



Oor Wullie.

Oor Wullie (Our William) is the iconic wee Scottish laddie from the fictional town of Auchenshoogle.

The image of Wullie sitting on his upturned bucket, wearing his famous black dungarees is as familiar to all Scots as Edinburgh castle.

Wullie loves life, fun and laughter with the help of his lifelong pals Fat Bob, Soapy Soutar, Wee Eck, and his occasional girlfriend Primrose Paterson.

Even Ma, Pa and long suffering PC Murdoch have to smile at his energetic pranks. Wullie, is the familiar Scots nickname for boys named William.

His trademarks are spiky hair, dungarees and an upturned bucket, which he often uses as a seat.

A frequent tagline reads, "*Oor Wullie! Your Wullie! A'body's Wullie!*" (*Our Willie! Your Willie! Everybody's Willie!*).

Created by Thomson editor R. D. Low and drawn by cartoonist Dudley D. Watkins, the strip first appeared on 8 March 1936.

That makes Oor Wullie 82 years of age, and he is as popular today as he was 82 years ago.

Though it has been claimed on the internet that Wullie's full name is William MacCallum, this name - or any surname at all - has never appeared in any of the strips in *The Sunday Post*. While his home town was unnamed in the original Watkins strips, it has been called Auchenshoogle since the late 1990s.

Wullie and his friends roam the streets of his town, though he is sometimes depicted at school which he finds confining.

Praise from his teacher, who addresses him as "William", is rare and acutely embarrassing.

His adventures often consist of unrealistic get-rich-quick schemes that lead to mischief, to the despair of his parents Ma and Pa (Dave) and local policeman P.C. Joe Murdoch.

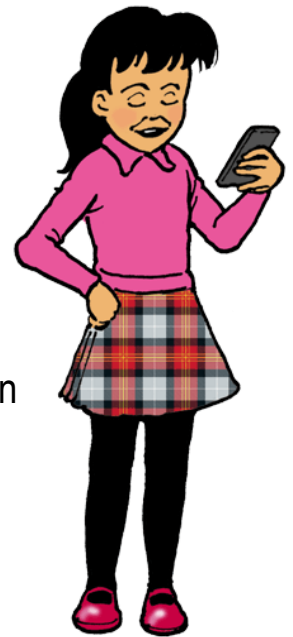


Fat Bob; Wee Eck ; Soapy Soutar and Oor Wullie

Wullie's gang consists of himself, Fat Bob, Wee Eck (Eng: *Little Alex*), 'Soapy' Soutar (*/ˈsoutər/*) and of course there is the female interest....

Primrose Paterson (an annoying girl who likes Wullie, but who Wullie often does not want to be in the gang, yet manages to be much better than him in various games and activities such as football, racing, climbing trees and firing a catapult).

Wullie is the self-proclaimed leader of the gang which meets in a wooden shed - usually located in the garden at Wullie's house. In later times the gang meets in a derelict caravan called *Holly Rude*.



He used to have another friend called Ezzy, who has stopped appearing in the strips, along with Wullie's unnamed little brother.

Wullie owns a pet mouse named Jeemy and in later strips a pet dog called Harry.

Another interest is the pretty Doris Gow (*who Wullie likes much to Primrose's rage*), her boyfriend, the town bully Basher McKenzie, and grumpy old neighbour Moaning Mildew (modelled on Victor Meldrew from *One Foot in the Grave.*)

Wullie's age has not been consistent, in the early Watkins scripts he looked about 5 or 6, in later Watkins scripts he looked about 10 or 11, more recently he has become slightly younger.

His catchphrases are "Jings", "Crivvens", "Braw" and "Help ma Boab".

In March 2006, BBC Scotland documentary *Happy Birthday Oor Wullie* celebrated the strip's 70th and the TV show's 28th birthday with celebrity guests including Karen Dunbar, Sanjeev Kohli, Kaye Adams, Iain Robertson, Tony Roper, Tam Cowan, Stuart Cosgrove and Dominik Diamond, and was narrated by *The Lord of the Rings* star Billy Boyd.

Oor Wullie's family, the Broons, are a working-class Scottish family who live at No 10 Glebe Street, Glasgow; and Oor Wullie, is seen as a mischievous young boy in an unnamed town.



Much speculation prevails as to where Wullie actually lived; some think it was Dundee where the Sunday Post was published; whilst others believe it was Glasgow because in 1938, the characters walked to the Empire Exhibition held in Bellhouston Park: later in 1988 the family again walk to and from the Glasgow Garden Festival. In a later tales Oor Wullie even cycles to Loch Lomond.

But as the decades have rolled by it is clear that Oor Wullie lived in the (*imaginary*) town of Auchenshoogle (*an amalgam of Dundee and Glasgow*).

