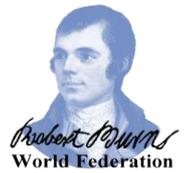




# The Robert Burns World Federation Newsletter



Issue 30 November 2017

I am always surprised how many people, many of them keen Burnsians, have never visited Ellisland Farm near Dumfries, the last of four farms associated with our National Bard but the only one which has been retained as a living museum to the Poet. As can be seen from the articles in this edition curator Stuart Cochran is doing a marvelous job in bringing the place alive by staging all manner of events; he deserves our support. With the Burns Supper season in January rapidly approaching I am often asked, particularly by non-Scots, where can they hear Burns' poems being recited so they can listen to the vernacular language and get a better sense of the meaning of the poem. The answer is simple; just go to the BBC website at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/arts/robertburns/works> where you can listen to over 700 poems and songs by Burns, including 'Cauld Frosty Morning' featured below and recited by actor Gary Lewis. *Editor*

## In this Issue:

## Page

- President's Security Team	1
- Ellisland Farm Supper	2
- Speakers Guild Ellisland Visit	2
- Harris Tweed Day at Ellisland Farm	3
- Harvest Home Food Day Ellisland Farm	3
- Hillside Memorial Ceremony	4
- President's Visit to Canada	5-6
- Presentation of Burns in Braille	6-7
- Tam o' Shanter Recitation Competition	7
- St Petersburg Students Visit to Scotland	8
- ASLS School Essay Prizes Awarded	8
- Addressing the Haggis Competition	9
- Edinburgh Historic Buildings Open Days	9
- A Kilmarnock Burns – A New Book	10
- Scottish Wits Dinner	10
- Digitisation of the Burns Chronicle	11
- Thomas Muir Symposia in Kirkintilloch	11

## Cauld Frosty Morning

'Twas past ane o'clock in a cauld frosty morning  
When cankert November blaws over the plain,  
I heard the kirk-bell repeat the loud warning  
As, restless, I sought for sweet slumber in vain:  
Then up I arose, the silver moon shining bright,  
Mountains and valleys appearing all hoary white;  
Forth I would go, amid the pale, silent night,  
To visit the Fair One, the cause of my pain.

by Robert Burns - 1790

## President Ian Takes Protection of the Chain Seriously



A lighter moment in the proceedings of the Federation's Annual Conference at the Peebles Hydro in September occurred when some of President Ian McIntyre's friends from Kirkcudbright appeared as his Presidential Security protection team at the inauguration dinner.

Ian will come to realise, as all his predecessors have learned through experience, when the President is invited to events, it is the chain of office people want to see and not the President himself or herself. Ian's engagements started straight after the conference when he and Moira set off for a tour to Canada which is reported later in this newsletter.

Registered Office: Dower House, Dean Castle Country Park,  
Kilmarnock KA3 1XB Company Registration No 196895  
Scottish Charity No SC029099 e-mail: [admin@rbwf.org.uk](mailto:admin@rbwf.org.uk)  
Tel 01563 572469 Website address: [www.rbwf.org.uk](http://www.rbwf.org.uk)

Newsletter Editor -Mike Duguid (Literature Convenor)

Email [mike.duguid@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:mike.duguid@dsl.pipex.com) Tel: 01557 860040

To unsubscribe please email [admin@rbwf.org.uk](mailto:admin@rbwf.org.uk)

## Farm Supper at Ellisland Farm



The friends of Ellisland held their annual Farm Supper on the 2nd September. They enjoyed a hearty meal followed by an evening filled with fun and laughter.

Chairman Ronnie Cairns introduced the entertainers, Lee McQueen. Colin Gibson, Maureen Milton, John Glover and Donald Urquhart who kept the audience entertained with songs, music and stories.

Apart from the usual raffle, which always collects much needed funds for the upkeep of Ellisland Farm, a member donated two fine porcelain figures of Souter Johnnie and Tam O' Shanter as a prize draw. The evening ended with usual rendition of Auld Lang Syne being appropriate as it was written by Robert Burns at Ellisland.

