King Robert III. Each of them has a variety of sporting and leisure facilities including Bell's Sport Centre, multi-sports playing fields, a golf course and a boating pond.*
- *Moncreiffe Island, in the middle of the River Tay. Access to the island and the King James VI Golf Course and adjacent allotments is by a footpath along the side of the railway bridge, and a long flight of steps.*
- *The Norie-Miller Riverside Walk is a modern sculpture trail along the river's east bank.*
- *There is gentle hillwalking, accessible to wheelchair users, on Kinnoull Hill, Craigie Hill and St Magdalene's Hill, all within minutes of the city centre.*
- *The Lade Path is a four mile waterside walk within the city boundaries.*

### Perth's Sporting Facilities

The city has enviable sporting facilities including Bell's Sports Centre, one of Scotland's largest indoor centres; Dewars Centre ice rink and indoor bowling arena; Perth Leisure Pool, one of Scotland's most popular leisure pool complexes; the George Duncan Athletics Stadium; and a variety of fitness centres.

### Curling

This year, 2011, is the 500th anniversary of the earliest record of curling. The date 1511 is engraved on an ancient curling stone that was found in an old curling pond in Perthshire. It is the oldest of many such stones found in Scotland, and it puts Scotland, and Perth, firmly on the map as the place where curling started. The earliest continental records of curling are paintings by the Dutch master Pieter Bruegel, dated 1565, over 50 years later.

Warren Hansen, in "Curling: The History, The Players, The Game", states, "*Since in no other country have such stones been discovered, the game played on ice with stones must have originated in Scotland*".

### International Curling Competitions

Perth's Dewars Centre regularly hosts international curling matches. Each January 32 teams, 16 from overseas, compete for the Ramada Masters championship. This year the World Junior Championships saw teams of young men and women from 13 nations taking part in a 10-day competition.

### The Royal Caledonian Curling Club and the World Curling Federation

The Royal Caledonian Curling Club's royal title came about in Perth, in 1843, when Lord Mansfield demonstrated curling to Queen Victoria, by throwing a stone down the polished ballroom floor of Scone Palace. She was so enthused by the game that thereupon she granted the Caledonian Curling Club the right to use the "Royal" title.

In 1965 the International Curling Federation was set up in Perth, and the impetus for official status as an Olympic Winter Sport began. Later, the Federation changed its name to the World Curling Federation and it is still based in Perth.

## Golf

Perth's royal connections, and the evidence that golf was played in Perth earlier than in St Andrews, suggests that Perth should claim to be the home of golf. It was here in Perth, that King James IV first bought golf clubs and balls in 1502 - making him the first named golf player, and Perth the first place in the world to be identified with golf. It was here too, that his great grandson, James VI, learned to play on the South Inch.

There are three golf courses and a golf centre within the City boundary. One of these is the unique King James VI golf course on Moncreiffe Island laid out by Tom Morris. It is the only island course, within a city boundary, and it is one of Scotland's oldest.

## The Royal Perth Golfing Society

This important Perth institution was founded in 1824 and its Royal patronage was granted by King William IV in 1833, predating by a year the permission to use the Royal title granted to the "Society of St Andrews Golfers", later the Royal and Ancient.

## Football

The whole of Perth celebrated the promotion of local St Johnstone FC to the Premier League in Spring 2009. A city deserves to have a football team in the Premier League. Their home ground, McDiarmid Park, was one of the first purpose built all-seated football stadiums in the UK and has hosted many international football and rugby games. Its design allows for excellent spectating of the big games as well as offering a range of facilities for conferences and other community events.

## Horse Racing

The first record of horse racing in Perth was on the North Inch, in 1613, when "The Silver Bell" was the trophy. Just over 100 years ago, in 1909, the racecourse at Scone Palace was laid out. It has been voted Scotland's best smaller racecourse. It has a fine setting and some spectacular jumps and regularly attracts some of the finest horses, trainers and jockeys on the circuit.

In the past ten years, attendances at race meetings at Perth have more than doubled from 24,000 in 2000 to over 57,000 in 2007. Over the past three years the racecourse has consistently attracted over 50,000 visitors to its meetings. In addition, the racecourse and its facilities welcomes a further 10,000 visitors attending various other events. A total of 3,500 days of employment is directly created as a result of the Perth Racing calendar.

