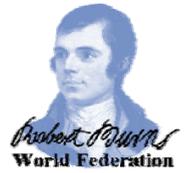




The Robert Burns World Federation Newsletter



Issue 6 November 2013

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 *Seventh of November* and *The Whistle* featured in this newsletter. Another source, which includes a video, is <http://johncairney.com/robert-burns/> Click on the 'Performance' heading and on that page you can see John's consummate recitation of Tam O'Shanter, fast paced and yet so clear. Hopefully by hearing these poems your Burns Supper experience will be enhanced.

We bade fond farewell to Corinne Buivenga after her fantastic stint in the office and warmly welcome her replacement Margaretann Dougall who has already slotted seamlessly into the role. *Editor*

In this Issue:

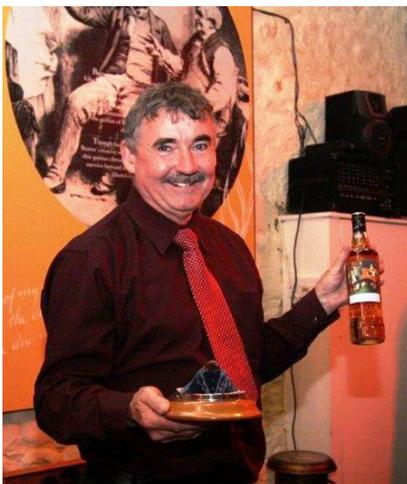
	Page
- <i>The Whistle</i> and Friars Carse	1-3
- Stonehaven's Champion 'Hauder'	3
- Irvine Lasses Inter-Club night	3
- Conference Activities	4
- Burns cottage presentation	4
- St Petersburg Forum	4-5
- Edinburgh historic buildings open days	5
- New York golf outing	6
- Ian Rankin's take on Burns	6
- Helensburgh Burns Club	7
- Sharing Burns with students from the USA	7
- Wendy Carle Taylor	8
- Wounded Hare portrait presentation	8
- Ross Roy medal and Red Rose Ball	9
- Robert Burns Biscuits	10
- Tunnocks flying high	10
- Pacific Rim conference 2014	11
- Copshaw Burns Supper & Year of the Haqqis	11-12

Seventh of November

The day returns, my bosom burns,
The blissful day we twa did meet!
Tho' winter wild in tempest toil'd,
Ne'er summer sun was half sae sweet.
Than a' the pride that loads the tide,
And crosses o'er the sultry line,
Than kingly robes, than crowns and globes,
Heav'n gave me more – it made thee mine!

by Robert Burns

'The Whistle' World Champion



A happy, and deservedly proud, Jimmy Law from Skelmorlie holds aloft his prize after winning the recent competition to recite the words of Burns' song *The Whistle*. As this is the only competition held to recite the song, Jimmy can rightly be hailed as the 'World Champion.' The competition was held at the former home of the poet, Ellisland Farm, near Dumfries. Unlike in the original drinking contest, recorded by Burns in 1789, the competitors in the competition did not have to consume upwards of seven bottles of claret apiece to be declared the winner!

The inspiration behind the competition was Ian Millar from the Thornhill Burns Club and he and his club colleagues are to be congratulated on organising a splendid evening including superb catering by the ladies of the club. The compère, Ronnie Cairns, conducted the evening's proceedings with his usual good humour and enthusiasm.

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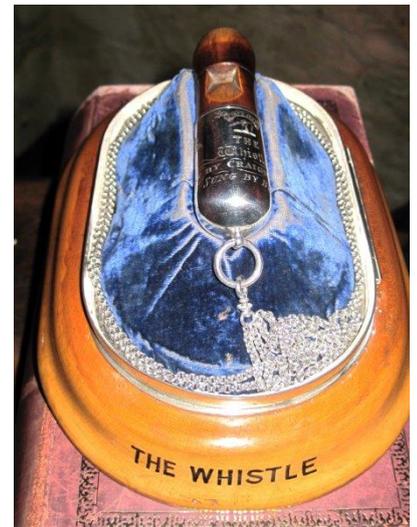
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The Whistle (cont'd)



