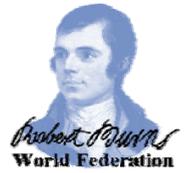




The Robert Burns World Federation Newsletter



Issue 10 July 2014

This edition of the Newsletter amply demonstrates that there is a host of activities related to the Bard taking place all year round both at home and abroad. It is particularly gratifying to see the involvement of youngsters and none more so than a Burns musical 'Rabbie' being performed at the Edinburgh Fringe by St George's Girls School, Edinburgh. Another interesting development is the Choral Settings for Burns' music being organised by the Centre for Robert Burns Studies in collaboration with Chapel Choir at Glasgow University. An exciting 'first' takes place when New Zealand hosts the Pacific Rim Annual Conference and AGM in Dunedin as part of a Scottish Festival celebrating the links between the city and Robert Burns.

Editor

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Nature's Law

Let other heroes boast their scars,
The marks o' sturt and strife,
But other poets sing of wars,
The plagues o' human life!
Shame fa' the fun: wi' sword and gun
To slap mankind like lumber!
I sing his name and nobler fame
Wha multiplies our number.

by Robert Burns

Burns Art Competition



The Yorkshire District Trophy is awarded annually to the Secondary School which takes first place in the Federation's art competition. This year Castle Douglas High School swept the board.

Far left is Principal Art Teacher, Mrs Lisa Bowles with Head Teacher Gerald Donnelly receiving the trophy (plus £100 for school funds) from RBWF President Mrs Jane Brown. The winner Julia Wnuk with her 'Red Roses' is standing in front of Mrs Isa Hanley RBWF Schools Convenor with Ellie Brown (2nd) on the left and Megan Reid (3rd) on the right.

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Art Competition (cont'd)



The Provost Coffey Quaich is awarded to the Additional Support Needs school (ASN) whose pupil takes first place in this competition.

The winner was Darren Jones from Douglas Ewart High School, Newton Stewart, shown here with his impressive ram's head painting. In second place was Lara Hutchison on the right with Ryan Cosker third but not in photograph as he was absent that day. President Jane Brown and Convenor Isa Hanley are shown with art teacher Mr Bob McNaughton who is retiring this term after 31 years nurturing pupils' artistic talent. Mr McNaughton said: "A lot of hard work has gone in but we have all really enjoyed doing it. Burns means a great deal to the children."

Jane Brown added: "I congratulate the children and the talent they have shown is wonderful. The Federation is about promoting the work of Burns and the Douglas Ewart pupils have produced work of a very high standard. We are very proud of them."

The Toshio Namba Trophy is awarded to the best Primary School whose pupil takes first place in this competition. The winner was Chloe White from Dykehead Primary School being presented with the trophy by Federation Senior Vice President Jim Thomson. The trophy is named after Toshio Namba who spent much of his life translating Burns into Japanese and writing several books about the Poet's life and works.



Ellisland Youngsters in Concert



On Friday 23rd May the Friends of Ellisland held its annual Spring Concert featuring some very talented young entertainers. The threshing barn was filled to capacity and light refreshments were served at the interval. The evening finished with everyone joining together to sing Auld Lang Syne. In the photo from left to right are the curator Les Byers, secretary Maureen Milton, chairman Ronnie Cairns and treasurer Betty Haining along with the young performers.

The next event at Ellisland is a Farm Supper on Saturday 23rd August 2014 to which you are all welcome.

Alloway Burns Club Point the Way

This is a follow-on article from last month's newsletter submitted by Past President John Skilling on the outstanding work being carried out by the Alloway Burns Club to maintain the Burns-related memorials in their area.



The Trysting Thorn was made famous in Burns' poem *The Soldier's Return*.



