

THE NATIONAL



HOW SCOTLAND CAN THRIVE AS AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY

WHEN was the first time you heard that Scotland couldn't make it as an independent country?

It's hard to remember a time before that message, that propaganda, and over

successive decades it's been used to convince Scots that we're not fit for self-governance.

Deployed in various forms at various times, the message has been absorbed by many Scots – as anyone who witnessed then-Labour leader Johann Lamont declaring in 2014 that

“We in Scotland are not genetically programmed to make political decisions” will know. What a nonsense statement – and how ridiculous the idea that Scotland is unique among all countries of the world in not being able to go it alone.

Which is why it's time to reset

the message and reevaluate who we are as a nation, and what we are capable of – and what more could be achieved will full control over our future.

Today The National sets out why we're Big Enough, Rich Enough, Smart Enough to do what almost every other nation in

the world does – run its own affairs, make its own decisions, direct its own path.

After all, what is the alternative? To remain in a dis-United Kingdom where the government is crumbling as quickly as the parliament it is supposed to lead.

SCOTLAND IN NUMBERS

5.4m

MORE than five million people live in Scotland – that's more than the populations of already independent states Iceland, Jamaica, Malta, San Marino and Ireland.



1345

SCOTLAND has stunning scenery, attracting hundreds of thousands of visitors to the Highlands each year – the largest mountain in the British Isles, Ben Nevis, stands at 1345m above sea level.

90%

RIVERS, lochs, canals and ponds in Scotland contain 90% of the UK's freshwater.



170

Scotland is proud to be home to a diverse population. More than 170 languages are spoken across the country, including Gaelic, Scots, British Sign Language and many more.

14.3m

Plenty people travel to and from Scotland every year. In 2018, our busiest airport – Edinburgh – served 14.3 million customers and 157 destinations.

BIG ENOUGH!

Is Scotland too SMALL to be an independent country? Of course not! Here's why

TOWERING hills, huge skies, high rises, big business and huge ambition – Scotland is home to all of these and more. The geography and demography are undeniable – Scotland has a smaller land mass and lower population than its nearest neighbour.

At around 80,000 sq km to England's total of more than 130,000, and at 5.4 million people to the almost 57m living in England, it's not hard to see why the "too wee" myth has persisted.

But, in terms of governance, constitution and the economy, the maths doesn't add up – and Scotland's size relative to that of England is one of the key reasons why it should be independent.

What the population imbalance does add up to is a democratic deficit that denies Scotland a say on the most basic of matters at a UK level.

Take Brexit, one of the most outrageous examples of this deficit in action.

Voters in every single one of the country's 32 local authority areas delivered a Remain majority, with more than 60% of people declaring their wish to remain within the European Union's family of nations.

But now the country is being dragged from the EU against its will as a result of a strong Leave vote in England and Wales, which delivered an overall 52% Leave majority for the UK as a whole.

That referendum was called by David Cameron, the leader of a government Scotland did not choose and did not want.

In fact, Scotland has not voted for a Tory government for more than half a century.

And that democratic deficit has cost lives. In a 2017 report, NHS Health Scotland said Thatcher's social and economic policies in the 1980s are responsible for the premature deaths of hundreds of working-class Scottish men.

The report said drug-related deaths in recent years are linked to long-term substance use by males from working-class populations who, due to London's decisions, were left

with "rising income inequality" and "the erosion of hope".

And while the Scottish Government is doing what it can with its powers – recently extended after a *sair fecht* – Westminster retains the key controls that could allow us to increase our population and boost our economy.

Gaining the gift to decide who lives and works in Scotland could help bring new blood to rural communities, close skills gaps and help staff key sectors like agriculture and social care.

But London leaders won't allow the Scottish Parliament the chance to make that choice. And the Tory Government's policy to slash immigration – a policy which does not serve Scotland – will be rolled out here, regardless of the predicted harm.

Unless, of course, we do what so many other modern nations have done and embrace independence.

That's what Singapore has done, and Ireland, and Malta – three very different countries with populations around the same size or smaller than Scotland, and all of which were once ruled by London.