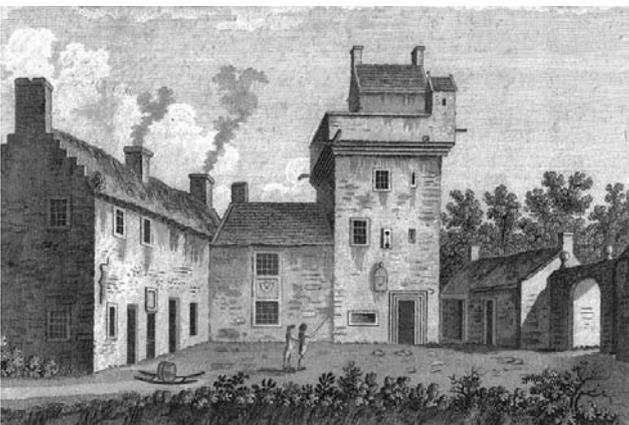
The judges for the evening were Miller Caldwell (far left), Halina Cairns (middle) and Angus Middleton (far right). The competitors were (from the left) Willie Waugh, Jimmy Law, Ian Buick (last year's winner), Keiran Nordon and Les Byers.



Surprisingly few people, even keen Burnsians, are familiar with the song *The Whistle* written by Burns to record a drinking contest held on Friday 16 October 1789 at Friars' Carse, home of one of the three participants, Capt Robert Riddell.

The whistle had been brought to Scotland in 1589 by a "matchless champion Bacchus" who accompanied Anne, James XI's Danish Queen. The Dane had an unbeaten record through the courts of Copenhagen, Stockholm, Moscow, Warsaw, and several of the smaller courts in Germany. On arriving in Scotland he beat many Scots in contests, until he encountered Sir Robert Laurie of Maxwelton, who after three days and nights of hard drinking, left the Scandinavian under the table. As the winner Laurie claimed the whistle. Laurie in turn lost it to a member of the Riddell family in 1674 and hence the whistle ended up in Friars' Carse which was the scene of the contest in 1789 where the winner, as described in Burns' song, was Alexander Fergusson of Craigdarroch. The whistle is still owned by the Fergusson-Cunningam family who kindly allowed ex-Scots Guards veteran, Tom Taylor from Prestwick, to bring along the treasured item to the competition and tell the fascinating story of its meanderings throughout Europe.

Friars' Carse



In September 1788 Burns composed *The Day Returns*, sometimes known as *Seventh of November* (see page 1), as a compliment to commemorate the wedding anniversary of Robert Riddell and his wife, commenting that, "***At their fire-side I have enjoyed more pleasant evenings than at all the houses of fashionable people in this country put together.***" The name Friars' Carse derives from a monastic settlement which was established by the Cistercian monks of Melrose in the 13th century.

In the 17th century William Riddell, son of a Nova Scotia baronet, from Roxburghshire purchased the lands of Friars' Carse. The older buildings were replaced by a more modest Georgian mansion, known as Glenriddell, built 1771-73 for Robert Riddell, the friend and patron of Burns.

Friars' Carse (cont'd)

In April 1791 Burns completed a collection of his poems for Robert Riddell's library and these have become known as the Glenriddell Manuscripts. These were later returned to Burns. However, his biographer James Currie retained them and they eventually ended up being sold to an American collector, John Gribbel of Philadelphia. In an act of immense generosity Gribbel gifted them to the National Library of Scotland in 1920 under terms which ensure that they will remain in possession of 'the people of Scotland for ever'. However, before sending his purchase to the NLS, Gribbel published, privately, facsimile editions of the two famous volumes all of which he presented free to worthy recipients.

Captain Robert Riddell of Glenriddell built a small summer house called the 'Hermitage' in a secluded part of the estate just a few fields away from Ellisland. Burns often used the building in this idyllic setting for writing poetry, having been given the key to the gate.



Can Anyone Out There Beat This?



