

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?

The Battle of St Valery



We just read the article in the July issue of *the Scottish Banner* regarding The Battle of St Valery, my wife Audrey's father served in the 51st Highland Division. James Jamieson was on his way to Dunkirk and was separated from his Battalion and met up with a Frenchman,

both were caught and with other French soldiers were taken prisoner and put into a French prison camp. He was given a French number, even though he told them who he was. By this time Audrey's mum was sent a telegram that he was missing and presumed dead. She then received a second telegram saying he was a prisoner and alive, the Swiss Red Cross found him and transferred him to a British POW camp. This is what he told me as he never told anyone or his family. When Audrey's mum got the first telegram she had four little girls to take care of, all under six years old. When the second telegram came, she knew he would be safe but had to wait five years to see him again. She and her children went through the Glasgow Blitz.

Charlie and Audrey Brewer

Ed note: Thank you Charlie and Audrey for sharing your amazing family history and it sounds like both your Dad and Mum were hero's!

Remembering Valerie Cairney

On behalf of the International Association of Clan MacInnes, let me express our sympathy on the loss of Valerie Cairney, the inimitable *Banner* publisher. Some of our lucky members met her. I personally never had the pleasure, but like so many of your readers, felt as though I knew her from her writing, like a monthly chat with a friend. She made *the Scottish Banner* a premier source of information for all things Scottish and Celtic—and she will be missed.

Donna McKinnis

*Director of Culture & Media
International Association of Clan MacInnes
USA*

The Mother of the Scottish Banner

It came as an enormous shock to read of the passing of Valerie Cairney, "The Mother of *the Scottish Banner*". I have been reading *the Banner* for the last 20 years and I thoroughly enjoy reading it, I even try my knowledge with the crossword. I pass the publication on to a friend of ours, who then passes it to a local aged care home where it is read by both staff and residents.

I remain a true and faithful reader.

C Bruce

*Jennings, NSW
Australia*

Gaelic in Auckland

Feasgar math,

I am learning Scottish Gaelic and unfortunately the Gaelic Society in Auckland, New Zealand, has closed. I am looking for a native or fluent speaker in Auckland who would be interested in helping me with conversation practice, maybe, listen to me read.

Le meas

Briar Peat

*Auckland, New Zealand
Email: briar@peat.nz*

Scotland is in my heart

I was born in Scotland, left when I was 19. Married my husband from Scotland and we were together for 62 years, he passed away last year. My son and I are planning a trip as soon as this virus is over. Scotland is in my heart and it will never leave there.

I love your postings, so keep them coming, I love them.

Sincerely,

*Letty Hampton
Rochester Hills
Michigan, USA*

Ed note: We are sorry for your loss Letty and hope you can get back to the land we all love soon. Thank you for following us on social media and glad you are enjoying our content.

The lost songs of St Kilda

Thank you for the latest issue (*the Scottish Banner*, July, 2020), as usual it's very interesting, it makes me want to be back there but can't see that happening! The St. Kilda item was of great interest, I knew the history and I thought that you may be interested in a CD that I have. A former workmate made a copy for me and the music is gorgeous. Trevor Morrison, a resident at an Edinburgh care home, would play the piano but only when no one was around. He had been evacuated from Glasgow to the Isle of Bute where he had piano lessons from an itinerant piano teacher who told him that these were the melodies the men used to call to each other as they scaled the cliffs to look for the eggs of seabirds.

No other recordings of these songs exist, there was no sheet music and none of the original islanders are alive. Trevor passed away shortly after his friend with the aid of a three-pound microphone recorded it from the old piano onto his laptop. Evidently the songs ended up with Decca Records. There's a fair bit more on the CD liner. These haunting melodies could easily have been lost.

Jocelyn Layton

Wyndham, Western Australia

Val Cairney

Hi Sean,

What a great loss this will be to the worldwide Scottish community. Through *the Scottish Banner* and her creativity, she brought a lot of happiness to me, and thousands of fellow Scots around the world. I have always looked forward to receiving my copy since *the Banner's* first days in Canada and now here in Australia.

Personally, I treasure great memories of your Mum and Dad, and your Uncle John, at their restaurant in Nobleton, Ontario.

So, my condolences Sean, and my deepest sympathies for your loss. With every copy of *the Banner* her memory will live forever.

Sincerely,

*Baxter Henderson
Victoria, Australia*

Looking for Extended Family

I'd love to get back in touch with cousins and other Scottish kin who are related to the late James and Georgina Forsyth, grandparents on my mother's side, who lived on Buchanan Street, off Leith Walk in Edinburgh. My late uncle Tom, my mother's youngest brother, emigrated to Auckland, New Zealand, so if any Kiwis recognize these names please chime in. I'm Robert Henderson, son of Donn and Mary (May). They were married during WWII and she was on the first boatload of Scottish war brides to come to America in January of 1946.

Robert Henderson

E-mail: rapierpen@hotmail.com

Scottish lamb Gordon Lambsay



Hello, during the 1st lockdown in the UK I created a fun character called Gordon Lambsay. He has proven very popular so we decided to use his popularity to try and raise some funds for a local Scottish Amputee Charity called 'Finding your Feet' - this was established by Cor Hutton who sadly lost both her hands and feet to Sepsis in 2014. Gordon has developed a huge fan base around the world, but especially in the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. You can see his Facebook page at: www.Facebook.com/badgordon

Many thanks,

*Caroline & Gordon
Scotland*

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

Send us your photos or letters via social media



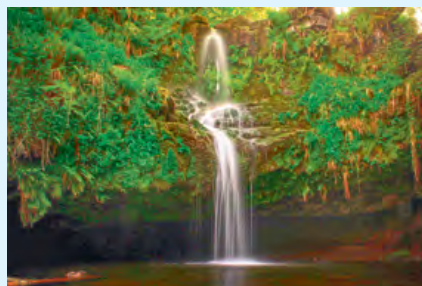
Bluebells



The Bluebells of #Scotland.

*Charles McGuigan
Scotland*

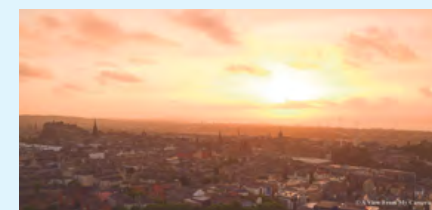
Stirling Castle



A true hidden gem, Gilmours Linn (Charles cave) at Touch Cambusbarrow. Legend has it that the cave was used by Charles Edward Stuart while in hiding from British Forces following the failed Jacobite Rebellion in 1745, presumably, ended in disarray.

*Tommy Hamilton Photo
Scotland*

Edinburgh



Far too tired :-)) to get out with the camera tonight so here's an #Edinburgh skyline #sunset pic from last year.

*A View From My Camera
Scotland*

The Falkirk Wheel



Falkirk Wheel happy 18th birthday!

*Robert Gibb
Scotland*