

# SCOT POURRI



## St Andrews

Thank you for your story on one of my favorite places in Scotland, St Andrews (*St Andrews-Not a City, the Scottish Banner*, November, 2025). Though I am not a golfer I love visiting this historic seaside town. St Andrews offers stunning coastal scenery with heritage, and friendly locals. It is so easy to get to from Edinburgh or Dundee and has so much on offer, it is a gold town, but also a university town, history town and a

great place to walk around. I love walking around the ruins of St Andrews Cathedral and trying the various restaurants around town. Though I have been to most places mentioned in the article, there are some I haven't and others I have now been reminded to return to.

I do encourage other readers to make time to also visit this gem of Scotland when they can.

**Greg Cassidy**  
Sacramento, California  
USA

But Ionad Hiort is more than a visitor experience. It's a catalyst for regeneration in the Western Isles:

- creating local employment
- supporting Gaidhlig language and culture
- nurturing education and research
- strengthening communities facing depopulation

We're now entering a crucial phase of fundraising and awareness-building, and we're reaching out to people who care about Scotland's islands, heritage, landscapes, culture and communities.

Our website is [www.ionadhiort.org](http://www.ionadhiort.org) and you can find us over on Instagram and Facebook.

With kind regards,  
**Iain Buchanan**  
Chairman of Ionad Hiort  
Scotland

### The Stone of Destiny



I thoroughly enjoyed the article on the Stone of Destiny (*The Christmas theft of the Stone of Destiny, the Scottish Banner*, December, 2025). This event was quite the moment in Scottish history and the story of Scottish nationalism. The Stone of Destiny evokes many emotions for many

### 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?

Scots across the world, and it seems to still capture headlines today. I really look forward to my next visit to Scotland where I will make the pilgrimage to Perth to see the Stone myself. I am glad it is being properly housed in Scotland as the Stone represents much to many and if fragments have been dispersed across the UK and around the world that also represents how Scots have ventured beyond and made their mark on the world. Though I do wonder if those who may have them would look to return them?

I really enjoy reading about Scotland's past as it helps me understand more about Scotland when I am there and from where my ancestors come from.

Thank you for such a lively and informative read every month.

**Jane Wright**  
Hamilton, Ontario  
Canada

### Large silver cup

I am hoping to find a photo of a very large silver cup with the names of my aunties on Eileen Olsen and Inger Olsen, they were dancers in 1926? I have seen the cup back in 2011 when I came to the Games, a wonderful day. I am putting some family history together and I would appreciate any information about Eileen Olsen. I have photo of her with a lot medals, 20 or more, on her dress my mother was her sister. Many thanks if you can help,

**Janet Taylor**  
[kaurinuird111@yahoo.com](mailto:kaurinuird111@yahoo.com)

### Tom Weir



David McVey's article *Tom Weir - One of Us* in the January 2026 issue, and his mention of Tom climbing Duncryne ("the Dumpling") every day, brought back happy memories of our holiday in the Gartocharn area in September 2012.

Staying at The Old School House B&B nearby, and lent plastic bags and rubber bands to serve at my "rubber boots", I climbed Duncryne to see the panoramic view of Loch Lomond from the summit. My Thomas ancestors lived nearby on Little Finnery farm (1733-1790s). I had written to Tom Weir about 2006 and got a letter from his widow Rhona in January 2008 - she found the letter, unanswered, on his desk while she was going through his papers. Thanks, David, for an interesting article. (PS. I have McVey ancestry too!)

**Neil Thomas**  
Belair, South Australia

## FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

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

### Sunshine on Leith



Lovely day at Leith.  
*Tom Duffin Photographer*

### Buachaille Etive Mòr



Majestic Buachaille Etive Mòr, Glencoe.  
*Fiona McNicol*

### Glencoe



Lovely day at Blackrock cottage, Glencoe.  
*Robert Gibb*

### Scottish snow



Winter magic.  
*Mik Coia*

**Ionad Hiort, the St Kilda Centre**



A charaid chòir.

I'm getting in touch because we're gathering supportive voices for Ionad Hiort | St Kilda Centre - a visionary new cultural and heritage visitor centre planned for Mangersta, Uig on the Isle of Lewis. It will be a world-class, community-rooted gateway to St Kilda, one of the most extraordinary and fragile places in the North Atlantic.

Given its isolation and protected status, St Kilda requires innovative approaches to storytelling and access. Ionad Hiort will create a powerful and immersive way for people to connect with its story - through landscape-inspired architecture, digital interpretation, Gaidhlig culture and community-led storytelling. Designed by Reiulf Ramstad and Dualchas Architects, the project is deeply rooted in place and shaped by island voices. Our exhibition space has been created by Bright, a Scottish-based and award-winning company, specialising in creating innovative and unforgettable visitor experiences.

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](mailto:info@scottishbanner.com) or online at [www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us](http://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!