

# HEATHER BELL

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALEDONIAN & ST. ANDREWS SOCIETY OF SEATTLE

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## NEXT GATHERING

Members of Caledonian & St. Andrew's Society will not gather in April, due to the current health crisis and prohibitions on large gatherings of people.

## Facebook

The Caledonians have a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/seattlecaledonians/?ref=bookmarks>

Diana Smith frequently posts interesting articles and notices, so check back often.

## Sunshine Report

Bonnie reminds people that she does not have e-mail, so please call her when you have information about Caledonians who are ill or passed away. Her phone is 425-806-3734.

## Calendar of Seattle Area Scottish Events

### April

4 Tartan Day activities are cancelled.

5 Caledonian & St. Andrews Society Gathering - Cancelled

Other April events are likely cancelled in all areas.

**May** – Events are listed, but may be cancelled if the current “Stay at home” directive of the governor is extended.

3 Caledonian & St. Andrews Society Gathering, 2:00 pm. Haller Lake United Methodist Church, 13055 1st Ave. NE, Seattle, WA. 98125. **Note: this is one week earlier than usual, due to Mother's Day being on**

## Interesting Website

Rampant Scotland is a useful website for anyone looking for links to all things Scottish, whether you are looking for accommodations or information about clans, castles, history, genealogy, tartans, or tourism. Check it out at <http://www.rampantscotland.com/>.

## When This is Over

by Laura Kelly Fanucci

“When this is over,  
may we never again take for granted  
A handshake with a stranger  
Full shelves at the store  
Conversations with neighbors  
A crowded theater  
Friday night out  
The taste of communion  
A routine checkup  
The school rush each morning  
Coffee with a friend  
The stadium roaring  
Each deep breath  
A boring Tuesday  
Life itself.

When this ends  
may we find that we have become  
more like the people we wanted to be  
we were called to be  
we hoped to be  
and may we stay that way —  
better for each other  
because of the worst.”

## Articles and Topics About

# Scotland and Things Scottish

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From *The Scottish Banner*

## Huntigowk Day

In Scotland April Fool's Day is traditionally called as Huntigowk Day. In Scots, Gowk means a foolish person or cuckoo. The unique thing about Scotland's fool's day is that unlike many other countries, Scotland celebrates it for two days, on April 1st and April 2nd.

On the first day people play pranks and tell lies to catch each other in an embarrassing situation. According to tradition people need to stop playing pranks and hoaxes by midday. In olden times Hunt-the- Gowk Day was celebrated by sending a person to find the fool for the day. Although this tradition is followed in some areas, it is slowly dying out.

On the second day or Tailie Day, paper tails are attached to people's backs. A typical Huntigowk prank was handing someone a sealed envelope and asking them to deliver it to someone else. The recipient would open the letter - and read: "Dinna laugh, dinna smile, Hunt the gowk another mile."

While the history of April Fool's Day or All Fools' Day is uncertain, we know the Romans celebrated a day of fun and games with the Festival of Hilaria while, in ancient civilisation, New Year was celebrated between March 25 and April 1<sup>st</sup>. Anyone who observed New Year's Day on April 1 was called a fool or an April fish.

The day of its celebration was the first after the vernal equinox, or the first day of the year which was longer than the night (usually March 22). The winter with its gloom had died, and the first day of a better season was spent in rejoicings.

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## Significant Women in Scotland's History

Historic Environment Scotland (HES) has been running a national scheme to recognize trailblazing women from Scotland's past since 2012. The six women to be celebrated this year were nominated by the public.

Barbara Cummins, Director of Heritage at HES, said: "The contribution of women in Scotland's history is often overlooked."

Women to be recognized this year are:

### **Madge Easton Anderson (1896-1982)**

The first female Solicitor in Scotland. Later became the first woman to qualify to practise law in both England and Scotland and a partner in the first known law firm to be led entirely by women.

### **Mary Burton (1819-1909)**

Social reformer and suffragist. In 1869, she successfully campaigned for the Watt Institution and School of Arts (now Heriot- Watt University) to admit female students.

