



Volume 120

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### NEXT GATHERING

Members of the Caledonian & St. Andrew's Society will gather in April using the electronic app Zoom.

Our next gathering is **Sunday, April 10th**, at 2:00 p.m. An e-mailed link will be sent to everyone who has computer access a few days in advance of this date. You can also join by clicking on this link or copying and pasting this address into your browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/713418301?pwd=K1ZUQnBOSE53YURUYjE4SW4ySjlxOT09>

You can also participate by phone by calling 1-253-215-8782 and entering the meeting ID: 713 418 301 and then the passcode: 004905. For those without a camera on your computer, you can do both, letting you see everyone on the computer and connecting with people on your phone.

### APRIL PROGRAM

**Cayley Schmid**, fiddle player, will be the program for the April 10<sup>th</sup> gathering on Zoom. Currently, Cayley is the Program and Events Manager



for the Celtic Arts Foundation in Mount Vernon, but she has played fiddle in the Irish and Scottish traditions for her whole life. For

many years she played fiddle while touring with the Americana band Polecat. She also is program coordinator for both the Bellingham Folk Festival and the Bellingham Irish Festival. (Sorry, we weren't able to book her for March!)

### FUTURE PROGRAMS

Plan ahead to join us each month for gatherings on Zoom. We will have a variety of local, national, and international talent for the program.

### SUNSHINE REPORT

**Jim Van Zee** reported that he lost vision in his right eye when the "wet AMD" (age-related macular degeneration) in it resulted in a sub-retinal hemorrhage a few weeks ago. He continues to have poor vision with "dry AMD" in his left eye. Even so, he celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on February 28<sup>th</sup>, by dancing with the Scottish Country Dancing group, which has started up again after a hiatus of two years.

**Art Henderson** reported that he and **Carolyn** are "hanging in there." He said that a hospice nurse sees him each week and for the time being he is "holding his own."

**Phillip Junkins** said he is walking a little bit after food surgery, although his leg hurts some and he's not putting too much stress on his foot. He gets physical therapy once a week now.

If you know of a Caledonian who would be cheered by a card, let Bonnie Munro know. She can be reached by phone at 425-806-3734.

## Calendar of Seattle Area Scottish Events

### APRIL

**2 Tartan Day Celebration**, 10:00am in front of the Legislative Building at the Capitol in Olympia. Afterward, attendees will go to Tugboat Annie's Restaurant.

**10 Caledonian & St. Andrews Society Gathering**, 2:00 pm. Zoom:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/713418301?pwd=K1ZUQnBOSE53YURUYjE4SW4ySjIxQT09>

**10 Cantrip Concert**, 7:00pm-9:00pm. \$25.00 Littlefield Celtic Center, 1124 Cleveland Ave., Mount Vernon, WA 360-416-4934 <https://celticarts.org/celtic-events/>

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### Recap of the March Caledonian Gathering



Tyrone Heade and two friends from the Iona Abbey ensemble performed for the March Caledonian gathering. Miriam Shames, cello, and Kevin King, bodhrán, accompanied him as he played the Scottish small pipes. Tyrone also performed several pieces solo on his Highland bagpipe.

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### 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. Be sure to "Like" the articles so they show up frequently on your Facebook stream.

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### Articles and Topics About Scotland and Things Scottish

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Information based on articles in *The Scottish Banner* and *Wikipedia*.

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## Scotland reacts to Ukraine

In 1989, before Ukraine became a republic separate from the Soviet Union, Edinburgh and Kyiv became twin cities. Councillors in Edinburgh are preparing to grant the most prestigious honour it can bestow to the Ukrainian President and the Mayor of Edinburgh's twin city, Kyiv. In recognition of heroically standing by their country and their citizens to lead the fight against the invasion of Ukraine, Edinburgh City Council Leaders are seeking support to confer the Freedom of the City jointly to President Volodymyr Zelensky and Mayor Vitali Klitschko. The Freedom of the City is a tradition that dates back over 560 years to 1459, with Her Majesty The Queen and Sir Chris Hoy the only living individuals with the Scottish Capital's freemanship. It can only be 'bestowed upon those who are held in the highest esteem'.

In Inverness the Highland Council also last month granted the Freedom of the Highlands to the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Oleksandrovych Zelenskyy.

Over £16 million has been pledged to Scottish organisations and charities to assist Ukrainians fleeing their war-torn nation. Thousands of displaced Ukrainians will be coming to Scotland for safety and sanctuary.



