

HEATHER BELL

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALEDONIAN & ST. ANDREWS SOCIETY OF SEATTLE

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ENTERTAINMENT



Entertainment for April 10: Tom Laurenson will be giving a presentation on tartans. Tom will talk about early tartan, tartan discovered, and tartan today. It will include the origins of the tartan, the dyes and the weaving and waulking processes. He will also discuss the ways in which tartan moved from being the despised dress of a despised people to an acceptable and desirable form of dress for the wealthy. In addition, he will also look at the variety of ways of wearing tartan today.

A Letter from our President Bill McFadden

Don Johnson and I missed the March gathering while we were in the Highlands of central Mexico, looking for sunshine and warm weather. We had a 10-day tour around Jalisco state and celebrated St. Patrick's Day in San Patricio, where they hold a five-day festival honoring St. Patrick every year. If you are curious about why an Irish saint is so honored by a small town in Mexico, Don and I can fill you in on a very interesting story.

Christine Castro and Allan Patton would like to have some volunteers step up and assist with and learn to do the raffle table. They have done an exceptional job these past few years, and could use some help.

Also, Harry and Diane McAlister have suggested that they would like to make the June 2009 Musical Program their last, and would like someone to work with them this year to learn the ropes.

There are a number of other places for members to step up and volunteer to organize some of the events that our Society produces each year. If you have an interest, contact any of the board members and we can put you in touch with the right person.

Yours, aye,
Bill

NEXT GATHERING

APRIL 10TH

SET-UP - 6:30 PM

BUSINESS MEETING - 7:30 PM

ENTERTAINMENT - 8:00 PM

NORTHWEST JUNIOR PIPE BAND

Please join us for our annual fundraiser dinner / party. The 2009 Northwest Junior Pipe Band Mothers' Day Eve Ceilidh. Saturday, May 9th, 5:00 to 9:00 PM. Lake City Way Elks, 14500 Bothell Way NE.

- * Pipers' Creek Celtic Ensemble
- * Karen Shelton Highland Dancers
- * The Bucketmen
- * Northwest Junior Pipe Band
- * more...

Tickets are \$40.00 adult, \$30.00 youth, 5 and under are free. Dinner, dancers, dessert auction, silent auction, and raffles. Last year's party was a lot of fun, and sold out. Tickets available online, or contact us to get a discount on a table of 8! <http://insider.nwjpb.org> is the place to purchase individual tickets. If you'd like to join the Caledonian table, we can get tickets for \$37.50 if we get them before the 20th of April. Please contact Diana Smith if you would like to join us. We need to get at least 8 people for the table price.

MORE NJPB NEWS:

On April 11th we will send two Grade 4 mini-bands to the British Columbia Pipers' Association Annual Gathering for our first competition of the year. Our season competition schedule and new roster is also available on our website; see Events and Members. NWJPB members truly appreciate your continuing support of our programs. We're updating our scholarship program this month, always buying new uniforms and instrument supplies, and we continue to keep band dues as low as possible, covering less than 15% of our budget, even though we continue to grow and add new programs and uniform requirements. Donations are always gladly accepted at www.nwjpb.org/merch using Paypal.

Be sure to visit our online store for our latest merchandise. Support piping & drumming and next month's Earth Day with this fun organic cotton "eco" T-shirt. www.cafepress.com/nwjpb.370714093

Support Wind Power -- Join a Pipe Band!

SOCIETY NEWS

The Caledonian Society has donated \$125 towards the NW Regional Highland Dance Championship for trophies and general support. In exchange we will be given a full page ad in their program.

RECORDING REVIEW

Julie Fowlis gave a concert in Bothell on a recent Saturday night. She is a young singer/instrumentalist from the Island of Uist in the Outer Hebrides who records exclusively in Gaelic. During the evening she sang, played Tin Whistle and at the end of the concert played the pipes. Her piping was very good even if her top hand fingering was a bit unconventional; she played with fingertips rather than finger pads. She and her 3 accompanists gave an excellent show and were well received and applauded by the audience.

For sale in the lobby was Julie's recording Dual (Gaelic for to twine, braid or coil) which is a collaboration with Irish singer Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh. This recording has quickly become a favorite and is recommended to all with an interest in Celtic Music.

Attention is directed to two especially good tracks:

Track 3 has the two performers each singing a Gaelic song then finishing the track with a rousing Tin Whistle duet. Julie's rendition of Tha 'm Buntata mor shows the pointed, sharp edged staccato of her Scots Gaelic diction while Muireann's performance of An Bairille in Irish has a nicely contrasting glissando. The Tin Whistle duet of Boc Liath nan gobhar will elicit toe taps from all but the most hard of hearing.

