

HEATHER BELL

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALEDONIAN & ST. ANDREWS SOCIETY OF SEATTLE

www.caledonians.com

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NEXT GATHERING

Our December gathering will be on **Sunday, December 2nd**, a week earlier than our usual gatherings. As usual, we will gather at 2:00 pm at Haller Lake United Methodist Church, 13055 1st Ave. NE, Seattle, WA. 98125.

Entertainment will be by a quartet called "The Backup Clan" that is a Scottish country dance band. Christmas goodies will be served for tea.

Looking Ahead

Put January 20th on your calendar for a "Celebration of Robert Burns" at our January gathering.

After looking carefully at the cost of past Robert Burns dinners and the amount of time and effort required to put one on, the Board has decided to not have a formal Robert Burns Dinner in 2019. We simply couldn't find a way to have high quality food and keep ticket costs affordable without losing too much money. And, active membership in our organization has dwindled to the point that there aren't enough people available to ensure a high quality experience. Instead, we will have a "Celebration of Robert Burns" at our January gathering on Sunday, January 20th at 2pm, with haggis, neeps, and tatties at tea, as well as poems and, of course, the "Address to a Haggis".

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

Sunshine Chairperson Bonnie Munro reports this information about members, former members, and those in the Scottish community:

Bonnie sent a get-well card to Eric Vegors after his recent surgery.

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

December

1 "A Winter Gift" Celtic Holiday Concert, Celtic Arts Foundation, Littlefield Celtic Center, 1124 Cleveland Ave., Mount Vernon, WA 12:00-3:00pm. 360-416-4934 <https://celticarts.org>

1 Geoffrey Castle's Celtic Christmas Celebration, The Everett Historic Theater, 2911 Colby Ave., Everett, WA. 425-258-6766 Tickets \$22-35

2 Caledonian & St. Andrews Society Gathering, 2:00 pm. Haller Lake United Methodist Church, 13055 1st Ave. NE, Seattle, WA. 98125. (Note that this is one week earlier than our usual gathering date.)

10 Holiday Open House, Celtic Arts Foundation, Littlefield Celtic Center, 1124 Cleveland Ave., Mount Vernon, WA 1:00-4:00pm. RSVP at 360-416-4934 or <https://celticarts.org>

11 SSHGA Meeting, 7:30 pm. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church 111 NE 80th St., Seattle, WA. Info: (206) 522-2541

13 & 14 Geoffrey Castle's Celtic Christmas Celebration, Kirkland Performance Center, 350 Kirkland Ave, Kirkland, WA. 7pm & 8pm. 425-893-9900
<http://www.kpcenter.org/get-tickets/2018/12/>

15 Geoffrey Castle's Celtic Christmas Celebration,Northshore Performing Arts Center, 18125 92nd Ave. NE, Bothell, WA. 3pm & 7:30pm, \$30. 425-298-3449 <http://npacf.org/geoffrey-castles-celtic-christmas-2018>

January

8 SSHGA Meeting, 7:30 pm. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church 111 NE 80th St., Seattle, WA. Info: (206) 522-2541

19 Robert Burns Supper, Celtic Arts Foundation, Littlefield Celtic Center, 1124 Cleveland Ave., Mount Vernon, WA 5:30pm. This event is sold out, but call to be put on the wait list: 360-416-4934 <https://celticarts.org>

19 Robert Burns Dinner, Kenmore and District Pipe Band

20 Robert Burns Celebration at the Caledonian & St. Andrews Society Gathering, 2:00 pm. Haller Lake United Methodist Church, 13055 1st Ave. NE, Seattle, WA. 98125.

February

1 Masters of Scottish Arts Concert, Beneroya Hall, 3rd and University St., Seattle. 7:30pm. tickets from \$28-49. Contact the Benaroya Hall Ticket Office at 206-215-4747. The Caledonians have reserved a block of tickets for \$10 less.

2 Tacoma Scots Burns Dinner, St. Martin of Tours Church, 2302 54th Ave. E, Fife, WA. 6:00-11:00pm. \$45. Tickets through www.BrownPaperTickets.com
Questions: sheepgirl@msn.com.

Recap of the November Gathering



Caledonian members and guests enjoyed a fantastic program put on by member Jim Van Zee, who combined videos and his own photos from his recent trip to Scotland. Since the gathering was on Veterans Day, Jim started with views of monuments found honoring the service of Scots in both World Wars.

Then he gave an informative presentation on how peat is cut in Scotland, including the tools used, and on the weaving of Harris tweed on the Isle of Harris.

