



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.

My How People Get Excited!!

Re:- A Morrison's response to my letter December Issue!, also to George Moore N.L

Begging Mr. Morrison's pardon! In 1960 I would have been age 19, and would have received my conscription to report for national service a year earlier as I was born in 1941. I would have been age 18 in 1959. I did not however, as call up to National Service had ceased in 1958. To which I always remarked that I was never sure if this was a good or bad thing to have missed by one year.

With reference to George Moore's "absolute assurance" I am afraid his National Service deferment to age 21 and that of his friend having received call up in 1958 (at which time I would have been 17) does not provide "Absolute Assurance" that National Service had to have ended in late 1960. His friend could have been called up early in 1958. My birth month is in August 1941, keep in mind your friend is/was a year older than I and therefore possibly called up just prior to the ending of National Service!

Are there any readers of the "Banner" able to put an end to this topic by providing the exact date of the end of National Service?

As per the Edward or John Balliol reference, I am unable to respond to the original article, as I pass on my issues of the "Banner" to friends!

Bill Kelly
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Which Campbell Tartan?

Do I have the right to wear the Campbell Tartan, and if so which one?

My mother was British and all of Dad's side were smothered or burnt but the surname, Lupin, explained William

Campbell had put his business into the hands of a manager and returned to Scotland when his daughter married a Frenchman (but I think the answer is Samoa, as I tan and have green eyes...not British).

If any reader has a copy of Eurobodalla History of Moruya and District they would sell or give information on I would be most grateful as I believe William Campbell is mentioned on several pages.
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Sean Connery "Being A Scot"

My favourite Sean Connery movie was "The Molly Maguires" which he made in 1987 with Richard Harris. It was about a secret society of militant coal miners who battled against their exploitation by mine owners. It was based on actual events and is a sympathetic and accurate account of the Irish-American miners struggle. The reason I like this movie best is because I come from a coal mining village in Fife, Scotland. My father and two brothers were coal miners. My father lost his life as a result of a mine disaster and one of my brothers was on the rescue team that brought him up the mine. I have now lived in Australia for 37 years and this movie brings back so many memories of my family and our life in the coal mining area.

Mrs. Jessie Nicol
Russell Island, Queensland
Australia

Ed note: Congratulations Jessie you were one of our lucky winners from the December edition Sean Connery book giveaway in Australasia, we hope you and the other winners enjoy their copies.

January 2009 Scottish Banner Cover

This picture is very interesting. The full picture is on the homecomingscotland2009.com website. The Queen Victoria School Pipe Band was in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo 2008 and did a sterling job. They stood out in the massed pipes and drums as they do not wear spats but rather tartan hose (not diced) and buckled brogues. This is a wonderful tradition for this former boy's school, now co-ed. These were the shoes and hose of Scottish gentlemen. Scottish soldiers of highland regiments wore these shoes with diced hose. While lowland regiments wore various types of gaiters from around 1740, black gaiters were only worn in the field by kilted regiments. It was the mid 19th century before they started wearing white gaiters highland (spats). These are still the shoes worn to



mess functions by pipe majors and pipe sergeants. In the Australian Army they were not provided at public expense but could be worn as mess dress by Officers, Warrant Officers & Sergeants with highland dress.

I have not seen a band wearing this type of footwear for many years. As a lad I remember all the pipe bands I saw wore full dress. When bands started to move to civilian dress with argyle jackets and semi dress sporrans, many went to buckled brogues. I have not seen any wearing them in recent years. These are the footwear (with the tartan or diced hose) for evening wear with a Prince Charlie or Regulation Doublet, but it is usually gillie brogues, plain brogues or just black shoes (with off white hose) I see at Burn's suppers, Bannockburn dinners and St. Andrew's day dinners these days. It would be nice to see a return of this footwear and hose. Highland dancers appear to be the only ones wearing tartan hose. Maybe in this economic climate they may become more readily available at prices people (canny Scots and their descendants) are prepared to pay.

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Clan MacBeth

My grandmother was a member of this society back in the 80's, but I have not been able to find out if it is still in existence. My grandmother died in 2000 and most of her info was lost. I have tried to find them at Scottish games in the south, but haven't so far.

Can any reader help and advise if this society still exists?

Thank you kindly,
John Worthington
USA

Email: bigreddwg@yahoo.com

The Homecoming Scotland 2009!

Your editorial (January 2009) has hit the mark!

The Homecoming is a world event, and was predicted by the Brahan Seer four hundred years ago. Some who have the gift of "Highland Fey" will realise the truth in that statement. Others may ponder and remain puzzled. Best for them to research the life of the Branhan Seer (Kenneth MacKenzie).

Ex Pats are returning to the land of their forebears in numbers never contemplated before since the exodus of the 18th and 19th centuries. They will be made most welcome when they reach these halloed shores! Ceud mile failte do Alba don h'uile Lochaber Mac MHic Raonuill daoine!

Ranald Alasdair MacDonald of Keppoch Chief of the Honourable Clan Ranald of Lochaber Mac MHic Raonuill Edinburgh, Scotland.



Ranald Alasdair MacDonald of Keppoch Chief of the Honourable Clan Ranald of Lochaber Mac MHic Raonuill daoine!

Island of Coll

I have an AA 2004 road atlas of Great Britain which clearly shows that the Island of Coll is still reached by ferry from Oban. The journey takes around three hours thirty minutes. While I am no expert it would appear that there are several towns/villages on the island. Hopefully this will assist Rose May Aikenhead in her quest, as published in the Banner's January 2009 edition.

Like many of your readers I am a Scottish-born Aussie having migrated here in 1951. Also like so many other nostalgic Scots I thoroughly enjoy reading the Banner and catching up with historical and current events. Born in Dunmore village on the River Forth downstream from Stirling, I grew up in Bathgate where I was a reporter for the West Lothian Courier before moving to Kirriemuir for a similar job with the Kirrie Free Press. My Aussie wife and I have spent many a happy hour in these places whilst on holiday.

Keep up the good work - and a Guid New Year to you and all your readers.

Leon Stryker
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