Many Scottish landmarks that are lighting up in support of Ukraine in a sea of yellow and blue, such as The Kelpies, Eilean Donan Castle, Greyfriars Bobby, The Wallace Monument and Marischal College just to name a few.

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### Iconic Scottish Capercaillie at risk of becoming extinct





The non-migratory Scottish capercaillie is the largest member of the grouse family. Although both male and female have hooked beaks, the larger male's bright plumage and bright red spot of naked skin above each eye far outshines the browns, buffs, and ecru shades of its smaller female mate. Its name is a corruption of the Scottish Gaelic *capall coille*, meaning "horse of the wood."

Capercaillies at one time could be found in cold temperate latitudes across the northern hemisphere. The Scottish population became extinct, but was reintroduced from the Swedish population. Even so, these game birds are at risk of becoming extinct again despite programs to breed them in captivity and release them into the wild.

Two of the capercaillie's most serious threats are man-made. One is habitat degradation from converting diverse native forests into single-species timber plantations with trees grown close together. Because of their body size and weight and short, rounded wings, capercaillie stay nearer the ground and avoid dense forests when flying. The second threat is flying into fences erected to keep deer out of young plantations.

Another threat occurs because they are ground breeders, and their eggs are decimated by small predators, such as red foxes, pine martins, and crows. In mountainous skiing areas, poorly marked cables for ski-lifts also can contribute to mortality.

When a high snow cover prevents access to ground vegetation, the capercaillie spends almost all day and night in trees, feeding on coniferous needles of spruce, pine and fir as well as on buds from beech and rowan.

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### Scottish Shepherd's Crooks

Shepherd's crooks are ancient tools in existence for millennia that are still useful in modern times by shepherds and as handy walking canes. Often seen in historic art, crooks were symbols associated with the Egyptian god, Osiris. Pharaohs carried crooks to both show they were descended from the gods and also as symbolic evidence that they shepherded their people.

Early versions were probably merely straight branches from a tree with a handy curve at the top. In time they became carved or constructed from wood, and horn is often used for the curved handle. As a result, this handle is sometimes called

the horn. The horn is boiled, pressed, and moulded to form the curved crook. The tip of the horn often has an additional outward curve where a lantern can be hung.

Unlike walking sticks that sometimes are curvy in the extreme or knobbed, crook purists say wood for a crook must be ramrod straight and have been drying for a couple of years. Hazel wood is

preferred for crooks.

In addition to their always valued usefulness as a walking stick while crossing difficult or changing terrain,

modern crooks can be quite elaborate with carvings and



Crooks belonging to MacGregor of Clan MacGregor

other decorations. They also can be made from metal. The more elaborate, the more expensive, of course.

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### Spring Highlights in Scotland



**Puffins** start to arrive in April on Dun Mor. Puffins often mate for life, and around 350 pairs breed on this sea stack, laying their eggs in burrows during May and June. The eggs are incubated about 40 days and each pair hatches just

one young puffling a year. The puffling is fed by its parents for around 50 days, until it's ready to set off into the Atlantic. With their colourful beaks and charming waddle, puffins are known as the "clowns of the sea." Appropriately, a group of puffins is known as a "circus."

**Flowers** signal the arrival of spring. In the Pass of Killiecrankie, star-shaped **wood anemone** blossoms enjoy the sun. They flower early in the season to make the most of dappled sunshine before the tree canopy fills out with leaves. Wood anemones spread through their roots, so finding large areas of these pretty white flowers is an indicator of the ancient vintage of the woodland where they grow.

Ben Lawers National Nature Reserve has a wide range of arctic and alpine plants. The first to bloom in spring is the incredibly hardy **purple saxifrage**.



These blooms can be found at some of the highest altitudes and most northerly locations in the world.



**Ospreys** have been extinct in Scotland, but were reintroduced in 2008. These fish-eating birds of prey migrate from

Africa to breed in southern Scotland.

## Events in Scottish History

**April 3** - In 1603, King James VI moved to Whitehall Palace in London to take up the English throne. His court settled around the palace in an area which became known as "Scotland Yard." On his way to London he knighted 300 people, and in the space of four months in England had knighted more people than Queen Elizabeth had in her entire reign. James returned to Scotland only once, in 1617, and he liked to boast that he now ruled his northern kingdom with a stroke of his pen.

**April 6** - In 1320, the **Declaration of Arbroath** was drawn up by the monks of Arbroath Abbey. This document is widely believed to have been the inspiration behind the American Declaration of Independence in 1776. (This date was chosen to be Tartan Day in Canada and the U.S.)