Articles and Topics About Scotland and Things Scottish

From ebooks.visitscotland.com

Famous Scots

Science & Technology

Since The Enlightenment of the 18th century, Scottish scientists have been changing our world one innovation at a time. The discoveries of penicillin and anesthesia. The difference between heat and temperature. And we identified carbon dioxide, acid rain and absolute zero. We were the brains behind logarithms, radar and the decimal point. We took the first colour picture, broadcasted the first television signal - and we even cloned the first ever sheep. Though we can assure you that all the sheep you see roaming our lush countryside are all completely unique.

James Clerk-Maxwell 1831 - 1879

Son of a Dumfries landowner, Clark-Maxwell is often called one of the world's greatest physicists. He demonstrated that electric and magnetic fields travel through space in the form of waves and at the constant speed of light. This theory predicted the existence of radio waves and was integral in the development of technology that we now take for granted, such as radio, TV and mobile phones.

Sir James Dewar 1842 - 1923

Dewar was born in Kincardine. He invented the vacuum flask whilst investigating the behaviour of gasses at low temperature. He is also credited with inventing cordite.

Sir Charles Lyell 1797 - 1875

Sir Charles Lyell was born at Kinnordy House near Kirriemuir. He was a distinguished geologist and a great encouragement to Charles Darwin when he was laying the groundwork of evolutionary biology. In 1829, the first volume of his work *Principals of Geology* was published causing great controversy.

The conflict between science and religious faith was something he felt throughout his life.

John 'Tar' MacAdam

1736 - 1836

Born in Ayr, he was the inventor of the macadamising system of road making, commonly known as tarmac.

Charles MacIntosh

1766 - 1843

Born in Glasgow, he invented the waterproofing agent for the coat of the same name.

John Muir

1838 - 1914

Born in Dunbar, Muir was one of the most famous conservationists of his time. He influenced President Theodore Roosevelt to form America's first National Park. In Scotland, the John Muir Trust has reserves throughout the country, including areas in East Lothian, Knoydart, Skye and Sutherland..

James 'Paraffin' Young

1811 - 1883

Born in Glasgow, he realised the potential for extracting paraffin from oil-rich shales and coals. He went on to set up Scotland's oil industry.

From *The History of Scotland in 25 Objects*
<https://ebooks.visitscotland.com/25-objects/>

Honours of Scotland



The Honours of Scotland is Scotland's Royal regalia, comprising the scepter, the sword and the crown. The scepter is ornately decorated, and its glove is a cut and polished rock crystal with a Scottish pearl on top. The blade of the Sword of State is a metre long. The bejewelled crown is made from Scottish gold from the Crawford Moor mine.

The scepter was presented to James IV by Pope Alexander VI in 1494, and in 1536 it was lengthened by Edinburgh silversmith Andrew Leys at the request

of James V. He also added the thistles. The Sword of State, made by Domenico da Sutri, the Italian master craftsman, was presented to the same king by Pope Julius II. The crown was made by Edinburgh goldsmith John Mosman, by melting down the old one.

The Honours were first used together in the coronation of the infant Mary Queen of Scots at Stirling Castle in 1543. They played a part in the coronation of James VI in 1567, Charles I in 1633, and for the final time, Charles II in 1651.

During Oliver Cromwell's invasion of Scotland in the 1650s the Honours were hidden at Dunnottar Castle in Aberdeenshire, which was sieged for 8 months by Cromwell's troops as a result. They were smuggled out and buried in the nearby Kinneff parish church and kept safe until the monarchy was restored in 1660.

They were used at the sittings of Scottish Parliament, but weren't needed after the Treaty of Union in 1707 dissolved the old Scots Parliament, so they were locked away in an oak chest in the Crown Room in Edinburgh Castle, and forgotten about for more than a century. In 1818 Sir Walter Scott instigated a search of Edinburgh Castle and they were successfully located. They have since been on display at Edinburgh Castle, except during the Second World War when they were hidden in case of a Nazi invasion.

From *The Scottish Banner*

Use of Irn Bru in Cooking

"We take a lot of inspiration from American vegan cuisine, and it's not unusual to see soft drinks like Coca-Cola or Dr.Pepper being used in those dishes, so we started thinking about how we could put a Scottish spin on that, which inevitably led us to Irn Bru. It might sound a little strange at first, but Irn Bru is one of those soft drinks that has a very distinctive taste, so if you combine it with the right flavours, there's a lot of possibilities there. Suffice to say, after we roasted our first batch, we were impressed enough to want to add it to the menu."

