

# HEATHER BELL

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALEDONIAN & ST. ANDREWS SOCIETY OF SEATTLE

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

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## MARCH GATHERING

Our March gathering will be on Sunday, **March 8<sup>th</sup>**, at 2:00 p.m. We will meet at Haller Lake United Methodist Church, 13055 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98125.

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=K1ZUQnBOSE53YURUYjE4SW4ySjlxQT09>

## MARCH PROGRAM

Since March 8<sup>th</sup> is International Women's Day, the March program will be a celebration of famous (and not so famous) Scottish women.

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## SCOTTISH MOVIE NIGHT

The Scottish Movie Night for March will be on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

We will watch the Scottish comedy *Scottish Mussel*. Glasgow chancer Ritchie who, seeking quick cash, infiltrates a Highland conservation centre as an illegal pearl fisher. His plans are complicated when he falls for conservationist Beth and faces rivals and gangsters.

The Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/713418301?pwd=K1ZUQnBOSE53YURUYjE4SW4ySjlxQT09>

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## SUNSHINE REPORT

Bonnis Munro reported that she is recovering slowly from her broken tailbone. She wants to thank all of you who sent her cards!

Bill McFadden has entered hospice care, due to worsening prostate cancer. He is at home and would enjoy phone calls. 206-364-6025

## Calendar of Seattle Area Scottish Events

### March

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

**16 CelticFest Vancouver: St. Patrick's Day Ceilidh**. 7pm. Hellenic Community Centre, 4500 Arbutus St, Vancouver, BC \$30-\$35. <http://www.blackthornband.com/pages/calendar.php>

**29 Caledonian Scottish Movie Night**. 6pm on Zoom

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## Recap of January Gathering

Members in person and those on Zoom enjoyed viewing videos about Robert Burns.

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## 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.

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## International Women's Month - Trailblazing Scottish Women

The National Trust for Scotland shared stories of prominent women from its past. These women have enhanced Scotland's rich heritage in art,

conservation, estate management, forestry, horticulture, interior design and photography

**Miss Christian Dalrymple (1765 - 1839) - Newhailes House & Garden, East Lothian**

Christian inherited the Newhailes estate as the eldest daughter of Sir David Dalrymple, Lord Hailes, 3rd Baronet of Hailes, who passed away in 1792. Although she was not eligible to inherit the baronetcy due to gender restrictions, Christian devoted her efforts to enhancing and maintaining the estate. Her improvements included repairs to the library roof, upgrades to servants' accommodations, and expansion of the stable block. As an early advocate for conservation, she protected the grounds from industrial development and contributed to preserving the landscape at Newhailes for future generations.

**Mary Irvine (1721 - 1779) Drum Castle, Aberdeenshire**

Mary, daughter of Alexander Irvine, 16th Laird of Drum Castle, aided her brother in hiding from Redcoats at Drum Castle after the Battle of Culloden. Later, she managed the estate and founded the Royal Forest of Drum, where remnants of ancient oak woodland still exist. Mary helped establish a working forest and secured a favorable deal for oak timber with local shipbuilders. A promoter of conservation, Mary understood how vital the forest was and acknowledged its twofold benefit. She believed they should not only be attractive but also economically valuable.

**Mairi Sawyer (1879 - 1953) - Inverewe Garden, Scottish Highlands**

Mairi shared her father, Osgood Mackenzie's passion for gardening. After his death in 1922, Mairi took over caring for the ambitious loch-side garden, which was transformed from a barren wilderness in the Scottish Highlands into a coastline paradise containing plant species from across the globe. After World War II, Mairi began welcoming paying visitors into the garden so that everyone could appreciate its rare and exotic plants.

**Margaret Macdonald Mackintosh (1864 - 1933) - Hill House, Helensburgh and Mackintosh at the Willow, Glasgow**

Margaret MacDonald met Charles Rennie Mackintosh while studying at the Glasgow School of Art in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Their marriage was a life-long artistic partnership that influenced interior design and architecture in the following years. The husband and-wife duo worked collaboratively on many projects. Her reputation as a designer makes it uncertain how much she influenced his work. Both designers contributed to the development of the 'Glasgow style' from 1890s to around 1914. They were regarded as one of the most versatile, imaginative and successful artists working in Glasgow in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Original examples of her work can be found inside the Hill House, in Helensburgh, as well as in the recreated interiors of the Mackintosh at the Willow tea rooms on Glasgow's Sauchiehall Street.

**Agnes Toward (1886 - 1975) - Tenement House, Glasgow**



Mrs. Agnes Toward and her daughter, Miss Agnes Toward, were notable examples of independent Glaswegian women in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. After her husband's death in 1889, Mrs Toward ran two dressmaking shops to support her daughter and maintain a middle-class

lifestyle. Despite societal expectations for women to marry, they lived independently, moving into the Tenement House in 1911. Miss Agnes Toward was afforded a good education due to her mother's work ethic, which led her to formal college qualifications that helped her secure and hold the job as a typist with Prentice, Service & Henderson, a role she held for almost 50 years. Unlike many of her colleagues who would have stopped working following marriage, Miss Toward never married and continued working until the age of 73. The Tenement House is a significant part of Glasgow's cultural heritage, offering visitors a glimpse into the lives of its residents during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## Other Trailblazing Scottish Women

Dame Margaret Kidd (1900-1989)

Margare Kidd was Scotland's first woman advocate, the first woman King's counsel in Britain, and the first woman to plead before the House of Lords.

