

# HEATHER BELL

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALEDONIAN & ST. ANDREWS SOCIETY OF SEATTLE

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

Volume 114 Issue 2 February 2016

**NEXT GATHERING** is on Friday,  
February 12, 2016, at **Benaroya Hall**.

## Entertainment this month:

**Attending the Masters of Scottish Arts concert at Benaroya Hall.** Caledonians have a block of tickets at a reduced group price of \$38 each for fantastic seats on the main floor near (but not too close!) to the stage. Call the Box Office at Benaroya Hall and ask for the seats reserved for the Caledonian & St. Andrew's Society. Their phone number is (206) 215-4747 or 1-800-833-4747 toll-free outside the local area.

## President's Letter

Hello, fellow Caledonians:

Our February Gathering will be at Benaroya Hall in conjunction with the Masters of Scottish Arts concert on February 12<sup>th</sup>, followed two days later by Gung Haggis Fat Choy, produced by our own Bill McFadden, on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

Best wishes,  
Victoria Johnson

## Membership Renewal

It's time to renew your membership for 2016. Bring your check made out for \$35 for a single and \$45 for a couple to the next Gathering or send it to:

Treasurer  
Caledonian & St. Andrew's Society of Seattle

PO Box 27278  
Seattle WA 98165-1778

## Robert Burns Dinner

We had a fantastic Burns Dinner for our January Gathering on January 12<sup>th</sup>. We provided the vegetables and meat (including haggis) and Kaspar's Catering and Special Events of Magnolia did an excellent job of preparing the recipes Kim Cambern provided and catered the event. Over 55 tickets were sold, and 48 persons enjoyed haggis, leg of lamb, neeps, tatties, an amazing Brussel sprout dish, and sticky pudding while guest emcee, Christian Skoorsmith regaled us with the "Ode to a Haggis" and other

poetry of Robert Burns. Kyle Gaul from



Northwest Junior Pipe Band piped in arrivals on the portico and the haggis, and provided additional Scottish pipe music. Jim VanZee, Allan Patten, and Jim Mentzer did the honors bringing in the haggis.

Sharon Ritalis offered the Selkirk Grace. Victoria Johnson, Fred Kleinschmidt, and Loveday Conquest offered the toasts. Bill



Clarke played the piano for “Auld Ang Syne” and several Scottish songs.



printed for each table. Ruth McFadden liaised with the caterer and, with Jeanne Medley and her friend, Liz, set the tables. Jim VanZee came early to help Bill McFadden hang the clan banners and stayed late take them down after dinner, and Victoria Johnson organized the clean up after dinner.

Everyone agreed that it was a most enjoyable evening!

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## Calendar of Seattle Area Scottish Events

### February 2016

**5,6 Jim Malcolm.** Traditions Café and World Folk Art, Olympia, WA, 8:00pm, \$15.

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

**12 Masters of Scottish Arts,** Benaroya Hall, 7:30pm Tickets \$38 (group rate through Caledonian & St. Andrew's Society) and \$45. (206) 215-4747 or 1-800-833-4747 toll-free outside the local area.

**14 Gung Haggis Fat Choy,** 4:00pm. China Harbor, 2040 Westlake Ave. N., Seattle, WA. Contact Bill McFadden at 206-364-6025 for information and tickets

**27 Seattle Highland Dancing Competition,** Shoreline Children's Center, 1900 N. 170<sup>th</sup> St., Shoreline, WA

### March 2016

**11 Caledonian & St. Andrews Society of Seattle Gathering,** 7:30 pm. Lake City Presbyterian Church, 3841 N.E. 123rd Street, Seattle, WA;

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

Behind the scenes, Bill McFadden organized the evening and engaged Christian Skoorsmith as emcee, and had programs



**12 Shelton Highland Dancers & Fiddlefooted Cummings Family,** Lake Forest Park Center, 17171 Bothell Way NE, 3:30-4:430 pm.

