

# HEATHER BELL

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALEDONIAN & ST. ANDREWS SOCIETY OF SEATTLE

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## NEXT GATHERING

**Sunday, June 11, 2017, 2:00 pm at Haller Lake United Methodist Church, 13055 1st Ave. NE, Seattle, WA. 98125.** This will be the last Caledonian Gathering for the summer. The next Gathering will be in October.

## PROGRAM

Mary Bhan is bringing a flute quartet to play Scottish and Gaelic music. This group is quite good and you will enjoy their music!

## Calendar of Seattle Area Scottish Events

### June 2017

**3 Prosser Scottish Fest & Highland Games- NOTE NEW DATE FOR 2017-** Prosser Wine and Food Park, Prosser, WA <http://prosserscottishfest.org/>

**9-11 McKenzie Highland Games & Celtic Gathering,** Willamalane Sports Complex Park, Springfield, OR. <http://www.mckenziehighlandgames.com/clan-registration>

**17 BC Highland Games and Scottish Festival,** Percy Perry Stadium, Coquitlam, BC <http://bchighlandgames.com/>

**24 Tacoma Highland Games,** Frontier Park, 217<sup>th</sup> & Meridian/Hwy 161. Celtic Concert on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. <http://tacomagames.org/infoGenIIInfo.php>

### July 2017

**8-9 Skagit Valley Highland Games,** Edgewater Park, Mount Vernon, WA <https://celticarts.org/events/highland-games-home/>

**15 Portland Highland Games,** Mt. Hood Community College, Gresham, OR [www.phga.org](http://www.phga.org)

**29-30 Seattle Scottish Highland Games and Clan Gathering,** Expo Center, 45224 284<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Enumclaw, WA <http://www.sshga.org/home.htm>

### August 2017

**5 Spokane Highland Games,** Spokane County Fair & Expo Center, 404 N. Havana St., Spokane, WA [www.SpokaneHighlandGames.net](http://www.SpokaneHighlandGames.net)

**19-20 Bitterroot Celtic Games and Gathering,** Daly Mansion, 251 Eastside Hwy, Hamilton, MT [www.bcgga.org](http://www.bcgga.org)

### September 2017

**2-3 Hood Canal Highland Celtic Festival,** Belfair State Park, 3151 NE State Rt 300, Belfair, WA [www.HoodCanalScots.org](http://www.HoodCanalScots.org)

**9-10 Kelso Highlander Festival,** Tam O'Shanter Park, Kelso, WA [www.kelso.gov/visitors/highlander-festival](http://www.kelso.gov/visitors/highlander-festival)

## Recap of May Gathering

Caledonians enjoyed an hour entertaining presentation by Ian Lawther, who demonstrated and talked about the



various small or house pipes. He played several musical pieces on each.

## Articles About Scotland and Things Scottish

From *The Scotsman*

### Lost Edinburgh: Kings of the Castle Mills

By David McLean



Amid the increasing number of modern retail units and apartment blocks slowly eating up gap sites in Fountainbridge for the past decade, stands the last remnants of one of Scotland's most important industrial landmarks. Don't be fooled by the state of its decayed brick exterior, for this was the site of the North British Rubber Company's Castle Mills works, an employer of several thousand at its peak and the birth place of the world-famous Wellington boot as we know it.

The origins of the North British Rubber Co stretch back to January 1856, when innovative American businessmen and boot-makers Henry Lee Norris and Spencer Thomas Parmelee acquired a large plot of land close to the Union Canal at Fountainbridge which had previously been home to the Castle Silk Mill.

Fellow American, Charles Goodyear, had discovered the vulcanisation process in 1839, which transformed naturally occurring sticky rubber into a durable material with seemingly limitless potential uses. The shrewd Henry Lee Norris was keen to capitalise on this potential and within just six months the new business, dubbed Norris & Co had begun manufacturing a variety of rubber products, including machinery belts and footwear. The name of the business changed to the North British Rubber Co the following year.

In the beginning the workforce numbered just four, but by 1875 more than 600 men and women were earning their crust at Castle Mills.

The company were trailblazers from day one. In 1858 co-founder Parmelee took out a patent for one of the first conveyor belts, while in 1890 the landmark invention of the detachable pneumatic tyre was credited to new owner William K Bartlett.

At the turn of the century Castle Mills was the largest industrial unit in Edinburgh. It produced a diverse range of goods from golf balls, hot water bottles and combs to hoses, rubber sheeting and equipment for heavy industry. At its peak the mill employed up to 8000 people.

Cases of trench foot during the First World War would have been a lot more common if not for the workforce at Castle Mills. More than 9000 employees at the North British Rubber Company worked day and night to produce 1,185,036 pairs of boots for the British Army. The rubber Wellington boot was the envy of the enemy.

In World War Two, Castle Mills was again requested to produce vast quantities of boots as well as gas masks, tyres for army vehicles and barrage balloon fabric.