Importantly, since 2004, Perth has increased its share of the Scottish racing industry from 13.8% to over 18%.

## Angling

As Scotland's most famous salmon river, the Tay attracts anglers from all over the world. Salmon and trout fishing rights within the city boundary are owned by the Perth Common Good Fund, which offers reasonably priced permits.

## Étape Caledonia

The annual Étape Caledonia is the only closed road cycle race in the UK, taking place over 81 miles in Highland Perthshire. It attracts thousands of cyclists and spectators and provides a boost of some £1 million to the local economy.

***"This would be a fitting conclusion to the celebrations marking the 800 years since the granting of the Royal Burgh Charter."***

**Gordon MacMillan  
Head of News, Scottish Television**



*The fine setting and testing fences at Perth Racecourse make it one of Scotland's most popular horse-racing venues. The Racecourse's facilities are also frequently used for events of all kinds from conferences to exhibitions.*

*Photograph courtesy of John Glen & Co Photography.*



*Perth's North Inch golf course attracts players from near and far to play its scenic 18 holes beside the River Tay.*



*The A K Bell Library offers not only books and reference material but free wi-fi internet access, adult learning opportunities and exhibition and meeting spaces.*



### **Bell's Sports Centre**

*This domed structure on the North Inch is one of Scotland's largest sports facilities. It regularly hosts important international events, such as the Scottish Open Volleyball Tournament.*

*Photograph courtesy of Live Active Leisure.*

# Our Energetic Communities

Perth is a place which embraces a positive and energetic community spirit where new ideas are fostered, supported and enthusiastically put into practice by local people.

A tangible and practical approach is led by the city's community planning partnership comprising all the city's public sector organisations: Perth & Kinross Council, Tayside Police, Tayside Fire and Rescue, NHS Tayside, Perth College UHI, Scottish Enterprise and leading members of the voluntary sector.

## Perth and Kinross Association of Voluntary Services

This association is one of the longest-standing local charities and has been "making the difference" in Perth and Kinross for over 35 years. With roots buried deep in the needs of its local community, it offers a unique and dynamic approach to meeting current and emerging needs while giving a voice to the wider voluntary sector.

It is an umbrella organisation providing help and advice to over 100 other local charities, community groups and volunteer organisations. It helps secure funds, recruit volunteers and provides a communal, city centre space for meetings.

The association also encourages individuals and groups of local people to take pride in their neighbourhoods and communities and enables people to volunteer their time for the benefit of life in their local community.

A recent example of its work is the Minority Ethnic Access Development (MEAD) project, a joint initiative between many public and voluntary agencies which seeks to enable the expanding migrant population to play a full and active role in their communities.

*"We fully support Perth's bid for the restoration of City Status. Perth and the surrounding rural locations it supports are thriving as attractive places to live and work. Restoring City Status would strengthen this further."*

**Karen Cowley**  
Chief Executive of Perth and Kinross  
Association of Voluntary Services

## Community Projects

Important community projects include:

- *The Perth and Kinross Youth Council which has links with the Scottish Youth Parliament and is the only national elected body of young people of its kind in Europe.*
- *Ancestry workshops which provide a basic introduction to family history research.*
- *Perth and Kinross Healthy Communities, an initiative led by local older people.*
- *Woods for Wellbeing is an innovative project enabling people who are suffering from mental illness to access the outdoors.*
- *Show Racism the Red Card is a partnership project with St Johnstone FC. Its objective is to raise awareness of racism among young people.*

## Charitable Trusts

Perth is the home of three of Scotland's great whisky companies - Dewars, Bell's and Matthew Gloag and now benefits from several important charitable trusts established by these companies which provide grant funding for numerous community projects each year.

The Gannochy Trust was founded by A K Bell of Bell's whisky. Major donations from the trust helped to build Bell's Sports Centre, the A K Bell Library, the Perth Concert Hall and the establishment of Capability Scotland, a charity to support disabled people. Smaller donations underpin a huge range of community activity in Perth and Kinross.

