

A Niel Gow Memorial In Dunkeld

Some questions answered



WHO was Niel Gow?

Niel Gow (1727-1807) is widely regarded as the patriarch of the Scots fiddle tradition. He lived in Inver, near Dunkeld,

and achieved great fame as a performer, composer and teacher. In 1745 he played for Bonnie Prince Charlie at Blair Castle and in 1787 he met Robert Burns in Dunkeld. Perhaps his best known tunes are “Farewell to Whisky” and “Lament for the Death of His Second Wife”. Niel Gow’s many

pupils included his four sons, who carried the fiddle music of Perthshire far beyond the land of its origin.

WHY a memorial?



Few visitors to Dunkeld are likely to see Gow's headstone in the kirk yard of Little Dunkeld or the plaque on the wall of Niel Gow Cottage in Inver. The more adventurous just might find the finely carved bench

beneath Niel Gow's Oak on the banks of the River Tay.

However, there is no obvious monument in an accessible location to inform visitors about this most significant of former residents. The annual Niel Gow Festival was established with the ultimate goal of realising a prominent and lasting memorial in Dunkeld.



WHAT will the memorial be?

The proposal is to have a life-size bronze statue of Niel Gow, situated near the Cross in Dunkeld. Scottish sculptor **David Annand** has been commissioned to carry out the work.

WHEN will the memorial be

completed?

It is hoped to have the finished sculpture installed by **March 2020**.

HOW MUCH is needed?

Over half the final cost has been raised, but a significant amount is still required.

HOW CAN I HELP?

The Niel Gow Festival web site has a facility for making donations to the memorial fund via PayPal. (PayPal accepts all major credit and debit cards and

you are not required to have a PayPal account to use this facility.) Donations can also be made by cheque, payable to “The Niel Gow Festival Society – Memorial Account”. If you are a UK taxpayer please consider making a Gift Aid Donation, which will allow the NGFS to claim an extra 25% from HMRC. See below for the NGFS address.



The Niel Gow Festival Society is a registered charity, number SC044610.

The Niel Gow Festival 2020

20th-22nd March

The Festival web site is:

www.niel-gow.co.uk

*The Niel Gow Festival Society registered address:
Oakhill, Cuilc Brae, Pitlochry, PH16 5QS*