Track 8 is two renditions of Fenian Lays, an ancient story telling form which has disappeared in Ireland and is nearly extinct in Scotland. The track is quite hypnotic. The Lays are sung stories in contrast to songs which are sung poems. The Bagpipe drones are heard in the background throughout the track and the two Lays are bridged by several lines of Piobaireachd. Julie sings an ancient Lay called Duan na Muiligheartaich and Muireann sings Laoi na Mna Mora which the liner notes claim is likely much newer.

While these two tracks are especially good, the entire recording is a solid addition to any Celtic music collection and displays in strong, aural terms the underlying connectedness of the Scots and Irish cultures and similarities and uniqueness's of the two branches of Gaelic.

Submitted by Don Moore

[Ed Note: Julie has won a number of awards – Folk Singer of the Year, BBC 2 Folk Music Award 2008; Gaelic Singer of the Year, Scots Traditional Music Awards 2007; Album of the Year for "Cuilidh", Scots Traditional Music Awards 2007, amongst others. She sings in Scottish Gaelic; her songs are ancient Hebridean, harkening back to her roots in North Uist. For more information, please see: www.juliefowlis.com]

A Letter from the Editor Diana Smith

We enjoyed a wonderful presentation of Irish dancing last month, given by the Tara Academy of Irish Dance. Being a tap dancer, I'm always interested in Irish dance, as American tap is a derivative of step dancing. These students did a great job and I think we all got into the spirit for St. Patrick's Day. The evening began with a 10 minute presentation by Bob Parrish, Chairman of the Washington National Tartan Day Society, who talked about Tartan Day and its history. This was followed by the dancers, who did a number of soft shoe and hard shoe dances. It was pretty impressive, all those fancy steps and high kicks. After that, we had a little presentation from the Rev. Dr. Barry Keating, an Irish native from Belfast, who talked about Irish Celtic Culture and St. Patrick. All in all it was a very pleasurable evening.

This month we will be enjoying our own Tom Laurenson who will talk about tartans. We've enjoyed Tom before and his extensive knowledge of all things Scottish is well known. And a special announcement for May – Bronn Journey, the famous harpist, will be with us. These are two great programs to look forward to. In June, we'll have a June show featuring Kilmany, organized by Harry McAlister.

I do want to remind members of the volunteer nature of our society. It seems that the same people do the same jobs repeatedly, and there is the issue of burn-out. Volunteering is a bit of work and takes commitment, but it's very satisfying to know that one has contributed to the good of the society and the pleasure that we all derive from our activities. Right now we need people to help Christine and Allan with the raffle. They've been doing it for several years now. Also, we need new people to sign up to bring tea. The same ladies (and it's about 95% women) bring the tea and we need different people, who haven't volunteered before or lately, to chip in. And men – I know men can make sandwiches, too! We will also be looking to fill board positions later on this spring, and we need new points-of-view and ideas, new input. And, of course, the various Highland Games will be coming up in the summer, and we'll need folks to "man" the booths. So think about how you can help. Thanks a lot!

MEMBER NEWS

Please welcome these new members, who joined last month:

Ken & Nancy Wallace
14716 30th Ave NE
Shoreline, WA 98155
206-364-7118



SCOTTISH NEWS

GAELIC is endangered and needs help to survive the 21st century, according to a new report which puts it on a map of the world's dead and threatened languages.

Unesco, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, says half of the 6,700 languages spoken today are in danger of disappearing before the century ends, unless urgent action is taken by governments and speaker communities.

There were just 58,552 speakers of Gaelic left in the 2001 census. Unesco says a language is endangered when its speakers stop using it, or use it less often and stop passing it on to the next generation. Gaelic supporters say that the language has been suffering for many years but is undergoing a revival thanks to developments such as the Gaelic TV channel BBC Alba.

iPhone software baffled by Scottish accent – A google application released last November was designed to let iPhone users search the Internet with voice commands alone. But it became quickly apparent that the American-designed software was completely hopeless at understanding Scottish accents. When a Scottish user said “iPhone”, the software thought he said, “sex.” On a second try, the software heard “sledding”. It was even worse with Welsh accents, hearing “gorillas” and “kitchen sink” when the word iPhone was spoken.

