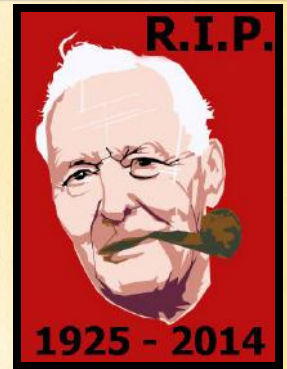




'Briar & Bothies'

The newsletter of
THE KEARVAIG PIPE CLUB



Pipes Smoked at Duinish, 11/01/14

Following some reliable intel. - regarding limitless supplies of firewood - combined with a desire to banish the New Year blues, four KPC chaps set forth for a resplendent Duinish bothy.

Matron, having been wandering in the hills for the week previous, was assigned Pathfinder duties under the standard mission template of 'getting the bothy telly on', ready for the arrival of the main force namely: Messrs Bingae, Dazbo and Col. Hydrocarbon.

Fighting a swift but persistent blizzard during the 2hr 50min walk-in, it was indeed a relief for a psychroduric Matron to verify the intel. by finding a gargantuan pile of wood leftover from recent refurbishment work. Using precious daylight to good effect, a pile of ligninaceous material was soon combusting heartily in the cavernous fireplace, catalyzed by 10kg of black carbonaceous rock.

The main force arrived at 18:00 to find cosy environs and copious malt in the shape of Old Pulteney. The low ceiling at Duinish ensured a consistently fine fug of various Latakia-based blends as the chaps got down to business.

With his unquenchable thirst for the 'Halflings leaf', however, it was once again a hapless Bingae that found himself easy prey for willing Coonsillors as the disturbing pictures on p. 2 reveal...

Following his successful publication of his book 'Bothy Culture', the Colonel acting as a de-facto Timelord-in-Chief, put the visit to good use and successfully re-calibrated Duinish Meantime (DMT), thus ensuring that the all important Bothy Time Equilibrium was never in peril; a relief to all those who comprehend such things.

However, after retiring at 05:00 and emerging at 08:30 it was not clear to the bleary-eyed if anything meaningful *at all*, had actually been achieved... **Cont. p.2**

Duinish in winter colours



Always something decent on the telly at Duinish...



Duinish review score (out of 5)

Building fabric	=	
Fireplace	=	
Facilities	=	
Cosiness	=	
Pipe friendliness	=	

"Never swap luck for skill."

- Sergeant Matron, KPC, when giving advice regarding mountain safety.

Pipes Smoked at Duinish, cont.

Bingae, having succumbed to the spell of Morpheus through his love of the 'green aromatic', gets a well-deserved and sound Coonsilling...

The Colonel administers some much needed briar-correction.



A spot of 'Spinal Pipe' from the Colonel and Dazbo.

The Latakia gets the better of the usually resilient Dazbo...



The KPC leaves it's mark at Duinish.



Obituary: Tony Benn, 1925 – 2014

Tony Benn, circa 1995, showing us what a top class pipe face is all about....

Tony Benn, (proper) politician, polymath, proletariat champion, protester and pipe smoker, died peacefully at his home on 14th March.

He was probably the most famous UK pipe smoker ever, and among his many accolades he had, arguably, one of the greatest pipe-faces of all time; a fact that no doubt helped him become 'Pipe Smoker of the Year 1992'. Of course 'Red Wedge' will be well-known and loved by KPC members and B&B readers alike after our insightful interview with the great man back in February 2013 (Vol. 2 Issue 1).

Tony's favourite smoke, indeed *only* smoke, was St. Bruno (*yes, yes, I know dear reader, letters - if you must - to the Editor please, Ed.*). In fact it can be reported that a spokesman from Scandinavian Tobacco Group (STG) – manufacturers of 'Tony's smoke' said: "*We are devastated at the news of our best and most iconic customer having passed away. Our thoughts are with his family and our share price at this difficult time.*"

Mr Benn was a great orator and even people who vehemently disagreed with his politics or his choice of tobacco would pay attention when he spoke-up or sparked -up.

Often dismissed by the gutter press as a '*lefty pipe-smoking, tea-drinking, loony*', much of what Tony prophesied has indeed come to fruition. Just take the omnipotent march of capitalist globalisation as an example. This pernicious global machine that we all now slave under is exemplified by disturbing events such as the faceless corporation of STG swallowing up of Ogden's, the original makers of St. Bruno. Tony was also ardent peace activist and anti-nuclear campaigner and not without good reason. Just look at the state of the tobacco fields in Syria today: Syrian Latakia, weight-for-weight is more valuable than gold!

With his anti-nuclear stance he actively opposed the UK's nuclear deterrent Trident. Just ask yourself dear reader, how fiendish of an invention is it to have a craft, i.e. a nuclear submarine, which carries our weapons of mass destruction that you cannot even smoke a bowl in? Simply outrageous!

Always keen to support the oppressed, Tony was a beacon of tolerance. He was not even prejudiced against ginger people; a fact demonstrated by his support of people such as Neil Kinnock. He was also the champion of all manner of lost causes; a fact demonstrated by his support for people such as Neil Kinnock.



His books, especially his diaries, are worth a read and it is rumoured that he got through his beloved St. Bruno at a rate approaching that of Lemmy sampling amphetamines, as he burnt the midnight oil recording the events of his life. Although from a privileged background, Tony was so principled that he only ever accepted national average wage, which guarantees martyrdom when you consider the price of pipe tobacco these days!

Tony Anthony Neil Wedgwood Benn, politician, diarist and pipe smoker born 3 April 1925; died 14 March 2014

Tony Benn takes direct action in a protest about cuts to public conveniences at his local park.



"The Labour party has never been a pipe smokers party, although there have always been pipe smokers in it – a bit like Christians in the Church of England."
- Tony Benn

Chaps' Corner

In this edition we examine a particular nauseating aspect of 'car culture' and offer some cunning tips to counter this car-borne carbuncle of our highways...

