



Editor's Comments

Fàilte mo chàirdean

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

First of all, I have to say thank you to the various people who have forwarded possible news items for our front page. Space is always limited, so I may not be able to use everything at one time. Don't worry though, you should see it in future issues.

Next month sees the US observe Tartan Day, held on April 6th. New York is always the focal point, with a large parade helping to commemorate Scotland's influence in the creation of the Declaration of Independence. You can find out more at our upcoming meetings.

Don't forget that we will also be hosting a whisky tasting in June, so be on the look out for more information in the newsletter in the coming months.

If you have any news or items you want 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.

Tapadh Leibh

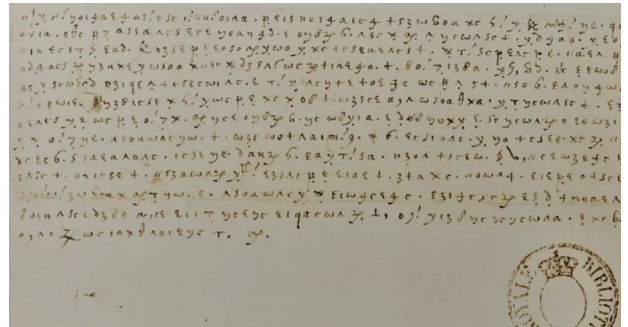
(Tapa leev - Thank you)

Derek

Coded Letters Discovered After 400 Years

Letters written by Mary, Queen of Scots, during her imprisonment, have been unearthed in the National Library of France. Penned between 1578 and 1584, while held captive by her cousin Elizabeth I, Mary had been able to have coded correspondence smuggled out to her sympathetic allies in France. While historians believed she had written coded letters, it was believed that these letters had been lost over time, and were no longer in existence.

It was not until members of the Decrypt Project, a group looking at historical coded documents, found a misclassified group of letters in the archives. Originally cataloged as "Italian", they soon discovered some contradictory evidence. Stumbling across the words "mo liberte", and "mon fils", they soon realized what they had found. A cipher was used, based off the first letter, and it was able to find an additional 56 more documents.



Just one of the many letters rediscovered

Looking closer, Mary's letters mentioned Lord Walsingham, a spy under the employment of Elizabeth, and were addressed mainly to Michel de Castelnau de Mauvissiere, the French Ambassador to England. This provided the overwhelming proof that these were, indeed, the coded letters long thought lost forever.

In what may be the biggest insight into Mary's state of mind, while imprisoned for 19 years, we now get to see her serious concerns about her health and the conditions she had to endure. Also revealed, are details about her attempts to gain her freedom, as well her concern over her son, James, the future king of Scotland and England. All in all, the letters seem to have the standard mix of murder, mystery, and double crossing found throughout this period in time. Even after this astonishing discovery, it is still believed that even more letters are out there, just waiting to be decoded. We will await patiently for more exciting finds

MONTHLY MEETING

Attendees are more than welcome to bring along any snacks, finger food, deserts, etc. Soft drinks are provided at all meetings, although you can bring your own.

Sunday, March 12, 2023

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

Time – 2:00-4:00 pm

Program- March Madness – A Workshop

Information – Help update our exhibits in preparation for our Tartan Day display at Jefferson Parish Library, EB Regional. Clan shields will be available for anyone wishing to make one. We will also have Clan booklets available to purchase, at a subsidized rate. These are limited, so please attend the meeting if you would like to buy one.

Sunday, April 16, 2023

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

Time – 2:00-4:00 pm

Program- History & Significance of Tartan Day

Information – Find out about the importance of Tartan Day in the US, and why it means so much.

Sunday, May 21, 2023

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

Time – 2:00-4:00 pm

Program- To Be Confirmed, with AGM after

Information – Details to follow

Sunday, June 10, 2023

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

Time – 2:00-4:00 pm

Program- End of Year Party

Information – Details 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.