*At length I reached the bonie glen,
Where early life I sported.
I passed the mill and trysting thorn,
Where Nancy oft I courted*

The Mill, now a ruin, stands by Millmannoch Farm on the minor road between Low Coyllton and Drongan and is so difficult to find that a local newspaper photographer could not find it when asked to do a photo shoot of Provost Helen Mooney when she came to inspect the refurbishment of the site. It was this problem which spurred Alloway Burns Club to seek funding for Finger Posts showing the way to the Trysting Thorn and to Highland Mary's Monument at Failford and later to the Burns and Wallace Cairn in Leglen Wood just outside Ayr.



*"Syne to the Leglen Wood when it was late
To make a silent and a safe retreat"*

History of Wallace

And so did Robert Burns "on a fine summer Sunday" "pay his respects to the Leglen Wood with as much devout enthusiasm as ever pilgrim did to Lorreto; as I explored every den and dell where I could suppose my heroic countryman could have sheltered".

Robert Burns

Alloway Burns Club (cont'd)

This substantial cairn was erected by the Burns Federation in 1926. The cost of the cairn was defrayed by Rev J C Higgins, BD, Minister of Tarbolton Parish. When a very large beech tree fell on it in 2007 (see Burns Chronicles for Spring and Autumn of that year) it cost the Federation around £10k to remove the tree and repair the cairn.

A new gate to the site was provided by Calgary Burns Club in 2009 to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Bard's birth (see Homecoming Chronicle 2009 p350). The location of the cairn is not as well known as it should be and so on a blustery, rainy day Allan Menzies and Malcolm Ferguson, two members of Alloway Burns Club, erected a Finger Post on the B743 to advertise the site. As we were short of funds to have them put up professionally, two members of our Club spent an hour braving the strong, blustery, cold rain-bearing wind to do the job. (*I held the ladder* - Past President John Skilling)

Robert Burns Choral Settings



The Centre for Robert Burns Studies is pleased to announce the launch of a new website. <http://www.burnschoral.glasgow.ac.uk/>

This webpage is one of the outcomes of the project 'Robert Burns Choral Settings - from Schumann to MacMillan', which the CRBS and the Chapel Choir at Glasgow University have been involved in since summer 2013. Dr Kirsteen McCue (co-director of CRBS) and James Grossmith (Director of Chapel Music) have collaborated in selecting a number of choral settings of works by Robert Burns which composers from a variety of European countries have produced since the early nineteenth century.



The Chapel Choir has recorded performances for streaming, and this interactive web resource provides information about each of the settings and their composers. The website presents the research underpinning the project, which is supported by the University's Chancellor's Fund and the CRBS.

It has been exciting to work on this project, and we do hope you enjoy our selection of beautiful choral settings of Burns' songs.



Robert Burns Birthplace Museum: Burns and Scott Literary Conference: Sham Bards of a Sham Nation

Join us at the Birthplace Museum for a day of lively and enlightening talks on Saturday 16 August as we examine Scotland's two greatest literary figures – Robert Burns and Sir Walter Scott. Speakers include Professor Douglas Gifford, Professor Gerry Carruthers, Dr Ted Cowan, Dr Pauline Mackay and Dr Kirsteen McCue. Lunch and refreshments provided.

Tickets £40 / Concessions £30 (seniors) /£25 (Students)

[Book Online](#)



THE ONLY MEETING OF BURNS AND SCOTT (IN SCHEENES HOUSE, EDINBURGH) From the painting by MANK, ADAM FERGUSON, BURNS, SCOTT, JOSEPH BLACK, FERGUSON, J., ADAM SMITH, JOHN HOME, GUGALD STEWART, JAS. HAYTON

Address to a Haggis – Recitation Champion

An 'Address to a Haggis' competition took place recently in the courtyard of the Globe Inn Dumfries and nine competitors took part. The Judging panel was headed up by David Smith, Secretary of the Burns Howff Club, with John Skilling, James Robertson, Robert Stewart and Wilson Ogilvie (all Past Presidents of the Federation) as members of the panel.

Junior Vice President Peter Hughes was the MC for the proceedings which were greatly enjoyed by all present. The participants "addressed" a Harris Tweed Cap as a substitute for the actual Haggis on the grounds that no known Haggis would survive being "cut up wi ready slight" ten times over. The knife also had to be imaginary but the absence of both did not deter the contestants who all gave magnificent performances.