The Forteviot Trust was founded by Dewars whisky baron Lord Forteviot. This trust has recently awarded a grant for the refurbishment of St John's Kirk. Other trusts include The Robertson Trust which owns the Famous Grouse and distributes some £9 million annually, the Thomson Trust and the Cairncross Trust.



*Scenic view from the North Inch Park towards Rose Terrace, a fine example of a Georgian terrace of housing.*



*New city centre housing along the banks of the former Mill Lade.*



## Our Developing City

Perth has a clear vision for its future development as a vibrant and successful place which offers a safe, secure and healthy environment and where people and communities are nurtured and supported.

Whilst protecting its best assets it welcomes sizeable population and economic growth.

It is a city which is planning to secure the future for its communities along with increased prosperity and with a growth in employment opportunities matching its social and cultural expansion as its population rises over the next decade.

Perth City is highly valued for the beauty of its natural and built environment. It is being developed in a way which does not detract from its attractiveness or place a burden on future generations.

Twin development objectives focus on creating quality places and addressing climate change challenges.

It plans to ensure that the location of new development contributes to reducing the need to travel, enhances the environment and embraces the principles of sustainable design and construction.

It aims to improve the long-term resilience of the natural and built environment and ensure that development and land uses make a positive contribution to helping minimise the causes of climate change.

Major planned projects, which incorporate these objectives, include the development of a new city square, business expansion schemes and the major re-development of the theatre. New public and private housing developments are also planned to add to the city area's 26,500 homes.

These will include new local authority housing, and other housing developments to meet the city's need for affordable homes.

Currently, large scale city centre public realm improvements are underway and will add to the city's achievement of having the cleanest streets in Scotland.

Significant progress is currently being made towards a trunk road bypass of the city, including a new bridge over the River Tay. This latter project will enhance the city's transport infrastructure and connections and reduce through traffic within the city centre.

The city's physical enhancements and regeneration projects are matched by its social and cultural regeneration objectives. These aim to promote ever greater community cohesion within the city area and its neighbourhoods.

