

# HEATHER BELL

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALEDONIAN & ST. ANDREWS SOCIETY OF SEATTLE

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

Volume 121      Issue 1      January 2023

## NEXT GATHERING

Our next gathering is **Sunday, January 15th**, at 2:00 p.m. **Please note that this is the THIRD Sunday of January.** We will meet at Haller Lake United Methodist Church, 13055 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98125. For those taking the freeway north, use the exit at NE 130<sup>th</sup> St in Seattle, turn left across the freeway, and turn right at the first light (1<sup>st</sup> 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>

## JANUARY PROGRAM

The January program will be a celebration of Robert Burns, with piping, poetry, and songs. Haggis will be provided. Those attending in-person will be asked to bring something to contribute to a dinner (instead of our usual tea). Guests are welcome! Please let Bill McFadden know if you will be attending in person and if you will be bringing guests so he can ensure that there is enough food and the menu is well balanced.

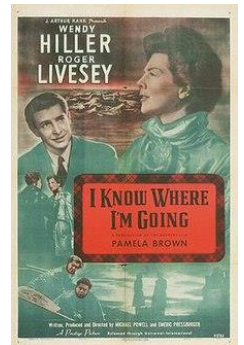
## ALL IN A SCOTTISH EVENING

Our President, Tom Lamb, will host an evening meeting on the fourth Sunday of each month for our members that will cover Scottish interests, mainly movies, but also music and “crack.”

*The word **crack** is derived from the Middle English **crak**, meaning “loud conversation, bragging talk.” A sense of crack found in Northern England and Scotland meaning “conversation” or “news” produces expressions such as “What’s the crack?”, meaning “how are you?” or “have you any news?” This is similar to “what’s up?”, “how’s it going?”, or “what’s the word?”*

Although Tom will be host, it will be the members meeting, so be prepared to bring up your ideas, interests, questions, comments, favorite music, and favorite Scottish movies.

The first Scottish Evening will be on Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m., using our usual Zoom connection. (See link to the left.) The movie shown will be “**I Know Where I’m Going**,” a 1945 romance film by the British-based filmmakers Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger.



Since movies almost always look better on a bigger screen, you may want to explore how to connect your laptop computer to your TV screen for these evenings.

## SUNSHINE REPORT

Phillip Junkins recently had follow-up surgery on his foot. This time, however, it was day surgery and he has been up and walking with a "boot."

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.

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## Calendar of Seattle Area Scottish Events

### JANUARY

**13 Celtic Arts Foundation Annual General Meeting.** 5:30pm-8:00pm. Littlefield Celtic Center, 1124 Cleveland Ave., Mount Vernon, WA 360-416-4934. **Attendees must be current members of the Celtic Arts Foundation. RSVP by January 4<sup>th</sup>.** [Annual General Membership Meeting 2023 - Celtic Arts Foundation](#)

**15 Caledonian & St. Andrews Society Gathering,** 2:00 pm. Haller Lake United Methodist Church, 13055 1st Ave. NE, Seattle, WA. 98125. And on Zoom. \$5. RSVP if you are bringing guests. (206) 364-6025.

**21 Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Burns Ceremony and Dance.** Mercer Island United Church of Christ, 4545 Island Crest Way, Mercer Island, 6:00-8:00 p.m. (425) 488-7643 [rscds-seattle.org](http://rscds-seattle.org)

**22 Fourth Sunday Caledonian Scottish Evening & Movie Night.** Movie is "I Know Where I'm Going" (1945)

### FEBRUARY

**3 Traditional Burns Supper,** Seattle Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 1207 N. 152nd St., Shoreline, WA. 6:30 p.m. \$30. **RSVP by January 16<sup>th</sup>** at (206) 324-3330 or [Secretary@seattle-scottishrite.org](mailto:Secretary@seattle-scottishrite.org).

**10 Masters of Scottish Arts Concert,** Edmonds Center for the Arts, 410 4<sup>th</sup> Ave N. Edmonds, WA. 7:30 p.m. \$46. <https://celticarts.org/msa2023/> Tickets at EAC: (206) 275-3535.

**26 Fourth Sunday Caledonian Scottish Movie Night.**

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## 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.

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## Recap of the December Caledonian Gathering

Fourteen persons attending in person were joined by seven



persons on Zoom to enjoy pictures shown by President Tom Lamb from his visit to Scotland last summer.