In the photo from left to right, Donald Urquhart, Chairman Ronnie Cairns, Colin Gibson, Maureen Milton, Stuart Cochrane, John Glover and Betty Haining.

## Robert Burns Guild of Speakers Get-Together at Ellisland Farm



Several members of the Robert Burns Guild of Speakers had lunch in the farm house kitchen which has an uncanny atmosphere of just having been vacated by the Bard. There are interesting artefacts around and displays in rooms in which Burns would have used his creative skills. Membership of the Guild is by recommendation and approval so any existing Guild Member can nominate an appropriate person for membership. Contact Hon Sec Murdo Morrison at: [murdomorrison13@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:murdomorrison13@blueyonder.co.uk) for details.

## The Harris Tweed Story Woven at Ellisland Farm

Murdo Morrison, Past President of the RBWF, is one of the world's ambassadors for Harris Tweed and is a renowned speaker on the subject. As a native of Lewis, Murdo (right) presented the history of Harris Tweed and brought alive life in the Outer Hebrides.

Known as the 'Guardians of the Orb' the Harris Tweed Authority is responsible for protecting the production and provenance of Harris Tweed on behalf of the islanders of the Outer Hebrides.



Harris Tweed is hand woven from 100% pure new Scottish wool, dyed and spun with the colours of nature. From spinners to weavers, all Harris Tweed is made by the hands of artisans in the Outer Hebrides and nowhere else. It is an island industry to be proud of.

Along with Murdo, Ellisland also welcomed the South of Scotland Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers, the Dumfries Embroiders Guild and quilter Pat Duguid who all demonstrated various skills and offered some of their crafted items for sale.

## Ellisland Farm Harvest Home Food Day

Visitors to the Harvest Home Food Day at Robert Burns' Ellisland next Saturday (28th) will be invited to take part in the "90kg Rice Challenge" as we aim to sell 90kg of Fairtrade rice – the amount of rice sold that would enable a Malawian farmer to pay for a year's basic secondary education for one child.

The day itself celebrates the diversity of food producers from Dumfries and Galloway and you will be able to sample cheeses, artisan bread, ciders and apple juices, handmade chocolates and even locally made samosas! Hopefully purchasing some to take home too!

As well as local producers we will also promote Fairtrade, Eco and Traidcraft food production and how we through our food choices can support farmers around our world.

Fairtrade refreshments and lunchtime treats will be available to purchase and the day starts at 11am.

Admission to the Festival – Adults £2.00, Friends of Ellisland Members £1.00. Children free.



For more information please contact- the Friend's of Ellisland- [friends@ellislandfarm.co.uk](mailto:friends@ellislandfarm.co.uk) or call 01387 740426

## Hillside Memorial Ceremony

Joyce and I spent a lovely day in the company of RBWF Past President Bob Stewart and his wife Frances during which we attended the annual Hillside Memorial Ceremony at the spot where Burns paused to water his horse en-route to Montrose where he would have been visiting members of his father's family during his tour of the Highlands in 1787.



Picture L to R Dave Ramsay, Lewis Maitland, Nick Markowski, Frank Ferguson, Bobby Kane, Linda Johnstone and Bill Howatson.

The ceremony was opened by Dave Ramsay the director of Mearns Heritage Services and included the piper Lewis Maitland's tribute to the four men of Hillside who inaugurated the ceremony in memory of Burns: C.J.Shaw, Joseph Harris, Willie Herd and Adam Christie. This was followed by excerpts from Burns' diary read by Nick Markowski, Montrose Burns Club and Frank Ferguson, Arbroath Burns Club.

An address entitled 'Retracing the Highland Tour of Robert Burns in 1787' was read by Aberdeenshire Provost, Bill Howatson.

The Burns' Hillside address was delivered by past president RBWF Bobby Kane who attended with his wife Karen.

The final act of the ceremony was carried out by Linda Johnstone who laid a floral tribute of red roses.

Following the event the assembled company sang the Star O' Rabbie Burns led by Eck Whitton, Arbroath Burns Club, before retiring to the Hillside Hotel.

Retiring from the Hillside hotel suitably refreshed we went into the town of Montrose where we visited Burns' statue on the links. The statue had been gifted by Andrew Carnegie, philanthropist and Honorary President of the RBWF.