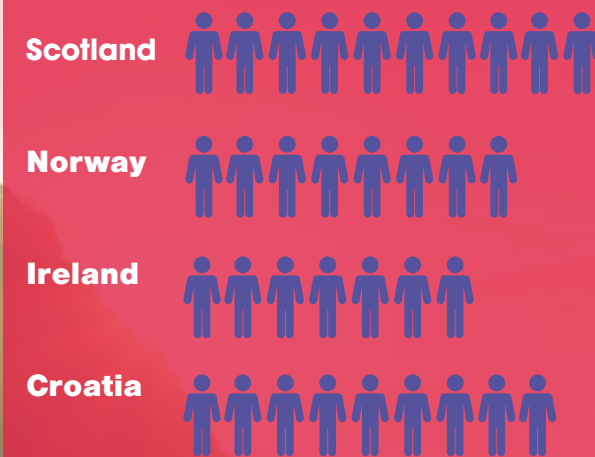
With thriving industries, diverse populations and strong national identities, no-one could look at these states – all major tourism draws – and say they'd be better British.

If they can do it, why not Scotland?

A NORMAL COUNTRY

Scotland had a GDP of £178.6 billion in 2018, placing us 20th in Europe.

Scotland also has the 28th largest population in Europe, ahead of Norway, Ireland and Croatia.

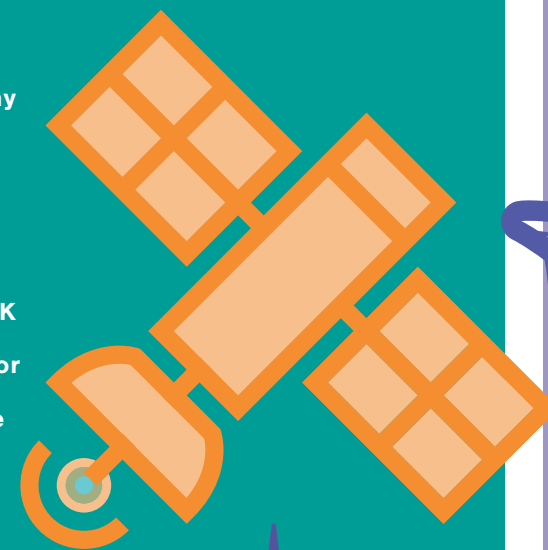


DID YOU KNOW? Scotland hasn't voted for a Tory govt for more than half a century!

SCOTLAND... AND BEYOND

SCOTLAND is increasingly looking to the stars. Glasgow builds more satellites than any European competitor and almost 20% of the UK's space sector jobs are based in Scotland.

The number of space companies headquartered here has grown by 25% since 2016, and, according to the UK Department for International Trade, Scotland's space sector will be worth up to £4bn by 2030 as companies like Clyde Space, which specialises in small devices, and data firm Ecometrica continue to push the boundaries of what is possible.



NATURAL CAPITAL

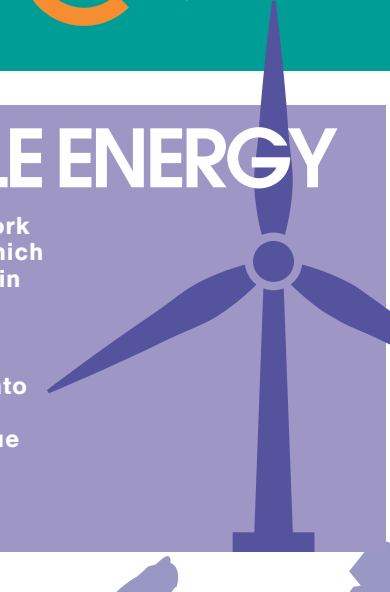


THE Office for National Statistics (ONS) found fish capture in Scotland's waters increased by more than two thirds from 2003-16 and accounts for 70% of the UK total, while timber production – which is around 60% of the UK total – almost doubled between 1997 and 2017.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

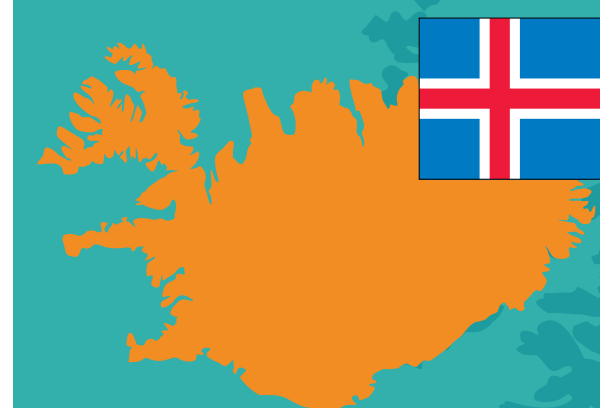
AS many as 17,700 people work in the green power sector, which turned over a total of £5.5bn in 2017.