### **Cicily Isabel Fairfield (1892-1983)**

Better known under pen name Rebecca West, Fairfield was a novelist, travel writer and journalist who famously reported on the Nuremberg Trials.

### **Isobel Wylie Hutchison (1889-1982)**

Arctic traveller and botanist who risked life and limb collecting plants for the Royal Botanic Gardens and Kew. She pioneered new routes across inhospitable terrain, boarded ghost ships and captured some of the earliest documentary footage ever recorded.

### **Elizabeth Buchanan Mitchell (1880-1980)**

One of Scotland's leading early female town planners and a pioneer in the profession. She campaigned tirelessly for the importance of open spaces, gardens and quality mass-housing.

### **Dr Margaret Caroline Tait (1918-1999)**

Avant-garde film maker and the first Scottish woman to direct a feature length film with 1992's *Blue Black Permanent*.

Each will have a plaque erected on buildings with strong links to their life or work.

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## Edinburgh - Scotland's Greenest City

Edinburgh Councillor Donald Wilson, culture and communities convener, said Edinburgh could become home to one million trees by 2030 as the city council considers plans to protect and invest in its woodland. The capital will aim to be a "million tree city" by the end of the decade if plans are pushed forward by the authority's culture and communities committee. If approved, the council will form an action plan to achieve the one million

tree target in urban Edinburgh – where the number currently stands at approximately 731,000.

He said, “We’re so proud that Edinburgh is already the UK’s greenest city, with more trees than people, more green space and more green flag parks than any other place in Scotland for people to enjoy. But we want to, and must, do even better – especially as we strive towards our hugely ambitious target of making the city carbon neutral by 2030. By joining the cohort of million tree cities such as New York, Shanghai, London and Los Angeles, we’ll be able to substantially reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to lessen the impact of climate change. It’s impossible to overstate the benefits trees bring to the urban landscape. They help clean our air, reduce the risk of flooding, keep us cool in the summer and warmer in winter and give the wildlife in our city a home, as well as making neighbourhoods look and feel tranquil and appealing.”

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## New Scottish £20 Enters Circulation



A new polymer £20 note by the Bank of Scotland’s has been released, featuring an image of the Forth Bridge with the Queensferry Crossing in the background. The front of the note continues to feature the portrait of Scottish novelist and poet Sir Walter Scott alongside an image of the Mound in Edinburgh, as was the case with the older paper £20 notes. The Forth Bridge remains on the reverse, but the Queensferry Crossing, which opened in 2017, is visible in the background. The Queensferry Crossing is also celebrated in its own right on a limited number of commemorative £20 notes.

The notes feature a series of security measures, such as a ‘window effect’ which can be found in the windows of the Mound. They also have a holographic depth stripe, the top of the foil features a northern lights effect when tilted, and the clouds on the notes will move left to right when tilted east to west. Like the £10 polymer note, the £20 notes have the ‘tactile emboss’ feature to aid the visually

impaired. All existing paper Bank of Scotland £20 notes will now be gradually withdrawn, but any in circulation will continue to be accepted at shops, banks and cash payment machines.

Unlike English banknotes, Scottish notes are produced by three different banks: Bank of Scotland, Royal Bank of Scotland and Clydesdale Bank. The notes are generally accepted in the rest of the UK as well.

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## European Stone Stacking Championships



A day at the beach: stacking some pebbles on top of each other while the waves lap the shore and seabird’s whirl and cry overhead. Sounds like a good opportunity for a bit of relaxation and mindfulness in nature but it is also the setting for international competition. This month (April) the European Stone Stacking Championships take place in Dunbar with entrants from across the globe flocking to East Lothian to compete against each other in a contest of art, dexterity and speed.

The event, from 17 to 19 April, culminates in a two-and-a-half-hour marathon when artists can use everything from the smallest pebbles to the large rocks to produce a work of art. This can be enhanced with other things found on the beach including driftwood, broken fishing nets and sailing buoys which float in on the tide. The only real rule is that it all has to be found on the beach, on the day.