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## Interesting Articles from *The Scotsman*

### The history of Robert Burns statues around the world

By Sofiane Kennouche

Scotland's most famous literary son is much more than words on a page. From Aberdeen to Winnipeg, statues and monuments of the bard can be found across the world.

With well over 60 statues dedicated to the Scots poet, Robert Burns is third in line after Christopher Columbus and Queen Victoria in the number of statues dedicated to a non-religious figure worldwide.

There are at least twenty statues of Burns throughout Scotland, with three alone in Dumfries where he died aged 37 in 1796.

Burns Statue, Dumfries. Image: Ron Waller



Burns Monument, Alloway, Ayrshire, Scotland. Image: Mary Hogg

Arguably, one of the most ornate tributes to Burns can be found in his hometown. Alloway in Ayrshire is the site of a Grecian-influenced monument, designed by Sir Thomas Hamilton and

featuring nine 70ft high colonnades to correspond with the number of muses found in Greek mythology. The monument and accompanying gardens are part of the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, and the inside of the monument features a bust of the man himself.

The nation's capital also honours the Tam 'o Shanter author with a monument on Calton Hill.



However, the John Flaxman-designed statue of Burns that used to reside there has been in the Scottish National Portrait Gallery since 1889, where he is posed in mid-recital of “To a Mountain Daisy”.

Burns in London. Image: Kaihsu Tai

South of the border, Burns can be found seated in London’s Victoria Embankment Gardens, while a bust of him is also seen in the Poets’ Corner of Westminster Abbey. Crossing the Channel to Paris reveals another statue to Robert Burns in the Sorbonne, providing a solid-stone link to Scotland’s ‘Auld Alliance’.

Northern Ireland has one statue of the man erected in Belfast, but the largest number of Burns statues anywhere in the world outside of Scotland can be found even further west in the United States of America.



Burns in New York's Central Park. Image: Ad Meskens

New York’s Central Park statue is situated on the Mall/Literary Walk opposite fellow countryman Sir Walter Scott. He’s seated on a tree stump with the poem Mary

on a scroll at his feet.

Proving that Wisconsin isn’t just famous for Netflix show Making a Murderer is the presence of a grand Burns statue in Milwaukee. Donated to the city in 1909 by James Anderson Bryden, a resident of

Burns Statue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Image: David Berge



Scottish descent, the 12 foot-high statue is a casting of the Kilmarnock design made by Edinburgh artist William Grant Stevenson.

An identical copy can also be found in Chicago, Michigan, and every year the town’s Scottish-descended community lay a wreath at the monument to celebrate the poet’s work.

While busts and statues can be found all the way from Vermont in the north to Texas in the south, there’s a particularly unique tribute erected in Atlanta, Georgia. The Burns Club of Atlanta

built a life-size replica of Burns Cottage in 1907, using measure-



Replica Burns cottage, Atlanta, Georgia, USA. Image: Frank Shaw

ments taken from the original cottage on land donated by one of the

Coca-Cola Company’s founders. To this day, the club still meets in the cottage, which faithfully replicates the original “but, ben and byre” layout of Burns’s childhood home.

Both Australia and Canada have seven Burns monuments, with Australian capital Canberra’s

Burns Statue, Canberra, Australia. Image: Peter Ellis



Burns sculpture the second-oldest monument in the city.

It’s the last Burns

monument to be erected in Australia, after having been unveiled in January 1935. The Scot is posed deep in thought ahead of a pink granite wall, with the panels and statue cast in Italy in the early 1930s.

Camperdown, Australia, is thought to have the oldest existing statue of the poet anywhere in the world, with the John Greenshields-carved sculpture shipped to Australia in 1859 after originally being displayed at the Crystal Palace Exhibition in London.

