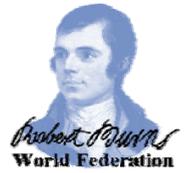




The Robert Burns World Federation Newsletter



Issue 2 March 2013

Message from the Editor, Mike Duguid

I'm delighted to report that the first bi-monthly newsletter proved to be very popular and has been welcomed by clubs and individuals alike. Encouragingly the newsletter is being relayed onwards to non-Federation members so a much larger audience can read about the sterling work being done by the Federation in promoting the life and works of our national Poet. Such has been the response that a bumper second newsletter has been necessary to reflect the worldwide activity associated with the 'Burns Supper' season. I am very grateful to all those who have sent in reports and articles. Of necessity in a newsletter format, much of the material has to be edited in an effort to include as many articles as possible so I apologise in advance if some feel short-changed by this process having spent time and effort writing longer pieces.

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A Song for Spring

The smiling Spring comes in rejoicing,
And surly Winter grimly flies.
Now crystal clear are the falling waters,
And bonie blue are the sunny skies.
Fresh o'er the mountains breaks forth the morning,
The ev'ning gilds the ocean's swell:
All creatures joy in the sun's returning,
And I rejoice in my bonie Bell.

Bonie Bell by Robert Burns

Tune: Bonie Bell

Schools Activities



The Bridgeton Burns Club Annual Schools Competition takes place in St Mungo's Academy in Glasgow on the first Friday in December. Between 500 and 700 children and young adults take part in the competition. Several of the competition winners are invited to perform their winning pieces at the annual dinner on the 25th January, in the Glasgow Marriot Hotel, in front of 700 members and guests. Hopefully more pupils from this competition will go to take part in the Federation's Schools Festivals so that their talents can be more widely recognized. A full report can be found at www.bridgetonburnsclub.org.uk

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Many schools hold Burns Suppers and other Scottish cultural events during January. The photograph shows the pupils at Fordyce Primary School, Aberdeenshire, all decked up in the tartan. The class teacher Jillian Ferris, a native of Burns country originally, took the photograph and Head Teacher, Lesley Mair, is half in the photo at the extreme right.



Burns Suppers



The Alamo Burns Club, Paisley, Burns Supper on the 22nd Jan. From left to right, Willie Gibson - President, Higginsneuk Burns Club - Immortal Memory and Address to the Haggis, Dougie Smith - Past President - Tam O' Shanter, Toast "Tae the Lassies" and songs. Clarke Wallace - President, Alamo Burns Club, Tom Nixon - Reply "Tae the Lassies" and piper Graham Russell.

St Columba's Hospice Burns Supper on 25th January was held at the Corn Exchange, Edinburgh.

Singer and voice coach, Wendy Carle Taylor, is seen leading The Robert Burns Elimination Game 'Heids and Bahouchies' which raised over £4000 in 10 minutes.



Left to Right: Mr and Mrs Bob Dalziel, Wendy Carle Taylor, Scott Wilson, Anne Fawbert, Dr Peter Hughes, Evelyn Howie, St Columba's Hospice Clinical Services Director. The spirited Address to the Haggis was delivered by haggis meister himself, Mr James MacSween.



Derby Scottish Association (RBWF No55) Annual Burns Dinner was enjoyed by seventy guests, including 17 Past Presidents shown in the accompanying photograph with current President Mrs. Rosemary Bowen-Watt. The Haggis was addressed by Mr Alec Stalker and the Immortal Memory proposed by Dr. Stewart Wilson.

President of the **Higginsneuk Burns Club**, Willie Gibson, delivers the 'Immortal Memory' at the Lodge Burnside in Rutherglen on Friday the 8th February. Photo right.

Falkirk Burns Club celebrated the birth of the Bard at the Park Hotel on 25th Jan with 175 members and guests present to hear Patrick Scott Hogg deliver an erudite and thoughtful Immortal Memory. Outgoing President Jim Watt chaired the evening and his son Garry 'Addressed the Haggis', Stuart Cassells (of Red Hot Chilli Pipers fame) proposed a 'Toast to Scotland,' Mark Nimmo toasted 'Our Guests' and Kevin and Dougie of folk duo 'White Rose' entertained in song. Fraser McIntosh piped in the haggis.





Edmonton Burns Club

Having just addressed the haggis Joe Marshall enjoys a joke about 'weel-swallow'd kytes' with President Scott McMorran. On the right, President Scott presents a gift to the guest speaker for the evening, the Rev Alastair Jessamine.