Brian Goldie RBWF Junior Vice President



## President's Canadian Trip, September 2017

No sooner had the Peebles Conference finished, Moira and I had a very quick turnaround and flew out to Canada on the 13<sup>th</sup> September. After spending a night in Toronto visiting family, we flew to Edmonton where we were hosted by Past President Scott Montgomerie and his wife Cheri.

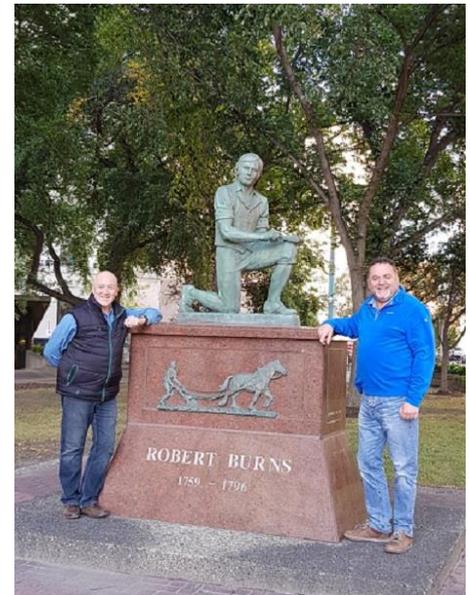


My first official engagement as President was at the first meeting of the Edmonton Burns Club 2017/18 session (left). A very pleasant evening concluded with harmony from around the room. Scott and Cheri had arranged a busy schedule for us and perhaps the most memorable visit was to the Legislature Building, the seat of Parliament in Alberta. The visit was kindly arranged in conjunction with Brian Hodgson, the Sergeant at Arms for the Parliament.

I also had the opportunity to visit the Burns Statue in Edmonton, sculpted by John Warner, and situated by the McDonald Hotel.

[Photo: Scott and me at Burns Statue]

We travelled with Scott and Cheri to Drumheller and the Tyrell Museum, a site where the largest collection of dinosaurs is sited in North America. As we travelled cross country, we were struck by the vastness of this beautiful country. Big country, big sky.



We were met at Drumheller by Henry and Shona Cairney, natives of Irvine who have been in Canada 11 years. Henry and Shona took over as our hosts; I had met Henry at Conference in past years. We visited Lake Louise, a glacier lake and Banff in the Rockies with them and stopped off for dinner with Brian Hodgson, the Edmonton Burns Club member who organised our Legislature Building visit. Henry held an informal meet and greet with some of his Calgary Burns Club members in his house. Members of the Calgary Burns Choir were present and displayed their wonderful talent. The following night saw an official reception for Moira and me at the Danish Canadian Club with most of the club members and spouses present.

[Photo Calgary BC Past President Henry Cairney and me]

Another long journey took us to Medicine Hat where I had been invited to propose the Immortal Memory at the Jolly Beggars Banquet. Medicine Hat is about three and a half hours journey on straight roads through prairie land. The city is much smaller than those we previously visited, population around 40,000. It is home to the largest tepee in the world. Again, an informal get together was held in the home of Medicine Hat Burns Club member, Ken Montgomery. His 'man cave' consists of Burns and Scottish memorabilia, police and army collectables and a lot of whisky. Amongst his collection I spotted, mounted on the wall, a toilet seat decorated with Burns head, which had come from the Selkirk Arms in Kirkcudbright.

## Canada Trip (cont'd)



The Jolly Beggars banquet was a colourful occasion with a good number of guests from the nearby Army base. We concluded our stay in Medicine Hat with a tour of the Cypress Hills with club President and his Vice President, Andy Harrower.

[Photo L to R: Trekker Armstrong, President, Calgary BC, Bill Cocks, President, Medicine Hat BC, Me, Cam McDonnell, President, Edmonton BC].

This was a trip of a life time. The hospitality, kindness and generosity Moira and I received was simply outstanding and humbling. A feature of the visit was the enthusiasm and talent contained within each and every club. Thank you to everyone who contributed to our stay. We shall return!

