

## IT TAKES YOU BACK

Skara Brae, on the island of Orkney, is the most complete Neolithic village in Europe. It is also the oldest building in Britain, dating from 3100 BCE.



Aberdeen Harbour Board is Britain's oldest recorded business, founded in 1136.



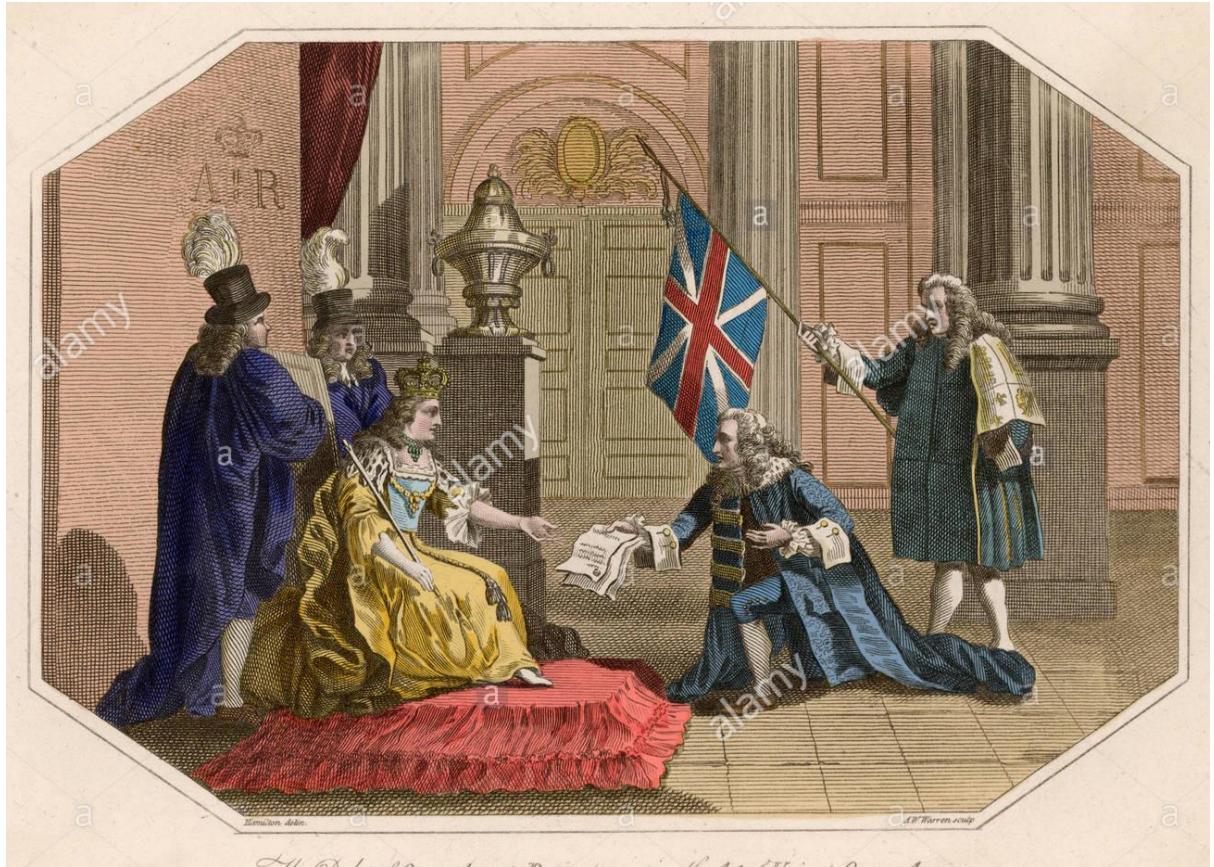
The University of St Andrews, founded in 1413, is the third oldest university in the UK after Oxford and Cambridge. It welcomed Britain's first female student in 1862. It is also here that the world's first students' union came into existence in 1882, while the world's oldest students' union building was the purpose-built Teviot Row at Edinburgh University, built in 1889.



Established in 1498, the Shores Porters Society in Aberdeen is the world's oldest transport company.



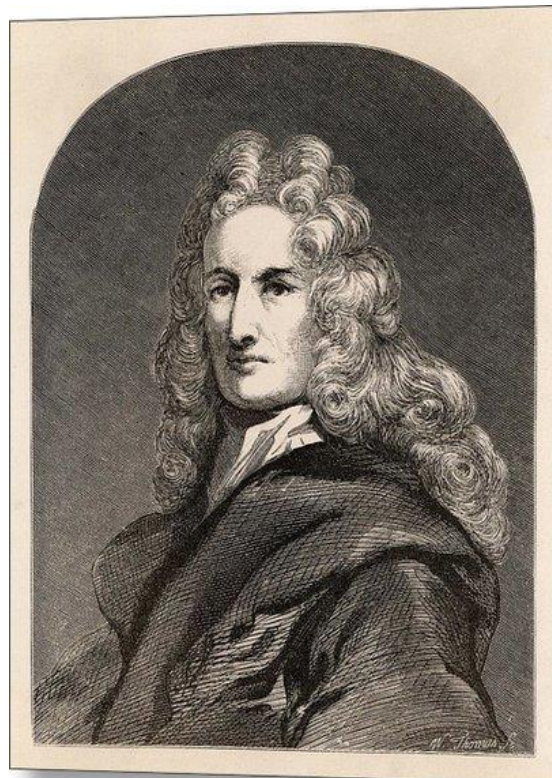
Scotland was an independent country until 1603. Then the king of Scotland became king of England (not the other way round), but the two country didn't merge their governments until 1707, to form the Kingdom of Great Britain.



The Bank of Scotland, founded in 1695, is the oldest surviving bank in the UK. It was also the first bank in Europe to print its own banknotes, a function it still performs today.



A Scot, William Paterson (1658-1719), was the instigator and a co-founder of the Bank of England. He later attempted, unsuccessfully, to establish Scotland's first colony, called 'New Caledonia', on the Isthmus of Panama to facilitate trade with the Far East.



The post office at Sanquhar, Scotland, established in 1712, claims to be the oldest working post office in the world. The town also has the world's oldest curling society, formed in 1774 with sixty members.



The *Encyclopædia Britannica*, the world's oldest surviving encyclopedia and one of the most scholarly of encyclopaedias, was first published between 1768 and 1771 in Edinburgh. The first nine editions (out of fifteen so far) were all edited in Scotland. From 1901 it was edited conjointly in New York City and London.

In 1794 Scottish engineer William Murdoch built the first-ever house to be lit by gas.



Henry Duncan founded the world's first commercial savings bank at Ruthwell, near Dumfries, in 1810. It effectively founded what would become the Trustee Savings Bank (TSB), now part of Lloyds TSB Bank.



The world's first infant school was opened by philosopher and pedagogue Robert Owen in New Lanark in 1816.



Edinburgh was the first city in the world with its own fire brigade, in 1824.



The Open Championship, the oldest of the four major golf championships, was first played in 1860 at Prestwick Golf Club, in Ayrshire, and was staged there annually for the first 12 years of its existence. The only two other golf courses that have hosted the Open Championship, Royal Troon and Turnberry, are also located in Ayrshire.



Established in 1908, RAF Leuchars in Fife is the oldest continuously operating military air base in the world.

