“Thank you Ian.

Robert Burns indeed had a way with the women, he was a charmer, he was charismatic and certainly knew how to woo the ladies.

He could communicate with women, and sadly gentlemen, this is how you often *come up short*.

We ladies like to talk, we’ll talk to sales assistants, we’ll ask the opinion of other shoppers, well, even stop to ask for directions and have a chat.

We enjoy the art of conversation and the use of language as Burns did.

That Gentlemen is where the problem begins. But, Ladies let’s not be too critical, because recent studies have revealed some very interesting facts.

Apparently modern man uses some ,7000 words a day, and if you think about it most of these words are: Yes, No, Uh, Ugh, OK… What’s for dinner? Have you ironed my blue golf shirt? And, certainly in my case – have you seen my mobile phone? Or, the favourite – I don’t suppose you know where I’ve left my glasses?

The remaining 6,500 words are just additional commentary on sports on TV or the recent game of golf.

However, Gentlemen, now that I have read these studies it has become quite clear that it’s not because you are more interested in the cricket on TV. OH NO – it’s because you have used up all your words!!! There are just no more left to have a conversation.

We Ladies of course can’t understand this lack of communication because according to the same study, women, would you believe, use on average 24,000 words every day!

Women use language as a reward, if we like you, we’ll talk to you, if we don’t we’ll blank you and when we stop talking and go into *a huff* we withdraw language, but men, you probably don’t even notice for three days, you just think it’s lovely and quiet!! Yes! It’s all about **Communication**!

I think it says something about Scotland and other nations which have embraced Burns that we have chosen as our national hero a man of words, a poet, a man of love and passion, not a warrior or a politician but a man of the people , a man of the heart.

Any man who could write:

***Had we never lov’d sae kindly***

***Had we never lov’d sae blindly***

***Never met – or never parted***

***We had ne’er been broken hearted***

Is a genius in my book.

So, Ladies I invite you please to be upstanding. Let’s raise our glasses to all these handsome gentlemen in the room, without whom **We would never have loved or been loved sae kindly**

**To the Laddies**

**Carole Turpie 25/1/13**