

# 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?

## My Restless Spirit Wanders



My restless spirit wanders  
To another time, another place;  
There's a spot in bonny Scotland  
That any memory can't erase.

I am a child of that landscape  
My heartstrings never will fly free;  
How could I know when I was young  
And the wide world beckoned me.

The rolling hills and Border burns  
Now in memory are unfurled;  
Echoes of my childhood haunts  
Reverberate from that inner world.

My footsteps tread the well-worn paths  
By Buckholm Hill and Torwoodlee;  
With the eternal rhythm of that earth  
I walk in perfect harmony.

In the fields I see my father  
As he plows the rich, dark loam;  
A solitary figure on that landscape  
Tilling the fertile fields of home.

To that farm cottage now I wander  
Bathed in the lamplight's glow;  
My images of the world were formed  
Round that hearth many years ago.

I am a child of that landscape  
My heartstrings never will fly free;  
I left that place to see the world  
But I'm part of it, it's part of me.

*Phyllis Munro Lunn  
Holden, Massachusetts  
USA*

**Ed note: Thank you Phyllis for this lovely submission.**

### Learning about tartan

I just wanted to thank *the Scottish Banner* for putting together your USA links page ([www.scottishbanner.com/weblinks/usa-links](http://www.scottishbanner.com/weblinks/usa-links)). My daughter Cora's Girl Scout troop is currently working on their Family Heritage Fun Patch and your information on tartans helped us a bunch. Cora's troop leader encouraged the parents to work with our girls at home to explore our family's history! She asked the girls to put together a presentation to share with the rest of the troop. My family is originally from Edinburgh, so we've been researching Scottish recipes, traditional Scottish songs and dance and we're just starting our family's tartan. Your page led us to some great websites to check out, so Cora and I wanted to make sure we thanked you.

Know Cora loved learning all about her Scottish heritage and is excited to visit one day!  
*Kelly and Cora Miller  
USA*

**Ed note: Glad our site is a useful tool for you Kelly and Cora, and hope Cora makes it to Scotland one day.**

### Sma Glen



After reading the October issue of *the Scottish Banner* and the "wee Glen" (*Tales of the Sma' Glen, the Scottish Banner*, October, 2022), it reminded me of a lovely glen we passed through in 2010. I called it Glen Dyke, after the River Dyke. I do not know its real name, but it is a very lovely drive. We turned off the road to John O'Groats, near Golspie, travelling

west to Ullapool. The mountains seem to hug you as you travel through. I think the glen starts at Lairg and Loch Shin.

I thoroughly enjoyed the trip and was happy to see different angles of my favourite mountain, Sulven, at the end of the glen.

Thank you for reminding me, a faithful reader of about 30 years.

*Cheryl Bruce  
Jennings, NSW  
Australia*

**Ed note: Thanks Cheryl for sharing your Scottish piece of paradise with us.**

### Stonehaven



Thank you for bringing up some fantastic memories of Stonehaven in your latest issue (*The Tranquillity of Stonehaven, the Scottish Banner*, January, 2023). I have such fond memories of going there with my family growing up in Scotland. The adventure a young child from the city had to experience was incredible. I remember still today the sounds of the many sea birds that glided past and at times tried to steal our lunch! We grew up just outside Glasgow, but my mother was from Aberdeen and this was her favourite place in world. Every time I visit, I of course feel my mother's presence and memories of a wonderful Scottish childhood. About a mile down the road was of the incredible Dunnottar Castle, where I ran

amok and created the most amazing adventures with my wee brother.

They say Stonehaven is one Scotland's most photographed harbours and that would not surprise as it has been postcard perfect for decades. I suppose growing up you can never fully realise how important key childhood memories can be and seeing this month's issue has been an emotional delight for me.

Wishing all the readers and *the Scottish Banner* team a wonderful 2023.  
*Cameron Sinclair  
Toronto, Ontario  
Canada*

**Ed note: Thanks Cameron for your note and glad we helped trigger some fantastic childhood memories for you, and wishing you and all our readers a great 2023 ahead.**

Stonehaven was my most favourite destination when growing up In the 50's. The open-air swimming pool was the main attraction even though the water was freezing cold. If an adult wouldn't take us there, we biked all the way from Aberdeen.  
*Fiona Johansson  
Via Facebook*

Stonehaven was also the birthplace of Robert William Thomson (1822-73). Inventor of the Pneumatic Tyre in 1845 (and responsible for many other inventions and innovations too!).  
*RW Thomson Memorial Fellowship  
Stonehaven, Scotland  
Via Facebook*

### Capital Sci-Fi Con



For those visiting Scotland this month Capital Sci-Fi Con is back for its amazing eighth year running! Over the weekend of 11-12 February 2023, we are hoping to make this year at the Edinburgh O2 Academy bigger and better than ever. With film and TV guests, iconic props, as well as incredible trader stalls and fantastic cosplay competitions, there is something for everyone.

Capital Sci-Fi Con is the ultimate not for profit comic con event, with all profits donated to Children's Hospices Across Scotland (CHAS). So far, the event has raised over £337,000 and this year we are hoping to add even more to that total, to ensure that nobody has to face the death of their child alone.

We have an amazing special guest line up from Film and TV for Capital Sci-Fi Con 2023. We also have comic artists/writers, guest panel talks, a cosplay competition, music, competitions, traders of all types and much more. Stay up to date with announcements as we get closer to the event by checking in here regularly, or to see the announcements as they happen, follow us on Facebook: Capital Sci-Fi Con.  
*Mairead Macleod  
Edinburgh, Scotland  
www.capitalscificon.co.uk*

## 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 Great Polish Map of Scotland



The Great Polish Map of Scotland is a large (50 m x 40 m) three-dimensional, outdoor concrete scale model of Scotland. It is also known as the Mapa Scotland (derived from Polish mapa Szkocji) or the Barony Map. The brainchild of Polish war veteran Jan Tomasiak, it was built between 1974 and 1979 and is claimed to be the world's largest terrain relief model. The sculpture is a category B listed building and is being restored by Mapa Scotland.  
*The Kilted Photographer*

### Callanish Standing Stones



Sunset at the Callanish Standing Stones.  
*Mik Coia*

### Edinburgh



The colours of Victoria Street, Edinburgh.  
*Paul Watt Photography*

### Bauchaille Etive Mor



Bauchaille Etive Mor in all its glory.  
*Ronald Stokes*