

# HEATHER BELL

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALEDONIAN & ST. ANDREWS SOCIETY OF SEATTLE

[www.caledonians.com](http://www.caledonians.com)

Volume 115      Issue 5      May 2017

---

## NEXT GATHERING

**Sunday, May 7, 2017, 2:00 pm at Haller Lake United Methodist Church, 13055 1st Ave. NE, Seattle, WA. 98125.** Please note that this Gathering is on the **first Sunday** of the month for May, not our usual second Sunday! The second Sunday is Mothers Day!

---

## PROGRAM

Ian Lawther will demonstrate four small pipes: the Northumberland pipe, horn pipe, Scottish small pipe, and Irish pipe.

---

## Calendar of Seattle Area Scottish Events

### May 2017

**7 Caledonian & St. Andrews Society of Seattle Gathering, 2:00 pm.** Haller Lake United Methodist Church, 13055 1st Ave. NE, Seattle, WA. 98125.  
[www.caledonians.com](http://www.caledonians.com)

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

**20-22 Victoria Highland Games and Celtic Festival,** Topaz Park, Victoria BC  
<http://victoriahighlandgames.com/games/>

### 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>

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

---

## Recap of April Gathering

Thirty-five Caledonians and guests enjoyed an interesting and informative presentation by Harry McAlister about Scots in history who have made amazing contributions to medicine and engineering in our world.

---

## Book with Scottish Themes

*Free as the Wind*, by Ian Couper

An e-book of Scottish short stories is available on Kindle and Kobo. These stories embrace Scottish island and mainland scenery with contemporary and nostalgic story lines. Some of these encompass traditional folklore and mysticism, tragedy and historic events.

<https://www.kobo.com/gb/en/ebook/free-as-the-wind>

---

## Articles About Scotland and Things Scottish

From EcoWatch.com

Scotland Sets Wind Record, Provides Enough Electricity for 3.3 Million Homes in March

By Amanda Froelich



Slowly but surely, it is becoming fact that households and entire countries can run on clean, renewable energy. Costa Rica, for instance, ran on renewable energy sources for 285 days in 2015 and achieved similarly in 2016. Additionally, Denmark produced 160 percent of its energy needs in one day in July of 2015 via wind power.

Now it has been reported that Scottish turbines provided 1.2 million megawatt hours of electricity to the National Grid—enough energy to meet the electrical needs of 136 percent of households in the country (or ~3.3 million homes). What's more, 58 percent of Scotland's entire electricity needs were met for the entire month. The Independent reported that on March 17 and March 19, enough energy was generated to power Scotland's total power needs for an entire day.

---

From The Scotsman Newspaper

## **Highland's oldest bridge celebrates 300th anniversary**

The Bridge of Carr - unsurprisingly located in Carrbridge - is thought to be the oldest surviving bridge in the Highlands and was built between around May and November 1717. A series of celebratory events will run throughout the village from the 19-21 May.



This iconic landmark (seen in this photo

during a time when the River Dulnain was flooding) was built by John Niccelsone - or Nickolson as he signed himself - a mason from Ballinalloch, at the behest of Brigadier-General Alexander Grant of Grant.

Ross Coulter, marketing manager of Landmark Forest Adventure Park, in Carrbridge, said: "The area had been hit hard by famine during the 1690's, which made it difficult for people to travel. "During this time the river Dulnain was also experiencing an unusually frequency of spates, which delayed many funerals on the south side of the river. This led to many of the leading men of the parish to ask Brigadier Grant for permission to use some of the stipends from the Parish of Duthill to build a new bridge. "It probably for this reason that the bridge is often referred to locally as 'the coffin bridge' At this time there was no Minister of Duthill, which meant that the patrons of parish could utilise the 'vacant stipends' for 'pious uses' within the boundary of the parish."

He added: "Niccelsone refused to build the bridge initially for less than 1,000 merks - around £55 at the time - and eventually Brigadier Grant consented to the building of the bridge at the cost of £100 sterling on the 23rd of May 1717. The bridge was definitely completed by the 1st of November 1717, but many say that it was finished even early than this in October. The specification for the bridge stated that it should be of "ane reasonable Breadth and Height as will Receive the water when in the greatest speat."

