

# HEATHER BELL

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALEDONIAN & ST. ANDREWS SOCIETY OF SEATTLE

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

Volume 114 Issue 6 June 2016

**NEXT GATHERING** is on Friday, June 10, 2016, 7:30 pm at **Lake City Presbyterian Church**, 3841 NE 123rd Street Seattle, WA. Please call Bill McFadden, 206-364-6025, if you need a ride to the gathering.

## PROGRAM

Northwest Junior Pipe Band showcases its "wee bairns", plus others.

## Calendar of Seattle Area Scottish Events

### June 2016

**4-5 Bellingham Scottish Highland Games** Hovander Homestead Park, 5299 Nielsen Ave., Ferndale, WA  
<http://www.bhga.org>

**10 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)

**14 SSHGA Meeting 7:30 pm**, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Fellowship Hall, 111 NE 80th Street, Seattle WA  
Info: (206) 522-2541 <http://www.sshga.org>

**17-18 BC Highland Games and Scottish Festival**, Percy Perry Stadium, Town Centre Park, 1299 Pinetree Way, Coquitlam, BC. <http://bchighlandgames.com>

**18 Prosser Scottish Fest & Highland Games**, Prosser Wine and Food Park, Prosser, WA  
<http://prosserscottishfest.org>

**25 Tacoma Highland Games**, Frontier Park, 21718 Meridian Ave. E., Graham, WA <http://tacomagames.org>

### July 2016

**2 Penticton Scottish Festival**, Kings Park, Penticton.  
<http://www.pentictonscottishfestival.ca>

**9-10 Skagit Valley Highland Games & Celtic Festival**, Edgewater Park, 600 Behrens Millett Road, Mount Vernon, WA <http://celticarts.org>

**9 Kamloops Highland Games**, Albert McGowan Park, 2025 Summit Drive, Kamloops, BC.  
<http://kamloopshighlandgames.ca>

**30-31 Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games and Clan Gathering**, Enumclaw Expo Center, 45224 284th Ave. SE, Enumclaw. <http://www.sshga.org>

### August 2016

**6 Whidbey Island Highland Games**, Greenbank Farm, Greenback, WA <http://www.wihg.org>

**6 Spokane Highland Games**, Spokane County Fair & Expo Center, 404 N. Havana St., Spokane, WA  
<http://www.spokanehighlandgames.net>

### September 2016

**3-4 Hood Canal Highland Celtic Festival**, 3151 NE State Route 300, Belfair <http://www.hoodcanalscots.org>

**10-11 Kelso Highlander Festival**, Tam O'Shanter Park, Kelso, WA <http://www.kelso.gov/visitors/highlander-festival>

## Congratulations

Andrew and Amy McDiarmid welcome their third daughter, Narelle Mercy McDiarmid, born on Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. Narelle weighed in at 8 lbs., 8 oz. and is 20" tall. "Mummy and baby are both doing splendidly," said Andrew.

## Condolences

**Cora Howard** passed away on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Her memorial service will be Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am at St. Mary of The Valley Church in Monroe, WA. The address is 601 W. Columbia St., Monroe,

WA. Check their website at [www.stmaryvalley.org](http://www.stmaryvalley.org) for directions.

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## May Gathering

A substantial business meeting was held at the May Gathering to address several topics.

Phillip Junkins and Rosemary Blakemore were elected as Trustees. Bill McFadden was reelected as Social Chairman, and Ruth McFadden was elected as Secretary. Victoria Johnson and Don Moore were nominated for president. The final election for this position will be at the June Gathering.

A change to the By-Laws was approved, stating that the new definition of a quorum for making decisions by the Board at Board meetings would be half the number of board members. With this election, there are an uneven number of members on the Board.

Discussion about the future of the organization was brought up. It is evident to all that the number of persons attending Gatherings each month has declined considerably, and ideas for the future were brainstormed. The following ideas were suggested for further discussion at the June Gathering, and with the expectation that a decision will be made for next year.

- Hold meetings on alternate months, October, December, February, March, and May
- Hold at least 2 Gatherings at a location to be determined between Seattle and Tacoma so that people living in Tacoma and areas south would not have so far to drive for Gatherings.
- Hold quarterly meetings, once every third month.
- Dispense with monthly meetings and focus on three large events, such as a St. Andrews Dinner, a Robert Burns dinner, and one other event TBD.
- Change days for Gatherings from Friday evenings to Sunday afternoons. This

would allow people coming from a distance to travel during daylight hours and when there is less traffic to contend with.

- Approach other Celtic interest groups with the intent of joining together for meetings.

Discussion and a vote on these possibilities will be held at the June Gathering.

Students from Karen Shelton's Highland Dance Studio provided the entertainment.



