

HEATHER BELL

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALEDONIAN & ST. ANDREWS SOCIETY OF SEATTLE

www.caledonians.com

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NEXT GATHERING

Our November gathering will be on Sunday, November 10th.

As usual, we will gather at 2:00 pm at Haller Lake United Methodist Church, 13055 1st Ave. NE, Seattle, WA. 98125.

Tom Lamb will present a program with pictures of his recent trip to Scotland.

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

Bonnie Munro sends cards to members who are ill. If you know of anyone who needs a card, please let her know.

She sent a card to Fred von Kleinschmidt, who has had surgery for throat cancer, and is recovering from chemo. Cards may be sent to him at 2515 E. Roanoke St., Seattle, WA 98112-4747.

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

November

2 SSHG Heather Tartan Ball, Seattle Latvian Cultural Center, 11710 3rd Ave NE., Seattle, WA. Tickets at 206-522-2874.

3 Traditional Scottish Breakfast, Littlefield Celtic Center, 1124 Cleveland Ave., Mount Vernon, WA. 12:00-3:00. \$35. 360-416-4934 <https://celticarts.org/celtic-events/breakfast-19/>

10 Caledonian & St. Andrews Society Gathering, 2:00 pm. Haller Lake United Methodist Church, 13055 1st Ave. NE, Seattle, WA. 98125. <http://www.caledonians.com>

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

30 Geoffrey Castle Celtic Christmas Concert, Everett Historic Everett Theatre, 2911 Colby Ave., Everett, WA. 425-258-6766pm. \$23-35.

Address Changes

Rosemary Blakemore has moved recently to Hearthstone Retirement Home. Her new address is 6720 E. Green Lake Way N., Apt. 912, Seattle, WA 98103. Phone: 206-774-5167.

Diana Smith moved from the Washington, DC area to Connecticut a few months ago. Her new address is TGM Anchor Point, 150 Southfield Ave., #1227, Stamford, CT 06902. Phone is the same: 206-465-1285

Re-Cap of October Gathering

Twenty Caledonians gathered on October 13th to hear Tyrone Heade, a world-champion piper, talk about his life as a professional piper. His story of standing atop the Space Needle and being wrapped inside the huge flag being raised that was caught by the wind was hair-raising! He demonstrated three different small pipes and gave us a concert on the great pipes.



Articles and Topics About Scotland and Things Scottish

Did You know?

The word *dunce* originated from the name of a hugely influential, but little-known Scottish philosopher, John Duns Scotus, who lived in the late 13th to early 14th centuries. The irony of *dunce* lies in the fact that this synonym of *dullard* is derived from the name of one of the most brilliant thinkers of the Middle Ages. So ingenious were the theological and metaphysical speculations of this thinker that he was given the name “the Subtle Doctor.” However, in the 16th century, his followers

became a conservative element in English universities and they tended to resist the new learning of humanism. As a result, *dunsman* and the shortened form *duns* became terms of scorn, meaning first “sophist” or “pedant” and gradually taking on the modern sense of “slow-witted person.” (From Merriam-Webster Dictionary)

From *The Scottish Banner*

St. Andrew’s Day - November 30th

Religious celebrations remember the Apostle who gave his life for spreading the Good News. In Scotland, where he is the patron Saint, Andrew has been celebrated for over 1000 years. The day is marked with a celebration of Scottish culture with traditional Scottish food, music, and dance.

Andrew is also the patron saint of singers, spinsters, maidens, fishmongers, fishermen, women wanting to be mothers, gout and sore throat. The town of St. Andrews is named after him, and many believe that some of his remains are buried there.

Beyond the religious and Scottish cultural celebrations, many customs and folk superstitions around the world are connected to St Andrew’s Day. Interestingly, many traditions are connected with courtship and marriage in that St. Andrew’s help is sought primarily by single women who wish to marry.

Perhaps the most unique is that around midnight on 29 November, the night before St Andrew’s Day, it was traditional for girls to pray to St Andrew for a husband. Or a girl wishing to marry could throw a shoe at a door. If the toe of the shoe pointed in the direction of the exit, then she would marry and leave her parents’ house within a year.

New Research Highlights Threats Facing Edinburgh’s Royal Mile

New research published by Edinburgh World Heritage concerning the authenticity of the Royal Mile reveals the threats and opportunities facing the historic thoroughfare in the heart of the Old Town.

Research highlights:

- The historic buildings, Scottish architecture, setted streets, wynds and closes, are seen by

visitors and residents as authentic, and are at the core of what makes the area so attractive.

- However, the Royal Mile is losing its local character. The research shows that visitors associate the area with 'being surrounded by foreigners' more than 'hearing local Scottish accents'.
- The retail sector, more specifically the gift and souvenir shops, are not seen as authentic by visitors. Additionally, discussions with shop assistants reveal that shoppers' desire to purchase high-quality Scottish products is to some extent being frustrated, both by shops selling lower-quality mass produced items, most of which are made outside of Scotland, as well as by misleading sales claims.
- Visitors from different countries react in different ways. Italian and Scottish visitors in particular did not find the gift shops authentic. However, Chinese visitors were more troubled by traffic congestion, inappropriate building works and new development in and around the Royal Mile as well as rubbish on the street.

