

# Family Matters money • health • lifestyle • food • homes

## Michael's showcasing Scots-Italian heritage

By John Paul Breslin

**WHAT do the Pope, David Beckham and tartan-clad cars have in common?**

No, it's not a joke. The answer is Michael Lemetti — a Scottish businessman with big plans on how to cash in on Scotland's links with Italy.

Michael's business, Clan Italia, which produces and sells Italy's official tartan, is looking to launch a whole new range of products.

The 52-year-old, who helped devise and produce the unique tartan worn by dignitaries during Pope Benedict XVI's visit, is looking to kit out footballers, fashionistas and Fiats.

### AC Milan

Next year will see him launch the AC Milan Club Supporters Tartan. The latest design to be added to the Clan Italia range, it has the club's full backing and will be sold through Michael's website.

It could also be stocked in AC Milan's official stores as early as next year.

And Michael is in talks with Italian car manufacturer Fiat with a view to decking out the interior and exterior of its vehicles with his unique tartan.

But the roads aren't the only places where his designs could be on show.

He's hoping to encourage designers Dolce and Gab-



■ Michael with the Antonine Amber Ale.

bana to opt for Italy's official plaid in forthcoming collections.

Michael is also venturing into the world of beverages.

Next month will see him launch a Scots-Italian microbrew beer called Antonine Amber Ale, produced by Tryst Brewery in Larbert.

If his numerous projects prove successful, his products could appear everywhere from the driveways of Govan to the runways of Milan and every pub in between.

And while the Romans may have abandoned the Antonine Wall 1850 years ago, one Italian is still on it — Michael.

"I thought Antonine Amber Ale would be a good name because the Antonine Wall is an example of Scotland's links with Italy.

"The wall even runs through part of my garden. My conservatory sits on top of where it would have been.

"It's believed the Romans made their own ale when they were in Scotland because they couldn't get wine.

"So it's fitting that I'm making a Scots-Italian ale.

"We aim to sell it in up-market bars in Scotland and I'm in talks with a number of microbreweries in Italy who are interested in producing, bottling and selling it there."



■ A Fiat 500 Abarth featuring Michael's tartan design.



■ The St Ninian's tartan.

It's been a great if hectic year for the Falkirk businessman.

He was one of only five people to be given a letter of thanks, a gold medal and a set of rosary beads blessed by the Pope.

"It was an honour to be consulted on the tartan for the Pope's visit. Seeing thousands wear the plaid was fantastic," he said.

"We were all amazed when we were presented with our thank you, it was totally unexpected."

And the Pope isn't the only world-famous figure he's worked with.

Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli, Scots pop star Paolo Nutini, celeb chef Gino D'Acampo and former Rangers footballer Rino Gattuso have all worn Michael's tartan.

He also met David Beckham when the star was in Scotland to play with AC Milan in their friendly match against Rangers last year and once presented Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi with a tartan tie.

### Heritage

Business Gateway is helping Michael push the Clan Italia brand at home and abroad in the hope of bringing more jobs to Falkirk and, hopefully, the rest of Scotland.

"This is just the start of a major push to showcase products that embrace my Scots-Italian heritage," said Michael.

"With around 30,000 Scots with Italian roots in the West of Scotland alone there's a huge market for the products we make."

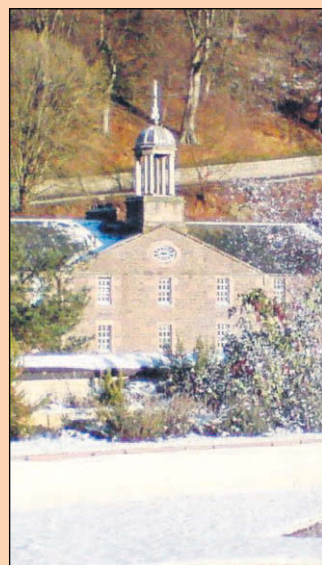
## INDEX

### Food



A lazy Sunday brunch the whole family will enjoy — **P48**

### Days out



New Lanark is a winter wonderland — **P47**

### Your money



A few minutes on the phone could net you £100s — **P46**

### Doc Replies

Could milk make her bone problems worse? — **P50**

### Motoring — P63

### Travel — P65

## SUNDAY POST

# Quiz

- 1 — Ben Arthur is also known by which other name?
- 2 — Are rabbits native to Britain?
- 3 — Why do we say "Back to square one" when we have to start something all over again?
- 4 — Identify the following song titles ending in "girl" by the following groups or soloists — a) Neil Sedaka, b) Deacon Blue, c) Garbage, d) Aqua.
- 5 — What does "LOL" mean in a text message?



■ Susan Boyle — question 8.

- 6 — Christ the Redeemer is a statue on Corcovado mountain overlooking which South American city?
- 7 — Which hefty athletes eat a protein-rich stew called chankonabe?
- 8 — Singer Susan Boyle hails from which Scottish town?
- 9 — Ben Collins was known for years as which mystery TV personality?

- 10 — Which girl's name was a 1967 hit for The Four Tops?
- 11 — Which TV gardener's autobiography is entitled *Nobbut A Lad: A Yorkshire Childhood*?
- 12 — A luthier makes or repairs what — books, musical instruments or shoes?
- 13 — What can be "v", polo or crew?
- 14 — How is Margaret Anne Lake better known in the media?
- 15 — Is brontophobia a fear of — a) large animals, b) thunder and lightning, c) loud noises or d) strong odours?
- 16 — Which member of the Royal family bought the Balmoral Castle Estate?
- 17 — Name the prominent tower on Battery Hill in Oban.



■ Balmoral — question 16.

- 18 — Who goes to the but 'n' ben for short breaks and summer holidays?
- 19 — Carpetbag steaks are popular in Australia. What seafood are they stuffed with?
- 20 — Albion Rovers Football Club is based in which Scottish town?

For the answers turn to >>> Page 47