



'Briar & Bothies'

The newsletter of
THE KEARVAIG PIPE CLUB



Dazbo's Birthday, Bevvy & Briar Bash, 'The Cabin', Balgowan 1-3/02/13

Dazbo's birthday bash has been an annual fixture for a few years now for the Chaps, but this soiree was the first under KPC colours. Messrs Dazbo, Jesse, Bingae, Bananas and Matron formed the quintet for the 3-day moot.

The Cabin is one of the club huts run by the Edinburgh Junior Mountaineering Club of Scotland (EJMCS), and as Uncle Jesse succinctly pointed out: "This gaff is just like a private bunkhouse!" For £7 pppn the facilities of 'The Cabin' far outstripped the expectations of KPC members, who are more accustomed to toileting facilities consisting of burn and bothy spade rather than hot showers and flushing WCs.

Friday: The Gathering






The Chaps convened the moot on the Friday evening, where time was chiefly spent on soft-furnishings catching up on events with Matron's home-made curry, fine ales, some single malt and, of course, a selection of briars supplemented with a wide selection of fine tobaccos. Dazbo soon got to grips with his birthday present: a Dr. Plumb Churchwarden, pipe tool and some Ashton's 'Smooth Sailing', all supplied by Maclean at G T Coventry's. It was felt that the Churchwarden was a very appropriate gift, as has been noted in the past, this pipe shape perfectly complements this Chap's 'elongated pipe-pus'.

As various expeditions had been planned for the following day, the night was destined to be short-lived. However, events took a turn for the worst as Joe bananas imbibed too much too soon crashing and burning well before the witching hour; an error of judgement that was met with a withering coonsilling session. Indeed this early catastrophe set a dangerous trend for the whole moot, with some of most brutal 'testicular-enhanced' coonsilling ever witnessed in the history of the KPC!

'The Cabin' at Balgowan



Since B&B now has a readership beyond KPC membership boundaries, the Editor has taken the highly unusual step of appending photographic evidence of said coonsilling as a 'Coonsilling Special' members-only supplement to this edition of B&B; such were the horrors on display at this moot... **Cont. p. 2**

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

***Give a man a pipe he can smoke,
Give a man a book he can read;
And his home bright with a calm delight,
Though the room be poor indeed.***

- James Thompson

Dazbo's Birthday, Bevvv & Briar Bash: Cont.

Saturday: BMX Bandits and Munro baggers go out to play

The weather was most agreeable for outdoor pursuits on Saturday morning, so the 'BMX Bandits', namely Messrs Dazbo, Bingae and Bananas set off to Laggan Wolftrax for a bit of BMX banditry, whilst Uncle Jesse and Matron opted for the high ground up on the nearby massif of Creag Meagaidh (1130m) for a bit of extreme pipe smoking. Unfortunately the BMX Bandits were in such unseemly haste to get out to play that two of them neglected to bring their briars, thereby missing out on a golden opportunity for a bit of briar-banditry. Uncle Jesse and Matron however were better prepared and managed a spot of splendid extreme pipe smoking – see p.4 for photographs.

Sporting the ruddy-faces of winter wanderings, the Chaps re-united round the bothy table a raucous evening was had lubricated with copious beverages and fine tobaccos interspersed with a selection of hot snacks for ballast. Once again the art of coonsilling had to be deployed as exposure to the elements and copious fresh air had left a couple of the Chaps struggling to maintain consciousness until the witching hour with subsequent correction administered in line with club rules. **Cont. p.3**

The magnificent north face of Creag Meagaidh in full winter conditions



Publicity for the classic 80's kid's film so beloved by the KPC's very own BMX wing...



The KPC kids emulate their BMX Bandit heroes for their own adventure at Laggan Wolftrax! (Bothy points to Joe bananas for taking his pipe, Ed.)



***The pipe with solemn interposing puff,
Makes half a sentence at a time enough;
The dozing sages drop the drowsy strain,
Then, pause and puff and speak, and pause again. – William Cowper***

Dazbo's Birthday, Bevvie & Briar Bash: Cont.

