Thistle 'n Dixie

www.caledoniansocietyofneworleans.com

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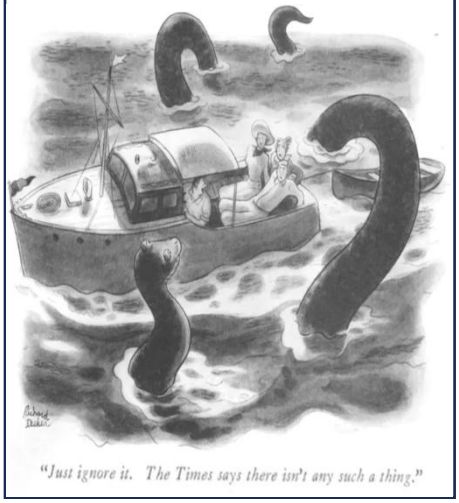
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Comedy Corner



"Just ignore it. The Times says there isn't any such a thing."

Newly Discovered Musket Ball Linked to Charles Stuart

An unexpected find took place during what would have been considered a routine assessment of a bed and headboard in Bannockburn House, Stirling. Prior to the end of the failed Jacobite uprising at Culloden, Bonnie Prince Charlie had stayed in a room here while recuperating from an illness.



Bullet Hole Damage

After hearing a rattling sound when moving the bed, the volunteer team contacted Dr. Catherine Bradley, of Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, who arranged for an x-ray, which revealed a fragment of an 18th century musket ball within the bed frame. This has now helped to confirm that an assassination attempt had taken place while the prince had rested here.

A previous inspection of the room in 2024, had uncovered a bullet hole in the wall, hidden behind plaster work and wooden paneling. This had always been conjecture, until a clue led them to a secret panel, showing the damage in all its glory. Analysis of the musket ball led to the conclusion that it was not the right size for a long musket(rifle), and would have been fired from a pistol. This, along with the calculated trajectory, meant that the shot was taken on horseback from outside the window of the room.



Bannockburn House

It now seems very evident that an assassination attempt took place, leading researchers to believe that Charles Stuart's rebellion was still considered a grave threat, despite the appearance of an uprising teetering on the brink of collapse.

In addition to the musket ball, traces of gold were also found alongside it, which could lead investigators to identify the actual weapon used in the assassination attempt, while speculation is still rife about whether this was a lone gunman or part of a group of would-be assassins. We will wait to see what further research reveals.

MONTHLY MEETING

Attendees are welcome to bring along any snacks, finger foods, desserts, etc. A limited selection of soft drinks is 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 you to bring both!

Sunday, November 8, 2026

Venue – Jackson Avenue Evangelical Church,
(Audry Reich Hall-At rear of building)
2221 Chippewa St, New Orleans, 70130
Time – 2:00-4:00pm
Program- Mark of the Scot
Information – Christyn Elliott will be leading the program, which will include several readings. If you are interested in volunteering then you can get in touch with Christyn.

Saturday, December 13, 2026

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
Information – Details to be confirmed

There is no January meeting due to our Burns Night at the Southern Yacht Club in this month.

Our normal February meeting is being converted to a pub night/afternoon. Details of where and when will be made available when known.

Sunday, March 14, 2027

Venue – Jackson Avenue Evangelical Church,
(Audry Reich Hall-At rear of building)
2221 Chippewa St, New Orleans, 70130
Time – 2:00-4:00pm
Program- History of Scottish Witch Hunts
Information – Laurie McConnell will be presenting a history and memorial to those people who were accused and executed for having been deemed to be a witch.

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

The **Scottish Highland Games & Celtic Music Festival** takes place at the Harrison County Fairgrounds in Gulfport, MS, on Nov 14-15. The event offers all kinds of activities, including a cultural tent, clan information, bagpipe workshop, Irish dancing, jousting, archery tag, as well as the typical highland games events. If interested in attending, please find more information at https://www.mshighlandsandislands.com/

There are more festivals coming up in February and beyond, but at the moment we do not have confirmed dates yet.

Events

53rd Annual Burns Night

A notice from this year's Burns Night Chairperson.