Amelia Sulhunt, head chef at Glasgow's Serenity Now Café said as the restaurant has launched the world's first vegan sandwich made with Irn Bru. Irn Bru is Scotland's national soft drink and it is being used in the

sauce of the sandwich which also includes cheese, pickles and mushrooms.

Did you know? - The Royal Yacht Britannia



- On 16 April 1953, *Britannia* was launched from the John Brown & Company shipyard in Clydebank, Glasgow.
- During 44 years in Royal service *Britannia* sailed the equivalent of once round the world for each year, calling at over 600 ports in 135 countries.
- The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh worked closely with interior designer Sir Hugh Casson to create both a functional Royal Navy vessel, and a sumptuous Royal residence.
- *Britannia* was designed to double as a hospital ship in wartime, but never served this purpose.
- The Queen chose deep blue for *Britannia's* hull, instead of the more traditional black.
- She was the last ship in the Navy where sailors slept in hammocks. This stopped in 1973.
- Unlike any other ship, *Britannia* was captained by nine Admirals and latterly a Commodore. The full crew comprised of 220 Yachtsmen, 20 Officers, three Season Officers and on Royal Tours, a Royal Marines Band of 26 men.
- She was the only Navy ship to have its own 24 - hour laundry, manned by its own crew, where temperatures sometimes reached 120F.
- Shouting was forbidden on the Ship. Orders were given by hand signal to preserve the tranquillity.
- *Britannia* is the only place you can see the bedroom of a living British monarch.
- Four Royal honeymoons took place on board, including Prince Charles and Princess Diana's in 1986.
- *Britannia* opened her doors as a tourist attraction in 1998 and is berthed at Ocean Terminal in the Edinburgh suburb of Leith.

Hogmanay

Hogmanay is the Scottish celebration of New Year, and is said to have its roots in the Viking winter solstice celebrations. Informal Hogmanay gatherings have long taken place in town and city centres across Scotland.

Top 10 Facts About Hogmanay

- 1 - Hogmanay is the Scots word for the last day of the year and is synonymous with the celebration of the New Year in the Scottish manner.
- 2 - Nobody knows for sure where the word 'Hogmanay' came from. It may have originated from Gaelic or from Norman-French
- 3 - Historically, Christmas was not observed as a festival and Hogmanay was the more traditional celebration in Scotland. The winter solstice holiday tended to be at New Year when family and friends gathered for a party and exchange presents, especially for the children.
- 4 - 'The Bells' is the phrase used to describe the midnight hour when New Year's Eve becomes New Year's Day.
- 5 - Burns' *Auld Lang Syne* is sung to celebrate the start of the New Year at the stroke of midnight, not just in Scotland but in many English-speaking countries.
- 6 - *The Guinness Book of World Records* lists *Auld Lang Syne* as one of the most frequently sung songs in English. The song is sung or played in many movies, from *It's a Wonderful Life* to *When Harry Met Sally*.
- 7 - To sing *Auld Lang Syne*, a circle is created and hands are joined with the person on each side of you. At the beginning of the last verse, everyone crosses their arms across their breast, so that the right hand reaches out to the neighbour on the left and vice versa. When the tune ends, everyone rushes to the middle, while still holding hands.
- 8 - An important element of Hogmanay celebrations is to welcome friends and strangers, with warm hospitality and of course a kiss to wish everyone a 'Guid New Year'. The underlying belief is to clear out the vestiges of the old year, have a clean break and welcome in a young, New Year on a happy note.
- 9 - 'First Footing' - the 'first foot' in the house after midnight is still very common in Scotland. To ensure good luck, a first footer should be a dark-

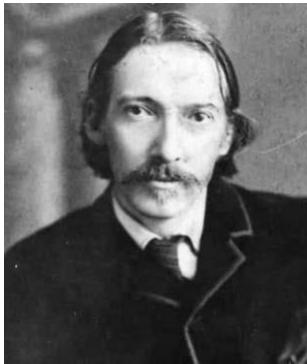
haired male. Fair-haired first footers were not particularly welcome after the Viking invasions of ancient times. Traditional gifts include a lump of coal to lovingly place on the host's fire, along with shortbread, a black bun and whisky to toast to a Happy New Year.

10 - To first foot a household empty-handed is considered grossly discourteous, never mind unlucky!

From The Scotsman Newspaper

Six Facts you didn't know about Robert Louis Stevenson

By Mathew Dunne-Miles



As Scotland celebrates 168 years since his birth, how much do you know about Robert Louis Stevenson?

