

# 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?

## Thistles in the Heartland

*Like fugitives do thistles stand  
Outside the law in this fair land  
But purple warriors make their home  
Upon the hillside where I roam*

*The lord of the land would destroy them again  
Yet he sees not what lies beyond his ken  
And where knife and shovel do not go  
There does the outlaw thistle grow*

*The proud flowers thrive where they ought not dare  
And they can be prickly beyond compare  
But so lovely, so in their purple hue*

*I will forgive them the hurt that they do  
And I know if he comes to take them down  
They'll fight like heroes to hold their ground  
For tall and mighty they are today  
Against all odds the other way*

*And will not tell of their camps so near  
Except in these words, which he will not hear  
And a health to the wild barbarian flowers  
That grace this domestic hillside of ours*

*And far afield their seeds are blown  
And purple families find new homes  
God speed them on their windswept way  
May they live to grow another day.*

Maria Anthony  
USA



Which perhaps explains why she was never as popular in Scotland, as she was in England. Unfortunately other countries, which have large populations of the Scottish Diaspora, such as in Australia, New Zealand, USA, and Canada, also mistakenly call and called her Elizabeth 11.

Alexander Sibbald  
Dunedin, New Zealand

### Tales of the Sma' Glen



What a charming story, *Tales of the Sma' Glen*, you had in the October issue of *the Scottish Banner*. I go back to Scotland on a fairly regular basis and am always on the lookout for something different to try when I am there. I love to hire a car and simply end up in all sorts of places, and really do prefer getting off the beaten track. The images in this article certainly make this look like the type of place I would love to see myself in.

The history of this area is also really intriguing, and I must admit I had not heard of this Perthshire gem before. I have friends and family in Scotland who are also unaware of this location and I promised them I will take them when I am next over, sometimes it takes a visiting tourist to get a local to see their very own backyard.

I also really enjoy your *Tartan of the Month* feature, I have learnt about countless tartans from *the Banner* which I had not heard of before, it really is incredible the variety of tartans that have been created over the years and the meaning behind each and every one. I must admit there so far is very few I do not like, must be the Scot in me!

I am a long-time reader of *the Scottish Banner*, there is simply nothing else like it, and for that I thank all involved.

Randy R Young  
Chula Vista, California  
USA

### Scottish LP's

I have some very old Scottish LP's and was wondering if any readers would like to buy them? They have a few scratches, and the jackets are a bit tatty but they play well and still sound great. I remember singing along to Jimmy Shand when I was little and I'm 70 now, still brings a tear to my eyes when I hear *Auld Lang Syne*. I can't play them now as I had to downsize, but would like to see them go to someone who will enjoy them as I did, especially at Hogmanay.

I have: *Roaming in the Gloaming Favourite Songs* by Sir Harry Lauder, *Jimmy Shand's Party, Scotland on Parade with the Gordon Highlanders, Golden Grove Highland Fling*-The Alexander Brothers and *Scottish Sing-Along* by Ivor Raymonde. Heather Masterton  
PO Box 209  
Budgewoi, NSW  
2262  
Australia

### The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo



The Paris Port Dover Pipe Band of Canada.

I really enjoyed reading about the Canadian and Australian pipe bands that performed at this years Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo (*The Scottish Banner*, October, 2022). I adore the pipes and drums and what a great experience for those band members to be on the world stage at the Tattoo. I know several people in pipe bands and they have commented to me about some of the great experiences and friendships they have had due to being in a pipe band. I would think marching through the gates of Edinburgh Castle onto the Castle Esplanade to the cheering of thousands of people must certainly be a highlight of anyone's pipe band career. These folks must have put a great deal of time, practice and their own money to get there and they must be commended for their dedication and doing their home nations proud.

I really enjoy *the Scottish Banner* each month and always look forward to the next issue.

Janette Anderson  
Brockville, Ontario  
Canada

### Pillar Box War

*The Banner* does a sterling job in reporting on issues of interest in Scotland to its diaspora readership in different parts of the world. For this reason I really enjoy reading *the Scottish Banner* each month. That is until the current October edition, in which I was very disappointed that you, and/or your editorial team, made a major historical error that is offensive to many Scots. I assume that the error was made in ignorance rather than design.

On page 1, and repeated on pages 2 and 3, the paper, in lavishing praise on the recently dead monarch, called her Elizabeth 11 when in fact there never was a Scottish Queen Elizabeth before the Union of the Scottish and English Crowns in 1603.

Only in England and Ireland was there a Queen Elizabeth prior to this time.

There was a precedent when naming the first monarch of the combined crowns. James VI of Scotland, who acceded to the English Crown upon the death of the Virgin Queen Elizabeth I of England in 1603, became King James I of Britain and Ireland. Although there had been six King James of Scotland, there had never been a King James of England.

I am old enough to remember the start of her reign in 1952, when the insignia E11R appeared on Scottish post boxes, vans, and other post office material, and thus began the Pillar Box War, in which post boxes were defaced, and some were blown up in protest at this insult. The designation Queen Elizabeth 11 was challenged in the Scottish Courts and was debated in the British Parliament. It was argued she should be known as Elizabeth 11 and 1, or Elizabeth Regina. Only to be defeated by the ruling that the sovereign was free to adopt any insignia she wanted. And that is what she did for 70 years, in spite of the Scottish opposition to it. Bear in mind that she was descended from the German House of Hanover dynasty, unlike Elizabeth I of England who was an English House of Tudor Queen.

However, the British Government relented to some extent in about 1953, when the insignia E11R was permanently removed from post office boxes and vans in Scotland to be replaced by what they called the Scottish Cypher, the Crown of Scotland. And that continues to be the case today. Indeed in 2018, a post box with the offensive E11R mistakenly appeared on a new post box in Dunoon, which met with much opposition, and was quickly replaced with the Scottish Cypher, plus apologies from the post office.

Seems strange that the late Queen, whom *the Scottish Banner* says loved Scotland and the Scots, continued to use the offensive Elizabeth 11 insignia until she died. The use of Elizabeth 11 was and is seen as disrespectful to Scotland, given that it was a union of the crowns of two independent countries, and not a conquest by England.

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### Highland Coo



Someone's loving summer in Scotland!  
The Kilted Photographer

### Linlithgow Palace



Looking towards the palace from Linlithgow Loch.  
Paul Watt Photography

### Aberdeen Harbour



Trip to Aberdeen Harbour.  
Derek A Grist

### The Kelpies



Beautiful sky over The Kelpies.  
Mik Coia