

HEATHER BELL

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALEDONIAN & ST. ANDREWS SOCIETY OF SEATTLE

www.caledonians.com

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NEXT GATHERING

Members of Caledonian & St. Andrew's Society will continue to gather using the electronic app Zoom for the next several months, due to the current health crisis and prohibitions on large gatherings of people.

Our next gathering is Sunday, November 8th, at 2:00pm. An e-mailed link will be sent to everyone who has computer access a few days in advance of this date. For those of you with a computer, but no camera, you can watch by copying and pasting this address into your browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/713418301?pwd=K1ZUQnBOSE53YURUYjE4SW4ySjlxQT09>

You can also click on this link in the Heather Bell or listen by phone by calling 1-253-215-8782 and entering the meeting ID: 713 418 301 and then the passcode: 004905. For those without a camera on your computer, you can do both, letting you see everyone on the computer and hear the program on your phone.

We will not be able to meet in person for a few more months. We miss you! And, we urge you to try to connect for gatherings on Zoom. They last a little over an hour. If you don't have the Zoom app on your computer, smart phone, or tablet, when you click on the link, above, it will show you how to add the app. The app is safe. We use a password and waiting room to guarantee safety.

OCTOBER PROGRAM



For the November 8th gathering we have booked harpist Susan McLain for our entertainment. She performed with the Greensleeves Harp Trio at one of our recent Burns Dinners.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

Plan ahead to join us each month for Caledonian gatherings on Zoom. The one silver lining to the coronavirus pandemic is that we can book entertainment from across the USA and Scotland that we might not otherwise be able to see and hear!

December 13: Ryan McKasson, fiddle. Ryan performed for Caledonian meetings with his sister, Cali, several times in the past. Cali passed away recently, but Ryan is bringing his children up in the fiddling tradition and likely will include them in his performance. You can

preview his music on his website:

<http://www.ryanmckasson.com/>

January 10: Robert Burns Celebration

More information next month!

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 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

At this time, we do not know of any Scottish events scheduled for our area, except our own online ones. Many groups and Scottish Highland Games that cancelled last summer are hopeful for 2021.

Recap of the October Caledonian Gathering



We were pleased to have welcomed Colleen Raney and Hanz Araki, performing from their home in Maine for our entertainment. Colleen reminded us that she had performed for the Caledonians several years ago and talked with familiarity about her time in Seattle and with

the Caledonians. Hanz performed on a variety of whistles and flutes, while Colleen accompanied the duo on her guitar.

Caledonians Helping Others

Kathy Bowie has renewed her offer this fall to make cloth face masks for any Caledonians who would like one or more. She can be reached by phone at 206-940-9973. She will deliver if you are unable to get out yourself.

Articles and Topics About Scotland and Things Scottish

From *The Scottish Banner* and VisitScotland.org. Additional information came from Wikipedia.

Bracketing the month of November are two holidays special to the people of Great Britain and Scotland.

Guy Fawkes Day

November 5th is remembered with fireworks and bonfires and named after its most famous failed bomber. In some ways it is a misnomer. Bonfires actually were commissioned as a celebration of the survival of the King, James the First.

In 1605 a group of English Catholics were angry with James I, King of England. They planned to blow up the Houses of Parliament on November 5th, the day that the King would come to open parliament. Their plan is known as the "Gunpowder Plot", because the explosive they planned to use was gunpowder. In fact, they managed to install 36 barrels of said gunpowder in the basement of the Houses of Parliament, but were thwarted in their attempt to use it to cause an explosion. The police found the gunpowder before it exploded and arrested all the conspirators. In those times, as was common, they were tortured and executed.

To celebrate his survival, the King ordered the people of England to have a bonfire on the evening of the day the explosion was to have occurred.

Despite being originally a celebration of the King's survival, the day itself is named after the leader of the Gunpowder Plot and remembered for his plan to blow up the Houses of Parliament.

All over Britain, people celebrate “Bonfire Night” with firework displays and bonfires, and they burn effigies of Guy Hawkes.