Stonehaven (Fatherland) Burns Club stalwart Jim McAllan has carried the haggis at the club's annual Burns supper every year for the past 37 years. The club wanted to acknowledge Jim's dedication and thought that, as this feat is unlikely to have been surpassed anywhere in the world, we would try and get it recognised by the Guinness Book of World Records (GBWR)

In order for a record to be acknowledged by the GBWR, two things have to happen: the claim must be verifiable, and the potential record must be capable of being challenged. As regards the first condition, the club is in the process of gathering evidence from such sources as club minutes, programmes and signed affidavits from past presidents that Jim has indeed been the 'hauder' for the past 37 consecutive years. To meet the requirements of the second condition, we thought we would set up the following challenge which is why we require the assistance of The Robert Burns World Federation Newsletter to publicise it to a global audience.

As Jim McAllan will, for the 38th year in a row, carry the haggis at the Stonehaven (Fatherland) Burns Club's Burns Supper on 22nd January 2014, we challenge anyone in the world to beat his record.

[The gauntlet has well and truly been laid down - my bet is on Jim. Ed]

Irvine Lasses Inter-Club Night



Irvine Lasses Burns Club Interclub Night took place on 3rd October 2013. The variety and talent of the members of the various Ayrshire Clubs who entertained at the event was terrific.

(left) Martin Cassidy and John Skilling of Alloway Burns Club with Anne Gaw, Past President of Irvine Lasses Burns Club.



(On the right) The entertainers for the evening were Joe McGinty, Lesley Richardson and Jim Thomson, Senior Vice President of the Robert Burns World Federation.

More Conference Activities

Rev Dr Laurence Whitley, Minister of Glasgow Cathedral, conducted the special service for the Federation as part of the Conference weekend. The photograph shows Federation members after attending the service. Margaret Anderson (in blue jacket) led prayers and President Jane Brown read one of the lessons.



As part of the conference the Glasgow Association of Burns Clubs very kindly laid on Bus Tours of the city. A running commentary gave passengers a comprehensive overview of the magnificent architectural heritage as well as the cultural, financial, maritime and political history of the 'Dear Green Place.'

Some passengers took the opportunity to alight at the Mitchell Library where Librarian Susan Taylor had arranged an impressive display of key items from the Burns' Collection including several manuscripts and two Kilmarnock Editions.



Burns Cottage

John Scade of Kilmarnock recently donated to the Federation a beautifully hand-crafted model of Burns Cottage. Made from wood, with a miniature plough and cart at the side of the cottage, this is a lovely mini-version of Burns' birthplace which now has pride of place in the office.

The 'Auld Clay Biggin,' as the poet himself described it, was put up by his father, William Burness, on seven and a half acres of ground purchased from Dr Alexander Campbell of Ayr in 1756. In it Burns was born on 25th January 1759. A few days later, an alarming incident befell the baby and his mother; an incident best described in a letter by his brother Gilbert Burns, first printed in Dr Currie's edition in 1803:

'When my father built his "clay biggin" — Robert spelt it "cley" — he put in two stone jambs, as they are called and a lintel, carrying up the chimney in his clay gable. The consequence was, that as the gable subsided, the jambs remaining firm, threw it off its centre; and, one very stormy morning, when my brother was 9 or 10 days old, a little before daylight, a part of the gable fell out, and the rest appeared so shattered, that my mother, with the young poet, had to be carried through the storm to a neighbour's house, where they remained a week till their own dwelling was adjusted.'



St Petersburg Forum

One of the most satisfying links enjoyed by the Robert Burns World Federation is with the charity, The St Petersburg Forum, which has its roots in an association forged between Scotland and Russia during the 900-day siege of Leningrad in WWII. As a token of solidarity during the siege, the women of Airdrie and Coatbridge sent an album of friendship to the women of Leningrad (now known as St Petersburg) which had a huge impact on morale and so began the link with Scotland .

St Petersburg Forum (cont'd)

In the mid-nineties the St Petersburg Forum charity was set up and one of its major initiatives is to organise schools competitions with a Scottish theme.

The winners of the 'Knowledge of Scotland' competition are rewarded with a two-week tour of Scotland. This year's winners are shown here at a concert at the Globe Inn, Dumfries with Federation President, Jane Brown, an ardent supporter of the St Petersburg Forum.