Signs of the Times...

As a chap of the open road you will no doubt have observed that the modern motor car appears to have, as standard equipment, some slogan, warning notice or allegedly witty-ditty smeared over them like a street-walker's lipstick after she's just earned a fiver.

Why are we confronted with such intrusive and uloid visual banalities you may ask? Whilst an earnest attempt at floccinaucinihilipilification of this type of guff is undoubtedly futile, the source of this malaise can, predictably, be traced to our former colonies, most notably the USA. Yes dear chap, the American 'bumper-sticker' is undoubtedly the seed kernel of all manner of moronic-motorised-memoranda so popular with our own *indigenous* modern-day motorised dunderheads.

This particular tide of this beastliness is, however, most likely not easily reversible, as our mealy-mouthed politicians fear the voting motorist (or should that be 'votorist', Ed.) even more than the gutter press, so they are most unlikely to legislate to prevent such obscene banalities. Therefore, as ever dear chap, it is up to us to rebalance the 'decorum-equilibrium' with yet more direct action in our ongoing Chap Revolution!

Unfortunately, at first glance anyway, our recommended strategy may appear somewhat like a 'can't-beat-them-so-join-them' caper, but we are fairly certain that our intellectual take on these matters will simply confuse the hoi-polloi into submission. Yes dear chap, we propose the time-honoured tactic of a Trojan horse to infiltrate the tacky world of the 'car-sticker' etc. by producing our very own versions.

You will of course have your own splendid ideas of how to counter this problem, but as ever, we offer some guiding lights that you may like to deploy. See below and pp. 5 & 6 for some offerings that are available from the B&B editorial team at very affordable prices. **Cont. p5**



Your "Real men love Jesus" bumper sticker caused a brief moment of cognitive dissonance during my commute.

www.kearvaigpipeclub.co.uk

~~W.W.J.D.
What would Jesus Do?~~


W.W.C.D
What would Chaps Do?

Chaps' Corner cont.

MY WIFE, YES,
MY DOG, MAYBE,
MY PIPE, NEVER!


WWW.KEARVAIGPIPECLUB.CO.UK

MY OTHER PIPE IS A



Good day to you Sir!
 How is my driving
 suiting you today?
 Freephone:
 0800 – EAT – DOTTLE

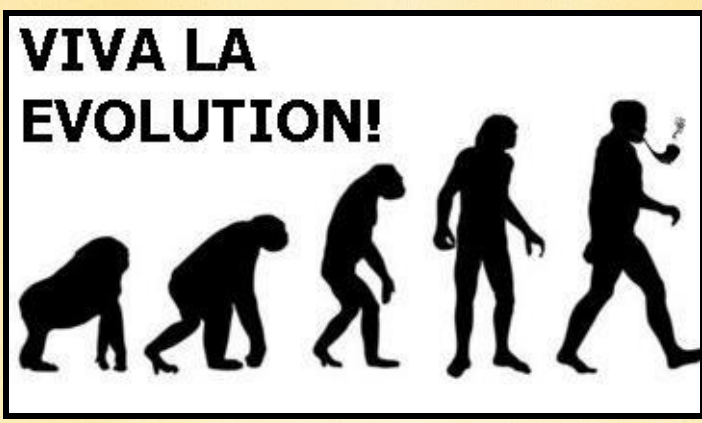


JESUS S_hAVES! 

**...BUT A WELL STROPPED
 STRAIGHT RAZOR IS FAR
 SUPERIOR.**

Chaps' Corner cont.

NO PIPES LEFT IN VEHICLE OVERNIGHT



Manners cost nothing and my car is undoubtedly worth more than your entire estate, so please keep a respectful distance if you don't mind. There's a good chap.

