

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?

Perth Museum

I really wanted to tell you and your readers how much I enjoyed visiting the Perth Museum. After visiting Perth regularly and seeing the former City Hall lying empty and unused for 11 years, this year I was delighted to read in *the Scottish Banner* (*Perth Museum-At the centre of Scotland's story, the Scottish Banner, July, 2024*) of the transformation of the building into a Museum. This centrally located Museum has an outstanding collection of significant historical objects, highlighting the history and heritage of the area. But for me, the highlight of my visit this year was the Museum's centrepiece—the Stone of Destiny. It is in a special display room with amazing



lighting and photographic effects, giving the history of this unique Stone of Scone.

A "must see" if you are travelling in this area.

*Sue MacLeod OAM
Ringwood, Victoria
Australia*

previous evening in Sydney. This service was enjoyed by all those in attendance and it is hoped that this may become a regular annual event.

*Mal Nicolson
Clan MacNicol
Sydney, NSW
Australia*

Stirling 900

Thank you for the lovely article on Stirling in the November edition (*Celebrating Stirling 900, the Scottish Banner, November, 2024*). Our family came from Stirling on my father's side and even though dad left Scotland in his twenties, he was a lifetime proud Scot and especially of the city of Stirling. When we go to Scotland, we often base ourselves in Stirling as it is so convenient to reach so many other parts of the country. As shown in your article there are so many historical gems packed within a short distance in the city. There are also some wonderful restaurants and of course the people are super friendly. I also read in *the Banner* about the proposals to build near Stirling's historic and sacred site, Bannockburn Battlefield, I hope the council 'reads the room' right on this as so many in Scotland and us Scots abroad would be devastated if this ever happened.

Thank you to all the contributors to *the Scottish Banner*, I look forward to each edition.
*Gayle Smith
Port Credit, Ontario
Canada*



St Andrew's Day Ceilidh



Thanks for *the Scottish Banner* editions for our recent St. Andrew's Ceilidh. We had them on all the tables and there weren't all that many left when we were packing up at the end of the night!

The evening was a great success with 4 pipe bands showcasing plus 3 soloists, including a teenager who only picked up the pipes a few months ago. We had almost 200 attendees and we are always well supported by the Townsville Scottish Community and the Townsville Scottish Country Dancers who have everyone up on their feet stripping the willow etc.

*Amanda Stephenson
Secretary, RSL Memorial Pipes & Drums Townsville
Queensland, Australia*

Lockerbie Remembered



It brought back many memories when reading your December article *Lockerbie Remembered*. I recall that profoundly shocking day very well and still to this day am filled with sadness when thinking about it. I was not much older than some of those Syracuse University students who tragically perished. At that time I was also planning my own first European adventure and wondered if I should go. Our world seemed to lose some of its innocence on that day and the Scottish town of Lockerbie, which likely most around the world had never heard of, was forever changed and became infamous for all the wrong reasons. The iconic image of the cone of Pam Am 103 sitting on Scottish soil must be one of the most dramatic images from the 20th century. I am not looking forward to it, because we all of course know the outcome, but I will certainly be watching the new Lockerbie series the article mentions and will again reflect and remember all those innocent lives lost and changed both in the air and on the ground.

Congratulations on a fine publication.

*Mr Cameron Walker
Rochester, New York
USA*

Owed to the Haggis

As I sit on the veranda of my Australian home I have these flights of fancy and allow my thoughts to roam

To where I'm home amongst the heather when up a haggis pops its heid That's when the local gamie gets it in his shotgun bead

But that haggis its nae puddin' with its three legs no the same In fact I think its more human than just ordinary game

With its senses ever searching for any danger that's around It picks up that gamie's heartbeat where he lies there on the ground.

So it's up and off and runnin' round the hillside left and right Its three wee legs in unison man, what a wondrous sight.

And although it cannot turn around it has forward and reverse But when it's running backwards it's aye fallen on its erse.

But that haggis it's sae cunning that nae gamie's ever shot one. In fact, in all of history nae body's even caught one.

So on every Burns Night, when that trenchard in they carry With not haggis but a replica each twenty fifth of January.

*David Johns
Australia*

St Margaret's Day Kirkin' at St Stephen's Sydney



Sunday 17th November 2024 in Sydney saw St Stephen's Uniting Church in Sydney celebrate Remembrance Day plus Kirkin' of the Tartan with a Festival of St Margaret, the Patron Saint of Scotland. This saw seven Clan Banners paraded as a part of the Service, with the majority of the Congregation also adorned with tartan. The hymns and Service reflected the Scottish nature of the day. Susan Cooke read the Kirkin' Prayer and the Reading for St Margaret's Day was presented by David McLean. The Remembrance Day commemoration was followed by Piper Rob McLean playing the Scottish Lament, *Sleep Dearie Sleep*. Rob also performed a few tunes after the Service.

The congregation was swelled this day by many Clan McLean members, following their AGM and Dinner held the

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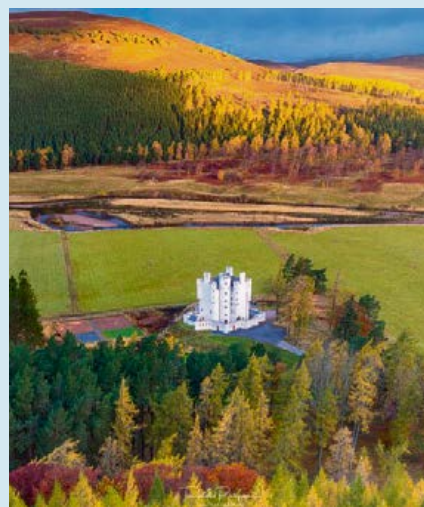
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Edinburgh life...
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Fascally Forrest



Autumn reflections at Fascally Forrest, Pitlochry.
Mik Coia

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 or online at 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!