

## Margaret's QUIZ

*Back by popular request. Where would we be without a quiz?*

### Around Scotland

1. Which Scottish Poet is quoted on the back of a RBS £10 note?
2. A statue of Flora McDonald stands on the esplanade of which castle?
3. What is the title of the second novel in the trilogy "A Scot's Quair"?
4. Which is the deepest loch in Scotland?
5. What was the name of Tam O Shanter's horse?
6. Which Scottish king was killed at the battle of Flodden?
7. What and where is the Heart of Midlothian?
8. What was the name of the engineer in "Para Handy"?
9. Name the two "Broom" daughters (excluding the Bairn)
10. Which fictional village was at the centre of the film "Local Hero", and which real village was used in filming?

*Margaret and Dorothy.*

Answers on back page.

### JUST US

*Things are beginning to open up. Schools we all hope will return in August. Pubs will serve drinks and meals, hotels can be booked. Pods are available at the Stair Arms and other venues. Some churches are happy to open their doors. However the virus has not gone away! We did say "more later" about our meeting so here goes. There are a few questions we need answered and hopefully you are happy to give your input to those who deliver your newsletter. Our finances are still in good shape (and our thanks to Margaret) We did consider having Xmas lunch somewhere but felt it was too difficult to organise for our numbers and at the same time keep people safe, so it will have to wait. We have informed Midlothian that we intend to continue when we can and await their advice. They are happy for us to do what we can and will be in touch.*

### *In the meantime-*

*Take care of yourselves and others. Practise patience.*

*Be encouraging to all and God Bless!*

*Aileen ,Belinda, Catherine, Fiona, Gwen, Margaret and Ray*

### Answers to quiz

10. a) Ferness, b) Pennan (Aberdeenshire)  
 7. St Giles 8. Dan McPhail 9. Daphne & Maggie  
 4. Loch Morar 5. Meg/Maggie 6. James IV  
 1. Norman McCaig 2. Inverness 3. Cloud Howe



Three Crows ?

**Hi Everyone**

We do hope you are all well even now. Some of us have had a rough time health-wise but we pray that as each day comes they will feel stronger and return to full fitness. Just know ,if you are one of those, know that we are thinking of you.

It seems to me that the lockdown goes in phases .At first I said all was well. I had been busy and taken great comfort from my garden and from nature generally. However on the odd day recently, although I have a great deal for which to be thankful, I find I am really missing human contact. I miss meeting friends and going for coffee or lunch. I especially miss those who are shielding and not able to go out at all but I do recognise that none of us can just assume we will visit anyway because of course their families might not be too happy about that. If anything happened we would feel very upset so we just need to be patient. It won't be too long now.

Now in order to keep in contact I have been strongly encouraged to use ZOOM.in spite of my reservations. As I said, it is not that I cannot use it, it is that I do not want to. However I must say that in dire circumstances it has a place, although the definition of ZOOM in my antiquated dictionary is “to make or cause a humming or buzzing sound”! And so it is often.

**Aileen’s Lockdown Recipe**

We did say that Aileen had been perfecting her girdle scones but who knows how that went? However being a star baker she has agreed to share another of her delicious recipes. Who knows? Perhaps some of us might offer to share our efforts in the orchard mini market! Go compare?

**Gluten Free Victoria Sponge****Ingredients**

240g Unsalted Butter

120g G.F.Plain Flour

1.5tsp. Baking Powder

240 g Caster sugar

120g Ground Almonds

2tblsp Milk

4 Medium Eggs

1/4 Tsp Salt

*Set oven to 160C /140Fan.*

*Line and grease 2x8ins tins*

**Method-**

Beat butter and sugar on high for 5 mins. Add eggs one at a time. Add vanilla. Sieve flour , baking powder and salt. Add ground almonds. Beat well. Bake for 30-35 mins.

**Butter cream**

200g each of unsalted butter and icing sugar. Add vanilla (optional)

Beat on high for 5 mins.

Spread on to sponge layer with jam.