Festivals & Games

The **Scottish Tartan Festival** takes place on April 22nd, in Minden, LA. Witness sword fighting displays, as well learn more about the Gaelic language, while checking out the arts and crafts on show. Enjoy food and drink as you listen to a wide selection of Scottish music. For more on this, go to, <https://festivalnet.com/73176/Minden-Louisiana/Ethnic-Festivals/Scottish-Tartan-Festival>

The **St. Louis Scottish Games and Cultural Festival** returns this year to Manchester, MO, on Saturday, May 6th, featuring pipe bands, as well as athletic and highland dancing competitions. You will also get to sample Scottish foods, attend a whisky tasting, and sheep herding demonstrations. More information can be found at, <https://stlouis-scottishgames.com/>

The **Celtic Fest Mississippi** will be held on October 13-14 in Brandon, MS. In addition to the standard athletic competition, you also have the chance to meet a highland cow! Also displaying their skills will be blacksmiths, spinners, and weavers. For more information, please go to, <https://celticfestms.org/wp/>

The **Stone Mountain Highland Games and Scottish Festival** returns for it's 51st event on October 20-22. Held in the historic Stone Mountain Park, attendees will be treated to athletic, dancing, and piping competitions, in addition to various seminars and presentations. This is the highlight of the games calendar, so anyone interested in attending should find out more at the following site, <http://www.smhg.org/index.php>

The **Scottish Highland Games and Celtic Music Festival** will take place on November 11-12, at the Harrison County Fairgrounds, in Gulfport, MS. At present, we do not have a confirmed schedule, so please check here later for further information.

Events

The **Caledonian Society of New Orleans** will be hosting a whisky tasting event in the summer, in the Carriage House room of Ormond Plantation, in Destrehan. Scheduled for Saturday June 3rd, the event will run from 4-7 pm, with featured whiskys still to be confirmed. Contact Virginia Urquhart to reserve a seat, on 504-835-1343. Tickets are \$50 per person, and include the whisky tasting, food, and prizes. Seating is limited to 50, so don't delay.

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 upwards. Walk ins are not allowed, so please complete the application form on the following website before attending any classes. <https://broadswordno.com/>

Yearly Dues

Thank you to our members who have paid their dues. Your continued support is much appreciated. Our dues have stayed the same for over 20 years and the society depends on your support. If you have not yet done so, please renew now. 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, 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 not normally issued to those just on our courtesy list.

Newsletter

CSO NO members receive the 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 be interested, 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).



You don't need to social distance to be social. 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.

Our runaway winner in February, reached 133 people, and told the Scottish Folklore story of the blue men of the Minch. 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.

Time For Gaelic

Halò agus fàilte a chàirdean. Cuin a bhios sinn fileanta ann an Gàidhlig? Chan eil fios agam. Chan eil i furasta, ach tha i spòrsail! A bheil sibh a' tuigsinn fhathast?

How is your Gaelic coming along? Let me tell you that there can be

good and bad days of learning a language, so try not to make it a chore. If you are using any of the apps



or websites I have recommended, don't get caught up in constantly moving forward. Some days I learn more by going back to older lessons and understanding completely what I see on the screen. I'm sure that many of you see this as too daunting, so let's go back to some basics.

Halò – (*Haa-low*) – Hello

Fàilte – (*Faal-cha*) – Welcome

Cò thusa? – (*Ko oo-saa*) – Who are you?

Is mise – (*Iss mish-aa*) – I am.....(insert name)

Ciamar a tha thu? – (*Kee-mar a ha oo*) – How are you?

Tha mi gu math – (*Ha me goo ma*) – I am well.

Cò às a tha thu? – (*Ko aas a ha oo*) – Where are you from?

Tha mi à Aimearaga– (*Ha me aa Am-err-ag-a*) – I am from America

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 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: Crookston Castle
Location: Pollok, Glasgow
Year Built: 1400 AD
Clan Affiliation: Stewart



The castle we see today, was built by the Stewarts of Darnley, although a previous castle had once stood here, constructed by Sir Robert de Croc, an Anglo-Norman knight, in the 12th century. The defensive ring ditch at the site is all that remains of the first structure, built two hundred years earlier.

By 1489, John Stewart, also known as the Earl of Lennox, had become strong enough to rebel against the king, James IV. As a result, James had the famous cannon Mons Meg, brought over 50 miles from Edinburgh to very quickly end the uprising. Still on display at Edinburgh Castle, the cannon has a 20-inch diameter, and could fire cannonballs weighing as much as 386 lbs! The bombardment saw the destruction of two towers, which saw the white flag raised rather quickly.

Crookston was besieged and taken some 50 years later, while the earl was busy defending Glasgow Castle. The Darnley Stewarts regained control at some point, prior to possibly becoming the venue for the marriage of Lord Darnley, a Stewart, to Mary, Queen of Scots. It is claimed that they wed under the yew tree that once stood on the estate.

In 1703, the family sold the estate to the Duke of Montrose, before being sold once again in 1757, to the Maxwells of Pollok. After almost 100 years of deterioration, some restoration took place prior to Queen Victoria's visit to Glasgow. The Maxwells

presented Crookston to the National Trust for Scotland, becoming the first property to come under their stewardship.

