



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.

The New Hampshire Highland Games

I had the opportunity to attend the New Hampshire Games this year.

Wow! What a wonderful day I had. I really could not take it all in on one day, for in spite of it being a three day event, we only had the one day to attend.

I enjoyed everything about these Games - from the Pipe Bands coming down the mountain, to the parade grounds, and everything else taking place, was indeed, an awesome sight to see.

Also, the Red Hot Chilli Pipers were absolutely great. They had everybody, both young and old, keeping up to the beat.

I also looked for you Valerie. Maybe you never made these Games?

I am now enclosing my renewal subscription for another year!

Vera Street,
Rushville, Illinois, USA

Ed. Note: Miss them? I wouldn't miss these Games for the world Vera. I have been many times and, like you I love everything about them. Perhaps we may meet up next year?

Christmas in Scotland

I live in Toronto. Our dance association are part of the Canadian Folk Arts Council. We will be displaying at an event called 'Christmas Around the World'. Can anyone help with some of their memories and traditions?

Thanks for your help.
John Clark
Toronto, Ontario
Canada
Email:
clark62@sympatico.ca

Looking For A Song

Have been trying to find the lyrics to a song called 'The Road Bridge to Bonnie Dundee'.

Can anyone help me? Would love to find a disc, tape, or DVD, of this song.

I have been told it is sung by Denis Clancy. I would appreciate any help you can give me. So many people think I am talking about The Road and the Miles to Dundee, but I have that one already.
Lena, New Zealand
Email:
swansinlevin@xtra.co.nz

NOT from an Immediate Scot!

I'd like to take the opportunity to express my delight with your grand newspaper. I only discovered your wonderful publication two months ago, for the very first time, and have enjoyed each copy from cover to cover-finding interest on every page.

I am eagerly looking forward to next month's issue and every month thereafter. No I'm not an immediate Scot, being the second generation to be born, but I've always rejoiced in my Scottish blood and have been so proud and interested in my Scots connection since I was a wee girl, being drawn to all things Scottish. It was exciting to discover your wonderful newspaper.

Margaret A Michnie Benney
Craigieburn, Victoria
Australia

Ed note: Thank you for your kind words Margaret and glad you found us. We hope you enjoy your new subscription to the 'Scottish Banner'.

Needs Advice On Wedding Music

I need help in locating Scottish wedding music on a CD in English and Gaelic, and a vocal version of Highland Cathedral on CD.

I already have a bagpipe version, Phil Coulter's Highland Cathedral CD, and the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards version of Highland Cathedral on CD., as I might be helping a couple plan a Scottish themed wedding.

If anyone knows where I can find a recording of each, I would like to have the name of the artist, or group name on CD, and CD order information.

Jon C. Evans
USA
Email: cu1745@yahoo.com

Searching

I am searching for the owner of a Scottish Shop that was in business many years ago in Brampton Ontario. The person's last name is McBride, I think his first name is Frank. He was also a Mason. Can anyone help?

John Frame
Toronto, Canada
Email:
john351@rogers.com

Memories of the 60th Edinburgh Military Tattoo

It was a dream come true. I do not know how many years I have been watching the Edinburgh Military Tattoo on New Year's Eve each year - through much of my childhood in South Australia, and now since my marriage - over 30 years in Victoria.

It was my reason for returning to Scotland after an absence of 16 years to reconnect with my Scottish heritage. I chose to join a Globus tour of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland during August 2010, which included attending the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

Though there were many highlights throughout the tour, it was the Edinburgh Military Tattoo which stands out as the major highlight.

Walking up the Royal Mile in the early evening, I could feel the excitement mounting. All were on a mission, all travelling in one direction to the castle esplanade and to their seats.

It was a still evening and still light as the Tattoo began. People seemed to have travelled from all points of the globe to be there. I wondered if they too were fulfilling a long awaited dream.

Despite some discomfort in seating, it was all I expected and more. Perched up high in the north stand midway along row K, wedged between fellow Canadian, American and Australian tour members, I sat enthralled. At times I felt it was just for me, as often much of the action occurred directly below me. Nearly two hours of continuous entertainment.

The changing coloured lights and scenes throughout the evening transformed the entrance to the castle. The massed bandsthe variety ...the many coloured tartans glowing and moving gently...the sheer number and sound of so many pipes and drums en masse was a sight to be seen and heard.

An added unexpected pleasure was the appearance of the South Australian Police Force pipes and drums band amongst the massed bands, though, they did not perform independently.

The dancers too, performing with precision and skill as their colourful kilts swung in time with their steps, were equally wonderful to see. Even the Imps Motorcycle Display Team, which provided a little light relief were quite incredible in performing their repertoire of skills in the tightly packed and well paced evening.

