

Mary Queen of Scots Enterprises (Kinross) Limited.

This year promises to be a significant year in the progress and development of Mary Queen of Scots Enterprises (Kinross) Limited. Incorporated in Edinburgh in July 2014, the company is dedicated to develop and maximise the dramatic historical connections between the town and Scotland's most iconic Queen with the aim of encouraging and maintaining visitor numbers to the town. As is well known locally, Kinross has a lot to offer and gradually the message is getting out to the wider world. Clearly for the history visitor, a boat trip out to Loch Leven Castle is a key attraction as well as time spent in the Boat House before a walk round to Loch Leven's Larder. Additionally, weather permitting, the tourist may now take a Mary Queen of Scots aerial adventure with the micro-light team out at the Balado airstrip. Swooping low over the Loch and then over the hills to Falkland Palace, the dedicated historian can get a bird's eye view of Mary's favourite riding, hawking and hunting locations followed by the quiet tranquillity of Falkland. Certainly an experience to appreciate for months after the event. The visitor may also acquire specific mementoes of Queen Mary to take away, not least a bottle of the recently launched Mary Queen of Scots Blended Malt Scotch Whisky.

Produced locally in Broxburn, the prestige blend comprises a minimum of 12 premier Single Malts, all 12 years old, to reflect the 12 years in total which Mary spent in Scotland. Drams may be tasted at the Kirklands, the Green and the Windlestrae as well as the Village Inn in Milnathort. Bottles can be purchased at Loch Leven's Larder, Giacomazzi's Milnathort, Royal Mile Whiskies in Edinburgh as well as from the Crown Gift Shop at Edinburgh Castle. A visit to the Loch Leven Brewery in town can combine the opportunity to buy a bottle whilst also sampling a glass of the famous Mary Queen of Scots Pale Ale, produced in Kinross under licence. Each whisky bottle comes in a custom made jute bottle bag, made in Dundee, which allows easy carriage home. The small family production company in Dundee has a policy of making a financial contribution to an orphanage in India, where the jute is harvested, for every container they import into Dundee, which gives an added dimension to our bottle bags. We are also proud to sell custom made jute shopping bags at the Brewery as well as stylish hand-made ceramic coasters, produced in the Pottery in Kinnesswood, again a location well known to Mary as she rode past.

Visitors to the Brewery may buy high quality lambswool scarves as well as children's book on Queen Mary. One exciting development of 2017 was the production of the Mary Queen of Scots Blended Malt Scotch Whisky Fudge to be marketed alongside the whisky itself. The Scottish fudge makers submitted the brand to the Great Taste of Britain annual awards in August where it won a Double Star rating for quality and taste. We are looking at future expansion of confectionery items to include shortbread and ice cream.

At the luxury end of our range, we import and sell a small selection of diamond jewellery to commemorate Mary's appreciation of 16th century jewellery. We exhibited at the Ladies' Evening at Loch Leven's Larder in December and received very positive responses. As if Kinross lady golfers need any incentive to up their game, we have offered a pair of cluster diamond stud ear-rings to the first lady golfer to record a Hole-in-One at a Club Championship match, at the total discretion of the Lady Captain. Given the long odds of such an immediate achievement, we have made an interim offer of a bottle of Blended Malt for the player nearest the hole, at the par three hole in front of the Clubhouse, under match conditions. We are confident that Mary Queen of Scots would have approved !!