

# SCOT POURRI

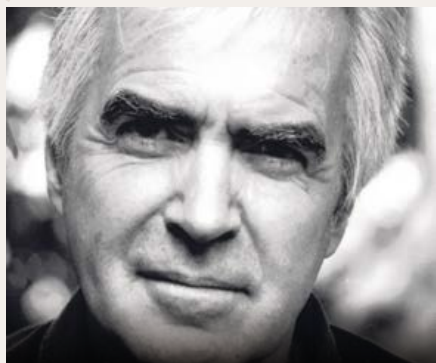
Send us your inquiries on life's little question marks.

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?

## John Cairney

Thank you, Sean, for a lovely tribute to your Uncle John Cairney in the October edition of *the Scottish Banner*. It was so heartfelt and was lovely to read of a nephew's admiration and respect for his uncle.

I knew of John Cairney for many years, and I very likely saw you as young boy as I went to some of his Toronto area performances. Reading your column certainly brought back to me the incredible voice he had, and his stage presence was first class. John for me was part of a generation of actors who excelled in their craft and carried themselves in a way which we today see very little of the world of 'celebrity' today. I have just ordered my first book of John's and look forward to reading his words about my home city, Glasgow.



My condolences to you and his entire family and I feel privileged to have seen John in person, he brought Robert Burns to life for many.

Colleen Boyle  
St Catherines, Ontario  
Canada

**Ed note: Thank you Colleen for your kind words and my uncle certainly was one of a kind and will be missed.**

## Connecting Scotland's diaspora- Scottish Connections Fund opens for applications



Applications have opened for a new pilot fund to support initiatives that promote Scotland's international connections. The Scottish Connections Fund is open to bids from individuals and organisations in Scotland's international diaspora and a total of £15,000 has been allocated for this year's pilot, which will inform the development of an expanded fund in 2024. The fund follows a commitment in the government's Scottish Connections Framework, which seeks to expand links and networks with Scottish people living elsewhere in the world, those with Scottish heritage, alumni of Scotland's educational institutions, and people with professional, business, cultural or other links to Scotland.

External Affairs Secretary Angus Robertson said: "The Scottish Government has long believed that better engaging our diaspora – family and friends of Scotland globally – can not only benefit Scotland economically and enrich our culture, but also improve Scotland's connections and reputation. We know that millions around the world cherish their connections with Scotland, and we are grateful for the work of people and organisations who do so much to strengthen these links – whether that is through the promotion of our culture and heritage or Scotland's reputation as a place to live, work, visit, study, and do business. This fund aims to support their work to create more vibrant, visible and connected global Scottish diaspora, and I encourage anyone with an interest to submit an application by 8 November, 2023."

The Scottish Connections Fund aims to help Scottish diaspora organisations and communities and their individual members further the aims of the Scottish Connections Framework. It promotes increased visibility or connectivity between Scottish diaspora communities outside Scotland, or with Scotland itself. The fund supports innovative initiatives "that bring together those with a connection to Scotland, promote Scotland's reputation and interests, and build greater connections back to Scotland itself."

These include, but are not limited to:  
Community projects  
Philanthropic projects  
Events  
Workshops  
Research  
Applications can be submitted here:  
[www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-connections-fund-how-to-apply](http://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-connections-fund-how-to-apply)

Matt Paterson  
Constitution, External Affairs and  
Culture Communications  
The Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House, Edinburgh  
Scotland

### Family descent

I have enjoyed reading your August, 2023 edition. I am of Scot's descent on my father's side of the family. Long ago there were two brothers, one was named Lamont and the other named Lamb. I am descended from the brother called Lamb. The Lamont's and Lamb's are descended from the King of Northern Ireland, his name was Anrothan, and Anrothan was descended from the royal family of Norway. The royal family of Norway are descended from a spirit that manifested itself in Norway back in ancient times. My great grandparents, Alexander and Cough Lamb, came from Glasgow in the mid-1800's and settled in Dunedin, South Island, New Zealand. Their son, also called Alexander, was my grandfather and my father's name was Jack Allen Lamb. I am of Māori descent on my mother's side of the family.

John Allen Lamb  
Tokomaru Bay, New Zealand

## The Old Soldier



I have had a copy of this poem in my drawer for many years. I thought it would be fitting to share with your readers in the lead up to Remembrance Day (November 11<sup>th</sup>). May we all find peace in this world. We will remember them.

Medals, such meagre payments for  
priceless years willingly thrown away  
Are taken from their casual resting  
place in bureau drawers  
And proudly polished to a sheen  
brass buttons once were given,  
Then pinned to coats by hands less  
steady than when they held a gun.

The faint notes of Reveille can be  
heard, or are they just imagined  
As a final wipe is given to  
already gleaming shoes.  
The dark blue tam is tugged  
to a familiar cocky angle  
And the old soldiers, downing  
something to ward off November's  
chill, fall in once more.

The ranks are even thinner this  
year than each had feared.  
A different foe, old age, aided perhaps  
by too many glasses drained to  
numb the painful legacy of war,  
Has claimed another score  
or more of comrades  
Bringing home to those remaining  
the realisation that this might  
be their last parade.

No time for that, the pipes and  
drums have sounded.  
It's effort enough to keep in step on  
a route that lengthens every year.  
Nor is it shortened by the knowledge that  
the crowd of onlookers has also thinned  
And some have come to jeer, not  
pay respects as others did before.

Some of the scoffers, too young to  
ever have been touched by war,  
Snicker when the bugler  
falters as he plays Taps.  
They smirk at each other as the  
speaker intones: "Lest we forget"  
While a thousand eyes look up at them sadly  
And five hundred hearts whisper,  
"If you only knew."

Tom Douglas 1971

John Fisher  
Sudbury, Ontario  
Canada

## 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 Kelpies



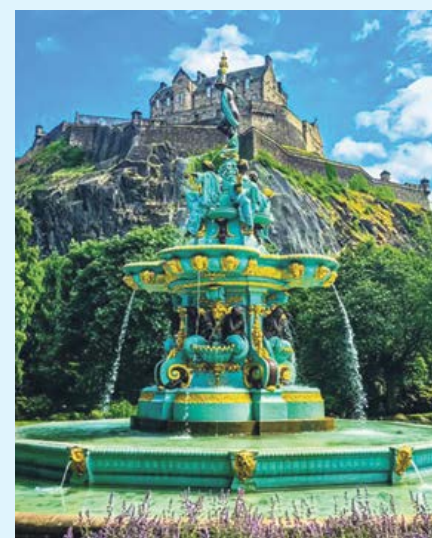
Say cheese! Duke and Baron at The Kelpies.  
The Kilted Photographer

### Portpatrick



Lovely day at Portpatrick.  
Colfin Captures

### Ross Fountain



Stunning day at Ross Fountain  
and Edinburgh Castle.  
IG: eadietam

### Uist



Beach front living on Uist.  
Mik Coia

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](mailto:info@scottishsbanner.com) or online at [www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us](http://www.scottishbanner.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!