

# HEATHER BELL

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALEDONIAN & ST. ANDREWS SOCIETY OF SEATTLE

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

Volume 121      Issue 8      November 2023

---

## NEXT GATHERING

Our next gathering is **Sunday, November 12<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. 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=K1ZUQnBOSE53YURUYjE4SW4ySjlxQT09>

---

## NOVEMBER PROGRAM – TBA

---

## SCOTTISH MOVIE NIGHT

Our November Scottish Movie Night will be on Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, which is the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Again, it will start at 6:00 p.m. The film will be “Ring of Bright Water,” a 1969 British comedy-drama film starring Bill Travers and Virginia McKenna. It is a story about a Londoner and his pet otter living on the Scottish coast.

---

## SUNSHINE REPORT

Jim Van Zee has recently been diagnosed with leukemia and is in the hospital. He shared that this diagnosis came very suddenly. He had been dancing on September 30<sup>th</sup> at a Scottish Dance workshop, then with the Caledonian Dancers on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. A week later he was ill and in the hospital receiving chemotherapy! He will be receiving chemotherapy for about 3-4 months. Because his house can only be reached by climbing a daunting set of stairs, when he is discharged from the hospital he will be staying elsewhere for a while. It is important that people know they should not visit Jim while he is immunocompromised.

However, when his strength increases, Jim is happy to talk to people, and cards and letters can be sent to him at his home. They will be picked up and brought to him.

268 NE 42<sup>nd</sup> St.  
Seattle, WA 98105-6547  
Cell: 541-908-0089

[Javanzee@operamail.com](mailto:Javanzee@operamail.com)

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 October Caledonian Gathering

Sixteen Caledonians at the October hybrid gathering enjoyed slides shared by Tom Lamb from his visit to five Scottish islands. His interesting talk and captivating pictures described the isles of Skye, Mull, Iona, Islay, and the Orkneys.

## Calendar of Seattle Area Scottish Events

### NOVEMBER

**8 Dervish Concert.** 7:30 p.m. \$25. Lincoln Theater, 712 S. First St., Mount Vernon, WA. Phone 360-336-8955.

<https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=%20197669>

**12 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.

**13 Tannahill Weavers Concert.** 7:00 p.m. \$30. Littlefield Celtic Center, 1124 Cleveland Ave., Mount Vernon, WA. Phone 360-416-4934.

<https://form.jotform.com/232537436642155>

**17 Kevin Henderson & Neil Pearlman Concert.** 7:00 p.m. \$25. Littlefield Celtic Center, 1124 Cleveland Ave., Mount Vernon, WA. Phone 360-416-4934.

<https://form.jotform.com/232857483284164>

**26 Fourth Sunday Caledonian Scottish Movie Night.** 6:00 p.m. on Zoom.

### DECEMBER

**1-3 Gary West Weekend.** Littlefield Celtic Center, 1124 Cleveland Ave., Mount Vernon, WA. Phone 360-416-4934 (Details forthcoming)

**10 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.

**Date of December Caledonian Scottish Movie Night TBD, as 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday is Christmas Eve and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday is New Year's Eve.**

---

## Articles and Topics About Scotland and Things Scottish

---

Information based on articles in *The Scottish Banner*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, *Historic UK*, *Tripadvisor.com*, and various websites pertaining to the topics.

---

### Face of Bonnie Prince Charlie Recreated

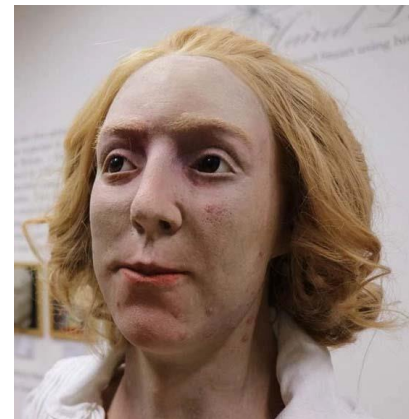
Researchers using death masks have recreated a model that shows what Bonnie Prince Charlie may have looked like during the 1745 Jacobite rising when he was 24 years old. The prince was said to have been given his nickname due to his boyish looks and alleged charm.