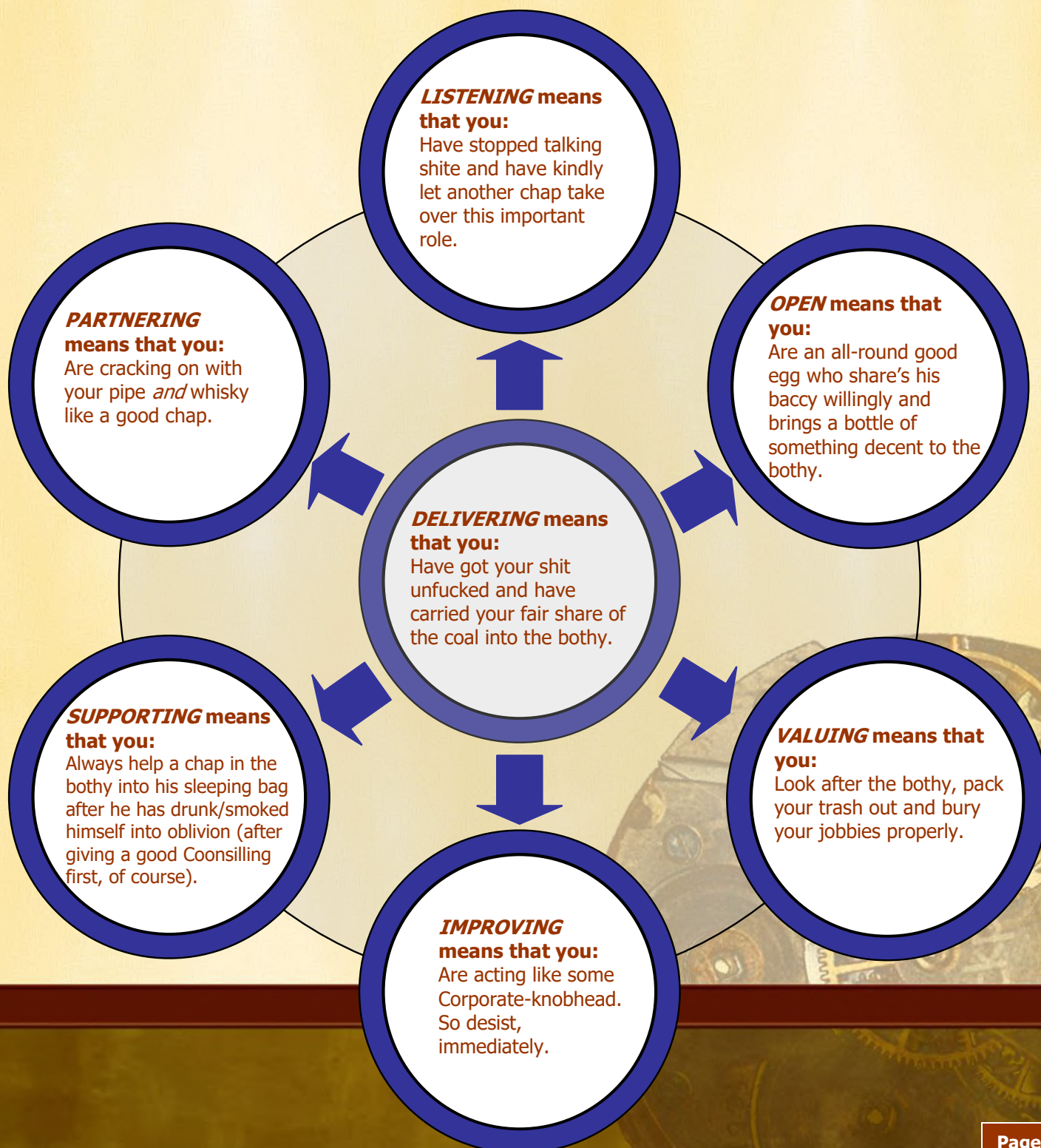


**HOW MANY PIPES CAN A CHAP OWN?
DON'T ASK SILLY QUESTIONS!**

The KPC Corporate Strategy Venn Diagram

We are sure you will be aware that the world is now completely overrun with corporate jargon and 'business-speak'. Nowhere is this more evident than the currently *very* fashionable gobbledegook of the 'Corporate Venn Diagram'. In an attempt to stem the tide of such things, the Editorial team at B&B have produced a bothycentric, no-nonsense version of the much vaunted Venn diagram. KPC members are of course encouraged to promote our proud values wherever they light their pipes.

The Kearvaig Pipe Club's Organisational Values



Model Rail Scotland

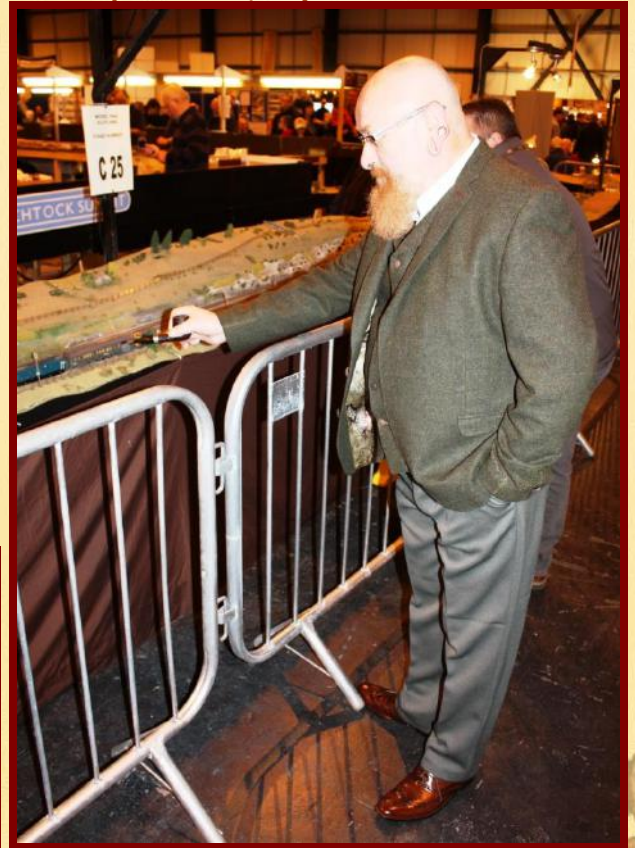
22nd February 2014, by Sergeant Matron

What on Earth do model railways have to do with a prestigious pipe club newsletter I hear you cry? Well dear chap, it just so happens that our esteemed member Ron-Squad is not only an upstanding member of the KPC but is a member of the world renown N Gauge Society. Of course I'm sure you will be aware that N Gauge translates as: 2mm to 1ft, 1:148 scale, so it's quite a challenge to the avid railway modeller!

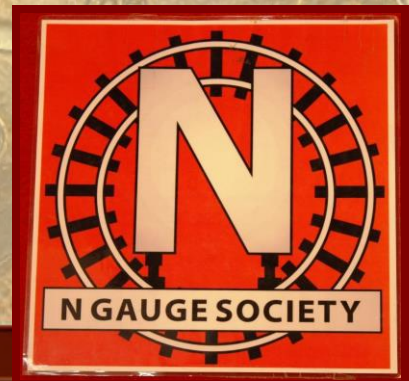
Model Rail Scotland hold their annual bash at the cavernous SECC, Glasgow and leaves on the line or the wrong type of snow where not going to stop Ron heading south, by Jove! Being a splendid chap he kindly invited me along as he had somehow got wind of my interest in walking dismantled railway lines – a hobby I undertook before I matured and took up pipe smoking. Naturally, a model railway show was too good an opportunity to miss, and I gratefully accepted his invitation!

The place was absolutely stuffed full of enthusiasts, young and old, who were geeked out of their minds; quite a few of which appeared to be only a nanometer or two off of the top end of the freak spectrum... If one closed ones eyes and took a deep breath, the smell of sweaty anorak was simply intoxicating and brought back fond memories of standing on the platform at Crewe station, notebook in hand, on a wet Saturday afternoon in one's well-spent youth. Ah the fun we had!

