

# [News story: From Scotland to Canada: Burns night boost for haggis exports](#)

Tonight (Friday 25 January), Scots in Canada will be celebrating Burns Night with a hearty serving of haggis, thanks to the rise in exports from Scotland's largest producer of the iconic meat pudding.

Burns Night celebrations often include a supper with Scotland's national dish haggis, which Burns himself referred to as the 'great chieftain o the puddin'-race'. This is usually washed down with a wee dram of Scotch Whisky – 21.1% of all UK food and drink exports in the year ending November 2018.

Macsween made history in 2017 when it became the first company to export the dish to Canada since 1971, after developing a new recipe that meets the country's food safety regulations.

Canada is Macsween's biggest foreign export market, where the company shipped £25,000 worth of haggis this January. With 4.7 million Scots living in the country, Macsween haggis is available in new English and French language packaging for Canada.

## **International Trade Secretary Dr Liam Fox MP said:**

Macsween's success in Canada is great news at a time when UK exports are at a record high. In the year ending September 2018, exports from Scotland increased by 6.2% to £29.6 billion, the highest rise in the UK. The company's international success is a testament to the high-quality produce in the UK and is showcasing the best of Scottish food and entrepreneurial success this Burns Night.

I encourage other UK food and drink companies to consider exporting their products and reach out to leading trade advisers in my international economic department who are providing support to businesses as they enter the global marketplace for the first time.

## **Secretary of State for Scotland David Mundell MP said:**

Haggis is the centrepiece of every Burns Night celebration, and I am proud to see Scotland's own Macsween Haggis contributing to the UK's ever-growing food and drink industry, which is a global success.

I urge more companies to take advantage of the opportunities available to enter new markets and meet the demand for high-quality Scottish produce both at home and internationally.

Macsween produces a range of haggis products including gluten-free, vegan and vegetarian haggis, so there's a seat at the table for everyone this Burns Night no matter your dietary requirements.

With 60 employees in its Loanhead factory, Macsween manufactures 1,900 tonnes of haggis yearly for countries including Singapore, Dubai, France, Germany and the USA.

The company has seen a 30% increase in sales and is forecast to reach a turnover of £1.7 million in January alone due to the global demand for high quality haggis.

**James Macsween, Managing Director of Macsween Haggis, said:**

We always wanted to enter the Canadian market given the population of Scottish expats living there. Luckily, we were able to develop a new recipe to meet Canadian regulations in 2017. Since then, we've had great success and now have customers in Canada sending us photos of Macsween haggis in their local supermarkets.

I would advise other Scottish food and drink businesses to consider exporting their products, no matter how small your company is. We've always been one to punch above our weight and we've seen numerous benefits of this. There is support out there, and our contacts in the UK Government have been brilliant in opening doors for us.

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## **[Press release: Remains of Captain Matthew Flinders discovered at HS2 site in Euston](#)**

HS2 archaeologists were able to identify his remains by the lead depositum plate (breast plate) placed on top of his coffin. The discovery of his burial site among 40,000 other human remains in the burial ground so early in the archaeological dig has thrilled archaeologists working on the project. He was buried at St. James's burial ground on 23rd July 1814.

Captain (Cpt.) Flinders made several significant voyages, most notably as commander of H.M.S. Investigator which he navigated around the entire coast of Australia. This made him the first known person to sail around the country in its entirety, confirming it as a continent. He is also credited with giving Australia its name, although not the first to use the term, his work popularised its use. His surname is associated with many places in Australia, including Flinders Station in Melbourne, Flinders Ranges in South Australia and the town of Flinders in Victoria.

Following the expansion of Euston station westwards into part of the burial ground in 1840s, Flinders's headstone was removed and it was thought that his remains had been lost. For a long time, there was an urban myth that Cpt. Flinders was buried under platform 15.

The discovery was made as archaeologists excavate the site where the HS2 station will be built. The archaeology programme is a central part of HS2's ground preparation works for Phase One of the project, London to Birmingham. The HS2 project is well underway with a programme of work, preparing sites, ahead of main construction this year.

At the bicentenary of his death in 2014, a memorial statue of Cpt. Matthew Flinders was unveiled by the Duke of Cambridge at Australia House and later installed at Euston Station. Virgin Trains also named one of its Pendolino trains "The Matthew Flinders".