Whisky Galore whisky auctioned – when in 1941 the SS Politician carrying 260,000 bottles of whisky ran aground off Eriskay, most of the whisky was lost, but some 20,000 bottles were rescued by local islanders. Although customs agents seized as many back as they could, there were still a lot missing. Last December a bottle of Ballantine, one of fewer than 20 still in the hands of collectors, was auctioned for £2,200.

A new **Centre for Diaspora Studies** has opened in Edinburgh to study the role of Scots around the world. This is the first program in the world for advanced study into Scottish emigration.

Travelodge has opened a new \$43-a-night hotel in Edinburgh, a half mile from the Haymarket Railway Station. The chain has three other hotels in Edinburgh, as well as in other cities in Scotland. www.travelodge.co.uk. Some specials are as low as \$28.50 a night.

Glasgow-London rail journey cut to 4 ½ hours – Due to new upgrades, Virgin Trains now only takes 4 ½ hours when going northbound, and just over 4 hours southbound, and will offer more direct trains than before. www.virgintrains.co.uk.

The palace of Robert the Bruce found - Historians and archaeologists claim to have found the remains of King Robert the Bruce's palace, lost for more than 700 years. The discovery is being hailed as one of the

most important in decades as it pinpoints the location of a monument many believe is as important to Scotland's history as Edinburgh Castle and Holyrood Palace. Beneath the Pillanflatt in Renton, in a run-down area of West Dunbartonshire, historians claim to have found a number of artefacts and foundations matching descriptions in ancient documents about the location of the king's home. Sections of masonry, plasterwork and mortar have been sent to the Scottish Lime Centre, where tests confirmed that the stone dates from the 14th century and is of a type used in the construction of a cathedral or chapel. “The 1362 charter states that Robert the Bruce resided between Kings Park of Cardross and the lands of Pillanflatt, bounding the lands of Dalquhurn,” said historian Stuart Smith, who has studied the Bruce family for 35 years. The foundations were uncovered when a building company began digging the field as part of preparations for the construction of 300 houses nearby. The buildings on the Pillanflatt, which means “pavilion of the great hero” and is said to stretch from Dalquhurn to Dalreoch, are believed to include the king's manor house, which had a 100ft grand hall, a queen's quarter and a chapel. Robert the Bruce is known to have lived in Renton from 1326 until his death in 1329. His organs were buried in Levensgrove Park in Dumbarton.

Scottish music – The second edition of John Purser's book, *Scotland's Music*, has been published. It covers the history of Scottish music from 800 BC to the present and contains more than 100 illustrations and over 250 musical examples, plus a bibliography and discography. In earliest times, the inhabitants of modern Scotland made music with natural stone whistles, modified bullhorns, and rocks that emitted a musical sound when hit the right way. Evidence of musical history comes from Pictish stone carvings depicting triangular harps and from folk tradition through song and poetry. There are many examples of music: the harp was used at the Battle of Harlaw in 1411 and the first mention of bagpipes is from 1509. There are also stories of royalty – it seems that John Knox applauded the way Edinburgh greeted Mary, Queen of Scots, with several hundred people playing fiddles and singing psalms. (published by Mainstream Publishing – ISBN 9781845961602; \$49.95 – it's available at discount from www.Amazon.com or Scottish-LifeMagazine.com)

The Bagpipe – At the new Culloden visitor's center is a bagpipe from 1746 that was found on the battlefield. It is a two-drone bagpipe with a tartan cover. It is two-droned because back then they didn't have a bass drone. The bass drone came in towards the end of the 18th century.

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SCOTTISH HUMOUR

Scotsman applied for admission to the New York City police force. The inspector glared at him and asked, "How would you dispense a large, unruly crowd?"

"Weel," replied the Scotsman, "I'm no too sure how ye do it here in New York, but in Aberdeen we just pass the hat around, and they soon begin to shuffle off."



A biology graduate student went to Borneo to take some samples for his thesis work. He flew there and found a guide with a canoe to take him up the river to the remote site where he would make his collections. About noon on the second day of travel up the river they began to hear drums. Being a city boy by nature, the biologist was disturbed by this. He asked the guide, "What are those drums?"

The guide turned to him and said, "Drums Ok, but Very Bad when they stop."

Well the biologist settled down a little at this, and things went reasonably well for about two weeks. Then, just as they were packing up the camp to leave, the drums suddenly stopped! This hit the biologist like a ton of bricks (to coin a phrase), and he yelled at his guide, "The drums have stopped! What happens now?"

The guide crouched down, covered his head with his hands and said, "Bagpipe Solo!"

