



Volume 121

Issue 5

May 2023

## NEXT GATHERING

Our next gathering is **Sunday, May 21st**, at 2:00 p.m. **This is the third Sunday of May, because Mother's Day is on the second Sunday.** 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. The mask requirement has been changed and it is okay to either wear, or not wear, a mask while present in the church. Air purifiers 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>

## MAY PROGRAM

Tom Lamb and Bill McFadden will present a program about the Picts in Scotland.

## ALL IN A SCOTTISH EVENING (AKA SCOTTISH MOVIE NIGHT)

Sixteen people joined us on Zoom on Sunday evening, April 23rd to watch the Scottish movie "Local Hero!"

The next Scottish Evening will be on Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m., using our usual Zoom connection. (See link to the left.)

Based on votes from participants, the next movie will be the 1996 film "The Bruce," starring Gary Andrew, Brian Blessed, and Richard Brimblecombe. In the early 14<sup>th</sup> century, Scottish warrior and Earl Robert the Bruce is crowned King of Scots, leading Scotland during the First War of Scottish Independence against England.

## 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

### MAY

**12 Daimh Concert.** 7:00 p.m. \$25. Littlefield Celtic Center, 1124 Cleveland Ave., Mount Vernon, WA. Phone 360-416-4934. <https://celticarts.org/celtic-events/daimh-concert/>

**18 Andrew Finn Magill & Alan Murray Concert.** 7:00 p.m. \$25. Littlefield Celtic Center, 1124 Cleveland Ave., Mount Vernon, WA. Phone 360-416-4934. [Dàimh Concert - Mount Vernon - Celtic Arts Foundation](#)

**21 Caledonian & St. Andrews Society of Seattle gathering.** 2:00pm. In-person & on Zoom. Haller Lake United Methodist Church, 13055 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. NE., Seattle, WA. **This gathering is on the THIRD Sunday because Mother's Day is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday**

**27 RSCDS Vancouver (BC) 2023 Heather Ball.** Scottish Cultural Center, 8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver, BC. \$120. <https://rscdsvancouver.org/events/heather-ball-2023/>

**28 Fourth Sunday Caledonian Scottish Movie Night.**  
7:00 p.m. on Zoom.

## JUNE

**11 Caledonian & St. Andrews Society of Seattle gathering.** 2:00pm. In-person & on Zoom. Haller Lake United Methodist Church, 13055 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. NE., Seattle, WA.

**24 In Memory of Skye Richendrfer.** 2:00 p.m. Salem Lutheran Church, 2529 N. Laventure Rd., Mount Vernon, WA

**24 Tacoma Highland Games,** Frontier Park, Graham WA. <https://www.tacomagames.org>

**25 Fourth Sunday Caledonian Scottish Movie Night.**  
7:00 p.m. on Zoom.

## JULY

**8-9 Skagit Valley Highland Games,** Edgewater Park, Mount Vernon. <https://celticarts.org/skagit-valley-highland-games/>

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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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## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

It's the time of year when elections of officers for the Caledonian & St. Andrew's Society are held. In May, nominations are put forth for offices for the 2023-24 year. Positions up for election this year are:

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1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President (Membership)  
Treasurer  
Parliamentarian  
2 Trustees

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If you would like to be considered for one of these positions, please let Secretary, Ruth McFadden, know. To be elected to an office, you must be a paid-up member of the Caledonians.

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McFadden, know. To be elected to an office, you must be a paid-up member of the Caledonians. Election and Installation of new officers will be at the June 11<sup>th</sup> gathering.

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## Recap of the April Caledonian Gathering

Bill McFadden led the April program with a talk about Scottish tartans. He had a number of tartans on display and explained the difference between dress, modern, and ancient tartans, and provided suggestions for a number of books that people could use while identifying which tartans they might wear. Gene McPhail added that non-Scottish organizations also have tartans, such as one for the U. S. Navy that he has.



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## Tartan Day -

### The Saltaire Flies Over Washington State

By Bill McFadden

On cold and windy Saturday, 8 April 2023, Scots from Western Washington came together at the state capital in Olympia to observe National Tartan Day Washington. Prior arrangements had been made, and upon arrival we found our Saltaire proudly flying along with the flag of Washington and the Stars and Stripes in the plaza between the Legislative and Judicial Buildings.

Clan Ross organized the event this year. At just after 11:00 a.m., Debra Ross of Clan Ross called us together and alerted the combined pipes and drums of the Olympia Highlanders and Tacoma Scots, who promptly marched onto the plaza. It was sure nice to hear the skirl of pipes and beating of drums after the long winter break.

After their performance, Ms. Ross introduced Mr. Alan McEachern, who sang the national anthem of Canada, “O Canada”, (Canada is less than 100 miles due north of Seattle and we get many Canadians coming to games in



the USA), and then "Flower of Scotland" (felt by many to be Scotland's national anthem). He concluded with, of course, "The Star Spangled Banner."

Mary, Queen of Scots attended with her full retinue of reenactors. Queen Mary graciously read to all in attendance the Declaration of Arbroath, followed by many a loud "Huzzah, huzzah!"



