



THE SEANACHIE

Visit us online at www.southbayscots.org.

AUGUST 2020



FROM THE CHIEF

Chief Cheryl

I want to say hello to all our members, this has definitely been a strange year thus far and it looks like it will continue to be for some time. At this time all future events are on hold waiting for the time it is “safe” to be together again. This of course puts our Toys for Tots drive and our 2021 Burns Night Supper in a state of question as to whether or not we will be able to go forward with these events.

I am hoping to get the board members together for a “virtual” meeting in the next month or so, so we can discuss how we can go forward.

I miss seeing all of you and miss our events but as we ride out the virus please stay home, stay safe and if you must go out please wear a mask for your protection and that of others.

VIRTUAL HIGHLAND GAMES!

[Pacific Northwest Highland Games](http://www.sshga.org/) <http://www.sshga.org/>

Just when you thought, “How will I survive 2020 without my Highland Games fix!”, the Pacific Northwest Virtual Highland Games comes along. Many things you are looking for are there; piping, dancing and more.



2020 SOUTH BAY
SCOTTISH SOCIETY BOARD
OF GOVERNORS

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SCOTLAND



SEANACHIE PUBLICATION INFORMATION

Submit all materials to:

newsletter@southbayscots.org.

Note: All published material becomes the property of the South Bay Scottish Society. Newsletter content is decided upon by the Board of Governors, representing the membership of the South Bay Scottish Society.



A SELECTION OF SCOTTISH BOOK SERIES

Here are three book series (Yes books still rock!!!!!!) to entertain you. They are reviewed by fellow SBSS members. They are all available on Amazon and I included the review by goodreads.com after the member review.

44 SCOTLAND STREET

A review by Bob Anderson

I read and truly enjoyed the "44 Scotland Street" series by Alexander McCall Smith. An author you may already know from his "No 1 Ladies' Detective Agency" series that was also produced as a BBC Television series. Smith who goes by "Sandy" was born in 1948 in a British Colony in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and moved at age 17 to study law at the University of Edinburgh earning his LLB and PhD. Taking a professorship of Medical Law at University of Edinburgh he continues to be an authority on medical ethics. After delving into fiction with an incredible ability to write 1000 words an hour and somewhere between 3000 to 5000 words a day when he is home in Edinburgh he left teaching for writing and was appointed a CBE for literature. Among his 70 plus published books we find the 13 books in the "44 Scotland Street Series"

Smith takes us through Scotland, mostly Edinburgh through the eyes of Edinburghers. Characters are of all ages, and walks of life, even a dog takes us along on an adventure. With 13 volumes in the series it's best if possible to read them in order. He includes many real locations, even businesses which you'll remember if you've been there lately or recognize when you go, just don't look for number 44 on Scotland Street, there isn't one, but the neighborhood is as described. Our protagonist is a young lad named Bertie about 6 years old when we first meet him. His politically "correct" mother an absolute nightmare and the bane of his existence. His milquetoast father is sympathetic but powerless. Bertie and his father carry on valiantly. There are too many other wonderful characters and situations to mention but they're all Scottish and provide a wonderful look at life in Scotland.

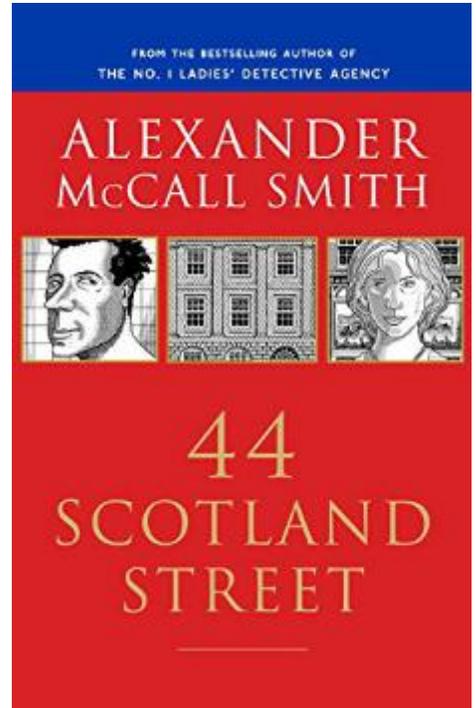
From goodreads.com:

3.61 out of 5 rating

The residents and neighbors of 44 Scotland Street and the city of Edinburgh come to vivid life in these gently satirical, wonderfully perceptive serial novels, featuring six-year-old Bertie, a remarkably precocious boy—just ask his mother.

