

HEATHER BELL

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALEDONIAN & ST. ANDREWS SOCIETY OF SEATTLE

www.caledonians.com

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NEXT GATHERING

We are returning to an in-person Caledonian gathering for December. Our next gathering is **Sunday, December 11th**, at 2:00 p.m. We will meet at Haller Lake United Methodist Church, 13055 1st Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98125. For those taking the freeway north, use the exit at NE 130th St in Seattle, turn left across the freeway, and turn right at the first light (1st Ave. NE.) The church is one block north, on the left.

There is no requirement that people attending be vaccinated and/or boosted. However, there still are some requirements: Everyone is asked to wear a mask except while eating and must sign in. The church has air purifiers that will be running. The gathering will be hybrid: in-person and on Zoom for those who truly cannot attend in person. The link for those who attend on Zoom is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/713418301?pwd=K1ZUQnBOSE53YURUYjE4SW4ySjkxQT09>

DECEMBER PROGRAM

Tom Lamb, president, will show pictures from his recent trip to Scotland. There should be time to sing some Christmas carols, too!

SUNSHINE REPORT

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

Calendar of Seattle Area Scottish Events

DECEMBER

2 Lecture: "From the Cradle to the Grave; Understanding Traditional Scottish Customs" by Dr. Gary West. 7:00pm-9:00pm. \$25.00 Littlefield Celtic Center, 1124 Cleveland Ave., Mount Vernon, WA 360-416-4934. <https://celticarts.org/celtic-events/garywestlecture/>

10 Geoffrey Castle's Celtic Christmas. Historic Everett Theatre, 2911 Colby Ave., Everett, WA 98201, 7:30pm. \$23-35. www.eventbrite.com/e/geoffrey-castles-celtic-christmas-tickets-87030960947

11 Caledonian & St. Andrews Society Gathering, 2:00 pm. Haller Lake United Methodist Church, 13055 1st Ave. NE, Seattle, WA. 98125. And on Zoom.

18 The Fire's Very Scottish Christmas. 7:00pm. \$30-\$35. Rainier Arts Center, 3515 S. Alaska St., Seattle, WA 98118. www.eventbrite.com/e/the-fires-very-scottish-christmas-in-seattle-wa-tickets-429493776447

22 & 23 Geoffrey Castle's Celtic Christmas. Kirkland Performance Center, 350 Kirkland Ave, Kirkland, WA 98033. 7:00 pm both days. \$41 www.kpcenter.org/event/geoffrey-castles-celtic-christmas

Recap of the November Caledonian Gathering

The talented family of Dale and Judith Cummings sang and played the violin, guitar, and harp for Caledonians at our November gathering. They were joined by their daughters, Flora and Elinor.

This was the first in-person gathering since January 2020! The gathering was a hybrid, with 23 persons attending in person and 5 appearing on Zoom. Those on Zoom indicated that they were able to see and hear well, so this



method will be used in the future.

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. Be sure to “Like” the articles so they show up frequently on your Facebook stream.

Articles and Topics About Scotland and Things Scottish

Information based on articles in *The Scottish Banner* and information in *Wikipedia*.

Castle of Light

State-of-the-art projections will illuminate Edinburgh castle during November and December, highlighting stories from Scotland’s history. Using spectacular light and sound displays, visitors



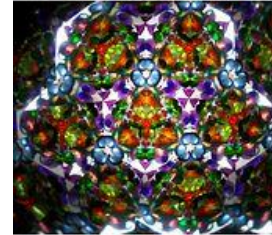
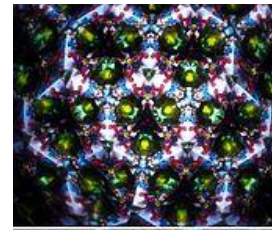
touring the castle will have a truly immersive experience. Geometric designs drawing inspiration from

kaleidoscope patterns make up this year’s projections.

While the outside walls of the castle will be well lit, the best way to be immersed in the displays is to purchase tickets and tour the castle.

Kaleidoscopes

David Brewster was a Scottish inventor who was born in December 1781. He conducted experiments on light polarization in the early nineteenth century. He coined the name Kaleidoscope from Greek words meaning “observation of beautiful



forms” for his invention using angled mirrors to create multiplied patterns and forms.

As with many inventions, the kaleidoscope was the result of an accident. In his experiments he noted the way sectors were multiplied with the use of angled mirrors, and looked to find the most beautiful and symmetrically perfect conditions. After

experimenting with objects and pieces of colored glass fixed permanently between his mirrors, he finally found the best views from placing

the mirrors in a long tube, and letting the colored glass shift loosely as the tube was rotated, creating ever changing lovely patterns.

Brewster patented his invention in 1817 and engaged a manufacturer to make them. Unfortunately, the manufacturer showed the patent instruments to London opticians in an effort to get pre-orders from them, and the instrument was immediately copied. It was marketed widely before Brewster’s version could be put on sale. An estimated two hundred thousand kaleidoscopes were sold in London and Paris in just three months. Most were inferior versions, not built to the specifications Brewster had set out. Eventually, demand was so great for Brewster’s version that he had to engage several companies to manufacture them. One manufacturer, Philip Carpenter, eventually would keep selling kaleidoscopes for 60 years.