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## Reminder – It's time to Renew Your Annual Membership for 2023

Dues are \$45 for individuals and \$55 for couples/families. Checks should be made out to the **Caledonian & St. Andrew's Society of Seattle and marked for 2023 Membership.**

We want to keep our membership directory updated, so **please include your address, phone number(s), and e-mail address(es)** when you send your check.

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## Articles and Topics About Scotland and Things Scottish

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

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## Roslyn Castle Set to be Restored and Repaired



A major programme of restoration and repair at one of Midlothian's most historic sites is about to get underway. Roslyn Castle, just a short walk from Roslyn Chapel, was built by the St Clair family and the oldest parts date back to the early 14th century. Although much of the site is in ruins, the East Range, developed as a domestic

residence and completed in 1622, is still partly occupied and let as holiday accommodation. However, some parts of the East Range, the former Great Hall and Tower, have remained in a ruinous state, leading to further deterioration including to the three levels of vaults below ground level.



A permanent roof will be built to cover the former Great Hall to protect important masonry carvings and the three levels of vaults below. This will also allow a new kitchen and living

area to be created at ground level and an additional bedroom to be located in the former Tower. Work will also include the upgrading of the energy efficiency of the whole building and the development of a new sustainable heating strategy.

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## Bars vs. Pubs in the United Kingdom

While bars are more typically an American term for a drinking establishment, bars and pubs are not the same in the UK. The UK, including Scotland, does have bars, but it also has pubs, and usually the only similarity between the two is that they both sell alcohol. In some cases, a bar in Scotland is called a pub, so the following descriptions are very general.

Historically, a Pub (short for Public House) was the differentiation between “public” (a place anyone could visit) and “private” houses in the UK. Pubs were known to be visited by people not only for drinking purposes, but also for accommodation and regular dining. In the UK, a pub is generally a home-like place for social gatherings where persons can gather for a friendly drink. Pubs date back to Roman taverns, which were known as Ale houses. A classic Scottish Pub often attracts people who live in the local area and practically everyone knows everyone else. Children are allowed in, although they can’t consume alcohol. They can drink soft drinks and eat bar snacks while sitting with their parents. Pubs also offer a wide range of food so they can also be called restaurants. People



go to a pub to relax with family and friends in a casual atmosphere with soothing and quiet music.

Bars are retail business establishments that serve alcoholic drinks for consumption on the premises and may also provide entertainment. The term



“bar” is derived from the counter where the bartender serves the drinks to the public. Bars specialize in liquor rather than food. They serve a variety of alcoholic

tipples and offer a limited menu, with few appetizer and food options. Children are not allowed to enter a bar. There are different types of bars that cater to a niche clientele, such as biker bars, gay bars, karaoke bars, etc. Bars often have loud music and dance floors. In general, people go to a bar to have fun – or get drunk.

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## New Year’s Celebrations in Scotland

When is the New Year celebrated in Scotland?

Up until 1600 when the date was moved to January 1<sup>st</sup>, the New Year in Scotland was celebrated on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

Hogmanay notwithstanding, even now, not all of Scotland celebrates the New Year on January 1<sup>st</sup>. In Moray, the Burning of the Clavie has its origins in pagan rituals and is celebrated on January 11<sup>th</sup>. It is a Pictish celebration of the ancient Scots’ Hogmanay, which fell on January 11<sup>th</sup> before the Gregorian calendar was introduced in Britain in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Other parts of Scotland that have had a different New Year include Berneray in the Outer Hebrides, which celebrates on January 12<sup>th</sup>, and Foula in the Shetland Isles that celebrates on January 13<sup>th</sup>.

Up Helly Aa is the largest fire festival in Europe. It traditionally is celebrated in various locations from January through March. This month it will take place in Lerwick on Shetland. The Jarl Squad Viking lead 1,000 torch bearers on a march through Lerwick, where they set fire to a Viking replica long ship. This iconic Norse event began in the early 1800s, using fire as a main focus to celebrate Shetland and Viking culture. This year, for the first time, females will be allowed to take part as torchbearers.