**LOL-(Just to show we are young at heart!)**

*Me: (sobbing my eyes out, eyes swollen, nose red)“I can’t see anymore. — — —I am not going to let you hurt me like this again!”*

**Trainer: “It was a sit up! You did one sit up!”**

“I hate it when people act all intellectual and talk about Mozart while they’ve never even seen one of his paintings!”



*I asked my Grandpa,“After 65 years you still call Grandma “Darling, Beautiful, and Honey”.“ What’s the secret?*

*He said “I forgot her name 5 years ago and I’m scared to ask her”*

Therapist: “Your wife says you never buy her flowers. Is that true?”

Husband “Well to be honest, I never knew she sold flowers”

Catherine



I do not want to converse when I have to wait my turn or someone else can “mute” me! That said, I have had some interesting meetings. Trying to be clever with What’s App on my laptop I ended up being at right angles to everyone else ,while another guest could see us and hear us but could not speak to us! Perhaps this is an age thing?-or a complete lack of interest?

Now shopping is another experience -to be enjoyed-or not. When John Lewis opened I thought it would be a nice idea to go into town. Having “supported” one of my teenagers while he shopped I took myself off to have a look at shoes. What bargains were to be had. I chose a rather lovely pair of summer sandals, greatly reduced. On opening the box when I got home I had a bit of a surprise. One blue and one gold! Shopping is not so good when you have to return stuff, queue to get in ,wear a mask, squint over that to see anything, pay the parking (twice) and come home with nothing! I think I will leave it for a while.

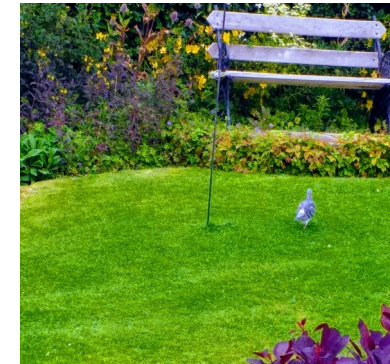
Mind you shopping online is not much better .My new clothes pole from Amazon came several weeks after being ordered and hey presto-another surprise! It looked like a half shut knife!-(bent in transit.)

What a moan!

In spite of all this I assure you I am well and happy with my lot.

Take care till next time. Ray

P.S. Another thing, many thanks to those who helped me try to help an “injured” racing pigeon. When my knight (thanks to Erica) rode in to the rescue it flew away! However when said knight drove off it came back and has been feeding in my garden ever since. It is beautiful and seems very happy. Other pigeons seem to be very accepting of it .In fact could it have a new beau? If you know of anyone looking for their “prize doo” it has moved into Edgehead!







**Committee Meeting –with a difference!**

The reason you see us all in masks is that we had a committee meeting to discuss plans for the future of the Group. The decision was made that because of the uncertainty we cannot hope to meet before January 2021 at the earliest. We may need to consider a different venue perhaps and we need to seriously consider the mitigation which needs to be in place, to ensure all are well. Would we be insured if something went wrong? More later.

**Tea Party-then and now!**



**How things have changed.**



15th July 2020

**Untamed White Mop**

The day dawned bright and sunny to so many of us who had been looking not a little shabby over the previous few weeks of lockdown. Some had resourceful members of family to trim them up, others-(well one or two) developed new skills and did their own ,but the whole thing has not been easy for anyone. We have seen more older women looking as if they had been dragged through a hedge backwards and more men who would have been better wearing a ponytail!

“The first cut is the sweetest” they say. Hear,hear! and I looked forward to my turn. My least favourite look is to be masked with an untamed head of white. And to think we wouldn’t be seen without make up in previous months!



**Pathedible**

One of the great pleasures of lockdown has been visiting Pathedible in the Village Hall. This is a fresh fruit and vegetable service in the village. Held first of all in the Orchard but now each Thursday at 10.00am in the Village Hall where you can buy fresh produce or order it before-hand. It is becoming like a mini market with baking and jams now included.

Our thanks go out to Jenny , Tim and others.

You may also notice two garden seats in the Orchard, donated by Liz and Andrew Barr. Well done Pathhead!

*Fiona*