Ron, using his briar to devastating effect, expertly points out some trivial anomaly in and otherwise perfect layout. (Just look at the shine on those brogues – an example to us all, Ed.)



A close up of some breathtaking model rail action



Two drunken model rail enthusiasts were walking home upgrade between the railway tracks. One of them said, "This is longest stairway I have ever been on." To this, the other replied, "It's not the stairs that bother me, it's the low banister." – Anon.

Outdoor Knobber Watch

by our ODK correspondent and anagram specialist,
Roberto Bodokun



Background

Apart from the bothy being burned to the ground or a visit from the Cylons, the next worst thing to happen to the bothying chap surely has to be the arrival of some Outdoor Knobbers (ODKs). You might as well tip all you whisky down your neck in a one-er and eat all your baccy before collapsing in a heap, because your evening will at the *very least*, be *uber DULL*.

With this in mind, the B&B Editorial team have decided to pick up the baton and report the excesses of ODK 'culture'.

Additionally, KPC members and B&B readers are encouraged to submit any information or photos of any ODK nonsense to the Editorial team that they may come across during their travels.

The B&B Quick Reference Guide to the ODK

For the uninitiated it may be useful to outline exactly what we are dealing with so we have put together this helpful guide:

Species: *Home sapien var. odk*

Sex: Male & Female

Habitat (urban): Often spotted in and around outdoor shops and chain coffee-shops wearing top-end mountain gear with inane or smug grins on their faces. The Cairngorm gateway-town of Aviemore is to ODKs what a toilet is to turds – you'll see one floating about in there sooner or later...

Habitat (rural): Could be anywhere from 50 yards to 10 miles from their sensible family saloon at the 'trailhead'.

General disposition: (Often) Middle Class, uptight, joyless, po-faced, humourless, non-smoking puritans who know the cost or everything and the value of nothing.

Identifying features: Numerous, but look out especially for the following tell-tale signs:

1. Aluminium walking poles (pair of).
2. Top-end brightly covered (clean) mountaineering jackets smothered in logos – often with matching 'his 'n' hers' for ODK smug couples.
3. A toothbrush with the handle cut off – ODKs pride themselves on going 'ultralight'.
4. A shiny-face, similar to over-zealous Christian types.
5. Sachets of lightweight but inedible dried food.
6. Absence of anything combustible aside from, perhaps, some charcoal, a copy of Bridget Jones' Diary or The Bible.

7. Possibly one of those tiny 'bottles' of red/white wine that you get on aeroplanes.

8. A brightly-coloured 'ethnic' bobble-hat with those tassely bits that bash you in the face when it's windy.

What an ODK is likely to say: "Oh yes, what a wonderful day we had walking up Glen Blah before the *epic* scramble up the north-west ridge of Ben blah-blah. It was such a relief to get back to the hotel for tea and crumpets."

What an ODK will never say: "Pass me the whisky."; "Got a light?"; "Whose turn is it to skin-up?" "I need a dump." etc.

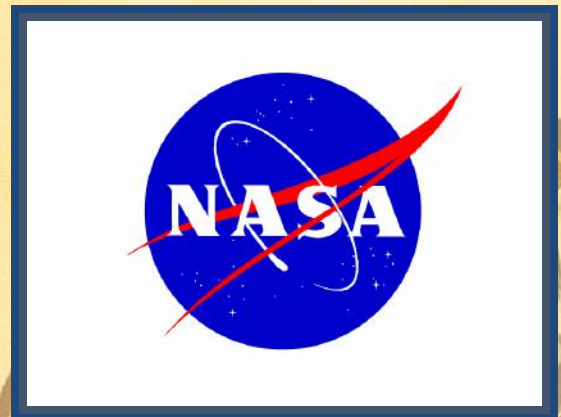
ODK avoidance strategies: If in a bothy put some death metal on the mp3 player. Get Dazbo to assemble his beer-tower in a prominent position. If you are outside and think you can get away with it, simply push them off a cliff...

Internet haunts: Numerous forums, but check out www.walkhighlands.co.uk for *el supremo* ODK claptrap.

Automated ODK detection is here at last!

If you fail to spot the tell-tale signs of the ODK, fear not! Yes dear chap, the whizz-kids at the B&B technical department have - in conjunction with NASA - developed a prototype device, namely the 'Mark I Outdoor Knobber-O-Meter'. This piece of techno-wizardry, when it becomes widely available, will be worth its weight in gold, as a chap will be able to detect the presence of any ODKs without even opening the bothy door! This splendid device is currently undergoing field trials at Corrour bothy; a well-known ODK haunt. Although full details are being kept secret, we can announce that one key feature of the detection system, detects micro-differences in air density as a result of swinging aluminium through the air. Splendid what!

Cont. & see p. 10 for details.



Q.: "How do you know an Outdoor Knobber is in the bothy?"

A: "There's no smoke coming out of the chimney and walking poles are stacked outside." – Sergeant Matron, KPC

Outdoor Knobber Watch cont.

The prototype handheld KPC ODK-O – Meter (works on 4 AAA batteries).

RED ALERT! Textbook ODK action...



The Anatomy of a walking pole – the ultimate ODK accessory... ODKs will usually be in procession of two of these devices, elevating them to 'Imperial Pole-Walker' status.

