



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 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.

This page belongs to our readers so please feel free to take part! Thanks to all our readers from around the world who have made this such a special page.

How much I enjoy the "Banner"

I am just writing to say how much I enjoy the "Banner".

I was born in Glasgow, Scotland, and came to Canada in 1966. I enjoy reading about the old country. You may also be interested in knowing that I have the first issue of the first Canadian "Scottish Banner".

I see a big difference in the paper today. Wishing you continued success in the years to come.

Elizabeth Christie,
Ottawa,
Ontario, Canada.

Bringing William Wallace Document Home to Scotland. Victory!

I have just heard from Garaidh Stiubhart that the Scottish Government have negotiated a deal with National Archives that will bring the safe conduct letter home and will see the document returned to Scotland for a two year period starting in 2012.

A permanent arrangement that would keep it here will be negotiated from 2014. Very well done to everyone who has played a part in this historic recovery of a vital artefact from our national history. Stand by for a hell of a party! Many thanks for all your support, for being part of this facebook group and for signing the Scottish Parliamentary petition. Thanks to David R Ross who inspired this campaign.

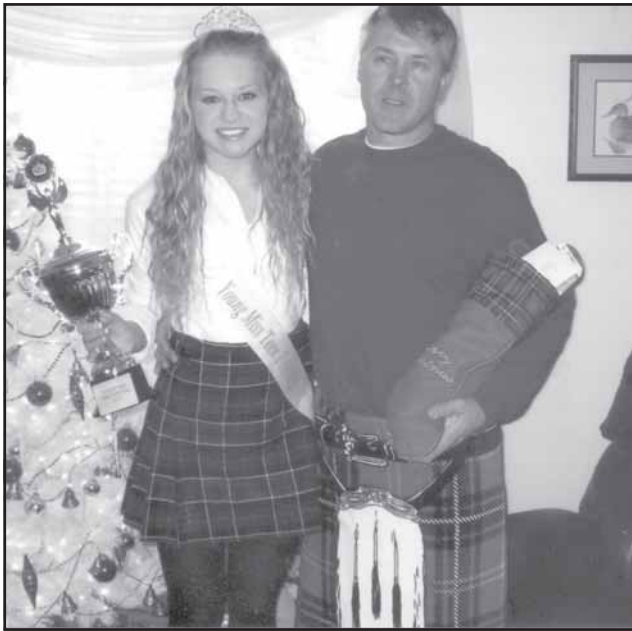
Alan Reid
Message sent via Facebook

Aberdeen Football Club

Regarding the April edition of This Month in Scottish History, it says that on April 14, 1582 Aberdeen Football Club (AFC) was founded. According to the A.F.C. page, it was originally founded 1899, then at this present stage was reformed in 1903, I'm a Raith Rovers fan from Kirkcaldy.

Charles McGregor
Australia

Miss Young Teen



I am sending you this photograph of my granddaughter, Haley June Leslie, seen here wearing her Clan Leslie kilt.

Haley was chosen Miss Young Teen, at Fort Mill, South Carolina, last October, when she was just 15 years old. She is beautiful young lady, and is seen here with her very proud Dad, Robb Leslie.

The photo was taken last Christmas - a time when the entire family celebrate their Scots-Irish Christmas - that is, all except me, who at 84 years of age is too old to travel.

Haley is an A-1 student, as well as being a cheer leader at her high school. She is a great source of pride to me.

I have been reading the "Scottish Banner" for many, many years now and enjoy it very much.

Thank you.
Margaret Leslie Kelley
South Carolina,
U.S.A.

Editors Note: Haley is certainly a very beautiful young lady, and a credit to her Leslie kilt, I'm sure other readers will agree.

Peter Dodds McCormick

I am a Scot who arrived in this great country in 1950 and in recent years. I have been reading the "Scottish Banner", for a long time, which is supplied by our local newsagent.

As a British ex-serviceman I have never had cause to regret the move I made all those years ago to Australia, and like many expatriate Scots, I never denigrate the land where I was born and brought up.

I never lost touch with my parents and siblings and, like many Australian families, I am well pleased with my ancestry.

I have always been interested in the changes that have taken place since I left Scotland.

In the March 2011 edition of the Scottish Banner, there was reference to made to Peter Dodds McCormick who is said to have written Australia's national anthem (Advance Australia Fair). The article told how he was born in Glasgow.