Sunday: The KPC Annual Roast Dinner

After the exertions of the previous day and night a leisurely Sunday was about as much as the Chaps were prepared to countenance. A supply run by Messrs Bananas, Bingae and Dazbo to Newtonmore allowed Matron and Uncle Jesse to square up the Cabin for the next round of thrilling lounging about.

Uncle Jesse and Dazbo launched a bid for substantial bothy points by preparing the roast dinner whilst the other Chaps looked on in glazed awe at their industrious and earnest faces. The sprouts were done to perfection, guaranteeing bothy points and flavour to Monday morning ablutions. A heartfelt well-done and a bucket load of bothy points to UJ and Dazbo for a gargantuan feast par excellence.

After the roast dinner feat the Chaps retired to their smoking chairs for a bowls and beverages. It was not long, however, until Uncle Jesse had a severe attack of 'Garfield Pus Syndrome' thus forfeiting some of those hard-earned bothy points before the lightweight sidled off for a nap at 21:30. The gap created in the beverage supply chain was eagerly filled by the remaining mercenary addicts, so that when UJ emerged from his slumber he was greeted with pie-eyed pusses galore with even the dregs of the gin (*these Chaps must have been desperate for this spirit is universally detested by the KPC members presents, Ed.*) bottle having mysteriously vanished. That is the price you pay for leaving the KPC field of battle! As somebody said: "Never in the field of human conflict has so much been consumed by so few".

KPC members enjoy their annual roast dinner



MY PIPE...

***When love grows cool, thy fire still warms me;
When friends are fled, thy presence charms me.
If thou art full, though purse be bare,
I smoke and cast away all care!***

- German smoking song

Dazbo's Birthday, Bevvie & Briar Bash:



"The only way to break a bad habit was to replace it with a better habit."

- Jack Nicholson explaining why he switched from cigarettes to cigars

The Role of the Briar in The Dambusters Raid



Further to the letter from Major Bedd, DFC, MM, RFC (Retd.) (B&B Vol. 2 Iss. 1), the editorial team at B&B has been extensively researching the role of the briar in Bomber Command. Our research, unsurprisingly, has found that the humble briar did indeed play a significant role in Bomber Command. However, the role was so significant, that due to space considerations we opted to concentrate on the role of the briar in one of the most famous bombing missions of WWII; namely the famous 'Dambusters Raid', or more correctly (before anyone writes in in smoky indignation) 'Operation Chastise'. We hope KPC members and readers alike will learn something new about how pipes helped our Chaps prevail in this story of daring-do...

Background to the Dambusters raid

On the night of 16/17th May 1943 the secret 617 Squadron formed from elite pilots set off from RAF Scampton on an audacious bombing raid to strike at the industrial heartland of western Germany and attack the great dams of the Ruhr valley: the Möhne, Eder and Sorpe. The mission and the weapon which made it possible were devised by the inventor and aircraft designer Barnes Wallis. Prior to inventing the 'bouncing-bomb' (more correctly it was actually classified as a 'mine') Wallis was famed for inventing the Wellington, thereby enabling the country Chap to have dry feet whatever the weather.

A total of 19 Avro Lancaster bombers from 617 Squadron flew the mission. The 'Lancs' had been extensively modified to carry a single 4 ton spinning (at 500rpm) bomb, codenamed 'Upkeep'. To breach the dam, each bomb had to be dropped at a precise distance (425 yards), speed (240mph) and height (60ft) to enable it to bounce across the water, sink at the base of the dam and then detonate at depth, thereby using the shockwave focused by the water to crack the dams. 617 Squadron was led by the indomitable Wing Commander Guy Gibson – a famous brother of the briar who, when asked how he kept his nerve under fire was quoted as saying *"It's down to about 50% briar and about 50% leaf"*. The Chaps of 617 Squadron were required to fly at extremely low level, not only to drop their bouncing-bombs but to keep below enemy radar enroute over the Netherlands making it one of the most daring and dangerous missions of WWII.

Reconnaissance images depicting the raids dramatic outcome, coupled with the courage, skill and originality of the mission led to 617 Squadron becoming famously known as 'The Dambusters' and their motto was: "Après le déluge, le bruyère" ("After the flood, the briar") – see the 617 Squadron crest opposite.

The crest of 617 Squadron



"To attack these targets successfully it is necessary to inject the largest possible charge to the greatest possible depth in the medium (earth or water) that surrounds or is in contact with the target."