Scottish News continued

Scottish classical music, known as **Ceol Mor** (or Great Music), was, at one time, the only serious music played on the great pipe. After Culloden it almost died out, but later came back into popularity. In 1902 the Piobaireachd Society was formed to preserve and recover as many of the old manuscripts as possible. Most piobaireachd are at least 200 years old and many are much older. Their names reflect the old Highland way of life. A piobaireachd is long – 10-15 minutes usually – and in competition must be played entirely from memory. Pipers have to pay great attention to accuracy and technique and judges listen for the subtle changes in tempo that mark the phrasing of a tune.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 10 - Caledonian-St. Andrew's Society gathering; 7:30; potential entertainment - Celtic harpists

April 11 – Laura Zaerr and Mick Doherty in concert; Celtic and classical music; 7:30 p.m., \$18; at Dusty Strings Acoustic Music Shop, 3406 Fremont Ave. N., Seattle. Tickets may be purchased in advance by visiting us or by calling 206-634-1662 or (toll free) 866-634-1662; <http://www.dustystings.com/shop/events.shtml#02Doherty>

May 2 – Scotch tasting gala, Hillcrest Lodge, Mt. Vernon, WA (www.CelticAret.org)

May 8 - Caledonian-St. Andrew's Society gathering; 7:30; Bronn Journey, harpist

May 15-17 – Celtic Woman at the Paramount; tickets are now on sale through Ticketmaster

May 16 – Comox Valley Highland Games, Courtenay BC

May 17 – Victoria Highland Games, Victoria, BC, <http://www.victoriahighlandgames.com/>

May 22-25 - Northwest Folklife Festival, Seattle Center; many Celtic groups entertain here (it's free)

June 6-7 – Bellingham Highland Games, Hovander Park, Ferndale, WA, <http://www.bellinghamhighland.org/>

June 12 – Caledonian-St. Andrew's Society gathering; 7:30; Scottish musical night featuring Kilmany

June 13 – Sons of Scotland Highland Games, Delta, BC,

June 20 – BC Legion Highland Games, Langley, BC

June 27 – Tacoma Highland Games, Graham, WA, www.tacomagames.org

June 27 – BC Highland Games, Port Coquitlam, BC

July 11-12 – Skagit Valley Highland Games, Edgewater Park, Mt. Vernon, WA, <http://www.celticarts.org/>

July 17-18 – Portland Highland Games, Gresham, OR, <http://www.phga.org/>

July 25 & 26 – Seattle Scottish Highland Games – Enumclaw, WA, <http://www.sshga.org/home.htm>

Aug 1 – Spokane Highland Games, Spokane, WA, <http://www.spokanehighlandgames.org/>

Aug. 8 – Whidbey Island Highland Games, Greenbank, WA

Aug 15-16 – Winston Highland Games, Winston, OR

Aug. 15 – World Pipe Band Championships, Glasgow, Scotland

Aug. 29 – World Highland Dance Championships, Cowal, Scotland

SCOTTISH HISTROY

The earliest evidence of people in Scotland is dated to about 8,500 BC, but the earliest known written reference to Britain is found in the works of the Greek philosopher Aristotle (384-322 BC), in which the larger island (Britain) is called Albinn (the Latin name is Albion). To the Greeks Albinn was the name applied to Scotland, England and Wales and the smaller island they called Ierne (Ireland). In the ancient work known as 'De Mundo' it is written, 'Beyond the Pillars of Hercules is the ocean which flows round the earth and in it are two very large islands called Britannia, viz., Albinn and Ierne'. The Scots were well known to the ancient civilisations, there is even a Latin inscription on the walls of one of the Christian Catacombs in Rome that reads, 'Quid Scoti hic fuerunt' - which translates as 'Some Scots exist here' i.e. 'The Scots were here'. The old language spoken in much of Scotland in ancient times is Gaelic, and the Gaelic name for Scotland to this day is Alba - similar to the Greek Albinn. The Greeks called the people of Albinn

'Albiones', which in Greek translates as 'white people', (same root word as Albinos). Some scholars think that the Greeks and Romans possibly got the name from the Gauls (the French), in whose Celtic language Alba or Albion would mean 'mountain land' or 'white land' from 'alp' meaning 'high' or 'white'. If that were true, then the name Alba (Albion) is possibly related to a Celtic root word that gave the name to the dominant mountain range in Europe - the Alps.

GHOSTS IN SCOTLAND?