---

## **Lord of the Isles power base "to open" for first time in 500 years**

Visitors to the headquarters of the ancient Lords of the Isles could soon be able to step onto the site of their parliament for the first time in 500 years. Plans are underway at Finlaggan on Islay to connect Eilean na Comhairle (Council Isle) - where chieftains,

lords, and bishops met to pass laws and govern - with Eilean Mor (Large Island), where Finlaggan Castle, the seat of Clan Donald, once stood.



A 50-metre bridge is being proposed to span Finlaggan Loch and connect the two to open up access to the historic site and meet demand from visitors. Lynn MacDonald, chair of the Finlaggan Trust, said: “We do get a lot of requests to go over to Council Isle. It was an extremely important site for the Lord of the Isles. If you go onto the main island, it doesn’t feel very far away. You actually really want to go down there. There are a number of logistical issues about getting across, particularly because the site is quite exposed, but what we are trying to do is preserve the integrity of the site as well as make it more accessible.”

Finlaggan was the seat of the Lord of the Isles and Clan Donald between the 12th and 15th Centuries.

David Caldwell, archaeologist and author of *Islay, the Land of the Lordship*, said it was likely people had not been able to walk between the islands for the last 400 or 500 years. The new bridge would replace an earlier structure, built between the 12th and 14th Century, which remains submerged under the loch.

Mr Caldwell, who is also a trustee of the Finlaggan Trust, said: “The Council Isle is where the Council of the Isles met in medieval times, the council being a medieval parliament. It was a real power base and an incredibly important site.” The rulers, who

were broadly independent from the Crown and controlled the Hebrides and part of the west coast, took on a kingly quality with Lords of the Isles sworn in at Finlaggan. Meetings were usually held on Council Isle to coincide with such occasions, which drew people from all over the kingdom and were a good opportunity for business, trade, games and sports, according to Mr Caldwell.

Gatherings of the Council of the Isles met in the Council House on the island, which measures around 4.8 metres by 7.5 metres. Four Clan Donald chieftains made up part of the council along with, four nobles, four thanes and the Bishop of the Isles and the Abbot of Iona, according to accounts.

“This Council could be convened to offer advice to the lord wherever he was, but the meetings at Finlaggan were probably more formal, in effect a parliament constituted to give judgements and make laws,” Mr Caldwell said. Excavations also discovered a hall which was possibly the residence of a keeper or steward who looked after the property when the lord was not in residence.

The Lordship was claimed by the Crown in 1493.

---

## The battle cries of the Highland clans

USED by clans to rattle their fighting foes and to help distinguish different sides during a battle, each Scottish clan had its own war cry that would have a psychological effect on the enemy, as well as helping to find comrades on the battle field. The battle cries of the clans would often include the rallying points of home or immortalise powerful leaders. Meanwhile, some simply sought to noise up the opposition with claims of their fighting power.

### **Cameron:**

Chlanna nan con thigibh a’ so ‘s gheibh sibh feòil! - Sons of the Hounds Come Here and Get Flesh!

Camerons were known as fierce fighters with most of their territory sitting at more than



1,000ft in altitude, including Ben Nevis. The last wolf in Scotland is said to have been killed in 1680 by Ewan Cameron of Lochiel, one of the most renowned chiefs of any clan. He was the only chief who did not submit authority to Oliver Cromwell.

**Campbell:**

Cruachan - Thought to refer the mountain which dominates Loch Awe and much of Argyll but also linked to the farm of the same name on the west bank of Loch Awe, directly opposite the clan stronghold of Innischonnell Castle, which became a natural rallying point. Cruachan is also used by the old Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders regiment.

**Colquhoun**

Cnoc Ealachain - Hill of the Black Willow

Cnoc Elachain sits near Rossdhu at Loch Lomond close to the clan seat of power at Luss. The Hill of Black Willow was the gathering place of the clan.

**Grant:**

Craig Elachaidh - The Rock of Alarm

The Grants were in Strathspey during the reign of Malcolm III and were tasked with lighting a beacon on at the summit of Craigellachie, by Aviemore, to warn the king if danger loomed from the North. When lit, clan members would mobilise there.

**Mackay:**

Bratach Bhan Chlann Aoidh - the White Banner of Mackay.

