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 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.

St Andrew of Scotland St Andrew of Scotland gave us the Saltire, A cross that has slipped to one side On which he was crucified long, long ago When his feelings he could not hide For the new religion as founded Not quite as the prophets decreed But as the new faith determined

To recognise a new kind of deity Emanating from Heaven above Not driven by fear or Elders' threats But founded in feelings of love.

To deal with the world's rising need.

St Andrew was St Peter's young brother Both fishermen, strong and alert Each touched by the message of Jesus And indeed, were the first to convert.

Peter became the first Pope Andrew a bishop in Greece Where in Patras, the Romans prevailed And gave Bishop Andrew no peace To spread the Word or even draw breath Before their Roman rule took action And he suffered a martyr's death On a crooked cross he himself designed As he felt himself unworthy to replicate Christ's end in kind.

It was then a monk by the name of St Rule Was told to take Andrew's remains 'To the furthest ends of the earth And not to spare any pains. So the sailing ship landed at Pittenweem A port on the coast of Fife Nearby the town of St Andrew's Where his legend was given new life.

Time passed in old Scotland. Until Angus, King of the Picts, Was facing Northumbria's host On the battlefield With a handful of Scots at the most When Andrew appeared with his Saltire Cross And gave Angus the saintly order: "Engage with these hostile English And face them on the border "Without the least delay, I say, For with my Cross before you, Scotland shall win the day."

And win they did, the English fled And a whole nation was afire Only because all Scots knew It was only because of Andrew

SCOT POURRI



And his striking white cross on blue Known as the Scottish Saltire From which all Scotland grew. So hail! Hail to St Andrew! That all may understand He is the hero of all Scottish souls And the Patron Saint of our land.

John Cairnev Glasgow, Scotland

Kings Castles and Durty Wee Rascals



I always seem to relate to Jim Stoddart's articles in the series Kings Castles and Durty Wee Rascals. This month's (The Last Tram, Scottish Banner, September, 2017) reminded me of this big traffic jam. I worked in these offices as a punch card operator (early computer age). I remember this day very well. I had to walk from having caught the bus from Househillwood, which is near Pollock where Jim lived. I wonder if any other readers worked at the SCWS head offices at this time?

Thanks Jim for the many memories you bring back to me and the Scottish Banner for all the contributions and news.

Regards, Jessie Robertson Australia

Clan MacLean

I love the Scottish Banner! I have been trying for years to connect with my Clan and family. I have been in touch with the Clan castle, Clan MacLean at Duart Castle on the Isle of Mull, but I want to get in touch with the Clan itself. Is there any suggestions that you could give me?

I would appreciate anything. Thank you! Karen McLean Barnett Gilbert, AZ USA

Dual Citizenship

Does anyone know how to obtain (the process) of dual citizenship. Our son is looking to do so. His grandfather and great grandfather was born in Scotland. We are visiting Scotland from the USA in April. We are very excited.

Thank you much for your kindness. Debra Craig dcmilitaryfamilies@yahoo.com

A monthly breath of Scotland I think it's great that we will be able to read the Scottish Banner online. However, I pass mine on to a dear Scottish friend who is 97 years young and in long term care. She is the one person with whom I talk in the "Mither tongue".

I, myself, just turned 95, and I guess it's true, old habits die hard, as I still prefer

to hold the printed word in my hand. It's 70 years since I left Bonnie

Scotland and it's lovely to get a breath of it every month, thanks to the staff at the Scottish Banner.

Thank you and may I wish you continued success.

Sincerely, Agnes Loosmore Canada

Ed note: Thank you Agnes for your kind comments and whether it be print or digital we are glad you are enjoying the paper and we are happy to offer both choices to our readers across the world.

Graham McTavish



Thank you Scottish Banner for a wonderful interview with Graham McTavish aka Dougal MacKenzie in Outlander (Scottish Banner, October, 2017). Your past two issues have been excellent with Outlander content and I am so happy this show is having such a positive impact on Scotland itself. I have read Diana Gabaldon's books and am engrossed with the TV series.

The Scottish Banner has had some brilliant interviews lately and thank you to everyone who takes part in making this the publication we Scots across the world can call our own. Karen Robertson Hamilton, Ontario Canada

Ed note: Thanks Karen for your kind note and we are so happy Graham could take part in the Scottish Banner.

Are you an MacArthur, Arthur, Carter or similar name? If so, you are part of one of the oldest Scottish clans in Scotland which is Clan Arthur/MacArthur. It is said that it descended from the legendary King Arthur. Of course, this cannot be proven but it is a romantic story. The clan has a Chief, John MacArthur of that Ilk, who resides in Stranear on the west coast of Scotland. There are branches of the clan in the U.K., USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. On 4th August this year, we marched onto the Edinburgh Castle esplanade on the opening night of the Tattoo. We issue a quarterly magazine to our members to keep them up to date current Scottish events, history and clan happenings around the world.

If you would like to know more about us, please contact: Carol, email: carolmcarthur18@gmail.com

Spooky Scotland

First, thank you for our paper many years of wonderful reading. Regarding October's paper and the ghosts of Scotland. There is a lady in the white gown in St. Margaret's Chapel Edinburgh Castle. I looked through the door and there she was, I looked again

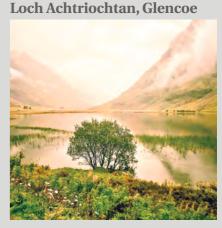
and she was gone. On the River Leith one evening we went to a very small pub on the river edge with tall and small sailing ships tied up and people, donkey carts wheel barrows moving about. On Culloden field two kilted men were helping a very obvious badly injured also kilted man in bonnet with a white patch on it. These sightings were mentioned to people working at these sights. Smiles and nods.

It was wonderful going home to the land of my birth. Derek Hutton Mt. Beauty, Victoria

Ed note: Thanks Derek and sounds like you sure have had some amazing paranormal events whilst in Scotland!

SENT TO OUR FACEBOOK **OR TWITTER PAGES**

(Send us your photos or letters via social media)



Autumn at Loch Achtriochtan, Glencoe. Carolynn Wilson Scotland

Eilean Donan Castle



Golden day at Eilean Donan Castle. Ronald Stokes Scotland

Keiss Castle



Historic Keiss Castle, Caithness, Franklin Wilson Scotland