Each of the students performed a party piece based on their essay. Daniela Feygina (right) gave a hilarious rendition of her recipe for making a haggis. Sofia Pavlov (second from left) displayed her incredible knowledge of the River Clyde. Stanislov Gorelov (left) portrayed a very authentic William Wallace complete with a mighty claymore. Winner of the Burns Essay competition Mikhail Golovin (far right) treated us to an edited version of his admirable treatise on Burns' poem *Man Was Made to Mourn*.



In a reciprocal arrangement the Scottish Borders Burns Association will send two delegates to St Petersburg in 2014, Sally Thomas (17) and Leona Evans (19). Fauldhouse & Crofthead Burns Club are also sponsoring Craig John Easton (20) a piper. If your Club wishes to sponsor a young person for future trips please contact Helen Morrison at helencgmorrison@btinternet.com.

Thanks to the efforts of Director Stewart Aitken and Aberdeen's Helena Anderson Wright the following Russian students from St Petersburg took up places at this year's Aberdeen International Youth Festival:

- | | | | |
|----------------------|----------|------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Anna Vovk | 16 years | School 61 | Russian Folk Music & Dancing |
| 2. Anna Doroshenkova | 16years | School 61 | Piano, flute, dancing & singing. |
| 3. Maya Tarasova | 16years | School 207 | Mezzo-soprano Opera singer |

Edinburgh's Historic Buildings Open Days



Over the weekend of 28-29th September 2013 the Edinburgh and District Burns Club Association (EDBCA), organised two full days of entertainment at the Burns Monument as part of Edinburgh's Historic Buildings Open Days. The entertainment started off at 11am on Saturday with the Ragged Glory folk band singing and playing some great songs till after midday. Gordon Jamieson, Secretary of the EDBCA, then recited some Burns poems before being joined by Willie Horne from the Airts Burns Club in Prestonpans. They continued reciting Burns works over the rest of the afternoon.

On Sunday, Gordon and Ian Buick, Past President of the Borders Burns Clubs Association, continued to provide poems over the day. They were joined later by Stewart Davie on guitar, Jim Wilson on accordion and George Duff with his guitar for more music and songs. The afternoon entertainment was swelled when Margaret Anderson, Wendy Carl Taylor and Cameron Goodall arrived to provide more poetry and song.

Ralph Balfour, EDBCA Treasurer, gave a very informative talk on the history of the Burns Monument. The day ended at 4.00pm with all present joining hands and singing Auld Lang Syne. Paul McAuley, Conservation Officer for the City of Edinburgh Council, deemed the open days a great success with 561 visitors attending over the two days.

[Submitted by Gordon Jamieson, Secretary]

Annual Robert Burns Golf Outing



On Wednesday, September 25th, the Society's Annual Golf Outing took place at Quaker Ridge Golf Club in Scarsdale, NY. Twenty four members met for lunch at the club and then ventured out onto the course, more participants than ever before at this Society event. Afterwards, haggis was served and Larry, the piper, played.

From left to right the participants were Bill Maitland, Past President of St. Andrews Society of New York; Kenneth Donnelly, Vice President of Robert Burns Society of New York; Fred Bisset, Past President of Robert Burns Society of New York and St. Andrews Society of New York and; Dougal Munro, Board Member of Robert Burns Society of New York and St. Andrews Society of New York. Dougal won longest drive of the day, Ken won the Oliphant Putter for lowest number of putts.

Robert Burns Ale

Over the years quite a number of products have had a "Robert Burns" label. Robert Burns Ale is brewed and bottled by possibly the oldest Brewery in the country and, although situated in Faversham, Kent it certainly has a strong Scottish connection.

Robert Burns Ale was created by Stewart Mann - a Scottish Brewer who was a graduate of Herriot Watt University. The production process by Brewer Shepherd-Neame includes generous quantities of selected Scottish Oats and the end result is a pleasing refreshment.

In Tam O'Shanter The Bard writes:

"The night drave on wi' sangs an' clatter;
And aye the ale was growing better"

The Robert Burns Ale could also fit that description and is available in Scotland only in Lidl stores.



