

A collection of emails, photos and yearbook stuff that was never published...

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### Killin day trip, October 2005

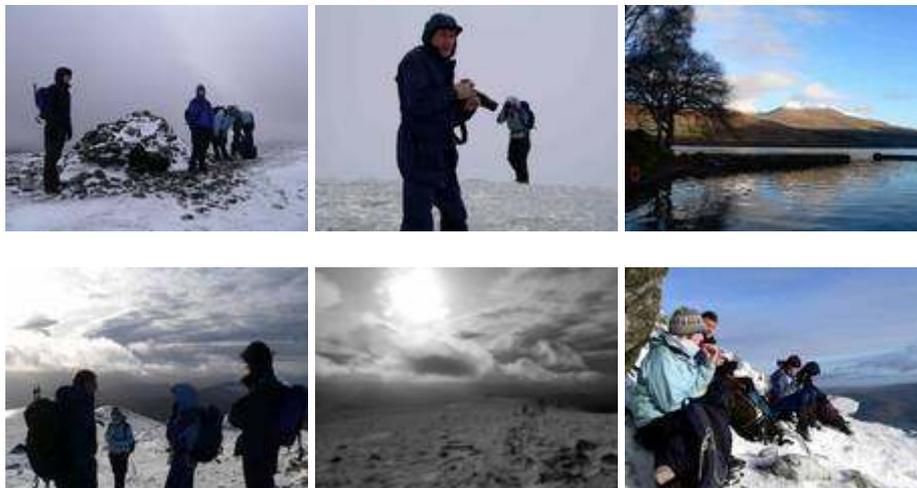


(Freyja Forsth)



(Tom Owen)

## Firbush Nav Skills, November 2005



(David Messenger)

## Leaders weekend and Loch Leven

----- Forwarded message from [jimmyboy75uk@yahoo.com](mailto:jimmyboy75uk@yahoo.com) -----

I'd second that - thanks to everyone - drivers, ML's and organiser who made it happen.

Hope that you guys like the pictures.

Regards

James

--- Sam Mackay <[sam.mac@gmail.com](mailto:sam.mac@gmail.com)> wrote:

I'll add mine too, to the girls for driving, Richard for his wisdom, Simon for his arresting performance on the slopes, and most of all to the mountains for providing us with a great playground to test our skills on!

Cornice-tastic (pew - impressive stuff!!).

I'd say as well, certainly the half of you I walked with, I'd definitely trust any of you my granny (in a hill context, obviously). So get out there and have some epics!

Hope to see you all in the hills again very soon, perhaps with a bit less of the white stuff, but hopefully a bit more of the clag to get some real evil nav stuff going on...

For now, it's all about London. \*sob\*. Poor me.

Take care all,

S.

P.S I know you've got Richard much more 'to hand' (plus he knows more), but if anyone does have any questions for me or wants any advice, or to invite me on some epic adventure, don't hesitate to drop me an email or give me a call

On 27/02/06, Stephanie Parkes <[stephanierparkes@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stephanierparkes@yahoo.co.uk)> wrote:

Hello!

I'd just like to add my thanks to everyone, particularly Richard, Simon and Sam for sharing their skills with me. I had a fantastic time and can't wait to get out again! A night walk definitely sounds fun...

Steph :)

\*Richard Kermode <[rkermode@gmail.com](mailto:rkermode@gmail.com)>\* wrote:

Hey Guys & Gals!!

Just wanted to thank you all for coming along on the trip. As a group you were excellent and I hope that you all got what you wanted out of the weekend?

Hopefully you'll all be thinking about your next trip with the club and what mountains you want to explore and how you want to build up your skills even further!!

Even if I am not going on the trips please feel free to ask for suggestions about routes or whether I know what the bizarre ridge you want to drag people up is like and I will try to help where and when I can.

The other great thing is that you all know each other and can combine to offer some great adventure to the other members of the hill walking club. If in doubt just remember what you've experienced this last weekend!!