Welcome to 44 Scotland Street, home to some of Edinburgh's most colorful characters. There's Pat, a twenty-year-old who has recently moved into a flat with Bruce, an athletic young man with a keen awareness of his own appearance. Their neighbor, Domenica, is an eccentric and insightful widow. In the flat below are Irene and her appealing son Bertie, who is the victim of his mother's desire for him to learn the saxophone and Italian—all at the tender age of five.

Love triangles, a lost painting, intriguing new friends, and an encounter with a famous Scottish crime writer are just a few of the ingredients that add to this delightful and witty portrait of Edinburgh society, which was first published as a serial in *The Scotsman* newspaper.



DCI Logan Scottish Crime Thrillers

A review by John Dewing

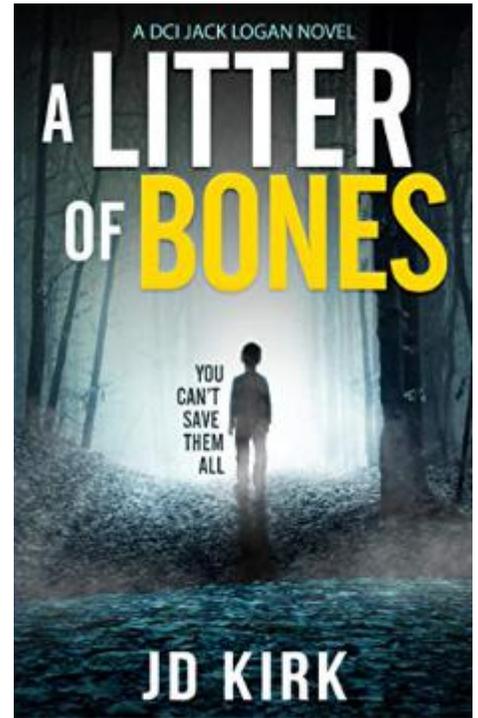
So far I have only read the first two in the series, A Litter of Bones and Thicker than Water.

These crime stories occur in the Scottish Highlands. They use Scottish locations (Loch Lomond in book #2), Scottish accents and a serving of Scottish culture. I don't remember there being any kilts :).

The first two books I read in the series were page turners all the way. The main characters are introduced in a short, easy way. You get to know them without it intruding in to the mystery. The end twist is kept cloudy until the very end of the book. When your finished, you are left curious where the main characters are going from here. Fortunately there are more books.

I thought these were well written. The characters are a bit quirky but are instilled with a bit of humor which is fun and gives you a break from the seriousness of the crime.

I will be reading more of this series.



Please note that they are a bit gory and book #1 has some animal torture.

From goodreads.com:

4.35 out of 5 rating

Please note: This series is comprised of independent stories

Book #1 - A Litter of Bones

Ten years ago, DCI Jack Logan stopped the serial child-killer dubbed 'Mister Whisper,' earning himself a commendation, a drinking problem, and a broken marriage in the process.

Now, he spends his days working in Glasgow's Major Incident Team, and his nights reliving the horrors of what he saw.

And what he did.

When another child disappears a hundred miles north in the Highlands, Jack is sent to lead the investigation and bring the boy home.

But as similarities between the two cases grow, could it be that Jack caught the wrong man all those years ago?

And, if so, is the real Mister Whisper about to claim his fourth victim?

A Litter of Bones is the explosive debut crime thriller novel from JD Kirk, an exciting new voice in Scottish crime fiction.



Outlander Series

A review by Chief Cheryl

Outlander was written in 1990 by Diane Gabaldon as an experiment in writing which she did not expect to have published but that is now ancient history. Outlander has evolved into a series of 8 books thus far with book 9 currently in the writing stage with a planned 10th and final book to wrap up all the unanswered questions. It has its own cult following with numerous Facebook group dedicated to the books, the author, Television series on the STARZ network as well as the actors that portray the main characters. Outlander is a fictional Historical novel but follows closely actual history.

