



Sept-Oct 2023

The Caledonian

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LAHAINA, MAUI

August 8-9, 2023, Lahaina, the iconic whaling port, and historical capital of the Kingdom of Hawaii, went up in flames and most of the buildings and businesses in the Front St. area burned to the ground. Hundreds of people are still missing with 115 persons declared dead to date. The cleanup and rebuilding will take years, but much history and many lives have been lost. The pictures below are pre-fire. Members of the Caledonian Society of Hawaii hereby express sympathy and support for the people of Maui.



Lahaina, Maui, Front Street businesses--Permission granted by Calbear22 at the Wikipedia Project.



The Banyan tree (planted in 1873) is severely traumatized, but officials are hoping it will be saved.

Chieftain's Column: From the Craig



As we start the new Society event year, I'm happy to say that we are starting with our popular Scottish Heroes series in September. This is really an excellent opportunity to participate because you can research and present on a Scot that you admire. We can still add more presenters if anyone is interested. You can just send me an email.

The Hawaiian Scottish Association is busy planning for the 2024 Highland Festival and are planning some new activities for attendees. Like any non-profit organization, HSA needs support to put on a major project like the festival. Support needs to include volunteers, as well as monetary donations that are tax-deductible. The Caledonian Society, as one of the Scottish organization sponsors of HSA, has been asked to reach out to our members to see if our members can make donations to offset costs of the 2024 Highland Festival and Games. If interested check with the HSA website: www.hawaiianscottishassociation.com.
Slàinte, Bruce

Member News

September Birthdays Jodi Beardon, Sheryl Delsol, Carol Anne Gordon, Tory Laitila, Kristin Laitila, Heather MacGregor, Bruce McEwan, and Jackie Phillips.

October Birthdays Kalani Brady, Donna Calkins, Mary Fraser, Jamie McOuat, and John Thompson.

Note: If your birthday is in September or October, and you don't see your name listed here, we probably don't have it in our database. We want to celebrate your special month too, so please contact Kevin Campbell Bogan at 808-778-4697 or by email at kevin.bogan@gmail.com.

The Caledonian Society relies on membership participation, donations, and annual membership fees to keep the Society healthy, to allow us to plan events, and to keep costs at a minimum. Most events are either free or kept at our cost. We also do not charge extra on most events for bringing a guest. Now our 2023-2024 fiscal year has begun, and it's time to send in your fee of \$30 per member (we don't have a family membership). If you have a question regarding your membership, please contact our membership secretary, Kevin Bogan, at kevin.bogan@gmail.com.

To pay by credit card, please go to www.scotsinhawaii and use the link there for SquareUp. (A fee of \$2 is added for each charge.)

Personal checks can be mailed to:
The Caledonian Society
P.O. Box 4164
Honolulu, HI 96812-4164

Keep it Coney

In Glasgow's Royal Exchange Square there is a statue of the Duke of Wellington, mounted on a horse and towering above the square. "That's not so unusual," you might think; "There are statues of the Iron Duke all over the country." The Glasgow statue, however, is slightly different. This duke wears an orange-and-white traffic cone on his head.

The cone first appeared in the 1980s, placed there one night by drunken pranksters. The local council removed it. The sozzled midnight cone fiends replaced it. Every time the council relieved the duke of his burden, the cone was back again within a couple of days and the statue became known as "Conehead."

Then in 2013, the council, who estimated that repeatedly removing the cone was costing around £10,000 a year, proposed raising the height of the plinth on which the statue stands in order to deter the dangerous practice of drunks climbing it at night to pop a cone on the duke's head. Sometimes his horse got one, too, and was known as "the Scottish unicorn."

The plinth project would have cost around £65,000, but cone fans objected to such a sum being spent. The obvious solution was simply to leave the cone where it was. A campaign was launched, and 72,000 people signed a "Save the cone" petition. Amazingly the council gave in.

Nowadays, the duke retains his cone and remains otherwise unmolested, although one year a drunken Santa Claus who tied himself to the duke to ride pillion and sing songs had to be persuaded to dismount by firemen with a ladder. Conehead is now a tourist attraction. Indeed, a replica of the statue, complete with traffic cone, was part of the opening ceremony of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games, and "Keep it Coney" had become an accepted term for always being prepared to have a giggle no matter what life throws at you.

From *The Wicked Wit of Scotland*, by Rod Green, 2018.

Scottish Heroes XII

**Saturday, September 30th St. Andrews Cathedral
Von Holt Room from 4:00 to 6:00 pm.**

Join us in person or via Zoom for the next Scottish Heroes program. Education is a mission of the Caledonian Society, and since Covid, our Scottish Hero series has been one of the most informative events towards that goal. There are many people from Scotland who have made advancements over the years in medicine, shipping, poetry, engineering, and science to name just a few.

On Saturday, Sept. 30, we will learn more about C.P. Taylor (1929-1981), a Scottish playwright, from Susan MacKinnon; James Hutton (1726-1797) a geologist from Brian Richardson; Robert Fortune (1812-1880), a botanical explorer, and James Taylor (1835-1892), who was a tea planter, both from tea drinker Bruce McEwan. There is time for more heroes to be introduced to the membership. Contact Chieftain McEwan at 808-538-7707 if you are interested in presenting someone at this event.

A Zoom link will be sent out to those who would rather join at home. Please contact Kevin Bogan at kevin.bogan@gmail.com and the link will be sent to you.

