

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 online 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.

Oor Wullie

Well *the Scottish Banner* has done it again, the June issue with Oor Wullie and Desperate Dan all in the one issue, which took me back to my childhood days, growing up in Fort William in the 1950's. In those days nothing much happened on a Sunday. It was put on your Sunday best and as a family we would walk to church then on the way home my father would buy *The Sunday Post* and some rolls from the baker. My mother would often open a small tin of Nescafe and warm the milk for coffee. Then I got to read *Oor Wullie* and *The Broons*. After reading about the bucket trail (*Dundee Delights: The Oor Wullie Bucket Trail, Scottish Banner*, June, 2016) I dug out my old *Oor Wullie* annuals and had great delight as an adult seeing how the artist captured his character in many moods (no words required). I have been in Australia now for many years and regularly attend Highland Gatherings and Celtic festivals. The picture I am including with my letter sums up all us Scott's away from our homeland. When we attend Gatherings, the kilt and anything that is Scottish comes out and in the words of Oor Wullie, we try "Mair Scottish than ever!" All the best and congratulations on the 40th anniversary milestone.
David Mackenzie
Frankston South, Victoria
Australia



The Lord-Lieutenant of Dumfries

Just a note to let you know how delighted I was when I read in a recent issue that Lady MacGregor had been appointed to the office of Lord-Lieutenant of Dumfries. I have enjoyed Fiona's writing and accomplishments for many years, and she is truly deserving of this honor. I am sure she will serve the Royal Family and all of Scotland well, and those of us who are just 'off shore'. I do hope she keeps on writing for you. She has a great talent with a wee bit of wit and whimsy we all enjoy.

And Valerie, I would like you to know how much I have appreciated your ability in maintaining a super staff of writers and commentators. Even though I am here in the US, I do enjoy the monthly trip to Scotland through each issue of *the Banner*. I received my first issue when you had offices in Niagara Falls. So please keep on keeping on - and God Bless you and those in your flock.

Wil Irvine
Hendersonville, North Carolina
USA

Ed. note: Thank you Wil, and yes we are all very proud of Lady MacGregor and feel sure she will do a fine job. We hope you enjoy Lady Fiona's column this month which tells us more.

The Glesga Fair

Well aff we went on our annual crusade,
Away oer tae Rothesay, wae oor buckets and spades,
We set aff fae Blantyre, away tae Wymess Bay
Praying we could keep the ticket inspector away.
I stood at the jetty looking in awe,
At this massive big ship that would take us awa,
I stood at the bow like Jack in the Titanic,
But there was nae Rose fur me, just ma maw in a panic.
We hurried aff the gangway oan tae dry land,
There was nae time tae stop or tae take anybody's hand,
Up tae the digs we would venture,
A one bedroom flat wae nine of us, now that was an adventure.
On to the beach we would go,
Taking turns tae go in'tae the water, that was four below,
The parents they would sit there wae their wee carry oot,
Watching the weans gaun fur a dook.
The fortnight was spent, fishing and putting,
It's the aw ye could dae, cause ye got it fur nothing,
We had fish every night, cause we got it fur free,
Oan a Sunday ma granny, went tae the Glenburn for a spot of high tea.
Now if we were good we would get a treat,
It would be off to Zavaroni's for aw the ice cream you could eat,
Then on to the Winter Gardens for a shot oan the shows,
Oh how good those days were, nobody know's.
I have fond memories there,
Especially at "THE GLESGA FAIR."
Jimmy Whelan
2009

Aye - the Glesga Fair wis awfy swell
but shovin' an bumpin' oan thae trains wis pue hell
hoo ever when Rothesay's shores came in sight
we forgoat oor troubles and planned a fortnight.
We bought oor ice cream and sat doon on the sand
and if we were lucky we could listen tae a band.
Efter some time we decided on lunch
we picked through oor pockets fur some pennies tae spend
but had on'y enough fur a raspberry punch.
So we aw pit thegeather tae buy prawns in a poke
dividin' thae prawns among six wis nae joke.
Efter a while came supper time
and efter thae prawns, fish an' chips sounded sublime
but again we forgoat - oor pennies were gone
so back tae oor digs we trudged - all forlorn
But Mither and Faither they had a wee stash
so we were able tae get some 'bangers an' mash!
Then amid aw the unpacked cases an' trunks
We goat in tae oor jamas and climbed intae bunks!
So was oor first day - oan Glesga Fair Day.

