

HEATHER BELL

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALEDONIAN & ST. ANDREWS SOCIETY OF SEATTLE

www.caledonians.com

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NEXT GATHERING

Our February gathering will be to attend the Masters of Scottish Arts concert at Benaroya Hall on Friday, February 1st at 7:30. Tickets may be purchased at the Benaroya box office at 206-215-4747.

Looking Ahead

On Sunday, March 10th we will gather as usual at 2:00 pm at Haller Lake United Methodist Church, 13055 1st Ave. NE, Seattle, WA. 98125. Remember, Daylight Savings Time begins on March 10th.

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



Kenneth Munro, long-time Caledonian member and former president of the organization, passed away on December 21st. A celebration of his life will be held February 9th, at 2:30 pm at Lake City Presbyterian Church, 3841 NE 123rd Street Seattle, WA. Cards may be sent to the Munro family care of Bonnie Munro, 19800 68th Ave. NE, Bothell, WA 98028-2039.

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

February

1 Masters of Scottish Arts Concert, Benaroya 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 savings.

2 Tacoma Scots Burns Dinner, Slavonian American Hall, 2306 N.30th St., Tacoma, WA. 6:00-11:00pm. \$45. Tickets through www.BrownPaperTickets.com
Questions: sheepgirl@msn.com.

4 Robert Burns Dinner, Kenmore and District Pipe Band, Lagunitas Brewing Company, Seattle Taproom & Beer Sanctuary, 1550 NW 49th St., Seattle, WA 98107. Monday, February 4th, 6:00-8:30pm. \$10. Available at www.kdpipeband.com or at the door.

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

24 Gung Haggis Fat Choy 2019, China Harbor Restaurant, 2040 Westlake Ave. N., Seattle. Doors open at 4pm, entertainment starts at 5pm. \$45. Contact Bill McFadden for tickets at 206-364-6025.

March

3 Daymark, Irish music by an international trio, Celtic Arts Foundation, 1124 Cleveland Ave., Mount Vernon, WA. 7pm. \$25. (360) 416-4934. www.celticarts.org

10 Caledonian & St. Andrews Society Gathering, 2:00 pm. Haller Lake United Methodist Church, 13055 1st Ave. NE, Seattle, WA. 98125.

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

Recap of the January Gathering and Robert Burns Celebration



Caledonians enjoyed our first afternoon celebration of Robert Burns at the gathering on January 20th. We were pleased to serve haggis, neaps, tatties, and sticky buns (provided by Rosemary Blakemore, Don Moore, and Bill McFadden) to the 51 members and friends who attended. First Vice-president Christian Skoorsmith emceed the program, which included Burns' "Address to a Haggis" as well as songs sung by new member May Kramer. Everyone joined in singing additional Burns songs with Bill Clarke at the piano before closing with the traditional singing of "Auld Lang Syne".

Membership Renewal

It's time to renew your membership for 2019. Bring your check made out for \$35 for a single and \$45 for a couple to the next Gathering or send it to:

Treasurer
Caledonian & St. Andrew's Society of Seattle
PO Box 27278
Seattle WA 98165-1778

Articles and Topics About Scotland and Things Scottish

From ebooks.visitscotland.com

Famous Scots

Culture

Tom Anderson 1910 - 1991

Tom Anderson MBE was a fiddler, composer, folklorist and teacher who was a profoundly influential figure in the development of Shetland music.

Aly Bain 1946 -

Aly Bain was born and grew up in Lerwick in the Shetland Islands. He started playing the fiddle at eleven, learning the art from another famous Shetland musician, Tom Anderson. His gift to bring the music alive through with his dramatic playing, tone and technical ability soon made him famous. He moved to mainland Scotland where he helped to establish The Boys of the Loch and began a career that continues today. In 1992, Aly was awarded an MBE for his services to folk music.

