

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 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 deal with the world's rising need.

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

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

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 Cairney
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
dcilitaryfamilies@yahoo.com
USA

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
Australia

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)

Loch Achtriochtan, Glencoe



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