– Dr Barnes Wallis, CBE, FRS & designer of the 'bouncing-bomb'.

The Role of the Briar in The Dambusters Raid cont:

Special equipment required

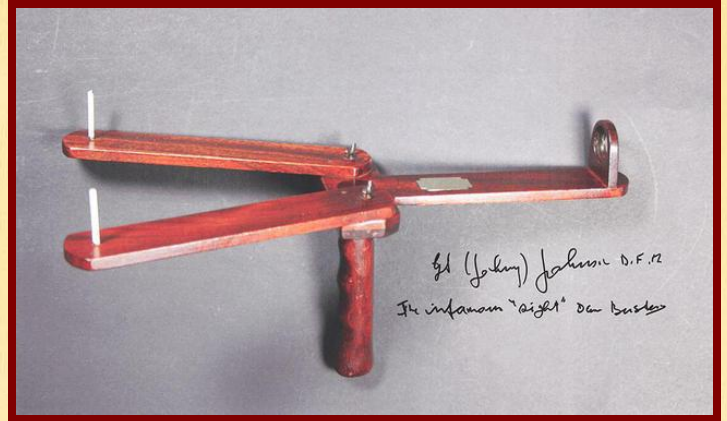
Due to the extremely low level required for successful releasing of the spinning bouncing-bombs, conventional bombsights of the day were useless. Therefore, this required the designing of completely new device to allow accurate bomb release when the Lanc was at exactly 60ft above the water. The ingenious answer was a special hand held bombsight made of wood (see photo), of amazing simplicity. It was this simplicity of the design that would enable the pipe smokers of 617 Squadron (*of course just about all RAF Chaps were in the brotherhood of the briar in those days, Ed.*) to save the day and complete their mission, as will be revealed.

The radical bombsight was an adjustable 'Y' shaped wooden device with pins in the end of the 'Y', a handle and an eyepiece for aiming. On the attack run the bombardier simply had to look through the eyepiece at the pins and when the pins were exactly lined up with the towers on the dams he released the bouncing-bomb.

Of course the Lancs had to be at 60ft when the bouncing-bomb was dropped so conventional altimeters were also of no use. Therefore a simple system of two angled spotlights was employed under the aircraft and when they converged on the reflective surface of the water (*using the pipethagoras theorem, Ed.*) the plane was at 60ft. Then the pilot had to keep the speed at 240mph at 60ft on the approach to the dam— no easy task under fire and when wearing an oxygen mask it was also impossible to have a nerve-steadying bowl.

The angled spotlights allowed the Lancs to be at exactly 60ft above the water to release their bouncing- bombs

The special bombsight developed for The Dambuster mission



The Dambuster bombsight in action



Wing Commander Guy Gibson enjoys a bowl with his crew and his dog 'Black Cavendish' before the mission



The Role of the Briar in The Dambusters Raid cont: The role of the briar in mission

On the flight out the three waves of 617 Squadron encountered some heavy flak and as a result several of the special bombsights were damaged. It is also a little known fact that two crews actually *forgot* their bombsights. Before the formations reached the dams alternative arrangements had to be made very quickly, otherwise the bouncing-bombs obviously could not be aimed accurately and the mission would be a disaster.

The research team at Briar & Bothies has uncovered top secret papers that revealed how our Chaps overcame the lack of the wooden bombsights, thereby adding more detail to an already legendary mission.

For a decision that would later gain him the Victoria Cross, Wing Co. Guy Gibson ordered the crews who had problems or missing bombsights to make replacements using their briars, pipe tools and pipe cleaners. It was a master-stroke that saved the day, allowing our Chaps to successfully complete the mission and destroy the Möhne and Eder dams .

The improvised briar-bombsight was simple: two straight briars formed the 'Y' with their bowls acting as the aiming pins, a pipe tool was deployed as the aiming eyepiece and a third straight briar was the handle. The whole lot was held together using pipe cleaners. Once again some ground-breaking research by the team at B&B has revealed how important the sturdy briar was for RAF missions during WWII!

