

HEATHER BELL

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALEDONIAN & ST. ANDREWS SOCIETY OF SEATTLE

www.caledonians.com

Volume 119 Issue 10 October 2021

NEXT GATHERING

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

Our next gathering is Sunday, October 10th, at 2:00 p.m. An e-mailed link will be sent to everyone who has computer access a few days in advance of this date. You can also join by clicking on this link or copying and pasting this address into your browser:

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

You can also participate 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 connecting with people on your phone.

OCTOBER PROGRAM

Blackthorn Band – Blackthorn is a Vancouver (Canada)-based folk group with repertoire rooted in the musical traditions of Scotland and Ireland. They bring their music to life with luscious harmonies and complex instrumentation. Many remember their annual performances at the Seattle Games. Although the Caledonians are sponsoring their performance, the band will also have a PayPal link for you to



offer additional monetary tips if you are especially pleased with their performance. The PayPal link is <https://paypal.me/blackthornband>. This group has been very popular at regional Scottish games, and you may wish to invite a friend to attend the gathering to enjoy their performance.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

Plan ahead to join us each month for gatherings on Zoom. We will have a variety of local, national, and international talent for the program.

November 14 – St. Andrew Program

SUNSHINE REPORT

Bonnie Munro reports that she sent a card to Bill McFadden, who recently tripped and twisted his knee badly.

If you know of another Caledonian who would be cheered by a card, let Bonnie know. She can be reached by phone at 425-806-3734.

Calendar of Seattle Area Scottish Events

OCTOBER

2 Fred Morrison Concert. Ticketed Zoom debuted at 5:00 p.m. Tickets \$25. Ticket holders will be emailed an access link to view the concert.

28 Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas Concert. Celtic Arts Foundation, Littlefield Celtic Center, 1124 Cleveland Ave., Mount Vernon, WA. 7pm. \$30. [Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas Concert - Celtic Arts Foundation](#)

29 Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas Concert. Celtic Arts Foundation, Littlefield Celtic Center, 1124 Cleveland Ave., Mount Vernon, WA. 7pm. \$30. [Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas Concert - Celtic Arts Foundation](#)

Jamie Laval - YouTube videos - Scottish fiddler Jamie Laval won't have live performances for a while longer. In the meantime, he invites you to view his YouTube videos at <https://YouTube.com/playlist?list=PLWBtgXxJ11Yi8rrx27nrBw9YwzTa6bS-s>

Recap of the September Caledonian Gathering



Charles Lamb provided an interesting lecture on the history of haggis in Scotland for fourteen attendees at the September Caledonian gathering on Zoom. He explained the difference between Scottish roasted oats needed to make haggis and American rolled oats, and how rolled oats couldn't be substituted. Besides recipes, Charles had numerous amusing stories around the making of haggis.

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.

Spring Tour of Scotland

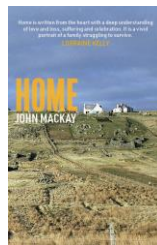
Tom Lamb is planning a 12-day private tour of Scotland in April/May 2022, as a number of friends have asked him to do this. The group would have a maximum of 16, so people will have an

opportunity to get to know their fellow travelers. The tour will be with an established Scottish tour company, and cost \$3000-4000 per person, excluding airfare.

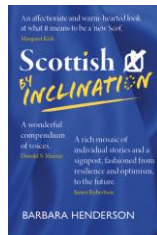
If you are interested in learning more about the itinerary and details for this tour, please contact Tom at 423-742-2348 or nalamb@umich.edu.

Contact Through Our Website

Luath Press sent their newsletter to the Caledonian website with news about recent releases of books by Scots and set in Scotland. If you are looking for something interesting to read, consider one of these.



Set in the Western Isles, the fourth novel by John MacKay, [Home](#), is a sweeping saga of one family that spans a momentous century. The narrative is driven by the search for an unknown grandchild, born to a son who went to war and never came back.



[Scottish by Inclination](#) by Barbara Henderson is a stunning reflection on Barbara's three decades in Scotland through the eyes of an EU immigrant, and a celebration of the contribution of 30 EU citizens across the country - beer brewers, entrepre-neurs, academics, artists and activists - who have chosen to call Scotland home.



Join Richard Clubley on a trip to Orkney in [Orkney: A Special Way of Life](#), a follow up to his previous book, [Orkney: A Special Place](#). Richard once again shows his love for the island Orkney in this new book. He sets out to capture the experience of life on Orkney, from the history of Neolithic sites to a future in renewable energy, telling the stories of countless Orcadians along the way.

Articles and Topics About Scotland and Things Scottish

Information based on articles in *The Scottish Banner*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, and *The Scotsman newspaper*.

Stone Balls Found in Neolithic Scottish Tomb

Two prehistoric polished stone spheres have been found while archaeologists were excavating a chambered cairn on the Orkney island of Sanday. This discovery is special because the tomb is at one of Scotland's oldest known monuments, Tresness. The Tresness cairn has been dated to around 3500 B.C.E. and these balls are thought to be even older. The site is disappearing into the sea, so researchers are working urgently to extract as much information from the site as possible before it is lost forever.