### Minnie Burn - 1746

Minnie Burn is a small stream, not a person. An anonymous serving girl in Dunblane spent the whole night watching over Prince Charles and polished his boots as he lay asleep in Balhaldie House on his way south with his Highlanders in 1745. Several months later, the Duke of Cumberland traveled north and spent a night in Dunblane. During his stay, an incident occurred in which a young girl threw boiling water onto the Duke from the window of a historic mansion. The water missed the Duke but struck his horse, causing it to throw him off. Although his soldiers entered the residence immediately, the girl managed to evade capture by escaping into the underground culvert that channels the Minnie Burn beneath the town to the Allan Water.

### Dr. Sophia Jex-Blake (1840-1912)



Although not Scottish by birth, Sophia Jex-Blake was determined to seek medical training in the UK. Believing Scottish universities were more open-minded about education, she applied to the University of Edinburgh, hoping it would accept women

students. When they would not admit her as a single person, she recruited six other women who wanted to be doctors, and together they became the Edinburgh Seven. While the women were allowed to enroll and study, and they passed all the tests the men were tested on, they were denied a medical doctor's degree. After obtaining her medical doctor's degree at the University of Berne Jex-Blake returned to open an out-patient clinic in Edinburgh, becoming the first woman medical doctor in Scotland. She helped establish the London School of Medicine for Women.

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## Celtic Celebrations in March

People in Wales and those of Welsh origin celebrate the life of their patron saint, **Saint David**, and the Welsh culture on March 1<sup>st</sup>. David was a Welsh Christian prelate who served as Bishop of Mynyw during the 6th century. He became renowned as a teacher and preacher, founding monastic settlements and churches in Wales and other nearby locations. His best-known miracle is said to have taken place when he was preaching in the middle of a large crowd at the Synod of Brefi where the ground on which he stood is reputed to have risen up to form a small hill. A white dove, which became his emblem, was seen settling on his shoulder.

Saint Piran's Day is celebrated on March 5<sup>th</sup> as the Day of Cornwall. **St. Piran** is the patron saint of tin miners. According to Cornish legend, Piran faced persecution in his old age due to his remarkable miraculous abilities, particularly in healing. Pagan Irish captors, envious of his powers, bound him with a millstone and threw him off a cliff into the stormy sea. Surprisingly, as Piran descended into the water, the storm subsided, and the millstone bobbed to the surface as if buoyed by a cork. On this makeshift flotation device, Piran sailed to Perran Beach in Cornwall.

Although Cornwall has been a major center for tin mining for over 4,000 years, legend recounts that Piran stumbled upon tin in Cornwall when he used a large black rock to build a fireplace, prompting a stream of pure white metal to emanate from the stone due to the heat. Eager to share this discovery, Piran enlightened the Cornish population, which led to prosperous livelihoods through tin mining.

The Irish **Saint Patrick** is celebrated on March 17<sup>th</sup>, the supposed date of his death. Saint Patrick was a fifth-century Christian missionary and bishop in Ireland. Known as the "Apostle of Ireland", he is the primary patron saint of Ireland. Legend credits Patrick with teaching the Irish about the doctrine of the Holy Trinity by showing people the shamrock, a three-leafed plant, using it to illustrate the Christian teaching of three persons in one God. Icons of St Patrick often depict the saint holding a cross in one hand and a sprig of shamrocks in the other. Legend also credited Patrick with banishing snakes from the island.

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## Historic Scottish Events in March

The Forth Rail Bridge was opened by the Prince of Wales on 4 March 1890. The bridge crosses the River Forth, connecting Fife and Edinburgh by rail. It was the first major multi-span cantilever bridge and is still among the longest. It is considered a symbol of Scotland and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Scotland's first radio broadcast was on 6 March 1923, when the BBC's Glasgow station, **5SC**, went live from Rex House, transmitting on the 415m wavelength and featuring local music. By summer 1924, stations operated in Edinburgh and Aberdeen. By World War II, BBC transmitters reached over 90% of Scotland's population.

The world's first golf club was founded in Edinburgh on 7 March 1744. The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers held their first meeting on Leith Links and petitioned the Edinburgh Council to provide a silver club for competition.

St Kessog, a 6<sup>th</sup> century Irish missionary who worked in the Lennox region and southern Perthshire, was Scotland's patron saint prior to St Andrew. His name was historically used as a battle cry by Scottish forces. The son of the King of Cashel in Ireland, St Kessog was reputed to have performed miracles from an early age. He was killed on 10 March 560.

On 24 March 1603, the Union of the Crowns of England and Scotland occurred, upon the death of Queen Elizabeth I and the succession of King James VI of Scotland.

Car driving tests were introduced for the first time on 26 March 1934, with the Road Traffic Act. Initially, there were no test centres so people had to arrange to meet the examiner somewhere like a post office, train station, or town hall. The test was suspended for the duration of World War II and didn't resume until 1 November 1946.

The first television programmes in Scotland were broadcast on 14 March 1952 by the BBC. All BBC programming came direct from London with only very occasional Scottish content variations made. In 1957 Scottish Television (STV) began transmissions, followed shortly by Grampian Television and Border Television. Currently, Scotland also has its own BBC services and public TV.

Buchanan Galleries shopping mall opened to the public in Glasgow city centre on 31 March 1999, part of Glasgow's Style Mile shopping precinct. The Style Mile is a historic shopping district that began as a marketplace in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century. The Style Mile has become a symbol of Glasgow's shopping culture.

Scientists identified a gene variant that is known to increase the risk of breast and ovarian cancer on 16 March 2023. They traced it to people with Orkney Island heritage, more specifically those with ancestry on the island of Westray.

Humza Yousaf was elected as the Leader of the Scottish National Party on 27 March 2023. He subsequently became First Minister of Scotland. He is the youngest holder of the position in history at just 37 years of age upon entry to office, the first from an ethnic minority background, the first Muslim to hold the office, and the first First Minister with facial hair.



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

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