

Obituary: Henry Baillie ('Tommy')

HENRY William Thomson Baillie was born on September 19, 1920, in Brora, one of the four children of shoemaker George Baillie and his wife, Bella.

Following his schooling in Brora he was apprenticed to an electrician but this was disrupted by the outbreak of the Second World War when Tommie, as he was known in his home village, joined the RAF where he trained as an electrician.

His first posting was as ground crew to a Spitfire squadron at Grangemouth before being moved to Invergordon where he worked on the massive Sunderland flying boats which were based there.

In 1942, shortly before the Battle of El Alamein, he was transferred to the Western Desert and spent the remainder of the war in north Africa.

When hostilities ceased, he returned to Brora. His first job in civvy street was as a driver for grocer Tommy Knox on a very popular fruit and veg van serving the far north and west of Sutherland where fresh fruit had been in short supply throughout the war and everyone was enjoying becoming familiar with exotica like oranges and bananas once more.

The travelling fruit and veg job often involved overnight stays in the remotest corners and, while in Borgie, he met Jean O'Brien, Bridgend, who became the love of his life.

The couple married on April 3, 1953, in the Clyne Church and made their first home in Brora where Tommie took up work in the only coal mine in the Highlands.

Three of their four children, Maureen, Kenneth and Linda, were born there but, with the mine on shaky foundations



Henry William Thomson Baillie, known as Tommy, late of Brora, Borgie and Bettyhill.

when the adjacent distillery changed its fuel source, the family moved to number 7, Borgie, and Tommy, as he was known on the north coast, went to work in Dounreay.

Seven Borgie was one of a group of crofts specifically intended for ex-servicemen but, amazingly, ex-RAF personnel did not fall in to that category! Once that bit of bizarre bureaucracy was sorted out the Baillie brood moved in to a house with no water supply and an outside toilet.

As renovations proceeded, their fourth child, Tracey, made her appearance. Financing all this wasn't easy but, with two jobs each, Jean and Tommy made ends meet while playing a lively part in the local community.

Tommy took on the task of secretary for the both Borgie grazings committee and the hall committee, neither of which was just a matter of writing letters.

He introduced disco to the far north and, on one very memorable occasion for the kids, brought home a whole band to stay the night. It would have been even more exciting at the time had the children known that Runrig would soon become a household name.

Tommy and Jean spent 32 happy years in Borgie but, with the children all away and the croft becoming more of a trial, they moved to Woodlands in Bettyhill in 1992.

Jean by then was in failing health and passed away in 1994 but Tommy soldiered on, determinedly maintaining his independence until after his 90th birthday when failing mobility compelled a reluctant move to Sinclair Court in Melnich.

Though he reached a

remarkable age, there was no living in the past for Tommy. Perhaps it was his early training as an electrician but he took to the modern world like a duck to water, mastering the internet, including online shopping, the mobile phone and the digital camera.

At home he somehow accumulated three Sky boxes and, wherever he was, soon gained complete control of the TV remote control.

He kept up his driving as long as he possibly could, somewhat worryingly for his children, and when he acquired an electric wheelchair he often had to be told off for speeding, much as he had in his car.

This summer he moved to Thorntree Mews in Falkirk to be nearer to his family and it was there he passed away, quite unexpectedly, on November 1 at the grand old age of 93. Throughout his long life Tommy was an active and gregarious neighbour and a great family man whose party piece was the romantic bothy ballad, "The Auld Meal Mill".

The time may have come for Tommy to "quit the drill" but he won't be forgotten by the four children, seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren he leaves behind him nor by the wider community of which he was so much a part especially his brother-in-law John O'Brien and his wife Greta who supported him in his closing years in Bettyhill.

The sympathy of that wider community extends to them all.

J.A.J.

Wanted: nifty knitters to help attempt world record

By CATRIONA METCALF
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KNITTERS are needed to help complete a project to introduce children to microbes and which will also see them trying to break a world record.

The Glasgow City of Science is working with Glasgow primary schools on a hand hygiene project early next year and the organisers thought a good way to do it would be through small fluffy knitted microbes.

They need help to complete their growing collection of salmonella, cholera, TB, the common cold, swine flu and penicillin but, with only 101 made and 980 still needed, it could take quite a time. Friendly microbes are also wanted.

Microbe is a term for tiny single-cell organisms that individually are too small to be seen with the eye. There are more of them on a person's hand than there are people on the entire planet, which links in with the world record attempt at getting as

many people washing their hands at once as possible.

Dawn Alderson, supervisor at SAC Consulting Veterinary Services at Janetstown, Thurso, became aware of the project through the Institute of Biomedical Science.

She thought it was a great idea and, although the project is for children in Glasgow, she hopes it could come to the local area and said she would enjoy being part of it.

She said: "I'm not a knitter but I might make some pom poms. That's why I hoped groups like the Thurso Yarnbombers would help out."

"I just love the project because knitted things aren't scary when you're teaching children about things. It's the kind of thing I would have loved when I was a kid."

The deadline for entries has been extended to February 24 because they didn't get as many of the fiddly ones as they need. I know the organisers are especially keen

to receive the viruses and penicillium as they're more difficult to knit."

Ms Alderson is willing to collect the knitted microbes, box them up and post them to save on postage for everyone.

Professor Tracey Howe at Glasgow Caledonian University said: "We've been getting knitted microbes from all over Britain which is a lovely surprise."

"We're trying to introduce children to microbes, including the friendly ones and pathogens and it's simply more helpful if they can see them."

