



# GAELIC GAZETTE

Monthly newsletter of the Tucson Celtic Festival Association

Tucson, Arizona

June 2022



## *Tea, food, and fun hats were celebrated at our May 14 party*

Our May 14 Mother's Day Tea Party's 61 guests savored delicious teas, pastries, finger sandwiches, desserts, and salad. And, many unique hats were worn to make the event more festive.

"We had more than twice as many guests today, as last year, said President Elizabeth Warner. "Money raised will benefit our Celtic festival in early November."

Contributions were also raised through several silent auction prizes, generously donated by our association members.

The successful event was made possible by Christina Garza, who organized the tea.

Also credited are Angela Nelson, Michelle Sheehan, Elizabeth Warner, and Tray Hargrove.

Food servers were Gavin Littlefield, Justin Warner, Landon Taylor, and Brennan Warner. Don Burns designed the tea party's printed program.

An added thanks is extended to Northminster Presbyterian Church and staff, and Tucson Celtic Hammerheads Juniors.





## Meet your new newsletter editor

Tucson Celtic Festival Association President Elizabeth Warner has appointed me as the new monthly newsletter editor.

I retired in 2013 after a 36-year career as a newspaper editor, news writer, festivals and fairs publicist, and city/county government agency spokesperson.

Since I bought my first kilt in 1999, I have been actively involved in Scottish Highland Games; Robert Burns Suppers; and Scottish clubs as an officer, newsletter editor, games publicist, and print and website designer.

I am a new Arizona resident, recently single, and wish to make more Tucson area friends.

To keep busy, I attend Pima Community College classes (*mostly history and journalism*) and volunteer as the monthly newsletter editor of my Tucson Moose Lodge.

Unfortunately, I was in a 2017 near-fatal car accident. Despite several major leg surgeries, it is difficult for me to walk far.

Please don't be shy in sending me your newsletter text and photos.

**P.S.:** You are encouraged to forward our monthly Tucson Celtic Festival Association newsletter to friends, family, and others, who might wish to keep current of our activities.



Don Burns

(925) 809-5654 (cellphone & text)  
kiltguy@aol.com

## Club newsletter name is chosen

Our Tucson Celtic club's May 14 tea party allowed the 61 attendees to vote and name our monthly newsletter.

Choices were: *Desert Thistle*, *Celtic Corner*, *Gaelic Gazette*, *Painted Shamrock*, and *Rampant Lion*.

The most popular newsletter name selected was: **Gaelic Gazette**.



## Celtic association officers:

- ♦ **President:** Elizabeth Warner
- ♦ **Vice President:** Bruno Brunelle
- ♦ **Secretary:** Christina Garza
- ♦ **Treasurer:** Angela Nelson
- ♦ **Member at Large:** Tracey "Tray" Hargrove
- ♦ **Member at Large:** Michelle Sheehan
- ♦ **Member at Large:** Ildefonso "Ponch" Green

## Committee chairpersons:

- ♦ **Athletics director:** Daryn Herzberg
- ♦ **Athletics liaison:** Ildefonso "Ponch" Green
- ♦ **Children's activities:** Christina Garza
- ♦ **Clans and societies:** Joe Warner
- ♦ **Entertainment:** Tray Hargrove
- ♦ **Festival t-shirts:** Helen Marty
- ♦ **Fields:** Michelle Sheehan
- ♦ **Media:** Tray Hargrove
- ♦ **Membership:** Lee Ann Brydges
- ♦ **Newsletter:** Don Burns
- ♦ **Operations:** Bruno Brunelle
- ♦ **Pipe bands:** Renee Brollini
- ♦ **Program editor:** Helen Marty
- ♦ **Public address announcers:** Michelle Sheehan
- ♦ **Scholarships:** Alexandra MacPherson-Munro
- ♦ **Vendors (food and crafts):** Elizabeth Warner
- ♦ **Volunteers:** Helen Marty
- ♦ **Webmaster:** Derek Vanover



Our Celtic association's newsletter deadline to submit text and photos is **June 28** for the July 2022 issue at:

**kiltguy@aol.com**

## Contact us:

- ♦ **Website:**  
TucsonCelticFestival.org
- ♦ **Mailing address:**  
P.O. Box 40665, Tucson, AZ 85717
- ♦ **General inquiries:**  
TucsonCelt1@gmail.com
- ♦ **Newsletter:**  
kiltguy@aol.com
- ♦ **Facebook (nearly 6,000 followers):**  
facebook.com/TucsonCelticFestival



## From our Association President . . .

**Hello Tucson Celtic Festival Association members and friends,**

This has been an eventful couple of months:

In April, we held the first and hopefully annual **Tartan Day Games**. It was an absolute success! World records were broken in the Men's Lightweight Class, the first ever. Tucson juniors class joined the competition, and we had an all around great day watching the Highland Games and listening to some fantastic music. Big thanks to all of you who came out and spent the day with us. It was so nice to see everyone!