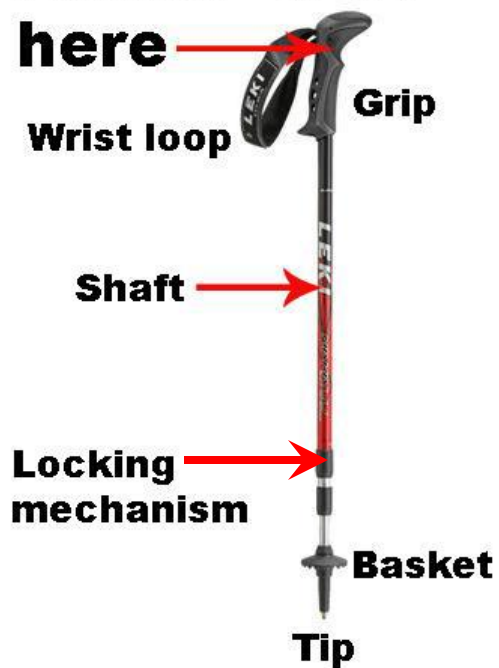
So chaps, when armed with the Mk I ODK-O-Meter you will *always* have the edge over the blighters, even in thick fog. The alarm sound is reminiscent of a WWII siren, so you even get a dose of splendid nostalgia when you are within range. Sheer genius we think you'll agree!

ODK Round-up

Like most irritating things it pays to know what the bothying chap is up against, so the B&B Editorial team have asked me to scour the ODK forums for choice ODK-isms on t'interweb, report back to B&B and offer my analysis on such things.

A recent example of the 'ODK mindset' can be seen on p.11.
Cont. p.11

Attach ODK here



Q: "What's an ODK's favourite perfume?"

A: "ODKologne."

- Colonel Hydrocarbon, KPC and renowned author of 'Bothy Culture'.

Outdoor Knobber Watch cont.

ODK Round-up, cont.

Whilst doing a brief perusal on the top ODK forum on 'Walk Highlands.co.uk' in a post entitled: "**Ben Alder Cottage (bothy)**" I found this little gem that typifies the values and concerns of your average ODK. Read and weep...

by [chris182](#) » Mon Mar 17, 2014 2:02 pm

Hi. Now our plans for staying at Culra bothy have had a spanner put in the works, due to the asbestos issue recently reported, we've had a re-think and are going to paddle down Loch Ericht and stay at Ben Alder on our April trip. Has anyone stayed (or passed) there and can inform about mobile reception, I expect there won't be any? How about on the hills, Ben Alder itself or any of the ones surrounding? Thanks.

Roberto says:

This is vintage ODK thinking: the most important thing to the ODK is whether or not there is phone coverage. Not a word about the bothy, whether it has a fire or stove etc. Simply brilliant! Of course the real message in this post is: "Look at us paddling all the way down Loch Ericht, aren't we heroic..." Tosser.

by [Lightfoot2017](#) » Mon Mar 17, 2014 2:19 pm

There was no reception with either O2 or Vodafone when I was atop both Alder and Bheoil last summer.

Roberto says:

SO WHAT, SO WHAT, SO WHAT YOU BORING LITTLE ODK!

by [malky_c](#) » Mon Mar 17, 2014 2:26 pm

There's probably some on the summits, and maybe out in the middle of the loch as well. I think the old Culra bothy book used to have a diagram of where to stand outside to get a signal (on a small hummock 10 minutes away, if I remember correctly). Best to assume no signal available though, and plan accordingly. Making a commitment to phone someone at a set time when out in these sort of places is bound to end badly.

by [Boris_the_Bold](#) » Mon Mar 17, 2014 8:54 pm

You could take a bag of homing pigeons with you? (NB You can always eat the ones that you don't use for communication purposes)

Or wait for the Scottish Government to provide a phone mast or two at the top of Ben Alder (possibly disguised as wind turbines, so that they blend in with the surrounding scenery)?



BtB

by [Lightfoot2017](#) » Tue Mar 18, 2014 3:00 pm

Boris_the_Bold wrote:Or wait for the Scottish Government to provide a phone mast or two at the top of Ben Alder (possibly disguised as wind turbines, so that they blend in with the surrounding scenery)?

"Bit of politics there.. yes indeed!" (Ben Elton c.1984)

by [chris182](#) » Tue Mar 18, 2014 4:37 pm

Thanks for the replies folks. Looks like planning for zero reception the way to go - best bet is a queued-text sending during the day's walking. Not sure the missus will be impressed but I'll appreciate the solitude for a couple of days 😊

PS. Don't mention those wind turbines - each time we travel up there's more 😞

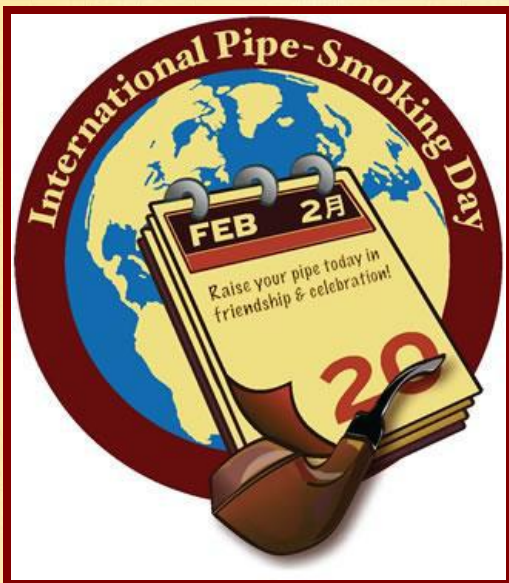
Roberto says:

This is great stuff. Malky c chimes in with some 'sagely' advice. Boris the Bawbag throws a combination of ODK 'humour' followed by a little bit of ODK prejudice against something that will never happen. So, after all this 'advice' Chris is merely going to queue his texts and irritate his bird anyway, and one suspects that his claim to 'appreciate the solitude' means exactly the opposite. In essence dear old Chris is simply concerned about not being able to chat with his bird whilst out in the hills i.e. the phone is nothing more than an addiction to a sad lifestyle rather than a potentially useful tool in case of an emergency. I rest my case. Also note the excessive use of the dreaded emoticon...

Q: "What's an ODK's favourite underpants?"

A: "CALVIN CLIMB"

- Dazbo, KPC.



Even hillbillies celebrate IPSD...



IPSD; what it's all about...

