



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.

Welcome Home

I remember, as a 7 year old, the "Welcome Home" street parties we had in Glasgow in honour of our returning servicemen in 1945. I'll never forget singing "Lay that pistol down babe" in front of neighbours. To this day I still love to sing.

Catherine Taylor,

Adelaide, South Australia

Malcolm Lachlan MacKillop

I understand that there was an article written about this gentleman in one of your publications in the last year, after his death. I recently purchased a set of Peter Henderson Bagpipes which belonged to Mr. MacKillop. I have been unable to contact the family and I would like to know more about 'Mac'.

Thanks in advance for your help.

Kevin Underwood

Canada

Email:

kevin_underwood@telus.net

Pea Brae

I was hoping someone could help me find out how to make pea brae. I used to buy it in the shops in Glasgow when I was a kid, that was a long time ago. None of my relations know how to make it; I just want to try it again to see why we used to like it so much. Love your paper.

All the best,

Jimmy

Email:

jim_glesga@yahoo.co.uk

The Captain Speaks

I am 90 years old and still look forward to my *Banner*.

Capt. G. Ogilvie,

Moncton, N.B.

Canada.

Ed. note: May you long continue to enjoy your *Banner* sir.

Another Good Year

Thank you for another year of good reading. Keep up the work. From an old Stockere (Edinburgh) lass.

Vera Street

Rushville, Illinois

USA

Thanks Ron

What a pleasant read I had when picking up the August issue. Thank you for sourcing the origin to "dochartach" meaning obstructive. You can no doubt imagine that has given me a wee piece of "now we know you".

My response and explanation to the meaning of "obstructive":

- securer of the area for Clan and family
- controller of the people's land and prosperity
- Hinderer of problem causes
- Battering down the hatches
- Ensure all is safe

-Fencing off and securing the herds and tethering the animals

-Intercept where necessary and impede and restrict trespassers

Your articles are always interesting Ron and provide information that can be used with contacts and associates.

Keep up the good work.

Here's tae us, wha's like us.

Graham Docherty

Toowoomba, Queensland

Australia

A Milestone For The Scottish Banner And It's Writers

Due to the Postal Strike we have recently received the July issue of the *Scottish Banner* did not get delivered until July 25th. Yet the August issue arrived August 9th!

Here I wish a belated hearty congratulations upon another mile stone and for all the years of good reading that I have enjoyed.

In particular we miss Molly Weir, but allow me to mention the first time I met Ron Dempsey. It was 'years' ago, at a show the *Scottish Banner* hosted at the C.N.E. Building, Toronto.

A particular event drew the crowds away from the booths, and as I walked towards the booth area, lo and behold, behind the table, looking exactly as he does in the *Banner* picture, was Ron. We had a nice chat, but I have never forgotten that incident.

I have enclosed a recent article from a Toronto newspaper which I would like to send to John Glynn, the Heraldry writer, in case he has not read this. I feel he might enjoy reading it.

Along with your other readers I feel it is always interesting to read John's column, as well as all your other writers.

Thank you very much and perhaps our paths will cross at a Highland Games.

Ian Brodrick,

Ontario,

Canada.

Earl And Countess of Strathearn

Great to see a Canadian pipe band give Prince William and his lovely wife Kate a Scottish welcome to Ottawa on their recent North American tour. What a nice touch to play a composition entitled *St Andrew's Courtship* to a couple who no doubt it will have some real meaning to. Some Scots may not be enthralled by the Royals but they certainly have many connections to Scotland and this is very evident with this couple who I hope will always remember where they met and the magic time they must have had living a fairly normal and private life in Scotland together.

Thanks for a great paper and as many have already noted congratulations on 35 fantastic years *Scottish Banner*!

Bev Cunningham

Kingston, Ontario

Canada

Poetry of Robert Burns

I have greatly enjoyed your paper for quite a few years now, thank you so much.