Our renewables expertise is now at work in more than 70 countries as firms enter into projects in places including Burundi, Canada, Mozambique and Taiwan, according to industry body Scottish Renewables.



DID YOU KNOW? The coastline of Argyll & Bute is longer than the coastline of France!

SOME SMALL SUCCESS STORIES

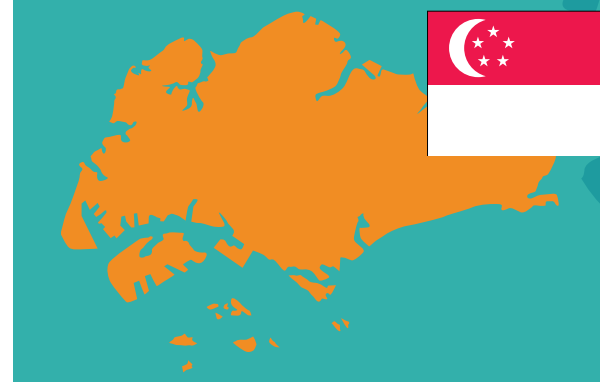


ICELAND:

HOME to one of the world's oldest surviving parliaments, Iceland has a population of fewer than 359,000 – that's around the same as North Lanarkshire.

Trying telling them they're too small and see where it gets you. The country gained its independence from Denmark in 1944 and returned its – and the world's – first directly elected female president in 1980.

Famed for its unique geography, it counts tourism as a major part of its economy, with seafood and aluminium also among the top sectors.



SINGAPORE:

THIS south-east Asian city-state is a global financial hub that is home to 5.6 million people.

The former British colony, which became independent in 1965, is a confident "tiger" economy which promotes entrepreneurship and is ranked the best for human capital development in the World Bank Human Capital Index.

Leaders there invest heavily in education to keep the economy competitive.

SCOTLAND IN NUMBERS

1.5bn

Scotland's natural water resource has a huge value. As of 2014, lochs alone were estimated to contribute between around £1.4bn and £1.5bn a year to our economy.



DID YOU KNOW?

Scotland was the only country of the UK with a surplus in traded goods in 2017

4.7bn

Scotch whisky is beloved around the world, which is why its export value grew by 7.8% last year to reach £4.7bn.

6.3bn

Thanks to our world-class salmon, beef and whisky, and the promotion of Scotland The Brand, Scottish food and drink exports were worth a record £6.3bn to our economy in 2018.



2.27bn

Scotland's historic, cultural and natural offerings attract more than three million visitors to the country in 2017, who in turn spent £2.27bn

345,915

Scotland is full of innovative and successful businesses ... as of March 2019, there were 345,915 private sector firms operating in the country.

TOP OF THE GAME

FROM Lemmings to Grand Theft Auto, and Minecraft to Red Dead Redemption, Scotland is a major player in the video games sector.

Dundee is the unofficial capital of UK gaming, thanks to the EU-leading training available at Abertay University, and is home to companies including Outplay Entertainment, the largest independent mobile developer in these islands.

More than 1500 staff are working across 80 companies, and in 2018 they contributed £194 million to the UK's gross domestic product, according to industry body TIGA.

And Grand Theft Auto V, the latest in a series originated by the team at Edinburgh-based Rockstar North, has made more money than any film, book or gaming title ever released.



Forget Avengers or Avatar – Grand Theft Auto is the biggest selling entertainment product in history.

Rockstar North, the team behind the franchise, are based in Edinburgh.