St. Andrew’s Day



St. Andrew’s Day, 30 November, opens a series of winter festivals in Scotland.

St. Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland. A Galilean fisherman, he was one of Jesus’s 12 apostles, and was known for being strong, sociable, and fair, encouraging people to share what they had with those in need. St. Andrew is believed to have been crucified on 30 November 60AD on a diagonal cross, a shape that became the inspiration for Scotland’s Saltire, which has a white diagonal cross over a blue background. While Andrew never visited Scotland, relics believed to be some of his bones were brought to Scotland in 747 CE.

St. Andrew’s Day is an opportunity to celebrate Scottish culture, food and dance. Initially it was a way for homesick Scots to get together and help each other out. The first Society of St. Andrew’s was set up in Charleston, SC, on 30 November, 1729, dedicated to offering support to Scottish migrants in distress.

In the U.S., St. Andrew’s Day typically is celebrated with a dinner and cèilidh on November 30th. While the day also is remembered in Scotland, in some places observances extend throughout November. There are special tasting menus in the Scottish town of St. Andrews, street food and storytelling in Edinburgh, and special film screenings and other events in Glasgow.

A Few November Events in Scottish History

1 Bank of Scotland founded. (1695)

6 Celtic Football Club formally constituted in Calton, Glasgow, to alleviate poverty in Glasgow’s East End parishes. (1887)

10 Journalist Henry M. Stanley found the missing Scottish missionary David Livingstone with the classic “Dr. Livingstone, I presume.” (1871)

12 Edinburgh University first admitted women to the study of medicine. Sophia Jex-Blake and her friend Edith Pechy were the first to attend the prestigious medical school. Although they passed their exams, they were not allowed to graduate as regulations prevented women from actually serving on the wards. (1869)

14 Speed limit for horseless carriages was raised from 4mph to 14mph. (1896)

15 The Stone of Destiny was finally returned to Scotland and placed at Edinburgh Castle. From an early date the kings of Scotland were inaugurated sitting on a royal chair with the stone in its base. (1996)

19 King Charles I was born. (1600)

21 King James VII married Mary of Modena. (1673)

24 The Scots army was defeated at the Rout of Solway Moss. King James V had sent a huge force of 10,000 men into England, where they were defeated by an English force. James died shortly afterward, and was succeeded to the throne by his baby daughter, Mary, Queen of Scots. (1542)

Identifying Scotland’s Archives

Historic Environment Scotland (HES) has asked the public to help identify over 5,000 archive images now available online. In 2019-20, over 170,000 archive items from the HES archives were digitized, with the images added to Canmore – the online catalogue of HES archives.



The archives showcase rural and urban Scotland in the 1970s and 1980s, from crofts in the Highlands and farms in Orkney to large estates

in Fife and tenements in Glasgow. The collection gives a rare insight into what life was like throughout Scotland at that time. Over 5,000 images of locations and building exteriors and interiors are currently unidentified.

If you would like to look at the images and help with identifying them, email archives@hes.scot.nhs.uk. If you just want to look at the old pictures, the online catalogue to Scotland's archaeology, buildings, industrial and maritime heritage is at www.canmore.org.uk.

Scotland's First Oil Rush

During the late Victorian times oil works were established across much of West Lothian, an area west of Edinburgh. New communities developed in the shadow of bings, huge mounds of discarded rock, were built to accommodate the workforce in what had been farmland.



Originally, oil was produced from coal. In 1851, James Young used a pioneering technique predating US oil wells where coal was heated until the oil could be driven off using steam. The oil was used to light homes, and the process was patented and sold around the world.

By the 1860s the oil-rich coal supplies began to run short and a new source had to be found. Young started using oilshale to produce petroleum. Oilshale is a different rock from coal. It was found beneath a lot of West Lothian. Young established Young's Paraffin Light and Mineral Oil Company in 1860.

Oil production brought in people from all over Scotland and Ireland. Towns were established on sites that had once been farmland to provide housing for workers. While early housing was flung up cheaply, by the 1880s owners realized that they could attract better workers by

providing a better quality of housing. By the early decades of the 20th century, some of the new housing included four rooms with inside toilets, wash houses, and other amenities. Even so, the population was very transient as the fortunes of early companies were boom and bust, responding to the changing market price of oil.

