



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.

The Saltire

Regarding the Scottish flag queries. Blue represents royalty and the monarchy. White (the cross) represents purity and innocence, such is the definition of colour. You have room for insignias on it also and your crown in the centre if you wished.

Long live Scotland.

Patrick Murphy
Concord West, NSW
Australia

Scottish film sites

I am writing to ask if the anyone can supply me the areas and villages where the series "Monarch of the Glen" and "Hamish Macbeth" were filmed. As I am planning a trip to Scotland I would like to visit the areas where the series were filmed.

I have been reading the "Banner" every month for approximately 10-12 years and have thoroughly enjoyed every issue, I have even started sending it to my family over in Glasgow.

The book "Glasgow by the way, but" by John Cairney is brilliant!

Robert Potter
13 Daphne St
Botany, NSW
2019
Australia

Recipe for Balmoral Bread

A fellow member over at www.thefreshloaf.com asked about Balmoral Bread. I have looked up some old Scottish cookbooks I have with no luck, and also searched online but can only find references, not a recipe. I even asked my mother but she has not heard of it, not surprising considering she was a bairn when she came out to Australia. So, I am wondering if anyone has a recipe for Balmoral Bread at all?

Many Thanks,
Warwick Bone. (Woz)
Email: me@woz.biz
Australia

Genuine Scottish Hero

Dear Scottish Banner,
Your article about the Glasgow involvement in the Fratricidal tragedy of the WWII (March 2008) brings to my mind realities of that time of my youth.

The misgovernment in London declared war on Germany First. When Russia invaded Poland, the London politicians didn't declare war on Russia.

London and Washington helped communists in WWII and then sent soldiers to Korea to "fight communism" (in Asia).

A genuine Scottish hero in WWII was Capt. Archibald Ramsay, WWII veteran and M.P. who loved Scotland, Britain, and civilization, and was imprisoned, without charge or trial, under regulation 186.

My best wishes,
Robert Jones
Washington D.C.

The Shade of blue in Scottish Saltire

The should be no doubt, or debate about it. The Scottish Parliament, Public Petitions Committee_ Petition PE512 stated that the official shade of the Blue in the Saltire should be Pantone 300. This is commonly known as "Sky Blue". However Pantone 270 is also often called by that name.

This ruling from the Scottish Parliament confirms what has been the norm for many years and is in accordance with the guidelines established by the Office of the Lord Lyon and the recommendations of the Scottish Heraldry Society and other bodies.

It is not generally known that the large majority of Lion Rampant Flags that are sold are not correct. The correct version has blue teeth tongue and claws.

Regards,
Ian Greig
Tampa, FL, USA
ianscout@gmail.com Earlier

West Highland Sunset



Dear all at the Scottish Banner,

I have enjoyed reading some of the letters in the current issue from your readers far and wide.

I am writing from my home in Scotland and I would be glad if you can share this lovely sunset with your readers in your next issue. The photo was taken from my front door and the view is of the Isle of Jura across the sound of Jura in the West Highlands. I hope it may bring back some happy memories for some of your readers.

Scotland is a great place to be these days now that we have our own Scottish government in Edinburgh headed by the Scottish National Party. The big push is on now for Scotland to rejoin the great community of independent nations. When that happens the lop-sided union will cease and we will move to a much better relationship with our friends south of the border. It will also be good to start spending our massive north sea oil wealth the way we consider to be best for Scotland.

Greetings to all your readers,

Bill McCondichie
Achnamara, Lochgilphead, Argyll, Scotland.
email address:- (mccondichie@onetel.com)

MacDonald in Gaelic?

The question posed to *What's In a Name?* by Anthony MacDonald, namely - should his name be MacDovnal instead - is a fair enough one. As Ron Dempsey states, a Gaelic mh is very definitely a "v". This is so for both Scottish and Irish versions.

The Manx, on the other hand, use the letter v as we do in English. However, it is still obtained in the same manner, by aspiration.

In this sense, aspiration is not the wanting of a new house or a truck (or lorry) load of money, but the desire to soften sounds. Scottish Gaelic is as big on softening as early English was on rock hard words like rock and hard. Thus, m can become mh like in the girl's name Niamh (pronounced "v"). But not always. Sometimes, in the middle of words such as MacDhomhnaill (or MacDonald) mh is pretty much silent.

One can also notice the letter D is also aspirated (it has a h). Thus, it is no longer a "d" sound at all, but more a breathed "y" or "gh". A closer version would be MacYor-he. Even the final double l is largely dispensible in the name of softening. And if you're female - forget the Mac, it's now Nic (or daughter of).

However, just as in English where there are a myriad of accents and dialects, it all depends upon who's talking and when. And who's listening too.

Like tartan, it has never been cast in stone. After all, it's only sound.

Yours faithfully
Philip Sutherland
Benalla Victoria
Australia

From a friend in Dumfries...

A man was cupping his hand to scoop water from a Highland burn. The gamekeeper shouts Dinnae drink thon waater! It' foo ae coo's keech an' pish The man replies My good fellow, I'm English. Could you repeat that in English for me please? The gamekeeper replies, I said use both hands, you get more that way.

From Jock in Australia.

Earlier Queen Mary

I was interested in Mrs. Brisbin's remarks about the ocean liner Queen Mary and wonder if any of your older readers with roots in the Strathclyde area remember that there was an earlier "Queen Mary Two" many years before the present gigantic one was built? Much smaller, but just as elegant as the famous Cunarder, She was one of a fleet of pleasure steamers sailing from the Broomilaw to the Firth of Clyde resorts.

I was 15 year old Glasgow schoolgirl in 1935 when H.M. Queen Mary launched the mighty Cunarder 534, and revealed the well-kept secret of the name. Loudspeakers were set up in the school playground. I remember the Queen's words, as well as the sound of the chains controlling the speed of the ship as she slipped safely into the fitting out basin.

The existing S.S. Queen Mary generously agreed to be known as Queen Mary II, and in a delightful gesture H.M. Queen Mary presented a small portrait of herself to be hung in the saloon of the Clyde Steamer.

I saw the picture myself, when the City Fathers treated the senior pupils of all Glasgow Schools to a sail to Ardgoil, in celebration of the Silver Jubilee of King George V's reign. All ingredients for a picnic lunch were provided. I seem to recall that two steamers left the Broomilaw every day for a week. Lavish picnics were set up in the public parks for younger pupils.

Best of Luck to the Banner.

Catherine St. John
6521 Glen Erin Drive #618
Missassauga, ON
L5N 2X2
Canada