1. He (kind of) invented the sleeping bag – Stevenson has as good a claim as any to inventing the snug camping necessity. In *Travels with*

a Donkey in the Cévennes, one of his earliest works, Stephenson talks of crafting a “sleeping sack” which was “six feet square” in size (large enough that it he had to be transported by donkey) made of “green waterproof cart cloth without and blue sheep's fur within”.

2. He nearly died before writing his most famous works

Despite likely battling with tuberculosis for most of his adult life, a bout of malaria nearly killed Stephenson in California shortly before his marriage to Fanny Vandergrift Osborne in 1880. This bout of poor health preceded some of his most iconic works, including *Treasure Island* (1882) and *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* (1886).

3. Half of his original manuscripts are currently lost

Half of Stevenson's original manuscripts are currently missing. The manuscripts are believed to have been sold off by the Scots writer's descendants around World War I, a time which saw the writer's works fall out of fashion. Among the missing works are the original copies of *The*

Black Arrow, *The Master of Ballantrae* and *Treasure Island*.

4. He wrote over 123 musical compositions

Despite his success as a writer, Stephenson began to study piano and composition at the age of 36. He also took up playing the penny whistle two years later and went on to write 123 original compositions. Stephenson's musicianship was not as sought-after as his literature – only three compositions were ever published.

5. He has a state park named after him in California

Having travelled to the American state to marry Osborne, the Scot was honoured with a park in his name. The mountainous area was the location of a cabin where Stephenson and his new wife spent their honeymoon in 1880. Although nothing of the cabin remains, it has been marked on the trail to the summit of Mount Saint Helena.

6. There is a museum in his honour in Samoa

In his later life, Stephenson and his family moved permanently to the South Pacific island of Samoa. His connection with the island's people was so great that he was given the name of Tusitala ('Teller of Tales') by the locals. When Stephenson died in 1894, he was buried at the top of Mount Vaea. A museum of his possessions and works was opened in the town of Apia.

West Lothian Council create 'UFO trail' at site of famous close encounter

The scene of a close encounter with a UFO is set to attract visitors from across the world after being officially recognised by a council.

West Lothian Council has created a “UFO trail” in woods where a forestry worker claimed he was attacked by a craft from outer space almost 40 years ago. It remains the only such incident in the UK to have led to a criminal investigation and made headlines around the world.

Bob Taylor said he was left injured and traumatised after the close encounter in Dechmont Law Woods in Livingston in November 1979. He claimed he was walking through the forest with his dog when he came across a large dome shaped craft hovering in a clearing. He said two smaller spheres with spikes protruding from them came out and grabbed his legs before dragging him towards the larger object.

He recalled smelling an acrid smell and a hissing sound before passing out and woke up 20 minutes later, dragging himself back to his truck which mysteriously wouldn't start. He managed to walk a mile back to his house. On seeing his dishevelled state, his wife called police and a doctor came out to check him over. His trousers were ripped and he had grazes on his chin and thighs. Police initially treated the incident as an assault but after visiting the scene, they discovered two "ladder" indentations on the ground and 40 small circular holes that followed the path of the mine-like objects.

Forensic tests on his clothes showed it was likely they had been ripped by a sharp upward pull, such as a mechanical device.

Various theories have been put forward to explain the bizarre encounter, from an epileptic seizure to the planet Venus.

Mr Taylor, who was well respected in the local community, never deviated from his story right up until his death in 2007 aged 88.

West Lothian Council has now placed marker posts and a display board in the woods to point the way to the scene of the baffling incident. It is the only officially recognised UFO site in Scotland.

Tom Conn, executive councillor for the environment, said: "The Dechmont Woods encounter is Scotland's most famous alleged UFO incident, and has featured in a number of books and TV programmes. The information board will help visitors to Dechmont Law find the exact location of the encounter, as well as give details of Mr Taylor's report of the incident.

"Dechmont Law is already very popular with local residents, especially runners and walkers, and we hope this board will help more people discover and enjoy the picturesque area."

Scottish author Malcolm Robinson, who has been campaigning for three years to have signage placed in the woods, welcomed the move. He said: "UFO fans the world over will now be able to find with ease the location of Scotland's most intriguing UFO incident. This is Scotland's biggest case of its kind and the marker posts and display board will ensure that the site will be easily reached by those who flock to it each year.

"The Dechmont Woods UFO site is the only site in Scotland that officially recognises an event of this

nature and whatever UFOs may be, there is no denying that this case stands head and shoulders above anything that has been seen in Scotland."



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

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