

HEATHER BELL

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALEDONIAN & ST. ANDREWS SOCIETY OF SEATTLE

www.caledonians.com

Volume 122

Issue 6

June 2024

NEXT GATHERING

Our next gathering is **Sunday, June 9th**, at 2:00 p.m. **It is our last gathering before the three-month hiatus for summer Highland Games.** 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.

The gathering will be hybrid: in-person and on Zoom. The link for those who attend on Zoom is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/713418301?pwd=K1ZUQnBOSE53YURUYjE4SW4ySjkxQT09>

JUNE PROGRAM

Program to be announced.

SCOTTISH MOVIE NIGHT

Our June Scottish Movie Night will be on Sunday, June 23rd. **Please note that this is the fourth Sunday in June.** Again, it will start at 6:00 p.m. We will enjoy the 1986 live action film "The Highlander." It's a tale of an immortal Scottish swordsman who must confront the last of his immortal opponents.

These movie nights have been very popular, and we urge more Caledonians to join us. The Zoom link is

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

SUNSHINE REPORT

Bonnie reported that she sent cards to Harry McAlister after his fall, and to Diane McAlister and family after Harry passed away on May 22nd.

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.

Recap of the May Caledonian Gathering



Despite the gathering occurring on Mother's Day, ten people in person and two on-line enjoyed an engaging program of harp music and singing by Molly Bauckham. Molly was very personable and talked extensively with members about her harp

and her music. She played and sang mostly Scottish music and songs, although she added a couple of Irish ones into the mix.

Calendar of Seattle Area Scottish Events

June

9 Caledonian & St. Andrews Society Gathering, 2:00pm, Haller Lake United Methodist Church, 13055 1st Ave. NE., Seattle, WA <https://caledonians.org> 206-714-2601

13 Moira Smiley, Ryan McKasson, & Colin Cotter Concert, Littlefield Celtic Center, 1124 Cleveland Ave., Mount Vernon, WA \$30 (\$25 members) <https://www.celticarts.org>

22 Tacoma Highland Games, Frontier Park, 21714 Meridian Ave. E., Graham, WA <https://www.tacomagames.org>

23 Caledonian Scottish Movie Night 6pm on Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/713418301?pwd=K1ZUQnBOSE53YURUYjE4SW4ySjlxQT09>

July

12 Gathering of the Clans Dinner, Littlefield Celtic Center, 1124 Cleveland Ave., Mount Vernon, WA \$40

13-14 Skagit Valley Highland Games & Celtic Festival, Skagit County Fairgrounds, 501 Taylor St, Mount Vernon, WA 98273 (This is not Edgewater Park where these games have been held in the past.) <https://www.celticarts.org/highland-games>

23 Rakish Concert, Littlefield Celtic Center, 1124 Cleveland Ave., Mount Vernon, WA \$30 (\$25 members). <https://www.celticarts.org/event/rakish-concert>

26-28 Pacific Northwest Highland Games & Clan Gathering, Enumclaw Expo Center, 45224 – 284th Ave. SE, Enumclaw, WA <https://www.sshga.org>

30 Caledonian Scottish Movie Night 6pm on Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/713418301?pwd=K1ZUQnBOSE53YURUYjE4SW4ySjlxQT09>

Articles and Topics About Scotland and Things Scottish

Information based on articles in *The Scottish Banner*, *The Scotsman newspaper* & using *Wikipedia* and various other websites pertaining to the topics for supplemental information.

Dumbarton Castle

Dumbarton Castle has the longest recorded history of any stronghold in Scotland. It is situated on a volcanic plug of basalt known as Dumbarton Rock, on the Firth of Clyde east of Glasgow, overlooking the town of Dumbarton. Even though the castle is situated low on the island, it was so defensible because the rock is virtually inaccessible on all sides. Over centuries, the castle has been a royal refuge, a military stronghold, and witness to many significant events in Scotland's history.

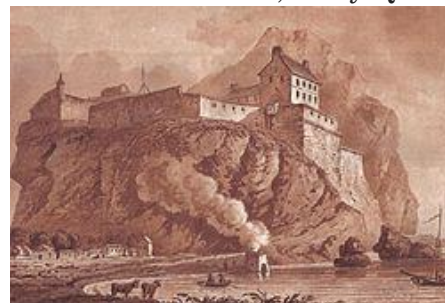
As far back as the Iron Age, the site has been strategically important. In the era of Roman Britain, the people that resided there were known to have traded with the Romans.