The event was planned to co-incide with the Lasses Lunch and thus provided a worthwhile alternative for the gentlemen who had escorted their Lasses to that splendid occasion. Jimmy Law, a well known Ayrshire lad was in his customary expressive mode as he recited his winning *Address to a Haggis*.

The competition was a part of the 'Year of the Haggis' and there is a splendid opportunity for Burns Clubs to hold their own Competition. The proceeds can be used for any reason and one Club is holding a competition in memory of a former Secretary. All that is needed is a venue, competitors, judges and a prize.

Packs of Hamyln Oats could be made available for contestants and judges and also a hand-turned "Spurtle" for the winner. Perhaps a local butcher could supply a Haggis for the winner to take home as local butcher Stuart Houston did for Jimmy Law's winning recitation above. Press and radio publicity for the event would be of benefit to the organising Club. For further information e mail murdomorrison13@blueyonder.co.uk

The Year of the Haggis – Champion of Champions



The 2014 Battle of Bannockburn had a different outcome to the historical one of fighting in 1314

The modern day "battle" was a friendly contest in which ten holders of the prestigious "Haggis Maker of the Year" gathered for the decision as to who would be the Champion of Champions 2014. The event was held at the new exhibition centre situated at Bannockburn and owned by the National Trust for Scotland

These Butchers each presented a Haggis for judging and the judges were (from left to right) Ian Faulds, President of the Scottish Federation of Meat Traders, Louise Harley PR consultant with Grampian Oats and Murdo Morrison

an Honorary President of the Robert Burns World Federation.

The overall winner of the Champion of Champions was George Fullarton of Scotts of Huntly, Aberdeenshire who carried home the Grampian Oats crystal trophy together with a Certificate. George does not use any machinery in producing his Haggis and he has customers ranging from Shetland to London and many places in between - a true craftsman to his trade.

All the finalists were presented with appropriate certificates which will, no doubt get pride of place in their premises in locations all over Scotland.



Burns – a Novel Approach



James A. Coghlan (a.k.a. Sam King) writes, “My crime novel *Hunting Pleasure* is due out on 20th July 2014. In the introduction, I quote the Bard himself to let the reader know the contents of the ebook.

‘...pleasures are like poppies spread,
You seize the flow’r, its bloom is shed;
Or like the snow falls in the river,
A moment white - then melts for ever.’
From *Tam O’Shanter* by Robert Burns.

I am a previous member of Dundonald Burns Club in the days when Bobby Trotter was there. I felt the above quote combined all the elements that were pertinent to my book. As I grew up in Kilmarnock and my mother now lives in Alloway I also wanted to show the importance of my heritage. After all there is only ‘one poet.’ I am sure you will agree.”

The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine K.T - Unique 90th Birthday Gift

In June this year members of the Dunfermline United Burns Club (DUBC) presented Honorary President, Lord Elgin, with a unique 90th birthday present.

Club chairman Angus Hogg MBE presented the Scottish peer with a hand-crafted tray made of elm from Inzievar Wood and designed by local craftsman Derek Sawyers. Engraved with a special dedication, the gift was also made in recognition of Lord Elgin’s life-long love of Robert Burns.



Gerard Eadie CBE of the DUBC committee said: “Lord Elgin has been connected with the Dunfermline United Burns Club for over 60 years and in that time he has promoted the life and works of the Bard with great passion and authority. We thought it only fitting to present a 90th birthday gift that would resonate with his long association with the club.”

Photograph from left to right:

Fay Bancewicz, Angus Hogg MBE, The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, K.T., David Stobie OBE, Lady Elgin, Gerard Eadie CBE and seated Ian Terris, Fiona Maclachlan DL, John Torrie

Federation 200 Club Results

April Monthly Draw: 1st Prize Padraig O’Baighill; 2nd John Caskie

May Monthly Draw: 1st Prize Andrew Tait; 2nd Annie Small

June: Quarterly Draw: Peter Stuart;

Monthly Draw: 1st Prize Helen Morrison; 2nd Jim Henderson



Congratulations to all the winners of the ‘200 Club’ draws during 2013/14. The ‘200 Club’ subscription for the year 2014/2015 is now open at £15.00 per share and your subscription renewal would be appreciated. Please contact admin@rbwf.org.uk if you would like to buy a share.