## Rare Robert Burns's Collection in Braille Presented to University of Glasgow



A rare Braille collection of the complete Robert Burns in Braille was presented recently to the University of Glasgow by Joan Muir, from Kilwinning in Ayrshire, who had gifted them earlier to the local Irvine Burns Club. The Club which owns and manages the Wellwood Burns Centre in Irvine believed that passing the books to Glasgow University, on permanent loan, was more in keeping with the owner's wishes that they would not only be preserved but also used.

*Photograph: From left to right: Professor Gerard Carruthers (Head of Centre for Robert Burns Studies, Glasgow University), Mrs Joan Muir, Allen Paterson (President, Irvine Burns Club), Bill Nolan (Hon Sec,*

*Irvine Burns Club), Professor Roibeard O'Maolalaigh (Vice Principal, Glasgow University)*

Image Courtesy of Martin Shields Photography

Mrs Muir was accompanied by Allen Paterson, President of the Irvine Burns Club, in presenting the works to the Centre for Robert Burns Studies at the University during National Braille Week (9 to 15 October 2017). The seven volumes were owned originally by Mrs Muir, who has been blind since the age of three, and who purchased the books to order in the early 1970's.

Originally printed by the Edinburgh-based Scottish Braille Press in the early part of the last century using zinc plates and hydraulic presses, Ms Muir bought her Burns' collection in 1970 when the original plates would still have been in use. However, as this system is no longer used, the original plates, made in 1913, will probably have been destroyed. Ms Muir explained that Braille books in this era were usually printed to an individual order using the original zinc sheets and are very rare today.

She added: "I have gained so much from these works of Robert Burns and thoroughly enjoyed owning them for all these years. Although the books are almost 50 years old, the braille dots are still sharp and are easily read by a blind person. It contains all of Burns' poetry as well as many of his letters.

### Burns Braille Books (cont'd)

"I don't know how many folks still have copies of the Burns' Braille books from that era but I imagine that, like me, they will not be that young. I have felt for some time that I didn't want such a wonderful collection to be lost which is why I contacted Irvine Burns Club looking for a safe place for it to be kept. I am delighted that it will now be looked after in perpetuity by the University which will allow others to study and read these Burns poems and letters which are part of our Scottish literary heritage."

The Braille publication of the Complete Works was printed by the Scottish Braille Press, which was established in 1890 as a printing department of the Royal Blind School in Craigmillar Park to provide meaningful employment for pupils and today remains a UK leading provider of accessible media. The book came to the University through its friendship with the Irvine Burns Club who were first offered and accepted the rare publication from Joan Muir. *Photo: Joan Muir and Allen Paterson (Elma, Joan's Guide Dog, was quite disinterested by it all!)* Courtesy of Martin Shields Photography.



Bill Nolan, Irvine Burns Club secretary, who accepted Mrs Muir's gift originally, said: "We were very touched by Joan's special and almost unique gift. However, when we considered it, we felt that, rather than storing it in our own library at the Wellwood Burns Centre in Irvine, the collection should be offered in perpetuity to the University's Centre for Robert Burns Studies. We saw that as a perfect fit in linking conservation with the spread of knowledge. We hope that this will ensure that other Braille users will have the opportunity to enjoy these complete works of Scotland's national bard and we would like to thank Joan for her generosity and support."

Professor Roibeard O'Maolalaigh, Vice Principal and Head of the College of Arts at the University, who accepted the collection on behalf of the University of Glasgow, said: "The Burns books are a wonderful piece of Braille history which helped to introduce Burns to a new audience in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is amazing to think that this collection would have allowed the blind or partially sighted to read the wonderful words of Burns for themselves for the first time. We would like to thank Joan and Irvine Burns Club for this generous gift and we will ensure it is kept safe for further generations to study and read."

### Tam O' Shanter Recitation Competition



The Globe Inn, Robert Burns' favourite "howff", was packed on the evening of 19<sup>th</sup> September for the twenty-ninth "Tam o' Shanter" reciting competition organised by Dumfries Ladies Burns Club No.1.

