

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?

Central Florida Highland Games



I have just returned from the States where I was honoured to be the Chieftain of the 45th Central Florida Highland Games and it only helped reinforce my belief that we native Scots underestimate the bonds going back generations among the Scottish diaspora, sometimes to our detriment.

Over the past few years, a number of Highland Games, including my own in Newburgh, Fife have been cancelled and are unlikely to return through a combination of red tape and apathy i.e. if there's not a fairground attached then there's nothing for the kids etc.

There were 30K+ visitors to the Florida games and some strange and wonderful sights and tartans I've never seen before but one of my official tasks as Chieftain was to accept the salute of the many

clans as they paraded around the arena and the pride they all had in 'their' clan was palpable as was the enthusiasm of the kids as they marched alongside their family. I would be the first to admit that I didn't know what to expect and would also admit to being slightly sceptical about the whole thing however the enthusiasm was contagious, the pipes and drums of a very high standard and the athletes as good as I've seen anywhere. The backbone of my opening speech was built around the idea that whilst Scotland is a small country we have links going back centuries that spread around the world, this was born out when I was introduced to the Pipe Sergeant of Rosie O'Grady's Highlanders Pipes and Drums he was a young man who had attended the High School of Dundee which was established in 1239 by the Monks of Lindores Abbey, of which I am the current custodian, it's a small world!

*Andrew McKenzie Smith
The Lindores Abbey Distillery
Newburgh, Fife
Scotland*

Ed note: Thank you Andrew for your note and congratulations for being Chieftain at such a premier Scottish American event.

here: gaelicsocietytoronto.com/farpais-bagraverdachd-ghagraveidhlig-gaelic-poetry-contest.html

Contest Details:

- The contest welcomes international entrants.
- There are 2 categories: Intermediate and Advanced - Advanced category welcomes both learners and native/fluent speakers
- There is no fee for the first entry. Additional entries are \$10 CAD each, a maximum of 3 entries per person
- The contest closes on World Poetry Day, March 21, 2023

Prizes:

- First prize in each category: \$150 CAD
- Runner-up prize in each category: a copy of two Canadian poetry books, Or a Mhaireas / Lasting Gold and Ràithean airson Sireadh / Seasons for Seeking.
- First-place and runner-up winning entries will be featured in our newsletters with the winning entries read at our virtual Ceilidh on April 21.

*Comunn Gàidhlig Toronto / The Gaelic Society of Toronto Preserving, supporting, celebrating and sharing the Scottish Gaelic language, heritage and culture.
GaelicToronto@gmail.com
@GaelicToronto
www.gaelicsocietytoronto.com
Toronto, Ontario
Canada*

The Isle of Cumbrae Distillers

Thank you *Scottish Banner* for your article on the all-female owned Isle of Cumbrae gin distillers. Every time I am in Scotland I

marvel at the huge range of Scottish gins available and I am sure to always bring a bottle (or two!) of some great Scottish gins back with me. I hope my Scottish ancestry is not wiped clear as I confess to not really liking whisky, but gin is such a lovely way to end a day. I was not familiar with the Cumbrae gin but will be sure to seek it out when I get back later in the year. Your cover was also a real stand out, I soon realised it was a stunning gin label.

The Banner continues to offer us readers a great variety of stories and is my # 1 source for Scottish events and I would not be without it.
*Sarah Carmichael
Port Washington, NY
USA*

Ed note: Thank you Sarah and we hope you get to enjoy a taste on your visit. Our February cover is the first time in our history to feature artwork such as this on the cover.



The Land of the Gordons



Being a regular reader of your *Scottish Banner* I find your article on *The Land of the Gordons* (*the Scottish Banner*, February, 2023) most interesting.

I know the area quite well having lived in Keith (actually Newmill village) adjacent to Huntly where I attended Keith Grammar School many years ago. Wonderful area to visit full of historical interest. My father was a Gordon Highlander and was recruited in Keith when I believe the recruiters knocked on doors calling for men to join the 1914/18 campaign. He fought at the Somme etc and luckily made it home to Keith after being gassed. Both sides of my family came from the Keith area and through Ancestry I have managed to trace back a long history.

You mention the River Isla where I used to watch my father fishing and used to play around some of the streams running into the river. Such happy memories of the area around Keith.

Please continue with your interesting articles.

*Thank you,
Ena Laing
Ettalong Beach, NSW
Australia*

Ed note: Thank you for sharing your memories of a special part of Scotland with us.

Project about the link between Northern Americans identifying as Scottish or Irish-Scottish

Hello,
We are EM Lyon Business School students, and we are conducting a project about the link between Northern Americans identifying as Scottish or Irish-Scottish, because of their family ancestors, their origins or cultural affinity. This is a questionnaire about Scottish traditions and weddings. Because what you think is important to us, we would appreciate you to answer the questions below.

We greatly appreciate the time and effort you spend in providing us key information. We specify that all the information gathered here will completely be confidential. It will take about 5 minutes to answer.

The survey can be found at:
<https://sphinx-campus.com/d/s/i7x6ya>
**Panimba Elfried Zoungrana
France**

The Gaelic Society of Toronto Gaelic Poetry Contest



The contest is open internationally at either intermediate or advanced levels. All of the details can be found

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



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

Stirling



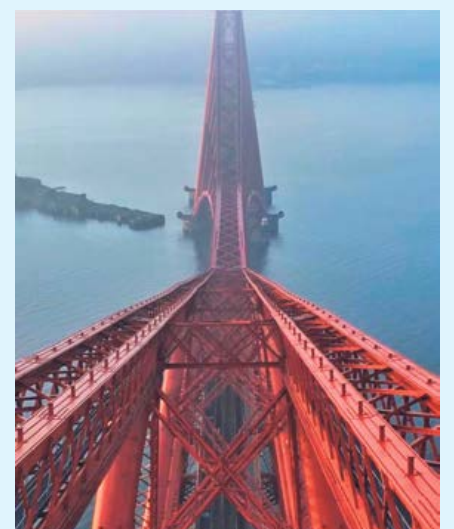
Stirling Castle as the sun was setting over the city this late afternoon
Scotdrone

Eilean Donan Castle



Stunning shot of Eilean Donan Castle.
The Kilted Photographer

The Forth Bridge



The best-looking bridge in the world with the best view possible.
Charles McGuigan

Corpach Pier



Stunning winter day at Corpach Pier, on the Caledonian Canal.
Mik Coia