

# 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?

## State of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games - Now and Forward



The lower entrance to Old Yonahlossee Road.

I am directing this notice to our Clans, Conveners, Campers, Patrons (all classes) and the attending public. Hurricane Helene (or Tropical Storm Helene by the time it arrived in Avery County) devastated the North Carolina High Country, both from disastrous flooding and high winds. Our beloved Avery County was hit especially hard, as you have no doubt noted in media reports.

Luckily, the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games (GMHG) came through very fortunately when compared with many in the county. That is not to say we came through unscathed. There is certainly work to be done to allow us to hold our 69<sup>th</sup> annual Games July 10-13, 2025, but I want to allay any concerns on the part of the public about our ability to hold our event. We will go on!

Having said that, we do need help to recover and so does our community. In summary, our impacts are assessed as follows: We have some trees down at MacRae Meadows and MacRowdy that have to be cut up and removed. We have \$10,000 of repair and replacement to the campground electrical system. We have \$5000 to \$10,000 of road repair at Gate 2 and the entry to the Chieftain parking area. Most importantly, Old Yonahlossee Road was left impassable for nearly the entire length. Old Yonahlossee Road is the path by which our shuttle buses access MacRae Meadows. The Road is privately owned by others, but we desperately need to contribute financially to the restoration

of the road to ensure the restoration is done before next July. The greatest and most expensive damage to the road is from severe washing. In many places Old Yonahlossee is a third of its former width and cannot accommodate school buses.

In recent years, the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games has seen our resources diminished by the costs of no Games in 2020 because of COVID, the tragic death in 2022 associated with the Bear, the cost in 2023 of removing over 90 trees on MacRae Meadows due to fungus and insect attack, and the 2024 failure of a major portion of our electrical system which required wholesale replacement. Each of these occurrences represented a significant, unbudgeted expenditure. In the aggregate, they represent over \$400,000 in out-of-pocket expense for GMHG.

We are now in the position of asking for donations to help with these extraordinary expenses associated with Helene. We hope that our subscribing Clan societies, Scottish societies, and supporting individuals will donate to GMHG as generously as you can. No donation is too small; any amount will help. We pledge to keep the donations separate from our operations funding, and we will donate any money remaining from the campaign to the Avery County Chamber of Commerce "Build Back Avery" fund. The Avery Chamber of Commerce account will be targeted 100% to Avery County recovery.

GMHG is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit and your donations will be tax deductible. Thank you very much for your consideration of this appeal.

Please click on this link for donations:  
<https://secure.givelively.org/donate/grandfather-mountain-highland-games-inc/gmhg-helene-recovery>

Stephen Quillin  
President, Grandfather Mountain Highland Games  
North Carolina, USA

### My monthly pick me up

Just a short note to tell you just how much I enjoy getting *the Scottish Banner*. It really is 'a pick me up' for me each and every month. It is wonderful to learn something in each issue about the land of my birth. When I get my *Scottish Banner* it is my time and I immerse myself in the land which I love so dearly. There is always something in each issue which grabs my interest and often I find myself researching about more or planning to visit that place on my next Scottish adventure.

Thank you to all the wonderful contributors of this fine publication, as I can tell they too love to share their love of Scotland with those of us spread across the world.

George H Gunn  
Hamilton, New Zealand

**Ed note: Thank you George for your kind note and glad to hear the Scottish Banner is so well received, and yes our writers also love Scotland as much as we all do.**

### Family of Bruce International



Family of Bruce International had their Annual General Meeting, June 11, 2024 at Broomhall, the home of their Chief, Lord Elgin, in Dunfermline. There were 74 members present. After that, there were 4 days of bus trips around several of Bruce historical sites, including Edinburgh Castle, Paisley Abbey, Bannockburn, St. Andrews and Clackmannan. The week ended with a grand dinner in the Great Hall at Stirling Castle, complete with a pipe band.

Polly Bruce Tilford  
National Secretary to Family of Bruce  
USA

### Meet the Buchanans World Premier



The October 2022 weekend of the inauguration of the Chief of the Name and Arms of Clan Buchanan was unique (*Meet the Buchanans World Premier, the Scottish Banner*, October, 2024). It brought ancient tradition and contemporary focus together to celebrate the occasion. It cemented ongoing relationships between neighbouring clans, the ancient Buchanan Society, the worldwide Clan Buchanan Society International, clan folk, and the Chief and the Chief's family. The first Clan Parliament in over 340 years established initial directions for the clan's development.

Clar Innis!  
Malcolm Buchanan  
Canberra, Australia  
[www.theclanbuchanan.com](http://www.theclanbuchanan.com)

## FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

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

### Isle of Skye



The Trotternish Ridge on the misty Isle is a huge landscape of chaotic but very dramatic scenery.  
Fly - Caledonia

### Highland Coo



It's a coo's life in Scotland.  
Karen Snadden

### Edinburgh



A look down Princes Street in Edinburgh. Have you been?  
The Kilted Photographer

### Stirling Castle



Sunset over Stirling Castle  
JT Photography

### The Kelpies



Rise and shine with Scotland's majestic Kelpies! Captured at sunrise, this breathtaking view showcases the towering sculptures with the iconic silhouette of The National Wallace Monument in the distance. Looming even further are the serene peaks of Stuc a'Chroin and Ben Vorlich, bathed in the soft morning glow. A perfect blend of art, history, and nature - Scotland's beauty never fails to inspire.  
Thomas Lamont  
The Kilted Photographer  
Falkirk, Scotland