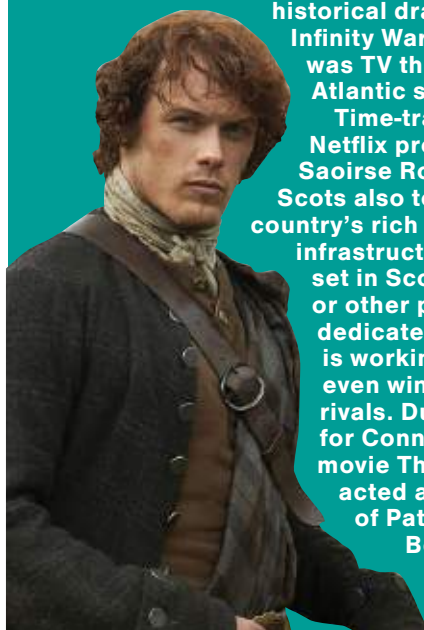
FESTIVALS... & FILMS

THINK the World Cup draws a crowd? Edinburgh's festivals are bigger, according to official figures.

More than 4.5 million people attended the capital's cultural festivals in 2015, taking in world-class and cutting-edge performances by poets, playwrights, and puppeteers. Comedy, contemporary dance, classical music – it's all on offer every year, right here in Scotland, and audiences travel from around the globe to be a part of it. The city's festivals include not only summer events, but also its renowned Hogmanay celebrations.

These events not only educate and entertain locals and visitors alike, but they also showcase Scotland as a destination and cultural powerhouse.

FILM and TV production spending hit almost £100 million in 2017. The country has played its part in everything from superhero blockbusters to historical dramas – Avengers:



Infinity War was partly made here, as was TV thriller The Cry and Sky Atlantic series Patrick Melrose. Time-travel show Outlander, Netflix production Outlaw King and Saoirse Ronan movie Mary Queen Of Scots also took advantage of the country's rich scenery and strong infrastructure. Where once stories set in Scotland were shot in Ireland or other places, Screen Scotland, a dedicated arm of Creative Scotland, is working to reverse that trend and even win shoots from international rivals. Dumfries recently stood in for Connecticut for Glenn Close movie The Wife, while Glasgow acted as New York for the filming of Patrick Melrose, starring Benedict Cumberbatch. It's hoped that the action will be worth £160m by 2022.



Is Scotland too POOR to be an independent country? Of course not! Here's why

RICH in natural resources and human capital, Scotland is the birthplace of the industrial revolution and a hotbed of entrepreneurship which has contributed massive amounts of wealth to the UK economy – just ask the oil and gas sector.

Of course, the North Sea's fortunes have ebbed and flowed in recent years as the price of crude wavered. But even when the bill-per-barrel dropped, our oil-rich neighbour Norway generated more than £29 thousand million in revenues during a period when the UK lost £23m.

So, what's the difference? Policy. As well as taxing multinationals like Shell at the same time the UK was giving them rebates, Norway benefited from its oil fund, the world's largest sovereign wealth fund.

The £829 billion pot was established by the government to protect and grow the wealth created by its oil and gas sector for future generations.

Despite repeated calls, no such action has been taken by the UK, where the IPPR thinktank says the industry contributed £166bn in taxes in the 1980s alone. And if Westminster had set up a Norway-style fund back then, Scotland would have at least £100bn in the bank by now – that's according to Jim Cuthbert, a former chief statistician to the Scottish Office.

Writing in The National in March, the economist, who also worked for the Treasury, said the cash has been "effectively misappropriated".

And the 1974 McCrone Report – written for the UK Government

and kept from the public for 30 years – told how the discovery of North Sea oil had "completely overturned the traditional economic arguments used against Scottish nationalism" and predicted that an independent Scotland would amass "embarrassing" wealth from oil.

That was in 1974, this is 2019, and while an estimated 11.9bn barrels remain untapped, Scotland is leading the way in the UK renewables sector.

Aside from fuel, Scotland's international exports rose to £32.4bn in 2017, recording the highest annual growth rate since 2011.

Meanwhile, exports to the rest of the UK brought in another £48.9bn that year thanks to demand for the service and financial sectors.

Far from resting on oil and gas, Scotland has a diverse economy with particular strengths in manufacturing and food and drink – you won't see anti-independence voices repeat that.

Without full control over our finances, Scotland can't take full benefit from its economic activity, and our taxes are used to fund things we don't want or can't use. Like replacing Trident, a nuclear weapons system based just outside our most populous city, and England's forthcoming high-speed railway, which will not reach our border.

According to the Office for National Statistics, Scotland's natural resources – including wind, water, timber, oil and gas – are worth £273bn. The figure was worked out for 2015, when oil prices were way down. Now they're back up again.