"The colour of wool used doesn't matter as in a normal state the microbes are colourless. It's only when they are stained that they take on colour. It's the shape that's important."

The pieces should be about 10cm long and knitting patterns are available at www.glasgowcityofscience.com/get-involved/knitting-microbes

For collection of the completed microbes contact Dawn Alderson on 01847 892602.



Some examples of the knitted microbes featuring swine flu, TB, penicillin, the common cold, cholera, salmonella and some friendly microbes which exist in our gut and everyday environment.

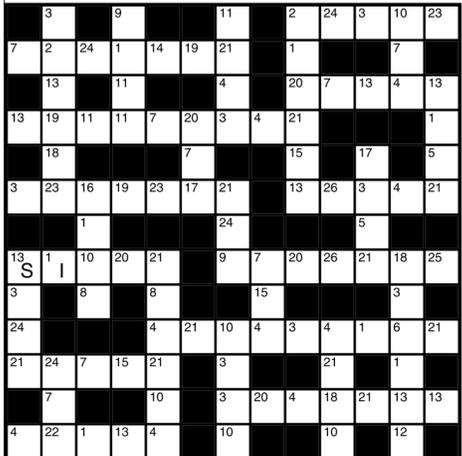


Tommy during his RAF service in World War Two.

Brain Gym No.250

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

Y B D K E F M Z S H J Q G
X C R U O I T A W N P L V

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

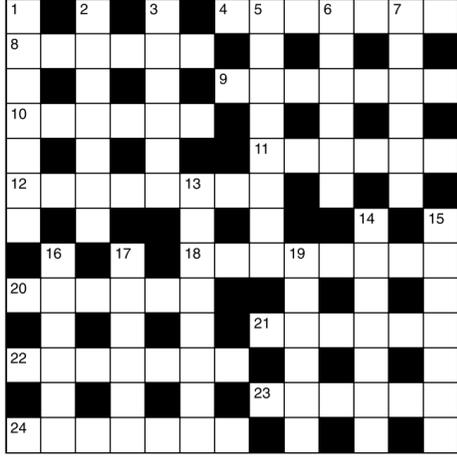
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- In a bad temper the day none came round (7)
- Writer with a point (6)
- Marked dates in wrongly (7)
- One by one on the football field (6)
- You need inspiration to draw one (6)
- The staidest form of dislike (8)
- Rambling rose that gives varied resistance (8)
- Young female accompanist (6)
- Depression that shows in your face (6)
- A breach of security (7)
- Packed as a precaution (2,4)
- Haircut that's in order (7)

Down

- Lays out feasts (7)
- Poetically upside-down (7)
- Entertainment that's a nice change to mother (6)
- A bent one needs re-shaping, don't forget! (4,4)
- Thinks of love and languishes (6)
- Puts up a secret entanglement (6)
- Not the more usual foreigner (8)
- Temporary false tooth (4-3)
- Guided a horse holding half the rein (7)
- Statesmen may wear it with a black tie (6)
- These creepers could be poisonous (6)
- Possibly tore in from the East (6)



Quick Clues:

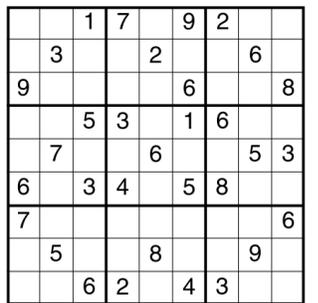
Across

- Narration (7)
- Aviator (6)
- Blow up (7)
- Shrewd (6)
- Look upon (6)
- Surround (8)
- Definite (8)
- Obvious (6)
- Nuptial (6)
- Clique (7)
- Gusto (6)
- Keep under (7)

Down

- Discussion (7)
- Shield (7)
- Subject (6)
- Meeting (8)
- Constrain (6)
- Disposition (6)
- Hypercritical (8)
- Scorn (7)
- Rich (7)
- Control (6)
- Superior (6)
- Country of the Middle East (6)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

9	6	3	4	1	5	8	2	7
7	5	2	8	3	6	4	9	1
8	4	1	9	2	7	6	5	3
1	9	6	7	5	8	3	4	2
4	7	8	2	6	3	5	1	9
3	2	5	1	9	4	7	6	8
5	3	9	6	8	1	2	7	4
2	8	4	5	7	9	1	3	6
6	1	7	3	4	2	9	8	5

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Disposition; 9 Oil; 10 Narration; 11 Repel; 13 Bengali; 14 Danish; 16 Oracle; 18 Sea-kale; 19 Payee; 20 Important; 21 Lea; 22 Head-dresses. Down: 2 Ill; 3 Panel; 4 Scribe; 5 Trainer; 6 Oligarchy; 7 Comradeship; 8 Anti-federal; 12 Pineapple; 15 Starred; 17 Repair; 19 Pates; 21 Lie. QUICK - Across: 1 Pathfinders; 9 Pet; 10 Reputable; 11 Nasty; 13 Resolve; 14 Overdo; 16 Aspire; 18 Artiste; 19 Dined; 20 Entertain; 21 Con; 22 Free and easy. Down: 2 Apt; 3 Hardy; 4 Impart; 5 Detests; 6 Rebellion; 7 Opinionated; 8 Never-ending; 12 Spectator; 15 Deserve; 17 Retain; 19 Dunce; 21 Cos.

Good Night Ring

100% MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

"Don't know how it works but it does, it's amazing" Simon B

The Sound of Silence

This just might be what you are looking for

Available at Boots, your local pharmacy
Online at amazon.co.uk or www.goodnightsnoring.co.uk

This product has not been proven by a Clinical Trial