

January 2021



Bliadhna Mhath Ùr!
(Happy New Year)



Fare Well is Edinburgh's Hogmanay's innovative response on how to close the door on 2020 and celebrate the start of 2021, melding together two of the world's oldest art-forms, poetry and music with one of the world's newest technologies, drones, to create one of the world's most creative, imaginative and inspiring new year celebrations of 2021.

Produced by Underbelly, *Fare Well* is Edinburgh's Hogmanay's commission of the Scots Makar, Jackie Kay, to write a three part poem for Edinburgh's Hogmanay 2020, which, working with Drone show pioneers, Celestial, underlies a show of 150 drones to form images created by Scottish illustrator, Gary Wilson, to a musical score from Skye-based Celtic fusion band, Niteworks. The films are voiced by Scottish actors including David Tennant, Siobhan Redmond and Lorne MacFadyen.

Set against the stunning backdrop of the Scottish Highlands and Edinburgh, Jackie's poem and the drone displays reflect on the 'scunnered year' of 2020 and look to 2021 with hope on the Scottish air.

Click the image above to watch a compilation video of all three nights of the celebration.

The John A. McDougall Memorial Scholarship Program

Applications are now being accepted for the John A. McDougall Memorial Scholarships.

John's grandson, Buzzy Bramble, is serving as 2021 Committee Chair.
Cynthia Loden-Dowdle and Geordan McDougal Jones are new volunteers to the committee.
We thank them all for their efforts!

The purpose of the scholarship program is to financially support learning endeavors that enhance knowledge or appreciation of the Society and/or our cultural heritage.

Applications will be accepted until April 1, 2021.

Program Details

Application Form

In prior issues of *The Raven*, we have highlighted some of the incredible accomplishments of our Society's young scholars. We are so very proud to have such talented, passionate relatives that we are happy to support through financial means. However, none of that happens without donations to the Society and the generosity of *you* - our members.

Through the donations made to the Society, we are able to support a multitude of ventures from preservation of Dunollie to assisting in payment for dancing competitions. Your donation is tax deductible within the United States and can be directed to one of six different funds at your behest.

Donate

Membership Gift

MacDougall DNA Project

Clan MacDougall is one of the oldest clans in Scottish history, tracing its roots back to the mid-12th century. Somerled, a Norse-Gaelic lord, founded the Kingdom of Argyll and the Isles and is widely portrayed as a Celtic hero. Somerled is known to have had at least five sons and one daughter. His son Dugald (also seen spelled as Dubgall and Dougall) became the King of the Isles and the nucleus for Clan MacDougall. Other Clans that can trace their ancestry to Somerled include Clan Donald, Clan MacRory, and Clan MacAlister.

In the early 2000s, researchers at the University of Oxford undertook an effort to identify genetic markers for descendants of Somerled (results were published in 2005), which eventually spawned the Clan Donald DNA project. A **similar project** was launched for Clan MacDougall to assist MacDougalls around the globe in tracing their lineage. It was announced in September 2020 that researchers at the University of Strathclyde have identified a specific genetic marker for descendants of Dugald. With this type of specificity within DNA testing, researchers are able to look at the genetic markers and tell a MacDougall man from a MacDonald man.

Men are made men, biologically, through the presence of the Y-chromosome (women have two X-chromosomes). The Y-chromosome is passed down from father to son, and genetic testing can identify direct paternal ancestors through this chromosomal testing. The MacDougall DNA Research Project seeks to map this paternal MacDougall ancestral bloodline. Participation in the project is currently free for any MacDougall man interested should he meet the required criteria found on the website.

Visit the **University of Strathclyde** for the full press release.

Winter Foolishness

Georgette and I are the type of people who just can't resist a stray; feline, canine... human. It doesn't much matter. We are more than a bit tender-hearted and can't resist a hard luck case. Last year, this brought a black **Cairn Terrier** into our lives. He was being evicted from his home as he had become a

tripping hazard for his elderly owner. My protestations that three cats were enough for one house were skillfully countered by Georgette. "...but he's Scottish", she coaxed and I weakened, as I always do. That was how Dug came to live with us. (He's just "a wee dug", you see.) He's a cute little guy and the fastest dog I've ever seen, making him a better mouser than our cats.



I was convinced our family was once again complete, until last week. "Remember how you said, 'If you ever see a **West Highland Terrier**...'", Gette began. Turns out she had been scrolling **PetFinder** again and had found some Westies at **Oklahoma Westie Rescue**. I thought flying from Minnesota to Oklahoma, in the midst of a global pandemic, to pick up a dog was the stupidest idea I had ever heard. "Foolishness", my Grandmother would have called it, shaking her head.

So it was that I found myself in the car on Wednesday headed south.

I had held firm through the weekend, but it had become clear during that time that these dogs were in Tulsa. In fact, they were about five miles from where our Society Secretary/Archivist Misha Lowther lives. Misha and I have communicated several times a week since I came across her on Facebook and recruited her to come "MacDougall" for us. We've become pretty good friends but had never met in person. The chance for a face to face visit was too much to pass up.

A short, small blizzard blew through on Tuesday. We're Minnesotans. A little snow doesn't scare us. By Wednesday, the plows had been out and we were off. 702 miles door to door, keeping mainly to the interstate for better conditions.

We pulled into Tulsa bright and early Thursday morning only to find that my favorite Westie had gone to another home. (We had been warned of this risk ahead of time.) Unfortunately, the other Westie on our list had developed some medical problems and would also have to be left behind. So, we went off to meet "Snow".

It turned out Snow wasn't a Westie at all, but rather a **Scottish Terrier**. His nose is too long and he's a little too big to be a Westie. He also wasn't white; he was definitely wheaten.



