

# 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?

## Remembering John Cairney



Dear Sean,  
Having just caught up with your editorial in the October edition of *the Scottish Banner*, I wanted to pass on my appreciation of your tribute to your Uncle John Cairney.

Your words flowed so readily that, suddenly, I realised I had reached the end of your reflective tribute. There is no doubt that your Uncle John would have appreciated your heartfelt thoughts and will be resting just a bit more comfortably as a result of your loving tribute.

All the best at this sad time,  
*Stewart Campbell*  
Curtin, ACT  
Australia

Dear Sean Cairney,  
I enjoyed reading your article on your uncle, John Cairney, in the last *Scottish Banner*, though saddened by the news of his passing. He was certainly one of the greats where Scottish acting and poetry are concerned, and his portrayal of Burns is to my mind unequalled. I never managed to see any of his TV shows on Burns, probably because of working overseas in the years when they were broadcast. Nor have I been able to locate any DVD or VHS recordings - such a pity. However, I have a treasured disc of his recording of *The Robert Burns Story*. This an excellent sympathetic work and I listen to it regularly. I have never met John but when I was working in Sydney, around 1980, I recall meeting his agent (who I think also accompanied John on the piano during shows) and helping him to find an agent to book him for a tour of Australia. I think he was successful in this but, sadly, I had been transferred by the time the shows were to take place.

John Cairney held a unique place in Scottish culture, and I hope that he will be long remembered.

Yours aye  
*Hamy Marcelin*

**Ed note: Thank you to all who have emailed, called or written in about my Uncle. A great Scot for sure!**

### Clan McLeod

Mum took us to the Gathering of The Clans in the 60's and 70's, Mum's side was McLeod clan looking for further information as Mum's now passed.

*Robert Mannix*  
E-mail: [kxoba2011@gmail.com](mailto:kxoba2011@gmail.com)

### Tae a Neep Kennedy Smith

Up by the birks o' Aberlea  
There stands the Kirk, Drumbirilee,  
Aye sair tae sicht an' lathe tae gie,  
Ma hurdies weary;  
For a' ma sporrans siller free  
An' me sae bleary.

Wild Acre Field wi' tumshies drilled,  
Green leafed their taps o'er edges spilled  
An' lang a' tramped, an' sack a' filled  
Wi' neeps sae purple,  
Fu' fa' ma crummocks! fingers chilled  
An' hame did hirple.

When a gaed hame aw caked wi' glaur,  
A gully ta'en frae kitchen drawer  
Tae scalp the beastie, shaws an' aw'  
The great orange roue;  
An' chopped the rest tae bitties sma'  
Intae ma Creuset.

Biled an' creamed an' buttered tae,  
Wi' champit tatties roon arrayed,  
Tae cap it a', hot haggis played;  
Fair smacked ma lips,  
An' scoffed the lot wi' lemonade;  
An' bags o' crisps.

*Archie Smith*  
Falkirk, Stirlingshire  
Scotland

### Tartan banners-Clan Leslie

I have two Clan Leslie banners. One is of Red Leslie Tartan, 60cm wide x 94cm long. The other is of the Hunting Leslie Tartan, 58cm wide x 91 cm long. Both of these banners have the name Leslie and the crest embroidered on them and the also included are the poles for carrying in parades etc. Would anybody be interested in these banners?

*Colleen Leslie*  
Queensland, Australia  
E-mail: [colnmal@icr.com.au](mailto:colnmal@icr.com.au)

### On the passing of friends

Dear Sean,  
I was so sorry to hear of the passing of your close friend and companion Fergus (*the Scottish Banner*, November, 2023). May he rest in peace. We too are mourning the passing of our beloved dog Bella McDugg of McDugg. She was a stalwart of the Clan MacLaren Highland Games tent for many years (refer picture in May 2023 edition p13 article on Aberdeen Highland Games) and a close companion and confidant to me in particular. She too will be sorely missed. The loss of a friend is never easy to endure. Please accept our condolences to you and your family.

Regards,  
*Bill & Lorna Law*

**Ed note: Thank you Bill and Lorna for your kind note and I am very sorry to hear of the passing of Bella, who I was lucky enough to meet at some Scottish events.**

### The Canadian Orcadian



Thank you for another issue of your marvellous *Scottish Banner* publication. As a former airplane owner and instrument rated pilot I read with great interest your Loganair et al reports (*the Scottish Banner*, November, 2023). My family members left Orkney November 7, 1850 for Vancouver Island. When visiting the Irvine croft on Eday in 1995, I checked out every Orcadian airport I passed which of course included London (on Eday). My daughter (33yrs) flew in later from Glasgow via Speedbird to EGPA from Glasgow. I had driven a car from Glasgow a week earlier.

Nowadays, I fly the Orcadian skies in Microsoft Flight Simulator 2020 (MSFS) in a Loganair BN-2 Islander.

Upon my return to western Canada in 1995 I published my travels in a document titled: *Irvines in Scotland 1995*.

You may find something interesting therein.

Yours aye,  
*Bill Irvine (87yrs)*  
*The Canadian Orcadian*  
British Columbia, Canada

**Ed note: Thanks Bill for sharing with us your love of aviation.**

### Stirling Old Bridge



The Battle of Stirling Bridge on 11 Sept 1297. The present Stirling Old Bridge was built in the 1400s or 1500s, replacing a succession of timber bridges. Undoubtedly the best-known of these was one that stood nearby in the 1290s, when Sir William Wallace and Sir Andrew Moray defeated Edward I's forces at the Battle of Stirling Bridge on this day 11 September in 1297. The bridge also played a part in the Jacobite Rising of 1745, when an arch was removed to forestall Bonnie Prince Charlie's forces as they marched south. The bridge today remains one of the best medieval masonry arch bridges in Scotland.

*Tam Eadie*  
Scotland

**Ed note: Thank you, Tam, for sending us so many fantastic images. Readers can see more across our social media platforms.**

## FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



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

### Neolithic Scotland



Scotland's historic sites..  
*Mik Coia*

### Pollock House



Glasgow's Pollock House, built in 1752.  
IG: *eadietam*

### Edinburgh



Golden hour in Edinburgh...  
*Paul Watt Photography*

### Tantallon Castle



Sunrise at Tantallon Castle, East Lothian.  
*The Kilted Photographer*