

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 thistles



Here is a couple of photos of our very own Scottish thistles. It's just a wee bit of Scotland here in Victoria, Australia. We were very surprised to find a white thistle in flower alongside a purple thistle... White or purple they are just beautiful.



Debbie Rowse
Victoria, Australia

Ed note: Thank you for sending Debbie. If any other readers have thistles growing for them around the world, please share your photos and locations.

D-Day Piper Bill Millin

I have always been interested in the story of the D-Day Piper, Bill Millin. Under the command of Simon Fraser (Lord Lovat), Bill was one of the first commandos to land in Normandy. Without a rifle, carrying only his bagpipes, Bill piped on Sword Beach wearing his father's World War I kilt.

While there are some great articles out there and a few videos, there is very little that provided the details to the story. After digging into interviews with veterans, reading dozens of books and a little help from Bill's son John, I pulled together what I hope is an interesting story as seen through the eyes of those who were witness to the legendary feats of bravery. "We were pinned down on the beach, many of our comrades dead or dying," recalled Private René Rossey of No. 4 Commando, "but when Lovat's piper walked up and down the beach, piping his lungs out, the Germans seemed stunned, as if they'd seen a ghost. They briefly stopped firing and we made it to the barbed wire at the top of the beach." The book is available on Amazon in hard copy, as well as Barnes & Noble, iTunes, Kobo and Kindle in soft copy.
Ian Moran

Kings, Castles & "Durdy" Wee Rascals

My name is William McAllister, born 1942, so I am of your era and love to read your column in *the Banner*. It brings back memories from my early days spent in Glesca, as we called it, at my Aunt Jenny, Uncle Jimmy's and cousin's who lived at 32 Carfin St in Govanhill, and later at Castle Hill Drive, Castle Hill. A few things that I remember are climbing up on the midden roof and either jumping off or over a wall that looked down to the school. We would go to the slag pit and play on the large lumps of slag, sometimes we would go into the steamie with my Aunt Jenny who would be pushing around a large pram full of washing and going to the wee shop at the end of the street and buying a vant ice-I loved the black current flavour.

We had some good times when a few of the relatives had a get together as music was their forte. There was banjo guitar and depending where we were at times a piano and as expected singing.

What prompted me to write was your column in the June edition, *What's In A Name*, regarding your ancestors. For my part I am of McAllister and Erskine stock from Alloa, old families of this area. Unfortunately, in June 1946 my father passed away and was buried one day before my 4th birthday. A few years later my mother married again to John Stoddart, who was a ploughman and lived on the farm. Both parents were from large family's but think there is only one left who today lives in Oban.

I wish you all the best in your family search.
W.E McAllister
Mt Pritchard
Australia

Falls of the Clyde



A fresh effort has been made to submit a further offer to the Hawaii State, in an effort to save a 'Clyde built' sailing ship, the *Falls of Clyde*. This 141 year old, Port Glasgow built survivor is destined to be scuttled by the Honolulu harbors department, unless we can agree a deal to save her.

We have secured a new deal with international lift ship operators Roll-Dock to collect her from Hawaii this year and return her to the Clyde. Once home she will be rebuilt as an education at sea, cargo, sail training and ocean plastic collector of waste plastic.

A series of events are planned en-route across the U.S. & Canada, where the lift vessel will stop to celebrate our links to the U.S. and Canada. The journey will culminate on her arrival with a large flotilla escort of sail and motor cruisers and perhaps some other tall ships from around Europe!

See: www.foci.scot
David O'Neill
USA

UK's Best Bikers Café



Our wee bikers cafe in South Queensferry is in the finals of a UK wide best Bikers Cafe.

Trish MsTaz Sutton and Chas Fuzz McLeod do an amazing job, not only running a fantastic venue for Bikers to meet up but also a real community hub where they do some fantastic charity work for the likes of the Royal National Lifeboat Inst. Etc.

Above all the they are passionate about bikes and people and it would be great if we can take the prize to Scotland. Well worth a visit.

So here's the link, scroll down and vote for the Bikers Cove. Be awesome to get your support by voting for The Bikers Cove and sharing: www.motorcyclenews.com/news/2020/january/golden-sausage-2020/CrawfordHendyScotland

The Queensland Police

I won't go on and rave about *the Scottish Banner*. You have heard it all before, I will get on with it. I was born in Aberdeen in 1948, coming to Australia when I was two-hence no accent at all. Still proud and always a Scot.

I went to South Vietnam in 1970 as a National Serviceman. I saw death as you may imagine. I also served in the Railway Police in Vietnam and have had a lot of medical hospital help for fifteen years-which was no help at all.

I wear medals and a uniform every day-it helps me. Victoria Police but more the Queensland Police, they are so supportive of me and anyone. I wear the kilt, Campbell of Argyle tartan and tie. What cheers me up every month without fail is my copy of *the Scottish Banner* and the Queensland Police-hugely every day.

George Broun
Chermside, Queensland
Australia

Ed note: Thank George for your note and we are honoured to hear you enjoy the *Banner* so much from a true Scot.

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

Send us your photos or letters via social media



Forth Bridge



On the #ForthBridge with a Virgin Train passing.
Gary Chittick
Scotland

The magic of Edinburgh



Edinburgh is gorgeous at any time, but as evening falls is something very special.
ShutterBugShots
Scotland

Eilean Donan Castle



Here's one I took a while back:) of Eilean Donan.
liquid8

Walkies



Kepler enjoying her morning walk below Stirling Castle.
#schnoodle
Robert Gibb
Scotland