Fun fact: Contrary to popular belief, there is no such thing as a white Scottish Terrier. They only come in black, 4 shades of brindle, and wheaten. Only 11.1% are wheaten, according to a 2005 survey from the Scottish Terrier Club of America. On the other hand, he was 12 years old, his back legs didn't work so well, and he was deaf as a post. Perfect. A hard luck case, remember?

With new dog acquired, it was off to Misha's for a covid-friendly visit. (The masks only came off for the photo and to shove pizza in our faces from a safe distance.) I'd like to say that we accomplished a great deal of Society work, but that wasn't the case. We did poke around in the archives enough to see the fair amount of work we have yet to finish. It'll come with time. The point of this trip was social. It was wonderful to meet Misha's husband (Don), the adult kids, and "the littles", as she calls the rest. Because of covid, I was unable to hold baby Hazel but she is absolutely adorable. (Sophie's daughter. Her birth announcement was the August newsletter.)



We were aware that the next storm was rolling in over Louisiana and Texas, promising to sheet the entire midwest in freezing rain. We were forced to cut things short in able to race northward ahead of it. Except for some fog near Council Bluffs, it was a lovely drive, and I'm thankful that Gette and I still enjoy each other's company after 30 years of marriage. We couldn't have managed 38 hours and nearly 1,500 miles in the car if we didn't.

Two dogs now snore gently in her lap when she curls on the couch and she is satisfied, for the moment. There are, after all, five types of Scottish dogs. (The unmentioned are the **Skye** and the **Dandie Dinmot**.) One of these days, she will say, "You know..." and we'll be off again, trying to collect them all, I guess. It's fine. A little adventure and some occasional "foolishness" are good for you.

Kyle Jones
President, CMSNA

New Media Events

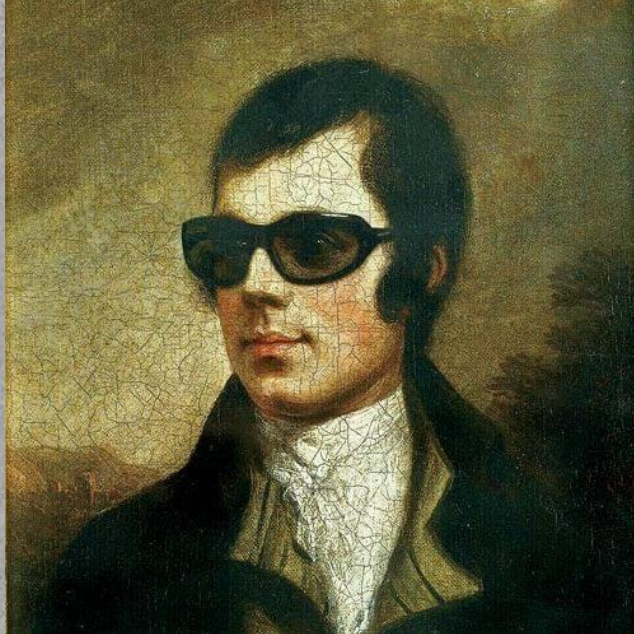
The Imagine Alba Virtual Cèilidh
presents
A Burns Night Hooley

Introducing
Dun Ollaigh: The Great Stronghold



Dun Ollaigh: The Great Stronghold, a 45 minute documentary about the ancient Dunollie Castle Ruin - it's significance in history, the origins of Clan MacDougall and the people who once lived there.

The film is due to be released on Friday 15th



Rab and Michelle Woods of Imagine Alba bring Scotland to the world with traditional music from top players, including a special celebration of Robert Burns.

The Virtual Ceilidh premieres Saturday, January 23 at 8pm GMT/3pm EST on the **Imagine Alba YouTube channel**. The players and fans will be live chatting through the event. After that, the video will be available anytime.

Rab and Michelle will host the evening's entertainment from their home at Kilbride, and joining from their homes are The Cruachan Cèilidh Band, Alasdair Watson, fiddle master Ann Barlow, Hiraeth and more. The show is free, but tips are very welcome for the players, who are out of work now.

January 2021. More information on how you can view will be available from www.dunollie.org and Dunollie's social media channels. All proceeds raised from film purchases will go back into conservation efforts of the heritage site.

(Click to view the **trailer**.)



New Members

Brian McDougal
Fairmont, WV

Joshua Reeves
Raleigh, NC

Bernie Abrahams
Wetmore, CO

Family News

Congratulations to Webmaster John McDowall on the marriage of his daughter Brooke McDowall to David Naughton of Manassas, Virginia. The two were wed in a ceremony rife with Scottish tradition on November 14, 2020.



Many blessings and congratulations to the happy couple!

Photo taken by Debra Baker Bongiovi

Coffee is a black, hellish, liquorish, bitter drink... or is it nectar of the gods? It depends on which side of the Atlantic you originate.

Texas State Representative Brent Rich maintains a blog called **Teacher in Transition**. His latest series combines his two loves: coffee and his Scottish heritage, and tells the tale of our illustrious kinswoman, New York businesswoman Alice Foote MacDougall.



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Persons wishing to submit articles, photos, or
items of interest to our newsletters may contact:
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The publishers of *The Scottish Banner* are providing our members with a free digital copy of their January 2021 edition. You can download it by clicking the cover image. This publication has been covering the Scottish community for 44 years. **Digital subscriptions** are available for \$19.95 per year.



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Membership Year

Membership Dues are on a calendar year basis ending on 31 December.
Dues may be paid, or prepaid, online for one or more calendar years.

[Renew Membership](#)

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We are informed that doing so places our Society at risk of violating current internet privacy laws.

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