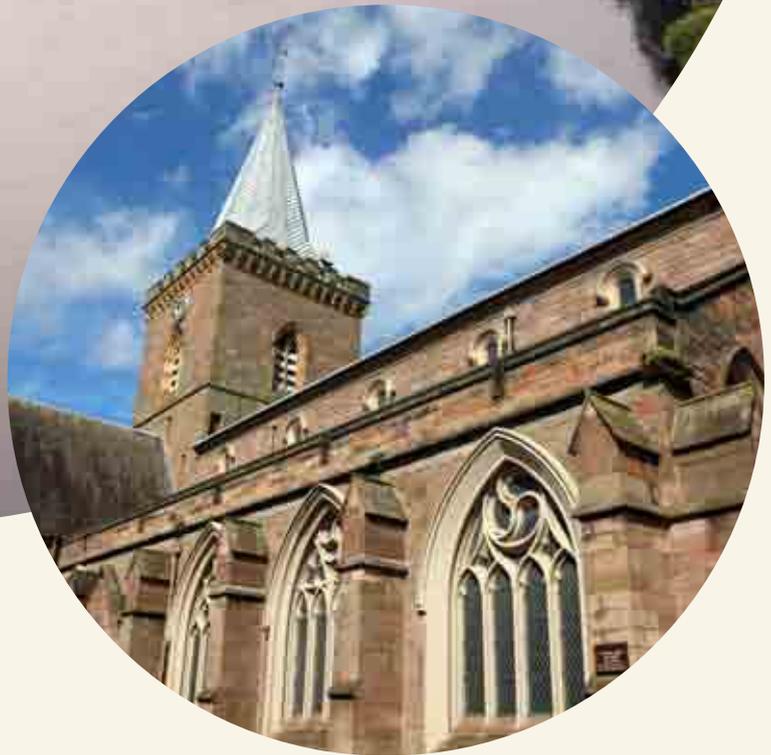
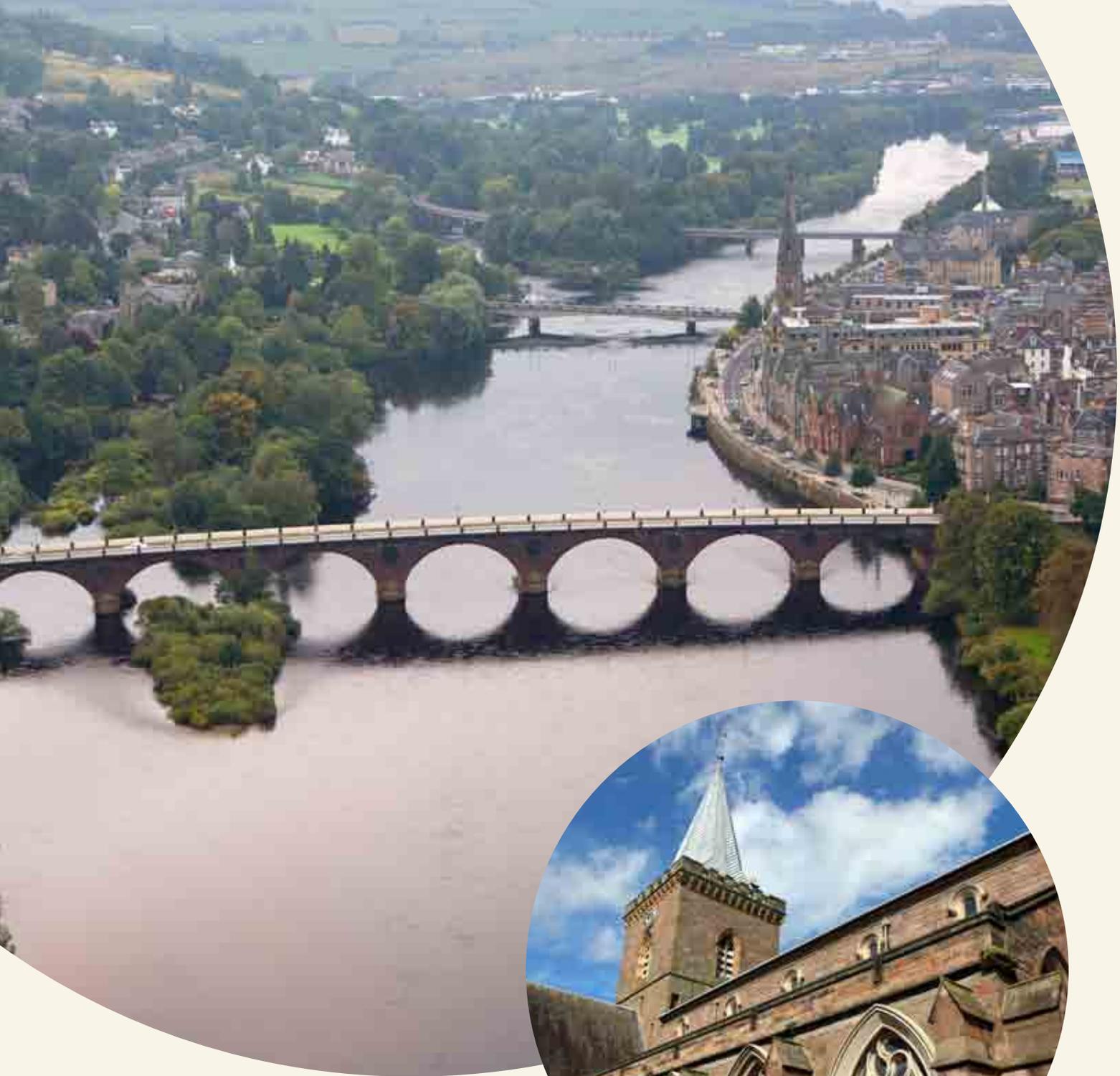
A good example is the recently completed Community Campuses which, over the next decade, are expected to deliver 21st century ways in which people of all ages and across all sectors in local communities learn, live, work and play together.

Perth's sense of place for people with a common purpose, is shown through its conscious efforts to support its various inhabitants; a place where the safety of children and the needs of the elderly are promoted and protected, where visitors are welcomed and where investment is encouraged.

From its 11th century grid iron town plan through subsequent centuries of development including its period of distinctive Georgian and Victorian expansions, Perth has continually developed to become the dynamic international city it is today.

