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.

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

Mary Lopez de Morales

(decedent daughter of Col.

Colony of North Carolina)

USA

two men banter off each other. I have

too. Please stay safe and healthy, and

again thank you for all your work.

William Maule, Surveyor General

Scottish Council Area song

My name's Dec Browne, I'm in Year 11 at

school, and though I've spent my whole

life in Australia, Scotland has been a land

I've had a strong connection to ever since

I first learnt about my Scottish ancestry

as a toddler. Though I have never been

has always given the impression of

given the chance to visit, Scottish culture

many good values to me, such as loyalty,

faithfulness, purity, and belief in oneself.

Over the past year, I have been devoting

more and more of my own time to learning

about Scotland, its language and its culture.

Recently, I wrote a song about the 32

council areas, to help make memorising them easier for me and anyone else

who wanted to, whether young or old.

and memorising their jurisdictions, I

And for all the effort people from places like Australia and the US put into teaching

couldn't find too many memory aids online

for Scotland's council areas, so I thought

learned a bit of my ancestral homeland

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 Scotland

There's City of Glasgow, a place that's built ships by the ton City of Edinburgh, where all the

North Lanarkshire, where making Mackintosh coats is what they do

government work is done

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

Wall's got pieces left
East Lothian's the golf coast, its
golf courses are the best
Come see Moray's Bow Fiddle Rock

East Dunbartonshire's Antonine

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

Fife with the castle and cathedral, both of St. Andrew North Lanarkshire, where making





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

that you might be interested in using it to promote a love across Scotland for people's council areas and what makes each one special and unique. The lyrics are:

Scottish Borders has a house Gary Chittick Paisley, Renfred South Ayrshire's got Ailsa Craig, an island up for grabs

Gary Chittick Paisley, Renfred South Ayrshire's got Ailsa Craig, an island up for grabs

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@scottishbsanner.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!