I have a wee problem that I wonder if any reader could you help me with? Some time ago I came into possession of a set of four books, "The Poetry of Robert Burns" in four volumes, Centenary edition, published in 1896. Commemorating Robert's death in 1796 and edited by W.E.Henley and T.E. Henderson.

They are in excellent condition with the dust jackets still intact. Now my question is; there any of the readers who might be able to give me some idea of the current value of these books?

I live in New Zealand and I do not know anyone who would be able to help me with this, if anyone can help me I shall be most grateful.

Lindsay Drinkwater.

24 Achilles St.

Stratford, New Zealand

Email: *lindsayfay@clear.net.nz*

P.S I have received some offers for these books but have no idea what price to set on them.

Saturated With Scottish Culture

I recently picked up my first copy of the *Scottish Banner*, and enjoyed it immensely.

I am originally from Sydney, on Cape Breton Island, in Nova Scotia, and we are saturated with Scottish culture.

We have numerous singing groups such as the Barra MacNeils, the Rankin Family, and the late John Alan Cameron.

We also have many towns and streets named after places in Scotland. Among these are Aberdeen, Craigmore, Craignish, Caledonia, Loch Lomond, New Glasgow, (which is the largest), and many others.

My only complaint about Nova Scotia generally, is that very few people wear the kilt or traditional Scottish dress in daily life.

Philip McLean,

Halifax,

Nova Scotia,

Canada

Dougie MacLean OBE

Great news to hear about the great Scottish singer Dougie Maclean receiving a OBE (September *Scottish Banner*). I have been fortunate to catch him live both here in Australia and in Scotland and *Caledonia* must be one of the best modern Scottish songs penned. It stirs up so much within me when I hear it, I wish I could see him again as his live shows are great, he is a true performer and story teller.

Thanks for a great read each and every month in the *Scottish banner* and I wish to also pass on my congratulations to all the staff and writers for making 35 years-the *Banner* is a true trail blazer!

Anna Young

Perth, Western Australia

Ed note: thank you for your note Anna, do watch out for details of Dougie Maclean coming back to Australia soon.

Dumfries

Reading my *Scottish Banner* this month (September 2011) was made more enjoyable because of the picture of Dumfries High Street. On September 01, 1939 I was evacuated to Dumfries from Glasgow, along with my Mother and two brothers. We all spent time walking (few buses then) to school and to the High Street shopping area. One building held the pub frequented by Robert Burns which we passed every day. Many years later, on a visit home my children and I walked into the pub, to have a look!!!! We went back to Glasgow in the summer of 1943, but I retained my connection to Dumfries through dear friends until 2006, when my dear girlfriend passed away.

Belated congratulations on the *Banners* 35th Anniversary.

Catherine Rainer

Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada

Retiring in Scotland

This is to inform you that I am retiring and going to 'Bonnie Scotland' to live permanently. Because of this I would like to pass the unused portion of my subscription to friends who come from Edinburgh, and whose details I enclose herein. In the past I have given the *Banner* to them after I have read it from cover to cover. They too have always enjoyed it. Thank you.

Annie Lennon

Briarcliff,

New York,

U.S.A.

Ed. Note: Here at the *Banner* we wish you a long and happy retirement in the land so close to our hearts.

Wallace Sword

Just read the article from the July *Scottish Banner* regarding The Stone of Destiny by Ian Hamilton which 99% of people in Scotland would know about. Does anyone know about the famous Wallace Sword being stolen from The National Wallace Monument in Stirling? A native of Blackford Inspector Robert MacGregor was instrumental in recovering the stolen sword from the Abbey Craig and investigated the activities of the Tartan Army throughout Scotland and Northern Ireland.

M Nicoll

Victory Heights,

Queensland

Australia

September 2011 Front Cover

Does anyone know who is the bass drummer in McPhee tartan on the front cover and what band is he with?

Thank you.

David McDuffie

Email:

dnmcduffie@gmail.com

Keep your letters coming on life's little question marks. This page is also available each month on our website www.scottishbanner.com where you can also send in your comments or queries direct.