***“Scotland’s cities are a major source of national pride and a driver of many parts of Scotland’s economy. We believe the economic impact generated by the creation of the City of Perth would benefit all of Scotland, particularly the distinct geographical area to become the Perth City region.”***

**Dr Lesley Sawers**  
Chief Executive of Scottish Council for Development & Industry



### **Perth's Bridges**

*In the foreground are seven of the Old Perth Bridge's nine arches. In the centre is the graceful Queen's Bridge. In the distance is the railway bridge, crossing over Moncreiffe Island and then curving away to the east bank of the river, heading to Dundee.*

*Photograph courtesy of Mike Bell, Perthshire Photographic Society.*

*The High Kirk of St John the Baptist.*

*Photograph courtesy of John McPake, the big picture.*



## The High Kirk of St John the Baptist

The first reference to the Kirk of St John was in 1128, in a grant from King David I. However, there is archaeological evidence of a church on the site three centuries earlier. It is Perth's only surviving mediaeval building and is truly the centrepiece of Perth life. The street plan of the old city is literally built around it. The heart of King Alexander III was buried here in 1286, his death ushering in the Wars of Independence. King Robert The Bruce funded repairs to the church following the conflict.

From 1440, a new church was built in stages, with Royal connections continuing. King James IV funded the nave in the 1490s. It is not known for certain when the tower and spire were completed, but it was before 1511 because in that year the contract for the tower of Aberdeen's St Machar's Cathedral cited Perth as the model to copy.

On 11 May 1559, St John's was the scene of a pivotal moment in Scotland's history, when John Knox preached a sermon that so inflamed the townsfolk that the burgh's wealthy religious houses were sacked immediately afterwards. After the Reformation and the establishment of Presbyterianism in Scotland, St John's Kirk was divided and much altered. However, following the First World War, the Kirk was sensitively restored by Sir Robert Lorimer, so that it is still essentially the 15th century construction that we see today.

Sir Robert Lorimer also designed the war memorial to the dead of the First World War. This is one of the finest works of Lorimer and the group of craftsmen who turned his ideas into reality. It is the focus of Perth's Remembrance Day Service.

St John's Kirk has 63 bells, more than anywhere else in the United Kingdom. Of these, 35 form the carillon which is played regularly. The largest bell, the 16th century "Bourdon", would have been heard by John Knox himself.

## Perth's Bridges

Perth's first bridge was swept away in the great flood of 1209, but was soon replaced. The first recorded stone bridge was built in 1329. During the 16th century, records suggest that it was damaged more than once by floods and rebuilt extensively in 1616. Described by King James VI as "a most precious jewel in our kingdom", it was swept away within five years.

Ferries carried all cross-river traffic for the next 150 years, until the famous English engineer, John Smeaton, built a new 9 arch bridge which opened in 1771. The very symbol of the city, "Perth Bridge" still carries main road traffic. Downstream, the Queen's Bridge celebrated the 50th anniversary of its opening by Queen Elizabeth in 2010.

The Railway Bridge, which crosses the north end of Moncreiffe Island, carries the track to Dundee and Aberdeen. It was opened in 1849 and incorporates a footpath. This is the only access to the island, its golf course and allotments, except for a causeway to the east bank which is passable only at very low water.

***"Perth, an unusual town in its original compact layout, also has the most distinctive of all Georgian expansions"***

**David Daiches in "The New Companion to Scottish Culture, 1981"**

*“The people of Perth are extremely proud of their Fair City and while they celebrate its historic past, they look forward with great confidence and ambition to the future.*

*“Perth is growing in both stature and in the number of people who choose to live, work, visit and invest in the City.*

*“Today its popularity is at an all time high, as people from across Scotland join with others from across the world, to pledge their overwhelming support for Perth’s bid to become the next UK city.”*

**Bernadette Malone, Chief Executive of Perth & Kinross Council**

*“The award of City Status to Perth would acknowledge Perth’s history as the first capital of Scotland, recognise Perth’s strategic importance in modern Scotland and reward the people of Perth, and of Perth & Kinross Council, for their enterprise and commitment over the years.”*

**Dr John Hulbert, Provost of Perth and Kinross**



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