Great things can be done safely with a good bit of planning.....

I am thinking at some point this year if I have time that I will try and sort out a night walk in the highlands somewhere if the committee go for it and obviously you lot would be the top choice for getting out there again and getting more skills to build up, but I will keep this group list and if it happens then you'll know about it.

Emily mentioned that the club have planned a trip to Knoydart later this year in May I think, but it will be a camping trip so a fairly hard weekend and not the usual kind of thing the club does. It would be a great chance for you lot to go out and plan adventurous walks together in a really wild area where paths are not so common on the mountains there..... food for thought anyway!!

Anyway, enough spamming from me and I cannae wait to see some of those photographs!!!

Take care in the mountains,

Richard



(James Davidson)

Duncan Sproul wrote: Didn't take as many photos as Ian but I put some up on the internet for you all to have a wee look at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/58577755@N00/sets/72057594071389595/>

## **Glen Affric report and photos by Tessa Clark**

The first weekend of the final term was spent in beautiful Glen Affric, on possibly the smallest club trip ever; only nine happy hill walkers! Setting off on Friday evening, it took us four and a half hours to reach our destination; a cosy independent hostel, with a huge kitchen, huge lounge, slightly retro decoration but with only two people to each room we certainly weren't complaining!

The forecast for Saturday was miserable, so we were all pleasantly surprised when it turned out to be a beautiful sunny morning, and decided on two fairly ambitious walks. Driving through forests to the starts of our walks we could see snow topped mountains overlooking huge lochs and surrounded by blue skies. Naturally, we were in great spirits as the weather got sunnier and sunnier. However, (and there's always a 'however' when it comes to weather), it quickly deteriorated when both groups were near the summits. Very strong winds and hail suddenly hit us, making it not only very hard to stand, but the hail stones felt like someone throwing pins in your legs! Both groups had to shorten their walks. Andy's group reached the top of Toll Creagach (ok, we never actually found the trig point, but as far as I'm concerned that was more or less the top! Michael and Merilin managed to get to the summit of Mam Sodhail but the others had to turn back after a very tough uphill, which apparently even the RAF mountain rescue avoided! Andy's group, obviously not content with being very wind

swept, soaking wet from the rain and battered by the hail also found a thigh high stream to cross (though I think it was waist high on some people!) . That certainly was not very warm water!

We were all extremely glad to get back to the hostel, get a shower and attempt to dry some of our stuff. After dinner we had a short trip to the pub, with most of us leaving (sensibly) around 11. Some of us, however, not naming any names (Jim) stayed up until 4am and had severe difficulty getting up the next morning. Fortunately, for us, the next morning was a sunny beautiful day. Unfortunately, for Jim, after 20 minutes into the walk he decided he could not continue, so spent the time Kristy and I took to walk up Sgorr na Diollaid and back, asleep in the grass! Meanwhile, Michael, Merilin and Jos had a stunning walk in the snow and sunshine up two Munros: Creag Dubh and Carn nan Gobhar. Quite exhausted from the previous day Andy, Emma and Ninke took a leisurely walk down the valley where they saw not only lots of birds and deer but a llama too!

Glen Affric proved to be a very beautiful area, but as ever in Scotland, very variable weather conditions! I'm assured everyone had a brilliant time, those who bagged a few munros, and those who did none but enjoyed the scenery, weather and company. It may have been a small trip but we certainly had our share of sunshine, snow, hail, rain, wind, river crossings, steep slopes and hangovers!

