

# 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?

## Kings Castles and 'Durdy' Wee Rascals

Jim Stoddart's article about "The Black Squad" made me think about my childhood in Glasgow. I grew up in Kennoway Drive, Partick. Many of our neighbours worked in the shipyards on the Clyde in the 1950's. My fathers father worked in John Brown's as a crane operator and french polisher. My father after doing his National Service worked there in the office for two tears, as did my mother's older brother. Dad then went on to work in the offices

of various shipping agents in the city until he retired. My uncle emigrated to New Zealand, but never forgot where he came from. I can't imagine anyone who grew up 'Clydeside' could ever forget the sound of the rivets being hammered in the place.

Although I have lived in New Zealand for 47 years, I am still proud to be a Glaswegian.

Carol Mitchell  
Auckland, New Zealand

### Do you know this brooch?



I wonder if your paper is able to shed any light on the origin, story, folk law, design, etc. of this brooch, which came out from Scotland in the late 1800's or early 1900's?

If you have any thoughts, they would be greatly appreciated.

Brian Turner  
bturner.au@gmail.com

### Reading the Scottish Banner for the first time ever

Good Morning from Wangaratta, Victoria, Australia.

I'm reading the Scottish Banner for the first time ever, having discovered it in a newsagents an hour from home.

I just wanted to thank Matt Odell who, in the February edition, posted a poem written by his mother, Duella, on a visit to Scotland. It hit all the tender spots and brought tears to my eyes. How beautifully written! What a marvellous keepsake for you, Matt.

I'm lucky enough to be revisiting the country of my birth again this year in June, and needless to say, I canna wait! I'll be based in Edinburgh, but am touring Mull, Skye, and on to the Orkneys! Back to Edinburgh, then up to Fife to my family.

I'm so grateful to have found this wonderful publication. It'll be a regular paper in my household from now on.

Fiona Evans  
Wangaratta, Victoria  
Australia

**Ed note: Thanks for your note Fiona and so glad you found us!**

### Creating Scotland

Weather is first.

Snow, of course, and wind.

Rock and gnarly pine for strength.

High mountains for solitude,  
valleys for softer days.

Lonely crags for mystics  
to sit upon and dream.

Wildcats for strength and pipes for soul.

Heather, gorse, and bluebells  
fight through thin and rocky soil,  
show how to drive the deep roots  
which hold its people here.

David Black  
Louisa, Virginia  
USA

### Kings, Castles & "Durdy" Wee Rascals

Hi Jim,  
I read your article in the Scottish Banner not long ago about people not being able to read and write. My great grandfather was convicted at 5 years old in Cranbrook, Kent, England of taking a handkerchief out of a pocket in 1827. He arrived in Australia in 1828 at age 7 years and was sent to Port Arthur and stayed there for 20 years. The children lived on the island off the coast and they were taught to read and write and grow their own food. He was pardoned at 27 years and married in 1849. It would have been hard and cold on that island. I have got his marriage certificate, and his wife could not read or write. I think it was kept very quiet.

My great, great grandmother on the other side was a descendant from the potato famine in Ireland. That was kept very quiet as well.

All the family were fighters.  
I enjoy your column each month.

All the best,  
Mrs Gerry Browne  
Peakhurst, NSW  
Australia

### Scots language Facebook group

Hello everyone! I've started a Facebook Group to help learn and promote the Scots language, in particular Gallawa (Galloway, South West Central) Scots and Borders (South) Scots.

If you would like to join and help out, please click on the link below!  
[www.facebook.com/groups/798737537298188](http://www.facebook.com/groups/798737537298188)  
Kevin Robb

### The Arab Legion Pipe Band



Just a short note with a piping story. The photo I have sent was taken in 1953/54, at what was then the shinty park in Fort William. The Arab Legion Pipe Band came to town and I clearly remember as a 10 year old that I was upset to think that the band did not wear the kilt and had odd towels on their head.

All the best,  
David Mackenzie

**Ed note: Thanks for sending this great photo David, which proves the pipes are truly a global instrument!**

### Outlander



Thanks for a great edition featuring my favourite show *Outlander* in February. I absolutely can't wait to try the great recipes from the *Outlander Kitchen* and I will be ordering the cookbook to get a even more of a taste of my favourite show. *The Scottish Banner* is packed with so much great stuff each month, if I wasn't already proud to have Scottish ancestry before, I do become very proud after reading each issue.

Looking forward to learning more about Scotland in the next issue of the Banner!

Gail McIntosh  
Seattle, Washington  
USA

### A cack handed rock staker

Firstly, thank you for our own paper. Two articles in the April issue... Stone stacking by Nick Drainey and being a cack hander by Jim Stoddart tickled my heart and brought back memories of my first days of school (65 years ago). Slate and chalk, chalk on slate, sleeve and hand our numbers and ABC's a total mess. This I was punished for and forced to use my right hand, my mother bless her soul. Leave the lad be. Scissors were a nightmare to use, still are.

Nick Drainey's article on rock stacking, it was something I loved doing and encouraged others to have a go, mine were not so much towers as trying to make creatures and other sometimes impossible creations. Regrettably as in Nicks article some folk do not appreciate other people's dreams. My rock art came to an end through a serious back problem.

Even though I am cack handed, I am a right-handed golfer, I played school baseball right-handed (left arm pitcher) cricket the same. Thank you, gentlemen for your articles and thank you again the Scottish Banner.

Derek Hutton  
Mount Beauty Victoria  
Australia

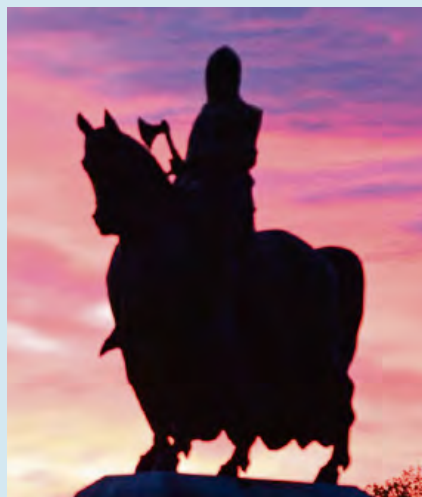
**Ed note: Thank you Derek for your note, and so glad to hear this issue brought back some great Scottish memories for you.**

## FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

Send us your photos or letters via social media



### Bannockburn



Beautiful sunset over Bannockburn and the statue of King Robert the Bruce.  
Charles McGuigan  
Scotland

### East Linton



The Rocks, East Linton, East Lothian.  
Ian Sutherland.  
Scotland

### Eilean Donan Castle



Nature's very own saltire at Eilean Donan Castle for St Andrews Day.  
Gary Chittick  
Scotland

### The Dunbar Bear



The Dunbar Bear doing a bit of star gazing on a cold and breezy night. Great to finally pay a visit. Will be back!  
A View From My Camera  
Scotland