

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?

Piper Daniel Logan Laidlaw VC Memorial Appeal



My name is Kevin McLean and I'm a piper and member of the Ancre Somme Association Scotland Charity. We have a project running to produce and unveil a bronze bust of Piper Daniel Logan Laidlaw VC "The Piper of Loos" in his home village of Swinton, Berwickshire to mark the 110th anniversary of him going over the top at the Battle of Loos. Daniel Logan Laidlaw was born in Little Swinton, in the Scottish Borders, 26th July 1875, he died 2nd June 1950.

During WW1 he was known as "The Piper of Loos", the gallant Daniel Laidlaw played his pipes in "No Mans Land" until he was wounded, brave and courageous Piper Laidlaw served with the Kings Own Scottish Borderers. He received his VC from King George V, at Buckingham Palace in 1916. Piper Laidlaw VC is buried at St Cuthbert's Churchyard, Norham, Northumberland.

The Ancre Somme Association SCIO (ASA SCOTLAND CHARITY) a forces charity, with the support of the Laidlaw

Family, Swinton & Ladykirk Community Council, Swinton Primary School, and the people from the Village are working together to create a fitting Memorial for Piper Daniel Logan Laidlaw VC. The charity will commission a Memorial Bust and seek Heritage Funding to pay for the Bust and plinth, approximately £20,000.

Scottish sculptor Helen Runciman will produce the Memorial Bust. The Community Council agreed to a Memorial Bench, Flag Poles, Planters, and gravel to enhance the area where the Bust will be placed - we need your support people, this memorial means so much to the family, it will enhance the local area and the village, the school children will be involved in the project, this Memorial will leave a legacy for future generations.

To support this project please visit:
<https://asascotland.enthuse.com/cf/piper-daniel-logan-laidlaw-vc-memorial-appeal>

Kevin McLean

Inverness



Thank you for the wonderful article on Inverness, this is without question my favourite Scottish city and one which I so look forward to visiting. I first went to Inverness in the late 1980s and just loved the atmosphere, charm and friendly people. I am so thrilled to hear that Inverness Castle is about to

open as a tourist attraction, this will no doubt become a stop for many visiting the region and I too will return once the castle opens its doors. The castle is so iconic for the city and turning such a prestigious building into a modern attraction is very exciting. The city is so compact and really does have some wonderful shops, pubs and restaurants.

Of course, there is so much to see within an easy day trip from the city it really is the perfect base for so much. I have also visited Culloden Moor, and this is such a special, solemn and important place for all Scots and their descendants to visit at least once, if like me it is a place that will stay with you forever.

I love all things Scottish and am a proud descendant of Caledonia.

Claire Price
St Catherines, Ontario
Canada

Clan Hunter and Muirhead International Gathering 2026



Madam Pauline with Macer Venatorus, Graham and Raymond Morehead, President Muirhead Clan Society.

We are delighted to announce the dates of our next Clan Hunter and Clan Muirhead International Gathering. Celebrating 25 years of friendship Friday 24th July 2026 – Sunday 26th July 2026.

Book early to make use of our new early-bird special offer at: www.clanhunterscotland.com/shop/gathering-2026

Madam Pauline and our team of tour guides look forward to welcoming you to your ancestral home at Hunterston Castle.

Raymond Morehead
President Muirhead Clan Society

A Bleak Christmas

By: Kennedy Smith

*Maw, aw Maw, oh whars oor lum?
The yin fur Santa Claus tae come.
We dae hae yin? so says ma chum,
Wee brains.
Wi aw the pressies, aw the fun
Fur weans.*

*Ach, wee Jim, tis sair tae say;
We aw went smokeless yesterday,
Save log-burnin' folks frae doon the brae.
Ye ken the yins,
The hoity folk wi' naught t' dae
For awe their sins.*

*But Maw, aw Maw, whit 'll a dae?
All no hae ony gemms t' play,
Nor jigsaw puzzles just tae lay
Aw over the flair.
All greet aw day an' aw nicht tae.
An maybe mair!*

*Aw Jim, wee Jim a'll skelp yer lug.
Or fetch yer faither back frae pub.
He'll tan yer bum, A dinna dub -
A richt strawmash;
An hae ye greetin' like a dug.
So, dinna fash!*

*An so, it be in times like these
That World Wars stert in twos or threes;
An multiply like Gruy`ere cheese.
While ithers dither;
An' nations skelp wee chieles wi' ease
An yin an ither.*

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



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

Linlithgow Palace



Linlithgow Palace, birthplace of Mary Queen of Scots & St Michael's Parish Church.
Craig Duncan Photography

The National Wallace Monument



The National Wallace Monument standing proud in Stirling.
Fly - Caledonia

The Kelpies



Golden hour at The Kelpies, Falkirk.
Jamie Taylor Photography

Ullapool



Beautiful day in Ullapool.
Mik Coia