

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 Sons of Scotland Pipe Band Scotland trip



The Sons of Scotland Pipe Band took their annual trip to Scotland in August, and this one was special and so memorable in many ways. In addition to a turn at the World Pipe Band Championships and shows in Edinburgh and Stirling, the band had a grand concert on the last day at Balmoral Castle for Her Majesty The Queen.

Along with guest players from the Eagle Pipers Society of Edinburgh and dancers from the Schiehallion and Stirling Dance Schools, the band played an expert program for many members of the Royal Family, and had a wonderful opportunity to showcase their work for Her Majesty The Queen. It was a great trip, and one they look forward to having next year.

Bethany Bisailion
Sons of Scotland Pipe Band
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada

Ed note: Thank you for sharing Bethany, what a special experience to play one last time for The Queen, who so loved the sound of the pipes and drums.

The World's

What a great cover your September issue had. I absolutely adore the pipes and drums and seeing that wee lad at the World Pipe Band Championships was fantastic. This is how we keep the pipes and drums playing loudly across the world by introducing our kids and grandkids to the amazing sounds of Scotland. Pipe bands have a huge history in Scotland, and across the globe, and here in Canada we have a strong pipe band movement which I am so very proud of. After a great summer of Highland Games here I never tire of the pipe bands. Above all other music types, they are a timeless sound and we can draw on them in celebration, reflection and to of course highlight our amazing heritage.

I have yet to attend the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow but will plan to be there for it and PipingLive! soon to bask in the spectacle of the pipes and drums. I hope that wee boy on your cover soon makes it to the World's one day as a competitor we can all be proud of!
Love the Banner,
Sharon McGraw
Oshawa, Ontario
Canada

The bond of dogs



I enjoy reading *the Scottish Banner*. I recently started looking at my ancestry, my dad's side are Scot's. My Grandparents migrated from Glasgow in 1912, but I had no Scottish upbringing. *The Banner* though is helping to fill the gaps.

The photo (no they are not looking at the camera) was taken late one afternoon, on the Hay Plains in South West New South Wales, Australia. Quite some years ago, so the dogs are now passed. The photo is of Warrigal (The Dingo) and Garth (The Rottweiler). The reason she is tied to the Rottweiler, Dingoes are not inclined to come when called, unless it suits them. So the Rottweiler is my insurance policy, as he is twice her size and she has no option but to come as well.

Trevor Charles
Northern Rivers, NSW
Australia



Maggie



In the September issue of my favourite paper, under the heading *The bond of dogs* which asked "Do you have/had a special pet in your family?" It gave me an excuse to introduce you to my dearly loved wee Scottish Terrier called Maggie. When I lost my husband of 53 years, my soulmate, six years ago bringing Maggie into my life gave me a reason to go on. Maggie is everything you could ever wish for-very intelligent (well she IS Scottish!), loyal, loving and can also be very stubborn and strong willed (another Scots trait?). Read anything on the breed and Scotties are described as loving with their family, but very reserved and aloof with others. Maggie does not fit this however, she loves everyone she meets, every dog she encounters and is super friendly and outgoing-a bonnie wee brindle dog.

Her's was the original colouring, and Scottish Terriers were first called Aberdeen Terriers, which I find pleasing as my family came from Aberdeenshire.

Thank you for such a grand interesting paper, I so look forward to receiving it each month.

Margaret Michie Benney
Craigieburn, Victoria
Australia

Ed note: Thank you Margaret for your note and glad you and Maggie found each other.

The bond of dogs

Sean, your column and the photo of your dog, Fergus, brought a tear to my eye as I have just started reading this edition on the day my beautiful, old faithful dog had to be euthanised and our much-loved Queen Elizabeth passed. Given her love for her own dogs, it really was timely.

I hope your Fergus can give you many more years of outstanding loyalty and joy.

Leigh in Australia (born in Canada)
Clan Hay

Ed note: Leigh very sorry to hear of your loss, what a tough time for you.

Looking for descendants of James Forrest Charles

Love reading *the Scottish Banner*, it is opening a new world for me. I'm researching my family tree, my dad's side are Scot's and my grandparents migrated to Australia from Glasgow in 1912. Part of the research I like the most is contacting those DNA cousins, to say g'day. A couple of cousins have come up on my DNA, in or around Toronto, Ontario, Canada, who seem to have stopped working on their tree's. So, I've been unable to contact them. One was a Jim Charles (who I believe is now deceased) also a Craig Charles, but I've also seen the research tracks of a Jamie & Paul Charles also researching the same line of James Forrest Charles's.

They all descend from a line of James Forrest Charles 1909 Glasgow, whose father was another James and died at Gallipoli in 1915. He was my grandfather's brother. So, if any friend of the family, or family member knows of the family in Ontario, Canada I would love to hear from them, or any family member for that fact.

Hoping one of them may read *the Scottish Banner*.

Trevor Charles
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Uki, NSW
2484, Australia
Email: ukijed@icloud.com

Ed note: Thanks for your note Trevor and good luck with finding your family connections.

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo



How wonderful to see the return of the Edinburgh Tattoo, this has been a long-time bucket list dream of mine. I was in fact booked, likely like so many, to attend for the first time in 2020 when the pandemic changed the world. I have not felt confident to travel since but am thrilled to see events such as this have come back looking as fantastic as ever. I am now hoping I can tick this off my bucket list for 2023 and will be cheering for all the acts for sure. Obviously I love the pipes and drums but also have always held a very special part in my heart for the graceful Highland Dancers.

I really enjoy *the Scottish Banner* and it has certainly helped hold me over with all things Scottish since my cancelled travel plans. In fact, it is *the Scottish Banner* which inspires me to get back to Scotland, even at my slightly advancing age, and discover new places which you feature.

Wishing all involved with this fine publication and all my fellow readers all good wishes,
Mary Smith
Cincinnati, Ohio
USA

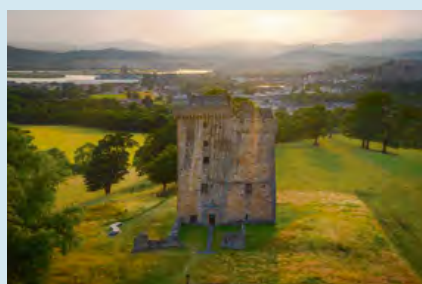
Ed note: Thank you Mary for your note and hope you tick this off your bucket list next year, The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo will take place 4 - 26 August 2023.

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



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

Clackmannan Tower



Shining a light on Clackmannan Tower, a tower house from the 13th century.
The Kilted Photographer

Loch Achtriochtran



Loch Achtriochtran at the north end of Glencoe.
Ronald Stokes

Edinburgh



Lawnmarket, Royal Mile, Edinburgh.
Paul Watt Photography

Castle Stalker



Lovely day at Castle Stalker.
Mik Coia