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Comedy Corner



Italian Link Is Still Strong In Orkney

World War II may have ended 80 years ago, but a connection made between Italian prisoners of war and Orcadians has remained, being as strong as ever. In February 1942, with the threat of German U-boats in the waters, Winston Churchill had 1,000 Italian prisoners transferred to Orkney in order to help build sea defenses. Soon after, Letizia Chiocchetti requested a place of worship be constructed. The request was granted, and he began designing what is now called "The Italian Chapel".



Chiocchetti was allowed to work full time on the project, once his talent as an artist was known. Other prisoners were also seconded for this project, meaning they would miss out on the arduous task of creating stone barriers as originally intended. A highlight of the interior is the Madonna and Child painting adorning the alter wall, the inspiration coming from a prayer card his mother had given him before heading off to war.



When Italy surrendered in 1943, the now former prisoners were in a predicament: Germany's control of their country meant they could not be immediately repatriated, thus spending the remainder of the war in Orkney. This allowed new friendships to grow and thrive, with one Italian reverting to his previous career as a barber on the island, with many Orcadians receiving hair cuts from him.

John Muir was just 8-yrs old when Chiocchetti began his work, and had created a strong bond with his family, having visited his home town of Moena twelve times. As honorary President of The Friends of the Italian Chapel for over 30 years, he has taken over the preservation work from Mr. Chiocchetti who passed away in 1999. Here's hoping that this landmark continues to be preserved for future generations.

MONTHLY MEETING

Attendees are welcome to bring along any snacks, finger foods, desserts, etc. Soft drinks are 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, September 14, 2025

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

Time – 2:00-4:00pm

Program- Welcoming Our New Members

Information – We welcome our most recent new members as the Society season kicks off again. If you're a new member, then we encourage you to attend and get to know everyone. This is a pot luck, so we encourage everyone to bring a dish, Scottish if possible.

Sunday, October 12, 2025

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

Time – 2:00-4:00pm

Program- Quiz Afternoon

Information – Derek Ewart will be the quizmaster checking your Scottish knowledge. Attendees can win prizes, so don't miss out. Start cramming now!

Sunday, November 9, 2025

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

Time – 2:00-4:00pm

Program- Movie Afternoon

Information – Get settled in with some popcorn as we watch a popular Scottish movie. We have a choice of three movies, so the highest vote wins. Voting starts now! What will it be?

1. Greyfriars Bobby
2. Brave
3. Whisky Galore

Saturday, December 14, 2025

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

Time – 2:00-4:00pm

Program- Christmas Party/Toys for Tots Appeal

Information – In addition to our Christmas pot luck party- please bring a festive dish- we are also calling for donations to help this deserving cause. More information will be available soon on how we are coordinating this drive.

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.

Flowers of the Forest

We would like to express our sympathies to Society member **Debora Hadeen**, who lost her mother, **Betsy Rizzuto**, in May of this year. Although Debora is a new member, we are here for her should she need us.

Festivals & Games

The 4th **KoE Celtic Heritage Festival** will be on September 20th at Kiwanis Park, Ponchatoula, from 9am-7pm. In addition to food, music, and a Men in Kilts Dance Off! Children also have their fun zone, which includes the Chick-Fil-A cow. Find out more at <https://www.kreweoferin.com/home>

The **Northeast Louisiana Celtic Festival** takes place on Saturday, October 4th, at Lazzarre Park, West Monroe. Admission is \$5, with the event running from 9am to 3:30pm. Attendees will be treated to live music, highland games, as well as kids getting to participate in hands on events. Just go to <https://www.facebook.com/NELACelticFest> to find out more.

CelticFest Mississippi will be at "Bobby Cleveland Park at Lakeshore", Brandon, MS, from October 11-12th, 2025. There will be a wide range of events for attendees, including the 2025 Scottish Masters World Championship for heavy athletics. The

musical lineup also includes Scottish band Albannach. More information can be found at, <https://celticfestms.org/wp/>.

The **53rd Stone Mountain Highland Games and Scottish Festival** takes place October 17-19, 2025, at Stone Mountain, Georgia. This is considered one of the largest highland games in the US, and hosts a wide range of options for visitors: seminars and talks, piping and athletic competitions, live music, children's activities, ceilidh, and exhibit stands. Further information can also be found on their page, <https://www.smhg.org/index.php>.

The Harrison County Fairgrounds in Gulfport, MS, is the home of the **Scottish Highland Games & Celtic Music Festival**. Taking place on Nov 8-9, it now enters it's 40th year, the event offers all kinds of activities, including a cultural tent, clan information, Irish dancing, jousting, as well as the typical highland games events. If interested in attending, please find more information at <https://www.mshighlandsandislands.com/>

Events

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**, offers bagpipe lessons running every Monday, from 6-9 p.m., 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/>

Yearly Dues

The Society relies on dues and donations to continue to operate. Non-payment will result in a cancellation of membership, meaning you miss out on all advance notice for invitations and ticketed events, such as whisky tastings, Burns Supper, etc. You can pay by check, cash, or online at our website, www.CaledonianSocietyofNewOrleans.com

Anyone wishing to confirm their status can also email Bob Grubb at rgrubb6@gmail.com. Don't miss out, make sure you're up to date with your dues. If you are currently receiving our newsletter on our courtesy list, why not consider upgrading to become a member. The fees are low and you will receive news of all events and invitations, and receive advance booking opportunities.