Then we had the memorial for **Chieftain James McBain of McBain**. What a lovely celebration of life for a man that has been a central figure at our festival for so many years. I was honored to be there, among so many friends and family members, paying respects to such a wonderful human being.



Mid-May brought our **Second Annual Mother's Day Tea** at our home church, Northminster Presbyterian. Again, a total success, in my humble opinion. Everyone was just resplendent in their beautiful hats and dresses. The food was delicious and the company was perfect. I can't thank the volunteers enough for helping to make this event such a lovely day!

As we move into summer, we begin the rounds to other Celtic festivals in Arizona and surrounding areas. I highly recommend the **Arizona Highland Celtic Festival** (July 16 - 17 in Flagstaff), and **Prescott Highland Games & Celtic Faire** (Sept. 24 - 25) for those wanting to escape the Tucson heat.

All of our yearly events have one special thing in common: **YOU**, my fun-loving, kilt-wearing, Guinness-drinking, caber-tossing, pipe-band playing, Slainte-toasting community. You all coming out and sharing a laugh or a story is the best part of every event we have.

So, thank you everyone for a couple great months! I hope to see you all next month at the Arizona Highland Celtic Festival in Flagstaff.

Take care, and be safe and well.

Your friend,

**Elizabeth Warner, President  
Tucson Celtic Festival Association**

## It takes a Celtic village to host a Celtic festival

Our Nov. 4 - 6 Tucson Celtic Festival & Scottish Highland Games takes an entire year of planning and organizing to bring this unique cultural event to Tucson's Rillito Raceway Park.

Many weekend shifts are available; but we are in need of many volunteers for:

- ♦ **Nov. 2, Wednesday:** Marking the festival field for arriving stages, vendor booths, and clan tents.
- ♦ **Nov. 3, Thursday:** Help with dance stage construction.
- ♦ **Nov. 4, Friday:** Assist all areas of our *Viking Night! Concert*.
- ♦ **Nov. 5, Saturday, and Nov. 6, Sunday:** All festival positions.
- ♦ **Nov. 7, Monday:** Dismantle and remove festival equipment.

**The benefits of volunteering are:**

- ♦ **FREE** admission to one day of the festival, with each four-hour shift.
- ♦ **FREE** festival volunteer t-shirt (while supplies last).
- ♦ **Invitation to the Volunteer Appreciation Party** on Sunday evening after the festival closes.
- ♦ **Plus:** Fulfill community service time requirements, meet new people, form new connections, and immerse yourself in Celtic culture.

Online volunteer registration will open Sept. 1 on our Tucson Celtic Festival website. We will be using *SignUpGenius* again this year to select your shifts.

For questions, please contact Helen Marty, volunteer coordinator, at (520) 861-0296.





## Meetings and events

Our Tucson Celtic Festival Association's four major annual events are: **Robert Burns Supper** (late January), **Tartan Day** (early April), **Mother's Day Tea Party** (mid May), and **Tucson Celtic Festival & Scottish Highland Games** (early November).



**Monthly membership and festival planning meetings:** 9 a.m., on the second Saturday of the month, in the Northminster Presbyterian Church fellowship hall, 2450 E. Fort Lowell Road, Tucson: **June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, and continuing.** No meeting in May.

- ♦ **June 11, Saturday, 9 a.m.:** Our Tucson Celtic club membership and festival planning meeting.
- ♦ **June 18, Saturday, 7 p.m.:** Kilted Spirit (Scottish and Irish concert), Green Valley Park, Payson, AZ.
- ♦ **July 9, Saturday, 9 a.m.:** Our Tucson Celtic club membership and festival planning meeting.
- ♦ **July 16 & 17:** Arizona Highland Celtic Festival, Fort Tuthill County Park, 2446 Fort Tuthill Loop, Flagstaff, AZ.
- ♦ **Sept. 24 & 25:** Prescott Highland Games & Celtic Faire, Watson Lake, Prescott, AZ.
- ♦ **October 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, Saturdays, 9 a.m.:** Tucson Celtic Festival planning meetings.
- ♦ **Nov. 4 - 6: Tucson Celtic Festival & Scottish Highland Games, Rillito Raceway Park, 4502 N. 1st Avenue, Tucson, AZ.**

**More events to come.**

**Editor's note:** Please Google all upcoming festivals and concerts to verify their event date(s) and location have not been changed or cancelled.

## Spotlighted event:

**Arizona Highland Celtic Festival** at Fort Tuthill County Park, 2446 Fort Tuthill Loop; Flagstaff, AZ (257 miles north of Tucson).

**Open hours:** 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday, July 16; and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, July 17.

