

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?

Summer Rain in Scotland



*Weather is not sudden now—
the fog drifts, the misty rain creeps,
any breeze is a furtive visitor*

*slowed by the mountains. Summer here is
mostly rain, the rainiest land in Europe,
some say—quiet rains filling burns and lochs,*

*replenishing cisterns and wells—good for pines,
good for pasture and sheep, good for people,
good for whisky, some say with a wink.*

*We travel with ponchos in our daypacks
and the wise words of our guide Harry:
There's never bad weather, just the wrong clothes.*

*There will be surprises in this land,
I'm sure—but these first drops of the day
splattering us as we board the bus*

*are not among them, and Harry has taught us well:
Better to be looking at them than for them.
Like good friends, you might say.*

David Black
USA

What's In A Name

I am very glad I got in my query to Ron Dempsey before he retired from *the Scottish Banner*. I have always felt rather deprived by not being given a middle name and wish they had given me my father's middle name of Phimister, since Ron advised it mean's 'master of the cattle herd', as I have been a farmer for many years now. A far cry from my father as an Edinburgh accountant!

Mora McCallum
South Australia

Informed of both modern and historical Scotland

I have been a reader of *the Scottish Banner* for over 20 years, and I look forward to it. It is an excellent read and a great way to keep ex-pats around the world informed of both modern and historical Scotland.

Lang Mae Yer Lum Reek!
Aye Yours,
Duncan Quinn
Waiheke Island, Auckland
New Zealand

Robert the Bruce



Thank you *Scottish Banner* for including the new film, *Robert the Bruce*, in your July edition. As far as I can see *the Banner* is the only publication outside the UK that has given this any form of press. After the huge success of *Braveheart* the interest in this film should be immense and I have not seen a mention of it anywhere. I cannot wait to see this film and I am glad to know the staff at *the Scottish Banner* are keeping us expat Scots up to date on major releases like this.

It is so thrilling to see so much Scottish content coming to film and television recently-it makes me so proud to be a Scot!
Andrew Smith
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Canada

Pippins



I must say how much I enjoy reading *the Scottish Banner*. I find every article interesting and wonder how you are able to come up with so many and varied month after month. I was particularly interested to read the article about the fashion dolls or 'pippins' of Mary Queen of

Scots (*New research reveals fashion secrets of Mary Queen of Scots, the Scottish Banner*, April, 2019). I have a pippen, though not a 16th or 17th century one, and not made of wax. It is made of China, has lovely eyes that open and close and real hair.

My maternal grandfather was a highly respected headmaster in Newcastle and because of this was able to obtain for me toys, books and even a push bike he restored. I was given the doll, I don't know where it was made. The doll came with a magnificent set of clothes, including a day dress, evening dresses and beautiful fabrics. I was told the doll was French as it was dressed in expensive French fabrics. I never doubted that, but was excited to read her origins.

Ann Grant
Randwick, NSW
Australia

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Scottish Borders Walking Festival 7-14 September. Walks, strolls & events in Selkirk and the Ettrick and Yarrow Valleys.

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