Seven "Tams" from all over the land were welcomed by club president Dr. Ruth Thomson. Each had their own interpretation of Burns' famous tale but, at the end, Lex Muir from Newton Stewart (photo left) was declared winner with Scott McEwan of Fauldhouse 2<sup>nd</sup> and Alain English from London 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Principal Judge, David Baird, secretary of Dumfries Burns Club, praised all seven competitors and admitted that choosing the winner was a difficult task. The other judges were David Brown from Greenock, who was last year's winner and Mrs. Jean McMillan-Forster, President of Dumfries Burns Club. The trophy was presented by Brian Goldie, Junior Vice President of the Robert Burns World Federation. John Caskie proposed a vote of thanks to the competitors, judges, the chairman Dr. Thomson, Dumfries Ladies Burns Club No.1, not forgetting the Globe Inn staff, before a spirited rendition of "Auld Lang Syne" brought the evening to a close.

## Visit to Scotland of St Petersburg School 61



The St Petersburg Forum has arranged a cultural visit of students who have featured in winning awards in Burns competitions. The Russian students will be showcasing their own special performance of Tam o' Shanter at various venues around Scotland.

Their first concert will take place in the Brigend Theatre, Church Street, Dumfries, on Sunday 29th October at 7.00pm. The group will then be performing for the Glasgow and District Burns Association at a

concert in the Tron Theatre, Victoria Bar on the evening of Wednesday 1st November. Next they will be appearing in Alloway Church Halls on the evening of Friday 3rd November. On Saturday 4th November the group will be part of a bumper event being held in The Celtic Lodge, Masonic Temple, (formerly Deacon Brodie's workshop), Brodie's Close, 304 Lawnmarket, Royal Mile, Edinburgh, EH1 2PS. They will make their final appearance, on Monday, 6th November 2017, 2.30pm to 4.30pm, at North Lanarkshire Heritage Centre, in Motherwell.

Contact St Petersburg Forum for details of all the events via Helen Morrison 01236 755815 / [helencgmorrison@btinternet.com](mailto:helencgmorrison@btinternet.com)

## Pupils Awarded Their Essay Prizes

In early October each year The Association for Scottish Literary Studies (ASLS) holds a Schools' Conference and it is a vital resource for teachers wishing to explore Scottish literature and language in the classroom.

As part of this year's Conference, held at Glasgow University on Saturday 7th October, winners of the annual essay competition were presented with their prizes and certificates. [Photograph shows the winners with RBWF President Ian McIntyre and Schools Convenor Isa Hanley.]



1. *Thoughts at Mackie D's*, by Larissa Mathias, St. Andrew's Academy, Paisley (On left)
2. *Wrong Way Home* by Callum Murray, St. Andrew's Academy, Paisley (Middle)
3. *Call of Distress* by Sarah Howitt, St. Andrew's and St. Bride's High School, East Kilbride (Right)

Founded in 1970, the Association for Scottish Literary Studies is an educational charity that aims to promote the study, teaching and writing of Scottish literature, and to further the study of the languages of Scotland. Papers on literary criticism and cultural studies, along with in-depth reviews of Scottish books, are published biannually in their journal [Scottish Literary Review](#); short articles, features and news in the ASLS newsletter [ScotLit](#); and scholarly studies of language in [Scottish Language. New Writing Scotland](#), their annual anthology, contains new poetry, drama, short fiction and creative prose in Scots, English and Gaelic. Their [Scotnotes](#) series of school- and college-level study guides provides invaluable background information to a range of major Scottish writers. We also produce collections of essays in our [Occasional Papers](#) series. Their website <http://asls.arts.gla.ac.uk/About.html> contains a substantial and growing body of downloadable [essays, articles, papers](#) and [classroom notes](#). Other free online resources include the peer-reviewed [International Journal of Scottish Literature](#) and the ezine [The Bottle Imp](#).

## 'Addressing the Haggis' Competition

As part of the Kirkcudbright Food Festival held over the weekend of the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> October, the Robert Burns World Federation, supported by the Scottish Craft Butchers, organised a competition for reciting Burns' poem 'Address to a Haggis.' Organised by Murdo Morrison, convenor of the Federation's marketing committee, this fun event saw eleven competitors from all around the south of Scotland tending the innards of the wee beastie with great gusto.