In medieval Scotland, Dumbarton (*Dùn Breatainn*, which means "the fortress of the Britons") was an important royal castle. The castle was the centre of the independent Brythonic Kingdom of Strathclyde from the 5th to the 9th centuries.

Vikings laid siege to the castle in 870, encircling the rock, and after the castle ran out of water, they conquered it.



By the Middle Ages, Dumbarton became a formidable fortress as several Scottish kings strengthened its defenses. The castle played pivotal roles during the Wars for Scottish Independence and saw action up until World War II. It is famed for being the prison of William Wallace before he was taken to London for execution. Later, Mary Queen of Scots was



lodged briefly at the castle as an infant before going to France for her safety and again as an adult before

she fled to England.

There have been many changes in the castle over the centuries with the result that almost none of the original buildings still exist. The landscape is remarkable with twin peaks, The Beak and The Summit, providing panoramic views.

Water Scarcity in Scotland

“There is a widespread misconception that water resources are always abundant across Scotland because it’s ‘always raining’, and this has led to this precious resource being largely undervalued.”

Dr. Sarah Halliday from the University of Dundee’s Division of Energy, Environment, and Society says that prolonged dry periods brought on through climate change and an increase in water usage are making Scotland increasingly vulnerable to water shortages.

Gardens of Scotland

A number of previously closed gardens are opening this summer either after or during extensive restoration. Most are managed and gardened by volunteers who lovingly donate their time and energy to make places of beauty and serenity that they eagerly share with visitors.

Kailzie Gardens, Scottish Borders

Kailzie Gardens is a renowned botanical garden and woodland with 20 acres to explore. Located a mile east of Peebles in the Scottish Borders, it has a seasonal shop, a café, a children’s nature trail, and an 18-hole putting green.



Amisfield Walled Garden, East Lothian

This garden is being restored and developed as a community garden. It provides a venue for education and training for people of all abilities and is open to the public free of charge. The garden lies on the outskirts of Haddington in East Lothian. Dating from the late 18th century, it is one of the largest walled gardens in Scotland. It has extensive herbaceous borders, fruit and vegetable beds, a wildflower meadow, an orchard, and woodland plantings.



The Japanese Garden at Cowden



Japanese-inspired design and structures create a unique and authentic bridge between Scottish and Japanese culture. The woodlands and gardens are adorned with an array of exceptional plants and flora. Numbers of people allowed in the garden at one time are restricted so that its peaceful atmosphere is not compromised.

Carolside House & Gardens, Scottish Borders

Carolside House is an 18th century mansion set in beautiful gardens, including an oval walled garden, with a collection of famed Gallica roses. Located south of Edinburgh in Berwickshire beside the River Leader, it is sheltered by surrounding slopes of its own extensive woodlands. Lush with flowers, it probably would match many people's visions of the perfect English Garden. Carolside Gardens are open each year from May through August. Tours can be booked with a guide.



Railway Signal Boxes Still Using Victorian-era Technology

Victorian-age technology it is still in use across the Scottish rail network. While trains on the country's busiest lines have been controlled by traffic-light style signals for up to a century, a much older system involving large metal levers, semaphore signals, and Morse Code-like "bell codes" remains in use on several lines. These signal boxes control sections of single track lines. Despite their age, the



system is considered fit for purpose on lesser-used routes.

Mechanical signal boxes involve signalers pulling waist-high levers connected by wires to raise or lower enamelled rectangular metal semaphore arms, which themselves could be 100 years old.



The signallers normally communicate with each other about trains entering or leaving single-track lines by tapping out a sequence of Morse-like codes, which are acknowledged with a series of bells.

The signaller's job also involves casting an eye along the train as it passes, looking for anything amiss, such as an open door and, crucially, to check that there is a red tail lamp on the rear carriage. This confirms that part of the train has not become detached since the last signal box.

There are still 47 mechanical signal boxes in Scotland.



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

Mailing Address:

Caledonian and St. Andrew's Society of Seattle

P.O. Box 27278

Seattle, WA 98165-1778

www.caledonians.com

BOARD MEMBERS:

President: Tom Lamb

1st Vice President: Diane McAlister

2nd Vice President: Rosemary Blakemore

Secretary: Ruth McFadden

Treasurer: Ruth McFadden

Social Director: Bill McFadden

Parliamentarian: Victoria Johnson

Trustee: Diana Smith

Trustee: Dennis Smith

Trustee: Harry McAlister

HEATHER BELL EDITOR:

Ruth McFadden 206-714-2601

ruthmcfadden@mindspring.com