



Editor's Comments

Fàilte mo chàirdean

(Faal-cha mow harsh-din / Welcome, my friends)

It's April, which means Tartan Day is this Saturday(6th). In case you didn't know, the US Congress recognized this day in recognition of the impact Scotland's Declaration of Arbroath had in the drafting of the US Declaration of Independence. We have organized an event to publicize this day. Check out the events section for more information.

We are always looking to build our membership in order to keep it alive and thriving. If you know anyone with a Scottish background, or just someone who may be interested, why not invite them to one of our monthly meetings. Guests are always welcome, so invite away!

If you have any news or items you would like included in the newsletter, then you can contact me at shawfield27@gmail.com. It can be anything at all, but should have a Scottish element, or be related to a member.

If there are other items you would like to see in the newsletter, then please let me know.

Tapadh Leibh

(Tapa leev - Thank you)

Derek

Stone Of Destiny Moves To New Home

Scotland's Stone of Destiny, used as part of the coronation chair for British Monarchs, has found a new home in Perth, in what was once a music venue. Perth Museum rises as a phoenix from the ashes of what was City Hall, a music venue which had hosted bands such as The Kinks, Cream, and The Who.

The building lay empty for 15 years, and was originally earmarked for demolition before the proposal to convert it into the museum. The project received £27M in funding to convert the building to what we see now.

The Stone of Scone, as it is also known, takes center stage with an animated presentation telling visitors of its storied history, and its return to Perthshire after being seized by King Edward I of England, over 700 years ago. Security is paramount, as it has had its share of removals, most recently, by Scottish students in 1950, who broke in and returned the Stone to Scotland, albeit briefly.

The museum has over 3,000 artifacts on display, with entrance being free to all. Among the exhibits include the Carpow Logboat, excavated from the River Tay, and estimated to be 3,000 years old, a sword belonging to Bonnie Prince Charlie, a silk doublet from the 1620's, carved Pictish crosses supplied with interpretations, as well as a child's shoe left behind from the Highland Clearances.



Coronation Chair and Stone



City Hall in its Heyday

Scotland's latest museum is sure to win over many people, both local and foreign, who may have skipped past Perth on their way to another attraction. I would say, if you have the chance, don't miss out

MONTHLY MEETING

Attendees are welcome to bring along any snacks, finger food, desserts, etc. Soft drinks are also provided at all meetings, although you can bring your own if you prefer. If you can't bring a snack, bring a friend, although we'd like both!

Sunday, April 14, 2024

Venue – Jackson Avenue Evangelical Church,
(Audry Reich Hall-at rear of building)
2221 Chippewa St, New Orleans, 70130

Time – 2:00-4:00pm

Program- Pubs & Distilleries of Scotland /
Presentation of New prospective Board Members

Information – Derek Ewart will give a presentation on the two most important things to a Scotsman: beer and whisky! We will also see the nominations of new board members for the coming two-year period.

Sunday, May 19, 2024

Venue – Jackson Avenue Evangelical Church,
(Audry Reich Hall-at rear of building)
2221 Chippewa St, New Orleans, 70130

Time – 2:00-4:00pm

Program- Jacobite Women Who Supported Bonnie Prince Charlie / Annual General Meeting

Information – This will be an interactive presentation on female historical figures during Charles Stuart's failed rebellion.

June, 2024

Venue – TBA

Time – TBA

Program- End of Year Party

Information – Join us as we celebrate the end of another CSoNO season. More information to follow.

Member and Society News

If you have any member news to include in the newsletter, please contact me by email at shawfield27@gmail.com. No information is too

small--we're happy to hear of our members' exploits.