**Festival activities:** Athletics, live music, Celtic dancing, piping, children's activities, clan and Celtic society booths, genealogy and other workshops, food and gift vendors, beers, and whiskies.

### Admission:

- ♦ **Adults:** 1 day, \$20; and 2 days, \$30.
- ♦ **Seniors (60 and older):** 1 day, \$15; and 2 days, \$25.
- ♦ **Children (age 5 -12):** 1 or 2 days, \$5.



## Home WiFi Internet radio brings British Isles to you

During the past 23 years I have been attending Scottish games and Celtic festivals, I have met many so-called experts who recite facts to me on Celtic history and clans.

But very few can tell me, what is the current news in the British Isles.

Last summer, I bought a \$60 Internet radio online (see photo) that can access more than



3,000 live-streaming radio stations around the world through my home WiFi.

In my spare time I enjoy English-language radio stations, including those in Ireland, Wales, England, Scotland, and the English Channel island of Guernsey.

I listen nightly to their local and national news reports, folk music, and

programs of their country's culture and history. I have recently become a pen-pal with an Irish radio show host in Dublin.

Those with a smart phone or computer may also tune to live-streaming radio stations. But I find the sound quality and convenience of my small bedside Internet radio suit me well.

There are several other makes and models sold online you can find by Googling: *WiFi Internet radio receivers*.

— Don Burns, newsletter editor



### Know our Celtic community on Facebook



Want to read recent and upcoming events of our Tucson Celtic Festival Association and other regional Celtic, Irish, and Scottish groups?

Please *friend* us and join our nearly 6,000 Facebook page followers at:  
**facebook.com/TucsonCelticFestival**

### 36th Tucson Celtic Festival & Scottish Highland Games Nov. 4 - 6, 2022



- ◆ Bagpipe bands
- ◆ Food, beers & whiskies
- ◆ Celtic gifts for sale
- ◆ Irish and Highland dancing
- ◆ Scottish athletics
- ◆ Celtic bands and fire dancers
- ◆ Clan and Celtic society booths
- ◆ *and a wee bit more fun . . .*

**Rillito Raceway Park, Tucson, Arizona**  
**TucsonCelticFestival.org**

### Help advertise our Celtic festival

Help spread the word of our Tucson Celtic Festival & Scottish Highland Games with the above save *the dates* graphic image .

Although it is not our official 2022 festival logo, it has been posted and shared on several Facebook pages. And the huge number of its Facebook *likes* keeps multiplying!

You are encourage to also share this image on your personal Facebook page and support our Tucson Celtic association. The image is on our association's Facebook page at:

**facebook.com/TucsonCelticFestival.**

Or you can have the JPG image e-mailed to you, by contacting: **kiltguy@aol.com**

### Celtic Club Corner. . .

. . . One of the best websites for finding a tartan or a family clan, and planning a Scottish wedding is the Scottish Tartans Authority at:

**TartansAuthority.com . . .**

. . . A free, used pair of black-leather ghillie brogues men's shoes (*size 10 US, narrow width*) with long ankle laces, is available. If interested, e-mail **kiltguy@aol.com . . .**



. . . The Irish Cultural Center in Phoenix often hosts Celtic cultural programs and concerts. View its website for upcoming activities worth the drive from Tucson at: **AzIrish.org . . .**

### Celtic Tidbits. . .

**Castles galore!** There are more castles per square mile in Wales than any other European country.

Wales has 600 castles. Caerphilly has the largest castle in Wales. It is the second largest castle in Europe, after Windsor Castle in England.

**Celtic homeland:** One prominent theory, which emerged in the 19th century, identified the "Celtic homeland" as Hallstatt, Austria.

This is because of several graves found in that region that depict the earliest characteristics identified as Celtic.

**Celtic speech:** The Celts contributed greatly to European culture and language. The Celts' language was adopted relatively quickly by many non-Celts.

It's thought that the Celtic language gained momentum as they traveled, traded, and communicated with various people.



The Celtic language belongs to what's known as the 'Indo-European' family of languages.

In the years that followed 1000 BC, the language spread to Turkey, Scotland, Switzerland, and Iberia (Spain and Portugal).

The language began to fade out after 100 BC, after Roman conquests in Portugal, Spain, France, and England.

Years later, the language slowly began to dwindle.. However, it survived in several places, including Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.



## James McBain remembered at May 7 memorial

It was a memorial service befitting any great Scottish chief. Friends, family, and fellow Tucson Celtic Festival Association members honored James Hughston McBain at his May 7 *Celebration of Life* gathering at Northminster Presbyterian Church.

As the 22nd Hereditary Chief of Clan MacBean, James passed-away in early March at age 93.

The church service featured an honor guard by Scottish American Military Society Post 81, with an escort by the Sons of the American Revolution.



