

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?

Don't Quit

I came to Australia from Kilmarnock, Scotland 50 years ago, fit, young and healthy. Now I am 83 years old and like Billy Connolly I have Parkinson's. I have a little verse that hangs on the wall and look at it pretty often, so people like Billy and thousands like us, you might like to read it.

Don't Quit

*When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
When the funds are low, and the debts are high,
And you want to smile, but have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest if you must,
But don't you quit!!!*

*Bill Millar
Queensland, Australia*

Ed note: Thanks for sending Bill and we are glad to see your positive outlook and Scottish strength!

Scottish National Party

Holidaying with friends in Adelaide (and escaping part of the Glasgow winter), I bought the January 2020 edition of *the Scottish Banner* which I enjoyed. Just one correction though. In a piece on the results of the Scottish votes in the recent UK General Election, you mention that the SNP won 48 of Scotland's 59 constituencies -around 80% of seats. You erroneously call the SNP the 'Scottish Nationalist' rather than the 'Scottish National' Party. It is an important distinction given the fact that 'national' implies the party of a nation while 'nationalist' implies a 'me first' ideology which can aptly be applied to the pro-Brexit vote in England but not the overwhelming vote in Scotland to remain in the EU and to welcome more refugees to our country.

A Happy New Year to everyone.
*(Dr) Duncan MacLaren
Glasgow, Scotland*

Ed note: Thanks for catching this Dr MacLaren and hope you have had happy travels.

Dundee Picnic

I hope you can settle an argument for me, many years ago there was an organization that was called the "Dundee Picnic". They organized a picnic and golf tournament for persons of Dundee heritage I'm sure it was in the Toronto area, can anyone remember this?

Thank you
*Jim Macfarlane
E-mail: macfar39@telus.net
Canada*

Interesting issue



Hello from Wyndham, Western Australia, what an interesting issue you had in July. The photo of the Bridge of Orchy brings back fond memories as it's so beautiful and I had the most delicious haggis at the hotel. My grandfather's ancestors were supposed to have originated from the area. I left my own "wee monster", a tiny magnetised koala bear, on the back of a signpost. My daughter and I spent a couple of hours wandering around the area. I've enjoyed reading *the Scottish Banner* for several years as I love all things Scottish, I've been there four times and would love to return. On our first trip my daughter and I drove from London to Dunblane in a day, much to some people's surprise. As we came to the Welcome to Scotland sign, I felt as though I was coming home. My grandmother was from Glasgow, but she died before I was born so I never really knew any Scots. The icing on the cake is Ian Rankin who is one of my favourite authors, I love the *Rebus* books and have most of them, I re-read them regularly.

Thanks for a great newspaper,
*Jocelyn Layton
Wyndham, Western Australia*

Dunce

My son, who now lives in Brisbane has just responded to my last email in which I told him that I had been putting pen to paper and writing about what school was like for me in the late 40's and early 50's. I was doing this in the hope that my Grandchildren in years to come might be interested in what school was like in their old Gramp's days.

He told me about your publication and when I looked it up noticed that you had described where the word 'dunce' originated from (*Scottish Banner, The Banner Says*, November 2019 Vol'43 Number 05). I found this so coincidental, as I for the first time since I can remember, I used this word in my reminiscing.
*Stuart McKay
Scotland*

The Scotsman

My mom, who is in her 87th year wrote a beautiful poem many years ago after her and my father visited Scotland where her father grew up in Paisley. They toured throughout the country and when in the Highlands my Mom was inspired to put pen to paper. I hope you enjoy reading this as much as I do.
Matt Odell

The Scotsman

The Scotsman stood in the heather
On the crest of the sunlit hill
Gazing at the faraway highlands
thinking of times long ago

He thought of the many invasions
The Vikings, Romans, and English
trying to take Scotland for their own
had to fight the tenacious Scots

He thought of the clans that were there
the battles that were won and lost
he could hear in his mind the battle cries
and the sound of the clashing Claymores

He could hear the eerie skirl of the pipes
their piercing sound filling the glens
and spreading out o'er the moors
before all went silent again

The auld land is peaceful now
from the highlands to the borders
with its many locks and rivers
its rugged beauty for all to see

The Scotsman took up his pipes
and tucked them beneath his arm
then wandered down through the heather
slowly wending his way back home.

*Duella D Odell
Akron, New York
USA*

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

Send us your photos or letters via social media



The Hermitage



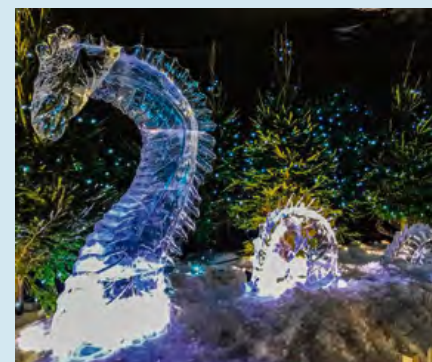
The Hermitage autumn colours like this are not far off.
*A View From My Camera
Scotland*

Stirling Bridge



Stirling Bridge is stunning at this time of the year.
*GN Photography
Scotland*

Scottish ice sculptures



Scottish themed ice sculptures in Edinburgh a few years ago, all stunning but my favourite is the Loch Ness Monster.
*Shutter Bug Shots
Scotland*