By peace time the 'welly' boot had entered public consciousness, fast becoming an essential piece of civilian footwear. For those in the inclement British Isles, the welly boot was a Godsend. In the 1950s the company helped to speed up the demise of Edinburgh's tramways by throwing its weight behind the production of tyres for the increasingly popular motor bus. Castle Mills was also responsible for the creation of Britain's first traffic cones in 1958.

But working at a rubber mill could be unpleasant and risky. First there was the stench. The average worker would go about their daily lives reeking of rubber, sulphur and soapstone – a pungent talcum powder-like substance which hung heavy in the air and coated the lungs.

Nasty accidents were commonplace too and it was not unheard of for workers to lose a finger or two from operating the mill's notoriously fiddly and dangerous range of machinery. Fires were a constant risk too, with a particularly bad one in January 1962.

The mill operated until 1966 when the North British Rubber Company was bought by Uniroyal and relocated to Newbridge. The 19th century mill buildings were mostly demolished in 1973 to make way for McEwan's new £13m Fountain Brewery

and today only a small part of the expansive mill complex survives.

The surviving Castle Mills building dates from 1894 and has been on the Buildings at Risk register since 2010. In April of this year it was announced that local firm Edinburgh Printmakers had received a grant of £5m from the Heritage Lottery Fund to go towards saving the structure and transform it into an arts hub. Further funding will be necessary to complete the project but a hugely important piece of the Capital's industrial past looks to be safe for the foreseeable future. Edinburgh Printmakers aim to launch the new centre this year in line with their 50th anniversary.

Despite the end of all rubber production in Edinburgh, the North British Rubber Company still has a presence in the city. Its fashionable Hunter Boot range which rose to prominence during the 20th century, and was endorsed by the likes of Princess Diana, has become a separate company.

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## *Viking hoard to go on Display in Edinburgh within weeks*

By Brian Ferguson



More than half of a 1000-year-old Viking hoard found stuffed inside a pot buried in a field are to go on public

display in Edinburgh within weeks. Around 70 highlights from the Galloway Hoard will be able to be seen for the first time at the National Museum of Scotland from 16 June.

The museum, which is currently the country's most popular attraction, will be displaying the array of gold, silver and jewelled treasures to help publicise a campaign to raise nearly £2 million to secure the 10th century hoard for the nation. The museum, which was allocated the

Galloway Hoard by an independent panel last month, will be putting the treasures on display in its grand gallery until October. It has also outlined plans to take some of the treasures out on tour around the country once a major exhibition has been put together.

Museum director Dr Gordon Rintoul said proposals for the whole hoard to go on display in Kirkcudbright "from time to time" and for the touring exhibition had been discussed with Dumfries and Galloway Council for several months.

He said: "Before the pot containing the hoard was opened up people were talking about it being worth around half a million pounds. Everyone now realises the hoard is far more varied and far more important than was felt to be the case at the beginning. My team's view now is that it is the most important Viking hoard to ever be discovered in Britain or Ireland, due to the most amazing range of items."

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## *Five Scottish communities who are doing it for themselves*

By Alison Campsie

Ordinary people from across Scotland have gone on to provide everything from petrol stations and shops to bus routes and swimming pool in order to keep their communities vibrant and their people provided for. Recent research has suggested there are around 5,200 social enterprises in Scotland with a combined income of more than £3.63bn. Around one-in-five of these are in the Highlands and Islands. In total, more than 112,400 staff and around 68,000 volunteers keep these outfits going. For them and the communities they serve, it's hard to imagine life without them.

### **Applecross Community Filling Station, Wester Ross**

Once, if you ran out of petrol in Applecross on the Ross-shire coast, you were in big trouble – and some 17 miles away over the Bealach Na Ba mountain pass from the nearest refuel. Now





a 24-hour petrol station is open for business after a handful of residents formed the Applecross Community Company.

The community raised £16,000 for the initial fuel fund from loans and fundraising, including a sponsored walk from the nearest filling station in Lochcarron. The new automated system – which did away with the need for the pumps to be manned – arrived in 2010 and was upgraded in 2014 thanks to funding from the lottery and Highland and Islands Enterprise. The payment system is now powered by community owned broadband network Applenet with hopes that a new village hydro scheme will generate the electricity required for the fuel stop, where petrol is currently 115p a litre.

#### **MacTaggart Leisure Centre, Bowmore, Islay**



The MacTaggart Leisure Centre is housed in a converted whisky bond at one of

Islay's biggest distilleries and heated by the waste heat of the malt-making process.

The Centre is a 25-metre pool, sauna and gym and is a proud example of how communities can take control and improve the quality of life for its members.

Fundraising began in the late 1980s to convert the old bond, donated by the Morrison Bowmore Company. The Islay and Jura

Community Enterprise was set up with donations poured in, including £50,000 from John MacTaggart, the owner of the island's Ardmore Estate. Around 3,000 people now use the pool every year.

