

# 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?

## St. Giles' Cathedral



Located in the heart of Edinburgh, St. Giles' Cathedral, also known as the High Kirk of Edinburgh, is a majestic symbol of Scotland's religious heritage. Established in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, this iconic cathedral has witnessed over 900 years of history. Originally a small parish church, it was dedicated to St. Giles, the patron

saint of cripples and lepers. The church gained prominence in the 14<sup>th</sup> century when it became a collegiate church, and later, in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, it played a pivotal role in the Scottish Reformation under John Knox, a key figure in Protestant Reformation.

St. Giles' unique crown steeple, added in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century, is one of Edinburgh's most recognizable landmarks. The Thistle Chapel, added in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, showcases stunning craftsmanship and serves as the home of the Order of the Thistle, Scotland's foremost Order of Chivalry. You can also see Arthur's Seat towering in the distance.

**Thomas Lamont**  
*The Kilted Photographer*  
Falkirk, Scotland

## The Heart of Dunfermline



I've just read your piece about Dunfermline in the June edition of *the Scottish Banner* and loved it! This is our home town and you have done a wonderful job in promoting its history. We grew up spending many a 'summer' day in Pittencrieff Park (known locally as The Glen). Andrew Carnegie left funds for an annual children's gala which culminated in a picnic and races in The Glen. The gala still takes place to this day. Mr Carnegie bought The Glen after being refused entry by the owner, at the time, when he was a young boy. Andrew was born in a cottage next to The Glen and would often stand at the boundary fence wishing he could explore the park. He bought it for the enjoyment of Dunfermline's children so that they would never miss out on having fun in the park, as he did.

Peacocks hold a special place in my heart having grown up in Dunfermline. Sadly, there was a terrible incident a couple of years back when the Peacock's home was broken into late at night and they were targeted by some violent individuals. The local community was in an uproar and a huge amount of money was raised to help with vet fees and rebuilding their home to make it secure. Such is the love of our Peacocks. In fact, my cousin, who still lives in Dunfermline, is now a volunteer looking after them.

I also have fond memories of Carnegie Library. My older sister would take me there on a Saturday morning and I would eagerly wait until the entry rope was removed and rush up the stone staircase to sit on the orange plastic children's seats which were popular then (back in the '70's). I can still remember the pleasant smell of the library and visited it just last year while we were visiting family. It still has the same smell! Must be the books.

We would often combine our trip into town with a visit to Carnegie Swimming Baths (also funded by Mr Carnegie). This was his first gift to Dunfermline in 1902. They have since undergone renovations and extensions, but you can still see the original swimming pool and the ornate surrounds. Carnegie Hall in Dunfermline has hosted many entertainers and we've enjoyed lots of shows in the Hall.

Brass rubbings of Robert the Bruce's plate covering his burial place in Dunfermline Abbey were mandatory when on a school trip to the Abbey. Nowadays there is a barrier around the grave site (quite rightly) to discourage visitors from stepping onto it.

Thank you again, for invoking wonderful childhood memories of my beloved home town.

**Laura Veitch**  
*Tamborine Mountain, Queensland*  
Australia

**Ed note:** Thank you, Laura, for your wonderful note and sharing your memories and more information on Scotland's newest city.

## Georgetown Pipe Band



I was scanning through the May edition when I saw a photo promoting the recently concluded Northumberland Scottish Festival. In the background is the drumhead of the band to which I belong, the Georgetown Pipe Band, and if you look closely at the right-hand edge of the photo, you might see my tenor drum and my beaky old nose above it! Many thanks for this brush with greatness, and as an aside, our drum corps placed second in Grade 4 this year. Cheers,

**Ron Hanlin**  
*Georgetown, Ontario*  
Canada

**Ed note:** Thanks Ron and glad to have had you grace our pages and congratulations to the Georgetown Pipe Band.

## Perthshire



Thank you for the informative articles on both Perth Museum and Scone Palace (*the Scottish Banner*, July, 2024). These were in fact quite timely for us as my husband and I are off to Scotland in September and have now decided to include both in our itinerary. In fact, we are now using Perth as a base (as suggested by Lord Stormont in the article) and are really looking forward to our stay. I was aware of Scone Palace and have always wanted to visit and somehow the new Perth Museum missed my radar. We have been to Scotland several times and always try and stay somewhere new and take in new things. I have never seen the Stone of Destiny and that will be special for us to take in this important piece of Scottish history.

We are fortunate to be going for over three weeks and plan to visit not only for Perthshire but Edinburgh, Glasgow, Oban, Skye, Rum and Mull. Of course, we may add more and if we do not visit each spot, we will be back. Scotland is such a special place, the landscape, people, culture and light. I always feel like I am home when there and that will never change.

Love *the Banner* and thank you for always being there with so much great information.

**Lynn Mackenzie**  
*Wilmington, Delaware*  
USA

**Ed note:** Have a great trip Lynn and enjoy everything that Perthshire, and Scotland, has to offer.

## Culross



The beautiful and colourful village town of Culross. Notable and historic buildings in the burgh include Culross Town House, the 16<sup>th</sup> century Culross Palace and the remains of the Cistercian house of Culross Abbey. Thomas Cochrane, 10<sup>th</sup> Earl of Dundonald, spent much of his early life in Culross, where his family had an estate. A bust in his honour, the work of Scott Sutherland, can be seen outside the Town House. He was the first Vice Admiral of Chile.

**JT Photography**  
*Falkirk, Scotland*

## FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



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

### Doone Castle



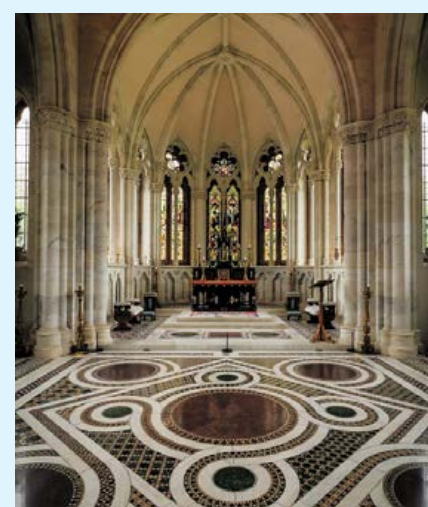
Late 13<sup>th</sup> /early 14<sup>th</sup> century Doone Castle. As well as it's esteemed history, the castle featured in *Outlander* as Castle Leoch, *Game of Thrones* as Winterfell and *Monty Python* and *Holy Grail* movie. *Fly - Caledonia* @FrancisMcC33178

### Eilean Donan Castle



High above Eilean Donan Castle. *Ryan Shiels Photography*

### Mount Stuart



Mount Stuart on the Isle of Bute. The Chapel part of the house is amazing... especially the floor! *Derek A Grist*

### Glencoe



Open space at Glencoe. *Mick Coia*