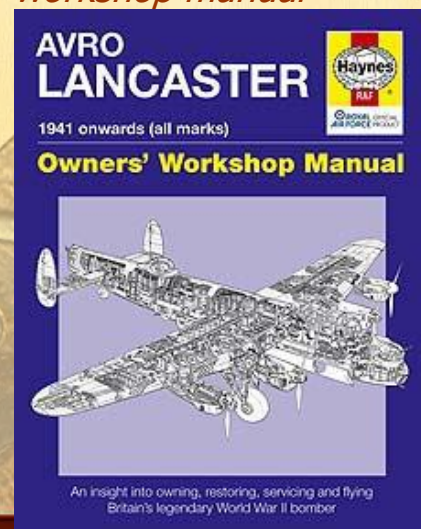
Recreation of the briar-bombsight

Unfortunately the returning crews dismantled their briar-bombsights during their return to RAF Scampton for a well-deserved smoke, so no original examples have remained. Somewhat saddened by this fact the editorial team at B&B has responded in fine fashion and has actually re-created an example briar-bombsight in time to commemorate the 70th anniversary of The Dambusters raid in May this year. The B&B briar-bombsight even includes a computer simulation showing a highly realistic representation of the dam attack! We think readers will agree that with the aid of modern technology and a few sturdy briars deployed by the team at B&B, the ingenuity and resourcefulness of the likes of Gibson has been brought to life. See the pictures on p.8 for full details.

A fine study of the Lancaster bomber



For Chaps who have their own 'Lanc', Haynes thoughtfully publish a workshop manual



"If we see you smoking we will assume you are on fire and take appropriate action". - Douglas Adams

The Role of the Briar in The Dambusters Raid: The KPC Recreates the Improvised Briar Bombsight!

Two views showing the detail of the KPC's recreation of the Dambuster briar-bombsight



Briars away! We think you'll agree that the research team at B&B, combining enhanced computer simulation techniques with the KPC's recreation of the Dambusters briar-bombsight, shows breathtaking realism on the approach to the Eder dam!



"It has always been my rule never to smoke when asleep, and never to refrain when awake". - Mark Twain

Chap's Corner

In this edition we drill down to the molecular level to help a Chap get through his day...

As a Chap, have you ever wondered how you make it through the day without going mad in today's modern world with all its inherent beastliness? Well, you may or may not realise that your ability to cope and thrive is largely down to your imbibing of vitamins essential to what is known as 'Chap Homeostasis'.

If you are unfamiliar with your chemical requirements then look no further than this helpful guide to get your '7-a-day':

Vitamin A – This vitamin is essential for the well-being of any Chap and should be topped up constantly. Good sources are: real ale, red wine, fine port and single malt Scotch whisky.

Vitamin C – Feeling a little of the pace? Have an extra cup of Darjeeling or Jamaican Blue Mountain; that should do the trick.

Vitamin M – Definitely a vitamin for the evenings or for soirees with one's mistress. As to the best sources it is best left to one's batman or mistress to acquire. Useful for headaches after too much vitamin A too!

Vitamin N – This essential vitamin should be kept topped up all day for the healthy Chap. Good sources are of course your favourite pipe tobacco or cigar. Be warned however with some pipe tobacco, as amounts of Vitamin N can be low, so if in doubt and you are not feeling yourself then try a blend rich in perique – that should fettle get any Chap back on an even keel!

Vitamin S – Chomp some fine Swiss chocolate for a top-up anytime for this vitamin.

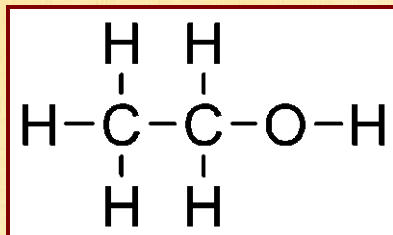
Vitamin T – Good sources are green aromatics. Probably best imbibed of an evening or when doing anything else is of little importance. Like vitamin M a Chap would be advised to let his batman secure supplies.

Vitamin U – although not eaten directly, as the body makes its own supply, this vitamin is essential for maintaining one's gout. Good sources: port, red wine and blue cheeses.