Spooky Stories (Save the Date)

October 28 6:00 to 9:00 pm

(More information will come on this event in October)

The name Halloween comes from a Scottish shortening of All Hallows' Eve and has its roots in the Gaelic festival of Samhain. Here's a list of 6 Scottish Halloween traditions you might not be aware of. (Information from *National Trust for Scotland*)

NEEP LANTERNS

In the past, communities would light huge bonfires to keep evil spirits at bay. In true Scottish tradition, scary faces were carved into neeps (turnips) to create lanterns that would scare off ghouls wandering in the witching hours. Thanks to America's influence, pumpkins are now as common as turnips for lanterns in Scotland – and are considerably easier to carve.

APPLE DOOKIN'

An ancient Celtic tradition, this game remains a firm favourite at Halloween parties. Without using their hands, players have to grab an apple floating in a basin of water. Sounds easy, right? Dunking tactics include spearing apples with a fork held between the teeth or, for those with strong gnashers, a big decisive bite.

(Stories continued)

TREACLE SCONES

Another activity that sees players banned from using their hands, this messy game challenges participants to take bites out of sticky treacle-covered scones dangling from string. Messy but tasty!

NUT BURNING

Do you want to find out if you and your significant other will live happily ever after? A Halloween tradition once common among recently engaged couples involved each person putting a nut in a fire. If the nuts burned quietly, the union would be a happy one. However, if they hissed and crackled, a turbulent future lay ahead.

GUISING

Scottish children traditionally donned costumes and pretended to be malicious spirits as they went 'guising' around the local streets. It was believed that, by disguising themselves, they would blend in with any wandering spirits and remain safe from harm. After performing tricks or songs, guisers were given gifts to help ward off evil – a far cry from some of today's trick-or-treaters, who get 'treats' for simply showing up in costume.

KALE PULLING

This hearty green vegetable is now a fashionable menu item but, once upon a time, kale stalks were used to predict your romantic future. In [Robert Burns](#)'s poem 'Halloween', people pull stalks from the ground after dark with their eyes closed. The length and shape of the stalk was said to represent your future lover's height and figure, and the amount of soil around the roots represented wealth.



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Consolidated Celtic Calendar

<https://goo.gl/mCnvsU>

2023-2024 Calendar of Events

(Subject to change)

Oct 28 Spooky Stories-- 6-9:00 pm. Hokua Ocean Terrace

Nov 19 Burns Country Tour & Songs

Dec 28 Scottish Music & Instruments

Jan 27 Burns Dinner 5:00-10:00. TBD

Feb 24 Movie "Then Came You" 6:00-9:00

Mar 23 Genealogy

Apr 4 Princess Ka'iulani Tribute

Apr 6 Tartan Day

Apr 6-7 Highland Festival

May 18 Islands of Scotland

Jun 22 Annual Meeting 11-2

Gaelic Sayings

Most present-day residents of Scotland speak a Northern-accented form of English, now influenced by world-wide public media like TV. In recent times ordinary people have used a colorful, locally developed, English-related language known as Scots. This language, in an 18th century, Ayrshire form, was also the language used by the poet Robert Burns. A third and completely different language is Gaelic (gal' ik), which is related to Welsh and Irish. Gaelic is the language in longest continuous use somewhere in Scotland, but it was never used over the whole area of the country at any one time. In the 20th & 21st centuries, various nationalistic projects have been established to teach the Gaelic to both adults and children throughout Scotland, although it is one of the most complex of European languages.

Chieftain McEwan has been studying Scottish Gaelic for a couple of years and found the following interesting proverbs/sayings in his lessons.

As fluent as a poet. *Cho fileanta ri bard.*

As bald as a shinty ball. *Cho maoi ri ball iomain.*

As cross as a wildcat. *Cho crosta ri cat-fiadhaich.*

As fat as a seal. *Cho reamhar r iron.*

As happy as a shoe. *Cho sona ri broig.*

As soft as butter. *Cho bog ri im.*

As tired as an old dog. *Cho sgith ri seann cu.*

As similar as two herring. *Cho coltach ri da sgadan.*

As hard as iron. *Cho cruaidh ri iarann.*

As fit as a deer. *Cho fallain ri fiadh.*

As happy as a mouse in a loaf. *Cho sona ri luch ann an lofa.*

The truth is bitter sometimes. *Tha an fhirinn searbh uaireannan.*

Sense will not come before age. *Cha tig ciall ro aois.*

It is as light as a feather. *Tha e cho aotrom ri iteag.*

She is cold as poison. *Tha I cho ris a' phuinnsean.*

He left as quick as the wind. *Dh'fhalbh e cho luath ris a' ghaoith.*

As warm as an egg in a chicken's bum. *Cho blath ri ugh ann an fon na circe.*

As plentiful as small stones on the shore. *Cho pailt ri clachan beag air a' chladach.*

As plentiful as midges in autumn. *Cho pailt ri meanbh-chuileagan as t-fhoghan.*

It is as full as a tick. *Tha e cho lan ri gartan.*

A land without language is a land without soul. Tir gun teanga, tir gun anam.

As tight as a barnacle on a skerry. *Cho teann ri bairneach air sgeir.*

Love and music will endure. *Mairidh gaol is ceol.*

As dirty as mud. *Cho salach ris a' pholl.*

The geese will tell it in autumn. *Innsidh na geoidh e as t-fhoghan.*

Better broken Gaelic than Gaelic in the coffin.

Is fhearr Gaidhlig bhriste na Gaidhlig anns a' chiste.

Contact Chieftain McEwan for more information at 808-528-7707.