Association President Elizabeth Warner pays her respects to new clan chief, Richard McBain

Drum Major Kevin Conquest, the Mesa Caledonian Pipe Band and the Tucson & District Pipe Band provided stirring music. Vocalist Sarah Noble sang, accompanied by guitarist James McCoy.

Plus, warm and funny memories of James were publicly shared by his family and close friends.

A reception was held in the church courtyard after the 2 p.m. service.

James' son, Richard, now assumes the mantle of Clan MacBean chief.



## Our Celtic club benefits from truck raffle ticket sales

One of our best yearly Tucson Celtic Festival Association fundraisers is participating in Jim Click Automotive Team's *Millions for Tucson Raffle*. We are one of several community non-profit groups selling raffle tickets for your chance to win a **2022 Ford Maverick Lariat Hybrid pickup truck**.

Tickets are \$25 each or five for \$100, and our club keeps 100-percent of the ticket sales.

"Last year, our Tucson Celtic club earned \$1,125 during eight weeks of ticket sales. We also received another \$1,000 from Jim Click for participating.

It has been one of our most profitable fundraisers," said Angela Nelson, club treasurer.



"I'm currently selling 100 tickets to benefit our Tucson Celtic association. If someone wants to purchase one or more raffle tickets, they may contact me at (520) 822-4779 or by e-mail at **TucsonCelt1@gmail.com**."

Ticket sales deadline is Dec. 8; but only 100 are being sold through our Tucson Celtic Festival Association. So, buy them while they last.

A complete list of raffle details and rules are online at: **MillionsForTucson.org**



## Brittany: *One of the least known Celtic Nations*

On the northwest French coast, Brittany is one of the six Celtic Nations, in addition to Eire (Ireland), Kernow (Cornwall), Mannin (Isle of Mann), Alba (Scotland) and Cymru (Wales).

A strong Celtic background distinguishes Brittany (or Breizh) from other parts of France. The Celts were the first historically identifiable inhabitants of Brittany, but they probably intermingled with the earlier peoples who built the great stone monuments, the menhirs and dolmens, that still stand.

Conquered by Julius Caesar in 56 BCE, the region became part of the Roman Empire as Armorica, a Romanization of the Celtic words for "seaside." The Celts of Armorica never were more than superficially Romanized. After the Romans withdrew, Celts from Britain moved into the area to seek refuge from the Anglo-Saxon invaders of the 5th and 6th centuries.

It is from this event that Brittany derives its name. Over the next 300 years the Celts were converted to Christianity by missionaries from the British Isles.

During the Middle Ages, Brittany fought to become and remain an independent duchy. It was first united in the 9th century under the rule of Nomenoë, Brittany's national hero, who revolted against the Carolingians. By repelling the Norse invaders, his successors were able to keep the independence he had won.

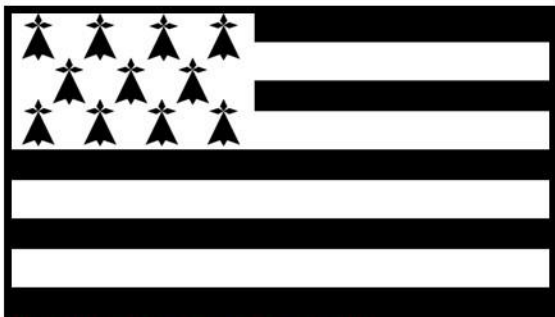
In the 10th century the ruler of Brittany took the title of duke and located his capital at Rennes. In the following centuries the dukes not only had to assert their power over rebellious vassals but also faced a threat to their existence from their neighbors, the powerful Norman dukes. In the late 12th century the duchy was brought into the Angevin empire but eventually came under the control of the Capetians, the ruling French dynasty.

Brittany had only a minor role in the struggles between England and France during the later Middle Ages. A civil war for control of the duchy was fought in the mid-14th century between supporters of an English heir and supporters of a French heir. The dukes of the family of Montfort, who finally gained the title, tried to keep Brittany neutral during the remainder of the Hundred Years' War.

Brittany became a part of France when Anne, heir to Brittany, married two successive kings of France, Charles VIII and Louis XII. In the formal treaty of incorporation into France in 1532, the province was guaranteed local privileges. Over the next two centuries it resisted the crown's efforts at centralization.

At the time of the French Revolution, Brittany contributed to the agitation that led to the calling of the Estates-General. From 1793 to 1799 the Chouans of Brittany were in revolt against the Revolution's reorganization of the Roman Catholic church.

Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries Brittany remained a conservative area of France, maintaining old social and religious practices. A separatist movement affirms that the Bretons are still conscious of the uniqueness of their province.



*Brittany's flag is black and white.*



*Traditional Brittany folk wear.*

**This article was revised and updated by Michael Ray, *Encyclopædia Britannica*.**