The story beginning with Claire Randall a WWII combat nurse and her husband reuniting in Scotland for a honeymoon after having been separated during the war. Claire visits a stone circle to collect herbs where she “falls thru the stones” 200 years in the past. It is 1743 in Scotland a country torn by war, border raids, old world believes and superstitions, no place for a modern 20th century woman. A gallant young lord Jamie Fraser swipes Claire off her feet in an undying love that spans centuries.

The series of books explores their trails from 1743 toward the Jacobite raising, the aftermath and cleansing of Scotland by the English, on to the new world arriving while it is still under English authority and up through their involved in the American Revolution.

The Outlander series has had its share of controversy over the years, some people have been outraged by what they consider to be the domestic abuse and misogyny portrayed but we must remember this was the world in the 18th century and this is a historical novel.

If you can view the book (s) as pretty much historical accurate you will enjoy the swiping time travel-romance and adventure, there is something for everyone.

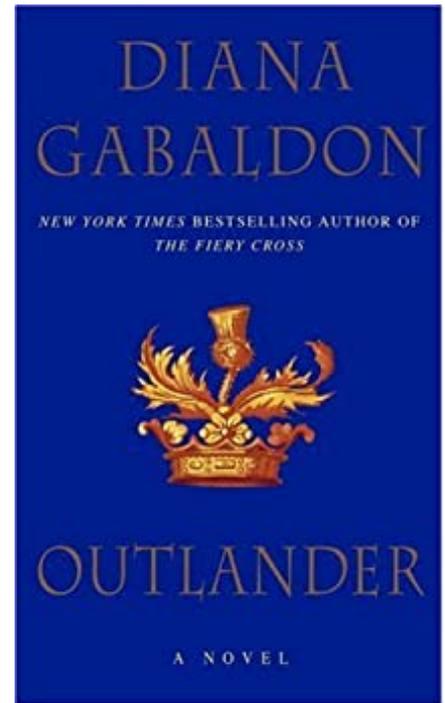
From goodreads.com:

4.23 out of 5 rating

Please note: This series is comprised of one epic story. Each book is like a chapter.

The year is 1945. Claire Randall, a former combat nurse, is just back from the war and reunited with her husband on a second honeymoon when she walks through a standing stone in one of the ancient circles that dot the British Isles. Suddenly she is a Sassenach—an “outlander”—in a Scotland torn by war and raiding border clans in the year of Our Lord...1743.

Hurled back in time by forces she cannot understand, Claire is catapulted into the intrigues of lairds and spies that may threaten her life, and shatter her heart. For here James Fraser, a gallant young Scots warrior, shows her a love so absolute that Claire becomes a woman torn between fidelity and desire—and between two vastly different men in two irreconcilable lives.



10 MEMORABLE BOOKS FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS SET IN SCOTLAND

[Scotland Now](#)

Katie Morag series by Mairi Hedderwick
The Tobermory Cat by Debi Gliori
Asterix and the Pechts by Jean-Yves Ferri
Kidnapped by Robert Louis Stevenson
The Nowhere Emporium by Ross MacKenzie

The Hill of the Red Fox by Allan McLean
The Sound of Whales by Kerr Thomson
Divided City by Theresa Breslin
A Stranger Came Ashore by Molly Hunter
Boyracers by Alan Bissett

MAR SIN LEAT, ANDY MCFARLIN

Goodbye

It is with sadness and heavy heart that we announce the passing of Andy McFarlin. At this time details of his passing are not available but it has been confirmed that he passed a couple of weeks ago. Even though Andy "retired" from our organization several years ago we have all missed his "hands on" influence and help.

Andy was one of the key players in helping form the South Bay Scottish Society acting as our "Chief" and the major planner for all of our events. Further as many of you know Andy was instrumental in coordinating Tartan Day with the County and the City of San Jose as well as the St Andrews Day event held each year at Evergreen Valley College.

We offer our sincerest condolences to his family and friends. We will provide additional information should it become available.

Our Scottish community has lost one of its staunchest supporters and dearest friend.