The memorial statue of Cpt. Matthew Flinders outside Euston Station.

Cpt. Matthew Flinders will be reinterred with the buried population of St. James's Gardens at a location to be announced.

Commenting on the discovery ahead of Australia Day on 26th January, Helen Wass, HS2 Ltd's Head of Heritage, said:

The discovery of Cpt. Matthew Flinders's remains is an incredible opportunity for us to learn more about the life and remarkable achievements of this British navigator, hydrographer and scientist. He put Australia on the map due to his tenacity and expertise as a navigator and explorer.

Given the number of human remains at St. James's, we weren't confident that we were going to find him. We were very lucky that Cpt. Flinders had a breastplate made of lead meaning it would not have corroded. We'll now be able to study his skeleton to see whether life at sea left its mark and what more we can learn about him.

This discovery is particularly exciting for me as an archaeologist as Cpt. Matthew Flinders was the grandfather of renowned Sir William Matthew Flinders Petrie, commonly known as the 'Father of Archaeology'.

The Flinders name is synonymous with exploration, science and

discovery and HS2, through its archaeology programme, will ensure that we maximise the opportunities for further academic and scientific study.

Statue of Trim the cat who accompanied Cpt. Flinders on his voyages.

The scientific study of human remains from St James's burial ground will better our understanding of life and death in London's 18th and 19th centuries, shedding light on health and disease, social status and lifestyle. Those buried in the long since demolished chapel and burial ground include individuals from all walks of life: paupers and nobility, artists and musicians, soldiers and sailors, inventors and industrialists, as well as victims of accidents, disease, suicide and murder. Research of the burial records has revealed that a number of other notable people were interred at St James's, including:

- Bill 'the Black Terror' Richmond – a slave born in New York who became a free Londoner and a celebrated bare-knuckle boxer who was favoured by King George IV and taught Lord Byron to spar
- Lord George Gordon – a political and religious activist famous for his part in the anti-Catholic 'Gordon Riots' of 1780
- James Christie – a British naval officer who became a leading auctioneer who founded Christie's auction house in 1766

Commenting on the wider HS2 programme, Mark Thurston, HS2 Ltd's Chief Executive, said:

How we build HS2 is as important to us as what we are building, which is why we are committed to sharing as much of our cultural heritage as possible. The discovery of one of Britain's most significant explorers helps us tell stories of our past as we prepare to build a high speed rail network that is an important part of our future.

Before we bore the tunnels, lay the tracks and build the stations, an unprecedented amount of archaeology is now taking place between London and Birmingham. This is the largest archaeological exploration ever in Britain, employing archaeologists and heritage specialists from across the country and beyond, and we're proud its part of the wider HS2 story.

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**[Press release: Foreign Secretary](#)**

# stresses importance of democratic values

Foreign Secretary, Jeremy Hunt is returning from Washington following meetings with Senior US Administration figures focused on the UK and US's shared efforts to tackle the increasing challenges to democracy throughout the world.

During his visit Jeremy Hunt met Vice-President Mike Pence, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, National Security Advisor John Bolton, National Security Agency Director General Nakasone, acting Presidential Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney and Senior Advisor to the President Jared Kushner.

The Foreign Secretary discussed the developing situation in Venezuela and condemned the announcement by Nicolas Maduro that Venezuela would end diplomatic ties with the United States. He also thanked the US Administration for their support for the two recent UK-drafted resolutions on Yemen in the UN Security Council. The Foreign Secretary and Secretary Pompeo agreed to host a meeting of the 'quad' group on Yemen in the margins of the upcoming Ministerial meeting on the Middle East in Warsaw in February.

The Foreign Secretary's visit came as the UK and US jointly announced their intention to impose travel restrictions and other sanctions on any individual found to be illegally interfering in the upcoming Nigerian elections including by using or encouraging violence in an attempt to influence the elections.

Speaking following his visit, the Foreign Secretary said:

The enduring relationship between the UK and US is not a product of coincidence or historic accident, it is the result of our shared values. These values are at the heart the foreign policy of both of our countries. And none of these values is more important than respect for democracy – the invisible chain that has bound our countries together throughout history.