Southern hemisphere relative New Zealand has no less than four Burns monuments or statues. One such statue in Dunedin was erected in 1877 and designed by Sir John Steell; the Aberdonian who designed Edinburgh’s statue of Sir Walter Scott. One of the city’s founding fathers, Thomas Burns, was also a nephew of the late poet.

As well as the memory of Burns being commemorated Down Under, the poet is a popular public figure in parks and green spaces across Canada too.



Statue in Toronto, Canada. Image: Q8682

The St Andrews Society of Toronto will host 2016 Burns Night celebration at the statue in the city’s Allan Gardens, with

bagpiping, haggis and singing all set to feature under the bard's watchful gaze. The west coast of Canada also commemorates the Scot, with a statue of him at the Coal Harbor entrance to Vancouver's Stanley Park.

French-speakers in Montreal's Dorchester Square can see Burns standing with arms folded and looking westward. His presence in the park serves as a reminder of the industrial and financial might of the city's Scottish ancestors during the Victorian era, along with the long-lasting effects of his literary creations.

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## Christopher Columbus 'was a freckly Scot called Pedro'



Departure of Columbus from Palos 1492 .Painting by Emanuel Leutze

Columbus's origins have been disputed for centuries, with various academics and historians arguing that he was born in Italy, Portugal and Spain.

Alfonso Ensenat de Villalonga, 88, who has written three books on Columbus, has spent the past 27 years carefully examining hundreds of thousands of documents which he says proves the explorer was descended from Scottish nobility. Mr Villalonga read 330,000 files in Italy and Spain during his research. [He says] Christopher Columbus was a freckly Scot who went by the name Pedro Scotto.



An undated portrait of Christopher Columbus from the Naval Museum in Madrid. Picture: AFP/Getty Images

In his new book, the historian claims to have found evidence that Columbus was part of the Douglas Clan and that he was born in 1446, five years earlier than previously thought.

He claims Columbus's ancestors left Scotland to join a military operation in Italy in the 9th century. He says that Guillemo Scotto, a distant descendant from the Douglas clan, fell ill during the campaign and his family remained in Italy. More than 500 years later, Pedro Scotto was born in Genoa.

Mr Villalonga claims that Pedro Scotto once worked for a pirate called Vincenzo Columbus and adopted that family name to avoid embarrassing his relatives. He says Columbus did not have an Italian appearance, as academics believe. Unlike the invented images of Columbus, which show him with dark or grey hair, he had light-coloured eyes and freckles.

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## Clydesdale Bank to introduce £10 note featuring Robert Burns



Picture: Robert Perry

Clydesdale Bank is marking this year's Burns Night with the introduction of the bank's first £10 polymer note

featuring Scotland's celebrated bard. The note will go into production later this year and start circulating in 2017, featuring Robert Burns on the front and views of Edinburgh on the reverse. Clydesdale chief executive David Duffy signed the new note ahead of the flotation of the bank early next month.

"It's a very exciting time for Clydesdale Bank and signing the new £10 note featuring Robert Burns underpins our commitment to building a strong stand-alone bank based here in Scotland that can provide a real challenge to the big UK banks," Duffy said.

The Scottish bank is the biggest issuer by volume of notes in Scotland, introducing £400 million worth a year.

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## Legendary Robert the Bruce tree replanted on Gillies Hill

By Tim Bugler



Gillies Hill. Picture: Jane Barlow

A Replacement for a lost Scots Pine on which, according to legend, Robert the

Bruce's "sma folk", or Gillies, hung their headgear before their decisive descent onto the Bannockburn battle-field in 1314, is to be planted this weekend on the Gillies Hill near Stirling where the secret forces hid.

The English thought that the Gillies - in reality servants and camp followers - were trained reinforcements, and those who had survived the first day of fighting were shattered by their appearance and attempted to flee. The legend is that before their intervention, which helped turn the tide of history, the Gillies left their bunnets on the lonesome pine, which became known as "the Bonnety Tree".

