

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.

Galbraith's and looking for a lost friend Elizabeth Riddoch



There have been a number of letters printed regarding the Galbraith's stores so I thought I'd add mine to them. I worked for the Galbraith's store on Sinclair Drive, Battlefield for 2 years as a grocers boy, working after school and full time during school holidays. Jim Stoddart's articles often are about the area where I lived though I've never come across an article re Queens Park and the battle of Langside of which the monument erected at the top of the hill to commemorate the battle, was our school badge, Queens Park Secondary. What is also interesting is that I had a Brian Stoddart in my class and I believe that his family originally came from South Africa.

When I left in 1956 to immigrate to Australia with my parents and brother I was given a glowing reference from Galbraith's head office and this I used to enter the South Australian Police Force 2 years later. I still have that reference. On retiring from the police force in early 1998 I became involved in community radio and started as a presenter on Scottish Radio Hour in Adelaide. I was there for about 3 years and I then moved to Goolwa at the mouth of the River Murray. I obtained my own program at 90.1 Happy FM and have been presenting my Scottish program for 2 hours every Thursday night at 8pm. In the past few years I've done a live interview with Tommy Scott, Joe Gordon & Sally Logan, Tom Alexander, Alasdair Gillies and others. One can listen to my program on streaming if one so desires and I use *the Scottish Banner* for news from Scotland.

I'm wondering if anyone in Canada may know a friend of mine who migrated there in early 60's? Her maiden name was Elizabeth Riddoch and she came from Battlefield area

also She would be 78 now and was a brilliant redhead. Her mother was a headmistress who lived in Ledard Road across the road from Battlefield West Church.

I was also pleasantly surprised on reading Scotspeak in the September issue of *the Scottish Banner* that Stan Laurel is going to be recognized as an historic figure who lived in Glasgow. Stan went to the same school as me, Queens Park Senior Secondary at Battlefield, and his home address was not that far from where I lived myself in that area. Not many people know that his family lived in Glasgow for a while and that he went to a local school there before he even went to USA and became a film star.

My email address is dejay709@bigpond.com should anyone wish to contact me.

**Bruce (Scotty) Scotland
Goolwa, South Australia**

Ed note: Thanks Bruce for the memories and we hope you can connect with Elizabeth.

Spooky Scotland



Hello *Scottish Banner*,

Wow, what an issue (*Scottish Banner*, October, 2016). I love spooky stories & have visited several of the mentioned places. My daughter, Karen and I have twice stayed in Edinburgh apartments overlooking Greyfriars Kirkyard which was great, especially as we overlooked McKenzie's tomb. We have done most of the ghost tours which were amazing. Karen and I stayed at Tulloch Castle twice, the first time we were informed that room 8 was the only available one and the receptionist was taken aback when we were excited as that's the haunted room. She probably thought that we were mad colonials!

The first night the room was like a furnace which was supposedly the ghost's calling card. When we awoke in the morning Karen showed me a video taken on her infra-red camera, it showed the chandelier swinging! I asked why she hadn't woken me but she thought that I may have been scared. Very disappointed. We walked along the path behind the castle, I was in front and got a cold feeling as though I wasn't alone and up ahead could hear a rustling among the trees. This would start, stop, then restart. I had an awful feeling so turned back. Two years later we returned and requested room 8 again. This time it was my turn. I was asleep but was woken by someone/something pressing my shoulders into the mattress, it couldn't hurt me so went back to sleep, only to have the same thing happen. I think that a servant girl had suicided and there was a scandal involving the owner. I wonder if room 8 had been her room and that was the owner re-enacting his wicked way. Whatever it was I was woken twice, it didn't scare me and if anyone wants a spooky experience try room 8 at Tulloch Castle!

