



## Your 2024-26 Board Members

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Wendy Grubb

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Robert Grubb

### **Secretary**

Gertrude Burkhart

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Robert Grubb

### **Historian**

Catherine Kinslow

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Thomas "T" Diemer

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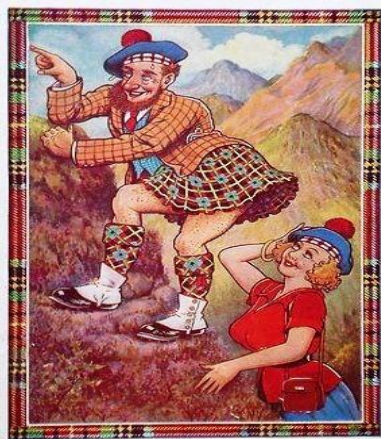
Jeannie Mestier

Christopher Freel

### **Immediate Past President**

Virginia Urquhart

## **Comedy Corner**



"COME ON MAGGIE, THE HIGHER YOU CLIMB, THE BETTER THE VIEW!"

## Dinosaur Revealed after Half Century Wait

A dinosaur skeleton, first spotted 52 years ago, has finally been revealed to the public. The fossil had been discovered protruding from a sea cliff near Elgol, on the Isle of Skye. At the time, an excavation was considered too risky and challenging to undertake. In fact, it was not until 2018 when a successful extraction took place, thanks in part to a local boat tour company assisting in reaching the site and then transporting the skeleton.



*Dr Panciroli and the fossil*

When the fossil was originally seen in 1973, it was Scotland's first officially recorded dinosaur. In the seven years following the recovery, it has been established that this creature was roughly the size of a pony, and it has been determined to have been eight years old at the time of death. The researchers have also dated it to the Middle Jurassic period, making it 166 million years old. In addition to this, Dr. Elsa Panciroli, the lead paleontologist, has also suggested that it is an ornithopod, a plant-eating dinosaur.



*An artist's impression*

Although the skeleton is fragmented, having only recovered the spine, ribs, and hip bones, it has now been classified as the most complete dinosaur find in the country. The Elgol dinosaur, as it is now being called, is listed in the Earth and Environmental Science Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Professor Susie Maidment, of the Natural History Museum, said: "The Elgol dinosaur was a challenge to collect, and has proven perhaps an even bigger challenge to identify... This specimen, however, would already have been a fossil by the time the better-known ornithopods like Iguanodon and Hyspilophodon were walking the Earth."

Since this fossil was first spotted, Skye has proven to be a rich environment for all things dinosaur, with many discoveries having been made since then. Maybe it's time for enthusiasts to book a trip?

# 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!

Please note that there is no April meeting due to our Tartan Day exhibition.

## Sunday, March 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**- Loch Ness

**Information** – Find out more about Scotland's famous loch and its shy monster – Nessie!

## Sunday, May 18, 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**- Annual General Meeting, with additional educational program (TBC)

**Information** – TBC

## June, 2025 (Date TBC)

**Venue** – TBC

**Time** – TBC

**Program**- End of Year Party

**Information** – TBC

## Member and Society News

If you have any member news to include in the newsletter, please contact me by email at [shawfield27@gmail.com](mailto:shawfield27@gmail.com). No information is too small. We're happy to hear of our members' exploits.

The Celebration of Life service for long time member **Andy Weir**, will take place on Saturday,

March 8<sup>th</sup> at 1pm, at Munholland Methodist Church, 1201 Metairie Rd. Nancy Weir has asked if people could wear tartan/clan ties, but everyone is more than welcome to wear kilts and tartan attire, should they wish. A reception and gathering will take place in the church hall following the service.

## Festivals & Games

**Celtic Bayou Festival** takes place in Lafayette on March 14-15<sup>th</sup>. Attendees will be treated to a wide range of music, as well as food and drink. For more information, go to [www.celticbayoufestival.com/](http://www.celticbayoufestival.com/)

Miller Quarters Park, in Minden, is the location for this year's **Scottish Tartan Festival**. Events begin at 10:15 a.m. on Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup>, which include live music, a haggis eating contest, as well as Highland Games. There are also child-friendly stations, giving something for all the family. More information can be found by going to <https://www.scottishtartanfestival.com/>

