

# 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?

## VE Day 80 in Ottawa

The Sons of Scotland Pipe Band got the word out to pipers and drummers from all over to help them mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day in Ottawa. Pipe Major Bethany Bisaillion created an event that saw 50 pipers and 20 drummers assemble along the route which took the players and audience from the Canadian War Museum to the National War Memorial on Saturday, May 3. Each piper played for 1 minute at their chosen spot, and some doubled and tripled up their playing to ensure all 80 spots were covered.

Once done, they met the drummers at the War Memorial, and they played together for a huge crowd that had gathered to watch. The day was complete with a reception at the local Scottish pub Deacon Brodie's that enjoyed a wee set of tunes from the band on their patio.



Later on that week, the band returned to the Canadian War Museum to play for their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Sons got to perform at the opening in May, 2005, and they were pleased to help mark the occasion. So many great events to mark in our community and many others, and it's just great to be part of the celebrations!

**Bethany Bisaillion**  
**Sons of Scotland Pipe Band**  
**Ottawa, Ontario**  
**Canada**



## The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo



I have attended the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo several times and enjoyed reading this amazing event is celebrating 75 years this year. Just how far has it come to be the 'must see' event it now is. One thing I love about the Tattoo is the variety that comes with each year, the core is always however going to be the tradition of the military bands and pipes and drums. There can be no better place than Edinburgh Castle to stage this which adds so much to the experience, even on a wet night.

Many years ago, I purchased an old VHS video cassette of the Tattoo and made it a bucket list event to attend in person. I am happy to report I have ticked it off my bucket list five times in total and loved each and every show I have attended and of course my visits to the amazing country that is Scotland. I have made sure on each visit I take in a different part, from Orkney to the Scottish Borders. Like many when I cannot get to Scotland there are many Scottish events I can attend close to home and enjoy.

For a small nation we are all fortunate to have such a rich and strong culture around the world and for me I am hoping to tick my bucket list again soon and get back to the Tattoo for visit six.

Thank you for a wonderful selection of interesting and informative stories.

**Jen Macdougall**  
**Burlington, Ontario**  
**Canada**

## Gaelic Society of Inverness 100<sup>th</sup> Culloden Commemorative Service



Photo courtesy of the National Trust for Scotland.

On 19 April, the National Trust for Scotland hosted the Gaelic Society of Inverness for its 100<sup>th</sup> Culloden Commemorative Service. Commemorating the anniversary of the battle, which took place on 16 April 1746, a procession was led by piper Steven McCabe from the Culloden Visitor Centre to the memorial cairn, where the Society held its annual service. Events held by the Trust over the anniversary weekend also included the Christopher Duffy Memorial Lecture series, which saw Dr Darren Scott Layne and Dr Arran Johnston share insights into the Jacobite uprising using data and eyewitness testimony.

**National Trust for Scotland**

## Scottish dog breeds under threat



Reading April's *Scottish Banner* I was greatly distressed to read that my beloved dog breed, the Scottish Terrier, has been listed by the UK Kennel Club, in danger of dying out due to their declining registration numbers. They are now on a 'At Watch' or 'Vulnerable' list. I own a Scottie, who is loyal, loving and highly intelligent-Maggie loves everyone she meets, and every dog she sees. She is playful and has a wicked sense of humour. It is beyond me how or why dog breeds come and go in fashion; they are dogs not items of clothing!

Keep up the good work producing *the Banner* it is such a grand newspaper, which I eagerly look forward to each and every month.

**Mrs Margaret Michie Benney**  
**Craigieburn, Victoria**  
**Australia**

## How sheep conquered Scotland



What a fascinating article in the May edition of *the Scottish Banner* about sheep (*How sheep conquered Scotland*). I always love seeing the sheep scattered across the Scottish countryside and to be honest have not really thought about how they got to be or their historical importance to Scotland.

I certainly was not aware they had such a long history in Scotland, and they truly are part and parcel of the Scotland we all know, and love! To think that sheep have had an impact on Scottish culture and economy is fascinating to me and to hear more about the story of sheep is fantastic to this Scotland lover. I always take great joy in seeing sheep going about their day and for me there is something reassuring and relaxing in seeing them. I have a Scotland sheep magnet on my fridge which always makes me smile.

Thank you for this and so many other unique stories you share in *the Scottish Banner*.

**Claire Gromley**  
**Chicago, Illinois**  
**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):**

### Glasgow



Lovely Glasgow evening over the River Clyde.  
**Craig Duncan Photography**

### Doune Castle



Lovely evening at the Doune Castle, a featured in Game of Thrones, Outlander & Monty Python and the Holy Grail.  
**Jamie Taylor Photography**

### Kilchurn Castle



Reflections at Kilchurn Castle.  
**Soul of Alba Photography.**

### The Jacobite Steam Train



The Jacobite Steam Train at Polnish.  
**Mik Coia.**