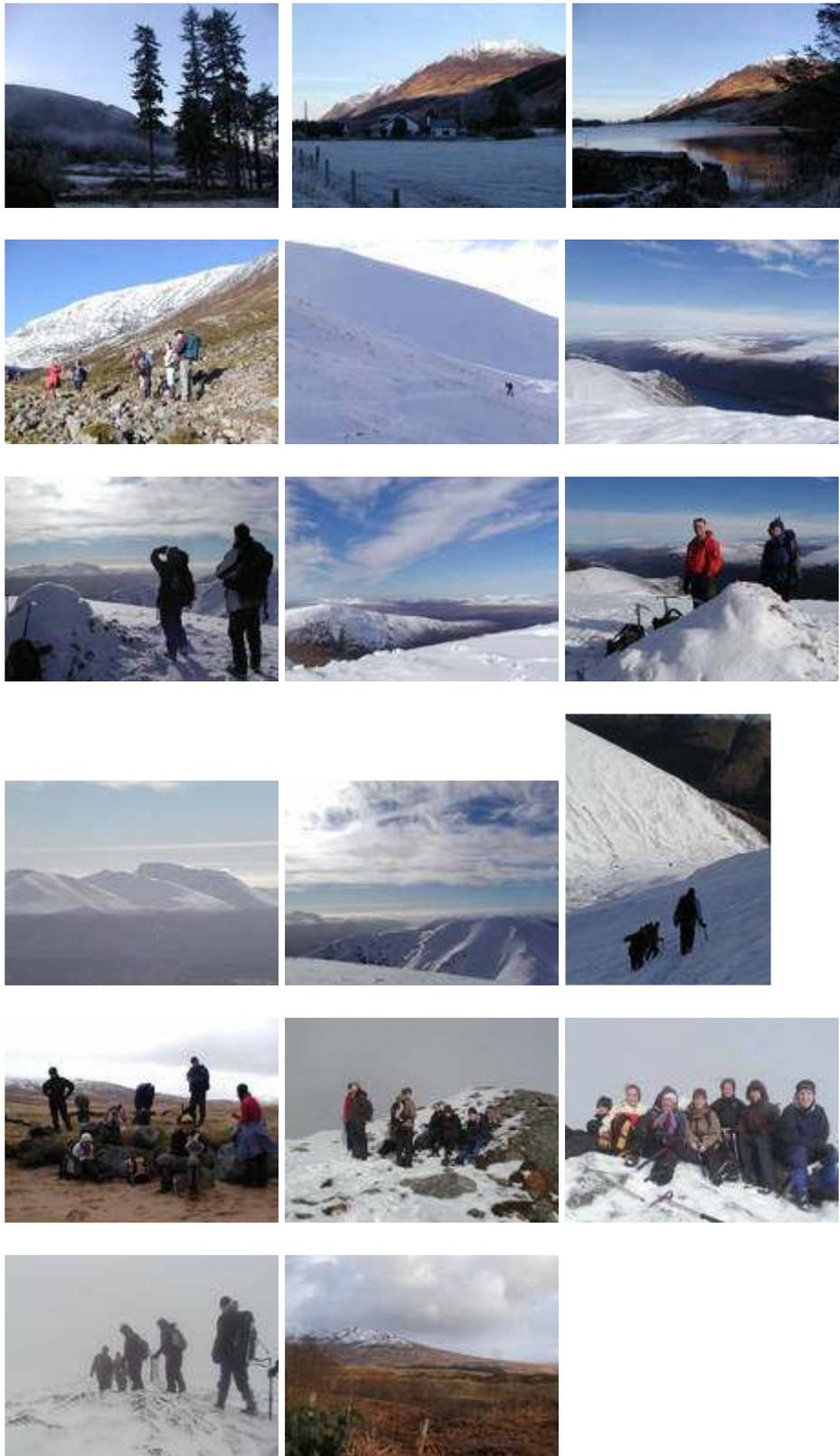


(Tessa Clark)

## Loch Lochy, Feb 2006

Robin Sutherland wrote:

I've attached some pictures. Well actually quite a few, I hope I don't flood your inbox or something. I didn't label them, but I'm sure that you know better than me what they're pictures of - I just know they're munros! The first ones are of the trip that Steve [Deslandes] led the first day, and the second with Duncan [Sproul].



