

# 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](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. 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.

## The Palace of Holyroodhouse



Thank you very much for printing the article about the Wentworth Weeping Elms at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh in the November edition of the Scottish Banner (Rare trees found at the Palace of Holyroodhouse). I am very interested and fascinated and told my younger cousin and she said "awesome" and that sums it up nicely.

As my Grandfather and her Great Grandfather Alexander Duthie went to work as a qualified gardener at the Palace in January 1902, so he would have nursed these seedlings/saplings for the next 45 years, then his son George for the next 25 years-that was 70 years of family care for the trees. Grandfather became Head Gardener in 1915 and the family moved into Croft-an-Righ House which was divided into two sections with the Palace guide Mr Graham living there and Mr Reid before him. At that ere it all came under the jurisdiction of Ancient Monuments, Ministry of Works, George Street, Edinburgh.

As a child during the second World War I spent many happy hours on the Palace grounds under supervision of course, but sadly I don't recall the trees. There was a weeping tree in the NE area which I'm sure was a willow, it almost touched the ground and was cold and darkish under the big canopy so I gave it a wide berth. I'd like to know where about in the grounds these trees were planted as they can grow to 100, they must have a big canopy and not too close to the buildings. None of them were planted on the northern side of the Palace because when the bomb hit the sundial area it would have been killed.

I enjoy the Banner and thank you once again for taking me down memory lane.

Marion L Cousins  
Chinchilla, Queensland  
Australia

**Ed note: Thank you Marion for sharing your story and interesting childhood with us.**

## Calling Duries to the Edinburgh Tattoo 2017 and 'The Duries & Four Scottish Queens' tour



L: Top: St Margaret, Mary of Guise, Bottom: Mary Queen of Scots and Queen Anne. R Edinburgh Castle

The Durie Family is to feature with the Bruce's - another Fife family - at the world-famous Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo 2017 in "A Splash of Tartan". Come and join us on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August. Each night the Chiefs of the Clans and Families featured will appear on the Castle esplanade, accompanied by Clan and Family members, with the VIP taking the salute. Aspects of the Families' part in Scotland's heritage will be presented and their tartans projected on to the Castle and Esplanade. The traditional Quaich ceremony will follow and then all to their seats and the 2017 Tattoo will begin. Special Durie focussed activities are planned for the weekend: 'The Duries and Four Scottish Queens' - a day tour to Fife and one in Edinburgh. We want as many Duries as possible there on Our Night - Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2017! Seats are being held. And come on the day trips too.

For more information: see [www.duriefamily.co.uk](http://www.duriefamily.co.uk) or e-mail: [contact@duriefamily.co.uk](mailto:contact@duriefamily.co.uk)

Note: Not a Durie nor a Bruce? But want to take part in your Clan or Family's Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo 2017 special night? Visit: [info@clanchiefs.org.uk](http://info@clanchiefs.org.uk) or the website [www.clanchiefs.org.uk](http://www.clanchiefs.org.uk)

## Dean Castle



Having read January's edition I observe the article with reference to Brodie Castle having undergoing a transformation and investment of £2,800,000. I thought you might like to be made aware of another castle undergoing the same transformation. Dean Castle in Kilmarnock, this castle is where I met my wife 56 years ago married there 1962 and resided for a few years prior to emigrating to Canada 1967, it is a romantic location and a jewel in the area! As castles go the Dean Castle is a very attractive castle of which encompasses a Palace and Keep. Has a history, Robert The Bruce gave the lands to Sir Robert Boyd for faithful service during the wars of independence.

Around 1350 it became the seat of the Boyd's. in 1745 Lord William Boyd supported the Jacobite rebellion for which he was executed for treason 1746. My wife's parents were custodians of the castle at which time was owned by the 9<sup>th</sup> Lord Howard De'Walden until 1974 when he gifted the castle to the town of Kilmarnock. This Lord De'Walden was very popular

with the people of Kilmarnock, each year during the Kilmarnock fair holidays he would enter a horse at the Ayr races. The people of Kilmarnock would hear about this and would place there monies on the horse which would most time be the winner thereby providing the Kilmarnock people with money for their holidays.

In 1735 the castle was heavily damaged by fire and in 1899 the 8<sup>th</sup> Lord De'Walden restored the castle. There are a collection of arms (swords) and coats of Armour also many fine pieces of historical musical instruments contained in the castle Keep.

Currently the castle is undergoing a major transformation to bring the castle and grounds back to its former glory thanks to a Scottish Heritage grant of several millions of pounds this is a work currently in progress that will take some two years to complete. It is my belief this would be of interest to the Scottish Banner readers and a castle worth visiting.

I hope you will find this castle to be worth your time to explore for a future issue, it also featured in an episode of the TV series *Outlander* during the filming last year!

Regards  
Bill Kelly  
Canada

**Ed note: Thanks Bill for sharing this piece of history with us and what a special place to get married.**

## Cairngorm Reindeer



The article about the reindeer herd in the Cairngorms brought back so many happy memories (*Rambling Scotland-Cairn Gorm and Britain's only reindeer herd, Scottish Banner, December, 2016*). I knew Mikel Utsi and his wife as well as visiting them at "Reindeer House" in the Cairngorms. I visited Mr Utsi many times at his home in the town of Jokmökk in northern Sweden and have happy memories of riding on a pulka pulled by reindeer thru the birch woods.

Thank you for the article.  
R.A Baillie  
Prospect Vale, Tasmania  
Australia

## Informative publication

Many thanks on producing such a high quality and very informative publication. Since my pen pal (ouch! dated term), Bruce Scotland donated a subscription to me some months ago I have learned so much about Scotland. This is despite me being an avid reader of both Scottish and national newspapers. The articles on Christmas and New Year tradition were superb. Keep up the good work.

Kind regards,  
Ron Scrimgeour  
Forfar, Angus  
Scotland

**Ed note: Thanks Ron for your note to us and we are always thrilled to hear such positive feedback from our Scottish based readers.**

## 78th Fraser Highlanders Pipe Band



Photo: Louise Gunn.

Attached is a photo of the 78th Fraser Highlanders Pipe Band performing at our St. Andrew's Day concert back in November. In the past, we staged the Burns Night to make a profit for equipping the soldiers but now that the band and the Tartan Guard are both financially self-supporting, we now stage the event to offer the great evening that folks expect from us.

Edward Gunn  
Captain-Lieutenant  
Fort St. Andrew's Garrison  
78th Fraser Highlanders  
Quebec City, Quebec  
Canada

## SENT TO OUR FACEBOOK OR TWITTER PAGES

(Send us your photos or letters via social media)

### Bannock



We had a 'Multicultural Morning Tea' at church this weekend. This was partly to celebrate the Chinese New Year, since we have a few members with Chinese heritage. Members were asked to bring some food representing their heritage. Others brought things like pavlova, and lamingtons. To represent my Scottish heritage, I baked this bannock. The recipe was from the Scottish Banner.  
Scott McPhee  
Melbourne, Victoria  
Australia

### Blackness Castle



Designed to look like a ship by Archibald Douglas who suffered by seasickness, wonderful Blackness Castle.  
Scotland Traveloholic  
Scotland