"*Members, please be aware that our Burns Night Dinner will take place considerably earlier in January because of a request by The Southern Yacht Club to move our date up due to a scheduling conflict. Therefore, the deadline for reservations will be much earlier. The event will take place on Saturday, January 9, 2027 and the deadline for reservations will be on Sunday, December 27.*

Invitations and payment information will be forthcoming shortly. Due to the high cost of postage, members who are on the email list for the newsletter will receive the invitation by email. If you need a printed, mailed copy of the invitation, please contact Christyn Elliott, Chair, at mje.cmr@att.net or 985-778-3089 and leave your name and mailing address. Please consider the flyer below as a "Save the Date" notice.

Yours aye,
Christyn Elliott, Treasurer
Chair, Burns Night"



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.

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. Annual dues are just $20 per person, and $25 for a family. You can pay by check, cash, or by PayPal via our website, www.CaledonianSocietyofNewOrleans.com.

Checks can be either brought to the meeting or mailed to Christyn Elliott, PO Box 4, Bush, LA 70431.

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

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 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. In addition to Facebook, we also have Instagram and TikTok accounts. You can find us by looking for "Caledonian Society of New Orleans."

October's most popular post took place on the 1st and had over 100 views. What was the post? It was a Scottish to English translation of various words. Check it out to find the words and their Scottish way of saying them.

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 mo chàirdean. Ciamar a tha rudan, an diugh? A bheil sibh toilichte no brònach? Tha mi an dochas gu bheil sibh toilichte. Tha mi trang ag ionnsachadh Gàidhlig fhathast! Tha e coig bliadhna a nis. A bheil beagan Gàidhlig agaibh? Cùm ciuin agus bruidhinn Gàidhlig. (hint: this is the phrase seen here)

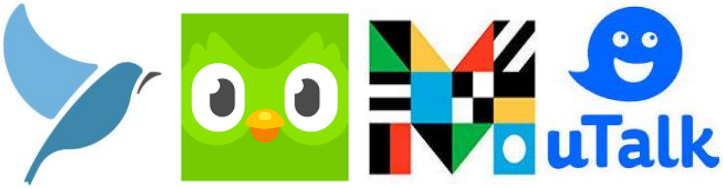


This month we are going to relax a little, but I do want to give encouragement to everyone out there learning Gaelic. Just remember that you are not just keeping your brain active but you are actually keeping a language alive, which should be a great motivation.

Following the end of Daylight Savings Time, I wanted to remind people of this phrase from two years ago!

Carson a tha mi sgìth aig còig uairean?
Car-s-on a ha me sgee aye-egg coo-ig oor-en?
Why am I tired at five o'clock?

Don't forget to check out these learning apps. There are others, so let me know what ones you are using.



Bluebird | Duolingo | Mango | uTalk

In addition to these apps, you can also find useful resources on the following sites,

https://www.learngaelic.net/
https://www.fluentin3months.com/scottish-gaelic/
https://go-gaelic.scot/
https://www.youtube.com/c/GaelicwithJason

Castles Of Scotland

Name: **Kildrummy Castle**
Location: **Kildrummy, Aberdeenshire**
Year Built: **Early 13th Century**
Clan Affiliation: **Mar**



There is some debate as to who was responsible for the construction of Kildrummy, with one claim being that Gilbert de Moray, Bishop of Caithness, was the architect, but it is more considered that the Earl of Mar was behind the creation of a stronghold that could overlook important trade routes in the region.

The castle was besieged twice by Edward I of England, during the first Scottish War of Independence, in 1296 and then in 1306, which later saw the defender, Nigel Bruce, brother of Robert, hung, drawn, and quartered for treason. Another siege took place in 1335, with Robert's sister, Christina, leading the defense until her husband returned.

Alexander Stewart became Earl of Mar in 1403, after murdering the Countess of Mar's husband, Malcolm Drummond, and then marrying her for the title and the castle. King James I designated Kildrummy a royal castle in 1435, taking over control until Henry Kinghorn was appointed keeper of the castle in 1468, by James III.

Unfortunately, a raid in 1538, by the Laird of Lenturk, saw fixtures and furnishings being removed, while a blacksmith removed as much iron as possible to make horseshoes and mend broken ploughs.

It passed between royal guardianships until the Mar family successfully regained the title in 1626. Oliver Cromwell's troops took control in 1653, during the

War of the Three Kingdoms. Less than 40 years later, in 1690, the Jacobites set fire to the building during the first uprising. Rather ironically, the Earl of Mar helped lead the 1715 Jacobite uprising.