Fraserburgh Burns Club held its 76th annual dinner at Fraserburgh Leisure Centre on 26th January with a company of 196 in attendance. *Back row from left:* Robert Morrice (Piper), Stuart Whyte (Singer), Bruce Laird (Committee), Bruce Edmond (Fiddler), Kenneth Wallace (Committee), Murray Littlejohn (Past President), Keith Hendry (Committee), Robert Baird (Committee), Ian Fraser (Tam O' Shanter), Stephen Calder (Pianist). *Front Row from left:* Ian MacIntosh (address to the Haggis), Jim Brown (Immortal Memory), John Burnett (Vice President), Sjirk Oosterhof (President), Robert Watt (Secretary/Treasurer), Jim Conn, (Toast to the Lasses), Charles Stephen (Committee).

Cupar Burns Club held its Burns Supper in the splendid setting of the Corn Exchange, Cupar, on 25th January. Undeterred by the storm without 'rairing and rustling' around 350 people attended a splendid dinner and enjoyed a wealth of top-class entertainment. President of the World Federation, Bob Stewart, chaired the evening in his role of President of the Cupar Club.



On the right is Jim Gibb who delivered a thoughtful "Speed the Plough" toast which is a long-standing tradition at the supper. On the left is Mike Duguid, Past President of the Federation, who proposed the toast to the Immortal Memory. The fantastic sum of £1500 was raised during the evening for the benevolent fund. All the details of the event can be seen on the club's website: <http://cuparburnsclub.org> including a well-merited *Salute to Robert W.M. Stewart* by Club Bard, Craig Rodger.

Barrmill Jolly Beggars Burns Club held their 69th Annual Burns Supper in Beith Masonic Hall on Friday January 25. The Toast to the Immortal Memory was in the capable hands of Revd David Harbison. President David Pettigrew (front centre) is shown with the rest of the top table guests. A full report on the supper is on their website: <http://www.jollybeggars.org> where you can read all about the hair-raising escapades of the snow-bound caterers and how the can-do spirit of the members came to the fore.



Burns - Alive and Well in Canada.

Piper Jack Jackson, who is the Federation's Schools Program Coordinator for Ontario, has attended no less than 12 'Celebratory' events this year. Many involved some piping and the *Address to the Haggis* only; however there were a few notable occasions where the works of Burns were quoted at length.



These included The Royal Canadian Yacht Club, The National Club (in the Toronto Financial District) a few Rotary Clubs and the Officers Mess in the Hamilton Armories (shown left). This is the room where most of the major piping competitions in the Toronto area have been held and some of the greatest names in the piping world have paced the floor past the portrait of the Queen. The whole proceedings were steeped in tradition as befitted the room where it was held. The wall on the right hand side of the picture has a portrait of Mary Queen of Scots painted when she was quite young, as well as other historical pictures and artifacts.

Almost as busy as Jack, Roy Cummings of Burlington, Ontario, also writes, "I will be attending four Burns Suppers in six days in the Hamilton area of Canada."

One of the most impressive Burns Suppers in Canada is run by the Tam O'Shanter Dancers in White Rock just south of Vancouver. Just take a quick look at their website www.tamoshanterdancers.com and you will appreciate the very impressive lengths they go to in order to do full justice to the life and works of the Bard. Equally stunning is the variety of costumes, seen in the 'slideshow' part of the website, which greatly enhance the spectacle of the evening. It is also heartening to see the age range of those taking part – Burns legacy is in good hands.



Snowbirds Burns' Night held in the less formal setting of the Llano Grande trailer park in Mercedes, Texas by "Winter Texans" (or Snowbirds) spending the winter in a tropical setting rather than the Arctic surroundings of – in the case of RBANA President Dr Tony Grogan (far right) – Manitoba. There were about 60 attendees from all over North America, & one couple from Holland.



The haggis was smuggled in from Ontario and served with tamales and mince. Following the meal & the toasts, the company was instructed in dancing "The Gay Gordons", "Strip the Willow", & "The Dashing White Sergeant" with the expected and enjoyable chaos. Tony is sure that many of those attending will return to their homes with a bit of knowledge about Burns which they will hopefully spread. Although the organizers kept apologising for the informality of the occasion Tony was happy to tell them that that's what a Burns' Night should be like. He also gave them information about the Federation and the Robert Burns Association of North America (RBANA), a very active group, whose activities can be appreciated from their website www.rbana.com



Robert Burns Society Maastricht The annual Burns Night was held on 26th January 2013 in the castle of Rijckholt and became a very special event with the official unveiling of a portrait of the most loved Bard of Scotland, especially painted for the Robert Burns Society Maastricht, by Jan Nelissen, a famous Dutch modern painter and artist, shown opposite with President Marcel Herpers at the unveiling. Born in 1943, Jan is a plastic artist as well as a ceramic sculptor and graphic art artist, and painted his portrait of Robert Burns, using several known images, blending them with his own emotions stirred by the work of the poet, surrounding him with the Scottish blue and words taken from several poems. The portrait will be much cherished.