In reference to the white battle flag carried by Angus Du Mackay, 7th of Strathnaver, who led his men to victory at 1431 the Battle of Drumnacoub against the Clan Sutherland at Tongue. Once an incredibly powerful clan, the Mackays had their roots in Moray and gained influence across the Highlands from the 14th Century.

**MacLean:**

Fear eil' air son Eachainn! – Another for Hector!

In memory of seven brothers that fought in the Inverkething battle of 1651 and died

when trying to defend Sir Hector MacLean of Duart, who was also killed in the battle against the New Model Army. Inverkeithing ended in a decisive English victory that gave Oliver Cromwell's forces control of the Firth of Forth.

**Macneil:**

Buaidh no Bàs! - Victory or death

The Macneils were infamous throughout Scotland and beyond for their pirating and great seamanship, with the clan raiding the seas from their base at Kisimul Castle on Barra. Recent research on DNA of clan members found that they descended not from Ireland's "greatest" King, Niall of the Nine Hostages, but from the Vikings.

**Stewarts of Appin:**

Creag an Sgairbh – Cormorant's Rock

The cry comes from Castle Stalker, the first clan castle built around 1540 by Duncan Stewart of Appin around 25 miles north of Oban. It was later gifted to James IV for use as a hunting lodge. It sits at the mouth of Loch Laich by Loch Linnhe on a rocky islet known as the Rock of the Cormorants.

---

**What we know about the Scot who invented the bicycle**

A humble blacksmith from Dumfriesshire is widely seen as the true father of the "velocipede" or bicycle - but didn't bother to patent his invention.



Unlike many other Victorian-era designs, the basic configuration



of the bicycle has changed little in its 200-odd years of existence. This replica of

Kirkpatrick Macmillan's bicycle was made by engineer Thomas McCall, to the design

invented by Kirkpatrick Macmillan. With a crank powered by connecting rods in place of the familiar toothed cog and chain we have today, the original specifications of Kirkpatrick Macmillan's bicycle are still readily identifiable to modern eyes.

Macmillan, born in 1812 in the town of Keir in Dumfries and Galloway, followed his father into the family business of blacksmithing. Tired of existing methods of transportation such as hobbyhorses, the metalworker made a prototype version of his first machine at the family smithy in 1839.

This eliminated the need for the user to push their feet off of the ground to achieve forward motion. Despite the crank-driven setup requiring a lot of leg power from the user to operate the 25kg bike, Macmillan persevered with his invention and cycled it more than once to Dumfries, fourteen miles away from his small town. Egged on by the positive reception of locals there, he undertook a journey to Glasgow that was nearly four times as long.

The two-day trip to Glasgow brought him minor fame as he was reported by the local press for running into a small girl in the Gorbals. His fine of five shillings was apparently covered by the town's magistrate, who was impressed by the ingenious design.

By this point, the blacksmith's innovative design had been noticed by other men quick to cash in on his creation. Gavin Dalzell of Lesmahagow near Lanark made a copy of Macmillan's design only six year later, as Macmillan had not taken out a patent to protect his invention.

Preferring to maintain a quiet life with his wife Elizabeth Goldie and two children, Macmillan died in January 1878.

To this day, one of Dalzell's metal and wood bicycles survives in the Riverside Museum of Transport in Glasgow as one of the oldest bicycles in the world. Alongside this creation, the controversy of who really did invent one of the world's most popular methods of transport continues to rage on.



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

Mailing Address:  
Caledonian and St. Andrew's Society of Seattle  
P.O. Box 27278  
Seattle, WA 98165-1778

[www.caledonians.com](http://www.caledonians.com)

#### **BOARD MEMBERS:**

President: Don Moore  
1st Vice President:  
2nd Vice President: Victoria Johnson  
Secretary: Ruth McFadden  
Treasurer: Allan Patten  
Social Director: Bill McFadden  
Parliamentarian: Don Moore  
Trustee: Rosemary Blakemore  
Trustee: Phillip Junkins

#### **HEATHER BELL EDITOR:**

Ruth McFadden 206-364-6025  
[ruthmcfadden@mindspring.com](mailto:ruthmcfadden@mindspring.com)