

SCOT POURRI

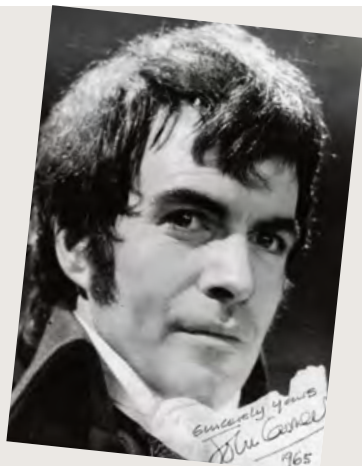
Send us your inquiries on life's little question marks.

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?

Scots inspire Scots

I have been reading the very informative January issue, as interesting as ever. You ask for Burns experiences, and I thought I would tell you about the Robert Burns Masonic Lodge here in Toowoomba. Each year, in January, as close to the birthday as possible, they have a Burns Luncheon, complete with *Address to the Haggis*, and an *Immortal Memory* speech. For many years, both of these functions were carried out by the Chieftain of the Toowoomba Caledonian Society and Burns Club, who was Scottish, and also one of their Brethren. After his passing, the role was taken over by a Scottish doctor who was a member and Patron of the Darling Downs Branch of the Society of St Andrew. He also sadly passed, and the role passed on to another member of the Society. Luckily, he is still alive, but decided that I would like to take the job on. So, for the 5th year running, I will be attending their event, to *Address the Haggis* and give the *Immortal Memory* speech.

It is an honour to be asked back year after year, but as you can understand, it is a difficult job to come up with



something new for the speech each time. I was preparing the speech for this year, had a theme, and it was all coming together nicely, except for a final touch. Then, hooray, *the Banner* arrived! I have now included the words of *There was a man called Robert Burns* in the speech (with due reference to John Cairney), and it is complete. Scots inspire Scots.
 Malcolm Leslie
 Commissioner Clan Leslie
 Australia & New Zealand
 Patron Darling Downs Branch,
 Society of St Andrew of Scotland
 (Queensland)
 Australia

Auld Lang Syne

Sing us a song afore wi' gang
 Forever o'er the sea
 Nae mair tae look on Scotia's shores
 For fightin' tae be free

Nae mair tae see the red deer
 Drinking on Lomond's shore
 The Clan has been disbanded Tae rise
 again nae more

The heady days o' Glenfinnan
 When freedom raised its heid
 Collapsed in the rout o' Culloden
 Leaving hundreds o' clansmen deid

The Prince fled back tae Europe
 Deserting clans who answered his call
 Leaving Scotland raped and pillaged
 Better he never landed at all

Banning the tartan and Gaelic tongue
 English compulsory where hymns are sung
 Pogroms against the Highland clans
 Exiling thousands to foreign lands

Sing us a sang afore w' gang
 Straun close whatever the pain
 Pride sweat and tears an' we'll succeed
 To rise as a nation again.

Davidson Harris
 From the Barony of Gorbals

Fae Tap tae Tae. Bonnet & Boot history of Ayrshire

I am contacting you about the virtual tours I offer of Ayrshire in Scotland. The tours highlight its fascinating history, featuring significant characters from its past and include quality local food and drink. Of course, during COVID 19 I have been unable to conduct tours as normal. I have teamed up with Noreen, a blue badge guide of Lyon Tours Scotland to provide a virtual tour of Ayrshire. The virtual platform means we are able to reach those interested

in Scottish and Ayrshire history without actually travelling to Scotland. The Bonnet & Boots virtual tour visits Maybole in South Ayrshire which in the past had an extraordinary boot and shoe industry. We also visit Stewarton, in East Ayrshire known as 'Ayrshire's Bonnet Toun' to hear of the bonnet production there which is known to date back to the 15th century. Maybole in Ayrshire had a mass migration when 2000 of it's population moved to Canada after the Ladywell boot factory closed in 1907.

It would be great to be able to make contact with some relatives of the folk that made the move from Scotland to Canada or elsewhere!

The Virtual presentation is called 'Fae Tap tae Tae' which is Ayrshire vernacular meaning 'From Top to Toe'. It is an enjoyable and informative look at the Bonnet and Boot production in Ayrshire.

The virtual presentation is 90 minutes long and includes a chance to interact and ask questions. It takes place over Zoom and costs £5.50 British pounds which is \$7.50 American Dollars.

Starting Feb 4th at 7pm UK time, this is a start time of 2pm in Ottawa, Canada and New York USA.

For details see: <https://buytickets.at/tastinghistoryscotland/468361>

Janet Martin
 Tasting History Ayrshire Tours
 Scotland

Robert Burns

I love the little quip that Robert Burns was 'your uncle'—the innocence of childhood-- but of course John Cairney was very well known and popular. My father John Newlands was an authority on Burns and at home he had every Burns book available—about his poetry, his life, his amorous connections etc.

Every year he would do *Address to the Haggis* – and more - at the local bowling club in which he was a founder member in 1935. Anyway, I was too young to see this, but we did have a sneaky peek in the windows. He also did recitals at quite a few other venues, including, I believe, the Strathclyde Police. He and my mum visited us in Australia in the early 1980s for a special bowling event in Frankston.

After that we all went up to visit my dad's cousin in Ballarat. She was very involved in the Scottish society there and handmade the kilts for the ladies pipe band. We went to a 'do' one night and my dad was asked to do a Burns recital. Certainly—love to-- and he did come prepared. He started reciting *To a Mouse* "Wee sleekeit, cowrin, tim'ros beastie" at which point he retrieved a 'mouse' from his trouser pocket and you should have heard the screams and squeals in the room. Hilarious, although, of course it was a stuffed mouse. He continued his Burns suppers until he was 90 years old after which he decided to give it up as he was afraid of 'losing his lines'. He was a perfectionist, an amazing man.

In an OP shop a few years I found a very large old book *Land of Burns* — I couldn't resist it. It is pretty tatty in parts but the print is very readable. It was printed in Glasgow in 1841. Maybe it needs a new home now?

All the best to you all in 2021,
 Anne Koomen
 Victoria, Australia

Graham McTavish



Thank you for a great interview with one of my favourite actors, Graham McTavish. I really wish we had more of him in *Outlander* as he did such a brilliant job playing Dougal. I have since followed his career and on social media and he appears to be a very nice chap, whose love affair with Scotland still goes strong. I am so excited for *Men in Kilts* to come out and I have just ordered the new *Clanlands* book.

The stories in *the Scottish Banner* each month are very unique and informative. There is so much to read and often requires the kettle to be on, and me sat in my favourite chair, as I get transported back to the land of my ancestors each month—thank you!

Susan Elliot
 Halifax, Nova Scotia
 Canada

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

Send us your photos or letters via social media



The McLennan Arch



The McLennan Arch at Glasgow Green.
 Donald S Horne
 Scotland

Outlander scene



Any #Outlander fans out there might recognise this setting.
 Aye Spy Photography Scotland
 @AyeSpyPhotos

Glencoe stag



Stag, Glencoe, Scotland. If you have visited Glencoe, you may have bumped into this fellow at The Kings House Hotel.
 The Kilted Photographer
 Scotland

Midhope Castle



Even if you've never watched #Outlander you won't regret a visit to beautiful Midhope Castle, even on a cloudy rainy day it shines.
 ShutterBugShots
 @ShotsBug
 Scotland