Full details of the supper, including a transcript of the Immortal Memory proposed by well-kent Burnsian Millar Caldwell from Dumfries, can be found at the Society's website: <http://www.robertburnssocietymaastricht.nl> The website also highlights the Society's commendable charity work. Inspired by the example of Robert Burns and his enthusiasm for literacy as a means of improving the lot of the poor, the Robert Burns Society of Maastricht is an avid and generous supporter of the Reading and Writing Foundation "Society against Illiteracy" founded by Princess Laurentien in 2004. Photo shows Professor Max de Haan (left), recognised as the pre-eminent Robert Burns expert in the Netherlands, addressing the company.



Sanquhar Black Joan Burns Club's Supper.

Photo L to R Back Row: John Murray (Piper), Allason Gibson, (Haggis) Gordon Walker, (Cronies), Alan Daubney (Contributors) Jim and Tom Gold, (Music) Front row: Bobby McCallum (Songs) Billy Niven (Readings) John Shirkie, (Immortal Memory) Duncan Close, (Chairman) Gavin Barrie (Lasses)



HMP Kilmarnock Burns Supper Past President of the Federation Bob Dalziel along with Alex Baird and Archie Cowie attended Bowhouse Prison to conduct a Burns Supper for both prisoners and some corporate guests of SERCO. After the customary checks, searches and meeting with guests they enjoyed a wonderful meal after which they spent an hour supplying the company with a Burns programme chaired by Bob with interspersed references to the Lassies.

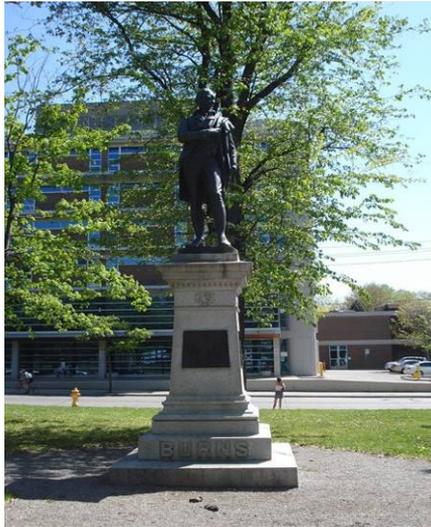
A short Immortal Memory was proposed by Alex and the poem Tam O'Shanter recited by Archie. The evening was enhanced by Centrestage, the prisoners' choir comprising highly accomplished singers. They gave a rousing Scottish selection which was very well received. The evening was a roaring success and a most generous cheque for £200 was given by SERCO to the Lanarkshire Association of Burns Clubs (LABC) schools competition fund in appreciation.



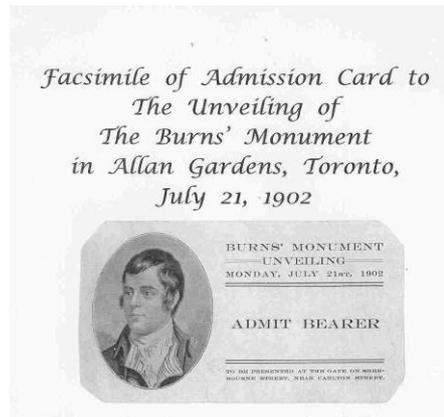
Butterfly Charity Burns Supper On Saturday, 12th January, 2013, Ayrshire held its biggest ever Burns Supper which attracted 600 men and women to the Princess Royal Suite at Ayr Racecourse. The keynote speaker was Scotland's First Minister, Alex Salmond, who proposed a very sincere Immortal Memory. Once the fastest runner in the world, and now a much sought after speaker, George McNeill, toasted the Lassies with the reply coming from the delectable Sally Magnusson. Singing the songs of Burns were Karen Matheson whose voice was described

by Sean Connery as "having been touched by the hand of God" and Jamie McDougall one of the founder members of Caledon. The four time world champion piper, Iain Macfadyen, delighted the audience as did the famous John Carmichael accordion band. One of the highlights was the reciting of "Tam o' Shanter" by Ayr's own Karen Dunbar who brought the large audience to its feet. The Butterfly Charity has benefited by £6700 which is a significant figure and a marvellous tribute to the drawing power of Scotland's National Bard. Chairing the evening was Joe Campbell a Past President and now an Honorary President of the Robert Burns World Federation and the copyrighted photograph was provided by AMD Photography – Copyright: AMD Studios Ltd. <http://www.amd-studios.com/photo>. Already tables have been sold for next year's event on, 11th January, 2014. Details from Lindsey Smith at Ayr Racecourse lsmith@ayr-racecourse.co.uk