Ian Rankin's Take on Burns



An event known as 'Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect' was established last year to celebrate the anniversary of the publication of the Kilmarnock Edition in 1786. This year East Ayrshire Council was delighted to host 'An Evening with Ian Rankin', one of Scotland's most internationally renowned authors. During the evening Federation Chief Executive Officer, Alison Tait, exchanged a copy of the new Burns Encyclopaedia for a copy of the author's latest book 'Standing in Another Man's Grave'. She remarked, "This was a really enjoyable event, very informal, where Ian Rankin was 'interviewed' by Zoe Strachan, herself a published author. However, Zoe's list of questions was rather put to the side as the conversation flowed so naturally between her and Ian. He explained how he came to writing and talked about his life as an author, including the creation of his main character Rebus. He also discussed his favourite works by Burns and his own personal enthusiasms in Scottish Literature and music.

Image courtesy of East Ayrshire Leisure'.

[Apparently one of Ian's favourite pubs is the Oxford Bar in Edinburgh. Having been there for the first time recently and ended up partaking in a wonderful impromptu unaccompanied folk session I can appreciate the attraction of its relaxed atmosphere. *Editor*]

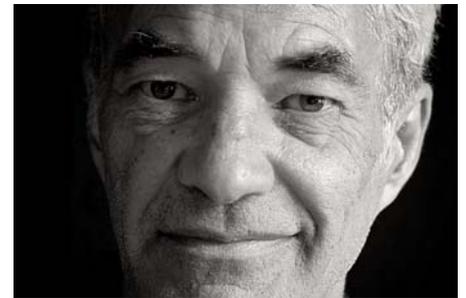
Helensburgh Burns Club



George Dunwoody is Vice-President of Dumbarton Burns Club but he is also a member of Helensburgh Burns Club and has been very busy researching the history of the club. According to his research Helensburgh Burns Club can boast of being the first club to have ladies as members. The Helensburgh & Gareloch Times edition dated 6th October 1920 recorded *'The annual general meeting ... was for the first time in its history attended by ladies, a dozen or more gracing the proceeding'*. A large number of those *'ladies present'* were proposed for membership and it was jokingly remarked that *'soon the club would have more ladies than gentlemen. Time will tell'*. Ninety three years later, the club now has its first woman President, Kirsten Easdale. The photograph by Steve Niblock shows her with the fine President's chain of office.

[Are there any clubs willing to challenge George's claim of Helensburgh's being the first to admit women as members of a Burns Club? Ed]

The research of the club's history reveals music was at its heart. Appropriately Club's fifth St Andrew's Night concert on 16th of November had an exciting line up of musicians, featuring the amazing accordionist Gregor Lowrey and Rod Paterson (photo by Steve Niblock) who is widely recognised as the finest Scottish traditional singer of his generation, celebrated as a performer of traditional song, notably for his unequalled interpretations of the works of Robert Burns. Rod has performed all over the world, including at the Scottish Parliament's Burns Supper. Rod and Gregor performed 'Bring In The Spirit' with Kirsten.



Well-known accordionist Frazer Mclellan, who plays regularly for Glasgow City Council's twinning Burns suppers all over the globe, along with Gregor, called, and played for the ceilidh in the later part of the evening, with club members John and Lesley Young also performing a selection of Scottish songs. In addition to all this, Highland Dancers from The Margaret Rose School of dance, and young piper Adam Lawson appeared, as did the local Vale of Leven duo, The MacDonald Brothers. Club member, and public speaker, George Dunwoody chaired the event.

Sharing Burns with our friends from the USA

Following the election of President Obama last year, the American Consulate in Edinburgh held a celebratory breakfast, to which I was one of many invitees from all over Scotland. As is the norm at these events, it was a great opportunity for networking and during my "rounds"; I had a very interesting conversation with a gentleman representing the Fullbright Foundation, an organisation which selects the crème de la crème of gifted students from across the USA, to study for a year in the U.K.

Having made the connection, it was a pleasant surprise when, several months later, I received an email telling me that the current batch of students who were studying at universities from all over the UK, were having their final get together in Edinburgh over 3 days and could I arrange for some social event on their final night for the 50 or so students who would be in Edinburgh, in August.



Burns and USA Students (cont'd)

A whisky tasting and Burns Supper were rolled into one event and a most enjoyable night took place with the entertainment being provided by myself and Wendy Carle Taylor, whom many of you will know is a wonderful singer (see next article). As the night drew to a close, the students were invited up to "dae a turn" and they did so with great gusto and very much in the 'spirit' of the evening.