Newsletter

CSO NO 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 go to <http://www.caledoniansocietyofneworleans.com/>.



The site also has a very useful resources page, where you will find almost everything you could think of needing. Have you checked out our other social media pages? If not, then you're in the minority. We're now on Instagram and TikTok! You can find

us by looking for “Caledonian Society of New Orleans,” and hit the like or follow button. This summer’s most popular post was in August, asking if people knew that the thistle is the world’s oldest recorded national flower. We also had a lot of views of our summer end of year party pictures.

Why not let us know what type of posts you would like to see on our page. We want to engage with everyone, so please like, comment, and share our posts whenever you see them, that way we can reach more people.

Time For Gaelic

Fàilte air ais, mo chairdean! Ciamar a tha sibh an t-samhradh agaibh? An robh sibh gabh saor-là, no fuirich aig dachaigh?

A bheil sibh deiseal gu ionnsachadh Gàidhlig? Sgoinneal. Tiugainn!



Summer came and went faster than normal, don’t you think? Did you tell yourself you would try and learn some Gaelic before the Society season started back? Don’t worry about starting, I had a long break from Gaelic over the summer and recently began again, starting from Lesson 1. So, with that in mind, let’s start the new season with some easy reminders. Let’s start with basic introductions and work our way up.

Fàilte – *faal-cha* – Welcome

Madainn mhath – *Mad-een va* – Good morning

Feasgar math – *Fes-kar maa* – Good afternoon

Oidhche mhath – *Oy-cha va* - Bye

Halò – *hal-low* - Hello

Is mise – *iz mi-sha* – I am

Cò thusa – *ko oo-sa* – who are you?

Ciamar a tha thu? *keemer a ha oo* – How are you?

Tha mi gu math – *Ha me goo maa* – I am well

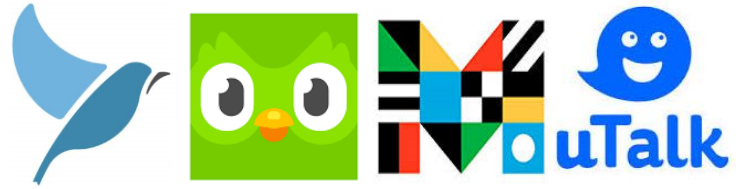
Agus tu? – *ag-oo too* – And you?

Gu math, tapadh leat – *Goo maa, tap-a leet* – Well, thank you.

Tha thu mo charaid – *ha oo moe car-aich* – You are my friend

Tioraidh – *Chee-ree* - Bye

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/>

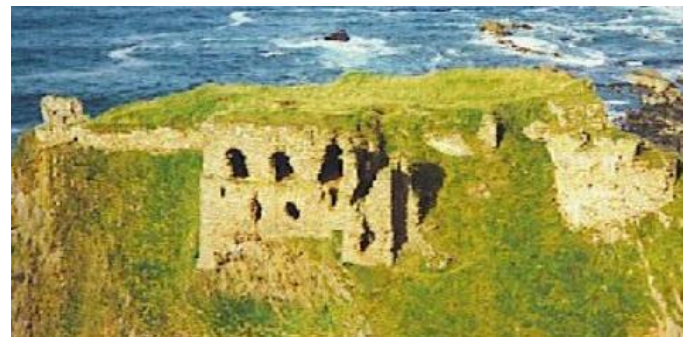
<https://www.fluentin3months.com/scottish-gaelic/>

<https://go-gaelic.scot/>

<https://www.youtube.com/c/GaelicwithJason>

Castles Of Scotland

Name:	Findlater Castle
Location:	Sandend, Aberdeenshire
Year Built:	Early 13th Century
Clan Affiliation:	Ogilvy



The first documented mention of Findlater was in 1246, with its inclusion in the Exchequer Rolls that year. These were basically financial audits commissioned by the ruling king of the time. King Alexander III oversaw defensive upgrades in the 1260’s, as he prepared for an invasion by Norway’s King Haakon IV. Despite these efforts, Haakon’s forces occupied the castle until his defeat at the Battle of Largs.

It was not until the late 14th century that rebuilding work began, with inspiration for the new design coming from Roslyn Castle. Walter Ogilvy was granted royal permission in 1455, allowing him to strengthen the fortifications in order to make this the family stronghold and seat of power.

In 1545, Alexander Ogilvy disinherited his son, James, after finding he had plotted to imprison his father and force land rights to be signed over. John Gordon benefitted from the failed betrayal, and married James' mother after his father's death in 1554, thus securing his claim to the estate. It was later determined that this was a forced marriage, and in 1562, James and John fought publicly in Edinburgh, resulting in a brief detention for both men.