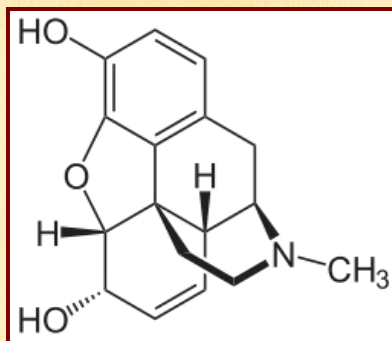
If a Chap pays attention to maintaining high levels of all of the above then he should be a happy Chappy all of the time. Splendid what!



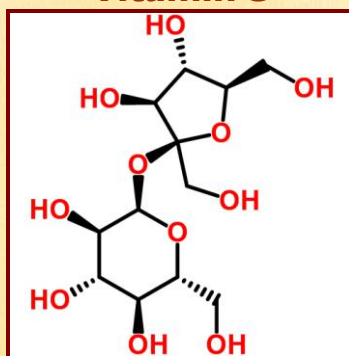
Vitamin A



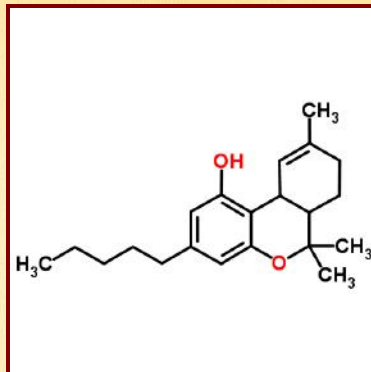
Vitamin M



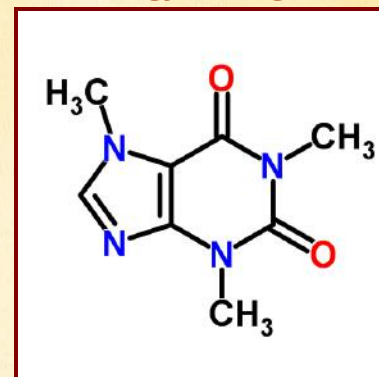
Vitamin S



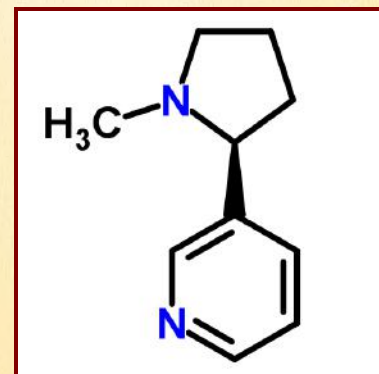
Vitamin T



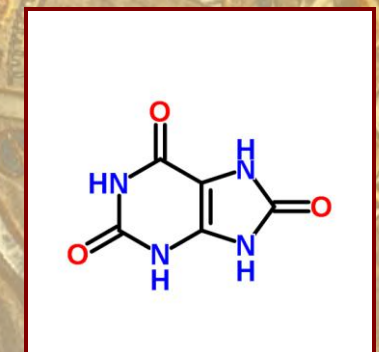
Vitamin C



Vitamin N



Vitamin U



"If they took all the drugs, nicotine, alcohol and caffeine off the market for six days, they'd have to bring out the tanks to control you". – Dick Gregory

TOBACCO & PIPE OF THE MONTH

Holger Danske 'Royal Navy Flake'



From the manufacturer:

Exquisite Virginia tobaccos, slowly ripened in calm, rounded off with a very soft fruit aromatic touch. A cool burning blend with natural sweetness.

Review:

The tin note is very fruity, almost floral. The tin is small at 6.5cm x 8.5cm, so correspondingly the flakes are smaller than usual. This tobacco is beautifully packed in an inner bag sealed with a foil gold leaf. The flake is a very golden colour with a dry crumbly texture (much drier than say SG Navy Flake) that makes packing your bowl very simple. It is a flavoursome smoke and stays lit easily with its subtle but fruity taste with you all the way down the bowl. The room note is definitely pleasing and likely to attract the lady sailors out there.

Strength:



Flavour:



Room note:



The tobacco named after the famous battle - the perfect fill for any Zulu!

The Zulu



The Zulu combines the canted bowl of the Dublin with a 1/8 bent stem. The shape is sometimes referred to as a Woodstock, (*but we'll have none of that hippy nonsense here, Ed.*) Yacht, or Yachtsman. The gentle bend makes the pipe more comfortable to hold in the teeth than a straight pipe.