Who would have guessed? A car park at Edinburgh Airport has been chosen as the third-best in Britain, while one at Culloden Moor has been placed tenth - and also the most haunted. Judges praised the airport car park for its security, generous parking-bay widths and lack of broken glass. The survey for AA Insurance found the car park at the Culloden battlefield, near Inverness, to be the most haunted, because it is rumoured to be home to the ghosts of slaughtered soldiers. The survey said: "The car park is surrounded by grassy mounds with spooky views across the moors."

DUES ARE DUE!

If you haven't paid, please do so now so that you can be included in the new directory. Mail your checks (and any change in address or phone) to Denise Chitwood, 8225 Bagley N., Seattle, 98103.

RAFFLE

Thank you to everyone who donated to the March raffle. We didn't get all the names, unfortunately, and we're working on raffling getting items that were donated previously. But thank you to you all! You know who you are and that we are very appreciative of your contributions.

[We are asking for some help on the raffle. If you are interested in helping, please contact Allan or Christine.]

TEA REPORT

We were blessed with a Spring bounty of sandwiches and desserts at the March Caledonian meeting. Thanks to those who signed up to be tea volunteers: Susie Kinghorn and Frances Crews, as well as those who stepped up to the plate to help fill the 'third' position: Annette Mentzer, Bonnie Munro, Kim Cambern (who baked some tasty Forfar Bridies right on the premises), Margaret Russell and Shelley Butchart. All are great cooks/bakers and we were definitely the beneficiaries!

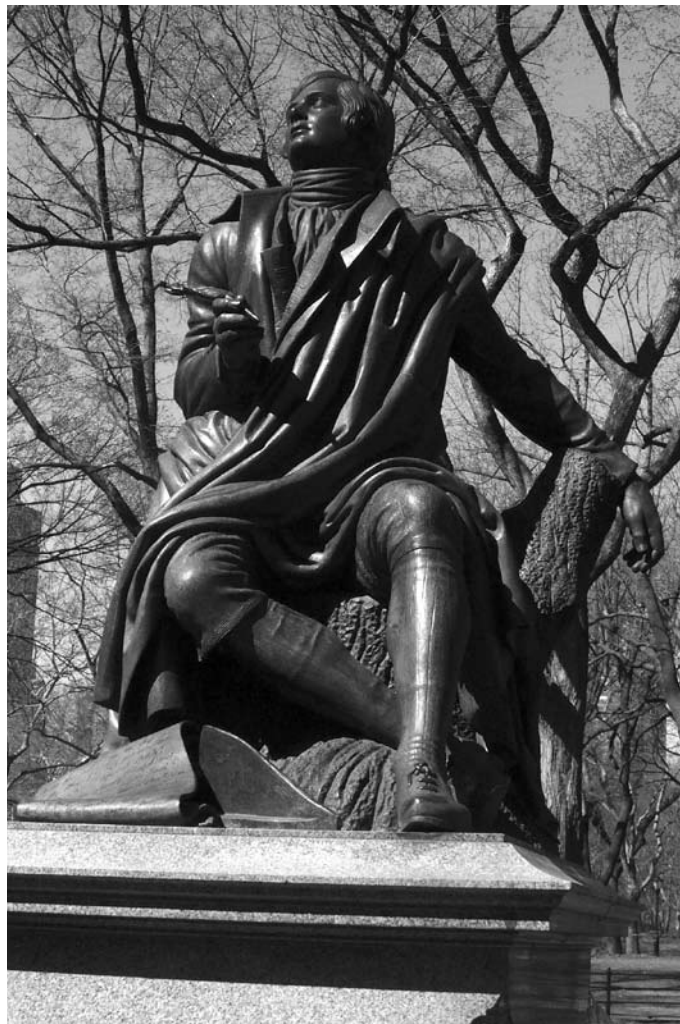
Many thanks to Bonnie Munro who always makes our meetings so festive with her creative decorations (a Spring/Green/St. Patrick's theme through and through), as well as to Shelley Butchart for all her hard work in the kitchen, seeing to it that we enjoy our treats with coffee and tea, including her Southern iced tea!!

We look forward to our April tea which will be provided by members Jan Alexander, Bill McFadden and Cathy Osborn. Also, looking forward to the final gathering of the year, the June Show on June 12th, we definitely need a larger crew contributing to the tea. Several of our members have already been tea volunteers twice and even three times. Bonnie and I would very much appreciate hearing from other members who do attend the meetings and would be willing to provide sandwiches and/or dessert for the evening! We are a volunteer Society and the success of these gatherings is dependent on everyone helping out in whatever way they are able. Please call Diane at 206-284-1094 or email her at sassythistle@gmail.com.

