



## Danny's Celtic Kids

*"Ireland is where strange tales begin and happy endings are possible"*

Newsletter

Issue 6

September 2004



### Danny's Corner

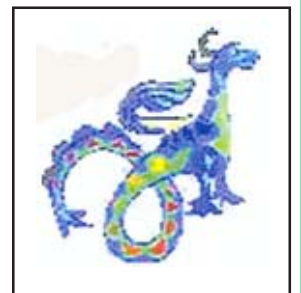
It is great to say "hello" to all my friends again. I hope you had a wonderful and safe summer. Are you ready to start a new school year?

A few weeks ago, I got back from leading a tour through Scotland. It was a great trip, and we saw breathtaking scenery and learned about the history of Scotland. So, this issue of the newsletter is going to be devoted to the country of Scotland which is one of the seven Celtic Nations. If you look at the banner at the top of this page, you'll find the flag of Scotland. Now there is way too much information to put in one newsletter, so we will be talking about Scotland more in future issues.

Scotland's history spans over 6000 years and has been marked by invasions, wars, tyranny, slavery, rebellion and independence. It is dotted with many brave men and women who fought and died for their people, their country, and freedom. This remarkable history and the beauty of the country itself have resulted in the fierce pride that the Scots have in themselves and in their land.

As you read and learn about Scotland, have a map of the country close so you can find the places talked about. Enjoy!

**Danny**



### A Traditional Scottish Blessing

If there is righteousness in the heart, there will be beauty in the character.

If there is beauty in the character, there will be harmony in the home.

If there is harmony in the home, there will be order in the nation.

If there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world.

So let it be.



## Scotland

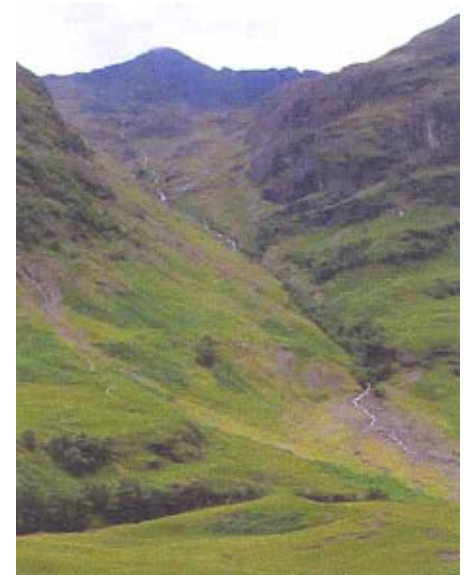
Scotland is about half the size of England. Close to two-thirds of the country is mountain and moorland. There are three distinct geographical regions: the Southern Uplands, the Central Lowlands, and the Northern Highlands and Islands.

The Southern Uplands are the green and fertile plains and hills that border on England. The Central Lowlands run from Edinburgh to Glasgow. Most of Scotland's population live in the Lowlands. The Highlands are mountain ranges of sandstone and granite. Scotland also has 790 islands out of which 130 are inhabited. These island groups include the Inner and Outer Hebrides, the Orkneys and the Shetlands.



**Edinburgh**  
The capital city of Scotland

In Scotland, there can be widely different climates from place to place. Sunny days can quickly turn to rainy days. The most northern part of the country lies very close to the Arctic Circle, but the Gulf Stream winds help to keep temperatures relatively mild. However, in the Highlands the weather can be extreme at any given time.



