

# The 2020 NYC Tartan Day Parade is cancelled

By now there is little surprise in hearing that a gathering involving potentially thousands of people has been cancelled due to coronavirus.

But 2020 is the 700th anniversary of the [Declaration of Arbroath](#) which plays a pivotal part in the Tartan Week celebrations in New York City so it is perhaps more poignant than usual.

The declaration is read out in full, usually by the Grand Marshal, in the days leading up to the parade which attracts thousands both taking part and watching on. It is a great celebration of being Scottish, all organised by Americans who have some Scottish roots.

Last year's Grand Marshal was Sir Billy Connolly. See had a great time on a lovely sunny day with his family. Sir Billy's wife, Lady Pamela Stephenson judged the dogs competition ahead of the parade.



Sir Billy Connolly PHOTO ©2019 The Edinburgh Reporter  
The year before Scottish singer songwriter KT Tunstall was Grand Marshal.



KT Tunstall the Grand Marshall at the Tartan Parade in NYC in 2018 with her rescue greyhound, King.  
Brian Cox CBE was all set to be the Grand Marshal on 4 April 2020 at the front of the parade to make its way up Sixth Avenue. He told The Edinburgh Reporter: "It's sad but I am not

surprised and felt this would be the case as things unfold. But here's to next year and I'm free if they want me!"

Edinburgh Academy Pipe Band were ready to go too as were our own Edinburgh ceilidh band, Whisky Kiss who were going to play at the ceilidh the night before and the after party. City piper Louise Marshall was hoping to represent World Fair Trade Tartan along with the Pulse of the Place drummers from Leith. Pulse of the Place said on Facebook: "Unfortunately this will not be possible in April, we are working on a plan to make our Big Apple visit happen after the dust settles. We have the most amazing group of young people. There is no larger incentive needed to make this happen." The group had raise £41,455 (83% of their £50,000 goal) by last week.

Everyone involved is extremely disappointed, but also realistic. But boy what a party everyone will miss. Pipe bands come from all over the world to parade, and there is a suite of events which take place around it.

Hopefully all will be well by next year. Kyle Dawson President of NYC Tartan Week put out this message earlier:



President of New York City Tartan Week



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Dear Friends,

It is with heavy hearts that we announce that the New York City Tartan Day Parade will not be taking place in 2020. We had hoped that we would be able to go ahead with the Parade being 3 weeks away, but following yesterday's news the State of New York, and New York City are banning large gatherings until further notice.

We are so sorry. This is hugely disappointing news for us to share with you. Given that the COVID-19 pandemic is a rapidly evolving situation, we will not be rescheduling this year's Parade. Instead we'll be focusing on returning stronger than ever in 2021.

We would like to take this time to thank Marti, Audrey, Bob, Barbara, Suzanne, Fraser, Dan, Steve, Caroline, and our PR team in Glasgow, Victoria and Pam, for all of their hard work over the past year. Without this amazing team, we would not be able to put on such a spectacular series of events. And to Howie and Charlie your support over the years has been unfounded. Thank you, from the bottom of our Tartan Hearts.

Thank you for your ongoing support,

Kyle Dawson  
Lesley MacLennan Denninger  
Camilla Hellman  
Lebby Campbell