Robert Carlyle 1961 -

Born in Glasgow, he has gone on to be regarded as one of the best British actors of his generation. Trainspotting was the first film to bring him major recognition and this was followed by the box office success, The Full Monty. He is also well known for his role as local policeman, Hamish MacBeth, set in Plockton in the Highlands and villain Renard in the James Bond film The World Is Not Enough.

Robbie Coltrane 1950 -

Born in 1950 in Rutherglen, Robbie Coltrane has gone on to become an accomplished actor and comedian. His many roles include Danny in Tutti Frutti, Valentin Zukovsky in James Bond films Golden Eye and The World Is Not Enough, and numerous roles in the comic strip productions. He is best known for his portrayal of the gambling, alcoholic psychologist Fitz in the drama Cracker.

Sir Peter Maxwell Davies 1934 -

Although he is originally from Manchester, he has lived on Hoy in the Orkney Islands since 1970 and has composed the majority of his musical work from there. He has been greatly influenced by his surroundings and he frequently draws on Orcadian and Scottish subject matter for his music. He has also been significantly influenced by George MacKay Brown. With two hundred published works in every medium, he is universally regarded as one of the foremost composers of our time.

Sheena Easton 1959 -

She was born Sheena Shirley Orr in Bellshill, near Glasgow. Inspired to become a singer, she attended the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and graduated in 1979. Very soon afterwards she was recording albums and winning awards. She has also

pursued a career in film and her appearances include Miami Vice and Outer Limits.

Bill Forsyth

1946 -

Bill Forsyth was born in 1946 in Glasgow. He has had a successful career as a director, writer and occasional producer. He is most famed for the 1983 film Local Hero which was nominated for 6 British Academy Awards. Local Hero was filmed in the Aberdeenshire village of Pennan.

Evelyn Glennie

1965 -

Evelyn Glennie was born in Aberdeen and grew up nearby. She began studying percussion at an early age but by the age of 12, her hearing had deteriorated and she was pronounced profoundly deaf. Her determination and great talent has led her to play with the top orchestras and conductors of the world and in recognition of her music she has achieved many awards, including a Grammy.

Neil Gow

1727 - 1807

Neil Gow lived all his life in Inver, a small settlement on the west of the Tay. He was renowned as a composer and player of reels and strathspeys, some as settings for words by Burns who was his contemporary.

Sir Harry Lauder

1870 - 1950

Born in Portobello, he became one of the most famous comics to come out of Scotland. He attracted many critics as his humour was seen to support a derogatory although benign stereotype of Scotland. He was at the top of his profession for 50 years, filling halls across the country.

Dougie MacLean

1954 -

Dougie MacLean was brought up in rural Perthshire to a Gaelic background. It was clear he had a talent for music from an early age and he has gone on to become one of Scotland's most successful singer/songwriters. One of his best known songs is 'Caledonia' which reached number 1 in the Scottish charts in 1992.

Ian McDiarmid

1944 -

Ian McDiarmid was born in Carnoustie and grew up in Dundee. He attended the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and following that he joined the Royal Shakespeare Company. He is probably best known as Senator Palpatine in the Star Wars films but

he is also a hugely successful and influential artistic director.

Kevin McKidd

1973 -

Kevin McKidd was born in Elgin and is a Scottish television and film actor and director. Before playing the role of Owen Hunt in Grey's Anatomy, McKidd starred in such roles as Tommy in Trainspotting, Count Vronsky in the BBC's adaptation of Anna Karenina as well as in the historical drama series Rome.

Donnie Munro

1953 -

Donald Munro was born in Uig in the north of the Isle of Skye. He was brought up in the bilingual culture of English and Gaelic until he left to study in Edinburgh as an art teacher. He joined the band that would eventually be Runrig in 1973. The band has had great recording success and Donnie Munro has become a household name. His reputation as an eloquent spokesperson for Scotland led him into politics, which he still has a keen interest in. Today, he is involved with projects that are preserving the Gaelic language and is still performing his unique concerts.