This wonderful night put to rest the misconception that you can only have a good Burns Night in January or February. Wendy and I were presented with beautiful cashmere scarves in the Fulbright- commissioned tartan, and many new converts were made that night sending these young Americans home, with a lasting memory of their time in the UK and especially their week-end in Edinburgh. [Submitted by Jim Shields PP]

The Singer with the 'Conyach' - Wendy Carle Taylor



It was internationally acclaimed traditional singer Sheila Stewart who described Wendy Carle Taylor as having the 'conyach' - the gift of singing from the heart and soul. Having heard her singing on several occasions I can vouch for Sheila's verdict. Following Wendy's fourth annual concert at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe independent critic Nick Barstow awarded her a coveted 5-star review in which he wrote, "it takes a very special performer to unlock music's potential to really transport the listener, and Carle Taylor does so with ease. She is simply sublime from start to finish."

Recently I had the pleasure of witnessing Wendy conducting her one-day Robert Burns workshop at Edinburgh University (left). Her students were profuse in their praise of the course, particularly her coverage of Burns' lesser known songs and her exploration of different interpretations of his better known works.

Wendy's website <http://www.wendycarletaylor.com> shows details of the full range of her one-to-one private coaching, group coaching, workshops and consultancy work which she offers. Although she is much in demand, Wendy is keen to publicise her work. She is an active member of the Federation and would be delighted to here from any group or individual wishing to learn about Scottish songs. She would also be delighted to take part in any performances/gigs. Feel free to contact her at info@wendycarletaylor.com

'Curse on Thy Barb'rous Art'



Art of a different kind has been used to interpret the sentiments expressed by Burns in the first line of his poem *On Seeing a Wounded Hare*. In it he exclaims his disdain for a 'sportsman' shooting and wounding a pregnant hare. Professor David Purdie, one of the country's most celebrated public speakers and ardent Burnsians, commissioned water colourist Minette Bell MacDonald to paint a scene from the poem which he generously donated to Ellisland Farm where the poem was written. Prof Purdie is shown, alongside the artist, presenting the painting to Ronnie Cairns, Chairman of the Friends of Ellisland and the curator Les Byers of Ellisland Farm Museum. Minette, from Lochmaben, is an accomplished artist and exhibits both locally and internationally.

The Ross Roy Medal

The Ross Roy medal commemorates the outstanding contribution to Scottish literature made by Professor G. Ross Roy of the University of South Carolina. It is awarded to the best PhD thesis submitted to a participating university on a subject relating to Scottish literature. The winner this year was Michael Morris, University of Glasgow, for his study *'Atlantic Archipelagos: A Cultural History of Scotland, the Caribbean and the Atlantic World c. 1740 -1833'*



The photograph shows Michael at the awards ceremony with Professor Alan Riach of the University of Glasgow and Magnus Linklater, President of the Saltire Society. Founded in 1936 the Saltire Society is a non-political charity which promotes Scottish life and culture. It welcomes new members and details can be found on their website. www.saltiresociety.org.uk



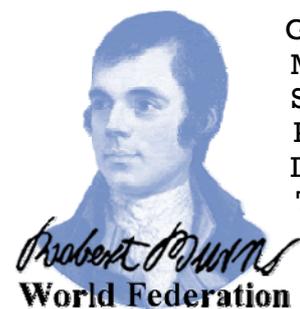
Michael, pictured after the award ceremony with his proud parents and girlfriend, delivered an abridged version of his thesis at the annual Robert Burns Conference at Glasgow University in January 2013. In it he explores, in exemplary detail, the complex story of Burns' attitudes to slavery. The talk can be downloaded from the 'video archive' on the university website <http://burnsc21.glasgow.ac.uk/>

A fuller description of the Ross Roy award and Dr Michael Morris's academic achievements can be found at chapter 187 on Frank Shaw's wonderful website:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/familytree/frank/burns.htm>

Federation's Red Rose Ball

The Federation's inaugural Red Rose Ball will be held in The Park Hotel, Kilmarnock on Friday 14th February 2014, 7:00pm for 7:30pm.



