

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 Bard



All articles in *the Banner* are of interest but I especially enjoyed the article on Walker's Shortbread, the only brand I buy, and the article of Scotland's Bard (*the Scottish Banner*, January, 2024). Reading of Robbie Burns brought to mind an epitaph written for a paternal cousin a long, long, time ago and subsequently passed down through the many generations of my family and finally to my dad, then me, Willie Michie was a school teacher.
'Here lies Willie Michie's banes, o stain when ye Tak him, gie him the schoolin' o yer weans, For clever diels he'll mak them.'

These are words from our beloved Bard that probably the most ardent Burns followers have never known, an honour to have this precious wee piece of Burns history in our family.

Thanking you for such a grand publication, eagerly anticipated each month.
*Mrs Margaret Michie Benney
Craigieburn, Victoria
Australia*

Ed note: Thank you Margaret for sharing such a great piece of your family history, by such a great Scot!

The Man Who Thinks He Can

To all those 'Doubting Thomases' out there, here is an old Scots poem that will hopefully make you think again!

The Man Who Thinks He Can

*If you think you are beaten, you are,
If you think that you dare not, you don't,
If you'd like to win, but you think you can't,
It's almost certain you won't.*

*If you think you'll lose, you've lost,
For out in the world you'll find,
Success begins with a fellow's will,
It's all in the state of mind.*

*If you think you are outclassed, you are,
You've got to think high to rise,
You've got to be sure of yourself before,
You can ever win a prize.*

*Life's battles don't always go,
To the stronger or faster man,
But sooner or later the man who wins,
Is the man who thinks he CAN.*

*Craig Neale
Evanston, Illinois
USA*

Ed note: Thank you Craig for sharing these great words of positivity.

Walker's Shortbread



What a lovely interview you had with Sir Jim Walker. The brand is known the world over, especially with us Scots, but to see a face behind such a huge family business is wonderful. The Walker family clearly have a recipe for success with their amazing shortbread. I keep shortbread in our pantry year-round as it such a lovely wee treat with a cuppa and I have never had a visitor to our home who has not enjoyed it. I am so impressed Walker's is still run as a family business, they really are such an international name in business, I had no idea they were still family operated. As they say the classic Scottish icons are shortbread, whisky and tartan.

Your website is filled with great articles and information, which I really enjoy.
*Marg Smith
Pickering, Ontario
Canada*

Aberdeen snowed under



Just left Melbourne. Our last day of our holiday with our Daughter and family, they took us to the first day of the tennis, we had a great time, my wife Olive who loves her tennis couldn't believe she was there.

The weather was amazing, and we came back to lots of snow as shown.

Best regards,
*Alan Goltman
Aberdeen, Scotland*

Ed note: From Melbourne to Aberdeen in January is a big weather difference Alan, glad you enjoyed the tennis and hope the snow has cleared at home.

The pronunciation of Gaelic and Celtic

Can any of your readers put us right on the pronunciation of Gaelic and Celtic? Is it Gaylic and Seltic or Gallic and Kehie? We were once told that people who "have the Gaelic" say Gallic but those who don't say Gaytic! And why is the Glasgow football team pronounced Seitic and not Keltic?

Perhaps some of *the Scottish Banners* readers can explain the differences in pronunciation and give us the correct way to enunciate these age-old expressions?

We love reading *the Banner* each and every month, each issue is filled with so much great stuff, and we always go back to it over the months and learn more and dream of our next Scottish trip.

*Tim and Flora Christie
Wellington, New Zealand*

Ed: I am sure some readers can help you
Tim and Flora.

Burns Nights in Australia



Thought you might enjoy these photos of my son and his friends celebrating Burns Night. Hay Clan, Forbes and Stuart represented. With a public holiday the day after, Australia Day. How good is that?! Slainte!

*Leigh Olsen
Daisy Hill, Queensland
Australia*

Ed note: Thanks Leigh for sharing and great to see the Clans well represented.

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



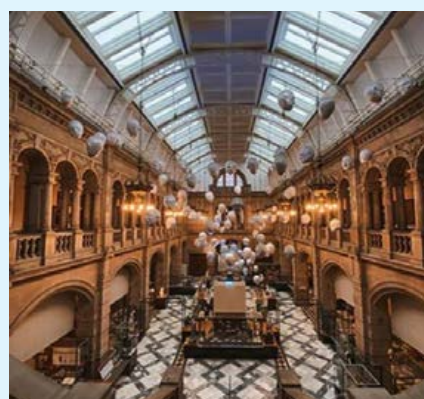
Sent to our Facebook, Twitter or Instagram accounts-send us your photos or letters via social media (#ScottishBanner or #TheBanner):

Stirling Castle



Stirling Castle surrounded by autumn.
Robert Gibb

Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum



Inside the amazing Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Glasgow.
Colfin Captures

Glencoe



A frosty start to the day at Blackrock Cottage, Glencoe.
Derek A Grist

Loch Etive



Reflection perfection at Loch Etive.
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@scottishbanner.com or online at 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!