The **Dunedin Highland Games & Festival** takes place on April 5-6<sup>th</sup>, at Dunedin, FL. This two-day event begins at 4:30 p.m. on Friday and ends at 8:00 p.m. Saturday. General admission tickets are \$20 in advance, with children under 12 free with an accompanying adult. VIP ticket options are also available. Please check out their website for details. <https://www.dunedinsafoundation.com/highland-games/>

The Blairville Scottish Festival has outgrown its old location and is now the **Georgia Mountain Scottish Festival & Highland Games**, relocating to Hiawassee, GA. Running on June 6-7<sup>th</sup>, ticket prices vary per day, but you can purchase a two-day pass at a reduced price if you plan on being there both days. There is a wide range of events being offered to attendees. Check out their website for more information. <https://blairvillescottishfestival.com/>

## Events

The Society Board is currently looking into having a Pub Night in April, with Finn McCool's or The Bell being two main options. In addition to this, they are also attempting to host a Whisky Tasting event. If you wish to assist in coordinating either or both events, then please call Bob Grubb on 504-957-0248.

Looking to improve your piping and drumming skills? **Kilts of Many Colours** are hosting a workshop at Covington Presbyterian Church on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Award winning instructors will be leading this \$25 per head event which starts at 9am. For more information and details, please email [info@kiltsofmanycolours.com](mailto:info@kiltsofmanycolours.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](mailto: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

Members can now pay their dues online! Just go to our website and click on the membership tab. You'll see the section in the bottom righthand corner. 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.

Anyone wishing to confirm their status can also email Bob Grubb at [rgrubb6@gmail.com](mailto: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. 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 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.

February's most popular post was a comical post on Elsa, from the movie frozen, visiting Louisiana for some delicious king cake. We don't blame her!

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

*Halò mo chàirdean!  
Nach eil sibh a' tuigsinn  
fhathast? A bheil sibh ag  
ionnsachadh? Chan eil i  
furasta ach tha i  
sporsail. Cha bhi sibh  
duilich.*

In case you haven't started learning Gaelic (I don't know why you wouldn't have), you might find it amusing to see some phrases that can give quite an image. Why learn 'hello', 'bye', or something useful like 'where is the bathroom' when you can learn these ones?

**Cho teth ri goal seòladair** - As hot as a sailor's love  
**Cho faoin ris na faoileagan** - As daft as the seagulls  
**Cho fliuch ri tòn tunnaig** - As wet as a duck's backside

**Cho sìth ris a' chù** – As tired as the dog

There are many ways to start learning, so why not look into the apps listed below? Alternatively, you can go online at one of the sites below.

**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>

We are trying to create a casual Gaelic group, with the aim of improving our overall skills. It's tough learning alone, so this would provide an opportunity to practice what you learn amongst other like-minded learners. Let me know if you are interested, at [shawfield27@gmail.com](mailto:shawfield27@gmail.com).



## Castles Of Scotland

**Name:** Edzell Castle  
**Location:** Brechin, Angus  
**Year Built:** Early 16<sup>th</sup> Century  
**Clan Affiliation:** Lindsay



While the castle we see today was built around 1520, there once stood an earlier “castle”, a motte-and-bailey structure from the 12<sup>th</sup> century, that was the seat of the Abbott family, which was designed to guard the important Highland pass at Glenesk. The Stirlings succeeded the Abbots, with Alexander de Lindsay marrying the heiress to the estate in 1358, leading to a change in family ownership.

It was almost 200 years later before a new castle was constructed, consisting primarily of a tower house and courtyard. Due its location, facing higher ground, it appears that this was built as a home rather than for defensive purposes. Edzell was expanded throughout the 16<sup>th</sup> century by each new Earl. During this time Mary, Queen of Scots, stayed here in 1562, followed by her son, James VI, in 1580 and 1589.

Following the Union of the Crowns in 1603, a garden was added, depicting symbols from Scotland, Ireland, and England. The behavior of an unruly son, and subsequent numerous fines, saw David Lindsay leave massive debts behind when he died less than ten years later.

The Third English Civil War saw Oliver Cromwell's troops take the castle, but only stayed for one month. Forty years later, Lord Edzell was barred, along with the parish minister, after changing from Presbyterian to Episcopalian worship. Facing mounting debts and a declining castle, the estate was sold to the Earl of Panmure just before the 1715, Jacobite rebellion. Although both were supporters, it was Panmure who

saw his newly acquired estate being forfeited for his part in the uprising.