If you are not a devotee of Oor Wullie then you will not know that history was made in 2011 when Oor Wullie and The Broons appeared in the **same strip** spread over two pages to celebrate the Royal Wedding of Kate Middleton and Prince William.

The entire family... "The Broons"





NAME OOR WULLIE - OUR WILLIAM

FAMILY NAME BROONS (BROWNS)

PALS "FAT" BOB

"SOUPY" SOUTAR

"WEE" ECK

FATHER PA

MOTHER MA

NEMESIS PC MURDOCH

GIRL FRIENDS PRIMROSE PATERSON

DORIS GOW

MOUSE JEEMY

DOG HARRY

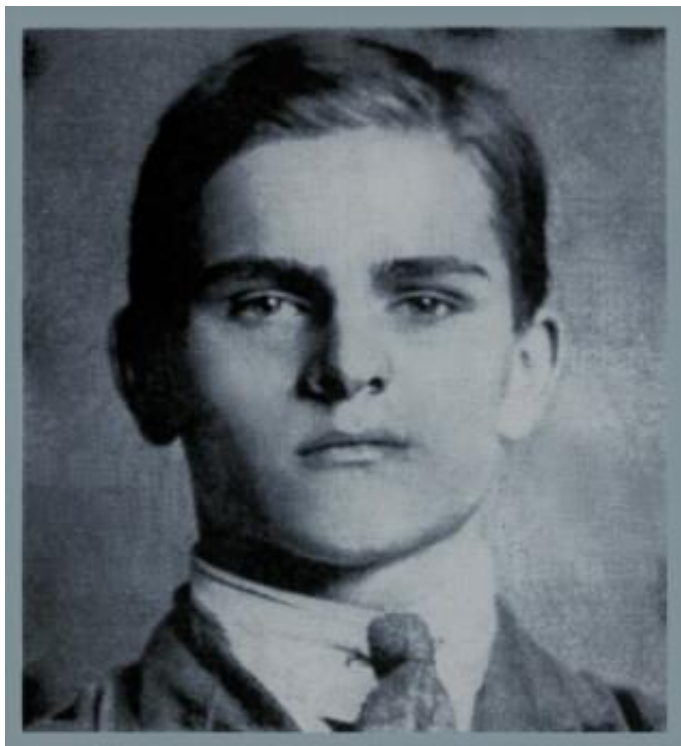
ENEMY BASHER Mackenzie

FAVOURITE EXPRESSIONS

"JINGS",
"CRIVVENS",
"BRAW"
"HELP MA BOAB".

here are many more interesting facts about Oor Wullie, but with the information given in this wee article you now know all you really need to know....BUT...if you want more...then have a read of the article on the next page...it gives much the same information but includes information not already covered..

Dudley Dexter Watkins (PICTURED BELOW TO THE RIGHT) was born on 27 February 1907 in Manchester, and raised in Nottingham as the eldest of three children.



His father was a lithographic artist and encouraged the artistic talent of his son, who by the age of 11 had 4 paintings on display in an exhibition in Nottingham Castle.

In 1919 Watkins attended evening classes at Nottingham School of Art.

He later worked for Boots the Chemist, where one of his tasks was window-dressing.

By 1924 Watkins was on a full-time arts scholarship at the School of Art.

He was spotted by a talent scout from D.C. Thomson, who offered him a job as staff artist.

Watkins took up the post in 1925 when he moved to Dundee, where D.C. Thomson was based.

The first strip which can be identified as done by Watkins was *PC99*, which appeared in the *Rover Midget Comic* in February 1933.

Other strips he produced included *Percy Vere and His Trying Tricks* and *Wandering Willie, the Wily Explorer*.



Among his most famous strips were *The Broons* and *Oor Wullie*, which features in the *Daily Funnies* exhibition at the Cartoon Museum (running until December 2017).

Watkins also produced other important strips, including *Desperate Dan* for the *Dandy* in 1937. Albert Barnes, the editor at D.C.

Thomson with whom Watkins collaborated on *Dan* and other characters, is believed to have been the prototype for *Dan's* prominent chin.

Watkins also produced *Lord Snooty* for the *Beano* in 1938. Although it was in 1939, when his name first appeared as Watty in *The Broons*, it was in 1946 when D.C.

Thomson allowed Watkins to start signing his name in nice block letters to the strips he produced, showing how important he was to the organisation. This was an oddity since at this time British publishers preferred to use artists interchangeably, as all the focus was meant to be on the characters they portrayed and not on their creators.