Caledonians present included Harry & Diane McAlister, Chuck Cook, and Bill & Ruth McFadden.

After the program, many of us took time for some meet-and-greet, and then retired to Tugboat Annie's Restaurant on the shores of Puget Sound. About fifty of us took sustenance and libation there, and good fellowship.



All in all, a great day.

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## Articles and Topics About Scotland and Things Scottish

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Information based on articles in *The Scottish Banner* and *Smithsonian Magazine*, as well as information in *Wikipedia* and various websites pertaining to the topics.

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### Stone of Destiny (Stone of Scone)

For centuries, the Stone of Destiny — also known as the Stone of Scone — has played a key role in the coronations of Scottish and British monarchs. The block of red sandstone, which has been placed in the coronation chair at Charles III's crowning, has long been shrouded in mystery and myth. But a

new analysis of the stone has resulted in insights on its origins.

Experts at Historic Environment Scotland (HES) used cutting-edge scanning tools to create a 3D model of the stone. They also conducted an X-ray fluorescence analysis that revealed the stone's elemental composition.

Key findings include previously unseen markings that could be Roman numerals, traces of copper alloy and gypsum plaster, and tool marks left during the stone's original carving, as well as evidence of the 1951 repair when the stone broke into two pieces.

While researchers discuss whether the markings are Roman numerals or merely crude crosses, some find the discovering of remnants of copper more important. One researcher said that these remnants suggest that an object made of copper (alloy), such as a bell, sat on the stone for a long period.

Researchers looking at the tooling marks believe that it was roughly worked by more than one stonemason with a number of different tools. However, the remnants of plaster found on the stone have no recorded origin.



The Stone of Scone was returned to Westminster Abbey and placed in the coronation chair for King Charles III. The wood of the coronation chair is said to be in surprisingly good condition considering it was made for Edward I in 1300. It is the oldest piece of furniture in the UK that is still used for its

original purpose. However, the wood has shrunk over the years and needed to be strengthened by conservators to ensure that it would support the weight of the king and the stone during coronation ceremonies.

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### Lost Roman Fort Discovered in Scotland

Once the northernmost frontier of the Roman Empire, the area in West Dunbartonshire in Scotland was known to have had as many as 41

small forts (“fortlets”) along the Antonine Wall where Roman soldiers spent rotating tours of duty.

In 1707, antiquarian Robert Sibbald described a Roman fortlet in the area, but attempts to find it during the 1970s and 1980s were futile. Buried in a field, the surviving part of the fortlet, its stone base, isn’t visible above ground.

New technology was employed – gradiometry – which is a geophysical survey technique that uses small variations in Earth’s magnetic field to find objects buried underground without excavation. Through this method, the structure’s stone base was located. Turf would have been stacked to create a more than six-foot-tall rampart. This find is the tenth known fortlet in the area.



An artist’s depiction shows how, during its use in the second century, the fortlet would have been occupied by roughly a dozen Roman soldiers who would stay a week at a time before being replaced by another detachment of soldiers from a larger nearby fort. The structure would have had two small wooden buildings to house these soldiers during their duty.

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## Equality in Pipe Bands

Pipe bands in the USA typically have both men and women playing the pipes. However, around the world and especially in Scotland, that has not always been true.

Historically a pipe band was not considered to be a place for women. This may have been because many Scottish pipe bands had links to the military and bagpipes were considered to be an instrument of war. The pipe band world was not an accommodating place for women, nor did it try to be for many years.

The world’s first all-female pipe band is thought to have started in the East End of London, when the

Dagenham Girl Pipers Pipe Band was created in 1930. Scotland got its first female pipe band in 1934.

Women were not mixed into regular pipe bands more commonly until the 1970s. Prior to that, they were outright barred from taking part in a pipe band. Today it is estimated women make up around 20-30% of pipe band numbers and they are recognized as quite literally playing an important role in them.

Clearly gender has no role in how well someone can play an instrument. However, even today some argue that women are better suited to the drum corps, rather than playing the pipes as they are thought to have a smaller lung capacity than male players.



It was only in 2016 that Lance Bombardier Megan Beveridge made history by becoming the first serving female soldier to perform as the Lone Piper at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. The coveted

role had only one other female Lone Piper, in 1977, in an over 70-year history.

Most solo competitions are led and won by male, and white, performers and judges. Of the most prestigious solo piping championships in Scotland, you can count female winners with one hand, and at times just one finger. The oldest piping society in the world, the Royal Scottish Pipers Society, only allowed women to join in 2015, and they were founded in 1881!