More than a dozen countries are going to be represented including Egypt, USA, Austria, France and Germany. But, despite the competitive element, the event is as much about fun and attracts thousands of spectators each year.

Afterward, contestants dismantle their creations if the incoming tide is not going to take them,



something central to the ethos of looking after nature.

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## Tartan of the Month



### The Tartan Day Society of Washington State Tartan

The Tartan Day Society of Washington State Tartan (Ref #11802) was designed for the Tartan Day Society of Washington State. Colours: green represents the official colour of Washington, known as the “Evergreen State”; blue represents the Pacific Ocean and Puget Sound; red, white and blue represent the colours in the United States flag. A woven sample of this tartan has been received by the Scottish Register of Tartans for permanent preservation in the National Records of Scotland. The Tartan Day Society of Washington State Tartan was designed by Robert Parrish and registered in May 2017.

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## Corrie-fisted Weans

Left-handedness from ancient times and well into the 20th century was, as often as not, looked upon by society as an unnatural aberration to be dealt with fairly ruthlessly. That was in spite of around 10% of the human population being left-handed across cultures and history.

Children in Scotland who showed this so-called ‘unnatural tendency’ in school were often severely dealt with, to be chastised, threatened with the Lochgelly and sometimes remorselessly punished by ‘right-minded’ teachers. Common sayings such as a left-handed compliment are ambiguous and even the ‘Good Book’ contains many discrimin-

atory references to the left hand that give little comfort and solace to the child who favours it.

To make matters worse heavy users of left-handed brains, but actually the right hemisphere of the brain, were said to be just that wee bit different from users of the right-handed brains but in fact the left hemisphere. They were said to be a wee bit messier, a wee bit clumsier, a wee bit dreamier and a wee bit more emotional than the right-hander. These were not particularly useful traits for ‘cackie-handers’ coping with a right-handed school, never mind a right-handed world.

It was the right-handed children, using their verbal, rational left hemispheres that usually got on best with the expectations of the teachers. Their brains handled speech very well and they were dab hands at analytical and sequential thought. Of course, these were seen as useful traits in the classroom, by their mainly right-handed and right-minded teachers. So, the right-hander often got the best deal at school because the 3 R’s ‘reading,’riting and ‘rithmetic’ are logical, linear and naturally very highly valued in society.

But all was not lost for the one in ten ‘corrie-fisted weans’, for the more emotional lefty brain can be good at understanding three-dimensional space, music, tone of voice, and best of all can be imaginative and very often creative seeing beyond the status quo to think more laterally. Research also suggests that they can be hot-tempered, but are very often empathetic and not as rigid in thinking as many ‘righties’.

Lateral thinkers are supposedly good at drawing pictures and telling funny stories because the brain of a lefty likes to day-dream and is likely to dream away all by itself during the hours of sleep, creating wonderful ideas for us all when we awake in the mornings. This supposedly helps to give lefties insights and hunches and an ability to deal with feelings and ideas, often those not easily put into words.

It’s said to help to make lefties experimental and creative because creativity seems to have virtually nothing to do with language or the intellectual skills arising from book learning. In fact, many of the most famous of the lefties of the world were not especially good at school. Because the basic tools of creative thinking are said to be mental pictures the lefty brain, less hampered by logic and rationality,

is apparently free to make all sorts of new and creative connections with these pictures.

So that explains why even though many lefties are missing from history, because they were made to switch and conceal their natural tendencies, they nevertheless have a disproportionate presence in history, from Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar and Napoleon to Leonardo Da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael and Isaac Newton, Lewis Carrol, Mark Twain and Queen Victoria, among many others.

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## Fun Facts About Tartan

**1. Love Me Tartan:** Elvis Presley has no less than three tartans to his name. The singer is said to have roots in Lonmay, a tiny village in Aberdeenshire, and in 2004 local designer Mike King created an official Presley of Lonmay tartan in his honour followed by a modern version a few years later. The Scottish Tartan Registry also lists the Presley of Memphis tartan by Brian Wilton, which is based on the colours of the US flag with a gold stripe to represent Elvis' multiple Gold Discs. It even has a thread count of 42 – the age the King was when he died.

