

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?

A love letter from the Highland Games



What a lovely piece you put together in the July edition from Highland Games across the world (*A love letter from the Highland Games, the Scottish Banner*, July, 2020). You tend to forget what impacts are being felt by Scottish

communities internationally and I see we are all in the same boat with cancellations. I have attended Highland Games for many decades and have been to several here in Canada as well the USA and Scotland itself. As I have seen all the events of our summer get cancelled my heart breaks for the Games committees, bands, dancers, athletes and vendors. We as a Scottish community are so lucky to have Highland Games to not only come together and celebrate with friends and families, but also showcase our rich culture to non-Scots who also love being a bit Scottish for the day with us.

I look forward to when we can all safely gather again and want to wish all the Scots across the world the best and when our events come back please support them!

Wendy McDonald
Toronto, Ontario
Canada

Ed note: We agree Wendy, once safe we need to support these great community events which are very missed today.

Campaign to achieve fair uprating for all recipients of the UK State pension



Many of us 500,000 British expats living in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, know that the UK pension, full or partial, for which many of us contributed

when working in the UK, is never uprated in most Commonwealth nations, even though the British Government do uprate the UK state pension annually for over 680,000 expats retired in the EU, the USA, Turkey, Israel, the Philippines among some other nations.

This appalling British government pension practice has been the subject of an unsuccessful legal challenge even reaching the European Court of Human Rights. The case failed on a legal technicality, but since 2010 a group of British Expat pensioners has teamed up as the International Consortium of British Pensioners and continued to fight the UK's outrageous frozen pension policy.

In recent weeks the campaign for UK pension policy change has, ahead of the 75th anniversary of VE Day, focussed on the several WW2 veterans who fought for and served the UK in their youth, and they now want British MPs to fight for a pension policy change to ensure all UK pensioners are treated fairly and equally, without the discrimination with which they are unfairly treated now.

95 year old Robert Haley from a Sydney suburb, in the constituency of Australia's PM Scott Morrison, was a young Royal Navy signaller at 17 years old. He first served on an Arctic convoy cruiser HMS Suffolk in 1942 43, later redeployed in the Indian Ocean, helping keep Western Australia safe from Japanese attacks.

Robert made enough NI contributions in his life for a full UK pension, but since he reached pension age in 1990, when he retired in Australia, he was first paid his UK pension of £47/week, his UK pension has never increased, although it would have increased each year to £134/week in 2020, had he retired in The USA, Germany, Israel etc.

The campaign these British expats are running is being managed by a London based PR team Tendo consulting, with advocacy from actress Miriam Margolyes. It is being paid for from membership subscriptions to 2 major, not for profit organisations, the Canadian Alliance of British Pensioners (www.britishpensions.com) and British Pensions in Australia (www.bpia.org) both of whom are seeking more members to help win this fight for justice.

We hope this appeal will result in many enquiries and readers will also visit www.endfrozenpensions.org and www.pensionjustice.org.

Sincerely,
Jim Tilley
Hon Vice Chairman, British Pensions in Australia Inc & Director of the ICB

For the love of Highland Games



I thought your article on the importance of the Highland Games was excellent (*the Scottish Banner*, July, 2020). Wherever in the world you attend a Highland Games, there is always a warm welcome

there for you. The value of these wonderful events is tremendous!

The celebration of Scottish culture and traditions, that involves so many different forms: the pipe bands, Highland dancers, the Heavy Games (now including both men and women), music, singing and all the stalls selling a wide variety of Scottish goods and food. The sounds, sights and tastes there for everyone to enjoy!

Highland Games are an event for the whole community, for all ages and backgrounds.

Proud Scots and descendants mingle with friends, in their colourful tartans...a day to look forward to.

We all look forward to the return of the Highland Games!

Sue MacLeod OAM
Ringwood, Victoria
Australia

Ed note: Thanks Sue for your letter and yes Highland Games are so important for so many of us in the Scottish community, we can't wait to come together again!

Kilts and Kiwis



Kilts and Kiwis – brought to you by Marion and Simon from the Dunedin Edinburgh Sister City Society. Members of the Society, and wider Scottish community, explore the connections between Dunedin, Edinburgh and Scotland, culminating in November's St Andrews Day Celebrations in the Octagon (this year Sunday Nov 29th 2020). Chat, music, history and giveaways, proudly supported by Dunedin City Council Events, Community Development and Harraways. Happy to hear from any other sister city groups with Scottish connections or activities that they run over the year.

Otago Access Radio 105.4 FM and 1575 am every fortnight Friday from 11 am or via live stream or podcast for more details go to: www.oar.org.nz/kilts-and-kiwis www.facebook.com/DunedinEdinburghSisterCitySociety
Simon Vare
Dunedin Edinburgh Sister City Society
Dunedin, New Zealand.

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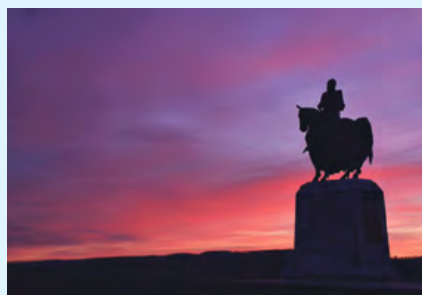


Glencoe snow



Scotland's icing sugar dusted chocolate Glen Coe truffles. Bidean Nam Bian in winter.
Gary Chittack
Scotland

King Robert the Bruce



As the sunsets over Bannockburn and King Robert the Bruce looks on.
Charles McGuigan
Scotland

Edinburgh Vista's



Vista's from Edinburgh Castle.
Kenny Bruce Photos
Scotland

Fettes College



Fettes College in Edinburgh looks almost Disney castle magical.
Shutter Bug Shots
Scotland