

HEATHER BELL

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALEDONIAN & ST. ANDREWS SOCIETY OF SEATTLE

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NEXT GATHERING

There will not be a regular gathering for January because the Caledonian Burns Dinner is scheduled this month, on Saturday, January 28, 2017.

CALEDONIAN BURNS DINNER

Plan to get your tickets early for the Caledonian & St. Andrew's Society Robert Burns Dinner on Saturday, January 28, 2017, at 5:00pm. This will be at the same location as last year, **Lake City Presbyterian Church**, 3841 NE 123rd Street Seattle, WA. Tickets are \$35, and may be obtained from Caledonian president Don Moore (206-440-7697) or treasurer Porter Patten (206-542-7692.) The meal will be prepared by Kaspar's Special Events and Catering. There are a limited number of subsidized tickets. Check with president Don Moore if you would like to attend, but need assistance.

Calendar of Seattle Area Scottish Events

January 2017

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

14 Tacoma Scots Burns Dinner, St. Martin of Tours Church, 2303 54th Ave. E., Fife, WA. 6:00pm. \$45. Tickets available at www.brownpapertickets.com.

14 Celtic Arts Robert Burns Supper, Littlefield Celtic Center, 1124 Cleveland Ave., Mount Vernon, WA 5:30pm. www.celticarts.org.

21 Kenmore & District Pipe Band Annual Burns Night Supper, Nile Country Club, Mountlake Terrace, WA. 7:00pm. \$55. www.kdpipeband.com.

28 Burns Dinner - Caledonian & St. Andrews Society of Seattle Gathering, 5:00 pm. Lake City Presbyterian Church, 3841 NE 123rd St., Seattle, WA 98125. \$35. Tickets 206-440-7697 or 206-542-7692. www.caledonians.com

February 2017

3 Masters of Scottish Arts, Benaroya Hall, Seattle. 7:30pm. Tickets at Benaroya Ticket Office, 206-215-4747

11 Glenfiddich Revue Piping Concert, Littlefield Celtic Center, 1124 Cleveland Ave., Mount Vernon, WA 7:00pm. www.celticarts.org. Call 360-416-4934 for the code for 20% discount on tickets for Celtic Arts Foundations members.

Monthly Gatherings

As we previously announced, except for January (when we will hold our Burns Dinner) and February (when we will attend the Masters of Scottish Arts performance at Benaroya Hall), Caledonian Gatherings will be on **Sundays from 2:00-4:00pm**. The Board has chosen the Sundays following the second Friday of each month. This is not always the second Sunday of a month, so be sure to calculate Gathering dates based on the second Friday of the month.

Since our usual meeting location cannot adjust to a change to Sunday afternoon gatherings, future meetings will be held in the Fellowship Hall at **Haller Lake United Methodist Church, 13055 1st Ave. NE., Seattle, WA 98125**. This church has a large parking lot and an elevator.

accepted union with England partly to pay debts incurred by the disaster.

Read more:

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/how-lowly-mosquito-helped-america-win-independence-180959411/#TJFaVCOpSdF0htTj.99>

Most popular Scottish baby names of 2016 revealed

The National Record of Scotland announced on Tuesday that Olivia and Jack were the baby names most parents favoured over the past 12 months.

Last year's top girls' name, Emily, is a close second, while Sophie has dropped from second to third. Charlotte has now entered the top ten with Lily dropping out.

Jack has now been the top boys' name for nine consecutive years. James and Oliver have switched places since 2015, with James now the second most popular name and Oliver third. Harry, Noah and Leo have entered the top ten at the expense of Lucas, Harris and Daniel.

National Records of Scotland registered 24,489 girls and 26,408 boys during this period. There were 4,137 different first forenames for girls and 3,132 for boys. Of these, 4,743 children were given first forenames that were unique to them.

Fiona Hyslop, cabinet secretary for culture, Europe and external affairs, said: "It's always fascinating and fun to see the names Scotland's parents are giving to their newborns. Choosing a name for your child is such a huge decision. It's their introduction to the world and usually stays with them for the rest of their lives.

"The trend for unique names remains far higher than it has been in previous decades, indicating that today's parents are putting a lot of thought into choosing names for their babies. I note that so far, 'Fiona' does not appear in this year's top 100, so it may appeal to parents who are expecting a girl next year and looking for a rarer name."

When should I take down my Christmas tree?

Tradition dictates Christmas decorations should stay up until the Twelfth Night - but not everyone agrees. A quick glance on social media suggests many Scots simply can't wait that long, with New Year's Day a popular time to pack away decorations.

The superstitious will tell you it is bad luck to leave decorations up longer than January 5. But what is Twelfth Night? It refers to the night before Epiphany - the day when, according to the Nativity, the three wise men visited the infant Jesus - which takes place on January 6.

In days gone by, Christmas decorations were left up until Candlemas Day on February 2 - a festival that has all but vanished from public life. Candlemas commemorates the ritual purification of Mary, 40 days after the birth of her son Jesus.