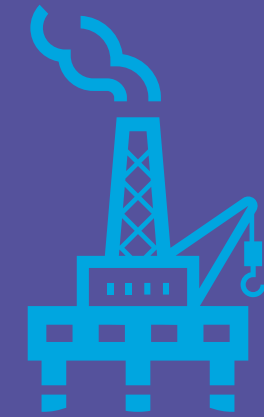
But it means Scotland, which has 8.4% of the UK's population, has at least 34% of its total natural wealth. Meanwhile, our citizens and institutions are driving development in science and industry.

And that adds up to something – we're rich enough to run our own affairs.

DID YOU KNOW?

Scotland, which has 8.4% of the UK's population, has at least 34% of its total natural wealth

WEALTHY NATION



NORWAY'S oil fund is worth more than one TRILLION dollars ... meanwhile, the UK has refused to keep any revenue for future generations. But there are still 11.9 billion barrels of oil left in the North Sea – and new fields are being discovered all the time.

SKYSCANNER was founded in Edinburgh – and the flight-checking website was sold for £1.4 BILLION three years ago.

FILM and TV production contributes £100 million to Scotland's economy – and that is set to rocket in the coming years.

MORE than 4.5 million people attend Edinburgh's cultural festivals – from all over the world.

RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD

DUNFERMLINE-BORN industrialist Andrew Carnegie's name has become a byword for wealth, business and philanthropy.

At the peak of his wealth, the steel tycoon had a fortune equivalent to more than twice that of Bill Gates.

Carnegie and wife Louise Whitfield endeavoured to give away what he had made, establishing a network of more than 2500 libraries as well as colleges and non-profit organisations.

His interest in public libraries was based on a belief in access to education. Carnegie had missed out on schooling, but borrowed books from a retired merchant called Colonel Anderson and learned that way.

The Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland continues to make grants to students and academics, and the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust makes awards to social, sport, community and leisure projects in that area.

Meanwhile, the Carnegie UK Trust works to influence public policy to improve life and work.



RICH ENOUGH

SCOTLAND IN NUMBERS

235,000

Scotland has more than 235,000 students at its universities, and 50% of the degrees achieved are in science subjects – compared to 43% for the UK as a whole.

359

359 patents were given out to inventors with a Scottish post code in 2018, working out to one invention per 15,036 Scots – we have a reputation for innovation, having been responsible for television, the telephone, penicillin and the fridge, to name a few.

73,600

As of 2015, Scotland's creative industries employed 73,600 people – as a sector, artistic and cultural enterprises contribute about £4.6bn to the economy.



30m

In 2018, Scotland's visitor attractions – including museums, galleries, gardens, monuments and distilleries – attracted 30m visitors. Some of the most popular locations included the historic Culloden Battlefield Visitor Centre, the National Museum of Scotland and Glasgow Cathedral.

175

Scotland is home to the world's first-ever floating wind farm. The turbines stand at 175 metres – nearly as tall as the Queensferry Crossing.



HERE'S TO OUR GOOD HEALTH

HOW are you feeling? We'd all be worse-off without a score of medical innovations from Scots physicians.

Penicillin was an unarguable game changer, but it's just one of many valuable health advances to come from Scotland and its institutions.

Did you know Scots were responsible for the introduction of medical anaesthesia and insulin as a treatment for diabetes?

Medical ultrasound was first used in Glasgow hospitals in the 1950s after work in the city's shipyards sparked the idea, and the city also gave its name to the Glasgow Coma Scale. The work of Edinburgh University professor Patrick Forrest contributed to the 1988 introduction of UK-wide breast cancer screening.

The ban on smoking in public places was a major public health measure, as was the introduction of a minimum unit price of alcohol.

And thanks to decisions made at Holyrood, free personal care is now available to both over and under 65s who need it.



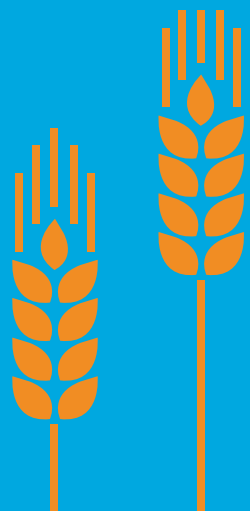
CLIMATE LEADERS

SCOTTISH innovators are creating new ways to battle climate change and curb pollution.

