

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?

Scotland's steamboats



What a lovely article in the October issue on Scotland's steamboats (*Sailing Down the Water-Scotland's Steamboats*). I have been so very lucky to have sailed the *Waverley* and the excitement of both passengers and crew to be on board was infectious. These vessels are such an important part of Scotland's history, not just as transportation but culturally part of many family's history. They often represented people's few chances at a break from the everyday. I am so glad to hear restoration and preservation of these vessels is being carried out for future generations to enjoy. Some of the

vessels mentioned in the article I have yet to travel on and will now look to enjoy a trip 'doon the watter' with some on my next visit to Scotland.

I hope as travel opens soon to get back but in the meantime, I enjoy my copy of *the Scottish Banner* each month which transports me to Scotland with each page.

Stuart McKay
Auckland, New Zealand

Ed note: Thanks for your note Stuart and we hope you get 'doon the watter' in Scotland soon!

The Scottish Banner website

I find your website incredibly useful. It led me to a small radio station based in Inverness. Said station has agreed to air my new song *Nessie* sometime next week. I just wanted to say thank you. If and when I ever make it big (or even not so big), you've got a friend in me. Warmest regards from frosty Montreal, Yaniv Loran
Montreal, Quebec
Canada
Ed note: We are glad you are enjoying all the content on our website. Congratulations on the release of *Nessie*.

The Skeoch



Dear Lady Fiona, Greetings from Sydney Australia. I read your page in *the Banner* every month. I really enjoy it. The article (*Lady MacGregor's Scotland, the Scottish Banner*, December, 2020) you did on the Skeoch car that was built in the Men's Shed was very interesting to the people here who own old cars and are in car clubs. We have never heard of it; I don't think one would be made in a Men's Shed here as the buildings are small unless they have one in the country, and they are called repair sheds. The parts for the cars in that club are stored there and sometimes repairs are done there. I hope you are enjoyed your summer and the lovely green grass you have.

The farmers here have been doing it tough the last four years. They had four years of drought, then bush fires, then floods and more recently a mice plague. We are all hoping things get better. We have lock down to deal with now and Corona virus is everywhere. My home is bug free, I am busy sewing for charity and that keeps me home and busy.

Please take care of yourselves and the dogs. All the best, Mrs Gerry Browne
Peakhurst, NSW
Australia

Learn Gaelic



The nicest people speak Gaelic – you could be one of them! Join us for online Zoom classes with the Toronto Gaelic Learners' Association. With Zoom, you don't have to be in Toronto. We have four class levels, from Intro to Gaelic for absolute Beginners on Tues nights at 6:30 p.m. EST, Beginners 2 on Thursday nights at 6:30 p.m. EST, Level 3 Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m. EST and Level 4, this term focusing on grammar specifically the Genitive and passive forms Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m. EST. Come to Gaelic class and meet some nice people.

For more info see our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/TorontoGaelicLearnersAssociation or our web page at: www.torontogaelic.ca
Kerrie Kennedy
Toronto, Ontario
Canada

A Tribute

I found this poem in some of my mother's paperwork and immediately thought of *the Scottish Banner*, a publication she adored for many decades. The title says it all as I would like to pay tribute to my amazing and beautiful mother who I now miss so dearly. I had to read the words through a few times but used her voice as my guide and I really love this wee cracker of a poem (as she would say!)

A Tribute

When first I saw yer glum wee face
And glowrin' deep-set een,
I thocht ye just the quaintest pup
That I had ever seen.

That sturdy body, bandy legs,
Ant coat as black as tar.
Wi' tail erect, a challenge flung
Tae canines near or far.

These proved yer breed and pleased the efe
But still the doubt remained,
Would native shyness yield tae love
Or dourness be maintained?

There wis nae need to doubt ye, Jock
My Scottie staunch and true,
The love I gig the gruff wee dug
I well repaid by you.

Lang may these feet stan' squarely set,
That tail, like flag unfurled,
The fling the challenge "Scotland Yet!"
Undaunted tae the world.

Author unknown.

Thank you for *the Scottish Banner* and for brightening the lives of thousands of people, it was her favourite publication in

the world. You brought a 'wee bit of hame' to my mother every month for years and she dearly loved that.

Heather Patterson
Newport Beach, California
USA

Ed note: Thank you Heather for sending this to us and for your kind comments. You are sorry for your loss and are more than happy offer this tribute to your mother and so happy to hear we helped her to stay connected to the land she loved, Scotland.

Edinburgh & East Lothian Doors Open Days



Take a virtual tour to Scotland. We had a wonderful programme for our 31st annual Doors Open Days event in September.

Over a hundred wonderful venues across Edinburgh and East Lothian were open for virtual or in-person visits, and people from around the world can still explore these great properties online. View the full fantastic programme here www.cockburnassociation.org.uk/doorsopendays

All of the participating venues have produced some sort of digital resource, so that you can once again visit them virtually from the comfort of your own home.

James Garry
Scotland

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

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

Highland coo



Hope everyone has had a lovely Coosday.
Scotdrone

Achmelvich



Achmelvich, Scotland's Caribbean!
Gary Chittick
www.instagram.com/gbc123

Isle of Barra



Beach life on Barra.
Mik Coia

House of the Binns



The incredible 17th century House of the Binns, West Lothian.
The Kilted Photographer