"WE ENVISION A WORLDWIDE COMMUNION of pipe-smokers that is bound together by a shared love for pipe-smoking, mutual respect and goodwill. We envision a society that respects the informed choice and adult use of smoking tobacco. We envision a world where governments act in good faith and integrity, and have the political will and personal courage to express their values appropriately through legislative means. This means that as a group we are united and strong in our beliefs, have understanding, patience, wisdom, enjoy the philosophical aspect of pipe-smoking, and seek to promote pipe-smoking as part of a lifestyle that can be thoroughly enjoyable to adults through the responsible use of tobacco.

MISSION

To foster links across the globe in honor of friendship, benevolence, and tranquility; and to celebrate the fraternity of pipe-smokers across all borders.

PURPOSE

On this day we will take a breather and celebrate the noble art of pipe-smoking and the noble spirit which pervades the brother/sisterhood of the briar. We will put into practice the time-honored and ancestral traditions of raising our pipes in toast to each other in the evening in unison and, thus, share a bowl together.

PHILOSOPHY

Today's hectic environment almost dictates that we run on full efficiency, have total involvement in our work, our families and in every aspect of what we do to survive and achieve in a world set at high speed. With ever-changing values it is the intent that The International Pipe-Smoking Day will allow us, the Brothers and Sisters of the Briar to step back and appreciate our rich historical value. For pipe-smokers and pipe-smoking everywhere the day will be emblematic of our shared values, history, traditions, and aspirations."

LET ME SEE YOUR CLAN FACE-ACHE!
Further to a timely reminder about IPSD from the Matron, with a warning that not smoking a bowl on this hallowed day would incur a stiff penalty of smoking a packet of Clan, The Blender sent in this alarming picture of him doing his penance...



TOBACCO OF THE MONTH

TOOTHPASTE OF THE MONTH

Samuel Gawith's Winter Time Flake



From Stanislav:

For winter time a Latakia flake type was chosen, which is designed for more experienced pipe smokers. In this lovely flake there is a selection of pressed tobacco Virginia leaves which have a higher natural sugar content and excellent spicy Latakia. Thanks to a longer pressing this blend has natural aging and sweetness. The result is at first glance a dark tobacco with excellent flavour and naturally smoked spicy sweet flavour. Winter Time Blend gives the smoker a cool smoke and burns well. Overall it is a medium strong tobacco.

Review:

Winter Time Flake is one of the new Samuel Gawith 'Four Season' tobaccos, developed for the Czech company Stanislav. The tin note is smoky and earthy and the flakes are dark, quite dry and crumbly. It lights well and stays lit to produce a delicious, creamy, Latakia smoke. Definitely one for the Lat-heads out there. Highly recommended.

Strength:



Flavour:



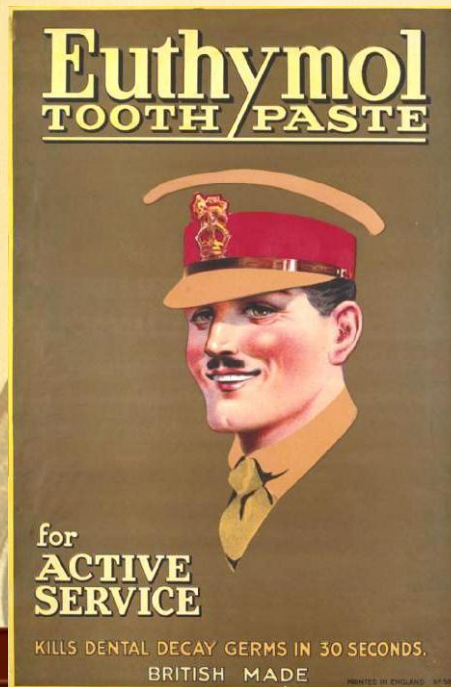
Room note:



With its antiseptic properties (derived from thymol) and no-nonsense 'medicinal' taste, Euthymol for many years has been *the* toothpaste of choice for the discerning pipe-chap. Euthymol is to a chap's *Hampsteads* what T-cut is to car paintwork; simply the most invigorating and restorative potion there is...

Late last year KPC member Puff reported to the B&B Editorial team the shocking news that production of this iconic brand had ceased, due to some namby-pamby European cosmetics regulations nonsense.

Well chaps, we can tell you that the multi-national cosmetics and drugs firm Johnson & Johnson (J&J) had obviously not reckoned on the power of the pipe club lobby. Yes indeed chaps, after a successful campaign, - including a devastating 'pink-pipers flash-mob' outside the J&J headquarters - led by the B&B team, J&J were on their knees; reduced to a handful of shoddy salesman selling K-Y Jelly (their other 'iconic' product) on street corners to fruits! We can now enjoy the sweet smell of victory as well as our beloved Euthymol, as J&J, having found to their cost that the *personal lubrication business* was not quite as lucrative as they'd hoped, have unconditionally capitulated and re-introduced our favorite oral pink pleasure-paste in February 2014.



"Once the toothpaste is out of the tube it's awfully hard to get it back in."
 - H. R. Haldeman commenting on the Watergate scandal.

Show Us Your Pipe-phernalia!

In this new series, KPC members and readers of Briar & Bothies are encouraged to send in photos and other details of their pipe set-up, tobacco cellar and accessories where they can be showcased for readers' pleasure.

KPC member Jimmy 'Puff Puff' Lyall starts us off by showing us his cracking pipe set-up, consisting of his homemade pipe rack and recently acquired custom-built 36-space pipe cabinet. Jimmy's new cabinet is handmade from mahogany and we think you'll agree forms a splendid centrepiece to his display. All he needs now is a few more pipes for a full house!

Although Jimmy hails from Huddersfield, Yorkshire, his heritage (and his heart) remain firmly north of the border, as his late Grandfather, Jock Lyall, was from Edinburgh. Readers will note a Clan Grant theme in Jimmy's pipe set-up. The reason for this is that it is dedicated to his Grandfather, with the Grant tartan being their family's colours.