Quickblock has developed a building system using 30 drinks bottles to create 100% recycled plastic blocks for speedy construction in disaster areas, flood zones and conflict regions.

Cuantec is using waste from the shellfish sector to make a sustainable and biodegradable alternative to clingfilm.

And Edinburgh's Nova Innovation is a driving force in tidal energy generation.



Is Scotland too STUPID to be an independent country? Of course not! Here's why

SCOTTISH innovation has saved lives and made lives – take penicillin, cloning and medical ultrasound, for instance.

Each of these world-changing developments is thanks to the creativity, know-how and investment of people and institutions in this country.

And that's just for starters. The ingenuity of engineer James Watt put the power into the industrial revolution. The environmentalism of John Muir grew into the first world's first national park. Mary Somerville's scientific brilliance led to the discovery of Neptune.

Television, cash machines, family planning clinics, bicycles, fridges, tarmac, radar – all of these are the products of Scottish ingenuity.

Even now specialists are working on medicines to cure killer diseases and ways to cut pollution.

That's thanks in part to our higher education sector, which includes some of the best universities in the world and attracts tens of thousands of international students every year – as well as similar number from elsewhere in Europe and other parts of the UK.

But Scottish innovation isn't just about new discoveries and excellent education, it's also about finding new ways to improve lives.

The UN has praised Scotland's poverty-fighting partnership with Malawi, and Glasgow's success in combating violent crime is garnering global interest, with international teams seeking to learn its lessons.

Renewable energy companies working here have sold their goods and services to more than 70 nations, and our legislative targets on cutting climate change are the toughest anywhere.

Scotland is also the first country to provide free sanitary products in schools, colleges and universities to combat period poverty and the only part of the UK with statutory child poverty reduction targets.

In a damning report published last month, the UN's special rapporteur

on extreme poverty and human rights said the UK's welfare safety net has been "deliberately removed" by Westminster, with ideology to blame for rising inequality in Britain.

Philip Alston also hailed Scotland's "ambitious" and "promising" attempts to end poverty and put fairness at the heart of social security.

But he warned devolved administrations have reached the limit of what they can do when the main controls remain in London, adding: "For devolved administrations to have to spend resources to shield people from Government policies is a powerful indictment."

And this is the crucial point – for all our country's promise, for all the curiosity that drives new thinking and all the determination to make the lives of its people better, without full independence, it is hamstrung.

Scotland cannot eradicate the two-child benefits cap or rape clause – despite widespread support for doing so – because it does not have the power.

Scotland cannot scrap the hated Universal Credit – despite evidence that this is increasing hardship – because it does not have the power.

Scotland cannot axe Trident and put that money into communities – despite strong opposition to the sub system – because it does not have the power. We're already making strides on land ownership, digital skills and early years with the tools we have. Just imagine what we could do together if we were able to use every tool in the box.

We're definitely smart enough to do great things.

DID YOU KNOW ?
Scotland has the 29th best university in the world ... and four in the top 200

ENOUGH!

CALVIN HARRIS

MUSIC beats shelf-stacking for superstar DJ Calvin Harris. The producer, singer and songwriter was this year named one of the UK's wealthiest musical talents in the Sunday Times Rich List. According to the list, the former supermarket worker, from Dumfries is worth £165 million, thanks to collaborations with Rihanna, Dua Lipa and Pharrell Williams, as well as a Las Vegas residency and other commercial contracts.



LEARN FROM US

WHAT do we know about anything? According to the stats on education, a hell of a lot. As of 2016, almost 50% of those aged 25 and over had vocational, college or university qualifications. According to European Commission data agency Eurostat, that rate is 17% higher than the UK average.



THANKS FOR WATCHING

THERE'D be no binge-watching without the Scots. HBO's must-see epic Game Of Thrones spanned 73 episodes over eight series, and there was plenty of Scottish talent in the mix – Rory McCann as The Hound, Daniel Portman as Podrick Payne, Rose Leslie as Ygritte, Kate Dickie as Lysa Arryn – but none of them would've been within touching distance of a White Walker without John Logie Baird.

The Helensburgh-born engineer staged the world's first screening party in 1926 when he gathered 50 scientists into a London loft and demonstrated television for the first time. Just two years earlier he'd worked out how to send the signal over a few feet, and in 1927 he transmitted over a distance of almost 440 miles between London and Glasgow. His Baird Television Development Company achieved the first transatlantic transmission one year later. You're welcome, viewers.

