



# 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.

### Banning the Saltire

Angus council want to ban the Scottish flag from all council buildings. The Tory led "Angus alliance", which formed to oust the SNP majority, voted for the change at this weeks strategic planning committee.

Councillor Sandy West has attacked the idea, which would see the Saltire replaced with a flag based on Angus Council's own coat of arms, as being "an absolute disgrace" and "anti-Scottish".

The proposal was given the go-ahead at this week's strategic policy committee meeting.

Angus lays claim to being the birthplace of Scotland but yet they want to dump Scotland's flag!

This reflagging exercise will cost the council taxpayers a great deal at a time when council services are facing cutbacks. This money would be better spent elsewhere.

Show your support for Councillor West by signing this petition. Let your voice be heard! <http://www.petitiononline.com/saltire/petition.html>

Steve Crowe

Scotland

Email: [stevcrowe2@btinternet.com](mailto:stevcrowe2@btinternet.com)

### A Good Read!

I've just been reading the July Banner and it is such a good read, I pass it on to an old friend of mine who came from Paisley (where my great grandmother came from) and she love the recipes.

Scott my grandson is in McGlasson Pipe Band and is a piper, only 12 and doing well. Stuart Easton our champion piper will be missed as John McGlasson's College Band director.

Keep up the good work.

Margaret Campbell

Opoho, Dunedin

New Zealand

### Appin Regiment

The National Trust for Scotland (NTS) is reopening the Culloden Visitor Centre shortly. Though they have some great strides to preserve the history one issue is very severe. The new permanent marker for the Appin Regiment is being replaced. Instead of the more accurate "Appin Regiment" the marker will read "Appin Regiment: Stewarts and MacLarens", with completely lessen the personal sacrifice to life and limbs that other clans that fought and died there worked for. Stewarts, Carmichaels, Macintyres, MacKenzies, Hendersons, MacCormacks or Buchanans, MacLachlans, MacLeas or Livingstones, MacArthurs, MacDonalds, Camerons, MacCOLLs, MacCOMBICHs, MacCorquodales, MacIldeus (Blacks), MacInnishes (MacInnises), MacRankins, or M'Uchaders all fought for the cause and we feel that keeping the marker as "Appin Regiment" is the best way to honour them.

David W. Livingston

Clan Livingstone

Email: [clanlivingstone@hotmail.com](mailto:clanlivingstone@hotmail.com)

### A Ghostly Tale From the Orkney Isles

I'm delighted that you printed my story (October 2007), but I am not from the Orkney Isles. I am Donna Gail Portree (think Isle of Skye) & whenever I submit stories or poems to anyone with the hope of publication, I use the pen name Donna Gail "The Portree of Skye".

Aye yours,

Donna Portree

Canada

**Send your cards, letters and enquiries, we would love to hear from you and so would our readers.**

### Clan Ogilvy

Congratulations on the Scottish Banner and the variety of interesting articles on Scots interests such as customs, people and history.

I would like to know if there is a Clan Ogilvy/Ogilvie or Society on Scotland? There appears to be no Clan Ogilvy in Australia. We know the Earl of Airlie is the head of the Clan.

Talented Australian golfer Geoff Ogilvy was recently playing in Scotland, The Earl should have rolled the red carpet out for him at his Angus castle.

Thank you for your help. I buy the Banner at the local newsagent each month.

John Ogilvy

19 Honeymyrtle Drive, Banora Point, NSW, 2486

Australia

Email: [jhnogilvy@yahoo.com.au](mailto:jhnogilvy@yahoo.com.au)

### Lost Contact

Several months ago I wrote to Scotpourri with a wish for some Scottish people to correspond with and have happily been in contact with a number of lovely folk in response, many thanks Banner.

I feel badly that I have lost the email of the first two people who emailed me because of a computer hiccup. One a retired steelworker near Melbourne, Victoria (from Aberdeen) and Mary from Canada. My apologies to them, please may they feel welcome to write again.

A semi retired country woman, I'm appreciating exploring Scotland through your pages and letters, and getting to know the home of my forefathers better.