My grandmother was from Glasgow and

a firm believer as was my mother who was born on the stroke of midnight. If there was a haunted house around they would end up in it. I've lived in a haunted house here in Wyndham which also used to share its time between the neighbouring house and me. I wasn't the only person to have seen it. I now live on the outskirts of town and have seen jamba which are little Aboriginal spirit men. Why I should see them I don't know as I'm Caucasian. My daughters have both had experiences when visiting. I had 2 horses that would tie up anywhere except to a big boab tree, they would go crazy and break their halters. What they saw or sensed I don't know.

**Jocelyn Layton
Wyndham, Western Australia**

Ed note: Thanks Jocelyn for the letter which has raised the hairs on our arms!

Interesting 'bits' about Scotland



Dear Valerie,

I came across this photo taken of you and I at the New Hampshire Highland Games in 2009. It brought back memories of one of the best Highland Games I have ever been to. Thank you so much for sending me a reminder for my subscription. It would be really awful if I never got my edition of the *Scottish Banner* - I would be lost! I surely enjoy all the interesting 'bits' about Scotland that I have so long ago forgotten about today.

Lang may your lum reek Valerie,
**Vera Street
A lass from Stockbridge, Edinburgh
Scotland**

The Tartan Revival

Just a quick note to say thanks to Angus Whitson and *the Scottish Banner* on the fascinating series on tartan. I like many own a kilt and love all tartans and what an interesting historical perspective Mr Whitson has shared with us.

The next time I wear my kilt I will be informed when speaking about tartan and of course prouder of my "cloth of a nation".

Congratulations on 40 years of *Scottish Banner*!

**Greg Robertson
Washington, DC
USA**

Inspired me to visit Scotland

Just want to drop you a line to say I love your paper. I have a friend who lends it to me and I enjoy reading it. Great articles which has inspired me to visit Scotland next year. I am gathering lots of information from your paper which will pave my way around this magical country.

Susan Brischke

Ed note: Thanks Susan and glad you enjoy the Scottish Banner so much, have a great trip to Scotland in 2017!

The Lost Songs of St Kilda

What a lovely surprise to receive a copy of this special CD. I have just collected my mail and am now looking forward to listening to the CD.

My friends at our Gaidhlig class will be very interested too. It is so exciting to know that this music still exists and that it will not be lost.

My very sincere thanks and appreciation.

**Wendy Austin
Grange, Queensland
Australia**

A highlight of each month

A highlight of each month is receiving our copy of *the Scottish Banner*. This month, following almost three weeks in the 'highlands and islands', we were delighted to read about museums in Glasgow, see mention of *The Lost Songs of St. Kilda* CD - we heard it being advertised on the television, saw artefacts of the people in museums, and the migration of some to Melbourne - and see pictures of different places we had visited. Having previously been in Scotland in the depths of winter, and mid-summer, the beginning of autumn was a great time to visit. The Undiscovered Scotland website was a big help in planning 'off the beaten track', and largely tourist free places to visit. Well worth a look if planning to travel.

Amongst many other things, we also managed to see the Fort George Military Tattoo, the Pitlochry Highland Gathering, and attend a ceilidh in Kingussie! All wonderful experiences, made even richer by the people we chatted to, especially at Fort George, where the military personnel were welcoming and generous in the sharing of their stories. Experiencing the 'dark sky', learning about the corncrakes, haunted pubs, windswept lighthouses, and numerous ferry trips all contributed to a memorable holiday.

And to top it off, just before we left, my birthday cake was the Birthday Celebration Chocolate Cake in the 40th Anniversary edition of *the Scottish Banner*. It has become the new family favourite, and we didn't taste one as nice anywhere else. Thank you for the recipes, which we enjoy trying out.

Already planning our next trip!!

**Ann & Roger Key
Grovedale, Victoria
Australia**

Ed note: Thanks for a great letter and glad you had a great trip to Scotland.

POSTED TO THE SCOTTISH BANNER FACEBOOK PAGE

Morning has broken over Crossraguel Abbey, Ayrshire.



**Mark Bradshaw
Seaton Burn, Newcastle Upon Tyne
United Kingdom**