The winner was Rosemary Dempster from Twynholm (seen receiving her trophy from President Ian McIntyre) who gave a rousing rendition of this well-known favourite poem of Burns.



One brave youngster, Ben Durham, from Kirkcudbright Primary School, (below) also took part and lifted the junior trophy with a very spirited rendering of the poem.

Photograph shows the three judges (from L to R) Colin Gibson, President of Burns Howff Club, Dumfries; David Smith, Past



President RBWF; and, Kirkcudbright's Sandy Henry, with Murdo Morrison seated, RBWF President Ian McIntyre and President of Dumfries and Galloway Burns Association, Mike Duguid, at the rear.

## Edinburgh's Historic Buildings Open Days at the Burns Monument



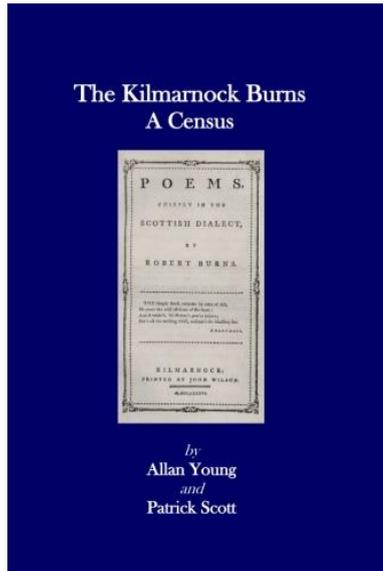
On Saturday and Sunday 23 & 24<sup>th</sup> September 2017 I was present at the Burns Monument as part of Edinburgh's Historic buildings open days. On Saturday morning, the Ragged Glory folk band started off the entertainment and sang and played some great songs till after midday. I interspersed with Burns' poems, and was joined by Jim Shields, President of the Edinburgh and District Burns Clubs Association (EDBCA). Jim recorded the number of people visiting the Monument. Ralph Balfour, the Treasurer of the EDBCA, gave the history of the Monument over the day. After lunch Ragged Glory continued playing and we were delighted to welcome Clair Murdoch and her Daughter Catriona, Clair presented wonderful fiddle tunes and Catriona recited Burns' poems. We continued reciting and singing Burns works over the rest of the afternoon until 4pm.

On Sunday morning I was joined by Ragged Glory Folk Band who played until lunchtime, and later by Ian Buick, Past President of the Borders Burns Clubs Association, to provide poems over the day. In the afternoon we were joined with Stewart Davie on guitar and Neil Lee with his mouth organ for music and songs. The afternoon entertainment was swelled when Cameron Goodall arrived to recite more poetry. Jim Shields provided additional songs. The day ended at 4.00pm with all present joining hands and singing Auld Lang Syne.

The open days were a great success with 726 visitors over the two days. Gwen Thomas, Conservation Officer for the City of Edinburgh Council, was pleased with the success of the Monument's open days.

Gordon Jamieson. Secretary EDBCA.

## The Kilmarnock Burns: A New Book



October 2017 saw publication of *The Kilmarnock Burns: A Census*, by Allan Young and Patrick Scott. The book is the first-ever attempt to track down and describe all the surviving copies of Burns's *Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect* (Kilmarnock: John Wilson, 1786). Allan Young, a retired Scot now living in Florida, started the project fifteen years ago, and Patrick Scott, from the University of South Carolina, has been collaborating with him for the past two years. The result is a book nearly as long as Burns's own. They have found and described 84 copies, significantly more than were previously known, but Burns's book is still three times rarer than a Shakespeare First Folio. The authors also provide a wealth of information and anecdotes about copies which have been recorded in earlier exhibitions, newspaper stories, and auction catalogues. Allan Young's introduction tells how he first got interested in the topic and tackled the research, with a list of "lost Kilmarnocks," copies previously known which cannot now

be located. Patrick Scott follows up with an account of how the book was financed, printed and distributed, and how later owners made each surviving copy distinct through rebinding, repairs, and inscriptions. One appendix lists geographical locations, showing 25 copies in Scotland, in major Burns collections and several smaller libraries, as well as a few in private ownership. Another appendix lists the many facsimiles that have been published over the years. The book is available from various online suppliers, including Amazon and Amazon UK, and prices may vary from those given below. [Allan (left) at the National Library of Scotland presenting a copy of the new book to Robert Betteridge, Curator, Rare Books.]



