



Volume 120      Issue 8      November 2022

### NEXT GATHERING

We are returning to an in-person Caledonian gathering for November. Our next gathering is **Sunday, November 9th**, at 2:00 p.m. 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>

### NOVEMBER PROGRAM

Members of the Cummings Family will provide the program of music and dance for November.

### 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

#### NOVEMBER

##### 5 SSHGA Heather Tartan Ball & Silent Auction.

Seattle Latvian Cultural Center, 11710 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave NE, Seattle, WA. 6:00 pm. Tickets \$30.

<https://www.sshga.org/heather-tartan-ball/>

##### 6 Traditional Scottish Breakfast for Celtic Arts Foundation members. 12:00-3:00pm 7:00pm-9:00pm.

\$40.00 Littlefield Celtic Center, 1124 Cleveland Ave., Mount Vernon, WA 360-416-4934.

<https://celticarts.org/celtic-events/22breakfast/>

##### 11 Ye Vagabonds Concert. 7:00pm. \$25. Littlefield Celtic Center, 1124 Cleveland Ave., Mount Vernon, WA 360-416-4934. <https://celticarts.org/celtic-events/ye-vagabonds-concert/>

##### 13 Caledonian & St. Andrews Society Gathering, 2:00 pm. Haller Lake United Methodist Church, 13055 1<sup>st</sup> Ave NE, Seattle. For information, call 206-714-2601.

#### 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/>

##### 11 Caledonian & St. Andrews Society Gathering, 2:00 pm. Haller Lake United Methodist Church, 13055 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. NE, Seattle, WA. 98125.

##### 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](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-fires-very-scottish-christmas-in-seattle-wa-tickets-429493776447)

### Recap of the October Caledonian Gathering

Penny DeGraff from Sligne nan Gaidheal, Washington's Gaelic language and cultural

society, shared music videos made by Seirm for their annual concert during Covid. Seirm is a cèilidh band of singers and musicians who create traditional and innovative Scottish Gaelic music together.



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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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## Scottish Country Dance Class

One of the on-going activities promoted by the Caledonian & St Andrew Society for at least the last 30 years is a weekly Scottish Country Dance class. After a two year hiatus due to the epidemic, Monday night dancing restarted last February, and after a summer break, has resumed again for the season.

Classes meet every Monday night at 7-9pm at the Phinney Neighborhood Center, 6532 Phinney Ave N, Seattle WA 98103, Room 2 in the upper building.

Dancers of all levels of experience are welcome. A mixture of "old Favs" and new dances are offered every week, with full walk-throughs and no concern for your technical prowess (many of us do more walking than skip-change). It's all about enjoying each other and the magic of SCD!

Due to increased attendance the price has dropped to only \$5 per class - a true Scottish bargain! If the upper parking lot is full, just drive down the hill (N 62nd St) to the lower parking entrance. For details, or to have your name added to the weekly email list, contact "Elsie G. Spinning" <[ispinit@gmail.com](mailto:ispinit@gmail.com)>. Hope to see you next Monday night!

COVID-19 rules: you need to be vaccinated and boosted (honor system). Masks are optional except if we have immuno-compromised dancers in attendance, when by general consent we agreed to masking up for their protection."

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## Survey Coming

Having gatherings on Zoom for so long has not been ideal. It has worked well for some members, while others were not able, or were unwilling, to participate this way. Bill McFadden, program director, and Ruth McFadden, secretary, have worked diligently to provide quality entertainment and programs for gatherings on Zoom in spite of the inconveniences during the health shut-downs due to the Covid pandemic. Attendance was great for many months, but has fallen away recently.

We are looking at returning to in-person gatherings starting this month, and we will be working toward making gatherings also available to people who will continue to need to attend on Zoom.

A survey will be coming soon. We have lots of questions about the future of the Society, and we need your input. Please return your responses as soon as possible.

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## Articles and Topics About Scotland and Things Scottish

Information based on articles in *The Scottish Banner*, *Wikipedia*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, and *historic-uk.com*.

In this issue, we are looking at events in Scottish history that occurred in the month of November.

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## Celtic Football Club

In 1887, poverty was rampant among the Irish immigrant population in the East End of Glasgow. A Marist Brother, Brother Walfrid of St. Mary's Church, had instituted a charity, the Poor Children's Dinner Table, but needed a way to raise funds for it. He hit upon the idea of creating a football club from men in this locale. On 6 November 1887, the Celtic Football Club was formally brought into existence. The name "Celtic" (pronounced "Seltik"), intended to reflect the club's Irish and Scottish roots, was adopted at the same meeting. They played their first official match on 28 May 1888. Because they had not played an official match until then, their club badge reflects 1888 as their official start.



The Celtic Football Club, to give it its full name, is commonly known as **Celtic**. Players have worn green and white throughout their history. Initially, their kit was a white shirt with a green collar, black shorts, and emerald green socks. The original club crest was a simple green cross on a red oval background, which was the Marist Brothers' badge. Then for many years shirts had green and white vertical stripes, as shown in this photo from about 1889.



The team adopted hooped jerseys with horizontal stripes in 1903. There have been many iterations of the hooped jersey. The one on the left is a recent version.

The newly formed club became not only a fund-raiser, but a rising success in the Scottish sports world. Founded 135 years ago this month, the Celtic have won over 100 trophies in their history. They have won Scottish league championships 52 times, the Scottish Cup 20 times, and The Scottish League Cup 20 times.

