



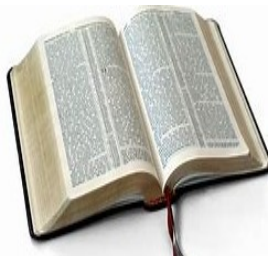
Hi guys things have moved on at a pace since the last issue. The roll out of the vaccine is underway. I have received my first dose and I hope you all have as well. We can now look forward to the second jag and then we can begin to wonder how long it might be before we can meet again.



A few more smiles

From the Herald Diary Page 2018.

A Glasgow reader was picking up his daughter from a party in the West End, which made him think back about going to a party there a generation before. He recalled: "The music was a bit loud, and the neighbour started knocking through the wall. I still remember a drunk at the party staring at the wall and shouting "There's na door there! You'll have to come round..... ."



Mark 10:27 Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.'

Psalms 107:1

Give thanks to the LORD for He is good: His love endures forever.

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Let us pray.

God, you know the fears and anxieties in our hearts over the covid pandemic. We barely dare to hope for a safe way out of this situation. Today Father, we bring our fears to you. We trust in your compassion, and we know that you can do more than we could ever imagine in our wildest dreams. God, you are our hope, we trust and love You.

Amen.

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"Wherever the art of Medicine is loved, there is also a love of Humanity. "

Hippocrates



Some people returning to work after Christmas. A reader from Glasgow overheard a colleague explaining his presents. "So basically my family must think I smell, drink too much and have threadbare socks"

A minister at family time was discussing the Magi who brought gifts for the baby Jesus. The minister referring to these visitors as Kings said, "there is a higher authority than Kings, do you know who that is? There was silence for a moment, then a tentative voice was heard to say "Aces?"

A reply overheard between two old pals to the question "What did you get for Christmas?" came the reply "see that BMW at the front of the building?" "Wow," said his pal. He went on "Yes, I got a tie the same colour"

Stuff to Know about Scotland

Scotland is such a fascinating country – the history, legendary tales and delicious food and drink. But even those of us lucky enough to live here can still find something new to learn with these fun facts about Scotland.

So, settle down and let's look at some interesting facts about Scotland from the language and heritage to our award-winning spots. It should be just enough about Scotland to keep you entertained while we can't travel right now.



We all know Scotland is famous for its whisky – but did you know it's also got a very healthy gin obsession as well? Between 70 and 80% of the UK's gin is produced in Scotland. Gin is quicker and easier to make and the Scots have always been innovative. There are over 100 gins to choose from, including the world-famous Hendrick's and Islay's only dry gin, The Botanist.

Skye is probably one of the most well-known Scottish islands – but did you know we've actually got almost 800 in total? Not all of them are filled with friendly Scots – we've got 130 inhabited islands out of about 790. Our "busiest" islands are Lewis and Harris, Mainland Shetland and Mainland Orkney, while our quietest, hold just a handful of people.

Did you know Orkney is home to the world's shortest commercial passenger flight? Catch a plane between Westray and Papa Westray and you'll be in the air for just two minutes. Only in



Scotland can you experience that one! We're also home to one of the world's last beach runways in Barra too.

Scots are definitely a chatty bunch, so maybe it's not a surprise there are three official languages to do it in – English, Scots and Scottish Gaelic are all recognised. Scottish Gaelic is an ancient Celtic language that evolved from Old Irish

Scotland holds the world record for the longest echo in a man-made structure. – after breaking the record! The original figure of 15 seconds was set in 1970 at the Hamilton Mausoleum in South Lanarkshire. But in 2014 a new world record was set inside the Inchindown tunnels near Invergor-don when a shot from a pistol took 112 seconds for the echo to end.

We all know Edinburgh as a city, but there is so much to learn about her history. Edinburgh was built on seven hills – just like Rome – and has more listed buildings than anywhere in the world. The Royal Mile of Edinburgh's Old Town is said to have been home to the world's first-ever skyscrapers – which must have been quite a sight in the 17th century

Now, you might have guessed that Scotland is pretty old – but did you know how much of that history still survives in some form today? We've got the Fortingall Yew, a heritage tree thought to be one of the oldest living things in Europe at around 3,000 to

9,000 years old.



