

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 Weather: Winter



We'll come again, perhaps at a different season.

I'd like to taste a Scottish winter—just a little—just once.

I'd like to be here among some villagers during a lighter snow, visit a pub with them and share a glass or two of The Famous Grouse, then walk out to an easy wind and the ground still bare in spots.

I'd want to feel a few gritty flakes strike my skin, then watch them skid across an icy spot with a soft, whispery, sleety sound, and hear in local tones that ancient word "skift" which my dad used when I was a child, and which hasn't come to mind in sixty years.

Twice a reunion, that moment—his soft Virginia voice in my ear

and this harsh word from an early forebear

who brought with him a few clothes, an axe, and a crazy-quilt language patched together from a dozen lands.

Even now I look ahead to home and winter, to a cold day with lowering clouds promising a change and a few grains of icy snow rasping across the frozen ground, when I can whisper in my father's voice, Now that's a skift of snow.

David Black
Louisa, Virginia
USA

Celtic missionaries

In an article in the November edition of *the Scottish Banner* I note that there is a reference to St Columba as the first Christian missionary to Scotland. As St Columba arrived on Iona in 563 AD I would point out that the early Celtic Church had St. Ninian, born in 360AD evangelising the South West of Scotland where his Candida Casa is a place of pilgrimage today. He is acknowledged as Scotland's first saint.

Then there was St. Mungo, patron saint of Glasgow born 518AD, known for giving Glasgow its motto "Glasgow will flourish....."

St. Cuthbert was born later in 634AD and evangelised the Lothian region of Scotland and he made his mark with Melrose Abbey and the Holy Isle of Lindisfarne.

There are many more Celtic missionaries, but I will finish here.

Best Wishes,
June Laws
Little Mountain, Queensland
Australia

Central Coast Scottish Spectacular



I took these photo's at the Central Coast Scottish Spectacular. Clan Donald, Nicol of Scoriebreac, Davidson and MacFarlane were featured.

Knox, Scots, Canberra Burns Club, Sydney Thistle and a number of other bands participated. The Highland Dancers and Scottish Country Dancers were also there. The raffle prizes were won by some locals and other country people. We wish to thank all those who gave their valuable time for the success of the day. We appreciated all who attended and wish you well. Come back next year, November 3rd.

Robert Findley
Scottish Country Dancer
Australia

Helen Henderson

Hello,
Don't know whether you can help me, I am looking for birth details of Helen Henderson 1850-1921, died in Ballarat, Victoria, Australia.

Parents Thomas Henderson 1836-1896 and Helen Moffatt 1830-1879.

She was married to an Englishman-James Thornton Fox 1852-1923

Rosemary Ryan
Email: rosieryan42@gmail.com

The Return of Outlander



Loved, loved, loved your November edition cover! I am so glad *Outlander* has come back and each year gets more and more popular. I also really enjoyed reading

about *Outlaw King* which I will also be watching once my *Outlander* excitement comes down a bit (if that is possible)! I had no idea about this television event and look forward to learning more about my Scottish history.

Thank you *Scottish Banner* for a great read every month!

Claire Carmichael
Vancouver, British Columbia
Canada

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



Send your photos or letters via social media

Costello/Colenutt

Hi, I'm trying to trace family members related to Margaret (Maggie) Costello (married name Colenutt). She was married to Tom Colenutt of Shanklin, Isle of Wight. They had two daughters Mary (my mum) and Peggy (my aunt). Tom and Maggie, my grandparents lived in Shanklin until they passed away in 1975 and 1978. Peggy Colenutt remained in Shanklin until she passed away in 2002 - 2003. Peggy often used to visit my grandmothers family in Edinburgh or around that area. I would really like to contact any family members that might still be about in this area or any area of Scotland. If you can help, it would be really good.

Please feel free to message me (via Facebook).

Thank you,
John Colenutt
England

Colour of autumn



Lovely copper leaves at the Hermitage.
Charles McGuigan
Scotland

Camusdarrach Beach



Cottage with a fine view off the stunning Camusdarrach Beach, Arisaig.

Robert Gibb
Scotland

Stirling Castle



Stirling Castle this afternoon looked stunning in full colour autumn is beautiful.

GN Photography
Clydebank, Scotland

Inverness



Lovely day for a stroll in Inverness!
Laëtitia