Today they have a fan base around the world estimated at more than nine million supporters in over 20 countries.

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## Armistice Day – 11 November 1918

Armistice Day marks the end of hostilities in World War I. The guns were finally silenced on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month.



Though Scots made up only 10% of the UK population at the time, a total of 147,609 Scots were killed during the war, a fifth of Britain's total dead.

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## Women in Scottish Medicine

On 12 November 1869, Edinburgh University first admitted women to the study of medicine at its prestigious medical school. The first students were Sophia Jex-Blake and Edith Pechy. They were part of the Edinburgh Seven, a group of seven women who were the first women to matriculate in the medical school and who began to study medicine even though they would not be allowed to graduate or become doctors.



Another woman, Agnes MacLaren, had been a friend of Jex-Blake for some years, and she, too, yearned to be a doctor at age 38. She had been educated at the Women's Medical College in Edinburgh, which was considered enough medical education for women at that time. Prior to that, she had been active in the women's suffrage movement in Scotland for many years.

Most of the women, including Jex-Blake and MacLaren, who completed the medical school at Edinburgh University ended up going abroad to obtain their medical degrees. MacLaren, herself, received her medical degree from the University of Montpellier in France, becoming the tenth woman in Britain to graduate as a doctor. She later became a member of the Royal College of Dublin so that she could practice medicine in Scotland.

Years later, Eliza (Elsie) Inglis started medical studies at the Edinburgh School of Medicine for Women, which had been opened by Jex-Blake. When the medical school at Edinburgh University became available to women, Inglis completed her medical degree and



became a lecturer in gynaecology at the Medical College for Women. Inglis became involved in the women's suffrage movement through her dissatisfaction with the standard of medical care available to women.

This Scottish doctor's fame actually came during World War I when at age 51 she organized volunteer medical units of women who served in France and in Serbia to treat war wounded. She returned to England in poor health, and died the day she arrived on 26

November 1917. Winston Churchill wrote that Inglis and her nurses "would shine in history."

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### Robert Louis Stevenson

Born 13 November 1850 in Edinburgh's New Town, Robert Louis Stevenson was a poet and author. Part of the famous "lighthouse Stevensons" family, Robert often found it amazing that he had such acclaim for merely writing stories when his relatives were skilled engineers and had built sturdy lighthouses under difficult circumstances that saved thousands of sailors' lives. Stevenson's books included *Treasure Island* and *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. He died in Samoa at the age of 44.

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### Stone of Destiny



In an escapade worthy of a movie (which actually was made,) the Stone of Destiny was finally returned to Scotland on 15 November 1951, by Scottish nationalist students. Also known as the Stone of Scone, the stone is a nearly 400-pound oblong block of red sandstone. One legend has it that the stone is a relic from the Holy Land and once belonged to the biblical Jacob. From an early date the kings of Scotland were inaugurated sitting on a royal chair with the stone in its base. In 1296, Edward I removed the stone and had it installed it at Westminster Abbey. It was part of the chair in which kings and queens of England, and later Great Britain, were inaugurated. The students kidnapped the stone, but broke it into two parts. Despite its weight they brought it back to Scotland in the



trunk of a car and managed to hide it in Scotland for four months until it was found and returned to Westminster. It later was moved from there to Edinburgh Castle on 30 November 1996 amid much celebration.

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### Macpherson's Farewell

James Macpherson was a famous fiddler and freebooter (lawless adventurer) in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. On 16 November 1700, he was hanged at Banff. The town clock was said to have been advanced to forestall a messenger carrying a reprieve for his hanging. Legend has it that before the notorious outlaw musician was hanged for sheep and cattle stealing he treated the crowd to one of his own compositions, "Macpherson's Rant," and then broke the fiddle over his knee. When Robert Burns heard of the tale, he wrote the song "Macpherson's Farewell."

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### The Great Storm of 1703

The great storm of 1703 was a destructive extratropical cyclone that struck central and southern England on 26 November 1703. Retroactive analysis conjectures that the storm was comparable to a Category 2 hurricane. High winds caused 2,000 chimney stacks to collapse in London, tore the lead off Westminster Abbey, and Queen Anne herself sheltered in the cellar of St. James's Palace to avoid collapsing chimneys and part of the roof. The New Forest lost 4,000 oaks. Approximately 400 windmills were destroyed, with the wind driving their wooden gears so fast that some burst into flames. Flooding killed thousands of people and livestock.

The first Eddystone lighthouse was destroyed. At sea, ships were blown hundreds of miles off-course and one ship was found 15 miles inland. Many ships were wrecked, including ships returning from helping the King of Spain fight the French in the Spanish Succession. The Royal Navy's entire Channel Squadron were sunk, killing upwards of 1,500 seamen. Between 8,000 and 15,000 people died overall.

### Andrew Carnegie

Steel magnate and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie was born 25 November 1835 in Dunfermline. Carnegie became a powerful businessman and a leading force in the American steel industry. Carnegie believed that the wealthy had an obligation to give back to society, so he donated much of his fortune to causes like education and peace. Libraries particularly benefited from his benefice. Many cities, including Seattle, have Carnegie libraries. Pictured is the Carnegie Library building in Ballard.



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

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