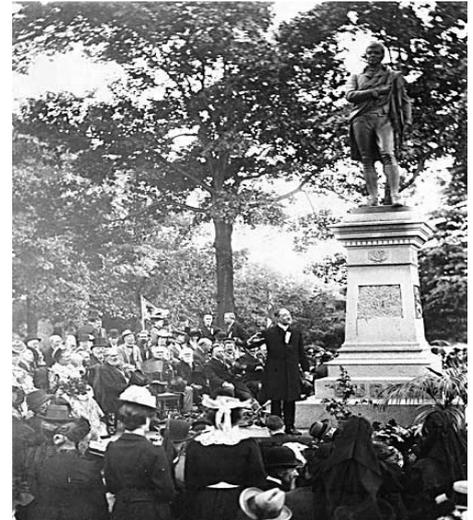
The Historic Statue of Robert Burns, Allan Gardens , Toronto, Canada



2012



1902



Jack Jackson from Toronto sent in the image of the admission ticket given to him by Past President of the Federation, the late Dr. Jim Connor. The Statue of Burns, designed by Stevenson, was erected as shown in 1902 and in 2012 Jack talked about it to the pupils of St. Margaret of Scotland School with which he organises a Burns recitation competition. The statue is an interesting object as the plates illustrating four of Burns' poems were designed by Emanuel Haan, a local Architect whose drawing of the Blue Nose Ship is on the back of the Canadian dime (10cents). The Toronto Chapter of the St. Andrews Society gather there every 25th Jan for a short celebration come hail, rain or snow, to which Jack can attest, having stood there often.

Mauchline Holy Fair

The 12th Mauchline Fair will take place on Saturday 25th May 2013 from 11am. Top of the Bill is Donnie Munro (ex Runrig) and his Band. They will play from 3.30pm until 5pm. On the Bleaching Green they have activity and re-enactment from Living History Scotland based on the time of Robert the Bruce King of Scots. There will be over 70 stalls, a small children's fairground and many other attractions and performers including the famous Screaming Preachers. For further info contact Secretary Andrew Cooper on 01290 55930 or the website <http://www.mauchlineburnsclub.com/fair.htm>

Images are courtesy of Gavin Lyell and Brian Connelly (two on left).



Robert Burns Guild of Speakers

A group of Burns enthusiasts have decided to take positive action to rectify a matter of great concern to Burns supporters and many others. Despite a drop in the number of Burns Clubs around the world, there appears to be a year-on-year growth in Burns Suppers being held and that brings more opportunities and requirements for speakers. Unfortunately, some speakers do a great disservice to Burns Clubs and other organisations who are hosting Burns Suppers. Mainly in a 'Toast to the Lasses' some misuse and, in turn, abuse or ignore the works of the Bard. This mindless minority link together an endless stream of offensive remarks laced with crude and rude language. This reflects on the people who are holding the event and also the many thousands of people around the world who admire the wonderful legacy of Robert Burns.

The newly created Robert Burns Guild of Speakers, with Len Murray as the Dean of Guild, has already gained credence as a source for quality speakers. During January the Guild helped ten organisations by providing speakers and amongst them two major charity events. The presence of Guild Members has been greatly appreciated and the money-raising of, in one case, £6500 and the other of £2500 makes the efforts very worthwhile. As reported in the article about Kilmarnock Prison, some Guild members even went behind bars in a good cause and, after a programme of a Burns supper and entertainment, were released!

Every member of the Guild pays an annual membership fee and the constitution specifies that the membership is limited to a symbolic 37. Each member is required to sign a personal undertaking to maintain a high standard of presentation and content at all times. Membership is by invitation and nomination. A decision of the Executive Committee of the Guild was to nominate persons who were leading exponents of public speaking and the first person chosen for this was Annabel Goldie MSP. An informal lunch was held at Ralston Golf Club to present an appropriate certificate of recognition of maintaining high standards in public speaking and also for the promotion of Robert Burns. The Guild is now affiliated to the Federation with the status of a Burns Club and can be contacted through the Federation office.

Yorkshire Tartan Ball

Visit Yorkshire in the spring when a warm welcome will be extended on Saturday 13 April 2013 to the Tartan Ball at the Ardsley House Hotel, Doncaster Road, Ardsley, Barnsley S71 5EH.