Many department stores now have their decorations packed away by the time they open on Boxing Day.

Who are Scotland's clan chiefs?

By Alison Campsie

Scotland's clans may have lost their power and influence but much work is still done to promote the lineage, culture and shared history of some of the country's oldest families. Here we look at eight clans and their chiefs - who include a banker, an estate agent, a gardener and a restaurateur - who continue to promote the bonds forged hundreds of years ago through battle, birth and blood.

Clan Moncreiffe Peregrine Moncreiffe of that Ilk, Chief of the Clan Moncreiffe, and his brother Earl of Erroll, chief of Clan Hay, pictured in Edinburgh in 2009. PIC Ian Rutherford/TSPL Chief: The Hon. Peregrine Moncreiffe of that Ilk

Investment banker Peregrine Hay became chief of Clan Moncreiffe in 1998 following the death of his cousin, Elizabeth. Now known as Moncreiffe of that Ilk after his clan link was recognised by the Lord Lyon, he is also the

feudal baron of Easter Moncreiffe, the clan seat, in Perthshire. Schooled at Eton and Oxford University, Moncreiffe is also a Freeman of the City of London and a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers.

Clan Murray Chief: Bruce Murray, 12th Duke of Atholl—Born in South Africa in 1960, Murray is a former tea plantation manager and owner of a signage business in Johannesburg. He inherited his title following the death of his father John in 2012. The family have long ties to South Africa, with the 11th Duke professing to have no interest in the title due to his “simple lifestyle” abroad. Despite his scepticism, he worked hard to sustain the Atholl Estates in Perthshire. The 12th Duke attended the Atholl Highlanders Parade at Blair Atholl just days after his father’s death.

Clan Arthur Chief: John MacArthur of that Ilk—Mr MacArthur, chief of Clan Arthur since 2004, has been the head gardener at Castle Kennedy near Stranraer, home to the Earl of Stair, for almost 30 years. Clan Arthur, also referred to as Clan MacArthur, once held lands on the shores of Loch Awe opposite Inishail with a branch of the clan becoming the hereditary pipers for the MacDonalDs of Sleat. Clan Arthur was leaderless for around 230 years after Charles MacArthur of Tirivadich vanished in India in the late 18th Century. Following 15 years of research by a genealogist, the title of clan leader was passed to James Edward Moir MacArthur, a former Coal Board employee of Edinburgh, in 2002. He was succeeded as chief by his son, John, two years later.

Clan Macnab Chief: Jamie Macnab of Macnab—Jamie Macnab, 53, of Edinburgh, is a director of country house sales at estate agent Savills. He became 24th chief of Clan Macnab following the death of his father, James Charles - known as The Macnab - in 2013. The clan’s historical territory stretched from west Loch Tay and Killin across Glendochart to Tyndrum. The ancient seat of the MacNabs was a castle on Eilean Ran, an island on River Lochay. It is said a pipe band greeted Jamie Macnab as he was brought home to the family’s former home of Kinnell Estate, near Killin, shortly after his birth in Edinburgh. Mr Macnab reportedly wears a signet ring depicting the clan badge, which features the head of a Neish. The two clans were involved in a bloody battle over Christmas 1612 near Loch Earn, with several Neishes beheaded.

Clan Macdonald of Clanranald Chief: Ranald Macdonald—Ranald Macdonald runs a food and jazz empire in London though his string of Boisdale restaurants, which specialises in Scottish cuisine. Following a childhood spent between London and Loch Tay, he studied at the University of St Andrews, reading Scottish history, psychology, medieval history and Arabic culture. He readily claims he learnt more about wine and cigars during his student years rather than his

academic subjects. The Macdonalds of Clanranald are considered one of the oldest families in the world. Descended from the Macdonald Lords of the Isles and sea kings of Dalriada, the Clanranalds emerge from the mists, myths and archaeology of the Dark Ages. The historic family seat is Castle Tioram, a ruin in Loch Moidart, Lochaber.

Century Clan Hay Chief: Merlin Hay, 24th Earl of Erroll—A software specialist, Merlin Hay, 24th Earl of Erroll, is also cross-bench member of the House of Lords, and hereditary Lord High Constable of Scotland. Lord Erroll is the son of Sir Iain Moncreiffe of that Ilk and Diana, Countess of Erroll. He was page to the Lord Lyon in 1956. Educated at Eton College and at Trinity College, Cambridge, the Earl, who has been a lieutenant at the Atholl Highlanders since 1974, is a Freeman of the City of London. He continues to head the luncheon club, Puffin’s Club, founded by his father. His brother, Peregrine, is head of Clan Moncreiffe (see above) is also a member.