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

Former Chief Sandy Welsh posted on [Facebook](#)

If you spend time with Scottish people, you know what's coming. Andy McFarlin, my friend for close to 30 years, passed away last week. I've been trying to learn more about the circumstances. It wasn't Covid. Andy was 94 years old and always sounded like he was doing great. He was dedicated to promoting Scottish culture in the San Jose area....and what a job he did. For 40+ years he organized a St. Andrew's Day Celebration at Evergreen Jr. College in San Jose - where he had taught for I don't know how long. He worked with Pete McHugh & Bill McWood for many years to put on a Tartan Day Celebration at, what I believe (memory a little faded) is the County offices in San Jose. The Saltire (St. Andrews Cross flag) was always raised along with the US flag for the festivities. These events always included highland dancers, bagpipers, the Scottish American Military Society Color Guard, local Celtic Vendors and sometimes Clans. When I was Chieftain of South Bay Scottish Society, I 'commandeered' Andy to join and serve as a Governor at Large. He and I worked together on many a Robert Burns event for SBSS. During the ceilidh dance time of our Burns events, he always danced to 'Road to the Isles' with Lorna Paisley. And we enjoyed watching them do that. Andy later became Chief of SBSS. He was dedicated to the Society and worked tirelessly to it's benefit. He stayed active with the Society for as long as he could. If you were lucky enough to be his friend, you knew you had his unwavering support come what may. He would never let you down. I loved working with him. He was extremely detail oriented and well organized - kind of 'force of nature'. When he was involved in an event, it was always successful. Finally, he was an honorable man who made our world a better place through service - be it teaching or otherwise. I will miss him. Rest in peace, Andy.





MOVIES, MOVIES, MOVIES SBSS MOVIE NIGHT @ HOME ! Anytime is a good time

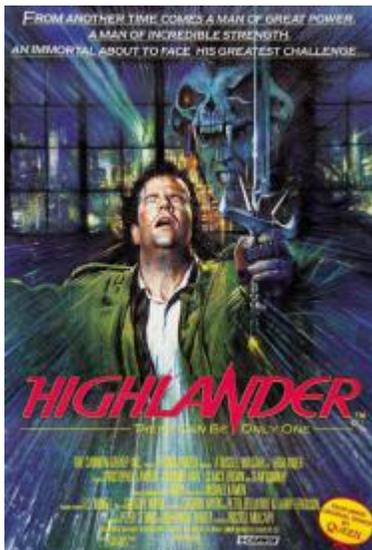
The SBSS will announce when our monthly movie night will resume. This doesn't mean you have to go without your SBSS movie. Find a movie on your streaming service of choice, get your dinner or a tasty snack and enjoy the show.

Here are a few (free) suggestions:

Song of the Sea →

Netflix, PG, Family friendly.

Ben, a young Irish boy, and his little sister Saoirse, a selkie (women in Irish and Scottish legends who transform from seals into people), go on an adventure to free the fairies and save the spirit world. [more](#)



Highlander ←

Amazon Prime, R

An immortal Scottish swordsman must confront the last of his immortal opponent, a murderously brutal barbarian who lusts for the fabled "Prize". [more](#)

Mary & Elizabeth →

Amazon Prime

Mary was the short-lived, little-favoured Catholic, Elizabeth the long-reigning, all-admired Protestant. Or so history has told us. But these two daughters of Henry VIII had more in common than meets the eye. [more](#)



Extra:

Braveheart R, 1995
Amazon Prime
\$3.99 to rent
78% rotten tomatoes
[more](#)

SOUTH BAY SCOTTISH SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL FORM

Please complete this form and return it with your check, made out to: **SBSS**

Mail to: SBSS Membership, 1020 E. Empire St., San Jose, CA 95112

Questions: Lori Daly (408) 644-0649 or steward@southbayscots.org

Membership Dues: Individual and Immediate Household - \$20 annually Jan.-Dec.

Save \$25 by prepaying membership dues for 5 years for \$75.

New Renewal

Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: () _____ Birthday m/d: ____ / ____

Would you be willing to help?

Fund Raising

Membership

Website

Activities

Budget

Publicity

Social Events

Newsletter

Historian

SBSS Booth

The purpose of the South Bay Scottish Society is to stimulate and sustain an interest in Scotland; to provide education regarding its history, traditions and culture; to bring together people of Scottish heritage; to promote good will between its members and the general public; and to perform such charitable good works as may be reasonable and appropriate.

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