Burns Howff Club - Jean Armour Dinner

Members of the Burns Howff Club gathered in the Globe Inn for the dinner in memory of Jean Armour marking the 10th anniversary of the unveiling of the statue of Robert Burns' "Bonnie Jean" in 2004.

Earlier, Senior Vice President Callum Watson placed a floral tribute on the plinth and invited Gordon Johnston, club Librarian, to deliver an oration on Jean Armour and her connection with Dumfries where she lived as a widow until her death in 1834.

On return to the Globe Inn, the company was welcomed by Senior Vice President Callum Watson, deputising for President John Clark who was unable to attend. A special welcome was accorded to delegates from several Burns Clubs and to Alison Tait, Chief Executive of the Robert Burns World Federation. The chairman read a message from Jane Brown, President of the RBWF and an honorary member of the club who was in Australia on presidential duties.

Following dinner, a toast to "Jean Armour" was submitted by Joan McAlpine MSP in which she studied the character of Robert Burns, his well documented philandering and children produced out of wedlock but also his devotion to his wife and loving mother to his children.

Dr. Maureen Milton toasted "The other women in Burns' life" and focussed on the poet's mother, Agnes Brown, with whom Robert had a distant relationship and Jessie Lewars, the daughter of John Lewars, Supervisor of Excise in Dumfries. Jessie was friendly with both Robert and Jean and helped to nurse the poet during the last six months of his terminal illness.

A sparkling entertainment programme was launched by past president John Caskie supported by guest artistes, Holly Little, currently studying at the Royal Scottish Conservatoire, whose lovely voice and choice of songs delighted the company and Avril Kerr whose droll recitations were a highlight. Music was supplied by Willie McRobert. On behalf of all the visiting delegates, President of Dumfries Burns Club, Arthur Milton thanked the Burns Howff Club for their hospitality and at the end of a memorable evening; a comprehensive vote of thanks was delivered by Junior Vice President William Johnston.



Historic Robert Burns Discovery - Now on Display at Floors Castle.



FLOORS CASTLE
ROXBURGHSHIRE

members of the family dating back to the time of King Charles I.

In 2011 a letter from Robert Burns that has lain undiscovered for 222 years was found at Floors Castle in the Scottish Borders, the home of the Duke and Duchess of Roxburghe.

The letter is now on public display at Floors Castle.

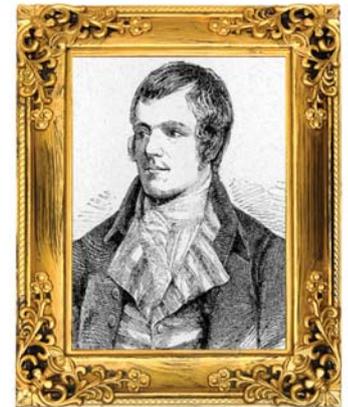
The letter was found in an 18th Century autograph book which was kept by the 8th Duke of Roxburghe and contained letters to

The current Duke of Roxburghe said: "This discovery is a delightful surprise. We do not know how the 8th Duke came into possession of the letter but we believe he was a keen collector of letters and autographs as Dickens autograph is also featured in the book."

The Burns letter is addressed to James Gregory, then Professor of Medicine at Edinburgh University and head of the city's famed Medical School. It was sent by Burns from Ellisland, his farm in lower Nithsdale north of Dumfries, and is dated May 13th 1789. Accompanying the letter is an early version of Burns's poem: *On seeing a wounded Hare*. In the letter, Burns thanks Gregory for his support and invites his comments and criticism of the poem.