**April 16** - In 1746, the **Battle of Culloden** took place at Culloden Moor, where British troops



defeated the Scottish Jacobite army for the final confrontation of the 1745

Jacobite Rising. It was the last ever battle to be fought on British soil with over 1500 Scottish fatalities.

**April 12** - In 1606, the **Union Flag** was adopted as the flag of England, Wales, and Scotland.



## Scottish Musical Instruments

Here are ten instruments that are considered to be traditional for Scottish ceilidh bands. Not all were invented in Scotland, but they have been modified over the years to create distinctive Scottish music. We'll start with the most famous, the bagpipe, and then move to the others.

### Bagpipes

Everyone thinks of bagpipes when they think of Scotland. However, bagpipes are not unique to Scotland. The difference is that in Scotland the Great Bagpipe can be a military weapon, more so than the trumpet. There are a variety of small pipes as well that are more suited to indoor use. Bagpipes are in the woodwind family, as they use reeds installed in both the chanter and the drone. Most bagpipes have at least one tunable drone that produces a constant harmonizing note.



### Bodhrán



This drum-like instrument essential in Celtic music was likely intended to be the Irish reinvention of the tambourine. It is played not only on the skin, but also on the sides. Hands or sticks called tippers are

used to play it. One thing that makes it different is that it can be tuned, thus harmonizing with other instruments.

### Clàrsach



This wire-stringed instrument, called a Celtic Harp, once was the national instrument of Scotland before bagpipes displaced it. It is one of Scotland's oldest instruments and was popular because its small size made it easy to carry by traveling musicians. Pictures of it have been found as part of ancient Pictish runes.



## Fiddle

Fiddles are often spoken about interchangeably with violins, and in fact their strings are tuned to pretty much the same tones. However, there actually is a slight physical difference between the two. While a violin can also “fiddle” and a fiddle can play classical music, the bridge of a true fiddle has a flatter arch. This allows players to change fingering positions faster than they can on a violin, making it easier to play the fast-paced Scottish music. Fiddlers often use steel strings to produce a brighter sound, instead of gut or synthetic core ones used on a classical violin.

## Accordion



While not Scottish in origin, accordions are now an integral part of the Scottish musical tradition. They provide versatility and volume for ceilidh bands. There are a variety of accordions

used by these bands, including the popular piano accordion, but the one most preferred in Scotland is the British Chromatic Accordion.

## Stock-and-Horn

This traditional instrument is sometimes known as a Scottish hornpipe or Piobhorn. This ancestor of the modern practice chanter is played with a single reed at the top of a pipe with a bell at the bottom to amplify the sound. It has six or seven holes on the top and one on the back.



## Scottish Tenor Drum



A Scottish pipe band is required to have at least one tenor drum so it is a staple of these bands. The tone of a Scottish tenor drum is much like that of a bass drum, although usually much higher pitched. What makes it different from some other drums is that it can be tuned to a specific pitch.

Typically, it is tuned to match the drone or chanter pitches of the bagpipes in a pipe band, although some bands will tune their tenor drums to play different pitches, which allows more melodic and harmonic accompaniment. It is played on the top head with mallets with large, soft heads. Many times tenor drum players have colorful mallets and do elaborate twirls and flourishes with them.

## Tin Whistle

The tin whistle is sometimes called a Scottish Penny Whistle, because when it was most prevalent in the 19<sup>th</sup> century it was inexpensive and could be purchased for a penny. It is a straight tube with a whistle-shaped mouthpiece and six holes that are covered to make different pitches.



## Guitar

A necessary component of a ceilidh band is the guitar. However, it is made distinctive as a Scottish instrument by the way it is tuned. Most standard guitar strings are tuned to all-fourths (except one is a major third,) but Scottish guitar strings are tuned so that they play perfect fifths. This gives them distinctly Celtic-sounding harmonies with other instruments.

## Cittern



A cittern is a flat-backed instrument, usually with steel strings, that is played with picks or plectrums attached to the fingers. Except for the flat back, it has much the shape of a lute, although with ten strings. There are many versions of this instrument that were popular in

the Renaissance period. In some countries a version much like it is called a zither. While played much like a guitar, its sound is made more Celtic by tuning the strings to perfect fifths.

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Resources for this article:

<https://hellomusictheory.com>  
Wikipedia



Isle of Foula



Canal and Locks



Ben Nevis



Kilchurn Castle



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

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