



Scot Pourri



Send us your inquiries on life's little question marks.

Ever wanted to know what happened to your old pal from home, how to make your favourite Scottish meal, or wondered about a certain bit of Scottish history? Pose your questions on Scottish related topics to our knowledgeable readership who just may be able to help. Our letters page is a very popular and active one and many readers have been assisted across the world by fellow passionate Scots. Please keep letters under 200 words and we reserve the right to edit content and length. Letters, photos and any other items posted to the Scottish Banner cannot be returned. We prefer letters to be emailed to your nearest office or please visit our on line Scotpourri form at <http://www.scottishbanner.com>, alternatively you may post or fax your letters to us. Please ensure you include your full contact details, when emailing it is best to include your post address for those without internet access.



Rights On The Old Course

A recent query in the "Scottish Banner" mentioned the golf course at St. Andrews (November 2008 issue) think I may be able to shed some light on the subject. The world-famous Old Course was developed on public land adjoining the neighbouring Strathtyrum Estate.

Ownership of the course changed hands several times in the early years and at one point, when the St. Andrews Town Council was in financial difficulties, the land was sold to Mr. James Cheape of Strathtyrum

It was later sold back to the council but, as part of the deal Mr. Cheape - himself a member of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club -incorporated some heritable rights including the right to dig up shell from the course for use on roads on his estate and, more importantly, rights to free preferential tee times on the Old Course itself. For more than a century Mr. Cheape and his successors exercised their rights on the Old Course.

Mr. Angus O. Cheape of Strathtyrum was one of the last members of the family to exercise these privileges and, yes, he regularly publicised the fact he was doing so. In the 1960s and 1970s Mr. Cheape exercised his right to remove shell less and less and in a more agreeable fashion, in consultation with the local council.

Today the Old Course, like other courses at St. Andrews, is still in public ownership and since the early 1970s has been administered by the St. Andrews Links Trust.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, the Trust became acutely aware of the commercial value of Strathtyrum's preferential tee times on the Old Course, especially if the estate were to change hands to a more commercial owner.

The Cheape family too had to consider the possible value of these rights and their effect on any death duties. Following discussion, in 1993, Mrs. Cheape of Strathtyrum agreed to sell the rights to the Links Trust for a sum of almost a quarter of a million pounds. Hill bunker, to which Elizabeth Donaldson refers, guards the green on the 11th hole of the Old Course and was made famous by American Bobby Jones when he ripped his card up after several fruitless attempts to play out of the bunker.

Craig Nisbet
Dee Publishing
St. Andrews
Scotland

This Month In Scottish History November 2008 #19 & #23

#19 The end date of national service was 1958, not 1960 I missed national service by one year as I would have been the age of 18 in 1959 having been born 1941 and would have been called up!

#23 Edward Balliol formally acknowledged Edward 1st not 3rd as his feudal superior and I believe it would have been 1296 certainly not 1332 as Bannockburn 1314 and The declaration of Arbroath 1320 and Robert The Bruce King of Scotland had died I believe 1329 all these long after Balliol had acknowledged Edward 1st England "The hammer of the Scots"

Bill Kelly
No address details supplied

A Tassie Visit



While in Tasmania with a group of friends, we had lunch at the Highlander Restaurant. The premises were decorated with kilts and tartans. The food was mouth watering and all cooked on the premises.

Our editor Helen Horne and myself had our photo taken with the piper and staff of the restaurant. If in Tasmania visit the restaurant and Scottish shop at Sheffield.

We also advised new members were always welcome at Clan Scott.

Lang may your Lum Reek!

Bryce Scott
Clan Scott Association of Australasia
Baxter, Victoria
Australia

Bicentenary In London

In 1808 the Highland Society of London set up funds to establish a Gaelic chapel and an orphanage for the children of Scottish soldiers in London. In the course of the next 200 years the orphanage turned into the Royal Caledonian Schools Trust and the Gaelic Chapel turned into Regent Square United Reformed Church.

Both organisations are celebrating the bicentenary of their first creation this year. Regent Square URC (which is now also known as "Lumen" and is 10 minutes' walk from Kings Cross Station) will be marking the event on 7th December with an interdenominational service in Gaelic and English. The service will feature Rev Father Calum MacLellan from Eriskay and Còisir Lunnainn (the London Gaelic choir), with readings from representatives of the Highland Society of London and the Royal Caledonian Schools Trust.

We'd like to extend a "Highland welcome" to any readers who would like to join us in celebrating this event.

Details of the service, together with a brief account of the set of curious changes by which the Gaelic Chapel became Regent Square URC, are available at:

Regent Square URC
London, England
Website www.regentsquare.urb.org.uk
Phone + 44 (0)207 267 4796

You can view this months and several past editions of Scotpourri online at www.scottishbanner.com. Log on and see why this is one of the most popular pages!

Looking For Descendants

My ancestors migrated to Melbourne Australia on the S S Borda in Sep-Nov 1914

My Grandfather, James Ross, his wife Mary Ann (Balbirnie) Ross and children, Florence, Phyllis, Andrew, James and Kenneth. They lived in Carnoustie prior to leaving Scotland. Grandfather worked as a shoemaker (finisher)

James father was Thomas Ross and his mother was Jane Ross (Davidson)

Am wondering if anyone knows anything of this family or if there are any descendants in Scotland. I am doing family research and would be very grateful for any information that would help me trace my ancestors.

Enid Cox
Brisbane, Queensland
Australia
Email:
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Gaelic Society for Perth in Western Australia

The responses received as a result of the last article in the 'Banner' about the proposed Gaelic Society for Perth in Western Australia has enabled the group to go ahead with the formation of a Gaelic Society dedicated to fostering the learning of the Gaelic language and music. It is planned to start at least one, probably two home study groups by the beginning of February. This new Gaelic Society will be a non-profit community organisation. We are hoping native Gaelic speakers will join the Society, not just to assist with the language skills, but also to meet with other Gaels for a good old chat in Gaelic.

Everyone here is most grateful to the 'Banner' for their help.

More enquiries are welcome, so ring Shirley on 08 9457 1945 or contact by e-mail at olivietree@westnet.com.au

Clan Hunter

I don't know who to approach but I am trying to establish a Victorian branch of Clan Hunter.

Are there any Hunter's or Victorian Clan members who can help?

Any help would be most appreciated.

Thank you
Geoff Hunter
PO Box 4039
Frankston Heights,
Victoria, 3199, Australia

Thanks For Ronnie Browne Interview

Many thanks for the October issue of the 'Banner' received today. As I have been a fan of the Corries since they started out as The Corrie Folk Trio and Paddy Bell many years ago I thoroughly enjoyed the interview with Ronnie Browne.

Many thanks once again.
Mary Smith
Cessnock, NSW
Australia

Searching for Coopers

Regarding W. Cooper looking for his family tree and where they came from. My tree goes back years from Strathdon, Aberdeenshire including a W. Cooper and what I have been told these people were crofters and many left for overseas to, I suppose, better times.

R.Cooper
No address given.
Ed note. R. Cooper please contact us with contact details

In search of Jackie Keenan

I am looking to find Jackie Keenan. We are email pals. I lost touch and have not heard from him since June. His telephone numbers are not accepting any calls.

I hope someone has some good news for me and lets me know he is well.

Thank you
Sandy Demers
Email:
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Las Vegas, Nevada
USA