Professor Purdie Editor-in-Chief of the *Burns Encyclopaedia* and Dr Iain Gordon Brown, Curator of Manuscripts at the National Library of Scotland in Edinburgh, verified the authenticity of the letter.

Professor Purdie commented: "This is a remarkable discovery. Unpublished letters of Robert Burns are extremely rare and this example is doubly interesting as it not only displays the evolution of one of his poems, *The wounded Hare* (published in the 1793 Edinburgh Edition of his *Poems*) but, in Burns and Gregory, it brings together major figures of both the literary and scientific components of the Enlightenment."



For further information about the letter or about Floors Castle please call Louise Rattray, Floors Castle, Scottish Borders 01573 223333 or email lrattray@floorscastle.com or visit www.floorscastle.com

LABC - A Wee Date for Your Diary.



The Lanarkshire Association of Burns Clubs (LABC) and associated clubs are raising funds to restore the Birnie Rhind Statue of Robert Burns gifted to the people of Hamilton. (Photo re-produced by kind permission of South Lanarkshire Council)

The statue was put into storage and now requires £7000.00 worth of restoration before it can be put back on display. Hamilton Council will gift £4000.00 of this if the Burns movement can cover the other £3500.00.

On Friday 17th October 2014 a concert will be held in Cambusnethan Miners Social Club Wishaw, organised by Jimmy Bowes of Fauldhouse and Crofthead Burns Club in partnership with LABC. In conjunction with the above event a prize draw is also taking place. The prize is a collection of Malt Whiskies. Entry into the draw is £5.00 and envelopes for same can be had from Jimmy Bowes, Kay Blair or any member of the Lanarkshire Association.

We need as much support as possible. Please put the date in your diary. (Thank you, Kay Blair LABC Secretary & President Larkhall Burns Club)

Calgary Burns Club Honours King Robert the Bruce



The statue of a man yielding an axe on horseback has a new plaque commemorating a battle which secured Scotland's independence and the connection between Calgary and the European nation.

On a Sunday afternoon in June, members of the Calgary Burns Club gathered at the base of the Robert the Bruce statue, situated on a hill overlooking 14 St. N.W. for the unveiling of the addition to the effigy.

"The Battle of Bannockburn was one of the final installments of Scotland's trying to get independence over England," explained Ian Denness, President of the Calgary Burns Club. "Robert the Bruce was severely

outnumbered, by three to one, by Edward the Second's army but was able, through use of some very clever tactics, to defeat the English."

Calgary's Eric L. Harvie, a lawyer, philanthropist and the founder of the Glenbow Museum, was instrumental in the funding of a Robert the Bruce statue at the site of the Battle of Bannockburn near Stirling, Scotland. At Harvie's insistence, an identical statue was erected in Calgary.

"We have this unique linkage between Calgary and Scotland," "The name Calgary is derived from a wee town on the Isle of Mull and obviously Eric Harvie thought it was appropriate to provide that linkage in, I was going to say in a cast iron way but the statue is actually made of bronze, so in a bronze way." The Harvie family, including Eric Harvie's grandchildren, participated in Sunday's ceremony.



The photograph shows Past President Paul Kane (left) and President Ian Denness with the new plaque.

Girls School to "Premiere" New Musical on Burns in the Edinburgh Festival

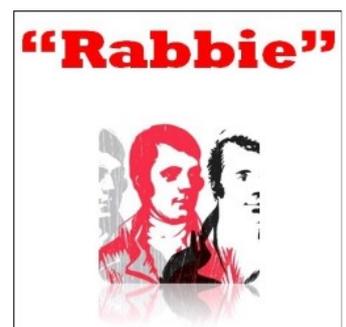


"It will certainly make the Old Guard splutter a bit," murmured Peter Thompson," when they hear that a girls' school is to put on a show about Robert Burns".

Peter, a senior music teacher at St George's School for Girls in Edinburgh is the musical director of "Rabbie", a special schools adaptation of the new musical on Robert Burns by Scottish playwright, Andrew Dallmeyer. It will be "premiered" in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August 2014.