I too was born in Port Glasgow, so I was more than interested to read that Mr McCormick was actually born in Port Glasgow some 20 miles down the River Clyde from Glasgow.

With best wishes from this old Scot.

David F Kay
Temora,
NSW
Australia

Cool Bagrockers

My grandson is a great wee lad, and for years I have been taking him to highland games in order to pass on my Scottish culture to him (I come from Edinburgh). As he has gotten older it appears it was less cool to hang out at a highland games with your Grandpa than go to hang out with mates. A year or so ago I saw advertised in *the Banner* the Red Hot Chilli Pipers and my immediate reaction was what a ridiculous name for a band and how terrible it was that the great *Scottish Banner* sold such items. Then a friend of mine who is in a pipe band also told me about them. I decided to order a CD from your shop and was amazed by what I heard, I played the CD to my grandson who suddenly found the pipes cool (and hopefully me!)

Your March article on The Red Hot Chilli Pipers was a great read, and I had the paper on the kitchen table when my grandson came round. He saw the cover and dove straight in for a read (we now have all their CD's), and continued to read the paper from cover to cover telling me that a Scot invented Speedos amongst other things. I now hope the Scottish seed has been re-ignited in him, and us Scots (and oldies) are cool bagrockers.

I think I can speak for both my grandson and myself when we say thanks for introducing us to The Red Hot Chilli pipers - and a great read each month.

John Finlayson
Wellington,
New Zealand

Remembering Buckhorn

I was born in Aberdeen [1932], and as kids my father took us by tram to the terminal near Bucksburn, and thence for a path walk down the riverside to the Bridge of Don.

After that we went home by tram to George Street. So my eyes lit up when I saw the word 'Bucksburn' in a recent issue.

I emigrated to Australia in 1966 I just bought a DVD by the Red Hot Chilli Pipers.. When I first heard about them, my first thought was 'sacrilege', but now am amazed at their skill.

No wonder then that a youth pipe band recently wowed Switzerland.

Back to Aberdeen and Bucksburn. In 1990 I came home again to attend a medical conference attended by doctors from all over the world.

The night after the conference a Burns supper had been arranged at the Britannia Hotel in Bucksburn. I have memories of "the village bar there", and so was one of the first to arrive.

Not having packed my kilt I watched one after the other arrive in full highland dress. Some of them began to pull my leg about my not wearing a kilt. (Reminds me of Sir Harry Lauder's song "Why noo I wear the kilt").

Last night I watched on TV a programme on the wonders of the solar system. Started in India with an eclipse and ended in Norway and the Northern Lights.

I'm homesick again - and no wonder.

I've been singing in my head, the song about The Northern Lights and "old Aberdeen all day.

Also "My ain folk" - and now I'm reaching for a hankey!

Steve McPherson
Devonport,
Tasmania
Australia

Ed. note: Away ye go and have a 'wee greet'! You deserve it!

Scottish Pride

In your June 2010 issue on page 10, you had a picture of a man's tattoo. I am sending you a picture of my son's shoulder taken at the Highland Games in New Hampshire. His name is Jon Montcrieff and he lives in Boston, Massachusetts. He is very proud of his Scottish heritage which is very obvious by the picture you see. Sur esperance means "upon hope".



We are members of the Clan Moncreiff and in August Jon, his sister April and myself and his mother are making our 1st trip to Scotland. We are very excited about our journey.

Thanks for your great newspaper. Keep up the great work.

John and Lynne Montcrieff
USA

Where Is Bill Highland?

The response to my first letter to the "Banner" many moons ago, was fantastic. Many people wrote to me from both east and west in Canada, as well as in the USA, and Australia.

What a bonanza!

Now I write on behalf of a friend who hails from Glasgow, and later Ayr. She would love to get in touch with her brother who lives in Perth, Australia. His name is William Highland and is about 68 years old. His sister Shirley is a wee bit older, but has lovely memories of him. Bill if you see this, please get in touch with:

Shirley Carswell, 448 Ellen St., Midland, Ontario. L4R 2K6, Canada.

I very much enjoy my Scottish Banner, it's like a visit 'ome'. Mrs P. McQueen Penetanguishene, ON. Canada.