Given the threats to democracy we are seeing throughout the world – from the rigged election last year in Venezuela to appalling violations of human rights in Syria to the Houthi coup in Yemen four years ago that gave rise to a devastating civil war – the relationship between the UK and US is more important than ever before. I was pleased to have the chance to discuss that relationship, and the challenges to democracy around the world that we are working together to overcome, in Washington today.

With Secretary Pompeo we agreed today that we would host a meeting in February with Saudi Arabia and the UAE to bolster our support for the Stockholm process and agree next steps for further progress

on a political settlement.

## **Background:**

- The UK and US statements on Nigerian elections is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-election-violence-sanction-statement>
- The Foreign Secretary's remarks to media on developments in Venezuela are available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-statement-on-situation-in-venezuela>

## **Further information**

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# **[Press release: Foreign Secretary statement on situation in Venezuela, January 2019](#)**

Speaking ahead of his meeting with US Vice President Mike Pence and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said:

We are extremely concerned about the situation in Venezuela, but it is clear that Nicolás Maduro is not the legitimate leader of Venezuela.

The election on 20th May was deeply flawed; ballot boxes were stuffed, there were counting irregularities and the opposition was banned. This regime has done untold damage to the people of Venezuela, 10% of the population have left Venezuela such is the misery they are suffering.

So the United Kingdom believes Juan Guaidó is the right person to take Venezuela forward. We are supporting the US, Canada, Brazil and Argentina to make that happen. I will be meeting Vice President Pence and Secretary of State Pompeo later this afternoon to discuss this further. But for anyone in the UK who thinks that Venezuela is an example, who thinks that we should be adopting the policies supported by the discredited Maduro regime, they need to look at their TV screens and think again. This regime has caused untold suffering to its people.

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# News story: UK and France sign action plan to tackle small boat crossings

Sajid Javid and French Interior Minister Christophe Castaner held productive talks in Westminster and vowed to increase joint co-operation following a rise in the number of migrants attempting to cross the dangerous shipping lane in small boats.

As part of the [action plan](#), which will see over £6 million invested in new security equipment, there will be a mutual commitment to conduct return operations as quickly as possible under the Dublin Regulation. A small number of migrants, who made the illegal journey at the end of last year, were returned to France this morning.

In addition, the Home Secretary and Interior Minister agreed that migrants encountered in the Channel will be taken to the nearest safe port, in accordance with international maritime law. This will build on the success of the French authorities in preventing attempted departures in French ports and beaches which has seen 44 successful disruptions covering 267 individuals since January 2018.

The UK will continue to work closely with France and other countries to return more migrants who have entered the UK by small boat in order to provide a strong deterrent against the dangerous crossings.

Home Secretary, Sajid Javid said:

It is vital we continue to work closely with our French partners to stop vulnerable migrants making these treacherous crossings and tackle the people smugglers who are putting their lives in danger.

Today's joint action plan strengthens our already strong relationship and increases joint action around keeping both our borders secure and discouraging these dangerous journeys.

French Interior Minister, Christophe Castaner said:

This agreement once again shows the UK's commitment to managing our shared border along with us. By combating illegal Channel crossings by migrants, we're saving lives and deterring new migrants from coming to Hauts-de-France.

The UK agreed to allocate over £6 million (€7 million) to support the French's comprehensive regional action plan which has been in place since early January and has seen additional surveillance and security on French beaches and ports as well as greater co-ordination between the French

authorities on land and at sea.

Just over half of the investment will come from £44.5 million (€50 million) already allocated under the Sandhurst Treaty, an agreement on UK-France co-operation signed by the Prime Minister and President Macron in January 2018. An additional £3.2 million (€3.6 million) of new funding will be used for equipment and measures to tackle illegal migration by small boats, such as CCTV, night goggles and number plate recognition capability, helping to support the UK and French border and maritime teams to detect and crack down on illegal activity.

Additional security cameras will be strategically placed at French ports and in areas where migrants may attempt to embark boats, and will feed live CCTV footage into the UK-France Coordination and Information Centre in Calais which is staffed by both British and French agencies.

There will be increased surveillance of the Channel by air and boat patrols, with shared intelligence between UK and French authorities. Foot patrols across beaches and coastal areas by the French police will be ramped up, and attempted crossings will be disrupted. Both governments have made clear that all criminals will be prosecuted.

The new plan will come into force immediately.