Festivals & Games

Scottish Tartan Festival will be in Minden on April 20th. In addition to live music and dancing, there will also be a March of the Clans, Kirking of the Tartans, storytelling, broadsword demo, and various craft exhibits. Children under 5 go free, with ages 6-11 being \$5, and adults paying \$10. Anyone interested can get more details at www.scottishtartanfestival.com/

Blairsville, GA, is the venue for the **Blairsville Scottish Festival**, being held on June 8th & 9th. This two-day event will feature highland games, entertainment, pipes & drums, demonstrations, as well as having activities for children. Tickets range from \$10-\$25, depending on the day and weekend discounts, while children under 10 are free. See more at <https://blairvillescottishfestival.com/>

The **Dunedin Highland Games & Festival** takes place in Dunedin, FL, on April 6th. Attendees will witness Athletic, Piping, and Dancing competitions, while being supplied with live music, workshops and other activities. If you're interested, please go to www.dunedinsafoundation.com/

Events

The **Caledonian Society of New Orleans** will be presenting its first Tartan Day exhibit on Saturday, April 6th. Entitled "An Afternoon in Scotland", the event will be held at the Jefferson Parish East Bank Regional Library, with the event running from 1-4pm. Various interactive stations allow you to take a trip through Scotland, ranging from clans, pubs, food, and history. This is a free event, so just turn up on the day and look for our signs.

Kilts of Many Colours is hosting a pipeband workshop for pipers and drummers. Taking place on April 13, from 8am-5pm, at Covington Presbyterian Church, attendees will learn many ways to improve their skills. The workshop costs \$15 per person, but the tutor, Andrew Hahn, will be available for private lessons the two days prior to the workshop. For more information, go to <https://kilts of many colours.com/workshop.html>

Daughters of the British Empire will be hosting a British Afternoon Tea at Longue Vue House & Gardens, on Saturday April 20th, from 2:00pm – 4:00pm. Seating is limited, so it is suggested that interested parties should make reservations. Tickets for the event are \$35, for to-go, or \$40 to dine in person. Call 504-909-4115, or email to bcalz75@gmail.com

Scottish Country Dancing classes, hosted by Wendy Grubb, take place at Carrollton United Methodist Church. This is a great way to exercise your brain and your body. Classes run every Friday, unless otherwise stated, beginning at 7pm. Entrance is via Freret St. For more information call Wendy on 504-957-0251, or email at wgrubb52@gmail.com.

Have you ever considered learning to play the bagpipes? If so, now is your chance. Pipe band **Kilts of Many Colours** has bagpipe lessons running every Monday, from 6-9pm, at Chafunkta Brewing Company at 69069 Sky Brook Rd, Mandeville. Lessons are free. Learn more at, <https://www.facebook.com/events/1325294228348193/1325294718348144/>

Interested in learning how to use the traditional Scottish broadsword? Sam Irving, a certified fencing instructor, runs the **Caledonian Broadsword Academy** here in New Orleans. In addition to the broadsword, you will also practice with Singlestick, Rapier, Saber, Longsword, and, ultimately, the steel Broadsword. At present, this is only open to people aged 18 and up. Walk-ins are not allowed, so please complete the application form on the following website before attending any classes. <https://broadswordno.com/>

Daughters of the British Empire has created a new chapter here in New Orleans. Eligible Caledonian ladies are invited to join the Edinburgh Chapter. Eligibility for DBE requires British or Commonwealth birth or ancestry, or being married to a man of British or Commonwealth birth or ancestry. Interested ladies should contact Betty Calzada at bcalz75@gmail.com or 504-909-4115.

Yearly Dues

The Society relies on dues and donations to continue to operate. Once again, member fees have not increased this year. The fees are low: Family - \$25, Individuals - \$20, and students - \$10. If you plan on attending the next meeting, you can bring a check. Alternatively, you can send a payment to Wendy Grubb at Caledonian Society, 8131 Cohn St., New Orleans, LA 70118. Anyone wishing to confirm their status can also email wgrubb52@gmail.com.

If you are currently receiving our newsletter on our courtesy list, why not consider upgrading to become a member. As you can see, the fees are low and you will receive news of all events and invitations and receive advance booking opportunities.

Newsletter

CSoNO members receive this newsletter by e-mail or post. A complimentary e-mail newsletter is also sent to non-members who have expressed an interest, so if you know of someone who would like to be on this list, please send their information for inclusion in the courtesy e-mail group. All mass e-mails are sent to recipients “bcc” for privacy.

Social Media

The Society has a website with many links and gallery pictures for everything Scottish! In case you haven't seen the site yet, all you need to do is click on, or copy and paste the following link: <http://www.caledoniansocietyofneworleans.com/>.