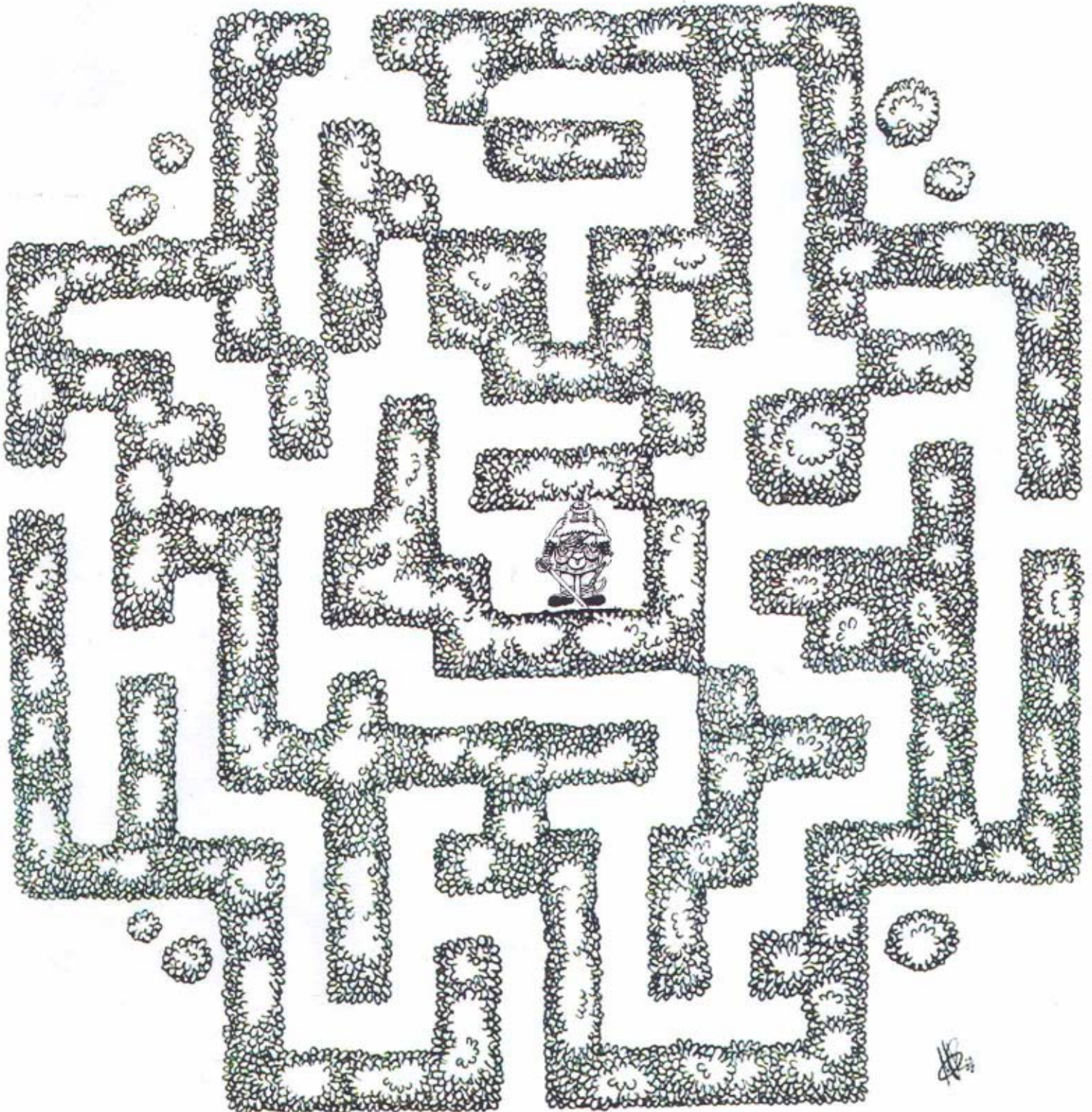
**Glen Coe**  
in the Highlands

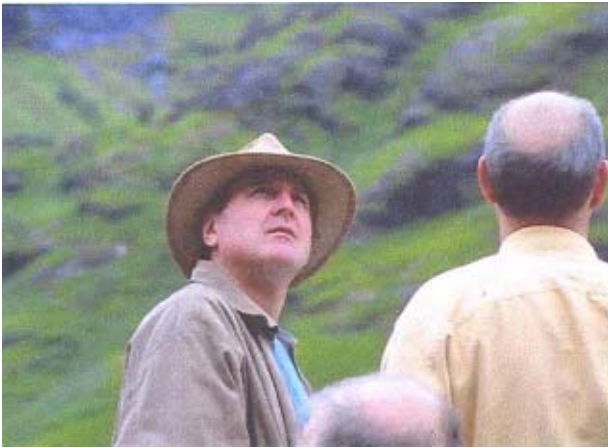
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Angus, the mighty Highland warrior is lost in the maze his clan built for protection.