Janissa prepared to dance a tribute to J.L. MacKenzie, who set in place the "rules" around which highland dancing is judged.

Kaleigh and Ian got a closer view of the foot work



as Claire, Lucia, Elle, and Evey dance the Highland Reel.

The youngest dancers demonstrated how they learn the Sword Dance.



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## Haggis Hurling at the Victoria, BC Highland Games & Celtic Festival

Each day around 4:00 pm, visitors to the Victoria, BC Highland Games would be invited to participate in Haggis Hurling. We were curious about this unusual "sport" and checked into its story.

From the <http://Scotland.com/blog> website we found this information:

The Scottish sport of haggis hurling has a somewhat controversial history. While it is claimed to be a traditional Scottish sport with an ancient origin, the game as it is played today is believed to have much more recent roots. Whatever the history of the game, its popularity has grown over the years and is played in far-off countries, such as the United States, Canada, New Zealand and Australia, wherever groups of Scots have settled.

A widely accepted story of the origin of haggis hurling tells of a wife preparing a haggis for her husband's lunch while he was out working in the fields or cutting peat. With the many rivers running through crofts and the presence of bogs, walking from the house to where the husband was working often entailed a long detour to find a suitable point to cross rivers and bogs. So, to save time the wife would toss the cooked haggis over the obstacle to her husband, which he would have to catch with the front apron of his kilt. Dropping it would mean haggis coated with dirt for lunch.



Turning this ancient time and effort saving practice into a sport reportedly came about in 1977, when Robin Dunseath placed an advertisement in one of Scotland's national papers announcing that at the Gathering of the Clans in Edinburgh that year there

would be a revival of the ancient Scottish sport of haggis hurling. The response was overwhelming, with large numbers of people wanting to participate, believing that they were reviving an ancient traditional **Scottish** sport.

The rules of haggis hurling are very specific and are enforced by the Hagrarian, with the Clerk of the Heather starting the event and the Steward of the Heather measuring the hurl and confirming that the haggis is still intact upon landing. The haggis must be cooked and of a certain weight, which differs for male and

female contestants. After the haggis has been inspected to ensure that it is not adulterated with any firming substance and has been prepared according to the traditional recipe, the haggis hurler stands elevated, usually on a whiskey barrel, for the throw. Winning hurls are determined by distance and accuracy. The introduction of haggis hurling as an ancient sport was a hoax, but even so sport has not lost its appeal among serious haggis hurlers and remains a popular event at Scottish traditional games - with a good time being had by all.

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## Alternative History Novel

George H. Kearton announced the publication of his first novel, *The Year of the Prince*. The book is volume one in a sequence of five novels of alternative history ("The House of Stuart Sequence") which, between them, will present how our history might have changed if the Jacobite Uprising of 1745 had been successful. The sequence traces a line of monarchs from a restored House of Stuart through to the year 1900 and shows how British, European, American and World history could have been different if "Bonnie Prince Charlie" and his supporters had carried on to London and not retreated from Derby in December of 1745.

The book is published by Sea Lion Press, the UK's leading publisher of alternative history. The Kindle version of "The Year of The Prince" is available now from Amazon by following this link:

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Year-Prince-House-Stuart-Sequence-ebook/dp/B01FC9OWK2/ref=sr\\_1\\_8?ie=UTF8&qid=1462831712&sr=8-8&keywords=the+year+of+the+prince](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Year-Prince-House-Stuart-Sequence-ebook/dp/B01FC9OWK2/ref=sr_1_8?ie=UTF8&qid=1462831712&sr=8-8&keywords=the+year+of+the+prince)

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## Interesting Article from "The Scotsman" Newspaper

### Scots could earn £6,000 a day for letting film crews in their homes

Scots are being offered up to £6,000 a day to let their homes be used in movies and TV shows.



Demand for domestic filming locations is soaring across Scotland and movie makers need everything from mansions to bedsits as locations.



### **Sunshine On Leith was filmed in Edinburgh**

The need is so high in Edinburgh that a company has advertised

for residents to sign up their homes as potential stars of the big and small screen.

Several major productions have already been filmed in the city, including *Trainspotting*, *Sunshine on Leith* and the BBC three-part series *Murder*.

One lucky family in North Berwick, East Lothian, even got to meet Colin Firth when scenes from *The Railway Man* were filmed at their house in the seaside town.

Film Edinburgh attracts productions to the city by offering a choice of locations and venues for film crews to work in. They rely on ordinary people to submit their properties and sign up to their location matching service - giving everyday Scots the chance to see their home appear on camera.