#### **Buth Bharraigh, Barra, Outer Hebrides**



Buth Bharraigh is not just a shop but a powerful generator for the local economy which supports food producers and crafts people on Barra.

Demand for local goods was highlighted at an island market with the success of a pop-up Christmas shop crystallising the efforts to create an alternative to the island's main supermarket. Sarah MacLean, project leader, secured some lottery funding and a grant from Highlands and Islands enterprise that funded some equipment.

Last year the shop had a turnover of £88,000, with stock including fresh bread, chutneys, shellfish and jams. Some items are brought in from the mainland, such as wool and wholefoods.

#### **Buchan Dial-A-Community Bus, Maud, Aberdeenshire**

Sometimes just one bus a day would pass through the many villages scattered over this far corner of the North East. Off-duty policemen would take turns driving pensioners to get their shopping from the key towns of Fraserburgh and Peterhead in an old social services bus.

Rachel Milne, project manager, said: "The social work buses would keep breaking down

or the cops would be called to course. The community simply got together and decided to run their own bus."

The project received £92,000 from the Scottish Government, which allowed them to buy two Volkswagen buses. It now runs 11 buses and a driving school which channels its profits back into community transport.

### Stonehaven Land Train, Aberdeenshire



This tourist attraction was set up in August 2014 by a group of residents in this pretty harbour town. More than £200,000 in funding has been secured from the UK Government's Coastal Community Fund by Stonehaven Town Partnership, which was set up to promote heritage, culture and regeneration in the town. A second carriage is due to be added this year given the success of the "Stony Express" which connects the town with Dunnottar Castle.

### Place Name: Anstruther - Eanstair



Anstruther is a charming fishing village in the East Neuk of Fife, popular with day-trippers and

holidaymakers. It is the largest of the villages in the East Neuk and provides the main shopping centre, a typical seaside village with

many of the shops in a long line overlooking the harbour.

The etymology of this Fife place-name (*Ainestroder* in 1178-1188) is not certain. The first element may be an obsolete Gaelic word *án* 'driving' or *aon* 'one'. The second element - *struther* likely denotes an obsolete word *sruthair* 'stream', related to the current word *sruth* 'stream'. The water-course in question is possibly the Dreel Burn which flows through Anstruther (locally pronounced 'Ainster').

A type of lobster-fishing boat called 'the Anstruther' was popular in the Hebrides and was called in Gaelic *An Eanstrach* 'the one from Anstruther'. On the coast of Coigach in Ross-shire is a place called *Port na h-Eanstraich* 'the port of the Anstruther boat'. The sail was so big it was often used as a point of comparison: *Cha robh uinneag ann nach robh cho mòr 's cho leathann ri seòl-toisich Eanstraich* 'there wasn't a single window that wasn't as big or as wide as an Anstruther foresail'.

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### *Biscuit-flavoured pints face crunch test at new craft beer festival*

By Brian Ferguson

The Biscuit Factory has a biscuit-making heritage going back more than two centuries – when William Crawford started a baking business in a small shop in Leith which grew to become a household name throughout Britain.



Now Jammie Dodger, Bourbon Cream and shortbread flavoured pints are about to go on sale at the Biscuit Factory when

Scotland's first global craft beer gathering takes over this former biscuit factory in Leith. They are being made specially for the event by the Bristol-based brewers Wiper and True, who already make a "milk shake beer."



Around 30 international brewers flew in from around the world to take part in the inaugural Edinburgh Craft Beer Festival recently. Featuring up to 200 craft beers, it was staged over three days at the former Crawford's factory, at Anderson Place in Leith, which is now known as the Biscuit Factory and operates as a year-round space for festivals and events. Built in 1947 for the firm, which was set up in Leith in 1813, it lay empty for more than eight years before being turned into a new hub for the cultural sector and creative industries.

Around 100 litres of each of the one-off beers have been brewed by the firm, which already uses the likes of pine needles, toasted coriander seed, zest of oranges and lemons, vanilla and chocolate in its products. The biscuit-flavoured beers are being created to honour the heritage of Crawford's which employed more than 700 people by the 1950s before merging with two other firms to form United Biscuits.

The Shortbread Pale Ale will have a butter flavour, Jammie Dodger Amber Ale will feature both strawberry jam and strawberry vodka, while the Bourbon Cream Biscuit stout will include cacao nibs and malt extract to create the chocolate and butter icing flavours.

The Edinburgh Craft Beer Festival is being launched by Greg Wells and Daniel Sylvester, two young beer aficionados who have run similar events in London and Bristol.

Mr. Wells said: "There is a new type of beer that is about pushing your tastebuds and pushing the flavour. You would maybe only have a third of a pint rather than a six pack to put in the fridge. It's about exploring and trying different things. The new beer drinker is very much up for that in the same way that a lot of people are now really into trying out different types of street food. People are looking to be stimulated in a different way.

"From the brewer's point of view, it is about the craft and the skill of pushing the boundaries of the production process."



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

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