“We don’t tend to think about the age of people when we study history, but Prince Charlie was

just 24 years old when he landed in Scotland, and to visualize how young he was at this pivotal moment in history is fascinating,” says Barbora Veselá, a scholar of forensic art and facial imaging.

Researchers scanned and photographed two death masks, which are copies of a cast taken soon after Charles died, and used them to create a 3D model. The task was made more difficult because the prince died in 1788 at age 67 following a stroke, and researchers had to reverse both his age and the effects of being deceased.

Veselá used digital sculpting software and then 3D-printed the model. She then used wax, oil paint, and hair to create the physical reconstruction.



Many biographies describe the prince as having pimples under his chin, although he was still called beautiful and handsome. “The way we view beauty today is definitely very different to how it would have been seen in the 18<sup>th</sup> century,” Veselá said.

---

### Sir Thomas Lipton



The founder of the Lipton Tea Company, Sir Thomas Lipton, 1<sup>st</sup> Baronet, was a Scotsman of Ulster-Scots parentage who was a merchant, philanthropist and yachtsman who lost five

straight America’s Cup matches. He was the most persistent challenger in the history of the America’s Cup yacht race. As a businessman, he used extensive advertising for his chain of grocery stores and his brand of Lipton teas.

Born in a Glasgow tenement in 1848, Thomas was the youngest of five children, although he was the only sibling to survive. He quit school at



age 13 to supplement his parents' limited income.

At age 16, Thomas signed up in 1864 as a cabin boy on a steamer running between Glasgow and Belfast. After several years, he left the steamship company and used the wages he had saved to buy passage on a ship going to the U.S., where he worked and traveled for the next five years.

Returning to Glasgow, Thomas opened his first provision shop, called Lipton's Market, and with its success he established a chain of grocery stores across Scotland and throughout Britain. When his empire had grown to 300 stores, he entered the tea trade and opened his tea-tasting office. He bypassed traditional tea trading and distribution channels, thus being able to sell teas at unprecedentedly low prices to the untapped poor working class market. Lipton's company purchased Ceylon tea and distributed it throughout Europe and the U.S.

Ironically, it was through his well-publicized efforts to win the America's Cup and his repeated failure at winning that cup that his tea brand became famous in the U.S.

---

## Sedan Chairs in Edinburgh

Sedan chairs carried by men, called chairmen, were an alternative form of transport to the horse and carriage in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. City streets then were usually filthy, littered with mud, refuse thrown from houses lining the narrow streets, and excrement from horses. They were not only a health hazard, but also made travel difficult and impractical. Sedan chairs were a popular form of transport for Edinburgh's wealthier citizens, particularly in the city's Old Town where carriages were unable to navigate the narrow streets.

Invented in Sedan, France, the sedan chair consisted of a seat inside a cabin with a detachable roof, mounted on two poles and carried by two men, one at the front and one at the rear. Passengers entered and exited through a hinged door at the front. While preferable to walking in filthy streets, sedan chairs were not very comfortable nor very safe. They swayed and bounced, especially when conveyed at speed through the streets. Sedan chairs were allowed legally to travel on the pavement, and it was expected that pedestrians would give way to

them. This was not always the case and there were frequent accidents, chairs tipping over, etc.

Initially, only the wealthy had their own sedan chairs, along with men to carry them through the steep city streets. These personal sedan chairs were often painted and decorated to reflect the décor of their owner's house. Sedan chairs were popular because passengers would keep their shoes clean and the detachable roof allowed for the tall, elaborate headdresses worn by fashionable ladies.

The first sedan chairs for hire in Edinburgh became available in October 1687. The new fleet of six hire sedans were plain black with a covered roof. They reached the height of their popularity in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, when there were as many as 180 sedans for public hire in Edinburgh.



Like taxi drivers nowadays, chairmen were licensed and sedan chair stations were set up around the city, much like taxi ranks are now, from which passengers could hire a chair. Sedan chairs were available around the clock, but after midnight the fare doubled. After dark the sedan chair would be accompanied by "link boys" or torch bearers to light the way.