A number of other stone balls have been found in Orkney and elsewhere in Scotland, particularly in Aberdeenshire, with some featuring carved ridges, spikes, and

intricate spirals. However, it was unusual to find polished balls in a burial mound. The surfaces of these particular balls were polished smooth. One was about the size of a cricket ball, perfectly spherical and beautifully finished.

Researchers don't know the function of these spheres, but surmise from injuries found on bones in other graves that plain round stones likely were used as weapons. The polished and carved ones may have been symbols of power.

Ancient Ghostly Traditions of the Celts

The origins of Halloween in Scotland trace back to the Celtic festival of Samhain, held on November 1st. That festival marked the end of summer and harvest period with the beginning of cooler winter. The Celtic festival became blended with the Christian festival of All Hallows or All Saints Day for that same day. Halloween took its name from All Hallows Eve. Ancient Celts believed ghosts of the dead would walk amongst them on 31 October, and they would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts.

Recognition of Samhain is still held today in Edinburgh where the ancient Samhuinn Fire Festival is held at the top of Calton Hill on October 31st. In front of modern witnesses, the standoff between the Summer King and Winter King and the dying of the light and coming of the dark is celebrated.

Scotland enjoys its ghostly sightings. Almost every castle and fortress has at least one, often storied dead that lost their lives in violence, but there are many other unusual locations where ghosts may be found. One is the beautiful Sandwood Bay in Kinlochbervie, a gorgeous beach where visitors share their surroundings with ghostly apparitions known as the "Dead Sailors of Sandwood Bay."



Inveraray Castle's ghost is unusually musical. The castle is home to a "Phantom Harpist" that has been playing tunes for nearly 400 years. Nearby, a ghost ship sails up Loch Fyne and disappears onto the land.

Ghostly pipers are known to haunt several areas. Clanyard Bay near Stranraer is the site where the Phantom Piper can be heard playing the bagpipes in the evenings. Legend tells the story of a piper and his loyal dog entering a long-gone fairy cave. The piper never returned, while his dog escaped – but without any fur. Another piper is said to haunt Duntrune Castle near Crinan.

Historic Environment Scotland has its share of spooky stories to share attributed to some castles in their care.



Cardoness Castle in Galloway has rumours of a curse that afflicted those who lived on the land, leading each family to tragedy. The castle also has alleged reports of apparitions, including a ghostly

lady.

Dunstaffnage Castle in Argyll is well known in history as the place Flora MacDonald was held in 1746 after helping Bonnie Prince



Charlie to escape. History of this castle is exceptionally long and violent. Legend says that the castle is haunted by “Ell-maid of Dunstaffnage”, a lady wearing green, who appears on the ramparts in times of peril. If she smiles, the outcome for the castle will turn out well, but if she weeps, the castle owners face trouble ahead.

Edinburgh Castle is reputed to be one of the most haunted spots in Scotland. Ghostly stories of a headless drummer, a phantom piper, and a wandering dog have been reported.

Sutherland Expected to Have Spaceport



Sutherland in the Scottish Highlands is on track to have the UK’s first spaceport at The Moine. An inaugural space

flight is expected to launch in 2022 from land on the Melness Crofters’ Estate. Plans are to launch as many as twelve satellites a year vertically into space from this site. Space Hub Sutherland is expected to be the world’s first carbon-neutral spaceport, and provide high-quality employment in Sutherland.

Planning for the space hub is focusing on ensuring that the project respects the natural environment and has a top priority of safety. The project is projected to deliver positive economic impacts besides highly skilled jobs, such as training and supply chain opportunities.

Royal Bank unveils design of new polymer Scottish £50 note

This new bank note joins Royal Bank’s £5, £10 and £20 bank notes and features Scottish educationalist Flora Stevenson. It includes illustrations of the Scottish osprey on its reverse.

Flora, who was born in Glasgow was a British social reformer with a special interest in education for poor or neglected children, and in education for girls. She was one of the first women in the United Kingdom to be elected to a school board.



Flora Stevenson on the £50 polymer note is part of the Royal Bank’s “Fabric of Nature” series. It joins the £5 polymer note featuring poet Nan Shepherd, the £10 polymer note with the portrait of scientist Mary Somerville, and the £20 polymer note with the likeness of philanthropist Kate Cranston.

Interesting Scottish Tidbits

[Why is Edinburgh pronounced “Edinboro”?](#)

Usually it’s pronounced “Ed’nbruh”, or more commonly, “Embruh”. (Or in Glasgow, “Second City”). A pedant might pronounce it “Edinburrh”.

“Burgh” in Scottish place names is a form of a Germanic root that gives us, for example, Göteborg in Sweden, Hamburg in Germany, Cherbourg in France and no end of variants in England like Canterbury, Irthingborough, Middlesbrough. It means a fortification and by extension a walled settlement. Names ending in -burgh aren’t all that common in Scotland but in later Scottish history larger towns were designated “burghs.”

When Pittsburgh was so named it was intended to be pronounced as in Edinburgh. It isn’t of course, but don’t be tempted to call Edinburgh, “Edinburg”.

