

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?

Happy Birthday Scottish Banner



Thank you for another great edition with the July issue. I find *the Scottish Banner* has such a treasure trove of stories and titbit's it, often takes me several reads to get through all the content. I also was very happy to see *the Banner* has reached another anniversary milestone,

I have been getting *the Scottish Banner* for over 30 years and have watched it grow to really become an international platform for overseas Scots. I originally was obviously a print subscriber and now subscribe to the digital version and it really does keep me up to date with events and news. It is also one of the only publications I have read year on year and always been happier after finishing it than I was before, it really does bring me a great feeling of pride and connection to Scotland and Scots across the world.

So, a very Happy Birthday *Scottish Banner* and congratulations on maintaining not only the publication during trying times, but the quality of content that is so very enjoyed.

Brian Bell
Seattle, Washington
USA

Ed note: Thank you Brian for such a kind letter and for supporting the Scottish Banner for so long, the support of our readers keeps the Banner going strong.

The Joy of the Games

I loved your front cover in the August issue and seeing that wee boy so happy at a Highland Games. I have been attending Highland Games for many decades and along with my family they have become part of our summer ritual. We travel to many that are within easy reach to us but have also visited several across both Canada, the US and Scotland itself. No matter where we go, we meet such friendly people and are always awed at the spectacle of massed bands, the dancers and the heavy events. We have raised our kids going to Highland Games and they are a pastime you can enjoy throughout your life; I still go with my kids and now our beautiful grandkids.

I really enjoy *the Scottish Banner* every month and wish all your readers a great time at the next Games they get to go to.

Helen McCreade
Welland, Ontario
Canada

Ed note: Thanks Helen for your note and the Scottish community is very fortunate to have a global network of Highland Games, which are a huge asset to our community and often run by incredible volunteers so thank you and your family for supporting them for so long.



Scotland's link to the Panama Canal



How wonderful to learn about Scotland's link to the Panama Canal (*the Scottish Banner*, August, 2022). Scots have really made their mark on the world with so much invention, ingenuity and hard work. These often-forgotten stories of Scots of the past deserve to be continued to be told today and I thank *the Scottish Banner* for this article. I love learning about the Scotland of both today and yesterday in *the Banner* each month, every issue is devoured cover to cover, and each new issue is always received with anticipation.

Those of us with Scotland in our blood have much to be proud about when telling others Scotland runs through our veins.

Your aye,
Craig Morrison
Augusta, Georgia
USA

Finding My Clan

My name is Barrie Crombie, I was born in Dunfermline and West Fife Hospital in 1947, and brought up in Cowdenbeath. In 1961 my family emigrated to Melbourne, Australia and for years growing up in Australia and getting married and raising a family although I always felt Scottish, I didn't give it much of a thought. As I got older, I started to wonder what my roots were and started to seek some information. My elder brother had a book that showed that Crombie could be either Clan MacDonald or Clan Gordon. My brother liked the MacDonald tartan and proceeded to kit himself out with the full lot, kilt, socks, jacket, tam and everything else. When a few years later in 2015 I thought it was my turn, and I was starting to get a bit home sick for Scotland, my wife and I went to Scotland for a month to visit family and check out old haunts. Whilst visiting Edinburgh I bought a great kilt and other things MacDonald thinking it was my Clan. On returning to Australia, I decided to research my family tree and find my true origins. Thanks to Scotland's People I have been able trace my ancestors back as far as 1598 in Aberdeenshire, also found Castle Crombie in the heart of Gordon country which has convinced me I am Clan Gordon. Now I have my Gordon kilt and clan badge and other clan additions. I now have Clan MacDonald great kilt, tam, clan badges and other things, I need to pass on to someone who can wear them with pride. If anyone wants them at a very reduced price, they can email me at barrlyn57@bigpond.com or I will have them for sale at the next Maryborough Highland Gathering.

Tracing my ancestors has been a very fulfilling challenge over the last seven years and I am glad to be able to tell my sons where they come from.

Barrie Crombie
Victoria, Australia

Childs play

Here is a joke I was told from a friend in Scotland and thought it would be great to share with your readers.

A young Aberdonian woman visits her local council offices to enquire about the likelihood of attaining child benefit payments. The council employee asks her how many children she has and the woman replies, "six". "Six!" he repeats, "and what are their names?"

"Jimmy, Jimmy, Jimmy, Jimmy, Jimmy and Jimmy," she answers. "But doesn't that get a bit confusing?" the man enquires. "Naw," says the woman, "if they're a' oot playin' ah jist hae tae yell, 'Jimmy, yer tea's oot,' or 'Jimmy, get tae yer bed noo,' and they aa dae it!"

The amazed council worker shakes his head and asks, "But what if you want to speak to one individually?"

"That's simple," the young woman replies, "ah jist use their surnames!!"

Always have enjoyed *the Banner* and best to all the readers and hope this brings a wee smile.

Alex Cullen
Cincinnati, Ohio
USA

Looking for Margaret and Bill Roches

The Scottish Banner is very interesting, my grandfather was Alexander Littlejohn. My Scottish husband died recently, and I have lost touch with friends of long-ago Margaret and Bill Roches and wondered if they may be reached via *the Scottish Banner*? They used to live in Maroubra, NSW.

My husband's mother was Scottish also, Betty Cook, I always wondered if grand dad was related to Little John of Sherwood Forest? I love Scottish music and dancing and really do find the paper so very interesting.

Diann Harper
13 Usk St, Oamaru, 9400
New Zealand

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



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

Crinan, Argyll



Crinan and beyond...
Mik Coia

Greenfinch



A great moment catching this beautiful bird on the cones in Dunoon, Argyll.
Ronald Stokes

Scottish Lavender



The beautiful Lavender fields at Scottish Lavender Oils in Kinross.
Debbie Neilson

Scottish Stag



Deciding whether to take the high road, or the low road...
The Kilted Photographer