The above little poem was written by my father (83) in response to the poem below by Mr Jimmie Whelan. I had sent *The Glesga*

Fair poem to my Dad knowing he would like it and was so very surprised when he sent his poem back to me in response!

Angela Barrie
Montreal, Quebec
Canada
Sent via Facebook

Scottish Banner 40th Anniversary



Dear Valerie,

Congratulations! What a wonderful time this must be for you. You must be so proud of all you have achieved. I think it is amazing that you have been publishing *the Scottish Banner* for 40 years and you have had so many letters of congratulations from so many famous people. What wonderful keep sakes. Valerie, I have to thank you so much for all the joy and tears I have gone through these years when reading *the Scottish Banner*, and I also enjoy when speaking to you on the phone. Thank you for bringing home a little closer, and I pray you continue for years to come.

Congratulations once again.

Norma Merrill
San Antonio, Texas
USA

Ed. note: Thank you Norma. It certainly doesn't seem that long, the years have just flown by.

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo-Melbourne

I would like to thank *the Scottish Banner* for sending me a copy of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo-Melbourne DVD. I watched it on a cold winters Sunday and how it warmed my heart to watch all the great performers on display. Once more many thanks.
Margaret 'McKay' Warn
Sefton, NSW
Australia

Scottish Banner 40th Anniversary

Just writing to say congratulations on the 40th anniversary of *the Scottish Banner*. That is a truly remarkable achievement, and we know it is the result of a lot of very hard work and dedication. *The Banner* keeps on getting better and better, and it is absolutely essential to the keeping of the Scottish community in touch with yesterday, today and tomorrow here in Australia. Very best wishes from all at Scottish Heritage Centre of WA!
Shirley Oliver
Secretary
Scottish Heritage Centre of Western
Australia Inc.

Pleasant surprise

I received a very pleasant surprise the other day on returning home, to find a parcel from *the Scottish Banner* containing 6 deluxe DVD's of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. I feel very honoured to be chosen as one of the lucky winners of the giveaway. These will make a great addition to my collection. I have enjoyed receiving *The Banner* every month for a number of years and hope to do so for many more. It is most informative reading.
Charles Nibloe
Werribee, Victoria
Australia

POSTED TO THE SCOTTISH BANNER FACEBOOK PAGE

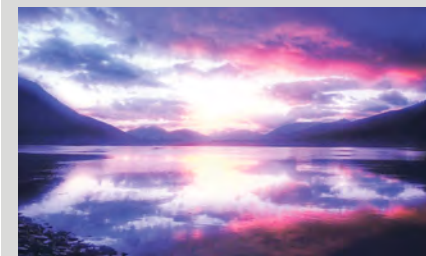


I thought your readers might like this pic of us taken at Culross By Graham Harris Graham, who lives in the house by the cross shown here. We are Glenberrie, and are on Facebook under that name. We've started to be booked for *Outlander* related events, and were doing or own photo shoot in Culross (Cranesmuir in the series), when Graham walked by!
Neil Clark
Scotland

Scottish Banner 40th Anniversary

Congratulations for 40 years of publication! Received my 40th Anniversary copy today (*Scottish Banner*, July, 2016), all wrapped in its new protective cover for delivery. Have had a quick scan through and look forward to sitting down later on in the day with a cuppa and a good read! Might make the chocolate cake on page 26! Well done in keeping every lover of Scotland informed for 40 years!
Patricia NicGill-Eain
Australia

Glencoe



Thought I'd post the full size of my sunsets in Glencoe from April and May.
Carolynn Wilson
Scotland

Scottish Banner 40th Anniversary

Congratulations to *the Scottish Banner* for 40 wonderful years of keeping the Scottish Diaspora informed around the world.
Scottish Australian Heritage Council