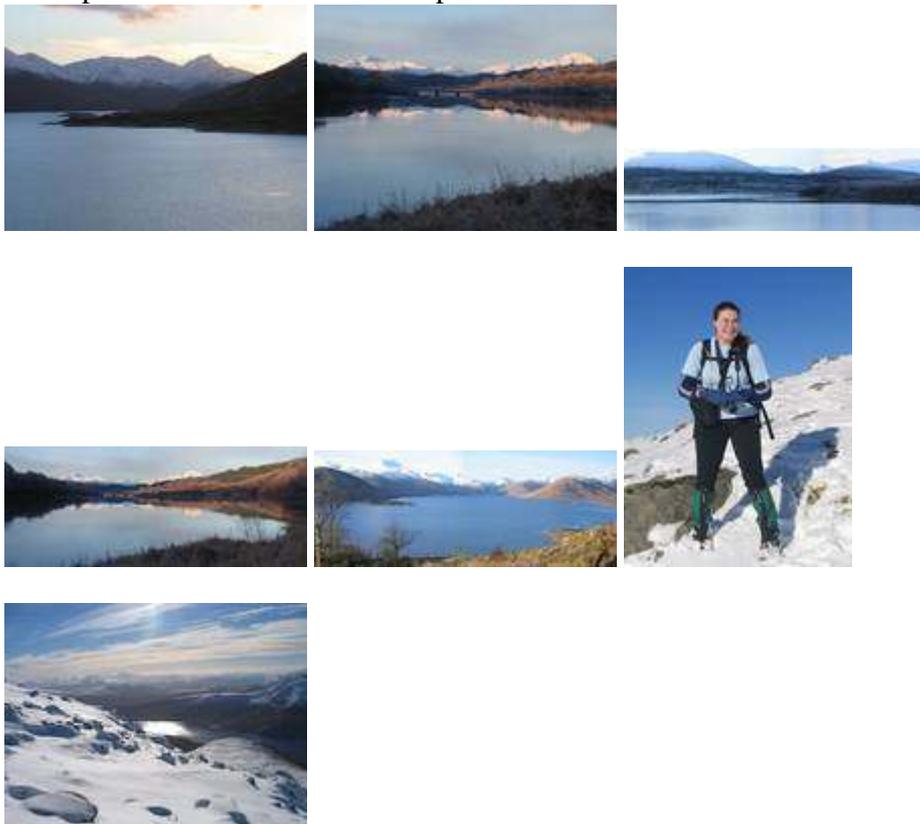
(Robin Sutherland)

Some pics from Gleouraich and Spidean Mialach on the north side of Loch Quoich taken on a Saturday walk from Loch Lochy



(Laura Kauther)

More pics from Gleouraich and Spidean Mialach



(Alex Ward)



(John Dowens)

### East Ridge of Beinn a' Chaorainn





(John Dowens)

Andy Bates wrote:

Hi,

There's some pictures from the Loch Lochy trip (Ben Nevis) here.  
<http://gliding.tardis.ed.ac.uk/database/PhotoAlbum/view/15>

You can download high resolution copies too.