Iain MacPhail and his Scottish Dance Band from Edinburgh will entertain and dinner is a three course with menu choice, all for a very reasonable price of £30.00.

The special rate for those wishing to stay overnight in the hotel is Standard Twin/Double Room - £50.00; Single Room £30.00 including full breakfast and use of the leisure facilities Book direct with hotel on 01226 309955 stating you are attending Tartan Ball

Further details and application forms from hon. secretary May McGuffog E-mail mmandhmcg@aol.com Tel.no 01274 582577



Ca' the Yowes – a new exhibition for the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum



The third exhibition to be held at the National Trust for Scotland's Robert Burns Birthplace Museum brings together 15 artists displaying work under the inspiration of *Ca' The Yowes*. The exhibition will run from **18 January - 5 May 2013**. For information on the exhibition and the others activities at the RBBM go to: <http://www.burnsmuseum.org.uk> For example:

On 17th March 2pm, Professor Caroline Wilkinson from Dundee University reveals a craniofacial reconstruction of the Bard using the latest technology in a talk entitled

Burns Unmasked: What did Robert Burns really look like?

Sunday 7th April 2pm. Professor David Purdie, Hon Fellow University of Edinburgh, discusses the development of the new edition of the *Burns Encyclopaedia*. Both events free with admission to the Museum.

Still Supporting the Federation

Jim-Lad McGregor from Coventry joined the Federation in January 1976 with the Tam O'Shanter Club, which at that time had over 3040 members, the biggest Burns Club in the world. He served as a delegate

for over 30 years. Whilst still at the club he became an individual member of the Federation. Sadly the Tam O'Shanter Club no longer exists. On various occasions he donated stamps for funds for the Federation and also gave his winnings from a 200-club draw. His partner, Shirley Balder donated a 50-year stamp collection to the Federation through philately expert Peter Westwood. He has attended 28 Federation AGMs and tries his best to persuade attendees to become individual members. He and Shirley are now family members and they continue to support the Federation for which we are very grateful.

Email –Keep in Touch

We are making every effort now to use email wherever possible as a cost cutting exercise; we currently have email addresses for around 50% of our membership. Our postage costs over the last 9 months are in excess of £2,000 and with a further increase in postage costs due in March we are sure you will agree that cost avoidance makes good economic sense. For those who do not have an email we will continue to send via Royal Mail. As we send second class you will receive the information after those with email but we will do our best to minimise the time you have to wait. If for any reason you think we may not have your email address in our database please email admin@rbwf.org.uk and we will ensure it is added.

G. Ross Roy

G. Ross Roy, Honorary President of The Robert Burns World Federation, noted Scottish literature scholar, distinguished Professor Emeritus of English & Comparative Literature at the University of South Carolina, died on Tuesday, February 19, 2013, aged 88, peacefully at home. Our deepest sympathies go to his wife Lucie. Full obituary and appreciation will appear in the Spring Chronicle.

Tam o'Shanter in Kirkcudbright

One of the main events in Dumfries and Galloway's summer calendar is the Kirkcudbright art exhibition arranged by the Kirkcudbright 2000 group with support from Dumfries and Galloway Council. **Tam o'Shanter in Kirkcudbright** is the title of this year's exhibition, which will show over 30 works by the late Alexander Goudie on the theme of Robert Burns's most famous poem. The exhibition will be staged in Kirkcudbright Town Hall from 29 June – 26 August: daily 10am-5pm and admission is free

Alexander ('Sandy') Goudie has been described as one of Scotland's leading figurative painters. Born in Paisley in 1933 he studied at the Glasgow School of Art, and went on to teach there before devoting his time entirely to his studio. As a portrait painter his subjects have included H.M. The Queen and Billy Connolly. Inspired by the poetry of Robert Burns, his last major project was to illustrate the poem 'Tam o' Shanter' in full with a series of 54 paintings. The bulk of this collection is now held at Rozelle House, Ayr, under the care of South Ayrshire Council. Kirkcudbright 2000 is very grateful to South Ayrshire Council for the loan of a selection of these paintings to form this exhibition, one not to be missed by anyone interested in the best of Scottish art and literature.



The exhibition organisers hope that many Burns clubs and associations, and all lovers of Burns poetry, will wish to visit the exhibition, and evening viewings can be arranged for the convenience of club visits. In addition, the organizers are hoping groups may wish to stage events and performances to coincide with the exhibition. Please contact The Stewartry Museum at Stewartrymuseum@dumgal.gov.uk. Or 01557 331643



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