Sold to York Buildings Company, the castle was essentially stripped of its assets, resulting in further deterioration. In 1764, the company was bankrupt and, rather ironically, sold it to William Maule, nephew of the Earl of Panmure. Although no restoration took place, a caretaker was appointed, and in 1901, a cottage was built for him. The estate passed into the care of the State, and is now maintained by Historic Environment Scotland

### Distilleries Of Scotland

**Name:** Glenfarclas  
**Location:** Ballindalloch, Speyside  
**Whisky Region:** Speyside  
**Whisky Type:** Single Malt, Blends  
**Website:** <https://glenfarclas.com>



Although the official distillery was built in 1836, it is believed that illicit whisky making had been taking place on Recherlich farm, owned by the Hay family, since 1791. Robert Hay eventually applied for a license after the introduction of the 1823 Excise Act, making production on the site legal.

After his death in 1865, Glenfarclas, and the farm, were purchased by neighbor John Grant, a successful Aberdeen Angus cattle breeder. His son, George, was given the task of running the site while John tended to his prize-winning cows. When John passed in 1889, George inherited the estate, but he too passed just one year later. His widow and two sons, George and John, took over the responsibilities.

A partnership with Pattisons of Leith, during whisky's boom years, came to a rapid end when the bust years came soon after. It took the Grants 15 years of struggles before Glenfarclas was financially

stable again, which led to the family creating their Spirit of Independence, with the belief that the business should remain family-owned and managed. This mantra has seen six generations of Grants oversee production, while it remains in the hands of the same family today.

Rapid growth and expansion took place when ownership passed to the next Grant, also named George, thanks in part to the lifting of barley rationing following WWII, and the repeal of the 1880 Spirits Act. A downturn in the 1960's saw Glenfarclas lose a major blending contract. While everyone else was reducing production or mothballing sites, the Grant family increased production, believing that they would be in a perfect position when demand returned. This confidence put them in a prime spot, as they had enough stock to cope when interest in whisky surged once more.

George Grant, son of current chairman, John Grant, says it perfectly when describing his family's enduring legacy, "We have lived through 22 recessions. We make what we can afford to make, and never borrow money to make it." This describes perfectly why Glenfarclas remains standing today with an enormous reputation.

### Just For Fun

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

1. In which National Park would you find Aviemore?  
*Cairngorms National Park*
2. Dundee gets its nickname, the City of Discovery, from whose flagship?  
*Robert Falcon Scott*
3. The picturesque village of Luss stands on the banks of which famous loch?  
*Loch Lomond*
4. Which Scot became the first Briton to become World Rally Champion in 1995?  
*Colin McRae*
5. Sir Alexander Fleming accidentally discovered what substance in 1928?  
*Penicillin*

This month, it's sports questions.

1. Which Scottish driver was a Formula 1 world champion 3 times between 1969 and 1973?
2. Which Scottish snooker player won the World Championship 7 times in the 1990s?

3. Who reigned as WBC Lightweight Champion from 1979-81?
4. Which soccer player scored 30 goals in just 55 appearances for the Scotland national team?
5. Which Scottish rugby union player held the record for points scored for the British Lions with 69?

### 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!

## *Drop Scones*



*Also known as Scotch Pancakes, Drop Scones were originally made on a solid metal griddle on an open fire. There are many traditional Scottish recipes which are well worth trying out. Here is one which even children can try.*

#### **Ingredients:**

8 oz plain flour, salt, level teaspoon of cream of tartar, level teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda, 5 teaspoons of caster sugar, standard egg and a quarter pint of milk.

#### **Method:**

Heat a griddle or heavy based frying pan and lightly grease. Sift flour, salt, cream of tartar and bicarbonate of soda together and mix in the caster sugar.

Create a well in the center and add the egg and some of the milk. Slowly mix the flour into the egg and milk, adding more milk as you go, until you have a mixture which has the consistency of thick batter.

Drop a small amount of batter onto the greased griddle or pan, bubbles should rise to the top in a few seconds, if it is the right temperature. Drop in enough mixture to make individual small scones.

When the underside is brown (and bubbles are bursting on the top) turn over and cook the other side. You may need to regrease the pan after each batch.

Serve warm with butter and honey or jam/jelly. Or try buttering them and sprinkling with light brown sugar!

*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](mailto: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)*