Adam Wilkinson, Director of Edinburgh World Heritage commented: "The Royal Mile is one of the most celebrated urban thoroughfares to be found anywhere in the world. This research has confirmed that the extraordinary historic environment of the area is central to its appeal and must be conserved and enhanced. The findings have also confirmed what many of us have suspected: that the area risks becoming a tourist ghetto, and that the retail environment is to some extent detracting from the appeal of the Royal Mile.

Tartan of the Month

St. Andrew Tartan

The colours incorporate the blue and white of the St Andrew's Cross with the purple and green of the thistle.



Glassless Cocktails

Scotch whisky company Glenlivet has launched a controversial new product: "The Capsule Collection," which sells whiskey in small, biodegradable pods that dissolve in your mouth. Each capsule contains 23 ml. of whisky cocktail in one of three flavours, described only as citrus, wood and spice.

Dark Sky Sites in Scotland

Interested in seeing a clear sky full of stars? The best time for stargazing is when there is no bright moon at night and when the sun has set enough so that twilight does not cause the view to seem "faded."

Because Scotland is at the same latitude as Stavanger, Norway, and Nunivak Island, Alaska, seeing the Northern Lights is very much a possibility, particularly on colder, darker nights.

Here are some of the best places to go stargazing on your next visit to Scotland:

Dumfries & Galloway, home to Galloway Forest Park, which has glens, lochs and some of the highest hills in southern Scotland. With so few buildings and very limited light pollution it was a natural choice to be the first Dark Sky Park to be named as such in the UK.

Tomintoul & Glenlivet - Cairngorms Dark Sky Park became Scotland's second international Dark Sky Park.

North West Sutherland, between Kylesku and Inchnadamph, is one of the darkest sky locations in the UK and possibly Europe.

The Outer Hebrides has some of the darkest skies in the whole of the UK. Many astronomical sights can be seen through the naked eye including the Orion Nebula (over 1,500 light years away), the Milky Way Galaxy, and one of the Milky Way's companion galaxies the Great Andromeda Galaxy.

Nine locations on the Isle of Skye have been officially named 'Dark Discovery Sites'.

Moffat is the UK's first Dark Sky Town.

From *The Scotsman Newspaper*

Words on the Shortlist of Favourite Scots Word

Here are 30 words on the list to be considered for the nation's best loved Scots word of all time. Some have alternate spellings that are not mentioned here. An example of how the word might be used is included for some.

Beastie

Familiar and affectionate contraction of beast.
"Wee, sleeket, cowran, tim'rous beastie."

Besom

A term of contempt applied jocularly to a woman or young girl. "Girl with a bit of an attitude, a term of endearment, for a friend with confidence who is not afraid to stand up for herself."

Braw

Of things: fine, splendid, illustrious; also used ironically. "It was a braw day."

Bumfle

An untidy bundle; a pucker, ruffle, in a garment.
"A raised lump e.g. in a sheet."

Burn

A brook or stream, also known as the water used in brewing. "Gang ower the burn..."

Clipe

To tell tales about, inform against someone. "Tae clipe is tae tell tales. Nae one likes a clipe."

Collie-buckie

A piggy-back, a ride on one's shoulders. "I'm awfy tired, gies a collie-buckie."

Dreich

Long-drawn-out, protracted, hence tedious, wearisome. "It's the perfect word for a certain type of weather, damp, wet, grey and depressing..."

Dwam

A stupor, a trance; a day-dream, reverie. "In a dreamy state; in a wee dwam."

Eeksie-peeksie

On an equality, much alike, six and half a dozen.

Fankle

To tangle, ravel, mix up. "Deary me, that's a right fankle..."

Glaikit

Stupid, foolish; thoughtless, irresponsible, flighty, frivolous. "Vacant, thoughtless e.g. 'he's just sitting there with a glaikit look on his face'."

Gloamin

Evening twilight, dusk. "Roamin' in the gloamin."

Guising

Mummer, masquerader, especially in modern times one of a party of children who go in disguise from door to door at various festivals. "Gaun guising fir Halloween."

Haver

To talk in a foolish or trivial manner, speak nonsense, to babble, gossip. "Can also mean to make a fuss about nothing, to make a pretense of being busy."

Ken

To know, be aware of, apprehend, learn. "Ken that book we talked about the other day..."

Neeps

Turnip, often served with haggis and tatties. "If ye dannae eat yer neeps, ye cannae hev pudding."

Nyaff

A small, conceited, impudent, chattering fellow. "A small, annoying person."

Outwith or ootwith

Outside, out of, beyond. "To be outside an expressed area - either logically or geographically."

Piece

A piece of bread and butter, jam or the like, a snack, usually of bread, scone or oatcake, a sandwich. "Oh ye cannae fling pieces oot a twenty story flat..."

