

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?

Prose and the Edge



This is the poem which was written for the challenge between myself and the artist John Trevorrow. We had agreed to write and paint on the theme of the two "Heroes" of our nation, Wallace and Burns. John Trevorrow's image is astoundingly beautiful I hope my poem does it justice.

Prose and the Edge

Edge of the sword, sharpest and keen.
For victory & history so it would seem.
Wallace, with his countrymen raised,
who won victory on history's page?

A quill stroked pages among
Scotland's elite, sought equality,
fraternity at poetic retreats.

Where sits the victor when Quill
crossed the sword? Was it blood
when it ran or the sharpest word?
Both now inhabit the coldest of
soil, but which of these heroes
still make the blood boil?

Wallace whose body was broken and
spread, or Burns whose words
are now World read?

Kit Duddy
Kitspoems
<https://www.facebook.com/kitspoems>
Artwork by Scottish artist John Trevorrow
Trevorrow Art
[Facebook.com/TrevorrowArt](https://www.facebook.com/TrevorrowArt)
Scotland

Men in Kilts

Thank you for making my heart skip a beat with the *Men in Kilts* write up (*the Scottish Banner*, March, 2021). I love watching these two men banter off each other. I have learned a bit of my ancestral homeland too. Please stay safe and healthy, and again thank you for all your work.
Mary Lopez de Morales
(decendent daughter of Col. William Maule, Surveyor General Colony of North Carolina)
USA



There's City of Glasgow, a place that's built ships by the ton
City of Edinburgh, where all the government work is done
Fife with the castle and cathedral, both of St. Andrew
North Lanarkshire, where making Mackintosh coats is what they do

South Lanarkshire, with East Kilbride's museum of Rural Life
Aberdeenshire's cut from Aberdeen, just like a knife
Highland's got Loch Ness, you'd know it well from every book
So be sure the monster doesn't steal your fishing hook

Aberdeen City's got butteries and walls of granite
West Lothian's where Mary Queen of Scots first saw the planet
If you've got any paisley clothes, there's Renfrewshire to thank
Falkirk's got the Falkirk Wheel, it lifts boats, in full crank

Perth and Kinross is where Beatrix Potter's Gardens are
Dumfries and Galloway's Big Burns Supper makes Robbie Burns the star
Dundee City's where they wrote the Beano Comics first
North Ayrshire was where Nicola Sturgeon had her birth

East Ayrshire was where Duncan from the Thomas show was built
Angus has the Aberlemno Stones beneath its kilt
Scottish Borders has a house Sir Walter Scott once had
South Ayrshire's got Ailsa Craig, an island up for grabs

East Dunbartonshire's Antonine Wall's got pieces left
East Lothian's the golf coast, its golf courses are the best
Come see Moray's Bow Fiddle Rock or you'll say 'Fiddlesticks!'
The Electric Glen's just one box East Renfrewshire ticks

Stirling's National Wallace Monument pays Will respect
The National Mining Museum's Midlothian's best aspect
Loch Lomond in West Dunbartonshire's quite a famous loch
Argyll and Bute is well-linked with the Argyle-patterned sock

James Watt of Inverclyde helped revolutionise steam power
See Clackmannanshire's trail of sculptures and Alloa Tower
Na h-Eileanan Siar, or the Western Isles, are green and lush
The Shetland Islands, home of ponies cuter than a plush
The Orkney Islands are surrounded by the ocean blue
And now you've learnt the Scottish councils, all the 32.

Dec Browne
Australia

Ed note: Thanks so much Dec for sending this to us, and allowing us to share this with Scots across the world.

Tenement Tales

Like Jim Stoddart's Glasgow stories (*Kings, Castles & "Durty" Wee Rascals*), Brian Diamond's also made me laugh. The first twelve years of my life were spent in a tenement in Partick, Glasgow. We lived one up and had a 'Mrs G' on the ground floor. There were only four children in the close-me and my sister and two sisters also one up. I dare say we made noise running up and down the stairs, but we were oblivious to that. Our 'Mrs G', whose name I cannot recall, would open her door and yell at us to be quiet and stop running around before we even got up the outside steps, or when she heard our front door open. My mother would tell her we were only kids playing. I remember one time my father telling her to go inside and put some cotton wool in her ears, much to the delight of my sister and me. We very rarely saw or heard her after that.

My sister and I always went to the Kelvin Hall with the Brownies to see the circus. Sometimes mum would come and we got to go on the rides.
Thank you Brian for the green paint story (*the Scottish Banner, Tenement Tales*, February, 2021). I could hear your mother screaming "Oh no, not the green paint!" The visual picture that conjured up had me laughing for ages. As a child in the 1950s myself, the shock your mother got is familiar to me.
Carol Mitchell
Auckland, New Zealand

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

Send us your photos or letters via social media



Eilean Donan Castle



Most definitely the blue hour at Eilean Donan Castle.
A View From My Camera
Scotland

Highland Coo



Well I suppose it's winter but it's still #coosday isn't it? A perfectly positioned scratching branch too!
Gary Chittick
Paisley, Renfrewshire
Scotland

Stirling



Stirling Castle and Stuc a'Chroin - A fairy-tale scene at the beginning of the "you couldn't make it up" year! Stirling Castle with a snow covered Stuc a'Chroin in the background. Although there's approximately 17 miles between the Castle and the mountain, a long zoom lens gives the impression they are closer.
Raymond Dormer
Scotland

Ross Fountain



The Fountain of Youth-Ross Fountain, Edinburgh.
Aye Spy Photography
<http://ayespyphotography.co.uk>
Scotland