

HEATHER BELL

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALEDONIAN & ST. ANDREWS SOCIETY OF SEATTLE

www.caledonians.com

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NEXT GATHERING is on January 15, 2016, 7:30 pm at **Lake City Presbyterian Church**, 3841 NE 123rd Street Seattle, WA. Note that this is the 3rd Friday of January.

Entertainment this month:

Robert Burns Dinner. Tickets are \$20, and may be obtained at the December Gathering or by calling Victoria Johnson at (206) 321-4980, or Allan Patten at (206) 542-7692, or Don Moore at (206) 440-7697. Invite your friends and family for this special annual Scottish event!

Please get tickets or at least RSVP by January 11th so we can be sure we have enough food.

President's Letter

Hello, fellow Caledonians:

Happy New Year!

In January we will have our Burns celebration on Friday, January 15th with a dinner. Details are above, but note that this date is the third Friday in January.

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

Best wishes,
Victoria Johnson

Important Upcoming Caledonian Events

Masters of Scottish Arts - Friday, February 12, 2016, 7:30pm

The February 2016 Gathering will be held at the Masters of Scottish Arts performance on February 12, 2016 at Benaroya Hall. Tickets normally cost \$45, but Caledonians will 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. Bill McFadden has arranged for a block of 20 seats in the same area, so contact him promptly to find out how to get tickets for you and your friends and family. His phone is (206) 364-6025.

You may also 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.

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

News About Members

Reverend Dr. Robert (Bob) D. Nicholson has been elected President of the National Continuing Care Residents Association (NaCCRA). Dr. Nicholson was Chaplain to the St. Andrews Caledonian Society in Seattle and Washington State Games Commissioner for Clan MacNicol several years, and with his late wife Betty, assisted in the Highland Games in Enumclaw, WA. He currently resides at Aljoia at Thornton Place in Seattle, WA.

Hans and Myrtle Heia have moved to Maple Leaf Assisted Care at 9001 Lake City Way, NE, #313B, Seattle, WA 98115

Calendar of Seattle Area Scottish Events

January 2016

12 SSHGA Meeting 7:30 pm

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Fellowship Hall, 111 NE 80th Street, Seattle WA
Info: (206) 522-2541

15 Burns Dinner at Caledonian & St. Andrews Society of Seattle Gathering, 7:30 pm. Lake City Presbyterian Church, 3841 N.E. 123rd Street, Seattle, WA; Tickets: (206) 542-7692

www.caledonians.com

16 Tacoma Scots Annual Night w/ Rabbie Burns

St. Martin of Tours Church, 2303 54th Ave. E., Fife, WA. Tickets available on Brown Paper Tickets at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2412543>

16 Robert Burns Scottish Evening. Celtic Arts Foundation-Mount Vernon, Littlefield Celtic Center, Mount Vernon, 5:30pm. \$50 (360) 416-4934

23 2016 Annual Burns Night Dinner Kenmore & District Pipe Band, The Nile Country Club, Mountlake Terrace, WA. Doors open at 6pm, shows & dinner start at 7pm. Tickets on band website:

www.kdpipeband.com

February 2016

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

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

Interesting Articles from *The Scotsman*

Scotland's Hogmanay: origins and traditions



An estimated 8000 torchbearers, led by the Up Helly Aa Vikings from Shetland and more than 100 pipers, illuminated Edinburgh from George IV Bridge to Calton Hill during last year's Hogmanay celebrations. Image: Neil Hanna

By **SOFIANE KENNOUCHE**

While much of the world celebrates the beginning of the New Year, few are as passionate about it as the Scots.

Despite many theories as to its origins, no-one knows for sure where the word "Hogmanay" originated from. What is known is that Hogmanay is the Scots word for the final day of the year, and today it is most frequently used to refer to the evening's celebrations. Theories have placed "Hogmanay" as a product of Gaelic or Norman-French origin, with the similarities to "Homme est né" ("Man is born") in French also being noted.



A torchlight procession along Princes Street and up Calton Hill is typically part of

Edinburgh's Hogmanay celebrations. Image: Ian Georgeson

Scotland's raucous new year celebration is the descendant of a Viking festival which acknowledged the winter solstice. In addition to this, Christmas in Scotland was a very muted affair for over 300 years, as it was seen as a Catholic festival by Scottish Protestant kirks and duly banned after the Reformation.

Dr Alan MacDonald, Senior Lecturer in History at the University of Dundee, explains. He said: “The principal reason why Hogmanay is bigger in Scotland than in the rest of the UK is that our Reformation was more radical than in other places in Europe. A lot of Medieval European traditions were dropped, including Christmas, so a lot of Scots took the view that the only day worth celebrating for religion was Sunday.” “The reason for everyone celebrating new year was that people needed something to make them happy and they weren’t allowed to celebrate Christmas!”

As well as banning the celebration of Christmas, Scotland was one of the earliest nations to change its New Year’s day from 25 March to 1 January; marking a clear moment in winter where one year ended and one began. Crucially, though, it gave the nation another event to celebrate that was culturally distinct from Christmas and its Catholic connotations, with presents exchanged and family and friends reuniting during Hogmanay.

