



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

20
Years

Address by Her Majesty The Queen to
celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the
Scottish Parliament

Òraid le A Mòrachd A' Bhanrigh gus
20mh ceann-bliadhna Pàrlamaid
na h-Alba a chomharrachadh

29 June 2019

20
Years



Introduction

It is with great pleasure that, on behalf of the Scottish Parliament, I welcome Her Majesty The Queen, His Royal Highness The Duke of Rothesay and all our invited guests to this special 20th anniversary ceremony.

We come together today to commemorate two decades of the Scottish Parliament, a significant milestone for our country. I am delighted that so many people from across Scotland and beyond are able to join us in our Debating Chamber to hear the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland; the National Youth Choir of Scotland; the singer Karen Matheson; and Jackie Kay, Scots Makar.

Throughout this year of commemoration, we have sought to reflect on the positive difference the Scottish Parliament has made to the lives of the people of Scotland. Having been founded on the principles of openness and equality, I am proud to say that these principles continue to inspire and challenge us today.

As part of our birthday celebrations, we will open our doors for an afternoon of activities and, looking back at two decades of achievements, there will be live music, dance and theatre from a wide range of performers.

We are proud of how far the Parliament has come but recognise that this anniversary has also allowed us to focus on ensuring that the Parliament is relevant and fit for purpose for the next 20 years.

Thank you for the support you have given us and I hope you enjoy today's events.

Rt Hon Ken Macintosh MSP, Presiding Officer

Ro-ràdh

Tha e na thoileachas mòr dhomh, às leth Pàrlamaid na h-Alba, a bhith a' cur fàilte air A Mòrachd a' Bhànrig, A Mhòrachd Rìoghail Diùc Bhaile Bhòid agus air na h-aoighean uile againn dhan chuirm shònraichte seo a tha a' comharrachadh ar 20mh ceann-bliadhna.

Tha sinn a' tighinn còmhla an-diugh gus dà dheichead de Phàrlamaid na h-Alba a chomharrachadh, clach-mhìle nach beag dhan dùthaich againn. Tha mi air mo dhòigh glan gun robh e comasach air an uiread de dhaoine à air feadh na h-Alba, agus nas fhaide air falbh, a bhith còmhla rinn anns an t-Seòmar-dheasbaid againn gus èisteachd ri Conservatoire Rìoghail na h-Alba; Còisir Òigridh Nàiseanta na h-Alba; an seinneadair Karen NicMhathain; agus Jackie Kay, am Makar Albannach.

Tron bhliadhna chuimhneachaidh seo, tha sinn air a bhith a' coimhead air ais air an diofar dheimhinneach a tha Pàrlamaid na h-Alba air dèanamh do bheatha muinntir na h-Alba. Chaidh sinn a stèidheachadh air prionnsabalan fosgailteachd agus co-ionannachd agus tha mi toilichte a ràdh gu bheil na prionnsabalan seo a' toirt brosnachadh agus dùbhlàn dhuinn chun an latha an-diugh.

Mar phàirt de na comharraidhean co-latha-breith againn, fosglaidh sinn na dorsan airson feasgar de ghnìomhachdan, far am bi sinn a' coimhead air ais air dà dheichead de choileanaidhean le ceòl beò, dannsa agus tèatar bho raon farsaing de luchd-cluiche.

Tha sinn moiteil às an adhartas a rinn a' Phàrlamaid ach tha sinn mothachail gu bheil an ceann-bliadhna seo air cothrom a thoirt dhuinn beachdachadh air mar a nì sinn cinnteach gu bheil a' Phàrlamaid freagarrach airson nam 20 bliadhna ri thighinn.

Tapadh leibh airson na taic a tha sibh air toirt dhuinn. Tha mi an dòchas gun còrd tachartasan an latha an-diugh ruibh.