Although the Zulu pipe did not feature, it was of course named after the magnificent 1964 film 'Zulu' starring Michael Caine as the quintessential stiff-upper lip Lieutenant Gonville Bromhead who led British troops at the famous battle of Borkum Riff (see below).

With a heritage like that any Chap gripping a Zulu between gritted teeth instantly becomes a battle-hardened warrior!



**"A pipe is as good as a prayer on a day like this".
– Colour Sergeant Bourne at the battle of Borkum Riff**

Pipe Babe of the Month

To help commemorate our Dambusters tribute article, Barbara simply couldn't wait to don her flying helmet and volunteer for service as the KPC's briar-toting-blonde-bomber-shell! Whether a Chap is flying high, or with the ground crew, I'm sure he would not hesitate at a chance of a sortie with this Pipe Babe!



He's on the right course
- he's got

P.A.*



P.A.* means Pipe Appeal
Most any woman will tell you that the man who smokes a pipe has an extra-masculine attractiveness!

P.A.* means Prince Albert

The NEW NUMBER TOP—locks OUT the air—locks IN the freshness and flavor.



• You'll find you're "on the right course" for real smoking joy when you pack your pipe with Prince Albert—the National Joy Smoke. Choice, crimp cut tobacco... mild, rich-tasting! Specially treated to insure against tongue bite! Get P.A.—and see why it's America's largest-selling smoking tobacco!

"RA'S FAMOUS CRIMP CUT MAKES IT EASY TO ROLL A FINE CIGARETTE!"

R.J. REYNOLDS TOBACCO CO. Winston-Salem, N.C.



The National Joy Smoke

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Please mention the KPC and/or Briar & Bothies when responding to our sponsors

Smoke your pipe and be silent; there's only wind and smoke in the world. - Irish Proverb

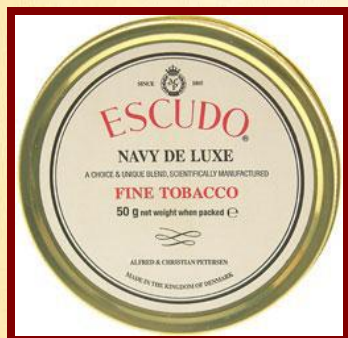
News: KPC members enjoy a joint meet with The Edinburgh Pipe Club, 24/02/13



On a wintry February Sunday afternoon KPC members Colonel Hydrocarbon and Sergeant Matron attended an Edinburgh Pipe Club meet and Henrick's Bar, Edinburgh for a splendid smokefest. Three EPC members were in attendance: founder member Peter, Steve and Anton.

The EPC members were splendid Chaps indeed, and were indistinguishable from the KPC members when it came to the oddball stakes.

A range of tobaccos were sampled but two blends stood out on the day: Peter supplied some exquisite 10-year-old Escudo Navy De Luxe Flake (a VaPer mixture), thereby introducing the KPC Chaps to yet another variable in the world of tobacco namely 'ageing' or 'cellaring'. Matron produced some Holger Danske Navy Flake (see tobacco of the month) which went down well with all present except Steve who only prays at the altar of St. Bruno flake.



EPC website

<http://www.edinburghpipeclub.co.uk/>

Messrs Hydrocarbon & Matron enjoy some EPC hospitality at Henrick's Bar

Let me see your pipe face! Peter & Steve get stuck in to some choice blends & St. Bruno



*"Little tube of mighty pow'r,
Charmer of an idle hour,
Object of my warm desire". - Isaac Hawkins Browne, "A Pipe of Tobacco"*



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Request for Affiliation

CONNEL GENTLEMEN'S CLUB (THE CLUB)

Tuesday 13th March 2013,

Dear Sergeant Matron and Members of the Kearvaig Pipe Club,

I am directed by the Members of the Connel Gentlemen's Smoking Club to propose an affiliation between our respective organisations.

I hope you will forgive our forwardness in this matter but we feel that we know you well and that you are cut from the same cloth as ourselves after reading Volume 2 Issue 1 of your most excellent newsletter. We obtained the newsletter when visiting Mr Maclean-John Dorward's fine emporium in Kirkcaldy earlier this year and have enjoyed reading it over and over again. We share your passion for cake and WW2 flyers as well as pipes and tobacco.