Andy

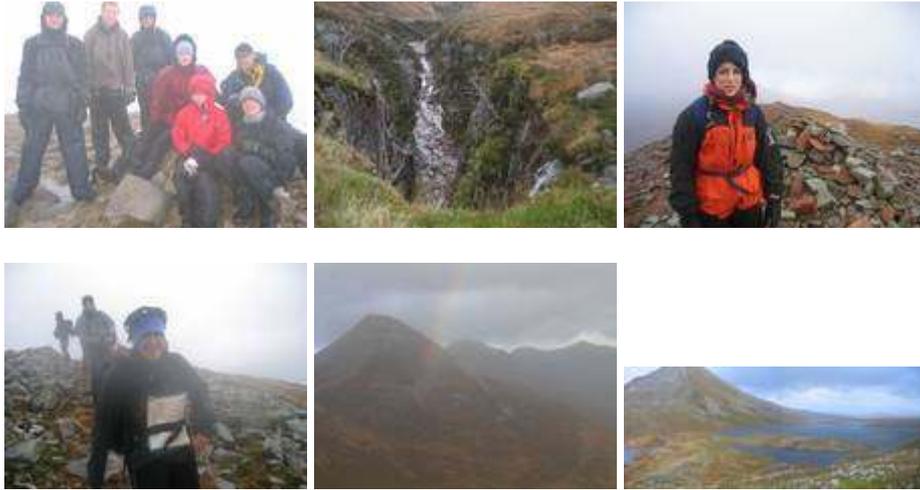
And from somewhere else on the trip...



(Phil McLean)

## Glencoe, 6<sup>th</sup> November 2005





(Alex Ward)

## Arrochar, 29 September 2005

Hi, took this photo on the Beinn Narnain, Arrochar trip at the start of term.



(Ross Butler)

## Torricon, April 2006

<http://www.kodakgallery.com/I.jsp?c=16em4gk2.kvma1jm&x=0&y=-bt1pie>



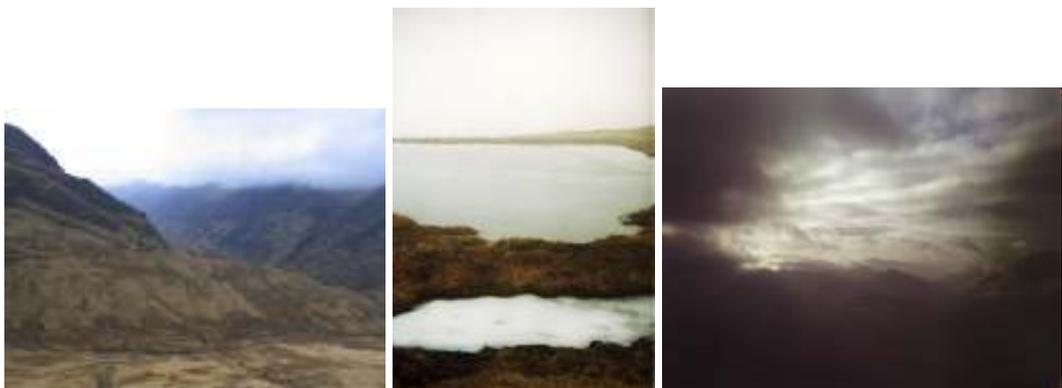
(Nic Gibson)

## Miscellaneous trips and socials

Johanna Pagels wrote:

Hi John,

I didn't have the time to go on as many trips as I would have liked to, but here are some pictures of the glennevis and the glencoe trip i went on. They are in bad quality, so if you need them bigger, let me know.





(Johanna Pagels)

## **Social Sec Report by Heather Stevens**

Having taken on the job of social secretary Tessa and I have had a fun year putting together a programme to accommodate Duncan's enthusiasm for ceilidh dancing, old man Steve's love of a night in the pub, the usual quizzes, meals and skittles trip and of course Mr Trappitt's constant demand for a hardcore night on the dance floor.