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

Castle of Mey Drawing Room Tapestry



The tapestry in the drawing room of Castle of Mey in Caithness, is a 16th-century Flemish tapestry, 16 ft x 10 ft, that depicts a forest hunting scene, featuring deer, birds, a horse, a rabbit and a dog. In the background are a city's defence walls, towers, and church.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, bought the tapestry hoping that she would one day have a castle in which to hang it. Her wish came true.

Shortly after the death of her husband, King George VI, the Queen Mother fell in love with Barrogill Castle, the most northerly inhabited castle

on the British mainland. When she learnt that it was going to be abandoned, she bought it, changed its name to Castle of Mey, and renovated and restored it, creating its beautiful gardens.

Compared with the scale and grandeur of many castles, it is reasonably modest, and has only around 30 rooms. For almost half a century she spent happy summers here, as well as shorter visits during other times of the year. She particularly enjoyed how far away it was from the hustle and bustle of life.



Parts of the castle were built between 1566 and 1572, and there have been several structural alterations and extensions since then. During the Second World War it was used as an officers' rest home.

From *The Scottish Banner*

Glass milk bottles making a comeback



Customers across the UK are rethinking how they get their milk delivered as many are making a switch from plastic to glass. Once finished glass milk bottles are returned to the dairy, they are washed out and refilled to be delivered again. This stops hundreds of plastic bottles being used which only have a single life-span. Dairies across Scotland, England and Wales are all seeing a change in customer habits. Director of Kerr's Family Dairy in Dundee, Kelvin Kerr said: "Attitudes have changed in the way people use plastic. I think it's because there's a lot of stuff on TV about how plastic can damage the environment. Milk is a household need so by switching your plastic to glass it's a good way to start helping the environment."

Thomsons Dairy in Lanarkshire has seen a 7% increase in demand for glass since last year. Milk deliveries however have been in steady decline since the 1980's and account for just 3% of the market. In 1970 almost 99% of milk would have been door-delivered. The UK's five big supermarkets say they have no plans to start stocking milk in glass bottles.

Brooch gifted by Mary, Queen of Scots to her close aide and personal hair-dresser goes on display in Edinburgh



A brooch given by Mary, Queen of Scots to one of her closest lady attendants, who had a particular flair for hairdressing, has gone on display at the Palace of Holyroodhouse for the first time. Mary Seton was a devoted assistant and friend of Mary, Queen of Scots and lived with her at the Palace from 1561-6. She was one of the four attendants known as the "Four Marys" who spent many years



Actress Saoirse Ronan as Mary, Queen of Scots

in France with the exiled Queen. Mary Seton continued to accompany Mary, Queen of Scots during her captivity in England.

Sir Francis Knollys, an English courtier

charged with the care of the Queen, noted that Mary Seton "did set such a curles hair upon the

Queen . . . every other day she hath a new device of head dressing, without any cost, and yet setteth forth a woman gaily well".

The brooch dates from c. 1580 and is made from enameled gold and studded with pearls and rubies. It can be seen in the Outer Chamber of the Mary,

Queen of Scots apartments at the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

Did you know?

St. Mary's Loch



St. Mary's Loch is the largest natural loch in the Scottish Borders and is situated between Selkirk and Moffat. The loch is 5 kms/3/1 miles long and 1 km/0.62 mile wide.

Local legend had it that the loch has no bottom and is reputed to be the coldest loch in Scotland.

St. Mary's Loch is only a few steps away from the Southern Upland Way (a long distance footpath for walkers.)

The ancient and ruined St. Mary's Kirk – the Kirk of the Lowes and its graveyard – was located on the NW shore of St. Mary's Loch, and it has given its name to the loch. This location was known for the Blanket Preaching and open-air service held every July, and this tradition is still maintained.