MARY BARBOUR

RENT strike leader, peace crusader, councillor and justice of the peace, Kilbarchan-born Barbour changed lives and made history. Thanks to her strident community activism and commitment to social justice, working-class people across the UK gained legal protection from exploitation by landlords. She also chaired the organisation behind Scotland's first family planning clinic and pushed for health and welfare improvements for ordinary people.



DID YOU KNOW ?
Medical ultrasound was first used in Glasgow hospitals in the 1950s

ROSLIN INSTITUTE

WHEN counting sheep, there's really only one that matters.

Dolly set a new bar for science when she was cloned at an Edinburgh University department by Professor Sir Ian Wilmut and his team.

Born to a surrogate mother in July 1996, Dolly was created from an adult cell, something that had been thought impossible.

Named after Dolly Parton due to being cloned from a mammary cell, Dolly's existence was announced to the world's media in 1997 and the news put a fresh focus on Scottish science.

Euthanised in 2003 after developing lung tumours associated with a cancer-causing virus detected three years earlier, her body is now on display at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh.

But the institute that created her is still working on animal genetics, ageing and immunology, among other areas. Just this month, it announced new research that could help control the spread of bird flu, potentially paving the way to using gene-editing to produce disease-resistant chicks.

Thanks for listening today. Here's why The National is a newspaper like no other



**BY CALLUM BAIRD
NATIONAL EDITOR**

HELLO! We hoped you enjoyed your conversation about independence today.

Perhaps you've never read The National before. Perhaps you've never even heard of us.

Perhaps whoever gave you this paper today has been badgering you to try a copy for years. Sorry about that!

But for all those of you who don't know, The National is a newspaper which believes in Scotland – in its potential, its people, its economy, its culture and its place in the world.

We've got a positive message to tell – and that's why we're one of the only newspapers in the whole of the UK whose newspaper sales are increasing. We've also got more than 6000 digital subscribers – around 10-15 new people sign up every day to read our stories – and more than 800,000 people visit our website (www.thenational.scot) every month.

We're bucking the trend because we're not a newspaper like any other.

We hold regular roadshows in which we take popular columnists

out across Scotland, from Dumfries to Kirkwall, to talk directly to readers. Over the course of more than 50 events, I've met with more than 3000 readers face-to-face, listened to their feedback and brought their ideas back to the newsroom.

We publish long essays on overlooked aspects of Scottish culture. We've got in-depth coverage of trad music and shinty. We're the only newspaper to have regular columns in Scots and Gaelic. Our weekly history column every Monday tells the stories of Scotland they didn't teach you at school – stories of kings, queens and pretenders, ancient mysteries and gruesome murders, of great explorers, inventors and scientists.

We've got popular podcasts and videos – and our line-up of columnists includes many of the best writers of modern Scotland.

But we want to hear from you too – are you convinced by the case for independence? If not, why not? Email us at letters@thenational.scot to join "The National Conversation" and be part of the best-informed and liveliest letters section in Scotland.

We're not a newspaper just for Yes voters – but we are a newspaper for those willing to engage honestly about the positive case for independence. We're a newspaper, in short, that is proud to cover the REAL Scotland.

This is just the first of our series of new monthly supplements we will be producing. In time, we want to look at all aspects of Scottish life, culture and the economy and consider how they might be affected by voting Yes.

We won't shy away from difficult questions or talking about the challenges of becoming a new country – but we will be clear about the long-term benefits of decisions which affect the people in Scotland being taken in Holyrood and not Westminster.

It looks like we're about to be led by Prime Minister Boris Johnson – elected by roughly 0.2% of the UK population. Johnson has said that a pound spent in Croyden is better than a pound spent in Strathclyde. He said a Scot could never be a Prime Minister of the UK because of our "political disability". When he was editor of The Spectator, he published a poem which said the Scots were a "verminous race" which should be exterminated.

We don't know when the next referendum will happen – but it will probably be a choice between independence and Boris's Brexit Britain. We're ready for the campaign. We'll be a newspaper which reports it honestly and fairly – but with the faith that Scotland is quite capable of taking its place in the world as a successful independent country.