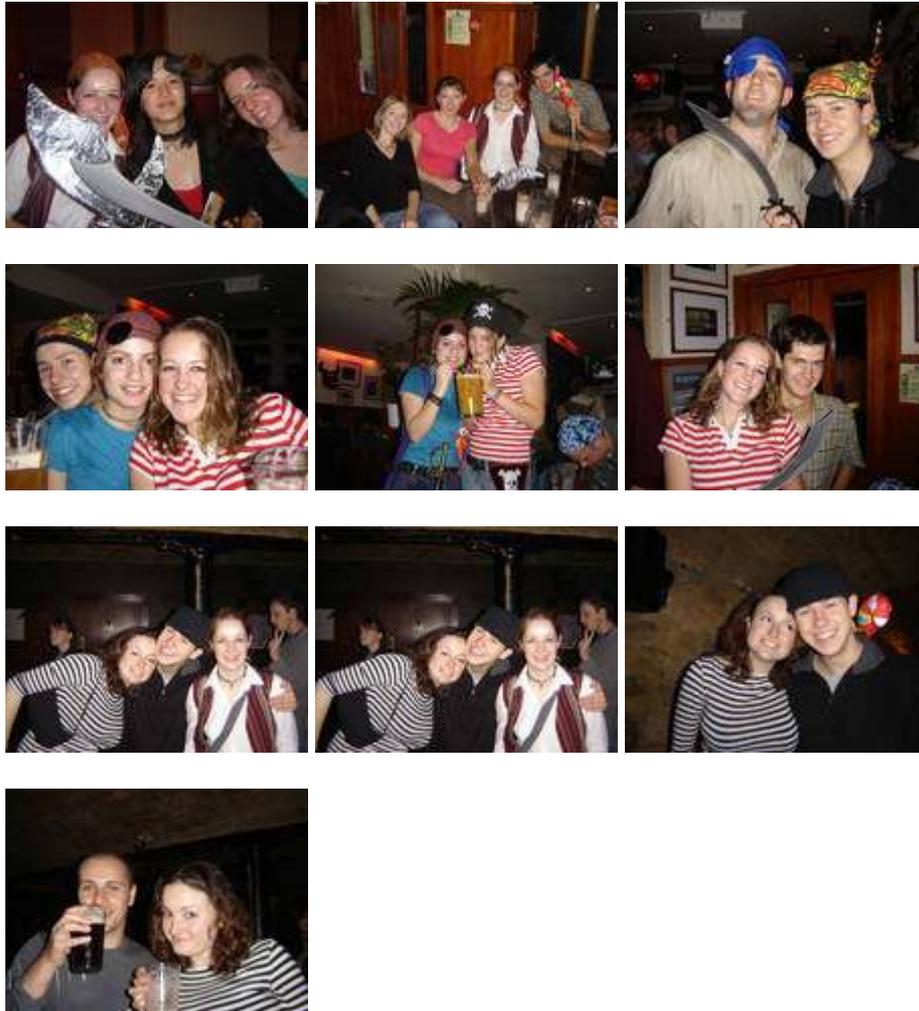
Pub Quiz, held in the junction. Loads of new keen members, some pretty thought-provoking questions (I think the Timmins had just moved to Ramsay Street) and a wonderfully cramped and smokey venue made our first event a success. The winners were of course Dan and his team mates, with their 'hysterical' team name.

Ceilidh, held in Teviot debating Hall. The apparent lack of immediate enthusiasm worried us slightly and images of Tessa and I prancing round Teviot alone prompted us to engage in a little gentle persuasion to encourage attendance. In the end the turn out was actually great and there were loads of couples zooming about, twirling round and dying of heat exhaustion. Even Nikki (who has been heard to say, "I don't like ceilidhs") apparently enjoyed herself.

Pub Crawl, many venues - (few memorable). Taking our role very seriously Tessa and I felt that a lead by example approach was probably the way forward so we dressed up as pirates 'ohh'ed and 'arr'ed and got completely hammered. Tessa did emerge from the whole thing slightly better than me having apparently won her drinking and dancing competitions, a vague memory of sliding across Faith dance floor (in what I can only presume I imagined to be a stylish dance move) suggests I didn't look great.

I have no idea what happened to everyone else but vague reports and pictures since indicate that people seemed to have fun – even Chris looks happy despite the battering his ego must have received.

Following several pub nights and memorable and otherwise trips to Shagtag The final event of the first term was the Christmas meal. Following dinner at Buffet King everyone headed to the Tron for a relatively uneventful but enjoyable evening.