**Publication information:** *The Kilmarnock Burns: A Census*, by Allan Young and Patrick Scott (Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Libraries, 2017). Paperback only, pp. xxxvi + 198. \$24.00; £18.00. ISBN: 978-1976245107.

## The Scottish Wits Dinner – in aid of Action Medical Research & Irvine Burns Club

On 11<sup>th</sup> November 2017 the Scottish Wits Dinner will be held in the Hallmark Hotel, 46 Annick Rd, Irvine KA11 4LD in aid of Action Medical Research and Irvine Burns Club starting at 7 pm. Tickets – £35.00 each

The speakers will include – Baroness Annabel Goldie, Leader of the Scottish Conservatives between 2005 and 2011; Mr. Len Murray, retired solicitor and world renowned after-dinner speaker; Mr. Bert Thomson, retired Chief Inspector.

Please contact Billy Dickson, Hon. Treasurer, Wits Dinner Committee, for more details and to book tickets: (Emails & day time phone messages to 01294 311213 also welcome) [billy.dickson@wgddickson.co.uk](mailto:billy.dickson@wgddickson.co.uk)

## The Jolly Beggars an' Mair

Join Dalry Burns Club at 7.30 pm on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2017 as they perform "The Jolly Beggars" at the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum (RBBM), Alloway – a dramatic production of Burns's cantata. Then, after a short interval, the second half will be a performance with songs, poetry, music, gangrels, wild women and violins all in the theme of begging, bawdry and bevvv! You are guaranteed a night of fabulous entertainment!

<http://www.burnsmuseum.org.uk/event/the-jolly-beggars/>

## Digitisation of the Burns Chronicle - Update

The process of digitising the Burns Chronicle continues to evolve with several additional sponsors coming forward at the Annual Conference in the Peebles Hydro. So far, almost 100 volumes have found sponsors with some recording dedications in memory of lost family and friends which will stand as a perpetual reminder of their passing while others record the arrival of a new generation who hopefully will appreciate the works of Burns in future years.

Please contact the Federation office on 01563 572469 or email [admin@rbwf.org.uk](mailto:admin@rbwf.org.uk) to pledge £50 per volume giving exact details of whom you wish to see as the sponsor on the dedication page. Payment should also be made directly to the Federation office with cheques being made payable to RBWF Ltd. The office holds a record of which chronicles have already been sponsored but this can also be seen by going to the RBWF website clicking on the 'Resources' tab and following the link to 'Digitised Chronicles.' Under the same tab there is a list of contents pages which is designed to help you locate particular articles of interest.

Follow the link below to access this fantastic resource: <http://www.rbwf.org.uk/digitised-chronicles/>

## Friends of Thomas Muir Symposia 'Scottish and English Radicals'

Kirkintilloch High School is the venue for the above symposia on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November from 12.45pm - 4.30pm. The principal speakers will be:

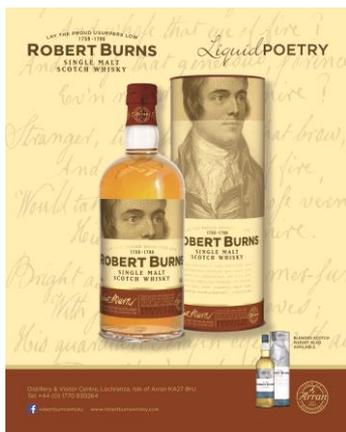
Professor John Mee: Professor of Eighteenth Century Studies at the University of York.. He has a special interest in English radicals of the 1790s, contemporaries of Thomas Muir.

Professor Gerard Carruthers: Professor of Scottish Literature since 1700 at the University of Glasgow. He recently edited a book of Thomas Muir essays, along with Don Martin.

Don Martin: A retired librarian and local history specialist. He has a particular interest in the Scottish radicals of the 1790s, and also in the local history of Kirkintilloch.