Am Fìor Urr **Coinneach Mac an Tòisich BPA**

Order of Proceedings

Entrance of Members of the Scottish Parliament

Entrance of the Party Leaders

Entrance of Her Majesty The Queen

Fanfare for Elizabeth, Her Majesty The Queen

Composed by John Wallace for The Scottish Parliament's 20th Anniversary

Conducted by John Wallace CBE and performed by The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland Brass Ensemble

The assembled company stands

The Scottish Parliament's Mace

Royal Company of Archers followed by Falkland Pursuivant of Arms Extraordinary, Linlithgow Pursuivant of Arms Extraordinary, Carrick Pursuivant of Arms, Unicorn Pursuivant of Arms, Marchmont Herald of Arms, Snawdown Herald of Arms and Rothesay Herald of Arms

The Crown of Scotland borne by the Duke of Hamilton and Brandon, escorted by the Lord Lyon King of Arms and the Captain-General

Her Majesty The Queen escorted by the Presiding Officer Rt Hon Ken Macintosh MSP, followed by His Royal Highness The Duke of Rothesay escorted by the Deputy Presiding Officers Linda Fabiani MSP and Christine Grahame MSP accompanied by the Royal Company of Archers

The Presiding Officer escorts Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness to their seats

The assembled company sits when Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness have taken their seats and the fanfare ends

Welcome

The Presiding Officer

Address

Her Majesty The Queen

Song – *The Bonnie Banks O’ Loch Lomon’*

Arranged by D M Gardner

Conducted by Mark Evans and performed by The National Youth Choir of Scotland Chamber Choir

Responses to Her Majesty The Queen

Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP, First Minister of Scotland and Leader of the Scottish National Party

Rt Hon Ruth Davidson MSP, Leader of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party

Poem – *THE LONG VIEW*

Written and performed by Jackie Kay, Scots Makar accompanied by Lewis McCaskill, Scottish Youth Theatre performing in Gaelic, Suzanne Bonnar singing and Moira Anne McAuslan performing in BSL (BSL translation by Amy Cheskin)

Order of Proceedings

Response to Her Majesty The Queen

Richard Leonard MSP, Leader of the Scottish Labour Party

Performance – *Farewell to Govan*

Composed by Phil Cunningham

Arranged and conducted by John Logan, Head of Brass and performed by Braw Brass and Jenn Butterworth, The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

Responses to Her Majesty The Queen

Patrick Harvie MSP, Co-Convenor of the Scottish Green Party

Tavish Scott MSP, Scottish Liberal-Democrats

Song – *Ae Fond Kiss*

By Robert Burns arranged by Donald Shaw and Kevin McCrae

Sung by Karen Matheson accompanied by Donald Shaw on piano and the Harvey String Quartet

Departure of Her Majesty The Queen

A Man's a Man for a' That

By Robert Burns

Performed by the Scottish Parliament's Piper Stuart McMillan MSP

The assembled company stands

Guests are asked to stand until the procession leaves the Chamber and to remain in their seats until signalled to leave by ushers

THE LONG VIEW by Jackie Kay, Scots Makar

When you were born, my daughter, my son
The half-moon grinned and the sun shone

You came after a long song of a labour
Of years and years - and then some!

It was July when you at last appeared, hanselled
With the mace from her Majesty – Ma’am, Good Day -

bright eyed, flushed, newest day!
And the crags at your tiny feet, and Arthur’s seat.

When you were born, bairn,
Red Arrows flew over your city

And everyone you met, Pet,
Wanted to join you on your journey -

Between the lochs and the ferns
Between the braes and the bens

Between the crofts and the bothies
Between the Rowans and the pines.

Between the high rise and the tenements
And the Wimpey houses in the big cities

Between the north and the south, the east and the west,
And the land and the seas...

Nuair a rugadh tu, a nighean, ’ille,
Bha corran na gealaich is a’ ghrian a’ deàrrsadh.

Thàinig thu ’n dèidh òran-saothrach a bha fada
Fad bhliadhnaichean nan cian.

’S ann a nochd thu san Iuchar mar thabhartas
Leis an lorg-shuaicheantais bhon Bhanrigh;

Le sùilean a bha lainnreach ùr an là ’s ùire
’S na creagan aig do chasan beaga ’s Àrd air Suidhe.