Clan Durie Chief: Andrew Durie CBE—A former Captain in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, Mr Durie went on to have a successful career in the whisky industry which included spells as a director of White Horse Distillers and then later with Allied Distillers. He was a former chairman of CBI Scotland from 1997 to 1999 and has served on the board of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Historically, Clan Durie’s seat was Durie in the parish of Scoonie, Fife, with Craighluscar, near Dunfermline and Rossend Castle in Burntisland also held by the family. The Duries may have arrived in Britain with the Normans while some research suggests that the family travelled to Scotland in 1069 as part of the entourage of Queen Margaret of Scotland. Today, the Clan Chief lives at Finnich Malise on the edge of the Loch Lomond National Park. His wife Marguerite is of Austrian descent. Mr Durie now sits on the executive committee for Erskine Homes, the veterans’ charity.

Clan Sinclair Chief: Malcolm Sinclair, 20th Earl of Caithness—The 20th Earl of Caithness and Conservative hereditary peer served as a House of Lords government whip under Margaret Thatcher from 1984 to 1985. He then served as Minister of State in several key departments, including the Home Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The clan chief is now working to preserve the historic ruins of Castle Sinclair Girmigoe in Caithness, which sits at the heart of the clan’s historic territory. Built in the 15th Century, it is the only castle in Scotland listed by the World Monuments Fund and is owned by the Sinclair Castle Trust by Taboola.

Place name of the week: Fort William - An Gearasdan

This is a relatively modern name, coined in English after Prince William, a man unpopular in the Gaelic world for his part in putting down the Jacobite rebellion of 1745.

In modern Gaelic, the name is An Gearasdan 'the garrison', also a reminder of the time when a military presence was here in the wake of the Battle of Culloden. The spelling should in modern Gaelic be An Gearastan; the version with -d- reflects the old spelling, but this was so popular locally even new road signs contain the old version.

Various attempts have been made to rename the town; in the pages of this newspaper [The Scotsman] in 1935 is an article about an organisation known as the 'Fort William Celtic Vigilance Society' applying to have the name changed to Abernevis, as if it were a name of Pictish origin meaning 'the confluence of the Nevis'.

German PoW leaves £400k to Scottish village

A small Scottish village has been rewarded for the kindness shown to a former German prisoner of war after he left them nearly £400,000 in his will.

Heinrich Steinmeyer, a former Waffen SS soldier during the Second World War, was captured in France when he was 19 years old and held in the PoW camp at Cultybraggan near the village of Comrie, Perthshire.



Mr Steinmeyer was born in 1924 and grew up in Silesia - now part of Poland - with only basic education.

He came from a 'very poor' family and worked as an apprentice butcher on a pitiful wage before joining the SS aged 17 and fighting on the Western Front.

He joined the Hitler Youth SS 12th Panzer Division - which has been linked to war crimes, notably the execution of 140 Canadian prisoners in 1944. It was recruited from the ranks of the Hitler Youth and, with 20,000 men, first saw action in June 1944 in the Normandy campaign. Mr Steinmeyer was expected to die defending the Fuhrer, but was captured in the fight for a bridge in Caen.

When he found that his home of Silesia was now part of Poland, he stayed in Scotland after he was released from detention in 1948 and settled in Stranraer where he found work on farms in the area.

He eventually returned to Germany in 1970, found work at the docks in Bremen, and settled in Delmenhorst.

Steinmeyer died in 2013, aged 90, a fortnight after the death of George Carson, a close friend he had made in the village and visited regularly. Two years on, his wish to leave £384,000 to the village has been recognised and has been gifted to the village's local community trust to be spent on local development for the elderly.

The Courier newspaper said part of Steinmeyer's will reads: "I would like to express my gratitude to the people of Scotland for the kindness and generosity that I have experienced in Scotland during my imprisonment of war and hereafter".

Carson's son, who is also called George, told the BBC: "It sounds like an unbelievable story but it's absolutely true.

"My mother and her friends, all school children at Morrison's Academy in Crieff, made friends with Heinrich through the fence of the Cultybraggan camp. I'm not quite sure how they communicated but during these conversations they discovered that Heinrich had never seen a moving picture, so they went up with their push bikes one morning and one of the girls had taken her brother's school uniform and they smuggled him out of the camp through the chain-link fence and into the cinema where

he saw his very first film and he was absolutely blown away by the whole experience. I met him a couple of times and he was a wonderful man.

“He had meetings with the Comrie Development Trust in 2008 and asked them to manage his estate on his death. He was quite specific in his will that the money should only be used on the elderly in the village.”

[Parts of this article came from the Daily Mail, UK.]

Let there be lights – and lasers – at Hogmanay tribute to 70th Festival

The 70th birthday celebrations of the Edinburgh Festival are to be heralded at the climax of the capital’s Hogmanay festivities, organisers revealed today. Special effects designers are being brought in to create a one-off laser and light show which will coincide with the traditional fireworks display above Edinburgh Castle. Organisers say the city’s most spectacular “midnight moment” in the 24-year history of the festivities will be staged above the historic landmark as 75,000 revellers throng the city centre. An extra £90,000 is being ploughed into the capital’s celebrations from the Scottish Government.



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

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