The site also has a very useful resources page, where you will find almost everything you could think of needing. This has links that can help you with ancestry, heraldry, and even learning more about Scottish Gaelic(gaa-lik).



Have you checked out our Facebook page? If not, then you're in the minority. You can find us by looking for “Caledonian Society of New Orleans,” and hit the like button to follow us.

March's top post was a close run thing, with four posts all within 2 views of each other. The top, however, was March 4th, where we asked for everyone's favorite place in Scotland. Why not let us know what type of posts you would like to see on our page? Informative, educational, humorous? We want to engage with everyone, so please like, comment, and share our posts. That way, we can reach more people.

Time For Gaelic

Halò agus fàilte a h uile duine! Ciamar a tha cuisean an diugh? Toilichte no brònach? Obh obh, dìreach ionnsaiachibh Gàidhlig agus bi toilichte! Tha i spòrsail agus fallain math dhut.

Hands up, who's learning Gaelic? Did you start and then give up? I won't deny that it's a tricky language to learn, but then again, all languages are difficult. By learning, you are keeping an endangered language alive, and also exercising your brain. So why not give it a try, even just to say "To good health," or "Welcome." Who knows, you may enjoy talking like Yoda! (If you're learning, then you'll know what I mean.)



This month, I'm going to give you some fun words, and their literal meaning. Maybe you'll get a kick out of them.

- taigh beag** – *tie bay-k* - little house, aka toilet
- bròg na cuthaige** – *bro-ok na koo-ay-ka* – shoe of the cuckoo, aka bluebell
- amar snàimh** – *aa-mar sny-eve* – swimming tub, aka swimming pool
- leann ubhal** – *you-nn oo-aal* – apple beer, aka cider
- tìr mòr** – *cheer more* – big land, aka continent
- cearc fhraoich** – *key-erk roo-ee* – heather chicken/moor hen, aka grouse

As you can see, there are many interesting literal interpretations that are quite descriptive. Some are funny, while others are rather strange. These 'quirks' can become a fun part of learning, and they

sometimes create good word associations for learners like myself.

Don't forget to check out these learning apps.



Bluebird | Duolingo | Mango | uTalk

In addition to these apps, you can also find useful resources on the following sites,
<https://www.learnghaelic.net/>
<https://www.fluentin3months.com/scottish-gaelic/>
<https://go-gaelic.scot/>
<https://www.youtube.com/c/GaelicwithJason>

If you have tried learning Gaelic and are struggling, then why not get in touch with me at shawfield27@gmail.com. I have been learning (or trying to learn, lol!) since November 2019, and, with the inclusion of Gaelic in the newsletter, have had to become a teacher too. Who knows, there may be enough people to start a support group!!

Castles Of Scotland

Name: Dumbarton Castle
Location: Dumbarton
Year Built: Early 13th Century
Clan Affiliation: N/A



When you first look at pictures of Dumbarton Castle, your eyes are drawn not to the castle, but 18th century fortifications and governor's house, built below. The castle in fact, or what remains, sits atop a huge volcanic rock, or plug to give it the

correct term. Although the current castle was constructed in 1220, there has been some form of fortress here since the 1st century. The first recorded note of a settlement was in the 5th century, when St. Patrick complained about the locals disrupting his missionary efforts. It is even claimed that Merlin once stayed here. The area has long been considered a stronghold, having faced attacks from Vikings, Picts, and Northumbrians.

Alexander II decided that defenses must be improved, due to Norwegian threats, and commissioned a castle to be constructed. In 1305, warden of the castle, John Menteith, imprisoned William Wallace prior to being sent to London for his execution. When David II lost to the English in 1333, at the Battle of Halidon Hill, he is said to have sailed to France from here. The castle also faced a siege in 1425 when the Stewarts of Albany, who had imprisoned James I on treason charges, attacked the pro-crown residents.

