

# 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?

## The Slate Islands



Easdale, Slate Islands. Photo: Michael Walsh, CC BY 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons.

What an interesting article by Judy Vickers in your May issue. I must admit I had not heard of the Slate Islands before, nor did I know Scottish slate was sent the world over. I really do enjoy the fact that even at my advancing age I still am able to learn much about Scotland and thank *the Scottish Banner* for always

providing something in each and every issue of interest. My grandparents came from Inverness many years ago and settled in Canada, firstly to Nova Scotia before making their way west to Alberta. I adore Scotland and I am not sure if my DNA is programmed to do so, or it is simply an ancient land I would have loved regardless and feel so lucky to have it in my bloodline.

Thank you again for such an informative and interesting publication, I certainly feel proud after reading each issue and know I am part of a very large international Scottish family who love the land of our ancestors and DNA!

Sylvia McKinnon  
Calgary, Alberta  
Canada

## The Percy Forbes-Leith of Fyvie Tiffany Window Memorial



The largest Tiffany stained glass window in Scotland is installed in a small village kirk. The memorial window was the gift of the American business associates of a successful Scottish steel magnate who lost his only son in the Boer Wars.

Alexander Forbes-Leith made a fortune in the American steel industry. He returned to his native Scotland and purchased Fyvie Castle and its estates. His youngest child Percy was born in 1881 in Chicago, Illinois, USA. Percy joined the British Army and became a second lieutenant in the Royal Dragoons. His unit was sent to South Africa for the Boer Wars. While on active duty, he died of enteric fever in 1900. In 1901, Forbes-Leith commissioned a new granite memorial chancel for the local kirk, St. Peter's Church in Fyvie. Forbes-Leith's American business colleagues purchased from the Louis Comfort Tiffany Company in New York a large stained-glass window depicting the Archangel Michael. The plaque in the church notes that the window was in memory of Percy Forbes-Leith and that it was "Erected by his friends in the United States of America."

Learn more: [www.clan-forbes.org/post/tiffany](http://www.clan-forbes.org/post/tiffany)  
Clan Forbes Society, Inc.  
USA

## Hydro Ness lit up to commemorate Battle of Culloden

Hydro Ness and Ness Bridge were lit up in red and blue to mark the recent 276<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Culloden in April. Hydro Ness

on the banks of the River Ness, adjacent to the Holm Mills bridge, and Ness Bridge in the city centre were lit up to commemorate the Battle of Culloden, 276 years after the vicious battle which marked the end of the Jacobite Rising. Over the 276<sup>th</sup> anniversary weekend, a number of events were also held at Culloden Battlefield itself. These included a special tour exploring the tactics, the role of the cavalry and artillery, and the impact of the conflict on local communities, as well as an event highlighting the consequences of the conflict and discussing the often forgotten perspectives of war. This was particularly relevant given what is currently happening in Europe.

Inverness was a key prize for the Jacobite and the Government armies, and the battle had a massive impact on Highland culture. The aftermath of the battle still resonates today and it's great that the links with the city were there in lights for all to see. The soon to be completed Hydro Ness generates and supplies over 500,000 kwh of green electricity annually to nearby Inverness Leisure, helping to offset the organisation's reliance on grid-supplied electricity and reducing the Highland Council's carbon footprint.

Eilidh Marshall  
Scotland

## NYC Tartan Day



It was so good to see the NYC Tartan Day Parade back on, as we too are getting our events back on track. The pandemic has really highlighted just how much the overseas Scottish community has on our very own doorstep. I try to attend a few

Scottish events throughout the year, and it is wonderful to see so many things coming back to the calendar page. I have been putting off going to Scotland and then Covid hit, and I will now be going in 2023. However I also see that there are many events I can also consider attending in North America and possibly New York City to experience this parade, we have nothing like it here and have no doubt I feel just as home with our US Scottish cousins as I do with fellow Scottish lovers here in Australia. Love my *Banner* every month, and would never be without it!