Glass of fizz on arrival
Musical accompaniment by Ayrshire duo 'Celtic Twist'
Sumptuous 3-course meal
Prize draw
Dancing till midnight with local live band 'Soul Train'
Tickets £59 per person, available from the RBWF office
(contact details below)



World Federation Please come and join us for a wonderful evening of music and merriment!

For those wishing to stay overnight - guest accommodation is available at The Park Hotel at the agreed discounted rates of:

- £70 B&B per single occupancy room
- £80 B&B per double occupancy room

Guests should contact The Park Hotel directly and quote that they are attending the RBWF Red Rose Ball.

A flyer is available from the RBWF office and Chief Executive Alison asks us all to promote the event as widely as possible and she looks forward to seeing us all at what promises to be a splendid evening.

Robert Burns Biscuits for Hogmanay and Burns Night



A special edition of fine gift food is being made available exclusively to members of the Robert Burns World Federation in time for Hogmanay and Burns Night.

The unique fare comes from Beautiful Biscuits, based in Edinburgh. Beautiful Biscuits makes gift foods that are a feast for the eyes and the taste buds.

The people behind Beautiful Biscuits have always worked in design and food, finding ways to bring the best of both to a wider public. Having run a restaurant in the capital and then a retail design shop, they hit on an idea that could please everybody.

"We realised that, apart from an attractive design, there's nothing people like better than an excellent biscuit," said Edward Anderson of Beautiful Biscuits. The challenge was to bring those two things together successfully and produce an irresistibly beautiful biscuit. It took many months to perfect a biscuit which looks fantastic and tastes delicious. Beautiful Biscuits are made to an exceptionally fine and light shortbread recipe and they carry delightfully tempting, edible designs. They are made in the Kingdom of Fife by a fifth generation family baker.

The special edition packets of shortbread carry the portrait of Robert Burns by Alexander Naysmith. Surprisingly, the entire orange spice flavoured biscuit, including the decoration, is deliciously edible.

"These are for Hogmanay, Burns Night, ceilidhs and gifts to families and friends, old and new," said Edward Anderson. The biscuits are available in different sizes and are sure to delight. Other Beautiful Biscuits are sold through museums and galleries but none has carried the inspiring portrait.

To place an order, visit www.beautifulbiscuits.com and then click on the RBWF link near the top of the page. It will ask for a password secret to Federation members. The secret password is Sherramuir. Every purchase will raise funds for the Federation.

Tunnocks Flying High



Having watched the BBC2 programme *Cold War, Hot Jets* recently I was reminded of a story I'd read about Tunnock's tea cakes and their part in the cold war. Retired RAF bomber pilot Tony Cunnane told of how Tunnock's Tea Cakes became a favourite ration snack of the V bomber nuclear deterrent flight crews based at RAF Gaydon, especially after discovering that they expanded at high altitude. This ended after one was left unwrapped, exploded and covered the instrument panel with marshmallow. [Ed]

Tunnock are still flying high today with container-loads of their products being shipped to destinations as far apart as the Caribbean, Kuwait, Canada and Japan. No matter the climate - hot or cold - Tunnock products have a universal appeal. Thirty plus countries across 6 continents just can't resist their enduring flavour. They were first exported from Uddingston to Newfoundland, Canada, back in 1957. The future aim is to convert even more countries to these Scottish delights, giving a greater number of Scots abroad these special reminders of home.

This sentiment accords very much with the aim of the Federation and why we are so delighted to have Tunnock as the sponsor for our School's Competitions. Thousands of schoolchildren benefit from the opportunity of learning the poems and songs of our National Bard and performing them in front of their peers, parents, friends and competition judges.

Pacific Rim Conference

Contrary to the information contained in the last newsletter, the Pacific Rim Burns Association Conference will not be held in Auckland, as stated, but in Dunedin. The event will take place from 30th August to 6th September 2014 with the AGM taking place on Wednesday 3rd September 2014. This will be the first time the conference has taken place in New Zealand and it is encouraging to learn that around 15 delegates are expected to attend from Australia. Visitors from elsewhere will also be most welcome.



