

# 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?

## Scottish Heavy events



Just a note to thank you for *the Scottish Banner*, I buy it from a newsagency in a small town in north western Tasmania, so your penetration is certainly widespread. I am a 75 year old retired whisky distiller and part time gym instructor with some 55 years' experience and still train for the heavy Highland events in our own gym five days a week (even though Tasmania has no Highland Games with heavy events any more).

Would love to compete at Ringwood, Victoria, Glen Innes or Maclean, NSW

but the jolly old pension is not so kind, but I "follow" activities through their websites. Thank you again I'm sure *the Banner* is appreciated by many more than myself who live away from towns and cities where Celtic groups/organisations are active.

Many regards/tioraidh an-drasta,  
Brian

Tasmania, Australia

**Ed note: Thanks Brian for your note and so great to see you continuing with your training and love of Scottish heavy events!**

## Pen pal wanted

Hello,

My name is Jenni Ervin. I'm 17 years old, I'm female, I'm in college, and I live in Michigan, US. I'm of Scottish descent and I'm very interested in Scotland in general. I'm looking for a pen pal, a girl ideally about my own age, preferably from Scotland but anywhere in the UK would be fantastic!

I enjoy reading excessively, writing, and watching too many movies, especially Marvel movies. I have about a million other interests, too!

If you're interested, please write me at:

Jenni Ervin  
4723 Hasslick Road  
North Branch, MI 48461  
United States of America  
Email: jennilovesdakota@gmail.com

## My Story

I was brought up in Rosehearty a burgh with one of the oldest harbours in Scotland. It is a quiet little community on the Moray coast of Aberdeenshire. While a youngster in the 1940's and 50's I was enlightened with our strong cultural heritage. Speaking English with difficulty in school, but elsewhere broad Scots. Seeking out the legends and ghostly tales within the district and watching the fishing craft enter harbour with a heavy catch that everyone enjoyed.

Entertainment was a neighbourly experience and all had to contribute either by fiddle, pipes or accordion and the music filled our hearts with joy as these melodies were handed down through the generations and each told a story of old. Storytelling was a favourite of us children as we were regaled about heroes from our rich past. The most favoured was the life of our Alexander Lord Forbes of Pitsligo who had lived up the brae from Rosehearty.

He followed Bonnie Prince Charlie in 1745 through to the fatal end on Culloden and remained the rest of his life dressed as a beggar on his own estate while the Hanoverian Dragoons hunted for him. His encounters with them were remarkable and he even helped them hunt for himself and was well rewarded for it too.

His story far outstrips *Outlander* the film. Today his castle lies in ruin seeking restoration but although Hanover's mark is on it the Laird's ghost still wanders there. We loved his legends that still live today. I and my friends were mystified with local stories of the ancient sites such as, Hanging Steen where unfortunate criminals were hung; the Dubh Gwite a ritual sacrificial site in the distant past then the Holy Healing Well which produced iron water and as youngsters told to drink its extraordinary healing power for the betterment of our health; and the Nine Maiden's Well with a long history deep into the past.

All this was imbedded in our cultural mind, in those early days of my youth.

James Taylor

**Ed note: Thank you James for sharing your story and some unique Scottish folklore with us.**

## Culloden Moor



I am writing in support of the letter written by Cheryl Bruce (*Scottish Banner*, July 2018) regarding the Building Development Application to build on Culloden Moor.

How could the authorities even consider such a development in such a sacred place. Culloden Moor is a memorial to so many brave men who fought a lost against a much stronger enemy. So much blood was shed on this very spot which makes it sacred and should forever be preserved and respected as a memorial to the memory of those men whose lives were lost.

Edith Traynor

Rockingham

Western Australia

## A skirmish with Clan midge

David Black's poem had me scratching and laughing. It brought back the horrors of my childhood in Glasgow. We made frequent trips top Loch Lomond and usually ended up in Rowardenan, midge capital of the west. My sister recently took her three grandchildren to Glen Coe as they had never been there. Their mother was horrified at the state of them when they came home. The 90 million midges must have fed off them. Needless to say the grandchildren were not happy with granny either!

Carol Mitchell

Auckland, New Zealand

**Ed note: Thanks Carol and the thought of midges must make you "itching" to get back to Scotland!**

## Boys' Brigade

Whilst browsing the October 2016 *Scottish Banner* regarding the founding of the Boys' Brigade, I recalled travelling by train with the three Dundee Battalions to Hampden Park, Glasgow. We, and boys from all over Scotland, filled the Stadium in 1958, to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this wonderful organisation. I wonder if any readers were there on that day? I was a Staff Sergeant (Piper).

Alec Beaton

Melton, Victoria

Australia (ex-Dundee, Scotland)

E-mail: 2gargor@gmail.com

## Vale Jeffrey Smith Coltrane



My mentor for Clan Moffat was Jeff Coltrane, who died in Winston-Salem on September 10, 2018. He encouraged me to attend my first Highland Games at Grandfather Mountain in 1991. He was a friend who supported my work with Clan Moffat. He will be missed.

Jeffrey Smith Coltrane, Jr., of Winston-Salem, NC died Monday, September 10, 2018. His interests included reading, he was a lover of books and classical music, and was keenly interested in history and genealogy. Mr. Coltrane was a member of a number of patriotic, historical and genealogical societies. These included the NC Genealogical Society in which he formerly served on the Board, a former member and Director of the Wake County Historical Society, a charter member of the Forsyth County Genealogical Society and Board member, a member of the Sons of

the American Revolution and Sons of the Revolution in the State of NC, serving on the Boards of both organizations. He was also a member of the Society of Colonial Wars, the St. Andrews Society of NC, former treasurer of the Clan Moffat Society, and a member of the Clan Stewart Society.

Thanks,

Andrew Mackie

USA

**Ed note: Thank you for sharing Andrew and our condolences to all Mr Coltrane's family and those friends in the Scottish community.**

## FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



Send your photos or letters via social media

### Loch Ard



This morning's autumn sunshine at the lovely Loch Ard.

Robert Gibb

Scotland

### CConnell/Bailie

My Grandparents, Adam Connell and Minnie Baillie moved to Trail, BC, Canada around 1917 from Kirkintilloch. Wondering if any of the Connell or Bailie family still lives there?

Sharon Connell Parker  
Canada

### Love the Banner

I absolutely love *the Scottish Banner*. My mom received it for many years and when she passed I started to receive it. Just LOVE it.

Robin Britt

### Bay City Rollers



After Mum passed away in April, I saw a *Scottish Banner* newspaper and decided to buy it in memory of her. (She came to Australia from Musselburgh in 1947 and married her pen friend.) There was a competition in it for 2 tickets to the 'Bay City Rollers' concert at Palms at Crown in Melbourne, and I won it. My Daughter and I went on Tues night. We both loved it. Thanks to *the Scottish Banner*.

Gael McKenzie  
Victoria, Australia