

# 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?

## Meh Granny



Meh granny never had the things  
That maist fowk hae the day  
She never saw a TV set  
Or heard a tranny play  
She never yaised a microwave  
Eye-level grills an' things  
She used tae yaise an' auld black range  
An' twa gas burning rings.

Meh granny never ate kebabs  
Or Chinese kerry oots  
She never drank a can o' coke  
Or tasted kiwi fruits  
She never smelt the curried scent  
O' spicy vindaloos  
An' she never (though she stayed three up)  
Had stairheid barbecues.

Meh granny never wore T-shirts  
No even in her teens  
She never wore a mini skirt  
Or frayed an' torn jeans  
She never had her hair in spikes  
Or dyed it green or blue  
An' she never had her airms tattooed  
Or had a sniff o' glue.

Meh granny never had a hoose  
Wi' mod cons like we hae  
The kitchen was her living room  
The loaby her hallway  
The carpets were but clootie rugs  
That she'd made piece by piece  
An' her vacuum was a besom heid  
That worked wi' elbow grease.

Alas meh granny's crossed the vale  
Ower tae the ither side  
She's sairly missed but nonetheless  
That's whaur she'll hae tae bide  
Hoo'ever, should she get tae hear  
O' a' the things we've got  
I'm shair she'd shed her heavenly wings  
An' come back like a shot!

Composed by David Taylor  
Dundee, Scotland

**Ed note: Thank you David for this poem  
and sharing your beloved granny with us.**

## Clan Ewing in search of a Chief



This year, Clan Ewing will appoint its first chief in almost 250 years. Since their last Family Convention in 2014, Clan Ewing has been led by its commander, John Thor Ewing, and has grown in strength and recognition. But the institution of commander can only be an interim measure. The time has now come to appoint a chief. The last known Chief of Clan Ewing was Robert Ewing of Craigtoun, who is believed to have died in 1776. Since then, the line of descent has been lost, and it has not been possible to discover the heir to the chiefship by right of inheritance. So, they have reached an impasse.

The Ewing Family Association is organising a new Family Convention to be held later this year when, unless a hereditary claimant can be securely established, a new chief will be appointed by the clan. If you cannot attend the Family Convention in person, there will also be an opportunity for eligible clansfolk to vote in advance. Among the candidates will be John Thor Ewing, current Commander of Clan Ewing. If you think you have a legitimate claim to be chief of this historic clan, or if you wish to stand for election as chief, Clan Ewing would love to hear from you now—straight away, before it's too late! The Ewing Family Convention will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2024 at Strathleven House, West Dunbartonshire, Scotland, UK, and simultaneously at the Crowne Plaza St Louis Airport Hotel, Bridgeton, Missouri, USA, when, unless a claim can be proven through hereditary

right, the clan will appoint its choice of chief—the first for nearly two-and-a-half centuries. The meeting will be held under the supervision of George Way of Plean, Carrick Pursuivant and former Procurator Fiscal of the Court of the Lord Lyon.

Find out more, or register to vote at:  
[vote@ewingfamilyassociation.org](mailto:vote@ewingfamilyassociation.org)  
For more information please see the Clan Ewing website: [www.clanewing.uk](http://www.clanewing.uk) or  
Ewing Family Association website:  
[www.ewingfamilyassociation.org](http://www.ewingfamilyassociation.org)

## Tartan Day

I love *The Banner* and have been buying it for many years. I take it and read to my dear old mother who loves anything to do with our Scottish heritage. As someone who wears the kilt and Highland dress fairly regularly, I greatly enjoy Tartan Day and personally think that our date (July 1<sup>st</sup>) here in Australia makes more sense, as it's specifically about the return of Tartan to its proper place after the harsh proscription years.

Having said that, if the US Senate and the Canadians have set the date in stone, I guess that's pretty much it. Personally, I'm happy to attend as many Tartan Day's as people want to arrange. In recent years, I've had many quite shocking experiences with members of the Australian public, of all ages, who just don't recognise the outfit at all, and I've had people use the dreaded skirt word when they see me in my kilt with no sense of rudeness, they are just completely ignorant of the significance of the tradition at all! I find it appalling that in a relatively few decades Scottish heritage seems to be out of mind, despite programs like *Outlander* being so popular. It's time for a cultural fight back!

So, the more Tartan Day's, the merrier!  
Kindest regards,  
David Stewart Lovegrove  
Australia

## Ancient tartans



After reading about Scotland's oldest tartan (*Scotland's oldest tartan recreated, the Scottish Banner, March, 2024*), it takes me back to 1958 where I started an apprenticeship in a textile company by the name of Wilson Bros (Alva) of Dalmore Works Alva. I worked there for five years, and whilst I was there the company produced very high-quality products which included dress material, tie cloth (mainly for schools) and many specialised products, and of course tartans. I should also add that our fabric designer was no less than a Blue Ribbon designer for three years in a row whose name was Peter Simpson, so I suppose it may be because of him that we also produced ancient tartans. I believe, if the mill is still in existence, it was converted into a museum. I was told this back in back in 2024, so perhaps there could be some information still on hand.

The mill was overtaken by a company from Glasgow, they sold a lot of mohair fabrics that we produced, and they made so much money that they bought Wilson Bros out and renamed the factory Glentana Mills.

Perhaps there could be some fabric samples of more ancient tartans still there.

W.E McAllister  
Mt Pritchard, NSW  
Australia

**Ed note: Thanks for your insight into the cloth industry in Alva. We understand this building is now sadly derelict and has been empty since 2019.**

## The Hebridean Baker



Thank you for a lovely article with Coinneach MacLeod, aka The Hebridean Baker (*The Hebridean Baker at Home, the Scottish Banner, February, 2024*).

I have followed and greatly enjoyed Coinneach's content on social media, his love for his Scottish culture, and of course Hebridean background, is wonderful to watch. I will not make any of the book tour but will be ordering his latest cookbook and will enjoy his recipes of his homeland, and my ancestry.

Thank you also for an informative selection of articles and stories in *the Scottish Banner*, I enjoy them all immensely.

Claire MacPhedran  
Long Island, NY  
USA

## FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



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

### Double beauty



Mik Coia

### Anchor Mill



The iconic Anchor Mill, an enduring monument to Paisley's rich history in the textile industry.  
IG: @eadietam

### Winter in Glencoe



A great place to put on the fire in Glencoe.  
Derek A Grist

### Highland stag



Amidst the beauty of Glen Coe, stands a majestic stag.  
The Killed Photographer