On an interesting side note, Crookston is the second oldest building in the city, after Glasgow Cathedral, where the first stone was dedicated in 1136.

Distilleries Of Scotland

Name: Cragganmore
Location: Ballindalloch, Banffshire
Whisky Region: Speyside
Whisky Type: Single Malt
Website: N/A



Built in 1869, by John Smit. He selected this site specifically to take advantage of the Craggan burn and the nearby Strathspey railway. A track was laid, connecting them to the national rail network. As a result, this was the first distillery in Scotland to transport all their products by train. Smith's business acumen was matched by his experience in the whisky trade. Prior to founding Cragganmore, he had managed several well known distilleries: Glenlivet, Dailuaine, Macallan, Wishaw, and Glenfarclas.

Unfortunately, John died seventeen years later, leaving the business to his son, John, just 21 at the time of his father's passing. John ran Cragganmore until his early death in 1912, when his widow took over the reins. During John's stewardship, he made improvements on his father's original design, employing the famous distillery architect, Charles Doig, to assist in the refurbishment.

As WWI dragged on, rationing saw the doors close in 1917, until the war ended one year later, when production resumed. Cragganmore was sold in

1923, before DCL, a titan in the whisky industry, took a 50% share following a merger. The 60's saw an additional two stills added, doubling the capacity, before DCL acquired the other 50% stake in the company. A series of subsequent mergers over the years has now seen Diageo as the current owner.

Cragganmore has fared well with the experts, having achieved several gold and silver medals over the years at the San Francisco World Spirits competitions. In addition, their 12-yr. old and Sherry Cask brands are rated in the high 90's of the scoring charts. This is definitely one to look out for.

Just For Fun

Are our Scottish trivia questions making y'all more knowledgeable? I certainly hope so! How did you get on with our Burns questions?

1. Which US fashion designer is a descendant of Robert Burns? **Tommy Hilfiger**
2. Which US city has a life size replica of Burns' Alloway cottage? **Atlanta**
3. What Burns related item was carried into space in 2010, by Astronaut Nick Patrick?
A miniature book of Burn's Poetry
4. How many living descendants of Burns are there today? **600**
5. Which singer took inspiration from the 'Tam 'O Shanter' graveyard scene, to create an iconic music video? **Michael Jackson(Thriller)**

Now, for this month's questions.

1. Spanning the River Clyde from Pacific Quay on the north side to Govan on the south side, the Clyde Arc is a bridge built across the river. What name do most Glaswegians call the bridge?
2. One of Scotland's most popular Indian meals is chicken tikka masala. What's the Scottish connection?
3. Kenneth McAlpin united which two tribes or states, c.843 AD, thus founding the ancient state of Scotia?
4. Where was William Wallace finally defeated by the English?
5. Which was the first Highland Regiment to wear tartan?

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!

Each month we bring you some of Scotland's culinary creations for your cooking delights. This month is....

Mars Bar Crispies

Mars bars, with their nougat center, with caramel on top and covered with milk chocolate, are a favorite the world over. And the snap, crackle, pop of rice crispies are found everywhere, including Scotland. Put the two together and you get a treat that's been enjoyed by children everywhere. And not a deep fried Mars bar in sight!



Please note that the closest equivalent to the Mars Bar in the US is the Milky Way bar. For those of you interested, the UK Milky Way is a US 3 Musketeers bar!

Ingredients:

Three 65g (large) Mars bars, chopped up
3 ounces (90g or ¾ stick) margarine
Three to four cups of rice crispies
8 ounces (250g) chocolate
1 ounce (30g or ¼ stick) margarine

Method:

Combine the 3 ounces of margarine and the chopped Mars bar/Milky Way pieces in a microwaveable bowl and melt on a medium heat. This can also be done using a bowl above a pan of hot water. Do not overheat.

Stir in the rice crispies until they are well covered by the mixture. If the mixture becomes too hard when you stir in the rice crispies, put back in the microwave for a few seconds.

Line a 9" (23cm) square tin with grease proof paper (vegetable parchment or waxed paper) and spread the mixture evenly into the tin.

Melt the one ounce of margarine and all the chocolate in a microwaveable bowl on a medium heat and spread over the mixture in the tin. Do not overheat the chocolate. If you do, add two or three drops of cooking oil and beat with a spoon until it has smoothed out again.

Allow the mixture and chocolate to cool and cut into squares.

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)