

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 Flying Scotsman



Flying Scotsman at Kings Cross For Centenary Launch Oct 2022
(C) Olgun Kordal, Science Museum Group.j

It was a blast from the past to read about The Flying Scotsman as I saw it on its Australian tour. I had taken my two young daughters to South Beach, near Fremantle, what a sight!

The train was being accompanied by another steam train, fortunately it was on the track nearest to us. I have a few DVDS telling the story of this great engine, I love steam trains but there are no trains in this part of the country. I've always loved steam trains and can remember

travelling on them. They had their own personalities and style. It's wonderful that The Flying Scotsman has been preserved, giving people the chance to see it. I seem to recollect that the engine was a lighter shade of green but that could be my memory playing tricks?

Thank you for *the Scottish Banner* as it's always interesting and thank you for publishing the story.

Jocelyn Layton
Wyndham, Western Australia

Looking for Lorraine Doull

Long shot, looking for a Lorraine Doull, emigrated to Australia 1990/1991.

Her married name was Duncan and was going through a divorce, an Edinburgh lass. She would be in her late 50s/early 60s.

Her father might have joined her in Australia after 1991. At the time of emigrating, her boyfriend at time was Anil. I worked with Lorraine in Edinburgh in a group home for people with learning difficulties. If anyone knows of this Lorraine could you pass my email onto her please.

Thank you,

Fione

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Scotland

Shinty



What wonderful memories came rushing back when I saw the cover of your March edition. My father used to play shinty as a young lad and he simply loved the game, if he could he would have played his whole life but it is not a game for old bones! Also having moved to Canada he lost his ability to play it, but never his love of the sport. I remember him taking about playing around the Highlands and he made lifelong friendships through the sport, I never got to see him play as his shinty days were far gone by the time I was born.

Strangely the chap in the photo on your cover does bear a great resemblance to my father as a young man and I could nearly see him play when looking at the cover.

It brought a tear to my eye but also a great smile and brought my father back to the front of my mind.

My father may not have passed on his love for shinty to me, but he certainly did his love and pride of being Scottish. He always referred to himself as Scottish first and foremost and though he loved Canada when referring to 'home' it was always in reference to Scotland. I too feel quite Scottish and love to attend Highland Games and have been to Scotland numerous times over the years. I used to go with my father and the last time with him was 2017, where I took his ashes.

Thanks again for this article, it certainly has made me miss my father all over again.

Emily Bain
Milton, Ontario
Canada

Urquhart Castle



I really enjoyed the castle story in your May edition (*Twelve years and over 400 castles later: My favourite Scottish castles* by David C. Weinczok). It was great to read about some I have yet to visit as I cannot go to Scotland without taking a castle, or three!

I often feel transported back in time and with a bit of research am amazed at the dramatic history these properties have. I have many I thoroughly enjoy visiting (and more to visit), but it is Urquhart Castle which has to be my favorite of all. The iconic castle ruins perched on the edge of Loch Ness is my most magical Scottish experience. And though I may not have yet caught a glimpse of the monster

from the castle, walking the grounds and imagining all that has once happened in its walls is enough for me. The local Highland area is also just stunning for scenery, nature and of course good Scots folk.

I am heading back to Scotland this year and yes you guessed I will be back to take in all I love about Urquhart Castle and likely a few more castles.

I immensely enjoy *the Scottish Banner*, the articles are unique, informative and always inspires me to celebrate my Scottish ancestry.

Derek Grant

Long Beach, California
USA

Ladies in pipe bands

I was interested to read your article about ladies playing the bagpipes, and thought I should tell you my story.

I was born in Bendigo, Victoria, Australia in 1940 and became a Highland dancer. When I was at High School in about 1953 there was a move to form a Ladies Pipe Band, so I started to learn to play the pipes.

Preference was given to older ladies to get into the band initially, but at any engagement four dancers went along and put on a performance to give the band members a spell. I became Secretary of the band in 1958, and later Pipe Major. I married and had two children, but still continued playing with the band. In 1982 I moved to Wangaratta, in north-eastern

Victoria, and joined the Wangaratta Pipe Band, later holding positions of Secretary and Pipe Major. It was here that my elder son Kyle, while at High School, learned side drumming and also played with the band.

In 1990 after both sons went to Melbourne to university, I moved to Melbourne and joined St. Andrew's Ladies Pipe Band. We had many happy trips interstate for contests and special performances. We always seemed to win the Best Dressed Award. While with St. Andrew's I also started working with Pipe Bands Victoria, doing administrative work at contests and gatherings. I still do this today. In 2001 I temporarily joined the Rats of Tobruk Memorial Pipe Band to travel to Scotland and perform at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

St. Andrew's Ladies Band eventually folded due to lack of numbers, and I joined Watsonia RSL Pipes & Drums (which was closest to where I was living). I was not able to play in contests, due to my job with Pipe Bands Victoria, but I have enjoyed many happy outings with this band.

I have been made a Life Member with three of my bands, but now feel that my playing days are coming to an end soon. I hope you like my history.

Bev Hayes

Briar Hill, Victoria
Australia

Ed note: Thank you Bev for sharing your story and for your contribution to the pipe band community.

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



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

Blackness Castle



Blackness Castle is a 15th century fortress, on the south shore of the Firth of Forth.
The Kilted Photographer

Crathes Castle, Banchory



Crathes Castle is a massive and impressive old tower house of the Burnett family, set in a pleasant spot in fabulous wooded grounds with a stunning walled garden, haunted by a Green Lady ghost and located near Banchory in Aberdeenshire.

Tam Eadie
IG: @eadietam

The National Wallace Monument



The magnificent National Wallace Monument
IG: @charles.mcguigan

Butt of Lewis



Lovely day at the Butt of Lewis, the most northerly point of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides.
Mik Coia