



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.

Can You Solve A Mystery?

I am hoping the wide readership of the "Banner can help me solve a mystery that is frustrating Scots-American. That is, try though we may, we cannot get our hands on the movie, "The Stone of Destiny". Neither can we find it being shown anywhere.

I myself 'smell' a political conspiracy, but I am willing to keep an open mind - if someone can explain otherwise.

You see, to many of us, Ian Hamilton, is a hero. He did what many of us would like to do. - reclaiming the Stone of Destiny, if only for a little while. He made Scots proud of being Scots again, and gave impetus to the push for Independence.

I was a student myself at the time it happened, and I was 'rooting' for him and his team.

Thank you Ian, for a job well done!

Mrs. Helen Moore,

Modesto, California, 95350.

USA

Ed. note: Thank you for this letter and hopefully someone will be able to help explain why no Stone of Destiny in the U.S.

We have heard nothing of a DVD either at the moment. However, when this is released we will advise readers of it..

We also are admirers of Mr. Hamilton.

The Scotti

Dear Matthew Newsome Your article in July 09 edition of the 'Scottish Banner' refers to some of the Welsh Chieftains massacred at Aberg-avenny in the early eleven hundreds, and wore checked clothes to show their rank.

Strath Clyde was a Welsh Kingdom for about 200 years prior to the Scotti tribe from Ireland ousting them and creating the Kingdom of Dalriada.

The Scotti subsequently engulfed the Picts, and Dalriada and the Highlands, and became the land of the Scotti or Scotland.

Yours

A.N Other

Australia

Burns Statue in Dunedin

Thanks, as usual, for the great 'Scottish Banner'!! However, on catching up with my reading, in the June issue, the article on Dunedin in New Zealand stated that there are only four statues of Robert Burns in the entire world. These are namely;

- 1)Dundee
- 2)London
- 3)Dunedin NZ and
- 4)Central Park NY.

Unless it has been moved, what about the one in Glasgow's George Square, nearest of them all to his home town!

Keep up the good work with the paper—the colour pictures too are great. Thanks.

Jan Kelly

Australia

Ed note: Thank you Jan for your note and you're not the only one to make this comment. There are in fact many statues of Burns around the world, the Dunedin one is one of four of that style.

Sorry for the mix up.

Pipes Too Noisy In Newtonhill?

I was quite perturbed to read about the very few in Newtonhill who are ruining it for so many regarding the pipe band practicing outdoors in the good weather (Scottish Banner Aug 2009).

Fortunately the majority of the good folk of the town appreciate the pipe music and support the band. Good on them! The council should hide their faces in shame and resign for coming down with such an absurd decision! Play on Newtonhill Pipes and Drums!

Joel LaMarre

USA

Strong Resemblance?

On the front page of July 09 Scottish Banner, the picture of the tug of war team promoting 'The Gathering', (also published in both Scots Magazine and Scotland Magazine this past year,) intrigues my husband.



The man 3rd from the front (see below), with his head out to the side is an uncanny double of my husband Ian. Is there any possibility of finding out his name? As Ian is of Scottish descent we wonder if he is a relative. Ian's Grandfather migrated from Scotland to Queensland Australia in 1878.

Our friends and family are fooled when we show them the picture, as we were in Scotland in 2006, and they all presume the picture was taken then.

Any assistance you can provide would be appreciated.

We enclose a photo of us (above) for reference.

Kind regards,

Lyn and Ian Mitchell

Australia

Email:ianm1947@tpg.com.au



August Cover Drum Major

I just saw your August issue and I'm delighted to see our young drum major making the front page as he was crowned European Champion on the day. We are based in Co. Donegal, Ireland. The boy in the photo is Matthew McKinney (10), he was European champion at that competition on Saturday 25th July in Inverclyde, Scotland. This was Matthews 1st time coming 1st since he started Drum Majoring, his sister came 4th on the day in a higher section.



Our band (Letterkenny and District Caledonia Pipe Band) also have been having a successful year with becoming Scottish champions, Mid- Ulster

champions, 2nd in Europe, 2nd in Britain and many more minor wins.

I have a sister living in Australia who saw your paper and when I googled it I found your website.

Thank You

Louise Hegarty

Letterkenny, Co. Donegal

Ireland

Ed note: Thanks for getting in touch Louise, a August copy is on the way for Matthew.

I Love The MacGregors

Only recently a friend gave me a copy of "The Scottish Banner". I was delighted to have it. It was the April issue featuring the interview with Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor. Both my friend and I are proud Scots and MacGregor descendants. There are hundreds of us locally in the Chateaugay Valley and in nearby Ontario in the Glengarry area. Last summer some of us organized a MacGregor Reunion in the Howick Quebec region. About 300 gathered for a wonderful weekend of celebration, meeting clan members who had come from across Canada, a few from the U.S. and one couple from England.

Do you or members of your staff attend the Highland Games at Glengarry, Ontario? The dates this year are July 31 and August 1. The games and concerts are well attended by thousands and the massed bands are thrilling to hear. I have subscribed to your paper by mail with a little note enclosed and am immensely looking forward to receiving it. I have lived most of my life on the Scotch Concession, currently called Rang des Ecosais.

It is really in Howick, QC, despite the government's machination.

Sincerely,

Jean Purcell

11485 Rang des Ecosais,

Ste-Martine,

QC J0S 1V0, Canada

Burns, The Real Thing!

I really enjoyed your July edition and it was great to read about Robert Burns being the first person to be on a bottle of Coca-Cola-what a great achievement for Scots! I am on my way to Scotland and will be bringing one back as a memento, the bottle sure looks beautiful.

I also really loved the Homecoming poem by Alec Caldwell-I have cut it out as his words really spoke to me and affirmed my love for Scotland.

It has been great to keep up to date with all the Homecoming news in the Scottish Banner, we Scots (no matter where we live) have much to be proud of!

Julie Leslie

Halifax, Nova Scotia

Canada

Haggis is English! You've Got To Be Kidding?

I was advised today by an English friend that haggis was 'invented' by the English 171 years before Robert Burns wrote his 'Ode to A Haggis'.

Historian Catherine Brown said she found references to the dish inside a 1615 book called The English Hus-Wife.

This should be good for at least a few comments, if not chuckles, from your readers. Next thing they'll be claiming that they invented whisky, television, tarmacadam, the steam engine, penicillin, the telephone and The Bank of England (founded by William Paterson of Dumfries).

Cheers and Chuckles,

Brian Beatson,

Ajax, Ontario

Canada

The Thistle

I am writing to see if I can get some information from some Scottish folk who may know the origin of the naming of the thistle as the emblem of Scotland?

I seem to remember reading somewhere that it had something to do with a raiding party intent on invading Scotland but that they trod on the prickly thistle thus making them squeal with pain, so it gave the show away and the Scottish were able to stop the invasion!

I would like to get the right story in time for St Andrews Day for our church.

Thank you

Bessie Kelso

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Parkdale, Victoria

3195, Australia