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## Self-Driving Bus Services in Scotland

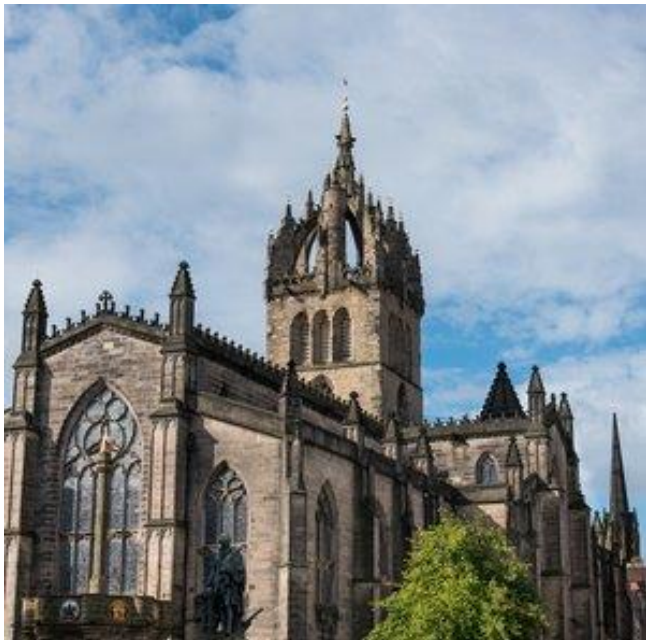


The UK’s first full-sized self-driving bus is taking to the road in Scotland. The bus had its test drive in Edinburgh in



The Stagecoach UK fleet will be the first registered full-sized autonomous buses, made up of five vehicles, which will travel a 14-mile route. The route will go across the Forth Road Bridge from Ferrytoll Park & Ride in Fife to Edinburgh Park Transport Interchange.

## St. Giles to Charge Entry Fee



The charge will not be levied on those attending church. The amount has yet to be set, but is expected to be around £5 and not start until 2024. Because of its age, buildings such as St Giles have huge maintenance costs, and the entry fee would go toward upkeep for the building, which has risen to nearly £1 million per year.

The Act of Union of English and Scottish parliaments was proclaimed on May 1, 1707, in spite of opposition by the majority of Scots. Over 300 years later, the union remains one of the strongest political unions in European history.

By the 1690s, the Dutch and British East India Companies were almost 100 years old. Both had moved beyond simple trading to become imperial powers in their own right; they fielded armies and ruled territorial empires. Scotland, suffering from the effects of the Little Ice Age like other northern European nations, had seen its economy decline and the gap between itself and wealthy colonial powers increase.

This is a historical map of the Isthmus of Darien, showing the Bay of Amama, the Gulf of St. Michael, and the surrounding mountains and rivers. The map includes numerous place names such as Nombre de Dios, La Sounds Key, Sambala's, Pines I., Golden I., New Edinburgh, and various rivers like the Chiriqui, Chiriqui, and Chiriqui. The map is oriented with North at the top, and the Atlantic Ocean is visible on the left side.

The jungle area of the Isthmus of Darien (now known as Panama) that the Scottish colonists were attempting to subjugate was one of the most forbidding environments on the planet. The initial 1200 Scottish settlers soon fell ill with malaria and yellow fever. Many of the supplies they brought along were rotten due to improper storage. It turned out that Scottish farming know-how was useless in Darien. Their agricultural efforts failed and they had to subsist mostly on turtle meat.

When desperate colonists reached out to nearby English settlers in the Caribbean, they were turned away. Their own king, William III of England/ William II of Scotland, had forbidden Englishmen to help them because he didn't want to risk a rift with Spain which "owned" the Panama area even though it hadn't done much with it.

Eventually, the colony was abandoned after eight months, having lost  $\frac{3}{4}$  of its original population. Another batch of colonists, over 1000 strong, left Scotland before the failure of the first colony was known. They, too, succumbed to disease and an attack by a small Spanish force. The colony was abandoned for good in 1701, having killed well over 1,000 people and wasted many Scots' life savings.

Economically, Scotland was devastated by the collapse of this attempt to launch a trading empire in Panama. The episode ruined many Scottish families financially, but it had even bigger impacts than that. Many Scots, having taken their best shot at being a major colonial power and facing financial disaster (not to mention a series of famines that had beset the country in the 1690s) now decided that union with England was the best path forward for Scotland.

In 1707, Scottish leaders approved an Acts of Union in the hopes that they could use access to England's colonies to enrich themselves now that Scottish efforts had failed. The Acts of Union included a payment to Scottish investors of £398,085 – almost exactly the amount that lost in the Darien Scheme. (The earlier mentioned charge that wealthy people had taken large bribes to sell out the country had perhaps some basis as a result of this payment.)

Of all the colonial efforts of European countries, only the Scottish attempt at empire ended with the imperial power becoming an appendage of another European country.

## Loch Ness Monster

Although accounts of an aquatic beast living in Scotland's Loch Ness date back 1,500 years, the modern legend of the Loch Ness Monster was born when a sighting made local news on 1 May 1933. The newspaper *Inverness Courier* related an account of a local couple who claimed to have seen "an enormous animal rolling and plunging on the surface."

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## First Scottish Parliament Since 1707

Elections for the first Scottish Parliament since 1707 were held on 6 May 1999, and the 129 Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSP) took their seats on 12 May 1999. Dr. Winifred M. Ewing MSP was acting Presiding Officer. Her first words to the Parliament were: "The Scottish Parliament which adjourned on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March in the year 1707 is hereby reconvened."



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

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