Nuair a rugadh tu fhèin, a leanabain,
Shiubhail saighdean dearg’ os cionn a’ bhaile

’S bha gach neach a thachair ort
Ag iarraidh dol còmhla riut air do chuairt -

Eadar na lochan is an raineach
Eadar na bruthaichean is na beanntan

Eadar na goirteanan is na bothain
Eadar an giuthas is an caorann.

Eadar na taighean eadar àrd is ìseal
Eadar na taighean-beaga sna bailtean-mòra

’S eadar tuath ’s deas
Agus talamh ’s muir

.....
Now: I know of someone in Kilchoan, Ardnamurchan
Who remembers an old Kilchoan man

Saying that he remembers an old Kilchoan woman
Who had once seen all the houses ablaze

And these were the first of your days:
Stories to keep the past alive,

A poem read aloud to knock the future's door.
A song sung by Sheena Wellington, for a' that.

You're twenty now. We're couldn't be prouder.
Look how you've grown in stature:

'This is about who we are, how we carry ourselves,'
your godfather's premonition, the day you were born.

We are not a people that takes to the compliment well.
Put it this way - you're twenty! You've carried yourself well.

Seadh: 's aithne dhomh cuideigin ann an Cille
Chòmghain
Aig a bheil cuimhn' air bodach às an àite

'S e 'g ràdh gun robh cuimhn' aig' air cailleach
A chunnaic na taighean air fad nan lasair

Agus b' iad seo do làithean-toisich,
Seachas gus an t-àm a dh'aom a ghleidheadh.

Duan a chaidh a leughadh mar chnòg air doras na tìde
romhainn.

Òran le Mòrag a dh'aindeoin cò theireadh e.

Tha thu fichead a-nis. Nach sinn a tha cho uasal.
Seall mar a dh'fhàs thu suas a dh'aindeoin cò theireadh e.

.....
Twenty years on, what can I tell you about your birth?
Your birth was a process not an event –

Your wee form emerged between the land and the stone;
A citizen already sitting, seen through the portal.

And the boats carried you out to sea – to see what you
could see,
And back to the land, to the bottom of The Royal Mile.

Every way you turned, your smile made others smile;
And, if at first you faced ridicule, and some were hostile,

You held your own and carried on! Ground breaking
land reform!
First up with the smoking ban ... and on, on.

Remember the jubilation when same sex marriage passed?
When Clause 28 was opposed?

Look how you shone the light on
The darkness of abuse, how you had such a clear vision;

How you let Auld Scotland out
And Modern Scotland in, first footing.

Nane for thee a thouchtie sparin
Earth thou bonnie broukit bairn!

• You knew what was right and what was wrong.
And oh, how your citizens sang their song:
.....

Under the Common Weal, weel, weel
Under the Common Weal, we'll thrive

Oh, it was a braw, bricht day when you arrived, alive!
Wee wean, under the common sun, doon,

Doon
Where you'd been coorie-ing doon, coorie-ing doon,

Under democracy's moon
Wee wean, hoping that aw'thin wuid be fine

And you'd get to tell yer story, wee wean
Who kent awready whit was richt an whit was wrang

Wee wean,
Look how you've grown up mighty fine

Oh ma darlin, you'll aye be ma trusty fiere
When the dorkness descends,

When the MacPhees roar an the lochans sing, wee wean,
And ye sing tae mak the wurld a better place.

And Oh ma Country, ma country,
you will ayeways be loved and respected by me.

Loved and respected by me.
Oh, my country, my country...

Scotland itself is my country, said Sorley MacLean.
My other country is Ireland

And after it, France, our great Gaelic bard said plainly.
And if he were still alive today, maybe

He'd have been compelled to name
The other twenty-five countries.

Scotland itself is my country
And twenty years on, my country has changed!

I remember it once being a country I ran from,
In those days, you felt unwelcome.

