

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?

My favourite Scottish castle



The haunted Tulloch Castle in Dingwall.

It's difficult to choose a favourite castle as they are all beautiful in their own way, the derelict ones would have so much to tell if they could only talk, if it's a Scottish castle I love it!! I can't leave Tulloch Castle and room 8's friendly?? ghost. My daughter and I stayed there twice and he made his presence known both times. I was interested in the oystercatcher on the back page, in Australia they are called a pied oystercatcher and we also have a black one, the sooty

oystercatcher. They both live right around the Australian coast. If I can get close enough I'll try to hear their calls, perhaps they'll say "g'day mate!" I'm really enjoying this month's issue and must try to locate the *Outlaw King* as I know that I will enjoy it. Google will get a workout.

A very Happy New Year to your staff and readers.

Jocelyn Layton
Wyndham, Western Australia

Oliver Cromwell

This may be of interest to Mrs Beverley Mason who wrote regarding Oliver Cromwell. There is a book by Richard Lee Bradshaw, called *God's Battle Axe* about John Bradshaw who was Oliver Cromwell's Attorney General for four years and is called the Regicide Judge as he signed the death warrant for Charles the First.

Both Richard and I are related to him!

Robert Bradshaw
Ashwood, Victoria
Australia

Robert Burns songs and poems

I am seeking your kind assistance and support in helping me find a lost treasure (I think I was silly enough to loan it to some body and they never bothered to return it.

It's a smallish (pocket book) approximately 25 cm x 15 cm and has a reddish tartan cover with a photo of our Bard in the middle.

I am led to believe it may have been called "The Kirkaldy Edition"

I have been to so many book shops and can tell you am utterly amazed and disgusted they don't know what I am talking about or it's maybe they just don't care.

Can anyone put any light on where/how I can replace it?

If successful please include in next moths edition of our most valued *Scottish Banner*.

Kind Regards,
R Adam Ainslie
Email: agands1@bigpond.com

Pen friend wanted

I am looking for someone who would be interested in communicating with me (if you like to call it pen friend), who is Scottish. I am into arts and crafts, gardening, sewing etc. I am a 60 year old lady and I live in New Zealand. I would be very happy make meet another lady who is also like minded.

Many thanks,
Janet Sinclair
New Zealand
Email: jansinclair5@gmail.com

Great Scottish products

Just a brief note to let you know my order of two books and a DVD arrived safely this morning. I am very pleased to have the DVD as I attended the Edinburgh Tattoo when it came to Melbourne. To say I am delighted with the two books *Great Scottish Journeys* and *A Life in the Hills* is an understatement. What wonderful books!

I'd warmly recommend them to anyone proudly carrying Scottish blood to add them to their book collection.

Mrs Margaret Michie Benney
Craigieburn, Victoria
Australia

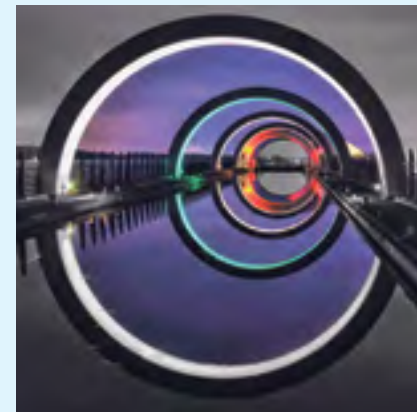
Ed note: Margaret we are thrilled to hear you are enjoying our mail order product range, thank you for your order.

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



Send your photos or letters via social media

The Falkirk Wheel



Always worth a visit to the Falkirk Wheel.

Robert Gibb
Scotland

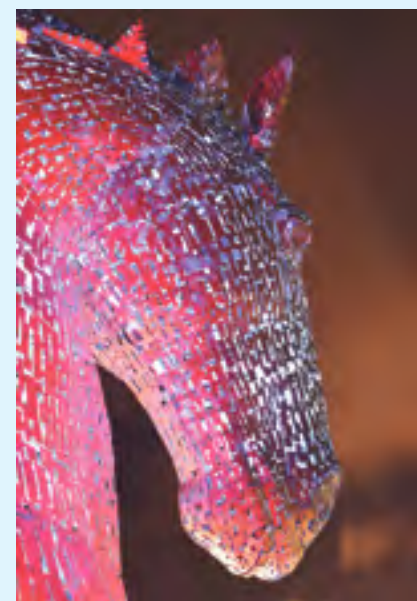
The Sir John De Graeme Memorial Fountain



The panelling from the Sir John De Graeme Memorial Fountain which with help from Falkirk Council we are getting refurbished.

We aim to take custodianship of the site to ensure a lasting future for the site.
The Society of John De Graeme Falkirk, Scotland

The Kelpies



Unedited, straight off the camera... FANTASTIC

The Kelpies at Falkirk.
A View From My Camera Scotland

Up Helly Aa



It was wonderful to read about the unique Up Helly Aa event in the Shetland Islands (*Scottish Banner*, January, 2019). What a wonderful celebration of Viking heritage, a heritage many assume only belongs to Scandinavia. I have been to Shetland but never in winter and this event is certainly something to consider. Your January issue also had some very interesting and varied content and helps us reader fall in love with Scotland more each month.

Wishing all the writers, staff and readers of the *Scottish Banner* a wonderful 2019 ahead.

Sue Anderson
Toronto, Ontario
Canada

Ed note: Thanks Sue for your note and Scotland really does have a great variety of events year round and everyone is welcome!

Encyclopaedia Britannica



How fascinating to read about the 250th anniversary of *Encyclopedia Britannica*. I remember growing up with a volume of these in our house and it was the "go to" for information. This of course was way before Google or the internet existed! I however never knew until reading this article that it was in fact started by Scots, as I always and wrongly assumed it was started in England. Scots never cease to amaze me on their ingenuity and lust for further knowledge and education.

Perhaps that is why I became a teacher??!

Alan Sinclair
San Francisco, California
USA

Ed note: Thanks for your note Alan and Encyclopedia Britannica is certainly a literary icon, which is still teaching people new things today.