Then there is the Meikleour Beech Hedge, also in Perthshire, which was planted in 1745 and stands at a whopping 100 ft (30 m) high and 530 m long. It's recognised by the Guinness Book of World Records as the highest hedge in the world.

The world-famous Calanais Standing Stones in the Outer Hebrides form one of the most complete stone circles in Britain and Europe – they're believed to have been erected around 2900 BC.



And then there's the Heart of Neolithic Orkney, another UNESCO World Heritage Site – which is made up of the Ring of Brodgar and the Stones of Stenness (two standing stone circles), Skara Brae (an ancient Neolithic settlement) and Maeshowe (a Neolithic chambered tomb). It provides an amazing look at a now-gone 5,000-year-old culture.



A short story

All the Difference in The World

Every Sunday morning I take a light jog around a park near my home. There's a lake located in one corner of the park. Each time I jog by this lake, I see the same elderly woman sitting at the water's edge with a small metal cage sitting beside her.

This past Sunday my curiosity got the best of me, so I stopped jogging and walked over to her. As I got closer, I realized that the metal cage was, in fact, a small trap. There were three turtles, unharmed, slowly walking around the base of the trap. She had a fourth turtle in her lap that she was carefully scrubbing with a sponge brush.

"Hello," I said. "I see you here every Sunday morning. If you don't mind my nosiness, I'd love to know what you're doing with these turtles."

She smiled. "I'm cleaning off their shells," she replied. "Anything on a turtle's shell, like algae or scum, reduces the turtle's ability to absorb heat and impedes its ability to swim. It can also corrode and weaken the shell over time."

"Wow! That's really nice of you!" I exclaimed. She went on: "I spend a couple of hours each Sunday morning, relaxing by this lake and helping these little guys out. It's my own strange way of making a difference."

"But don't most freshwater turtles live their whole lives with algae and scum hanging from their shells?" I asked.

"Yep, sadly, they do," she replied.

I scratched my head. "Well then, don't you think your time could be better spent? I mean, I think your efforts are kind and all, but there are freshwater turtles living in lakes all around the world. And 99% of these turtles don't have kind people like you to help them clean off their shells. So, no offense... but how exactly are your localized efforts here truly making a difference?"

The woman giggled aloud. She then looked down at the turtle in her lap, scrubbed off the last piece of algae from its shell, and said, "Sweetie, if this little guy could talk, he'd tell you I just made all the difference in the

world.”

Moral of the Story: Each one of us can change the world. Maybe we can't change the world right away but a single good deed will resonate with the rest of the world. Make every day

count by knowing that you are capable of so much good, you just need to be brave to make the world a better place!

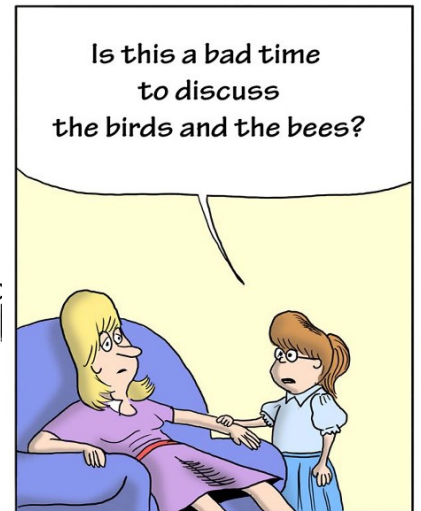
Home schooling and things?



“One half of one percent is a big allowance increase.”



“Today, you're going to spend less time breaking into the school back office website, redirecting air traffic, sending encrypted messages overseas ... and more time working on the lesson.”



“That's usually not a good sign.”



“I hope this is the right wine for reading and ignoring each other.”



“It's a pacemaker for your heart. Plus, you can download apps for your liver, kidneys, lungs, and pancreas!”