Scunnered

To make (one) bored, uninterested or antipathetic. "Fed up, sick to the stomach, can't be bothered with a thing anymore."

Shoogle

To shake, joggle, to cause to totter or rock, to swing backwards and forwards. "Gie it a good shoogle."

Sitooterie

In a restaurant etc., an area where patrons can sit outside; a conservatory.

Sleekit

Insinuating, sly, cunning, specious, not altogether to be trusted. "Sly, cunning, like a fox."

Smirr

A fine rain, drizzle, occas. Also of sleet or snow.
"An indeterminate state somewhere between mist and rain."

Smoorikin

To exchange kisses, to cuddle, 'canoodle'. "'Peerie Smoorikins' is said in Shetland for 'little kisses',

Stappit

Blocked, choked, stuffed. "Ma nose is stappit wi' the caul'."

Totie

Small, diminutive, tiny. "A totie bit more..."

Wabbit

Exhausted, tired out, played out, feeble, without energy.

Wheest

To silence, to cause to be quiet, to hush, quieten.
"Haud yer wheest!"

Many of Scotland's castles, palaces and abbeys at risk from climate change

The future of some prized historic properties in Scotland is at risk from climate change as coastlines alter, ground shifts and sea levels rise.

Brough of Birsay, Orkney



This site was once home to the Picts — and then the Vikings came. The brough is accessed on foot by a causeway at low tide.

Bonawe Iron Furnace, Loch Etive, Argyll

Bonawe is the most complete charcoal-fueled ironworks in Britain. Founded in 1753, it made pig iron and cannonballs for the Napoleonic Wars, but is now at risk from flooding.



Cambuskenneth Abbey, near Stirling

Founded around 1140 by King David I to serve

nearby Stirling Castle, the abbey is now at risk from rising water levels.

Dundonald Castle, near Kilmarnock, East Ayrshire

This 14th Century stronghold was where King Robert II, grandson of Robert the Bruce, was born.



The hilltop where it stands could be its undoing, as erosion puts the structure at risk.

Fort George, Ardersier, Highland



The fortress built by the British Government after Culloden juts out into the Moray Firth. It is now deemed to be at very high risk from rising sea

levels.

Hackness Martello Tower and Battery, South Walls, Orkney

These rare coastal defences were built during the Napoleonic Wars to protect merchant shipping interests. Now they are fighting off rising sea levels.



Inchcolm Abbey, near Burntisland



Founded as a priory by David I after a hermit allowed his brother to shelter here, this abbey became an important coastal defence. It is now

challenged with protecting itself from rising sea waters.

Kisimul Castle, Isle of Barra

This once-mighty 15th century castle was probably built by chief of Clan Macneil after



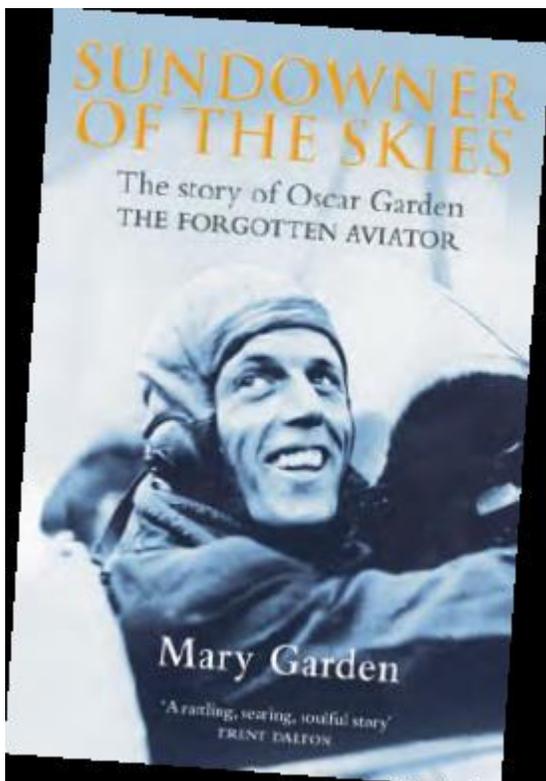
receiving the island from Alexander, 3rd Lord of the Isles, in 1427. It sits on a small island at the south end of Barra, putting it at risk from rising sea waters.

Oscar Garden – A Scottish born aviator

Author Mary Garden writes beautifully and honestly about her father, Oscar Garden, a hero from the golden age of aviation when intrepid men in tiny biplanes crossed the globe in flights that startled the world.

Even though he was to live in New Zealand most of his life, he saw himself as a Scottish aviator. He always considered himself a Scot, and, more importantly, a Highlander.

Oscar Garden was one of the few survivors of those early years of long-distance flying and was one of a handful who went on to a career in commercial aviation. He ended up at the helm of Tasman Empire Airways (TEAL), the forerunner of Air New Zealand, flying the majestic flying boats between Auckland and Sydney.



This book is available from Amazon.



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

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