



50 Fascinating Facts about the Angus area

- 1 **Angus** is thought to have derived from an 8th century Pictish king and is thought to mean *unique choice*.
- 2 The late **Princess Margaret** was born at **Glamis Castle** in 1930.
- 3 **Montrose** museum was one of the first purpose built museums in Scotland.
- 4 Castle hill in **Forfar** was the location of a royal residence in the time of Malcolm Canmore , Malcolm III.
- 5 **Forfar** castle, which appears on the burgh's seal, was alleged by the historian Hector Boece to have been the meeting-place of the parliament in 1057 at which surnames and titles were first conferred on the Scottish nobility.
- 6 The late **Princess Margaret** was born at **Glamis Castle** in 1930.
- 7 Sir Robert Watson-Watt from Brechin, Angus **invented radar** and patented it with the UK Patent Office in 1935. Originally created for military intelligence purposes, the technology is now widely used, even in our local supermarkets. He attained a first-class science degree from University College, Dundee.
- 8 Lord (John) **Boyd Orr** of Brechin was presented with the Nobel Peace Prize in 1949 for his efforts to eliminate world hunger.
- 9 In 1999 **Montrose Basin** was designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a RAMSAR, an internationally important wetland site. A visitor centre for the Basin is operated by Scottish Wildlife Trust.
- 10 **Aberdeen Angus** cattle were successfully bred in the 19th century and remain one of the world's premier beef cattle breeds today.
- 11 A larger than life statue of **Bamse**, a Norwegian owned St Bernard Dog, is situated on the historic **Montrose** waterfront. Bamse, a second WWII mascot was recreated by Alan Herriot after public subscription to commemorate the canine hero who was laid to rest in Montrose.
- 12 **Restenneth** was the chosen location for Robert the Bruce to bury his beloved young son John
- 13 Born near Kirriemuir in 1797, **Sir Charles Lyell** is perhaps the most significant figure ever born in Angus. Within his chosen subject of geology he was hugely influential and his encouragement of Charles Darwin helped lay the groundwork for evolutionary biology.
- 14 **St Vigean's** Museum is a marvelous collection of carved stones from early Pictish to medieval.
- 15 **Edzell** Castle was created by the Lindsay, Earls of Crawford after receiving the estate and village from the Stirlings of Glenesk.
- 16 **Douglastown** was named after William Douglas who set up one of the first mills to machine spin. His descendants lived at Brighton House long after the mill had disappeared.
- 17 It is said that **St Margaret** of Scotland, wife of Malcolm Canmore, founded a chapel on the Inch in Forfar Loch
- 18 **Hugh McDiarmid** the influential 21st century poet and writer was born in Montrose.
- 19 **House of Dun** is a magnificent Palladian mansion designed by William Adam, architect to the king, for the Erskine family.
- 20 **Robert Brown** of Montrose was to become a ground breaking botanist with the help of Sir Joseph Banks the great explorer. Brown's discoveries led to the rapid development of microscopes and further discoveries by other scientists. *Brownian Motion* of microscopic particles is named after him.
- 21 The great agricultural improver **George Dempster** was born in Dundee. In addition to having estates at Dunnichen Angus he owned Skibo in Sutherland, now famous as the Carnegie Club.
- 22 **William Lamb**, born in 1893 in Montrose, was a consummate sculptor who became famous for making sculptures of HM the Queen and the late HRH Princess Margaret when they were children. In summer it is possible to visit his studio and many of his sculptures adorn the streets of his home town.
- 23 Forfar, gives its name to the meat pastry known as the **Forfar Bridie**, an Angus culinary experience!
- 24 The name **Letham** comes from Old English and means *village of the barns*.
- 25 The **first modern lawn mower** was designed by Arbroath engineer Alexander Shanks (1801-45).
- 26 Hugh McDiarmid is thought to have been involved in the 70s repatriation of Scotland's Stone of Destiny which was found at **Arbroath Abbey** draped in a Saltire after being removed from Westminster Abbey!