We are a newly formed club based in Connel on the outskirts of Oban and noted with great excitement that you are planning to be present in Easdale Island at the end of May this year. We should love to meet with you all there for some baccy and blether.

It would be wonderful to hear from you ahead of our next meeting on the evening of Friday 15th March 2013. If only to say that you are considering our rather peremptory approach.

Yours in a cloud of fragrant smoke,

Elaine Walton, Club Secretary
on behalf of the CGSC

Dear Ms. Walton & members of the Connel Gentlemen's Smoking Club,

Thank you kindly for your most respectful correspondence.

On behalf of the Kearvaig Pipe Club (KPC) I must move quickly to assure your members that there is absolutely no need for even a modicum of apology for any 'forwardness' in making your proposal of affiliation. Indeed, very recently, members of the KPC forwarded themselves and attended a joint meeting with the Edinburgh Pipe Club (EPC) <http://www.edinburghpipeclub.co.uk/> and a most agreeable pipe smoking moot was had as a result.

Further to your excursion to Mr Dorward's fine emporium, and subsequent perusal of 'Briar & Bothies', I would like to draw your attention to our new pigeon-hole on the information super-highway: <http://www.kearvaigpipeclub.co.uk/> The decision to supplement our newsletters in this manner was taken after much soul searching among KPC members. In the end it was decided that the desire to 'reach-out' to like minded Chaps marginally out-weighed the intrinsic vulgarity of said medium. You may be pleased to note that all editions of our newsletter 'Briar & Bothies' are available for viewing and downloading', if that is one's thing.

The KPC will indeed be in attendance at Easdale Island at the end of May to enjoy a spot of 'acid-croft', and on behalf of the Chaps of the KPC may I warmly accept your offer of some damn fine 'baccy and blether'!

In the meantime I shall discuss your offer of affiliation with KPC members more formally over a bothy fire sometime soon.

Yours,

*Sergeant Matron,
KPC*

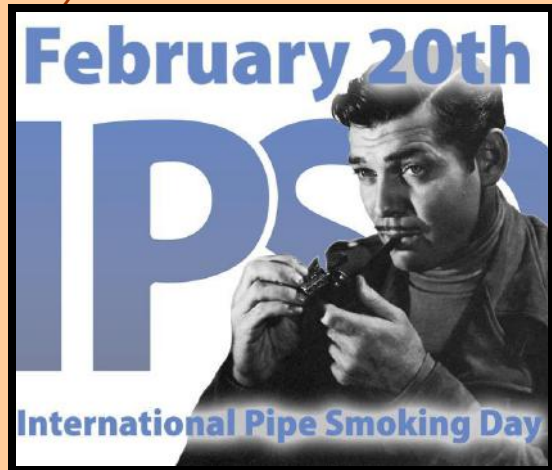
***"It is quite a three-pipe problem".
- Arthur Conan Doyle, The Red-Headed League***

Stop Press: Kearvaig Pipe Club website goes live, 08th March 2013!

Following the stratospheric rise of our busy pipe club the idea of a website to put the KPC on a global footing had been talked about frequently at KPC moots.

So it is with great pleasure that the Editorial team at B&B can announce that the KPC website is now up and running: www.kearvaigpipeclub.co.uk Members and non-members alike are encouraged to visit and contribute as much guff as they like.

What did you do for International Pipe Smoking Day on 20th February 2013? Why not write in and tell us?



Dyslexics Corner: Pipe Resigns!



KPC Notices

KPC t-shirts still available from the Editor at the bargain price of £12-99 + 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

Uncle Jesse's Stag-do: 27th – 28th April 2013 at the Knoydart Music Festival. Details from the Uncle Jesse's Best Man and KPC member Dazbo. Supporting the KPC will be Bombskare, the Peatbog Faeries etc.

25th May 2013 The Kearvaig Pipe Club will be performing at Easdale Island. Support: Shooglenifty.

New - The KPC Pipe Thong!

Why not show the Pipe Babe in *your* life that you like more than just a good smoke?



ONLY £9-99 (Also available in Black Cavendish)



(KPC Pipe Thong serving suggestion.)