Through the years, the castle continued to play an important role, including when James V circumnavigated Scotland, with Dumbarton being the final point, and thus created the first modern map of Scotland. In 1544, the Earl of Lennox, Lord of the castle, switched allegiances to England, and, trying to strengthen ties through marriage, offered the castle and Isle of Bute, while trying to prevent Mary, Queen of Scots, ascending to the throne. News spread of his scheme, and his lands were soon forfeited.

Over the next few centuries, more improvements were made, while the castle still retained its military use until 1941, when German aircraft bombed the rock during WWII. Today the castle is now in the care of Historic Environment Scotland. There is so much more history that I can't fit in, so I suggest you look up Dumbarton Castle for more astonishing information.

Distilleries Of Scotland

Name: Edradour
Location: Pitlochry, Perthshire
Whisky Region: Highland
Whisky Type: Single Malt
Website: www.edradour.com

Edradour, Gaelic for 'between two rivers', sits close to the ruins of Lindores Abbey, regarded as the birthplace of whisky. The monk John Cor, is the first to be recorded as purchasing malt to make 'aqua vite', the first mention of the water of life. As such, what better place to create Scotland's smallest distillery?



Although created in 1837 by a farmers consortium, one of the members, Duncan Forbes, most likely played a huge role in the new distillery, having already produced whisky in the past, both legally and illegally.

Despite its small size, Edradour made it through the hard times, with the consortium being unchanged until 1886, when the McIntosh family bought out the rest of the group. They themselves then sold the distillery in 1933, to William Whitely, a well known whisky blender. Just five years earlier, he had created the Kings Ransom brand, considered the most expensive whisky of its day.

Adding Edradour's unique flavors to the mix, it was a huge hit in Prohibition USA, where his 'distribution partner' was, soon to be mafia boss, Frank Costello. When Whitely retired, hopefully voluntarily, it was Costello 'associate,' Irving Haim, who became owner, with this arrangement lasting until he died in 1976.

Pernod Ricard bought the distillery six years later and, shortly after, released an Edradour single malt. In 2002, saw local independent company, Signatory Village, buy the property, who then set about upgrading the production. Since then, they have expanded their portfolio with various Ballechin brands, as well as several special editions now available for purchase.

Just For Fun

Are our Scottish trivia questions making y'all more knowledgeable? I certainly hope so! Here are last month's answers.

1. Where would you find the Museum of Scottish Lighthouses? **Fraserburgh**
2. What is the most northerly point of land in Scotland? **Dunnet Head**
3. Where did Mary, Queen of Scots spend her final night on Scottish soil? **Dundrennan Abbey**
4. The city of Aberdeen enjoyed an economic boom in the 1970s and 80s as a result of which industry? **Oil**
5. What is the name of the village that is famous for marrying eloping couples? **Gretna Green**

Now for this month's teasers.

1. In which year did James VI of Scotland inherit the English throne as James I of England?
2. Where does The West Highland Way begin and end?
3. Which Fife town was once famous for the manufacture of linoleum?
4. Where did the poet Robert Burns intend on migrating to in 1786?
5. In which year was the first ever recorded land sighting of the Loch Ness monster?

I'm Fixin' To

When you live in Louisiana you know that a favorite topic here is either eating, talking about eating, or talking about eating while eating, and not necessarily talking about what you're eating!

Potato Scones

Potato scones, or tattie scones, is a Scottish breakfast and lunch staple. Like many traditional Scottish recipes this uses basic ingredients which were always at hand.



Ingredients:

Half pound (225g) boiled and mashed potatoes
2.5oz (65g) flour
3 tablespoons melted butter
Half teaspoon salt

Method:

Mash the potatoes while they are still warm and add the butter and salt. Add in enough flour to make it a pliable dough but without making it too dry. The type of potato will affect this.

Turn out onto a floured surface and roll until about quarter of an inch thick. Cut into six inch circles and then into quarters. Prick all over with a fork and cook in a heavy pan which has been lightly greased. Cook each side for about three minutes or until golden brown. If you want to really add the calories, put cheese between two scones and cook until the cheese has melted.

We hope you have enjoyed this month's newsletter. Our aim is to educate and entertain, as well as keep our members informed and up-to-date on all things Scottish.

Tioraidh an-dràsta!

(Chee-ree an draa-sta)

(Bye just now)