[Having visited Dunedin in 2010 I know the attendees will enjoy a fantastic venue with such strong connexions to Burns. Particularly appropriate is the Scottish Studies programme at the University of Otago led by Professor Liam McIlvanney a renowned authority on Robert Burns]

Copshaw hosts very own Burns Night with a twist.



Copshaw Common Riding is a bit different from other similar events in the Borders with participants riding bicycles instead of horses. To get a flavour of this whacky event just google 'Copshaw Common Riding' and watch youtube videos such as 'Common Riding 2013 song'.

So it was no real surprise when they organised a Burns Night at an odd time of year. Organiser Gary Cuthbert explained the reason they were holding it in November was so they had a much better choice of quality speakers.

Pictured from left to right are Ian Landles who captivated the audience with an engrossing Immortal Memory, Chairman Alan Atkinson addressing the haggis, TV presenter Gilly Frazer who delivered a spirited reply to the Toast to the Lasses and Brian Hunter from Thornhill who proposed a toast to Copshawholm. For a full report see: <http://www.newsandstar.co.uk/quality-rules-at-burns-supper->



The young lass leading the bicycle procession Gillian McGimpsey is known as the 'Tub' for the common riding and as well as taking part in 'riding the marches' it was also her duty to carry in the magnificent haggis. Perhaps this could be an example of a haggis which would feature in the art competition outlined below. It is designed to let our younger members to let their imaginations flourish and come up with an image of what they think a haggis looks like.

The Year of
2014
The Haggis



The Year of the Haggis Art Competition

Win a Teddy or a Toy. Sponsored by Grampian Oat Products and Scottish Craft Butchers, Scobie and Junor, this is an Open Competition for 5 to 12 year olds. On an A4 sheet of paper draw a Haggis - let us know what you think a Haggis looks like?

On the back page fill in the details and whether you want to win a Teddy or a Toy

'Year of the Haggis'



Scott Carson of T.H. Carson of Dalbeattie and his family are no strangers to award-winning accolades. In the Town of Dalbeattie and on a local and national basis this long established traditional Family Butcher has won awards for quality.

Haggis is one of their specialties and Scott is looking forward to a busy "Year of the Haggis" in 2014 which the Federation is running in conjunction with the Scottish Federation of Meat Traders Association. Only butchers who are members of the Association who will be eligible for a 'Year of the Haggis' certificate.



The Knitwits

When visiting Braemar on holiday recently I could not resist taking a photo of 'Purl' the haggis outside the Taste Café. The 'Knitwits' are a community knitting group based in Royal Deeside, Scotland who create knitted installations to raise awareness and funds for local charities.

[Perhaps Purl will provide inspiration for some of the young artists in the haggis drawing competition.]



How well do you know the Address to the Haggis?

There is also a separate quiz for our younger fans. Publishers Black and White Publishing Ltd has kindly agreed to provide five signed copies of Sally Magnusson's book *Horace the Haggis* which will be presented to the winners. It can be from an individual, a class or a school. Again the age limit is 5-12.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1. What does Scotland want? | 2. Who will take the last person ? | 3. What does 'sonsie' mean? |
| a. A bread roll | a. The Devil | a. Jolly |
| b. A plate of mince | b. A King | b. Sad |
| c. A haggis | c. A fisherman | c. Sunburnt |
| 4. What would help to repair a mill? | 5. Where does ragout come from? | 6. What will cut off legs and arms and heads? |
| a. A screwdriver | a. Spain | a. A piece of wood |
| b. A pin | b. Holland | b. A walking stick |
| c. A pair of pliers | c. France | c. A blade |



Your quiz answers. Please write **a, b or c** **Q1** ___ **Q2** ___ **Q3** ___ **Q4** ___ **Q5** ___ **Q6** ___

From _____ Your name. Entries are for 5 to 12 year olds and closing date is 14th February 2014.

Contact person must be over 20 and must sign this form.

I certify that this entry is the work of the person named above and my contact details are (your own choice - e mail or school or address) Name _____ Signature _____

Complete entry with picture (which can be folded) and post to

COMPETITION DEPARTMENT Robert Burns World Federation Dower House Kilmarnock KA3 1XB