I hope to visit Scotland soon.

Meg Wilson

Western Australia

Email:

[meg\\_wilson2@yahoo.com.au](mailto:meg_wilson2@yahoo.com.au)

### Tartan Register

Views are being sought on the Tartan Register as featured in the September issue of the Scottish Banner.

I would like to present my views. I believe a tartan register would be a great benefit to the tartans themselves and to anyone attempting to trace and find their tartan.

I believe in only genuine original and historical tartans being registered and "made ups" as in district, family, commemorative, etc. I am still in two minds about our Black and White Sir Walter Scott tartan.

A service I would like to see included would be for anyone wanting to trace and find out more about their Clan tartans to be able to obtain information.

Mervyn Gilbert Scott

Neville, NSW

Australia

### Falkirk Wheel follow up

I wish to thank all those people who wrote replies to my September publication letter for information on the Falkirk Wheel. That gigantic engineering, rotating boat lift that joins the Forth & Clyde and the Union Canals linking the North Sea to Atlantic coasts. I received letters from Canada, New Zealand, Western Australia, Sydney and other places, these letters contained information on the canals going back 200 years. I did not realise the Scottish Banner has such a wide circulation.

Thanks again to all those wonderful people. I have been getting the Banner for 10 years and always look forward to its arrival.

Geoff Harris

53 Marion St

Tugun, Queensland

4224, Australia

### Love the Banner

I really enjoy the "Banner" and look forward to receiving it every month. I am from Northern Ireland and married a wonderful Scot in 1945.

Mary MacLeod, Name & Address supplied.

### Front Page Question

John McLean is correct. The picture on the front page of the August Banner does show many variations of pipe band uniforms but is instantly recognisable to anyone who has been to an Edinburgh Tattoo. The picture is the massed Pipes and Drums marching down the Royal Mile from the castle. The wearer of the trews is from the musicians' side of the pipes and drums thus is a Drum Major not a Pipe Major. He is the Drum Major of the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn Royal Regt of Scotland (Royal Scots Borderers). The Battalion was formed by the amalgamation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of



Foot The Royal Scots the oldest regiment in the British Army and the 25 Regiment the Kings Own Scottish Borderers as ordered by the Sassenachs in White Hall. Both of these proud regiments were lowland regiments hence only the pipers wear kilts and the Drum Corps wear trews as for the remainder of the unit. The Drum Major has a diced glengarry from the House of Hanover, while the pipers wear plain glengarry. The pipers do have different setts and sporrans. I suspect this means they represent different Battalions of the Royal Regt of Scotland. There appears to have been a number of changes to kilts and sporrans worn by some battalions since the amalgamation. There is a custom of mixing and matching tartans and other accoutrements when regiments are amalgamated. As they all wear the same hat badge now it is a bit harder to distinguish between battalions if they wear the same tartan.

In the rear is a drummer who is wearing a bear skin cap as worn by the Scots Guards, Irish Guards and Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. The Drum Major of the Royal Highland Fusiliers also wears a bear skin cap. Other Drum Majors may wear feathered bonnet. No pipe bands wear a Busby a name often incorrectly given to the bear skin cap. A Busby is worn by some artillery and engineer bands. It is of bear skin but flatter and may have an overhang similar to the tails of a feathered bonnet.

The banner hanging from a staff over the street is most likely that of the establishment to which the staff is attached. I wonder if it is the one where my wife, some friends and I were trapped in while the wall to wall crowd moved up to the castle. Accordingly, we were FORCED to stay to enjoy the hospitality and consume more of the establishment's refreshments.

I trust someone else will explain the kilts and sporrans further

I always enjoy the Banner

Regards, Drum Major Mal Edmiston WO2(Rtd)

M.J.Edmiston & Associates Pty Ltd

Drum Major's Shop

1 Aramac Street, Keperra Qld 4054

P 61 7 3355 6481

[E.m.j.edmiston@bigpond.com](mailto:E.m.j.edmiston@bigpond.com)