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## **Interesting Articles from “Scots Heritage Magazine”**

### **Float Your Boat**

By Lynn O’Rourke



Jane Wilkinson is a willow weaver with a passion for traditional craft and a love for the ancient art of coracle making. Despite studying science at Edinburgh University,

Jane Wilkinson’s love of woodlands led to her branching out in a different direction. Now based in Alyth, near Blairgowrie, the willow weaver and artisan basket maker is intent on keeping traditional craft alive.

Working with coppice woodsmen in the Lake District was the spark for Jane’s love affair with willow. “I went on a basketry course and got the bug for it, and that’s 25 years ago now.”

Ten years ago, inspired by a fishing creel she had made, Jane made her first coracle, a traditional boat once used for fishing and hauling timber. “Coracles date from Neolithic times,” she explains. “It’s a skin-on frame design and it is the earliest type of boat alongside a dugout log canoe.”

Although there are regional variations, the ancient craft hasn’t changed much. “Traditionally, they would have been covered with cowhide, but I cover them with canvas and then it’s painted with bitumen paint,” Jane says.

“I’ve got my own ways, but it’s very similar to the original West Coast of Scotland coracle.

“You make the coracle upside down with the gunwale in contact with the ground,” she explains. “You start by putting the framework in and weaving the first couple of rows of the gunwale.” The end result is a circular boat with a slight “waist” to it that is paddled using a figure of eight “sculling” motion.

Jane now runs three-day courses in coracle making. “I produce the coracles more to teach than to sell, although I’ve sold a few. It is the satisfaction of creating something, being outdoors and using natural materials. I’m not a modern technology person, I prefer a simple lifestyle. I like traditional crafts and building techniques – it fascinates me.”

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### **Red Kites**

Red Kites are beautiful birds of prey with their reddish-brown body, angled wings, and deeply forked tail. They suffered from severe human persecution until the mid-



1950’s, but especially from 1850 to 1900. This resulted in the species becoming extinct in numerous countries. They were saved from national extinction by one of the world’s longest-running protection programmes, RSPB,

and have now been successfully reintroduced in Scotland and England.

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## Short Items From "The Highlander"

### Chips With a Kick

Mackies of Scotland's has always tested the outer limits of taste by going well beyond the usual salt, salt and vinegar and cheddar flavored crisps. They have added a Scottish twist to the range of their popular Scottish flavours by trying a whisky seasoning.

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### Wills of Scottish Soldiers Now Online

The wills of 31,000 soldiers are now online at the pay-to-use Web site ScotlandsPeople, the official government source for Scottish genealogical data. To mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World War I, the site has posted 26,000 wills from the Great War, almost 5,000 wills from World War II and several hundred from the Boer War, the Korean War and other conflicts from 1857-1964. The information can be accessed at [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/Search/SoldiersWills/index.aspx](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/Search/SoldiersWills/index.aspx). It is estimated that ScotlandsPeople contains 50 million records from the 1500s to the 1900s.

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### Scottish "Burr" May Be Disappearing

Language researchers have found that younger generations of Scots are softening the recognizable rolling "r" in the Scottish accent. Experts at Glasgow University and Edinburgh's Queen Margaret University have concluded that although the distinctive "r" wasn't vanishing entirely, it was becoming harder to hear. "What we found is that some Scottish speakers are delaying the "r" gesture, so it's happening in silence afterwards. They're not losing it completely – they're still producing it – you just can't hear it the same," explained Dr. Eleanor Lawson. "It's not [the influence of] media or TV, it's just a natural sound change. It seems to happen in

languages all over the world over time, particularly at the end of words."

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### Rare Mud House Goes On the Market

The old "Mud Hut" in Logie near Montrose is one of Scotland's most historic – and unusual – buildings. Originally a school for the local mill in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, is made of straw and clay, and finished with lime. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, it became a church before being abandoned in 1991 and falling into disrepair. But because it is one of the most complete examples of mud wall construction in Scotland, the building was rescued by the National Trust for Scotland, undergoing a £390,000 restoration (about \$585,000) and is now on the market for the bargain price of £190,000 (about \$285,000). The one-bedroom, one-bath house offers all the modern conveniences.

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### Royal Bank to Join Plastic Currency Changeover

Last spring the Clydesdale Bank became the first bank in Britain to issue plastic bank notes. The polymer notes are expected to last two-and-a-half times longer than paper and contain several new security features to make them more difficult to forge. The Bank of England then announced that it will begin the switchover to polymer in the second half of 2016, and now the Royal Bank of Scotland has said it will unveil a new polymer £5 note in the second half of 2016 as well, with a new £10 note scheduled to debut in 2017. The new notes are slightly smaller than the existing currency, so self-service checkout machines, ATMs, ticket machines and other cash-handling devices will require software updates as part of the changeover.



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

**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. 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)

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