

Scottish Wurrds

by Joyce Milne D'Auria

Blether: talk foolishly or too much (about nothing or something untrue) “Ah was goin’ down the street for ma messages when yon Mrs. Hardie came out her close. Ah think she times it. Couldn’t get away from her bletherin’ about the meenister at the Wee Free, and how her man came home from the pub without his wallies and he can’t get another set on the National Health this year, and about the price of mince. Jings! Had tae rush hame tae put the soup on.”

It's a Peety: This is an appropriate response for just about anything (even blethers).

“The Rangers Celtic game on Saturday wis rained oot.”

“Aye, it’s a peety.”

“Ah got a skelf in ma finger, yesterday.”

“Aye, that’s a peety.”

It can be non-committal:

“Ma husband lost his wallies at the Big Tree Bar.”

“Aye, tha’s a peety.”

“Ma wife’s been girnin’ tae go tae the pictures.”

“Aye, that’s a peety.”

“We’re goin’ tae Rothesay this year.”

“Aye, that’s a peety.”

Mair Scottish Wurrds

Skirl: (1) a scream, a shriek of pain (2) of bagpipes, make a shrill sound. This is perhaps why I enjoy my bagpipe music in the open air and not in close quarters.

“Yon Duncan MacTavish upstairs was practicin’ skirlin’ with his chanter till the wee hoors. Aboot two in the mornin’ ah let out a skirl maself. There was such a jabbin’ pain in ma heid.”

Girn: complain, whine, grumble, snarl, grimace (it usually does not produce tears and is often halted for periods of time when the girner is distracted)

Greetin’: Crying, lamenting, complaining, grumbling (much wetter than girnin’.) A wean girnin’ and greetin’ a’ day will surely make yer heid sair.

My mother applied Cadbury’s Hazelnut Chocolate as necessary to her offspring for either condition.