**2. One giant leap for tartankind:** Alan Bean, an American astronaut of Scottish descent, took a little piece of MacBean tartan up to the moon during his Apollo 12 mission in 1969. Despite some rumours to the contrary, he didn't leave his clan's colours to float around in space forever: he took the material back to Earth and donated it to Clan MacBean and to the St Bean Chapel in Fowlis Wester, Perthshire.

**3. Tartan trendsetters:** Nowadays Queen Victoria may not be known as a fashionista, but she's partly to thank for tartan's popularity today. A fan of all things Scottish, she turned up to the Great Exhibition in 1851 with her young sons, Albert and Alfred, decked out in full Highland attire. Sales of plaid went through the roof, and became a particularly popular choice for schools. Since then tartan has been seen on uniforms not only in the UK, but also in countries such as the US, the Philippines and Japan.

**4. Big in Japan:** Speaking of the Japanese, they're amongst Scotland's biggest fans when it comes to fashion. The country is the largest international importer of the Outer Hebrides' famous Harris Tweed, and tartan is a staple of Japanese street and runway fashion – designer Jun Takahashi once had models strut down the runway painted from head

to toe in plaid. The country has had several tartans dedicated to it; Hello Kitty even has her very own design!



**5. Unewesual designs:** Scotland is home to a rare species of tartan sheep. Well, sort of – the talented owners of the East Links Family Park near Dunbar and the Auchingarrich Wildlife Centre in Perthshire have been known to paint their sheep tartan for Tartan Day and other events. The sheep have become a tourist attraction in their own right – the Auchingarrich flock even featured in an episode of *Come Dine With Me!*

**6. The original rebelwear:** Tartan and kilts were banned under the 1746 Act of Proscription in an attempt to control the Highland clans that had supported the Jacobite Risings. Those suspected of supporting the enemy cause were asked to take an oath stating that they would “never use any tartan, plaid or any part of the Highland garb, and if I do so, may I be cursed in my undertakings, family, and property – may I never see my wife and children, father, mother, and relations – may I be killed in battle as a coward, and lie without Christian burial in a strange land, far from the graves of my forefathers and kindred”.

**7. Police in plaid:** Black and white checks can be seen on police uniforms and vehicles all over the world, but did you know the design is technically a type of tartan? Named ‘Sillitoe Tartan’ after Chief Constable Percy Sillitoe of the City of Glasgow Police, the checks were first used by police in Scotland in 1932. Their use has since spread to police forces in parts of Australia, Spain, the USA, Hong Kong and several other countries.

**8. Woven words:** Like many English words, we nabbed ‘tartan’ from the French. The name comes from the word *tiretaine*, stemming from the verb *tirer* (to pull). The term also has links to the Spanish

tiritaña, a type of silk cloth, and the Gaelic breacan, meaning plaid or speckled.

**9. Pricey patterns:** Peebles knitwear firm Holland & Sherry are proud creators of the world's most expensive tartan – a luxury blend woven from pure Mongolian cashmere that will set you back £500 a square metre, or £5,000 for the full kilt. Don't re-mortgage the house just yet, though! Kilts normally cost between £150 and £500, depending on the quality and length of the material, and you can get a lightweight version for a reasonable £50.

**10. Not just for Scots!** One popular misconception about tartan is that you have to be a card-carrying clansman to wear a family tartan. In fact, tartans didn't become associated with specific clans until the 19<sup>th</sup> century; before that people picked their plaids based on colours, just as they do now. If you do want some personal connection to your design, you'll probably be able to find one regardless of whether or not you have Scottish roots – countries from the Congo to Zimbabwe and beyond have their own national tartans, as do each of the US States and Canadian provinces.



A fellowship founded in Seattle in 1902 to foster a love of Scotland, her people, and her heritage.

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