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## Queen Elizabeth II

Why was Queen Elizabeth titled Elizabeth II for Scotland when there had never been an Elizabeth I on the throne in Scotland? The answer goes back to 1953 when the then Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Hector McNeil, who was Secretary of State for Scotland, agreed to create a system where whichever nation's regnal number was higher, the reigning monarch would adopt that number. This avoided the double number of some monarchs after the Union of the Crowns in 1603, such as occurred with James VI of Scotland and I of England.

Winston Churchill said in parliament, "I think it would be reasonable and logical to continue to adopt in future whichever numeral in the English or Scottish line were higher." Thus, with the agreement of McNeil, Queen Elizabeth used the second as her regnal number, even in Scotland.

However, there was considerable disagreement in Scotland, and in 1953 an unsuccessful legal challenge went as far as the House of Lords.



With a new sovereign come new symbols of monarchy. As well as new postage stamps, coins, and bank notes bearing the monarch's likeness, the royal arms are redesigned.

Controversy erupted as new pillar mail boxes in Scotland bearing the unpopular cipher E II R (Elizabeth II Regina) were attacked and vandalized. The

hullabaloo was resolved when it was decided that pillar boxes, mail vans, and Post Office branding north of the Scottish border would henceforth only carry the cipher ER and the Crown of Scotland.

The issue in Scotland is moot with Charles III, as Charles I and II descended from King James VI of Scotland.

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## Robert Burns

Scotland's winter festivities extend beyond the New Year to Burns Night on 25 January – the birthday of Robert Burns, Scotland's national bard. There's no experience quite like a Burns Night celebration; locals and visitors alike can soak up some Scottish culture, indulge in the traditional

dish of haggis, neeps and tatties and natter over a warming dram of whisky at one of the many Burns Night celebrations taking place this year. Whether toasting virtually at home or heading out to a local event, anyone can join in the celebrations this Burns Night, anywhere in the world. Robert Burns composed some of the world's most instantly recognisable lines of poetry and song, so what better way to kick off the year than with a celebration of one of Scotland's most iconic storytellers?

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## Dundreggan Rewilding Centre

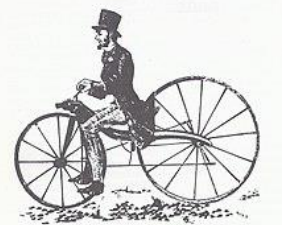
Opening in 2023, Dundreggan Rewilding Centre will be Trees for Life's flagship rewilding estate, a unique place rich in natural and cultural heritage where real change is happening, restoring Scotland's landscape. The new wild landscape and its ancient connections to Gaelic culture will encourage people to 'rewild' themselves by connecting with nature and exploring the heritage of the Highlands. Dundreggan Rewilding Centre will become a gateway for people to experience rewilding in ways that are best suited to them; from a casual visit while passing through, to immersive experiences, encouraging the idea that we can work with nature rather than against it.



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## Kirkpatrick McMillan

Born 2 September 1812, Kirkpatrick McMillan was a Scottish blacksmith who lived in Glasgow and worked at the Vulcan Foundry. He is generally credited with inventing the treadle bicycle. He allegedly completed construction of a pedal-driven bicycle of wood in 1839 that included iron-rimmed wheels, a steerable



wheel in the front, and a larger wheel in the rear which was connected to pedals via connecting rods. Research by a relative, James Johnston, determined that Macmillan didn't actually invent



the pedal-crank system, but rather adapted the treadle, known since the Middle Ages, to a vehicle called a draisine. The draisine was invented in 1817 by a young German,

Karl Drais, who built a two-wheeled, steerable, wooden vehicle that was straddled and propelled by walking swiftly or running. It was sometimes called a "hobby-horse" or "velocipede"

There is no evidence that Macmillan actually invented an early version of the pedal-crank design we see on bicycles today. However, his treadle version was copied and improved on by so many people that for more than 50 years he was generally regarded as the inventor of the bicycle.

He was said to have preferred the quiet country life and was not interested in all the fuss that was being made over his invention.

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## James Watt

History has told us the story of James Watt, a Scottish inventor, chemist, mechanical engineer, and mathematical instrument maker, who developed the steam engine and invented the condenser.

Did you also know that the unit of measurement of light emitted from light bulbs was named after James Watt? Consider this when you check the wattage of the next lightbulb you purchase!