From The Scotsman Newspaper

Riots, royals, murder: West Port Uncovered

By Sandra Dick



It might be just off the tourists' radar, but from royalty to bloody murder,

Edinburgh's West Port has seen it all. It paved the way for royalty and rebels, oversaw bloody

murders, frightening uprisings and – despite its name – is nowhere near a port.

Tucked between the bustle of Lothian Road and the cobbled Grassmarket's niche shops, centuries old pubs and, of course, its notorious place in Edinburgh history as the place for public executions, West Port definitely earns its place in the city's register of fascinating places.

Originally Wester Portsburgh, West Port was the main street through the western part of the burgh of Portsburgh, located just outside the city's walls. The name West Port and Portsburgh are believed to be linked to the gate leading through the ancient Flodden Wall. As one of the key routes into the heart of the Old Town, West Port – which stretches from the corner of Bread Street, Lauriston Street and East Fountainbridge to the Grassmarket – was a familiar route for everyone from well-heeled royals to market traders.

In 1633, crowds turned out to witness the arrival of flamboyant royal King Charles 1, who travelled along West Port on his way to his Scottish coronation. The Edinburgh Parliament had warned that if he wanted to rule Scotland, he had to be crowned in the capital city. So in 1633, eight years after being crowned monarch in London, the city fountains flowed with red wine and royal portraits were unfurled in the Royal Mile in his honour. Unfortunately, the King's spectacular Scottish tour ended in despair when the royal ferry, Blessing of Burntisland, sank in the Forth, taking with her vast riches which remain undiscovered.

In 1736, West Port was at the centre of one of Edinburgh's most notorious and blood soaked episodes – the Porteous riots. A mob, outraged following the hanging of a convicted smuggler, turned on the hangman and later the city guard, led by Captain John Porteous. His order to shoot at the mob left six dead. Porteous was convicted of murder, only for his execution to be overturned – leading to 4000 outraged locals gathering in West Port. From there they marched to his cell in Lawnmarket, dragged him out, beat and lynched him.

But perhaps the most gruesome element of West Port's history is the infamous tale of Burke and Hare. The murderers took the lives of 16 people in just ten months of 1828, in what became known as the West Port Murders. The pair lured their victims back to Hare's lodgings in Tanner's Close, just off

West Port, where they were murdered and their bodies sold to Dr Robert Knox at the local medical school. Tanner's Close, scene of the depravity, is now the site of 1960s office block, Argyle House.

These days West Port and its neighbouring streets are known for quirky bookstores and independent shops, vintage outlets, traditional pubs and cafes.

Major Scottish art works go up for sale as council sells collection

By Alison Campsie

A number of major works by 20th Century Scottish artists have gone up for auction as a local council sells off part of its large art collection.

The county council's collection was started in 1949 as part of the School Loan Collection, a post-war project by Sir John Newsom, the Hertfordshire Chief Education Officer at the time. He bought artworks from contemporary British artists so that schools could borrow them for the benefit of pupils' art education.

Many of the pieces were purchased from reputable dealers, artists and the 'Pictures for Schools' exhibitions which took place from the 1950s and 1960s. The service has become less relevant to the evolving curriculum as students have had the opportunity to experience art in new ways, such as gallery visits or through modern technology. It was suspended in 2012 and permanently discontinued in 2017.

Brett Tryner, associate at auction house Cheffins in Cambridge, said: "This important collection is representative of the post-war artistic period and we are honoured to be able to offer these works for sale on behalf of Hertfordshire County Council. Many of the artists featured have seen a new-found appreciation over the past decade, with many of these post-war painters now achieving stellar prices at auction. Although many of the artists had a strong reputation at the time of the council's purchase, the vast proportion were often overlooked in place of bigger names from Europe or further afield. New-found appreciation, retrospectives and recent academic publications have helped to grow a burgeoning market for these artists amongst mainly UK-based collectors, galleries and institutions."



Pastel by Joan Eardley & still life by Robert MacBryde are among the works coming up for auction.



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

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