This "rebellious" act led to the loss of the title, with the Gordons of Wardhouse taking control in 1731, with Kildrummy being dismantled, with the stone being used in the surrounding area.

Colonel James Ogston purchased the property in 1898, and worked on restoring various sections until his death. Kildrummy was subsequently placed into the care of the state in 1951, and remains so to this day.

Distilleries Of Scotland

Name: **Glen Spey**
Location: **Rothes, Moray**
Whisky Region: **Speyside**
Whisky Type: **Single Malt, Blends**



Tucked away in the unassuming small town of Rothes, Glen Spey was originally named "Mill of Rothes", no doubt as a result of the building's previous role as an oatmeal mill. Founded in 1878 by James Stuart, licencee of the Macallan Distillery, the building changed it's designation when he simply added the stills and whisky making equipment to the building.

In 1887, he sold this distillery and bought Macallan. W&A Gilbey took over and immediately changed the name to Glen Spey. Gilbey was a gin producer in London, and this was their first foray into whisky making. They later acquired Knockando and Strathmill, adding them to their whisky portfolio.

A small fire in 1920, briefly disrupted production, but Glen Spey quietly continued while others around them created global names. Despite being in a town of just over 1,000 (today's estimate), Glen Spey has had to compete with four other distilleries: Glenrothes, Glen Grant, Speyburn, and Caperdonich, which is no longer active. This and its smaller capacity has made it a dark horse in the whisky world.

Several mergers followed, with Glen Spey being important for its contribution to the J&B blended whisky. An expansion took place in 1970, in the midst of corporate purchases. The final merger (to date) saw Diageo run operations from 2001, who released a 12-yr-old that year under the Flora & Fauna range. This has been one of the few times a Glen Spey malt has been seen.

It is said the ghost of a WWII soldier roams the site, after the sentry on guard was electrocuted. At present, there is no visitor center and no tours.

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. Which loch is actually the deepest freshwater body of water in the British Isles? ***Loch Morar***
2. From where do the smoked haddock known as 'smokies' come from? ***Arbroath***
3. Where did the poet Robert Burns intend on migrating to in 1786? ***Jamaica***
4. In which town did William Wallace start his campaign against the English? ***Lanark***
5. A statue of which Wild West hero was erected in the east end of Glasgow in 2006? ***Buffalo Bill***

Here are this month's questions.

1. In 1503, James IV took a wife named Margaret. Who was her royal brother?
2. What year did Scotland ensure its independence from England?
3. On what island is Fingal's Cave?
4. Prior to being Princes Street Gardens what did this area used to be?
5. Which Scottish crime writer is best known for his Inspector Rebus novels?

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?

Dundee Cake

Here is a rich, fruity cake topped with almonds. It became popular at the end of the 19th century. It is often served at Christmas. You can omit the whisky or use another spirit if you wish!



Ingredients:

6 oz Butter
5oz Caster/granulated sugar
4 Eggs
8oz Flour (divided)
1oz Blanched almonds
1.5oz mixed peel
6oz each of currants, raisins, sultanas (seedless white raisins)
Grated rind and juice of lemon
1 level teaspoon baking powder
2 tablespoons whisky
2 tablespoons boiled milk and 1 tablespoon sugar

Method:

Cream the butter and sugar in a bowl. When it is white and creamy, slowly add the four eggs (one at a time), plus a spoonful of flour with each, beating well all the time. Stir in the nuts and fruits. Add the rest of the flour, (sifted with the baking powder) and the whisky. Make sure the mixture is stirred well - right to the foot of the bowl. If it is too stiff, add a little bit of milk.

Place mixture in an 8-inch greased and lined cake tin. Flatten the top with hands which are slightly wet. Cover with foil or greaseproof paper and bake at 325F for two hours. Halfway through, take off the foil and arrange the split almonds in concentric circles on the top of the cake. Check the cake with a skewer towards the end of cooking - If it is still wet in the middle, put it back for more cooking. 5/10 minutes before cooking is finished, brush the top with the sweetened milk to create a dry glaze. Keep in the tin for 15 minutes before turning out on a wired rack. 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)