Less well known is that Watt also invented the first reliable, portable copying machine. The device he created used a large rolling press to transfer a special copy-able ink used on the original document's front to the back of another sheet of specially treated, thin, translucent paper. This mirror image on the translucent paper was then pressed onto another sheet of paper where it left its ink to make a duplicate copy of the first document.

This operating principle was used in office machines until typewriters and carbon paper came into common use.



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## Growing Tea on Orkney's Shapinsay Island

The Orkney Tea Plantation on Shapinsay Island grows a limited edition loose leaf black tea. This unique project has tea growing out of doors, probably the farthest north that tea has ever been grown. Despite preferring warm, humid climates and not normally liking conditions of wind, rain, and frost the plants are thriving. The tea looks delicious because it's so rich and black. When harvested, the company offers small quantities of two varieties of tea: Norse Noir and Norse Ruby.

The owner, Lynne Collinson, said her plantation would not be a major commercial enterprise any time soon, but she hopes it will inspire people to try new things.

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## Union of Scotland and Westminster Parliaments

The Treaty of Union which led to the creation of the new state of Great Britain, proclaimed that the Kingdom of England (which already included Wales) and the Kingdom of Scotland were to be "United into One Kingdom by the Name of Great Britain."

After Elizabeth I died and James VI of Scotland became James I of England, a sort of personal union between the two kingdoms helped relieve English fears of Scottish cooperation with France in a feared French invasion of England. However, despite James' efforts to unite the two countries politically during his reign, the political union was one hundred years in the making.

While the details of the Treaty were agreed on 22 July 1706, the Acts of Union was not ratified by the Scottish parliament until 16 January 1707. The final political union took effect on 1 May 1707.

There were a number of issues that led to Scotland ratifying this merger despite it being deeply unpopular with the Scottish population at large and had resulted in anti-union riots in Edinburgh and Glasgow, as well as other places around the country.

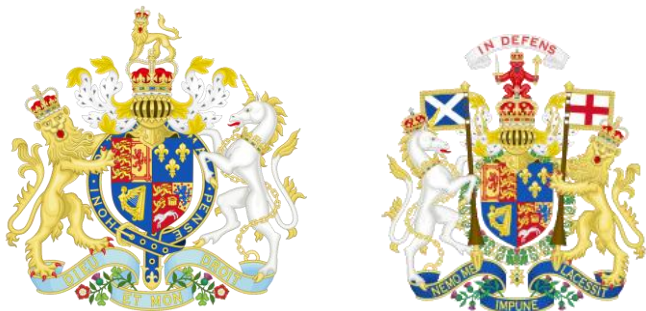
One of those issues was that Scotland had become almost bankrupt from the vastly unsuccessful effort to establish a Scottish trading colony in the Isthmus of Panama. Scots' investments in the scheme were equal to an incredible one-quarter of all the money circulating in Scotland at the time! The Scottish colony was plagued by war with the Spanish (which claimed the area as a part of New Granada), and, significantly, by the death of most colonists from tropical diseases, including yellow fever, malaria, and cholera.

The failure of the colony was an economic disaster for the Scottish ruling class investors. With these losses and threatened legal action by the East India Company unhappy with competition, resistance by the Scottish political establishment was diminished.

Scotland's crown, scepter, and sword of state remained at Edinburgh Castle.

Significant financial payoffs to Scottish parliamentarians were later referred to by Robert Burns when he wrote "We're bought and sold for English gold. Such a Parcel of Rogues in a Nation."

The flag of the new country combined the crosses of St. Andrew and St. George. Its Coat of Arms included both the English rampant lion and the Scottish Unicorn. The Royal Arms of Great Britain from 1714 to 1800 is on the left. The version used in Scotland is shown on the right.



## Scottish Jokes

"Can I interest you in a nice pocket calculator, sur?" asked the shop assistant.

"No, thanks," said Wullie, "ah already know how many pockets ah have."

After a rather poor collection was gathered in, the minister prayed, "We thank you, dear Lord, that the plate has been returned safely."

Two old cons were talking in Barlinnie Jail in Glasgow.

"You might not believe this, Pat, but I used to live the life of Riley. I had a villa in Tuscany, a Mercedes and a Jaguar, plenty of women, and I ate in nothing but the very best restaurants."

"So, what happened?" asked the other prisoner.

"Riley reported that his credit cards were missing!"



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

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