

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?

Scotland's zen garden



Thank you, *Scottish Banner*, for the story of the Japanese Garden at Cowden estate (*Scotland's zen garden-The place of pleasure and delight, the Scottish Banner*, May, 2023). I simply adore visiting gardens wherever I travel. Taking in the many varieties of plants on offer, getting a good walk and of course relaxing and connecting with nature. I travel to Scotland quite regularly and have for some reason never come across this garden before, so I greatly appreciate this article as I will now be adding the garden to my visit in September. The inspiration for the garden, Ella Christie, sounds like quite a remarkable

woman and I will be sure to learn more about her as I am sure at the time many would have frowned their noses at her and her dream to create an Asian paradise in Scotland. Based on the photos in the article, Scotland is very fortunate Ella had such a vision and the property has been passed along to those who have seen her vision and executed it back to life for people to enjoy.

I love my *Banner* and finding articles like this confirms my enjoyment for each issue.

Judy Crane
Burlington, Ontario
Canada

distant relative. I have visited the castle twice and thoroughly enjoyed the tours and felt the connection. I was reading David C Weinczok's article (*Twelve years and over 400 castles later: My favourite Scottish castles*) in the May issue of *the Scottish Banner*, great reading, and it inspired me to write in my favourite castle-Fyvie.

My least favourite castle would have to be Dunvegan Castle on Skye. Sorry to anyone connected to said castle.

C. Bruce (a reader of 30 years)
Jennings, NSW
Australia

The Declaration of Arbroath



I absolutely love Scottish history so you can imagine my delight when I read about the Declaration of Arbroath (*New Images for Declaration of Arbroath released, the Scottish Banner*, May, 2023) being shown again in Scotland. My delight somewhat was reduced when I learned I would miss the viewing dates at the National Museum of Scotland. I will be in Edinburgh later this year, in September, and would have dearly

loved to see such a historic document and one that is so very important to Scotland still today. I am very envious of those that did get to view it but do understand the document must be protected for future generations to enjoy. All being well I will travel back when it next goes on display, though if it is another 18 years to wait for the next showing I may be a bit slower by 2041!

Congratulations to all involved with *the Scottish Banner*.

Sharon McClusky
Boulder, Colorado
USA

The Scottish Borders

Reading the editorial in the June issue reminded me of a holiday which included a bus tour through the Borders. I grew up in the north-west suburbs of Sydney, NSW. My suburb was Baulkham Hills, part of the Hills district. This included such fun names as Rooty Hill and Toongabbie. Baulkham Hills was named after Buckholm Hill in the Borders, near Galashiels. I was struck just how similar the Hills District and the Borders are. I now live in Cooma where many Cleared Scots settled. They would boast that their rock strewn holding was their own and no one was going to throw them off it.

Thanks for the reminder of that memory, and your fine publication.

Ian Clark
Cooma, NSW
Australia

Scottish Country Dancers



This was taken at the 2023 Bundanoon Highland Gathering of the Scottish country dancers. Some of them came from Gosford, Killara, Canberra and local branches.

Robert Findley
Central Coast, NSW
Australia

100 years of the City of Nelson Highland Pipe Band



2024 marks 100 years for the City of Nelson Highland Pipe Band. We are reaching out to all past members and supporters to get in touch if you are interested in being part of our celebrations next year. While things are still in the planning phase, we hope to get together as many of our current and past members and supporters as we can, so please spread the word, and make contact with us if you are keen to re-connect. Please email us at: cityofnelsonband@gmail.com, or send us a private message via Facebook.

City of Nelson Highland Pipe Band
Nelson, New Zealand

Just liked your Facebook page

I just "Liked" your page and wanted to say Thank You! I live in Argyle, Florida. I am of Scottish decent. My Clan is Hamilton. My mother was a Hamilton - direct descendant of the children of the Lord Hamilton in the 1740's. My father is a descendant of Ulster Scots who also immigrated to the Colony of Maryland. I'll be looking at your shop for Clan Hamilton and for the USAF as I am a veteran of the Vietnam Conflict.

Jim Henthorn
Argyle, Florida
USA

Ed note: Thanks Jim for liking our pages and hope you enjoy the content, readers are reminded you can like/follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and now Threads and each like is a great support to us.

Fyvie Castle



Fyvie Castle in Aberdeenshire has to be my favourite castle, bias I suppose, it has a family connection. My mother's parents, and perhaps forbearers, worked there before my grandparents married. I am not sure in what capacity they worked though; I also believe the present caretaker is a

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

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

Eilean Donan Castle



Gorgeous evening at Eilean Donan Castle.
Mik Coia

Heilan Coo



Curious Stirling local.
The Kilted Photographer

Isle of Skye



Home sweet home, on the Isle of Skye.
karendaly411

Islay



Peaceful day on Islay.
Derek A Grist

Pose your questions on Scottish related topics to our knowledgeable readership who just may be able to help. Please keep letters under 300 words and we reserve the right to edit content and length. Letters can be emailed to info@scottishsbanner.com or online at www.scottishsbanner.com/contact-us, alternatively you may post your letters to us (items posted to the Scottish Banner cannot be returned). Please ensure you include your full contact details should you require a reply. This page belongs to our readers so please feel free to take part!