Karen F  
Melbourne, Victoria  
Australia

**Ed note: Thank you for Karen for your letter and hope you get to Scotland and beyond soon. Please see our website: [www.scottishbanner.com/events](http://www.scottishbanner.com/events) for Scottish events taking place across five countries.**

## Taking orders for Clan MacRae North American Tartan Fabric



It's official! We have submitted another order and the weavers are now weaving 45 yards of our Clan MacRae North American

tartan fabric. As a reminder, our tartan has symbolic meaning: "In our Society Tartan, the MacRae "Sett" is used, of course, as the basis of construction. The colours used were not randomly chosen, but have significance: The Base colour is the light blue with a white stripe as in the Saltire Flag. There is a somewhat darker blue/grey that symbolizes the Ocean crossed by "The scattered children of Kintail". Then we have the Strong-er blue that, in combination with the Red and White stripes, symbolizes the colours of "The Stars and Stripes" of our American Flag. Finally, the White Stripe is supported on each side by a lining of Gold. This represents the "Golden Opportunity" that this country has represented to its vast number of immigrants who came seeking a better and more prosperous life."

The 13-ounce worsted wool is double width at 59", so only 4 yards are needed for a kilt. The fabric costs \$70 a yard plus a small shipping cost (no tax). You may order any length which makes it ideal for scarves, crafts, etc. There are also professional kilt-makers who can make you a kilt or a scarf, etc. If you are interested in ordering our tartan fabric or having something made, please contact:

Judy McRae  
Clan MacRae Society of North America-  
[www.macrae.org](http://www.macrae.org)  
Email: [judymcrae777@gmail.com](mailto:judymcrae777@gmail.com)  
USA

## Tartan query

Is there a Mossman tartan please?  
Many thanks for the reply.

Michael Deignan  
E-mail: [michaeldeignan9@gmail.com](mailto:michaeldeignan9@gmail.com)

## FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



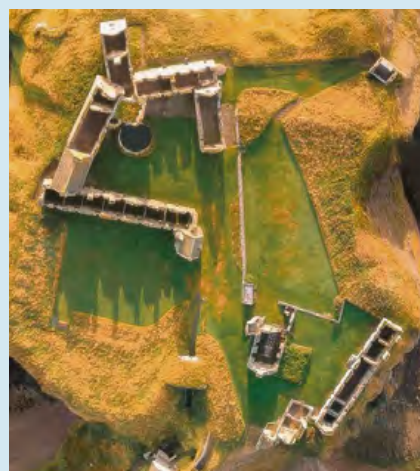
Sent to our Facebook, Twitter or Instagram accounts-send us your photos or letters via social media (#ScottishBanner or #TheBanner):

### The Isle of Barra



Mik Coia

### Dunnottar Castle



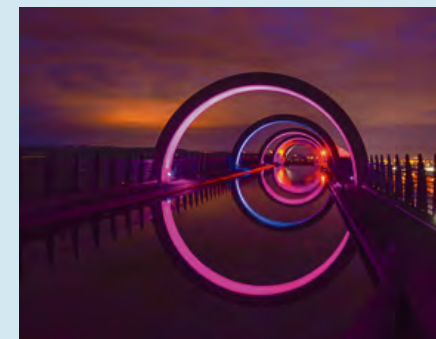
High above Dunnottar Castle.  
Aye Spy Photography Scotland

### Stirling



Sunrise over The National Wallace Monument and the city of Stirling.  
The Kilted Photographer

### The Falkirk Wheel



The Falkirk Wheel lighting up the night.  
Charles McGuigan

Pose your questions on Scottish related topics to our knowledgeable readership who just may be able to help. Please keep letters under 300 words and we reserve the right to edit content and length. Letters can be emailed to [info@scottishbanner.com](mailto:info@scottishbanner.com) or online at [www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us](http://www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us), alternatively you may post your letters to us (items posted to the Scottish Banner cannot be returned). Please ensure you include your full contact details should you require a reply. This page belongs to our readers so please feel free to take part!