- 27 The first public health institution in Britain was opened in **Montrose** in 1781 thanks to the efforts of Mrs Susan Carnegie.
- 28 When James VI succeeded to the English throne it is said that Shakespeare consulted the **Earl of Strathmore** to come up with '*the Scottish Play*' to please James and secure continued royal patronage.
- 29 **Pictavia**, part of the Brechin Castle centre, tells the story of the early enigmatic peoples of Angus. There is also a farm park as part of the location an increasingly rare opportunity to get close to agricultural livestock.
- 30 James Matthew Barrie, the **creator of Peter Pan** was born in the Lowland village of Kirriemuir, Angus. Barrie was also the originator of the name Wendy.
- 31 **Dunninald** was designed by James Gillespie Graham in 1824 in typically Gothic style. JGG also designed the towering spire of the Old Church of Montrose.
- 32 **Violet Jacob** the renowned Scots poet was born into the aristocratic family Kennedy-Erskine of House of Dun
- 33 The golf **Open Championship** has been played at Carnoustie Championship Course six times. Carnoustie is a public links, and the opportunity is there for everyone to play the Championship course.
- 34 **The Caledonian Railway**, run by enthusiastic volunteers, recreates the golden days of the steam railways on the short journey from Brechin to Bridge of Dun.
- 35 **Stewart Maiden** from Carnoustie was the first and only golf teacher of the incomparable U.S. golfer **Bobby Jones**.
- 36 The name Carnegie originates from the parish of **Carmyllie**.
- 37 **Aberlemno** churchyard is home to an intricately carved Pictish Cross slab stone. The back of the cross-slab features the only known battle scene in Pictish art, a scene thought to depict the historic Battle of Nechtansmere which took place 6 miles to the south in 685 AD
- 38 William Lyon MacKenzie 1795 – 1861 was **first Mayor of Toronto** in 1834. He was an accomplished journalist and reformer.
- 39 On his 50th birthday, US millionaire, Dan Pena, decided to build himself a golf course, the likes of which Bobby Jones would compliment. **Guthrie Castle Golf Course** was born considered a truly target golf challenge!
- 40 **Kirriemuir** is home to a rare Camera Obscura gifted to the town by JM Barrie. Enjoy the 360 degree views weather permitting!
- 41 By far the most notable landscape feature at **House of Dun** is the line of 16 giant sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) trees which dominate the skyline. They are listed with Scotland's Heritage Trees and their prominence in the landscape, allowed modern-day mariners to use them as a navigational aid.
- 42 The 2008 **Angus Walking Festival** will run from 31st May to 3rd June inclusive. Guided walks for all abilities through the Angus Glens take place across the four days including the distance Cateran Trail.
- 43 The **first Buick car** was built by Arbroath émigré David Dunbar Buick (1854-1929).
- 44 Near the village of **Aberlemno** by Forfar in Angus, Melgund Castle was built in 1543 by Cardinal David Beaton for his mistress, Marion Ogilvy.
- 45 **Thomas Guthrie** founder member of the Free Church of Scotland following the disruption of 1843 was born in Brechin
- 46 The legend of Jock Barefut tells how Jock rashly cut a stick from a famous Spanish—chestnut tree in the court of **Careston Castle**, near Brechin. The "Tiger Earl" had him hanged from the same tree for his misdeed. Thereupon, strange to say, the tree began to wither and decay. And afterwards Jock's ghost walked the road between Careston and Finavon.
- 47 In 2004, the European Commission granted special protection to the term "**Arbroath Smokie**" ensuring that only genuine fish smoked in the traditional way and within a few miles of the east coast town can be given that name. An **Arbroath Smokie Tartan** has been produced in commemoration of the protected status.
- 48 The **Declaration of Arbroath** was prepared as a formal Declaration of Scottish Independence. It was drawn up in Arbroath Abbey on the 6th April 1320. The historic document influenced the **American Declaration of Independence** which was ratified on 4 July 1776.
- 49 **Montrose** Air Station Heritage Centre celebrates the history of the first operational air station in Britain.
- 50 Robin Orr, born in **Brechin** in 1909, was one of a group who founded Scottish Opera in 1962 along with Sir Alexander Gibson. He served as its first Chairman until 1976.