He needs you to find the way into the maze and lead him out.





**Danny at Glen Coe in the Highlands**

Scotland was first populated by hunter gatherers who came to Scotland from Western Europe about 6000 years ago. These people had a well organized society and a strong culture of their own. They brought agriculture and trade with them, and left behind beautiful passage tombs, stone monuments and well-built houses like the ones that were found on the Orkney Islands.

Later other Europeans brought bronze and weapons to the area. When the Celts came to Scotland, they brought Iron with them.

After the Romans invaded and conquered Britain in the 1st century A.D., they were not able to subdue Scotland's fierce people, so the Roman emperor, Hadrian, ordered a wall to be built across the island from sea to sea to keep the barbarians out. Stretches of the 73 mile long wall known as "Hadrian's Wall" still stand in northern England.



**A "Lady in Waiting" at Edinburgh Castle**



**Robert the Bruce  
King of Scotland  
Early 14th century**

Christianity arrived in Scotland with St. Ninian in 397 A.D. Later, St. Columba arrived and founded a religious center on the island of Iona in 563 A.D. It is still a place of pilgrimage and retreat.

The end of the 18th century has been called Scotland's most creative period. Many Scots became famous in philosophy and literature, especially poetry with Scotland's most famous poet, Robert Burns.

Today, Scotland and her people continue to play a part in world affairs far greater than the size of the country would suggest. In the years to come, Scotland will continue to leave its mark on history.



The article on Scotland briefly mentioned Scottish poetry and poets. Of course the most famous of Scottish poets is Robert Burns. Robert Louis Stevenson, the author of fantastic adventure novels such as *Treasure Island*, also wrote wonderful poetry. Here in the U.S. a poet with ties to Scotland wrote many short, funny poems that have delighted children for years. His name is Ogden Nash. Born in 1902, Mr. Nash published his first poem in 1925. He died in 1971, but his writing still delights generations of readers.

Here is a small selection of his poetry. If you like it and want more, you can find his books in the library or any bookstore.

### **The Camel**

The camel has a single hump;  
The dromedary, two;  
Or else the other way around,  
I'm never sure. Are you?

### **Celery**

Celery, raw  
Develops the jaw,  
But celery, stewed,  
Is more easily chewed.

### **Song of the Open Road**

I think that I shall never see  
A billboard lovely as a tree.  
Indeed, unless the billboards fall  
I'll never see a tree at all.

### **The Termite**

Some primal termite knocked on wood  
And tasted it and found it good,  
And that is why your Cousin May  
Fell through the parlor floor today.

### **The Parsnip**

The parsnip, children, I repeat  
is simply an anemic beet.  
Some people call the parsnip edible;  
Myself, I find this claim incredible.

### **The Guppy**

Whales have calves,  
Cats have kittens,  
Bears have cubs,  
Bats have bittens,  
Swans have cygnets,  
Seals have puppies,  
But guppies, just have little guppies.

### **The Fly**

The Lord in His wisdom made the fly  
And then forgot to tell us why.



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You can purchase them at [www.CelticNationsWorld.com](http://www.CelticNationsWorld.com) in the Celtic Shop.



***The Monster Picnic* CD \$15.00 plus shipping and handling  
Thirteen songs to delight children of all ages.**



***The Loch Ness Monster's Story* \$15.00 plus shipping and handling  
A story of the Loch Ness Monster family and their adventures.**

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We invite everyone to print a copy for themselves or for a friend. We also invite teachers to give copies to their students.

Be sure to check [www.dannyoflaherty.com](http://www.dannyoflaherty.com) to see about having Danny bring his wonderful program of music and fun to your school.