

## A SMOKE ALARM FOR GREAT AUNT MAVIS

Weel noo, Bobby Bartlet from Rothsay  
got a telephone call last Wednesday  
from the neebour o' his Great Aunt Mavis,  
and would ye believe it, goodness save us,  
she was feart Mavis would come tae harm  
'cause she couldna hear her smoke alarm.  
"Oh, mighty me, but that's a real pity,  
I'll phone my brither in Brechin city.  
I ken that he's a bit o' a chancer,  
but he jist might come up wi' the answer.  
We canna hae Mavis comin' tae harm,  
we'll maybe hae tae move her smoke alarm.  
If it's ower far awa, we'll move it near,  
maybe then, Mavis will hear.  
An we'll gie the battery a good test  
tae mak sure it's working at its best."

Ah weel, Bobby phoned an' asked his brither,  
who replied tae go and phone their mither.  
So he dialled the number for his auld maw,  
who lived on her ain jist ootside Wishaw.  
Mother gave her instructions tae her son  
"Phone roond the family – see whit can be done.  
We dinna want Mavis tae be harmed  
if fire braks oot, and she's no' alarmed."

Firstly, Bobby rang up his sister Jean  
at her cooncil hoose up in Aberdeen.  
An' then he called on his Uncle Jock  
at his wee cottage near Greenock.  
Next, he phoned up his Auntie Jess  
in her new bungalow at Inverness.  
Then tae Ayr, tae his cousin Phil,  
but Bobby was nane the wiser still.

He telephoned near, he telephoned far,  
up tae Lerwick, an' doon tae Stranraer.  
Tae Galashiels, Airdrie, an' Larkhall,  
Dunfermline, Falkirk, an' also Kirkwall.  
He telephoned freends in Stenhousemuir,  
but naebody seemed tae be very sure.  
An' it was jist the same in Stornoway,  
because naebody kent quite whit tae dae.

He kept on giein' his family a bell,  
at Alloa, Oban and Motherwell.  
He phoned Aunt Maggie in Thurso,  
an' her dochter who bade in Glasgow.  
An' then his nephews – Bobby had three,  
an' a' o' them came frae bonnie Dundee.  
Then his Auntie Kate and Uncle Keith,  
a richt braw couple frae Cowdenbeath.

Then he rang a cousin, kent as Dick,  
at his ferm in Caithness, gey near Wick.  
Tae St. Andrews and Huntly, Bobby did ring.  
Achterarder, Castle Douglas, and Stirling.  
But then he called upon Joan, his niece,  
who said frae her new hoose at Dumfries  
"Cookin' shouldna be left unattended,  
especially until her alarm gets mended."

Noo, Bobby thocht that wiz very nice,  
tae give his great aunt fire safety advice.  
The object wiz tae mak her safe an' sound,  
least until a solution could be found.  
Her smoke alarm she couldna hear.  
It really was a shame for the auld dear,  
living at her hame so unprotected  
Where a fire could brak oot undetected.

So, roond his relations Bobby called.  
Tae Livingston and tae Cumbernauld.  
An' Bobby's family up in Ullapool  
said, "Tell Mavis no' tae act the fool."  
"Advise her never tae smoke in bed."  
wiz the advice that came frae Peterhead.  
An' his relations frae Bridge of Weir,  
said "Get her lum swept twice a year."

The relatives he phoned up at Macduff  
were concerned, which wiz fair enough.  
"If ye want tae be safe and really cool  
never hae pans mair than wan third full."  
In Edinburgh, they gave this advice,  
"Though deep fryin' chips is very nice,  
a thermostat control wid be grand  
tae be the safest in all o' the land."

In Kilmarnock an' Irvine it wiz said,  
"Every nicht, before going aff tae bed,  
this to Aunt Mavis please be sure to tell,  
check ower the hoose tae see athing's well."  
An' his brither Jeff frae Jedburgh way,  
"Dinna overload sockets" was a' he would say.  
In Dumbarton they said "Aye, too mony wires  
comin' oot your sockets is sure tae cause fires."

Tae Paisley an' Perth, Bobby did call  
Elgin an' Gretna, an' that wizna all.  
He phoned Portree on the Isle o' Skye,  
Hawick, an' Hamilton, an' Milnegavie.  
Fraserburgh, Tongue an' tae Braemar,  
And this advice came oot o' Forfar,  
"Be very careful wi' ony naked licht,  
like candles - mak sure they're aa oot richt."

Frank in Clydebank gied Bobby a hand.  
So did Rose in Montrose, and that wiz grand.  
He took the safety advice frae them both,  
and also that which came frae Arbroath  
"Mak sure that she disna drink an' fry,  
a take away is safer", wiz the cry.  
The message wiz the same frae Coldstream,  
Campbeltown, Brora an' Pittenweem.

He phoned up his family in Dunoon,  
Then tae Fort William, an' Coatbridge toon,  
who said "if an alarm, ye canna hear,  
mind an' change the battery every year."  
An' in Kirkcaldy, they a' did speak,  
"Test the smoke alarm once every week."  
Bobby replied, "my thanks everyone,  
but I can assure ye, that's aa been done."

But, his last call made his blood run cold  
as finally the answer he was told.  
Great Uncle Tam Bartlet from near to Crieff  
Telt him that "**Mavis had gone deaf!**"  
"That's why the alarm she canna hear,  
so, ye've got tae help the puir auld dear.  
Get a deaf alarm, Bobby ma lad,  
wi' flashin' lights an' vibratin' pad."

Please always follow fire safety advice,

but note the following - don't think twice.  
For if your alarm you cannot hear,  
there's no need for you to live in fear.  
Ensure that you're safe wherever you stay  
from Unst to the Mull of Galloway.  
So, be it north or south, east or west,  
make Scotland the safest and the best.  
And wherever in the country you may roam,  
remember this – 'DON'T GIVE FIRE A HOME!'  
Every one of us really needs protection,  
so, make sure you've adequate smoke detection.