Crude oil produced from the shale was refined into numerous products. While paraffin and lubricating oils were well-known products, there was a lot of wax in the crude oil, so candle works sprang up around the refineries. Another valuable product, ammonium sulphate fertilizer, was produced as a by-product of the extraction process.

The oil industry was diminished after World War I, when oil in the Persian Gulf became cheaper. By the beginning of the 1960s the shale oil industry had died. While the industrial age of shale oil with its pollution and attacks on the land is far removed from our modern, eco-friendly society, it had a big role in Scottish life, and as such is worthy of being seen in perspective to its times.

To highlight and explain the history of shale oil production, West Lothian is developing a Shale Trail. This is a 16-mile walking and cycling route through the former industrial heartland. The shale oil story is told through information panels and access to sites such as the Five Sisters bing (shown on the left). It also passes through some reclaimed countryside.

<http://www.elgt.org.uk/projects/walking-cycling/shale-trail/>

It is a way for visitors and local residents to explore the heritage and environment in this area of West Lothian.

Medieval Bridge Rediscovered

Remains of the Ancrum Old Bridge, which stood for 400 years, has been discovered in the River Teviot after being hidden underwater for hundreds of years. Built of native oak, its timbers have withstood time and been dated to the mid-1300s. It stood for 400 years and had strategic importance during Medieval times.

The bridge formed part of the "Via Regia" or The Kings Way from Edinburgh to Jedburgh and the Borders. James V would have crossed here in 1526. The entourage of Mary Queen of Scots



returning from her tour of the Borders in 1566 would have traveled across the River Teviot over its sturdy oaken timbers. This bridge may have been the only place to cross the Teviot in this area during flood or high water.

Colinton Tunnel

The Water of Leith is a peaceful, wandering pathway on a converted train bed that runs beside Edinburgh's main river (also called the Water of Leith) flowing to Leith and into the Firth of Forth. Starting near Princes Street, the pathway is 12.25 miles long and passes by a number of places of interest, including Dean Village and other small towns, the Royal Botanic Garden, the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, and other attractions.

A train line from Princes Street Station to Leith opened in 1874, reducing travel time from over an hour by horseback to just 15 minutes using custom-built locomotives and rolling stock. It gradually increased its services from eight trips a day to twelve a day in the late 19th century, and increased them again in the early 20th century to 21 passenger trains daily and a number of freight trains. It was instrumental in turning outlying villages into residential communities for Edinburgh. With it, local tourism, picnics, and outings in the country became increasingly popular. In fact, it became known as the "picnic line".

As with train service elsewhere in Scotland, the line stopped operating passenger service in 1943 and freight trains ended in 1967.

In 1974, the Water of Leith Walkway was developed along the bed of the former railway. A part of the national Cycle Network routes, it was

to be a traffic-free path for walkers, bikers, and joggers.

Until recently, the Colinton tunnel near Spylaw Park was left largely as it had always been, an unappealing 140-metre long eyesore. Although bikers could pass through the tunnel quickly, it was long enough and unattractive enough to make it an uncomfortable traverse for walkers. It also has a problem with water during rainy weather, making it further unappealing for walkers in some seasons.

One issue, making the tunnel less of an eyesore, has been accomplished. A two-year project has resulted in a community mural in the Colinton Tunnel that showcases historical, mythical and local art work. Part of it depicts Robert Louis Stevenson's poem "A View from a Railway Carriage". The 2,000 square meters of tunnel has been covered with beautiful artworks that depict various elements of the infamous poem as well as telling the history of the community at the same time along the abandoned railway line. The art work goes the length of the tunnel from side to



side and over the roof.

The mural is said to be the first of its kind and also the largest outdoor mural in Scotland. The artist, Chris Rutterford, engaged the services of children attending three local primary schools and a secondary school to create a myriad of varying designs that showcased familiar local faces as well as mythical and historical characters.

Scotland in Autumn Colors



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

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