Jimmy was very close to Jock who passed away in 1982 when Jimmy was only 12. Jock was in the army and served in Italy and Palestine with the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders until 1939. After his service he returned to Scotland where he overheard a few chaps talking about available work in Huddersfield. This, of course, is how the Yorkshire branch of the Lyalls was started. Jimmy says that Jock never actually smoked a pipe – "He was a Parkdrive Man." – although Jock's two sons, Robert (who also served with the A & S H) and Jimmy's Dad Mick, were dedicated Pipe-men.

Jimmy recalls fond memories of childhood holidays north of the border and his only regret is that he never had the chance to go down the pub with his Granddad and have a pint, a smoke and a good chat. To this day, Robert still pops into Jimmy's and he will tell stories about Jock over bowl of his own blend and a decent malt, which Jimmy, being a solid chap, always keeps in stock.

We think you'll agree that Jimmy's pipe collection is superb in its own right, but such a touching personal dedication to a proud Scotsman can only make a fantastic set-up extra-special. Well done Sir, and thanks for sharing your pipe set-up with us.

Jimmy shows us his fantastic pipe set-up



Show Us Your Pipe-pherernalia! cont.



Top chap – Jimmy sporting his Clan Grant tie enjoys a Xmas bowl. (He must have had a hearty Xmas dinner. For a chap this can be the only possible explanation for the sartorial error of an unbuttoned waistcoat., Ed.)



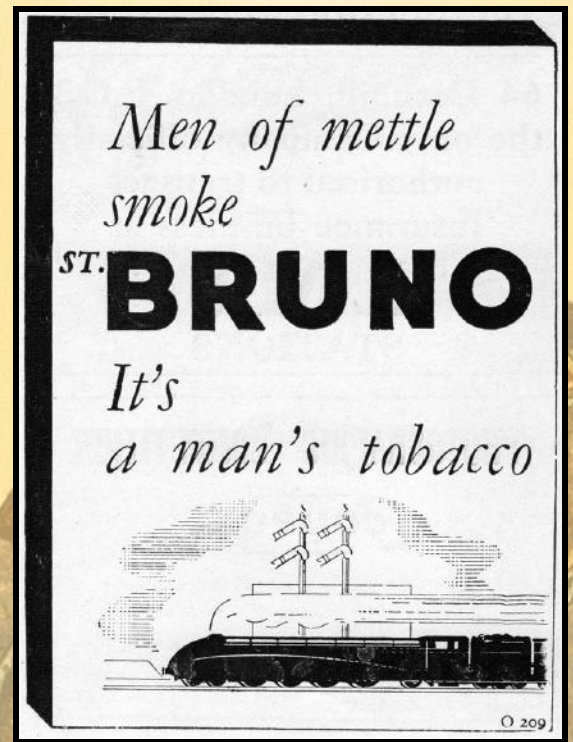
**"Stand fast."
- Clan Grant motto**

Pipe Babe of the Month

If all Italian sailor pipe babes were as 'bella' as Donatella, then a chap could do a lot worse than trying to become her fella! Just imagine this perfect pipe babe priming her pipe whilst straddling a chap's heavy artillery; KABOOM!



Advertisements:



*"It is quite a three pipe problem, and I beg that you don't speak to me for fifty minutes."
- Arthur Conan Doyle.*

KPC News: Club Tobacco Update

The tin label featuring Kearvaig bothy for the forthcoming KPC club blend.



Following a request for information to KPC members (with the incentive prize being a Samuel Gawith Limited Edition fleece) for ideas for the club blend and associated label no entries were received. Therefore Matron's label design (above) will be the tin label. There are also variants to the above label such as 'Bothy Mixture', depending on the final blend selected.

Behind the scenes, Bob 'The Blender' Gregory and Matron have been in discussions regarding the blend itself. The current state of play is that The Blender will produce samples of two, possibly three blends before the final blend is selected. If you want to be part of this exciting and ground-breaking project, (or if you just want some free baccy to try...) get in touch with The Matron and a taster could be arranged after some suitable grovelling.

Ultimately, the plan is to sell the blend worldwide alongside other iconic SG blends and to kick off the advertising campaign a draft below has been prepared for the all-important American market.

"I'll turn the aircon off Dear, as I do so love the aroma of your new Kearvaig Pipe Club Blend!"





LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A forum for KPC members to share their thoughts, or fulminations regarding all things briar, rudimentary shelter, or anything else of pressing import.

North East Scotland Pipe Club?

Dear Sir,

There are a few of us pipe smokers wanting to arrange a regular monthly meeting in the north east of Scotland, specifically the Aberdeen area and I was talking to Peter Jones from the Edinburgh Pipe club and he told me to contact you as you may know other people in our area who would be interested in a monthly group smoke etc. If you know of anybody could you please either let me know or pass my email to them.

Best Regards,

Barry Gray

Dear Barry,

Thanks for getting in touch old chap. We have a KPC member in Nairn but no closer to Aberdeen than that I'm afraid. Most of our members are Fifers and I live out on the west coast on the inner Ardnamurchan. If you let me know when and where your meets are I'll happily put a piece in our club newsletter and blog. Also if you get a website going I'll put a link up.

For the future: perhaps we could organise a joint meet with the KPC, EPC and yourselves? Food for thought.

Regards,

Matron

Hello from the Windy City

Dear Sir,

I'm not sure how I came upon the Kearvaig Pipe Club page, but I did and had a great time looking at the slideshow as I puffed away on my Thomas Cristiano pipe. Nor did I know what a bothy was, but I do now!

Cheers,

Joe Reda, Chicago, Illinois

Dear Joe,

Thanks for getting in touch and hello from Bonnie Scotland. It's always good to hear from a chap across the pond and I'm glad you enjoyed our site. I've seen a few Thomas Cristiano pipes and they are beauties for sure.