Scotsman was the Founding Father of Japan's Industrialisation

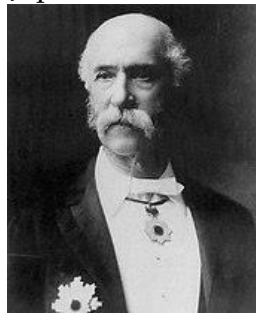
Thomas Blake Glover, founding father of Japan's industrialisation (including Mitsubishi) and the Japanese Navy, was born in Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, Scotland in 1838. He grew up in the port city of Aberdeen.



As a very young man, Glover came to Japan in

1859 to manage the newly established Nagasaki office of a British trading house. He soon built a bustling business there, largely exporting tea. With rising tensions between the Shogunate and rebellious clans in southern Japan, Glover made a fortune selling ships and arms to the naval factions. He invested in developing the Takashima coal mine as steamships multiplied in Japanese waters and demand for coal surged.

Glover brought the first steam train to Japan and created the shipyard in Nagasaki which would become part of the Mitsubishi Corporation.



Japan lacked modern facilities for repairing ships, so in 1868 Glover imported the necessary equipment for a slip dock in Nagasaki. He later sold his share to the government, which leased the dock to Mitsubishi as part of the shipyard in 1884. The shipyard became a pillar of Mitsubishi's early growth and diversification.

Glover thus contributed immensely to the industrialization and modernization of Japan. He is considered a national hero in Japan. When he died in Tokyo in 1911 his Nagasaki mansion, became a tourist attraction.

Christmas Day in Scotland

Christmas in Scotland was traditionally observed very quietly. The Reformation had transformed attitudes to traditional Christian feasting days, which led to the abolition of festival days and other church holidays. Christmas Day as a public holiday was abolished in 1640 by an Act of the Parliament of Scotland after the Reformation. Church of Scotland, a Presbyterian church, wanted to make

sure that anything associated with the Roman Catholic Church was wiped from Scottish practice.

The New Year's Eve festivity, Hogmanay, was by far the largest celebration in Scotland. The gift-giving, public holidays and feasting associated with mid-winter were traditionally held between 11 December and 6 January. Christmas Day again became a public holiday in 1958. Since the 1980s, the fading of the Church's influence and the increased influences from the rest of the United Kingdom and elsewhere has resulted in Christmas and its related festivities being now nearly on par with Hogmanay and Ne'erday. Edinburgh, Glasgow, and other cities now have a traditional German Christmas market from late November until Christmas Eve.



Christmas funfair at George Square, Glasgow

Peter Pan

Peter Pan is a fictional character created by Scottish novelist and playwright, J. M. Barrie. Barrie created him as a free-spirited and mischievous young boy who can fly and never grows up. Peter spends his never-ending childhood having adventures on the mythical island of Neverland as the leader of the Lost Boys, interacting with fairies, pirates, mermaids,



Native Americans, and occasionally ordinary children from the world outside Neverland. Peter Pan has become a cultural icon symbolizing youthful innocence and escapism.

Barrie commissioned a statue of Peter Pan which was erected overnight in Kensington Gardens in 1912 as a surprise to the children of London.

Barrie was born in Kirriemuir, a burgh in Angus, Scotland in 1860 and was educated in Scotland, although he did most of his writing in London, where he wrote several successful novels and plays. He is best known for the character, Peter Pan. The premiere of his play, "Peter Pan," was on 27 December 1904 at the Duke of York Theater in London.

Mackintosh Raincoat



The Mackintosh is a waterproof raincoat, first sold in 1824. It is a waterproof long coat made of rubberized fabric, named after its Scottish inventor, Charles Macintosh.

Born in 1766 in Glasgow, Charles Macintosh was a chemist. He studied science, particularly chemistry, at the University of Edinburgh and took up the manufacture of chemicals. In this he was highly successful and he invented various new processes. He experimented with cementing two thicknesses of heavy cotton cloth together with natural rubber dissolved in a coal-tar naphtha solution, which resulted in a very durable coat that shed rain well. Not only was it waterproof, but it was breathable, durable, windproof, and could be easily cleaned. Macintosh patented his invention in 1823.

People appreciated the function and fine quality craftsmanship of Mackintoshes, but complained about the rubber odor and their tendency to melt in hot weather and become stiff in the cold. In 1983 the company making them was sold, and the new manufacturer developed a fabric that is odorless and does not change its properties in extreme weather.

In modern times the Mackintosh comes in a variety of colors and styles for men, women, and children. While not every raincoat is a Mackintosh, the word mackintosh has become a general term for any raincoat.

Lockerbie Licks

Perhaps you have seen illustrations of late medieval Scots going into battle, swords raised high. This method of using the sword may have



been used at a battle at Dryfe Sands in December 1593 that took place near Lockerbie, Scottish Borders. The clan battle between Clan Maxwell and Clan Johnstone after a hundred years of feuding between them resulted in many casualties. Perhaps as many as 700 Maxwells died as the

Johnstones prevailed. Many were wounded by downward sword strokes known as "Lockerbie Licks".



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

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