The tree that inherited the title was destroyed by quarrying during the late 20th century, but many villagers in Cambusbarron, near the Gillies Hill, remember it well.

Top of Gillies Hill,  
Picture: Jane  
Barlow



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## Greyfriars Bobby - and other heroic Scottish animals

By Alison Campsie

Greyfriars Bobby led the way in loyalty - but here are six Scots dogs and other animals who will wow you with their superhuman acts. Here we look at other animals who have impressed with acts of loyalty, bravery and deep companionship.

### BAMSE THE ST BERNARD SEA DOG

Bamse was a registered crew member of the Norwegian minesweeper Thorodd, which was stationed at Montrose and Dundee during WWII. He quickly became one of the lads and won a place in the heart of the North East town for his affectionate and humorous ways.

The St Bernard, who belonged to Captain Hafto, wore a personalised steel helmet during action and had his own bus pass, paid for by the crew. It is said he wore the pass around his neck with bus drivers in Montrose stopping when they saw him waiting at the roadside. Spectacularly, he would visit the pubs in Montrose rounding up the sailors before curfew. He would often be the secret weapon during bar brawls, when witnesses recalled how he would stand on his hind legs and clamp his paws on the shoulders of his crewmate's opponent.

He is also said to have enjoyed a bowl of beer at the town's many hostelrys and playing football on deck, where he would often take up the position of goalie.

### WINKIE THE CARRIER PIGEON



Winkie was honoured for its act of heroism during WWII, when it flew 120 miles across the North Sea to raise the alarm that a

RAF bomber crew had been shot down in the North Sea.

The crew had been returning from a mission in Norway on February 23 1942 when their Beaufort Bomber was hit by enemy fire. Unable to radio an accurate position, the four men faced a tortuous death in freezing waters - until they managed to salvage their carrier pigeon Winkie from the wreck. Winkie, a blue chequered hen bird, was set free in the hope it could fly home to its loft in Broughty Ferry, near Dundee, and alert colleagues at the air base. She flew 120 miles and was discovered exhausted and covered in oil by owner George Ross who immediately informed RAF Leuchars in Fife.

Winkie had no message attached, the RAF was able to calculate the position of the downed aircraft using the time difference between the plane's ditching and the arrival of the bird. A rescue mission was launched and the men were found within 15 minutes.

### WOJTEK THE SOLDIER BEAR



Wojtek the bear carried ammunition for his Polish battle group at some of WWII's fiercest battles. He was perhaps the most intimidating

fighting force of the Polish Army - standing eight feet tall and fearless on the front line.

Wojtek retired to Edinburgh Zoo after serving in WWII. He was adopted by soldiers of the 22nd Artillery Supply Company of the Polish II Corps after they found him in Iran. The bear was said to have enjoyed a beer and smoking and eating cigarettes with his comrades. Wojtek spent his early post-war years at Winfield Airfield on Sunwick Farm, near the village of Hutton in the Borders.





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

**Mailing Address:**

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Seattle WA 98165-1778

**Dancing:**

Mondays, 7 p.m. at The  
Phinney Ridge Community  
Center. For information  
contact Fraser MacLeod  
(fraser509@hotmail.com)

**Gatherings:**

When - Second Friday of each month except  
July, August and September.  
Where - Lake City Presbyterian Church  
3841 N.E. 123<sup>rd</sup> St. Seattle WA 98125  
Directions - From Lake City Way proceed east on 123<sup>rd</sup>  
to 40<sup>th</sup>. Park in the Church parking lot.  
Time - Set-up at 6:30 p.m.  
Social Hour at 7:00 p.m.  
Business meeting at 7:30 p.m.  
Entertainment and raffle at 8:00 p.m.

Visit us on the Web: [www.caledonians.com](http://www.caledonians.com)

**Return Address:**

Caledonian and St. Andrew's Society of Seattle  
P.O. Box 27278  
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2nd Vice President:  
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