CALEDONIAN DANCERS

The Caledonian dancers meet every Monday (except major holidays and in August) at 7:00 at the Phinney Neighborhood Center, 6532 Phinney Ave. N., in the brick building, room 31. Donation of \$5.00 is suggested to defray the rent cost. Come and learn Scottish country dancing! Questions? Ask Victoria Johnson (victoria@seanet.com or 206-321-4980) or Fraser MacLeod (fraser509@hotmail.com or 206-527-7032).

THE GATHERING



This might be a good year to go to Scotland. The exchange rate is terrific (\$1.43 at this writing). There are hundreds of events planned right through the summer.

The year of Homecoming marks the 250th birth of Robert Burns. Everyone has their view on Scotland's national poet, but few would argue that his name is always a good excuse for a party and that we all need a good party or two this year.

The Gathering, the biggest event of the year will see a gathering of the clans like never before in Scotland. Visitors from all over the world will descend on Scotland for a clan march down the Royal Mile in Edinburgh, a spectacular Heavy Highland Games amid a tented clan village in Holyrood Park.

Some of the fun events in which one can participate are dances, theatre events, golf, the Edinburgh Tattoo, book festivals, historical presentations, poetry competitions, and much more including the planting of 10,000 trees to commemorate Scotland's greatest ever international gathering of the clans. For more information, see: clangathering.org

Speaking of Robert Burns, your editor just returned from a week in New York City, and was pleasantly surprised to see, in Central Park, a statue of Burns. He's in a group of statues of famous writers, including Sir Walter Scott and Shakespeare. The sculpture was made in 1880 by Sir John Steell and was a gift from an association of Scottish-Americans. Burns is Seated on a tree stump with a quill pen in one hand. This statue is one of many located at Literary Walk in Central Park.

NATIONAL IDENTITY

The Scots are a race who are related to, but distinct from the English, so you must never call a Scottish person English - as this is almost universally taken as an insult. Some of the tribe known as the Angles (a Germanic people of the northern lowlands), invaded and settled in the east of central Scotland, especially around Edinburgh (the Capital of Scotland), but the vast majority of Angles invaded further south, giving the land its present day name of England (Angleland). Evidence of the Angle name in Scotland exists in places like Ingliston (Angles Town) in Edinburgh and in people with the family name Ingles (Angles). Although the English have claimed the Angles as their own (e.g. as in the term Anglo/Saxon), it should be remembered that just as the Angles invaded and settled south of the border, becoming English, so some of

them invaded Scotland and settled to become Scottish. Today the Scottish Nation is made of ancient Britons, Picts, Scots, Gaels, Angles, Danes and Norse (Vikings) - in Lewis in the Hebrides over one hundred villages still have Norse names. The English Nation is closely related, being made from the ancient Britons, Belgae (Celts known as the Iron Age C people), Romans, Saxons, Angles, Jutes, Franks, Danes and Norse. Later, central Scotland and especially England had mixtures of Norman blood (a Norse/Celtic people from Normandy in France). We all owe the tribe of Scottish/English people called Angles a great debt, for from them came our language called English. This is one of the major reasons why Scottish people today speak Angle (English) - though we are definitely a distinct people from those who are called English.



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

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 27278
Seattle WA 98165-1778

Dancing:

Mondays, 7 p.m. at The Phinney Ridge Community Center. For information call Fraser 206-784-5943

Gatherings:

When - Second Friday of each month except July, August and September.

Where - Lake City Presbyterian Church
3841 N.E. 123rd St. Seattle WA.

Directions - From Lake City Way proceed east on 123rd to 40th. Park in the Church parking lot.

Time - Set-up at 6.30 p.m.
Social Hour at 7:00 p.m.
Business meeting at 7:30 p.m.
Entertainment and raffle at 8:00 p.m.

Visit us on the Web: www.caledonians.com

BOARD MEMBERS - CALEDONIAN & ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY OF SEATTLE

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FUN, ANYONE?

The Board have discussed the idea of staying after the Gatherings for music and fellowship, dancing, whatever. This is an invitation to stay after for further fellowship for those that are interested. The Society used to do this in the old days, so we'd like to start up again. We would like to let people to know each other better, and have some FUN together! Susan Walker and Denise Chitwood will be organizing this – if you want to help, let them know.

The **HEATHER BELL** staff:

Diana Smith - Editor

Don Moore - Publisher

Walter and Margaret Russell - Mailing

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