(Heather Stevens)

### **Burns Night (Killin), January 2006 by Heather Stevens**

Saturday saw the usual range of walks leaving at the usual range of times.. some properly hardcore epics (leaving at what can only really be described as the middle of the night) and some slightly shorter walks with more of a focus on snowmen building (leaving almost in the morning).

The main focus of this weekend is of course Saturday night which sees the traditional Burns Night celebration. Haggis, neeps and tatties (the toast to the haggis being delivered with great expression by Jim) for dinner and the usual drinking and speeches. A slightly drunk Jono told us all about the life of Robert Burns before that

cheeky little scouser stood up and gave his 'Abuse of the Lassies' speech. Shocked by his coarseness I was momentarily speechless before I managed to deliver the 'Piss take of Steve' (a traditional Burns Speech). The rest of the night was spent drinking in a manner of which the great man (I'm meaning Robert Burns, not you Steve) would be proud.

#### Burns supper speech

Listening to Steve speak and knowing I had to stand up and say something next made me realise I really need to stop drinking so much... had I been sober and rational last Friday night I'm sure I never would have agreed to do this...

Apparently it's traditional to say well done to whoever did the toast so, congratulations Steve.... Five minutes stood up here chatting, a room full of hillwalkers and he's managed to keep all his clothes on, first time for everything. Nice one Steve.

As we are celebrating the birthday of Scotland's national bard I thought I best google him and find out what he was like. Apparently his passions were poetry, scotch and women, I was shocked to learn he died more than 200 years ago, he sounds so familiar...

Although generally believed to be the unfairest sex and often accused of being incompetent at completing even the simplest of tasks, ironing, washing up etc... In times of need men can be quite resourceful. I mean respect for anyone who manages to hitchhike from Edinburgh to Ullapool at 3 in the morning and although admittedly vodka probably wasn't the best thing to use you've got to appreciate the good sense of our last year's drunk skinny dipping president when he realised he ought to put some kind of antiseptic on his cut foot.

Men are often heard to lament the fact that women will say one thing and mean another and that men are then expected to understand what we meant to say and why didn't we just say that in the first place... well it's true we do, but men do too, only when women say it they expect men to realise what they mean but with men, they hope to god you won't realise what they actually meant, if you see what I mean... anyway...

"I can't find it."

really means...."It didn't fall into my outstretched hands, so I'm completely clueless."

That's interesting, dear."

Really means...."Are you still talking?"

Can I help with dinner?"

Really means...."Why isn't it already on the table?"

And possibly most applicable to you lot..

"I'm not lost. I know exactly where we are."

Really means...."oh god, no one will ever see us alive again."

And what's with men and mistakes? Some men outright refuse to admit to ever having made any mistakes whereas others will give slightly cryptic responses to cover them up. I only found out recently that when I asked about the Arran trip, "what did you do, did you have a good time etc?" the response "it was great, went for a walk, had a nice little wander round" meant "I got to sleep in a tent half naked with Dan and James but when we went for a walk I got my group horribly lost and we ended up going round in a circle."

When I first joined this club I heard loads of stories about this time when we were here and we got really wasted and this time when we went there and we got really hammered and so on and so on... but I've not seen that much evidence in the last year (and that's nothing to do with my being unconscious at the time) if anything it seems to me the girls are outdrinking you boys, (I obviously don't include myself in this statement, open a bottle of wine too near me and I'm hammered) but I was thinking more of our good secretary beaten hands down by Tessa in not only a drinking but also a dancing competition! It's a situation in near of rectifying, It's only unfortunate Tessa's not here tonight Chris I'm sure she'd be up for a re-match. And the rest of you take tonight as an opportunity, drink some more... make Burnsy proud of you!

It's only left for me to give the appropriate reconciliatory ending....so to all the guys, you're alright we love you really!

(Heather Stevens)



(Heather Stevens)

**Ratagan**



(Phil McLean)