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**A MIDGE  
IN YOUR HAND  
IS WORTH TWO  
UP YOUR KILT**

modern scottish proverbs

Stuart McLean



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# Introduction



## A MIDGE IN YOUR HAND...

The Scottish language is rich in proverbs, sayings, maxims and wise aphorisms. Sadly, in the transition from the abacus to the computer, most of these have become outdated. This great little book thrusts these expressions into the 21st century providing millennia of wisdom in a practical modern format. It covers everything from bagpipes to whisky with a few mentions of our dear neighbours, the Sassenachs, thrown in.



## ... IS WORTH TWO UP YOUR KILT

So whether you are Scottish, a tourist visiting Scotland, an illegal immigrant gutting fish on Shetland or have found this book abandoned on a Trans-Siberian train, you are sure to be inspired and amused by our wit and wisdom.

The section on chat-up lines and insults will certainly help you, especially if you should you venture into a Scottish pub or nightclub, and could make the difference between getting a French kiss or a Glasgow kiss.



A MIDGE IN YOUR HAND...

## Website

For more information on Scottish proverbs please visit our website:

[www.A-Midge-in-Your-Hand-is-Worth-Two-Up-Your-Kilt.com](http://www.A-Midge-in-Your-Hand-is-Worth-Two-Up-Your-Kilt.com)



# Old Scottish Proverbs Revamped



## A MIDGE IN YOUR HAND...

**When ye christen the bairn ye  
should ken what to caa't.**

*Never arrange the christening until  
the paternity suit is settled.*

**Lang may yer lum reek.**

*May your energy-efficient Baxi Boiler  
continue to operate without the pilot  
light extinguishing unexpectedly.*



## ... IS WORTH TWO UP YOUR KILT

**Better a sma' fish than  
an empty dish.**

*It's better to eat well at McDonalds  
than to wash dishes at the Ritz.*

**A bairn maun creep  
afore it gangs.**

*A youngster must achieve its first  
ASBO before it can be considered  
worthy of membership to a gang.*



## A MIDGE IN YOUR HAND...

**The deil's aye guid tae  
his ain kin.**

*Getting a bum deal from God? Tune in and turn on to the Devil and you could be this week's lottery winner. (Note: All calls cost one soul – mobile phone rates may vary.)*

**What's for ye will no' go by ye.**  
*Anything that is for you will not go by you – except the last bus home.*



## ... IS WORTH TWO UP YOUR KILT

**A pennywecht o' love is worth a  
pund o' law.**

*An unhappy marriage is better than  
an expensive divorce.*

**As poor as a kirk mouse.**

*As poor as a Wester Hailes mouse  
the day after the dole money has  
been pissed against a wall.*

**Bairns speak i' the field what they  
hear i' the ha'.**

*Please Miss, ma maw's having an  
affair wi' the man next door  
. . . and so is ma da'.*



## A MIDGE IN YOUR HAND...

**Birds an' blethers fly.**

*Carrier pigeons and emails  
are great ways of spreading  
malicious gossip.*

**The wan wi' the ladder's  
as bad as the thief.**

*Never, ever trust your window  
cleaner.*

**A guid word is as easy  
sayed as an ill ane.**

*No, your bum does not  
look big in that.*



## ... IS WORTH TWO UP YOUR KILT

**When poverty comes in  
at the door love flies oot at  
the windae.**

*It's easier to love an  
arsehole of a lawyer than a  
redundant plumber.*

**Try and mak friends  
o' the unlikely.**

*Chat up a six-foot, gay, Chinese,  
psychopathic lap-dancer today.*



## A MIDGE IN YOUR HAND...

**Ane guid freend is  
worth mony relations.**

*A friend in need is a friend indeed. A  
relation in need is a distant relative.*

**Aye pat the richt end o' the wean.**

*It's hard to tell which end of an ugly  
child is which but as a rough guide the  
end that screeches is its head and the  
end that's covered in shit is its bum.*

**Even some Sassenachs are guid.**

*Some proverbs are complete bollocks.*



## ... IS WORTH TWO UP YOUR KILT

**Haud yer wheesht.**

*Please press the pause button  
on your larynx.*

**He's no' the happiest man that  
has the maist gear.**

*It takes more than a 180-gear  
bicycle to win the Tour de France.*

**Be ready wi' yer bunnet,  
but slaw wi' yer purse.**

*Always leave the pub three minutes  
before it's your round.*



## A MIDGE IN YOUR HAND...

**A guid tale is no' the waur  
o' bein' twice tauld.**

*Damn! My senile dementia  
is getting worse.*

**He wad marry a midden  
for the muck.**

*If there were no eligible sheep  
available, he would marry a dustbin  
just to get the dowry of rancid waste.*

## ... IS WORTH TWO UP YOUR KILT

**A fool may speer mair questions  
than a wise man can answer.**

*The SNP stagger the First Minister  
with the quantity if not the quality of  
their questions.*

**A fu' man an' a hungry horse aye  
mak haste hame.**

*A beviad man and an E-Type Jag  
always trigger the speed-cameras on  
the A77.*



## A MIDGE IN YOUR HAND...

**That'll no' set the heather licht.**

*Four gallons of kerosene and a box  
of Swan Vesta are no match for the  
Scottish rain.*

**Bonny birds is aye the  
warst singers.**

*Never marry a girl until you've heard  
her at a karaoke.*

**Ae man's meat is anither  
man's pushion.**

*Warning: May contain nuts.*

