

# 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 bright young thing from Clarkston, Glasgow

Jim Stoddart's amazing *The People of Plantation (the Scottish Banner, Kings, Castles & "Durdy" Wee Rascals, March, 2021)* brings back memories of Govan. I was born at 162 Randolph Dr, Clarkston on November 23, 1937 with a relative 'spoon in my mooth' being a Clarkston, Renfrewshire babe. What's the Govan connection? It is multifaceted, my father was simple John Clark, but not so simple. He elevated himself to the Chief Engineer in Nigeria after WW 2 and the service manager of the biggest garage in Glasgow on City Rd at the end of Maryhill Rd.

His proud boast was he was born in the toughest street in the Gorbals, West Street, and his family all lived in Tormore St, Drumoyne, an adjacent suburb to Govan. I was not a working-class boy from Govan like Jim, but a bright young thing from Clarkston, lucky enough to gain entry to the High School of Glasgow (which readers may or may not know

is the oldest school in the UK). Whilst there kicking a ball around other future rebel soccer players of some note also played: Bobby Clark (Aberdeen), Charlie Gilmour (Queen's Park) and Alan Small (Govan Amateurs). Alan and I went on to Glasgow University and later had a trial with Govan and was later signed up with Queen's Park and was soon playing alongside a very notable Govanite, Sir Alex Ferguson.

Jim Stoddart seems a fascinating writer and should say he comes from up the Garscube, an even worse place than Plantation and where I began my GP experience a long time ago!

*Dr Ian Clark  
Elanora, Queensland  
Australia*

**Ed note: Thank you Dr Clark for sharing some of your fascinating memories of your time in Glasgow, alongside some very notable Scots, with us.**

## Allan/Damon

Hi there,  
I would appreciate your assistance. Are you aware of any Clan Groups for descendants of: 1) Allan and 2) Damon?

I'm a Dean by birth so have recently joined the Davidson group.

Thank you,  
*Pam Damon  
pam@pamdamon.com*

## Culloden Moor



Regarding the April edition of *the Scottish Banner* asking who has been to Culloden Moor and your feelings of being there. I think most of us that have been, it is a dark place (for me). On my visit it had been misty and cool of course, so much pain there, but very much a place to go. If I might add Rosslyn Chapel, offers a completely different feeling, but is another must see.

Regarding in the same issue Mr Robert Bradshaw's letter (*The Walker family, Scotpourri, April, 2021*), what a small world. My father, his brother and sister worked in there dairy and house kitchen before and after school. Aunt Peggy (Margaret) worked there for some years. Lady Walker made sure the children of Troon got their morning porridge. Very likely Mr Bradshaw's paternal grandfather knew the Hutton family as Troon was not a big town all those years ago.

*Derek Hutton  
Mt Beauty, Victoria  
Australia*

## The Cannongate



I just read the March issue on the Cannongate and boy did bring back memories it took me back to 1956 when I had the good luck to be working in what is called Morocco land this is the stretch of buildings from Mary St to Bible land. It is so called, as one of the stories go, a boy stowed away on a ship then jumped ship at Leith and made his way to Edinburgh a fat distance in those days to this day there is a bust of a Morocon boy on front of the first building and underneath are coins of the realm which was added to when the building was under renovations.

The one clear memory I have was the sandstone arches along the front of the building each measured app 2 feet square (bloody heavy) they were built 1 at a time and on this occasion i was one of the apprentice joiners who was selected to take the wooden frame holding the stones. However due to unforeseen circumstance the lot decided to come down on top of us but to this day I say the good Lord was on our side as for some unknown reasons the lot jumbled saving a tragedy and out of all the stones that fell only one was chipped, that was the very bottom base stone which was a slight shade lighter to this day. I still thank God for being with us that day should point out when we got clear the rest came down AH! the memories we live to tell another tale.

*Andy Duff*

## The Battle of Culloden



Thank you for a wonderful April issue and reminding so many about the important 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Culloden. The story is such a tragic one and I have visited Culloden Moor and left with a deep sense of sadness and grief. Keeping our history alive is so important as it that way we can learn for the future. When travel is allowed again, I will certainly be going back to Scotland and no doubt have another emotional day at Culloden.

I really enjoy each issue of *the Scottish Banner*, there is nothing else like and Scots across the world are fortunate to have such a great resource available to us.

*K Ferguson  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada*

## Discovered the Scottish Banner

I have suddenly discovered *the Scottish Banner*. I came to Australia in 1962 but still regard Scotland as my natural home. The home in which I was brought up was Achaban House, Fionnphort, Isle of Mull, Argyll. My mother was Gaelic speaking, Annabel MacCormick. My father, an east coast doctor who spent most of his career in India in the Indian Medical Service. At the age of 99, by the time you get this, I may be joining my family on our family graveyard overlooking Loch Potee.

*John Harpea-Nelson  
Carnarvon, Western Australia*

## Scottish distilleries

I am a regular reader of your paper and have enjoyed your latest edition as regards article on Scottish Whisky. One distillery which I think could be mentioned is Strathisla Distillery in Keith, Banffshire and one of the oldest since 1786. It is the home of Chivas Regal. I grew up and was educated in Keith and have always admired the beautiful buildings of the Strathisla Distillery. A new distillery Glen Keith now sits near the old distillery, but the setting of the old distillery is certainly worth a visit should one be on holiday in the area.

Certainly pleased when a copy of your paper was given to me and so now look forward to buying every new edition each month.

Regards,  
*Ena Laing  
Ettalong Beach, NSW  
Australia*

## FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

Send us your photos or letters via social media



### Dunderave Castle



Early morning light on this iconic castle, outside Inveraray.

*Ronald Stokes  
Scotland*

### Edinburgh



Feels like we could all do with a ray of light right about now.

*Aye Spy Photography  
ayespyp photography.co.uk*

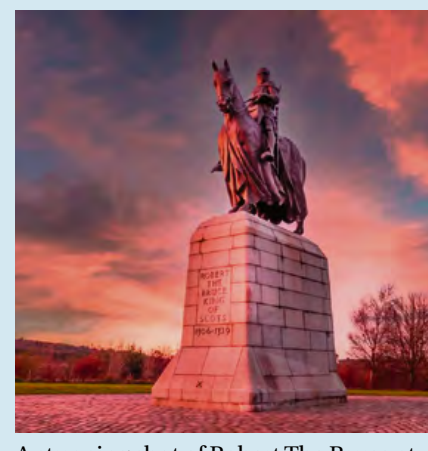
### Islay road trip



We're on the road to.....The Jura paps sit beautifully as a backdrop for the island of Islay.

*Tommy Hamilton Photography  
Scotland*

### Robert the Bruce



A stunning shot of Robert The Bruce at Bannockburn.

*Fraser J MacDonald  
IG: thecanonkid  
Scotland*