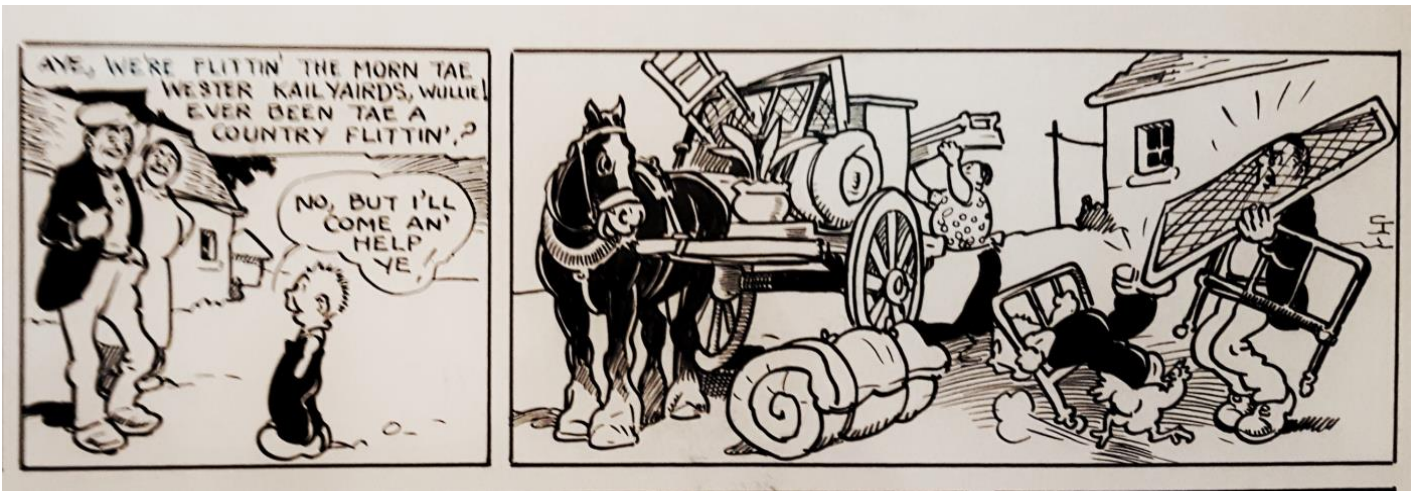
In the late 1940s and early 50s he started to draw adventure strips including *Treasure Island*, *Oliver Twist* and *Robinson Crusoe*, as well as continuing with all the other characters mentioned above.

It's a great tribute to his work that so many of the strips that he started still continue to this day, in the same style that he developed..

So we come again to *Oor Wullie*, the wee Scottish boy who speaks in the Scots dialect:-

Wullie first appeared in D.C. Thomson's weekly newspaper *The Sunday Post* in March 1936 and has continued ever since. Thomson editor, Low, created the story line, but it was Dudley Watkins who was chosen to draw it with his impeccable style and artistry.

Oor Wullie is always recognized by his cheeky face, his spiky hair, dungarees and an upturned bucket. Many strips began and ended with a single panel of Wullie sitting on his bucket.



In this strip, Wullie is shown leading a horse and cart from his old home to a new one when moving house.

The place names in the strip sound typically Scottish, but seem to be mostly invented. The first, **Wester Kailyards**, literally means the "western kitchen garden"

These idealised depictions of Scottish life are known as Kailyards and it appears like Wullie's own adventures belong to this same category.

In general, Wullie and his friends roam the streets of his town, which has been called Auchenshoogle since the 1990s: "shoogle" is a dialect word meaning to shake or sway.

Wullie's schoolteacher calls him "William", which embarrasses him. His adventures consist mostly of ambitious but unrealisable schemes that lead to mischief, to the despair of his parents Ma and Pa and local policeman Joe Murdoch.

Wullie's gang includes Fat Bob, Wee Eck, Soapy Soutar (AKA) Joe and Primrose Paterson (who is better than him in activities such as football, racing, climbing trees and firing a catapult).

Wullie is the leader of the gang, a role often challenged by the others. In early strips the gang met in a wooden shed, usually located in the garden at Wullie's house. In later strips the gang meets in a derelict caravan called Holly Rude (a punning reference to Holyrood House, the royal palace in Edinburgh).

As mentioned Wullie owns a mouse named Jeemy and, in later strips, a dog called Harry.

There are a host of supporting characters such as the pretty **Doris Gow** (who Wullie likes, much to Primrose's annoyance), her boyfriend, the town bully **Basher McKenzie**, and grumpy old neighbour **Moaning Mildew** (modelled on Victor Meldrew from *One Foot in the Grave*).

Wullie's age has not been consistent; in the early Watkins drawings he looked about 5 or 6, in later ones about 10 or 11.

In recent drawings he has become younger again.

Now, when you see him, you will know all about him.

Oor Wullie !

