

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?

Memories of Scotland

Just a wee note to say how much I enjoyed your April edition and the article *The Allure of Islands*. So many memories revived from several visits to Scotland, particularly several weeks in 1979 while researching Scotland's 'Distance Delivery of Student Services'. Harris and Lewis via a 34 foot sloop, 3 weeks walking and camping (and enjoying the odd malt!) on Islay, Mull and Skye, where my paternal grandfather was born in 1870. Travelling on a BMW 80 RT motorcycle to Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Inverness and Dingwall (where my great, great, great uncle a free kirk minister and whose bust is at the church door).

As David C Weinczok wrote "The visitor has the privilege of knowing the islands as a collection of moments, each with a point of arrival, immersion, and departure, and then, like the tides, to return from whence they came, oblivious to the longer-term ebb and flow of the forces that define life upon them."

Andrew Thorburn
Narromine, NSW
Australia

Ed note: Thank you Andrew for sharing your memories with us, Scotland's islands are so special.

Sir Sean Connery Tartan



Flower of Scotland

As I am in Aberdeen I wonder if your readers assist in researching the unpublished works of Peter Dodds McCormick. *Advance Australia Fair* I am trying to establish if one of his melodies is the basis of *Flower of Scotland*. Following my queries the UK Performing Rights Society have since reclassified the melody as Traditional (Public Domain). I wonder if anyone substantiate McCormick being the source?

John Dawson

Aberdeen, Scotland

Email: johndaw@btinternet.com

The Last Shift



I saw this post of the artwork of Bob Barker "The Last Shift". It inspired my tribute poem to the miners....

The Last Shift

A walk to the pithead somber and quiet, speech seemed to be absent no one tried it....

winding gears grated we picked up our coin, stood at the gate where others we joined....

and the faces around us some could not see for the mist and smir wet the eyes of us three....

my brothers the pit took my father before and cage was descending last time to the floor....

shoulders bent like roof up above...

and the last shift took station for a pit hated and loved....

those bent before us that once crawled to the face....

whispered "I'm sorry for your loss, but you're better out of this place."

Artwork by
Bob Barker.

Kit Duddy
Kitspoems
Scotland

Stirling Castle

I much enjoyed your August article on the castles of Scotland, in particular the reference to Stirling Castle. I've always thought that castle was more spectacular than Edinburgh's, towering right over the town itself, not on 'yon distant hill.' In fact, it is one of the not many built into the town environments directly that we visited over several years. About 1990 my wife and I visited Stirling and it's castle, and had a tour of it and the Argyle & Sutherland Highlander's Regimental Museum. It was when there was a strong effort in play to 'SAVE THE ARGYLES.' In fact, I had such a sticker on my car bumper on return to Toronto in support. We were taken around by a custodian, and my wife, as a knowledgeable silver collector, was impressed at the amount of table silver in the display – vegetable dishes, large ornate salt cellars, snuff 'heads, etc. Everywhere there were signs asking for donations to the fund to 'Save the Argyles'. My wife said in puzzled tones to our guide, "Why don't they just sell a few of those items, like that large Georgian (or earlier) salt cellar piece? It would be worth several thousand pounds at the least." This absolutely horrified our guide! "Sell any of the regimental silver?? We'd never do that of course." My wife didn't have quite the same attachment to regimental history! I was Navy, and we had far less such items! A great edition, so thank you,

Fraser Murray McKee

(CDR, RCNR, ret'd)

Toronto, Ontario

Canada

Orkney Sagas



What a wonderful and unique article to read in the September edition of *the Scottish Banner* (*Straight from the Sagas: The Vikings' own guide to Orkney*, *Scottish Banner*, September, 2021). In a vastly changing modern world we all live in with everyone on their phones and devices how refreshing to see someone use an 800-year-old guidebook to look at things, when our world was so much different. Not only was your author able to look at historic sites in a way many most likely do not realise were previously seen as but the book, which I had never heard of before, gives new meaning to a travel guide and part of a time in history. I have no idea where this type of story would come to life other than *the Scottish Banner*, which I look so forward to reading each month.

I look forward to my next visit to Scotland, which will include my first to Orkney!

Chris Sinclair

Toronto, Ontario

Canada

Ed note: We are glad you enjoyed the great article by David C. Weinczok. We hope your trip to Orkney is just as memorable as David's was.

Thank you for a very interesting September issue and for highlighting the new Sir Sean Connery Tartan. I did not know a tartan was being released to honour this great actor. I find the tartan quite beautiful for a woman to wear, but not sure if Sir Sean would agree with the colour choices as he was such a man's man. I still think Sean Connery is the best bond we have ever had and though I have enjoyed the franchise no one has come close to his suave voice and presence on camera.

I was also quite captivated by the article *Straight from the Sagas: The Vikings' own guide to Orkney*, and look forward to visiting this magical place on my next visit to Scotland.

Emma Campbell

Washington, USA

Active Clan member

I contributed several articles in *the Scottish Banner* during the 90's and was a Convenor for the Lindsay and Hay Clans. I have been busy with Clan history of the Lindsay's, now that we know of our Flemish origins. I am now an active member of the Scots Clan Lindsay Society, our Clan DNA project, and as FSA Scot. Now at 81 years of age, slowing down a bit, but still interested in Scots history and modern activities, in our culture. Thanks for all you do.

Joseph W. Lindsay Hayle ATP FSA Scot
USA

Ed note: Thanks Joseph for reaching out and all your commitment to the Clan movement.

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



Sent to our Facebook, Twitter or Instagram accounts-send us your photos or letters via social media (#ScottishBanner or #TheBanner):

Glencoe



Glencoe delights.
Ronald Stokes

Uist



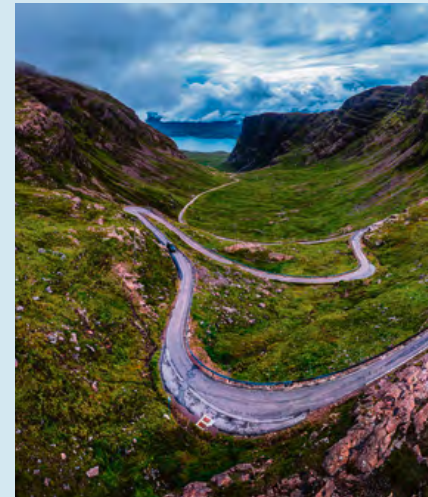
Uist Hebridean croft.
Mik Coia

Crovie



Debbie Neilson

Bealach na Bà



Would you drive Bealach na Bà, or Pass of the Cattle, the steepest ascent of any road climb in the UK?

John Pow Photography