I just kept watching not wanting to miss a thing! I clapped, sang and smiled and just didn't try to take photos. The programme, I knew would give me enough photos and information to reflect on later.

Unnoticed the day turned to dusk and finally to darkness. The rain, first light, became heavy but amazingly remained soft adding to the atmosphere in the last half an hour of the evening. Yet it did not deter us or our enthusiasm.

The finale - the spectacular fireworks literally shot out from behind the entrance to the castle and scattered across the sky in a myriad of colours. Then as hoped for ...a pause and the lone piper appeared playing a haunting tune...so poignant with the castle lit up behind him.

It was over...Wow! I was speechless. Oh how I wished my parents and husband had been there with me...I almost pinched myself to believe I had seen it all - live!

Elizabeth Kraus
Grovedale, Victoria
Australia

The Edinburgh Military Tattoo

I was at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo in 1984. I was visiting from Australia but born in Tasmania. At the Tattoo was a band from Hobart.

I was overjoyed to think all this way and to have a Tasmanian band, but the Tattoo was just the best. Tears came to my eyes, it blew me away. The people were great.

Loved, loved it. I hope to return to my great grandfathers homeland again I think, I have more Scots blood than Australian, loved the place.

The 'Scottish Banner' - I can't wait for my monthly paper! What is the Oliver's name I also have Murray Ferguson and Sutherland? Keep up the good work.
Sandra Devlin, Australia
Email: nipandmouse@hotmail.com

Recipes / Family Links

I am trying to find recipes on how to cook eating Kale. I believe there are different ways? There is very little known about eating Kale, I would be very grateful if anyone can help.

I am also looking for family links in Megel/ Megal the oldest town I believe in Scotland. Family names Port, Grant, Wright, Chubb, Summerfield. Grant/ Wright are the main Links I would most like to find out about. Also John Grant parish Kinnaird, Mary Ann Forbes parish Meigle,

Janet Grant, M.S. Orcher, Robert Forbes Sawyer, Margaret Forbes Wallace, and Ann Wright Prail Essex.

I am very grateful for any information to fill in missing links.

Thank you,
Jan Sinclair
New Zealand
Email: jandy@clear.net.nz

Border Reivers Article by Pauline

Like so many, I really enjoy the 'Scottish Banner'. We lived in Duns, Berwickshire, Scotland for ten years and loved The Borders.

Your Border Reiver article recently (Pauline's Picks August 2010) was good, but we can add that Duns actually elects a Reiver each year who performs all the duties of similar 'braw lads' in the main border county towns.

One of these is "Riding the Marches" and my daughter Carolyn rode out in one of these with 40 or 50 other riders (a wee touch of the Siena Paolo?)
Nancy & Charles Delworth
New Plymouth, New Zealand

Barr's Irn Bru Banned

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) has banned the import of Irn Bru. The reason is that they can't find out the "secret" ingredients!

Is this racist?
Robert Bradshaw
Australia

From a Scotsman in New Zealand

Just by chance, I bought a copy of the *Scottish Banner*, and I was more than pleased with the stories I read.

I am a Scotsman, born in the city of Glasgow in 1927, and came to New Zealand in 1952 and been a resident of Dunedin for 58 years.

I was an avid soccer fan, especially the Glasgow Rangers, your editorial report (September 2010) from an old newspaper in the year 1900 intrigued me.

It referred to a match where Rangers defeated Morton at Ibrox Park 4-2. Something must be wrong here I think, as even the great Rangers could not have pulled that off?

On the same page a letter was printed from J Fraser of America, saying women are a great addition to pipe bands.

My father was a great follower of pipe bands and I remembered many years ago he took me to watch a parade in the streets of Glasgow. The highlight of the parade was the ladies band, 60 strong from the USA.

My Dad was aghast at the sight of these swaggering women! To make it worse he said listen to them as they were playing dance music, like the great Glenn Miller-sacrilege!

I was too scared to say that I loved it.

Thank you for such an interesting read and I pass my copy on to a friend who plays in our local pipe band.

Jim Young
Mosgiel, Otago
New Zealand

McLuskey/ McCluskey Family

Looking for anybody whose Great Grandparents were Daniel McLuskey/ McCluskey. Annie Rooney born 1851ish, both born in Glasgow.

And Cathy McKenna's Grandma who was Catherine McLuskey married Joseph McGowan, 1903.

If any of this sounds familiar, I would love to hear from you.

Wendy Coleman
Scotland
Email: wendy-coleman@hotmail.co.uk