You passed. You pretended. You kept your mouth shut
Unless you sang sing if you're glad to be gay, sing if you're
happy that way...

And now - look - Old Scotland is no more.
Gay men kiss at the Parliament's door.

Hope travels all the way round the world.
Hope has people it wants to meet, hands to shake

Hope flies to New Zealand, to the South Island in solidarity
Hope wears a hijab and speaks out against hate.

Hope comes home - finds a hearth, a country ahead of
its time,
looking out across the lands and the years

Across the cold North Sea, where the waves knit in plain
and purl,
Is a country to sign you a lullaby, a country to rock you
awake.

My country has started to speak my language
And I am no longer alone

I used to feel a foreigner in my own land
I used to feel not at home

I used to be a stranger in the mirror
I used to talk to the hand because the mouth wasn't
listening

And now you get what I'm saying
How difficult it is for me on some occasions

But these days, you're listening up
And I am not cordoned off

The door's open and I've come ben this bonny chamber
A nod to you two, and you and you and you for taking the
long view

And the mountains are speechless
If what they say cannot be understood
And the many-voiced ocean is silent
If no one knows its language

Agus tha na beanntan gun chainnt
Mas e 's nach gabh na tha iad ag ràdh tuigsinn
Agus tha 'n cuan le iomadh guth na thost
Mas e 's nach eilear eòlach air a chànan

.....
It must be a bizarre thing being in the same room
As all these people who share the same birthday as you!

Everybody dressed up and looking so fine;
And when you were born, Nicola,

In the middle of the day between Wimbledon
And the opening of Scottish Parliament

You were induced. It was a quick birth.
And your gran jumped over a wall to tell all you were a girl.

And the Hielin cow jumped over the moon,
And the dish ran awa wey the widdin spune!

And you are the future: Parliament's bairns.
Sworn in that hot July day in 99.

The grass is greener in Scotland, Callum said.
The milk is better and the people friendlier, Nicola said.

It's nice that people can be themselves, Megan said,
And not be afraid.

I'm excited said Alicja Hertmanowska
In her Dear Scottish Parliament Letter

To see what the future brings
Here's to the next twenty years!

Under the Common Weal, we're taking the long view.

Under the Common Weal, we're taking the long view.

Under the Common Weal, weel, weel, we're taking the
long view.

Fo mhaitheas a' phobail
'S e 'n sealladh fada a tha sinn a' gabhail.

'The Bonnie Broukit Bairn' by Hugh MacDiarmid (Complete Poems, Vol. I, 1994); and 'My Country'
and 'The mountains are speechless' by Sorley MacLean (From Wood To Ridge, Collected Poems
in Gaelic and English, 1999) are reprinted here by kind permission of Carcanet Press Limited,
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20
Years



305

people have been
elected as **MSPs**

More than

340

bills introduced

Almost **300** bills have been passed

670

oaths and affirmations

English, Gaelic, Doric, Scots, Urdu, Arabic,
Catalan, French, Italian

 **16 Ògmhios/June 1999**

Gàidhlig ga bruidhinn ann an
coinneamh na Pàrlamaid airson
a' chiad uair

*First time Gaelic is spoken at a
meeting of the Parliament*

 **16 February 2000**

First use of **British Sign Language**
in the Chamber

More than

1,700

public petitions lodged

1,000th petition lodged by All Saints
secondary school on 3 October 2006

More than

8,500

committee meetings held

More than **150** external committee meetings held across **Scotland**, from Lerwick to Dumfries

More than

660

First Minister's
Questions sessions

5 Presiding Officers

First female Presiding Officer, Rt Hon Tricia Marwick, elected in **2011**

11 beehives

First legislature in the UK to have its own beehive

 **4 November 2016**

First parliament in the world to be awarded triple certification to the Carbon Trust Standard

Almost

5 million

visitors to Holyrood

More than **190,000** visitors have taken a free guided tour

First **Festival of Politics** held in 2004

 **6 October 2009**

Scottish Parliament tartan registered