In reference to the ceremony’s Norse roots, firework displays and torchlit parades are still common over Hogmanay throughout Scotland, with the Stonehaven Fireball Ceremony one of the most famous in Scotland. Here, large fireballs are swung on metal chains down the town’s main street, signifying the Winter Solstice and the rejuvenating power of the sun.

One of the enduring characteristics of the celebration is to “first foot” the house of a neighbour, friend or family member. To bring good luck to the home, the first person to visit the home after the stroke of midnight should be a dark male with whisky, coal, shortbread or even a black bun. This tradition is believed to refer to Viking times, when the sight of a blonde stranger at your door was likely that of a Viking invading enemy instead of a well-wisher.

To first-foot an empty household is a grave mistake in Scottish culture, as it’s believed to bring bad luck to the home for the new year. Those who make it inside to the Hogmanay party will typically receive well-humoured greetings and conversation, as Hogmanay is traditionally seen as a time to move on from the problems and troubles of the previous year and start again with a clean slate.

In addition, Robert Burns’s world-famous “Auld Lang Syne” may be sung after the New Year bells have tolled. This is historically done with singers holding hands in a circle, before crossing their arms over their chest towards their immediate neighbours and rushing towards the middle to finish the song.

As an added bonus, Scotland is lucky enough to have 2 January as a bank holiday (unlike the rest of UK), a perfect excuse to continue the party well into 2016.

Lost Scots locket returned from Patagonia 100 years later



BY EILIDH
WHITEFORD

A century long quest to reunite a Victorian locket with its owner’s family has reached a fitting finale in a remarkable story spanning three generations and two continents.

The locket, belonging to former Lewis schoolteacher and councillor Maggie Darling, and containing portraits of her and her husband, was lost decades ago on the grass plains of Patagonia. It was picked up by a shepherd and after an exhaustive search for the identity of the owner, it found its way back to Lewis.

Retired sheriff Colin Scott Mackenzie said that he was “thoroughly relieved” to present Mandy Darling with her great-aunt Maggie Darling’s sweetheart keepsake.

Born at Patterton Farm, near Thornliebank, Glasgow, in 1874, Maggie Darling trained as a schoolteacher before taking up post at Dun Carloway School, Isle of Lewis, at the turn of the 20th century. She married Calum Macleod and the couple, known locally as the “Aird a Bhaighs” after their home, moved to South American’s Patagonia region.

A lively woman of her era, Maggie had a keen interest in politics and the supernatural – reportedly holding séances.

Following the First World War, the Airds returned to Lewis, Calum acting as agent for islanders travelling to South America and Maggie becoming a local councillor.

Back in Patagonia, the gold and crystal glass locket lay lost on the vast plains. The shepherd who found it, believed to have Lewis connections, saw the portraits and vowed to return it but by the time the locket made it to Lewis, Maggie and Calum had both died, leaving no descendants. The locket, its story and the quest to reunite it with a Darling family member was entrusted to Lewis solicitor Colin Scott Mackenzie, before being passed to his son, also Colin Scott.

Mr Scott was on the brink of donating the locket, and a written version of its story, to Museum nan Eilean when a chance meeting led to Mandy Darling.

Pony tops list of Travelodge hotels lost and found



A pony like this was left at reception at the Ayr Travelodge.

BY JANE
BRADLEY

It was one of the strangest - and largest - lost and found items staff had ever seen. For one guest staying in a hotel in Ayr did not merely forget a phone charger or a toothbrush - but a live

Shetland pony called Pudding.

Pudding's owners, who had been staying at the hotel, asked staff to keep an eye on the animal in the hotel reception while they ran a few errands in town.

However, a few hours later, they had still not returned, having forgotten that they had left the animal there - and catapulting Pudding to the top of a list of bizarre things left behind in hotel rooms.

Also among a series of unusual items left behind at branches of Travelodge in Scotland over the past twelve months are a set of bagpipes, a gramophone player and a canoe, according to a list compiled by the hotel's lost and found office.

Other bizarre objects found in rooms vacated by travellers to Scottish hotels were a grandfather clock, which was left in Inverness, a pair of football boots signed by Scott Brown of Celtic, which was left in a room at Glasgow Braehead Travelodge and a set of divorce papers, which were found in Falkirk.

However, Travelodge said Pudding the pony still topped the list as the strangest lost object. The owners were eventually contacted and returned to collect their pet.

Harry Potter turns Scots train route into success



Picture: Martin Molcan

BY ALASTAIR DALTON

The railway line made famous by the Harry Potter films and voted the world's most scenic train journey is ScotRail's fastest growing route, official figures reveal.

A doubling of trains on the West Highland line between Glasgow, Oban, Fort William and Mallaig helped boost its passenger numbers by nearly 14 per cent to 454,000 in 2014-15.

A new school service transporting pupils from Dalmally, Taynuilt and Connel to Oban is also thought to have contributed to the increase.

A stretch of the line between Fort William and Mallaig featured in many of the Harry Potter film series, including the Glenfinnan viaduct. Further fame came when the route was twice voted as "best line" for scenery by readers of Wanderlust magazine for its views of some of Scotland's finest lochs and mountains.



A fellowship founded in
Seattle in 1902 to foster
a love of Scotland, her
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Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 27278
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. 123rd St. Seattle WA 98125
Directions - From Lake City Way proceed east on 123rd
to 40th. 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

Return Address:

Caledonian and St. Andrew's Society of Seattle
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