

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?

Celebrating a birthday and Tartan Day



Ian Mackay of Kerikeri, New Zealand turned 83 on 5 April and a small group of friends gathered to celebrate the occasion on 6 April being Scottish Tartan Day. Ian donned his kilt and friend John Cree also donned his kilt to celebrate Scotland's Tartan Day.

As expected a good few drams of whisky were consumed in the joint celebration.

I have attached a photo of Ian and John with *the Scottish Banner* proudly held.

Lyn Cree
New Zealand

Ed note: Thank you for sending Lyn and I am sure Scottish banner readers from around the world will join in wishing Ian a wonderful 83rd year!

My school years



I read a piece by Jim Stoddart regarding schools *The Scottish School System* (*the Scottish Banner*, April, 2019), and I am sending you a picture of my class, from I think 1955, I am front second row with the fancy hair and turned up collar. Far left standing is Sir Jackie Stewart.

A lot of these guys from the plasticine class did well, one to South Africa, two to Canada, two to Australia and one to Wales - a couple of guys did great things.

The other picture is of us weans waiting to get into the ABC minors at the Rialto. I am behind the kid on the right with the cowboy hat. I lived across the road at 93 College St. I am still in touch with Ian McFarlane and Billy Thomson, I love talking to them about the good old days, I am hoping to talk to Ian Guthrie coming back from Australia for a visit. I hope to hear from George Murray soon.

Jackie Melville
Winnipeg, Manitoba
Canada

Ed note: Thanks Jackie for sharing your memories with us.

The Scottish School System

Dear Jim,
Your story re the education system in Scotland (*Kings Castles and "Durdy" Wee Rascals, The Scottish School System, Scottish Banner*, April, 2019) and the wonderful photograph, brought back so many memories. While I realise it is not possible to publish information such as the school where the photo was taken, there was a distinct likeness to myself, the lad, back row last on the right, so if there is any links to the information provided below, it would be appreciated.

Education started at the then Lockerbie Academy – 1947-48 – being the son of a Scottish soldier, school was never permanent, and we moved on to Glasgow (Garrioch Road School) the time of the Mary Hill Barracks (now a housing estate) – on to Berwick – and the Junior School, almost opposite the Barracks, RHQ The KOSB – Edinburgh (I admit to forgetting the name of the school, as we then moved below the border to schools in England).

My Mother – a (Lowlander) Johnson by birth, never failed to remind me that there was only Scottish education, and that while I may not have finished under that system, the fact I commenced my education in Scotland, formed the very “back bone” of my success. How right she was.

So Jim you did awaken a dormant folk memory – many thoughtful trips down memory lane – (though I am often in Scotland) and visit Lockerbie, where it all began – Berwick on Tweed, and Edinburgh - where the “feeling” of belonging runs deep, your article certainly achieved a great deal.

Thank you,
Alexander Sutton

Ed note: Thanks Alexander for sharing your story. The photo used was undated and had no details of which school in Scotland it was. How amazing if this is you!

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

Send your photos or letters via social media



Cauldshiels Loch



Cauldshiels Loch, Galashiels.

James Gordon Images
Galashiels, Scotland

On the rails in Edinburgh



The Balmoral getting in on the act at Edinburgh Waverly with The Aberdonian.

A View From My Camera
Scotland

Muness Castle



Muness Castle in Shetland, the most northerly castle in Scotland.

Historic Tours Scotland
Scotland

Kilchurn Castle



Kilchurn Castle, Loch Awe...so nice you need to see it twice!

Robert Gibb
Scotland