Those who did not already own a chair of their own could arrange for a chair at one of the many "blue light" sedan chair stands. The more well-to-do, however, would send their footmen out into the street to summon a chair by shouting, "Chair! Chair!"

---

## Famous Old Bridges in Scotland

<https://www.scottishtours.co.uk/blog/14-famous-bridges-in-scotland/>

### Sligachan Old Bridge



The photogenic Sligachan Old Bridge over the Sligachan River on the Isle of Skye is close to the A87

linking Broadford and Portree, just past the end of Loch Sligachan. Engineer Thomas Telford built this bridge between 1810 and 1818. It has three arches with a hump over the central arch, a characteristic of bridges at that time.

The old bridge is now only a footbridge. A newer bridge beside it supports vehicle traffic.

The bridge has its own legends, but one of the best is that the enchanting waters of the Sligachan River are said to be a portal to the faerie world. Anyone brave enough to dip their face in the water for 7 seconds will be granted eternal beauty by the faeries. Of course, this is Scotland, after all, and the water is freezing!

### **The Fairy Bridge**



Also on the Isle of Skye and located just off the Dunvegan road and 3 miles from Dunvegan Castle, the Fairy Bridge is a very simple, single-arched stone bridge, built in the early 19th century. It crosses over a tributary stream of the Bay River.

The legend attached to it relates to a MacLeod chieftain from nearby Dunvegan falling in love with a faerie Princess, which very much displeased her father Oberon, king of the faerie folk. However, he relented to allow a marriage lasting only a year and a day, after which the princess had to return to her kinfolk. She had a baby in the interim, and this bridge is believed to be where she said her sad farewells to her mortal husband and baby. She left her son wrapped in the magical silk shawl (known as the fabled Fairy Flag) which can be viewed at Dunvegan Castle. It's a bleakly romantic tale that fits the landscape.

### **Clachan Bridge**

The Island of Seil is famed for its beautiful scenery and wealth of history. The steeply humped bridge, known as “the bridge over the Atlantic,” was built in 1792. It was so named because it crosses the Clachan Sound, which opens out into the Atlantic Ocean.



After crossing the bridge from the mainland, the first building reached is the historic Tigh an Truish inn. The name means “house of trousers” in Gaelic and dates from the period immediately after the 1745 Jacobite uprising when the wearing of tartan and the kilt was banned. Islanders travelling to the mainland would call at the inn to change from their traditional highland garb into trousers.

### **Brig o' Balgownie**



Considered to be the oldest bridge in Scotland, it was started toward the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century and legend has it that Robert the Bruce completed it. As seen today this bridge crosses the River Don near Old Aberdeen and dates from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. It uses the silvery grey granite that the city is famed for.



## Auld Brig o' Doon



This 15<sup>th</sup> century cobblestone bridge spans the River Doon. Located in the village of Alloway in Ayrshire, this attractive bridge is so famous that it appears on the Bank of Scotland £5 banknote.

This bridge was brought to fame by Scottish poet, Robert Burns, who was born in Alloway in 1759. He refer`ed to the bridge in his poem "Tam o' Shanter". It is thought that Brigadoon, the fictional village in the Learner and Lowe musical was named after this bridge.

## Coldstream Bridge



Completed in 1767, the seven-arched Coldstream Bridge links Scotland to England. Earlier, the town of Coldstream came into being because this spot was the first suitable ford on the River Tweed north of Berwick.

Armies of Scotland and England made their way back and forth across the border at this spot for centuries. The closeness of the English border made Coldstream a destination for underage eloping couples who would secretly get married in the tollhouse just across the bridge in Scotland, courtesy of Scotland's more relaxed marriage laws.

## Carrbridge Packhorse Bridge



A narrow packhorse bridge is one built to carry just pack horses across a river or stream.

The Carrbridge Packhorse Bridge was built in 1717 to allow funeral processions to reach Duthil Church by crossing the River Dulnain. Because of this, the bridge became known as the Coffin Bridge, but it also was used by tradesmen and locals to cross the river. The parapets were washed away in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the remains of this single span humpback rubble bridge are now a tourist attraction at the village of Carrbridge.



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](http://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](mailto:ruthmcfadden@mindspring.com)