With the War of the Three Kingdoms raging, the Gordon clan supported the English crown, resulting in Mary, Queens of Scots, besieging Findlater. Her forces prevailed, which saw John Gordon being executed, and she restored James Ogilvy as laird.

His descendant, also named James, was given the title 1st Earl of Findlater in 1638, and he began the building of Cullen House, which would see the family move out soon after. His death in 1653 saw the now little used castle fall into disrepair. The ruins we see today are a result of almost 400 years of neglect. It is said the ghost of a nursemaid roams Findlater. The rumor is that a child she had been nursing squirmed out of her arms near a window. An attempt to catch the baby saw her fall to her death, and now she is forever searching for the lost child.

Distilleries Of Scotland

Name: Glengoyne
Location: Dumgoyne, Stirlingshire
Whisky Region: Highland
Whisky Type: Single Malt
Website: www.glengoyne.com



George Connell secretly began operating an illicit still at Burnfoot Farm in 1820, having learned the "trade" from his grandfather. He decides to legally distill whisky in 1833, following a decrease in the

cost of distillation licenses, and christens the distillery "Burnfoot". Not only does he use local fuel rather than "importing" his peat, Connell also signs a 99-yr lease on the land, which also includes his ability to have full control of the water from the nearby burn.

With business booming, Lang Brothers Company buys the distillery in 1876, and the name changes to Glen Guin. Unfortunately, the clerk registering the name change accidentally writes a more Gaelic name rather than the intended Glengoyne. It is not until 1906 that the name changes to the one originally intended.

A fierce storm in 1888, destroyed the warehouse, with people witnessing casks floating down a swollen River Endrick. The only casks returned are strangely empty or broken. Despite this setback, Glengoyne makes it through the whisky crash and continues to grow in stature and demand. In 1899, their distillery manager drowns in the estate's loch, with rumors suggesting he had taken one too many drams. Some say his ghost still walks the grounds.

The Robertson & Baxter Group acquire the site in 1965, and then begin a massive overhaul of the distillery, which triples the production. Five years later, during a delivery run, a 110-gallon large cask falls from a lorry in Glasgow, resulting in everyone, from businessmen to housewives, scooping up Glengoyne's whisky with whatever they had at hand, including their hands!

Glengoyne receives the Royal Warrant in 1984, after supplying the then Queen Mother. This allows them to put the warrant on their bottles, highlighting their status as a supplier to the Royal Family. The warrant passes to Ian McLeod after he purchases the company in 2003. His management has resulted in over 50,000 visitors per year, and also the launch of a 50-yr old malt which, at the time, was the oldest whisky ever launched. Visitors might also be interested to learn that Glengoyne has a unique geography: its distillery is in the Highlands, while its adjacent warehouse is in the Lowlands.

Just For Fun

Are our Scottish trivia questions making y'all more knowledgeable? I certainly hope so! How did you do with our last set of teasers?

1. There are a few bridges spanning the Forth, but do you know which is the nearest to the mouth of the river?
Queensferry Crossing

2. The Roman Empire built Hadrian's Wall in AD 122. In AD 142, Roman Emperor Antoninus Pius started construction of what lesser-known wall?

Antonine Wall

3. When David II died in 1371 he was succeeded by Robert II. What was their relationship?

Robert was David's nephew

4. At Newtonmore, not far from Aviemore, is an indoor water, light and music show. What is it called?
Waltzing Waters

5. Which river are you crossing when you use the Friarton Bridge?
The Tay

Now for the first questions of our new season!

1. The Up Helly Aa festival in Shetland sees the burning of a model of what kind of ship?

2. Where would you find the Royal & Ancient Club?

3. Which Scottish band sang a "Letter from America" in 1987?

4. Which island is sometimes referred to as "Scotland in miniature"?

5. What is Scotland's fastest flowing river?

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! So why not talk about the next dish that you'll be making, like this one below?

Helensburgh Toffee

There are many different varieties of toffee, tablet and fudge catering to the sweet tooth of many Scots. This "toffee", named after the town of Helensburgh, has the consistency of thick fudge, rather than chewy toffee. Unfortunately, we couldn't find a picture of this delicious treat.

Ingredients:

2 ounces (or half stick) unsalted (sweet) butter

1 pound (two cups) caster (superfine) sugar

Two teaspoons golden syrup (light corn syrup)

7 fluid ounces (or small can) condensed milk

4 tablespoons milk

Half teaspoon vanilla essence (extract)

Method:

Melt the butter in a heavy-based saucepan, then add the sugar, syrup, condensed milk and milk. Heat very gently until all the ingredients have dissolved. Then bring to the boil, stirring constantly.

Continue to heat, stirring gently until the mixture has reached 240°F on a sugar thermometer (or until a teaspoonful of the mixture forms a soft ball when dropped into cold water).

Remove from the heat and add the vanilla essence. Beat well until thick and creamy. Pour into shallow greased tins (pans) and mark into squares with a knife. Leave to cool and set. Cut into pieces and store in an airtight container.

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. 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.

Tioraidh an-dràsta!

(Chee-ree an draa-sta)

(Bye just now)