For more information see the website [www.thomasmuir.co.uk](http://www.thomasmuir.co.uk) or contact [dwmmartindon@live.co.uk](mailto:dwmmartindon@live.co.uk)

## Isle of Arran Spectacular Winter Offers



Official sponsor of the Robert Burns World Federation Ltd, Isle of Arran Distillery, is staging a special Winter Offer between 6 November and 22 December 2017.

A free Mini Bus service from Brodick and return will conduct you to the distillery where you can enjoy a free distillery tour and the chance to partake in an Arran Malt Tailored Tasting involving tasting 4 Arran malts for a very reasonable £15. Alternatively you can enjoy a free mince pie and hot drink.

To book this tour contact [bookings@aranwhisky.com](mailto:bookings@aranwhisky.com)

## Golden Wonder Snacks Relaunch

Our other major sponsor of the Schools' Competitions Golden Wonder has just announced the relaunch of its Snacks range after a makeover! The packs have been refreshed and some new additions have arrived, all with more punch per crunch.



## A Small Charity with a Global Reach – Come and Join Us

The main objectives of The Robert Burns World Federation Limited are to advance the education of the public about the life, poetry and works of Robert Burns and in furtherance thereof:

- (i) To encourage and arrange competitions among the general public, students and/or school children.
- (ii) To stimulate the development, teaching and study of Scottish literature, art, music and language.
- (iii) To conserve buildings and places associated with Robert Burns and his contemporaries.
- (iv) To strengthen the bond of fellowship amongst members of Burns Clubs and kindred societies throughout the world by encouraging Burns Clubs and kindred societies to honour the memory of Robert Burns and his works.

Clubs, Societies, Individuals and Corporate bodies who support the aims and objectives of the Robert Burns World Federation may be admitted as Federation Members.

### Benefits of Membership:

1. **FREE** copy of our in-house publication, the Burns Chronicle, which keeps members up-to-date with world-wide club activities and provides academic articles which add to our knowledge and can be included in talks and writings.
2. **FREE** bi-monthly Newsletter with general information on Club and Burns related news
3. Increased knowledge of the life and works of Robert Burns and the pleasure of passing this knowledge on to like-minded Burnsians and to children and adults who visit Ayrshire from home and abroad
4. Cordial company of fellow Federation members nationwide and worldwide
5. The possibility of working with the schools committee who promote the works of Burns vigorously to over 80,000 children in Scotland and also to many in USA, Canada, Russia and the Pacific Rim.
6. Confidence that the RBWF Headquarters either answers, or fields and disseminates, questions from the general public, as well as Federation Members, fulfilling our main purpose of advancing and promoting knowledge of Robert Burns' life and works
7. The opportunity to have an input to the future of the Federation
8. Without your subscription to RBWF, knowledge of, and interest in, Burns and his works would wither and die without a core driving force. Someone would have to re-invent a Federation of world-wide Burns Clubs.

## Application to become a Federation Member

Membership type	Cost	Tick preferred option
Individual Membership	£42.00	
Family Membership	£47.00	
Club Membership	£77.00	
Corporate Membership	£150.00	
Chronicle Only	£30.00	
School / Junior Membership	FREE (no voting rights)	
Patron	Call for details	
Airmail (overseas only)	£12.00	for Chronicle etc. to be sent via airmail instead of surface mail

Name (s) .....

Company Name.....

Address.....

Telephone..... Mobile.....

Email..... Website.....

### Method of Payment

Cheque:	No.	
Credit Card / Debit Card:	No.	Exp.Date. /
	Name on Card:	
Online Payment:	Please contact us to issue an invoice with payment details	
Note: there is a 5% surcharge on all Credit or Debit Card and Online Transactions		

Applications for Membership should be sent to:- The Robert Burns World Federation Limited, Dower House, Dean Castle Country Park, Kilmarnock, KA3 1XB. Tel/Fax: 01563 572469 E Mail [admin@rbwf.org.uk](mailto:admin@rbwf.org.uk) Web [www.rbwf.org.uk](http://www.rbwf.org.uk)