We are just a small club, but are quite proud of finding a loophole in the anti-smoking laws, thus enabling members to still enjoy a sociable smoke by a roaring fire. As you may have gathered we don't take ourselves too seriously but we do take our meets/pipes/tobacco seriously. If you have an idle moment you may want to peruse our club newsletter 'Briar & Bothies' that comes out about every 2 months or so. It has all sorts of stuff inside and it gives a flavour what we are all about.

Regards,

Matron

Subterranean Smoke?

Dear Sir,

As a pipe smoker of many years, I have smoked my pipe in some strange places which may be of interest to some of your members. This winter I enjoyed a few drags in the Ryovan Bothy in the Cairngorms. I am a caving enthusiast.

Regards & best wishes to all.

Mike Todd, Kyle of Lochalsh

Dear Mike,

It's always good to hear from a pipe-smoking speleologist chap. Our members know Ryvoan well. Sadly we don't have any cavers, (unless we count KPC member Mr. Cave Fud who as rumour has it lives in one) in the club, just a few hill-chaps and vagabonds really.

You say you have smoked your pipe in some interesting places - I'm sure KPC members would like to hear of those. Perhaps you could be a candidate for our occasional slot in our newsletter entitled 'Extreme Pipe Smoking'. Any photos would be appreciated.

Regards,

Matron

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR cont.

Brian Mills to Stand Down as UKFPC President

Dear All,

Owing to continuing ill health, I have resigned the Presidency of the UK Federation of Pipe Clubs. This position is now in the capable hands of Mark Dyer, who has supported me so well over the past ten years or so.

I will still be on hand for any help, or assistance that I may be able to offer.

My very grateful thanks go to all those who have helped Mark and I get the BPSCs up and running again; may it continue to grow and expand in future years.

Best wishes to All,

Brian

Dear Brian,

I'm so sorry to hear this news. On behalf of all KPC members I thank you for bringing the KPC into the fold. We have enjoyed your company and hope to do so in the future. Get well soon.

Kind Regards,

Matron

A Lesson In Scottish Rags!

(A letter in response to Matron's recently less than favourable comments regarding The Sunday Post...)

Sir,

It is obvious you're "no from up here"! A bit of enlightenment is obviously required about 'TSP'.

It is/was the Sunday paper of choice for thousands of Scots (here & abroad), no matter what your social position! Yer grandma got it and you were brought up on it! It has/did have such a loyal following that it once mentioned there was going to be a sugar shortage and by God by 10.00am on the Monday morning there was!!

Owned by DC Thomson which for years was/may still be non-unionised. Years ago the unions once blacklisted the delivery of TSP to try and force unionisation. They gave up as people were prepared to go along to the works & buy direct or get it by post. It is one of those Scottish institutions which are meddled with at your peril (a bit like the Scottish Regiments!).

I would give my eye teeth to get a write up in TSP!! (Probably the age range of my customers!)

Cheers,

Maclean, GT Coventry, Kirkcaldy

Dear Maclean,

Your fulminations are always entertaining and most welcome but I take it by 'TSP' you are referring to the Sunday newspaper and not the well-known cresol-based anti-septic? The social standing of The Sunday Post is duly noted, and I must sincerely apologise for any gaps in my knowledge of Scottish Sunday reading habits. I suppose until the circulation of B&B gets close to that of the Post's, we will obviously need to be on our guard against a hostile take-over and watch our public criticism of said periodical. That said, it is still a really crap paper...

Sincerely,

Matron

KPC Canadian Chapter?

Hi Sarge,

I'm thoroughly enjoying your posts and your club's activities. As I said before, when I get back to Bonnie Scotland I'd love to get together. A question: does the KPC retail your shirts? I would love to buy one.

All the best,

Doug,

Vancouver City Pipe, Cigar & Social Club
and Founding President of the Vancouver Pipe Club

Dear Doug,

Good to hear from you and I'm glad your enjoying our stuff. You would, however, not have enjoyed our winter this year - very wet and windy - so when you do get across I hope the weather is kinder! Of course it would be great to hook-up with you when you get back to 'the Old Country' - a seat round the bothy fire is guaranteed. As for shirts no problem; just give your size and colour preference and I'll get it sorted.

Regards,

Sarge



CLUB NEWS

Pipe tobacco duty now over £100/kg

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (*Yes, that odious excuse of a man who arguably has the most punchable pus in the history of Tory-punchable-puses, Ed.*) has clobbered the smoker once again. See table below for the current eye-watering levels of tobacco duty.

	From 6 pm 20 March 2013	From 6 pm 19 March 2014	Impact on individuals /household
Cigars	£219.82/kg	£229.65/kg	Additional 8 pence to a packet of 5 small cigars
Other smoking tobacco and chewing tobacco	£96.64/kg	£100.96/kg	Additional 13 pence to a packet (25g) of pipe tobacco

Carey's Offer 5% Discount for KPC Members



Marcus Jones - splendid chap - of E.A. Carey's of Guernsey <http://www.eacarey.co.uk/> dropped the KPC a line via the website and has offered a 5% discount for KPC members. Members just need to enter the code KPC14 when making a purchase. Happy shopping! (*If you want ta bit of sport and no doubt lose your 5% discount simply ask what part of Jersey he's from, Ed.*)

KPC Notices

KPC t-shirts available from the Editor at the bargain price of £13-38 + p&p.

All c-mail to the Editor, articles and other correspondence should be addressed to: **kearvaigpipeclub@btinternet.com**

Website: www.kearvaigpipeclub.co.uk

KPC Future Moots

The KPC will be entering a team into the 2014 British Pipe Smoking Championships at Newark Showground, **12th/13th July 2014**. Members interested contact Sergeant Matron.

The **KPC 2014 AGM will be held 27th September 2014** at Kearvaig Bothy. Details from, and agenda items to, Sergeant Matron.

Ron-Squad's Top Tips



If your pipe has been stained (colour stain), carefully tip some brandy, rum or whiskey into the bowl, light it and let it burn off. This will remove the chemical taste which puts many off their new pipe.

Great philosophical questions of our age:

