

# Speirs Centre in Alloa will host whiskey exhibition throughout June and July

## Whiskey trail will pay homage to John Jameson

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BORN in Alloa in 1740, John Jameson went on to become the founder of the legendary brand 'Jameson & Son' which has now become the third highest selling whiskey in the world.

To acknowledge this and pay homage to the 275th anniversary of his birth this year, Clackmannanshire is currently embarking on a project which will help to educate the public on Alloa's rich whiskey distilling history which played a significant role in bringing whiskey to the world.

The Wee County is working towards having it's very own 'Whiskey Heritage Trail' which will present the local community and visitors with the opportunity to visit sites that were part of the 'Whiskey Revolution'.

Throughout June and July, there will also be a whiskey exhibition displayed in Alloa's Speirs Centre.



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And an introductory event will take place at Alloa Tower to launch all of the whiskey-related activities on Wednesday.

It is also anticipated that there will be some announcements that shall lead to a positive economic impact for the Clackmannanshire hospitality and tourism industry.

Along with 2015 being the 'Year of Food and Drink', it is only fitting that Clackmannanshire's influence on Scotland's national drink should be celebrated.

Before Jameson moved to Dublin, Ireland, he was Sheriff Clerk of Clackmannan through which he met his wife, Margaret Haig, who was the sister of the founders of Haig Whiskey.

Jameson was originally an employee of the Stein's Kennetpans, a distillery founded in 1780. It was not until 1805 that John Jameson took full ownership and founded 'John Jameson & Son'.

He had a reputation for being willing to pay the top dollar for the finest ingredients available and keeping the loyalty of his workforce by offering them the best wages and working conditions within the industry.

John Jameson later returned to Alloa, which remains as his last resting place and was buried in Alloa's 'Old Kirkyard' in 1823.



John Jameson  
Born 5th October 1740  
Alloa, Clackmannanshire  
Founder of  
Jameson Irish Whiskey

The news that the Wee County intends to recognise Jameson's contribution to the world of whiskey has been well received.

"In essence, Kennetpans is part of the DNA of the modern whiskey industry worldwide. That it and its surroundings are so complete is remarkable and it deserves to be preserved as a landmark to the heritage of the whiskey industry. Kennetpans is the ground zero of the whiskey industry"

Neil Wilson, whisky historian, writer and publisher, said: "Kennetpans was where distilling left the farmyards and became a true industry. The birth place of commercial distilling."

Brian Townsend, whisky historian

and writer, added: "In terms of its importance to whisky, Kennetpans is worth 10 of Lindores Abbey."

Whisky writer, keeper of the quaiach and ex group marketing director for Glenmorangie Ian Buxton commented: "Kennetpans, the spiritual home of Haig Whisky."

And Stuart McNamara, whisky aficionado and writer, founder of the Haig Whisky Club, said; "The Jameson brand still lives on and has now become the number one selling Irish whiskey with its main markets being the US, Australia and Canada."

So, whether is whisky or whiskey, Clackmannanshire is at the heart of it ... Slàinte!