

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?

Clan MacLennan Gathering update



I hosted a meeting with the International Associations towards the end of 2020 to reflect on where things had got to with planning for the Gathering. Hosting the Gathering is something we very much enjoy when we welcome the extended MacLennan 'family' to Scotland and we always look forward to it.

However, having reflected on the implications of the pandemic, we have taken the difficult decision to postpone the Gathering until at least 2023. This was not an easy decision, but we feel that even if our lives get back to some sort of normality there are elements of the event we have to think about booking now and the way things are we just cannot make firm commitments at this time. I am grateful to the other committees for supporting this decision, one which we will revisit later in the year to take stock and agree when we can pick up the organising work.

Meantime, I'll leave you with our motto which seems particularly appropriate at the present time. Dum Spiro Spero!
Neil MacLennan
Chair of Clan MacLennan Scotland
Chairman's report,
Clan MacLennan Worldwide Newsletter

Kings, Castles & "Durdy" Wee Rascals

While perusing the December edition of the *Scottish Banner*, came across Jim Stoddart's wee poem about Nellie McSwiggen (*Kings, Castles & "Durdy" Wee Rascals, The Milk Boy*, December, 2020). Both my wife and self immediately exclaimed "That's no right!"

For Jim, here is our version (from the Linlithgow area):

*All of a sudden, a big mealy pudden,
came fleein' through the air.*

*It hit Mrs. Kelly a stot in the belly,
and knocked her doon the stairs.*

Being in the same age group as Jim, but an entirely different upbringing from the Glasgow tenements, we thoroughly enjoy his column.

*All the best,
Flora & Tom Blackwood*

Naomi Begg

I am writing in the hope the *Scottish Banner* can help me to locate a lassie who came to Townsville in North Queensland, Australia for her gap year in the late 1990s. Her name was Naomi Begg of 1/1, 7 Blackness Ave, Dundee, DD2 1ET. My wide Alison and I corresponded with her for a year or two thereafter, and then lost contact with her. The last letter we received from her was about a medical mission trip she had made to Africa. Naomi is still on my Christmas card list, and this year I am motivated to try and to locate her, thus this letter.

Phil Peachey

PO Box 1325

*Walkamin, Queensland
4872, Australia*

**Ed note: Good luck with this search
Phil and hope you can find Naomi.**

2021 Kingsville Highland Games



Continuing concerns surrounding COVID-19 have prompted the Town of Kingsville and the Kingsville Highland Games Committee to regretfully announce the cancellation of the Kingsville Highland Games scheduled for June 26th, 2021. The current circumstances are unique and unquestionably challenging, and the work that is being done by so many to carry us all beyond the pandemic is inspiring. The Town of Kingsville and the Committee of Council look forward to welcoming everyone to the Kingsville Highland Games on June 25th, 2022.

*Doug Plumb
Chairman, Kingsville Highland
Games Committee
Kingsville, Ontario
Canada*

Ed note: We send our best wishes to the committee for all the effort that they do to keep events like this going, even when they are unable to during this pandemic.

Tom MacKinnon

Regarding Lady MacGregor's Scotland (*Scottish Banner*, January, 2021) and the fox of Glencoe, Dr Hamish MacInnes, passing way. I was born in Mingavie, Scotland in 1937 and a few streets away was another mountaineer, the late Tom MacKinnon. He did a lot of climbs all over Scotland and he also went to the Himalaya's in 1950. He brought one of his Sherpa to our home. When he passed away in 1970 his ashes were taken to Glencoe.

My father had the Esso Garage in Strathblane Road, Milngavie.
*Albert E Foote
Golden Grove, South Australia*

The Walker family



The article in the February edition, *Johnnie Walker launches vision to plant one million trees in Scotland*, caught my eye as my Maternal Grandfather Joseph Flynn worked as the Head Gardener for the Walkers.

My late Mother said she remembered Mrs Walker dressing up as "The Walking Man" and opening a local fair!

Robert Bradshaw

Laird

Hi my name is Jamey Scott Laird. I am not sure if you can help but I need to know my family tartan? I traced my family surname to Scotland in 1782 but I heard that there was no clans with the surname of Laird.

Can anyone help me shed some light on a dark path?
Jamey Scott Laird

The Spirit of Scotland

I have just been reading the *Scottish Banner*, February 2021 edition and wanted to share a memory with you that for me, epitomises the Spirit of Scotland. My husband came to Australia from Fife in 1963, aged 14 years old. We have travelled back to Scotland together, on four occasions and have many happy memories of impressive trips around Scotland. But my outstanding and

emotional trip was in 2008, when we travelled through Balquhiddie Glen - home of the McLaren Clan (my husband's ancestors). The beautiful countryside was green and filled with Heather and black faced sheep. My husband's Uncle, then aged 67 years, was with us and became the first McLaren in his family to walk the Rob Roy walking trail then up the hill to Creac An Turic (meeting place of the McLaren Clan). The Cairn at the top overlooked Loch Voil and it was quite emotional sitting there together taking in the 'Spirit' of the location on a magnificent sunny and still day. I hope to do this climb once again.

Di Clark

*Melbourne, Victoria
Australia*

Ed note: Thanks Di for sharing your Spirit of Scotland with us.

The Gordon Highlanders



If there is anyone who is reading who happen to have ancestors that served in the Gordon Highlanders, go to the Gordon

Highlanders Museum Facebook page (www.facebook.com/thegordonhighlandersmuseum) where you might find information about your ancestor as the museum also has genealogical information you can check out.

*Jon Evans
USA*

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

Send us your photos or letters via social media



Eilean Donan Castle



*The Kilted Photographer
@TheKiltedPhoto
Scotland*

Stirling



The beauty of Stirling.
*Robert Gibb
Scotland*

Plockton



Picture perfect Plockton, the Jewel of the Highlands.
Debbie Neilson

Dysart Harbour



Sunrise yesterday morning over Dysart Harbour in Fife, Scotland.
*John Pow Photography
Scotland*