Fifty years ago such a production would have been unthinkable. Many Burns suppers were for men only, the poet being considered a man's preserve, and of course the ultimate lad. Not exactly the topic, nor the poet, of choice for young ladies. But that has all changed. The emphasis of the story now is on the dignity and the struggle of the man himself, his deep understanding and vivid portrayal of the human condition, appealing as it does to both genders and to all generations.

"It's the right place and the right time," Peter went on to say, "we've a new school Theatre, comfortable raked seating and air conditioning - not one of those dingy Fringe cellars - and a great drama and music Department. We have a director called Kate McSween (related to the Haggis family), and girls galore ready to play it saucy or serious as the play requires. But, and it's a big and very obvious *but*, - no boys! We are, after all, a Girls' school, but you can't have a musical about Rabbie without boys."



This was a more serious problem than first thought. Another school had tentatively agreed to provide the required boys, but then, suddenly quoting 'exam pressure', they backed off. Peter was left with finding the boys in a week, or pulling the show. The word went out. Not altogether surprisingly, there was no shortage of talented male volunteers eager to embellish their acting CVs by performing not only in a Premiere, but in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe – and in a musical about Scotland's national Bard - and of course there was the great fun of it all.

The libretto of "Burns Supper" and "Rabbie" is available free to all schools in Scotland, and St George's will be laying on a Workshop in the summer for teachers to attend to learn from the experience of the St Georges team. Further details from contact@first-scottish.co.uk
There will be three Fringe performances of "Rabbie", two on 25 August and one on 26 August, and tickets are available through the Edinburgh Fringe <https://www.edfringe.com/>.

Professor David Purdie, editor of the *Burns Encyclopaedia* and script adviser to Burns Supper, said,
"This is exactly what's needed to re-introduce all generations to our poet. Burns was not only Scotland's greatest Poet, but also our finest Songwriter – and song Collector. Praise for his work came not only from his homeland but also from such great poets as England's John Keats and William Wordsworth. They remind us that his Poems & Songs, first laid before his family in Ayrshire and his friends in Edinburgh, have become the property - and the patrimony, of Mankind."

A New President for the Yorkshire District



At the Yorkshire District AGM on the 14th June, President Jim Robertson handed over the chain of office to the new President Mrs May McGuffog. May has been an active and longtime supporter of the Federation and prime mover in organising the ever popular annual 'Tartan Ball.'

The AGM is livened up with a bowls match and a quiz. The Bradford 'A' Team won the bowls cup and capped off a successful day by also winning the quiz in the evening.



Thornhill & District Burns Club Outing

The Thornhill & District Burns Club had their summer outing to Largs and then boarded the ferry to Millport where they spent a lovely few hours. The club meets on the first Thursday of the month from September to April and our next club meeting will be on 4th September at the Friendship Hall, West Morton Street, Thornhill. New members are always welcome.

The President's Gathering

As an opener to the RBWF Annual Conference in Irvine there will be an opportunity to network with fellow Burnsians and show off your talent at The President's Gathering. This will be held on Thursday 11th Sep in the Menzies Hotel, Irvine.



The evening will start at 7pm with refreshments followed by a quiz which will have 6 rounds. We will have teams' of 5. Feel free to submit a team or we welcome individuals who we will place in a team. Tickets are priced at £10; if you would like to reserve a place please contact admin@rbwf.org.uk

Covington Mains Commemoration

On 6th July 2014 the Lanarkshire Association of Burns Club (LABC) gathered at the Covington Mains Cairn near Thankerton for the annual commemoration of Burns' visit to Archibald (Baldy) Prentice's farm in November 1786, as he journeyed on a pony to Edinburgh to discuss the Edinburgh Edition of his poems.



LABC President Patricia Leslie welcomed representatives from Burns clubs and associations throughout Scotland and special guests from the RBWF- CEO Alison Tait, SVP Jim Thomson, JVP Peter Hughes and Schools Convenor Isa Hanley.

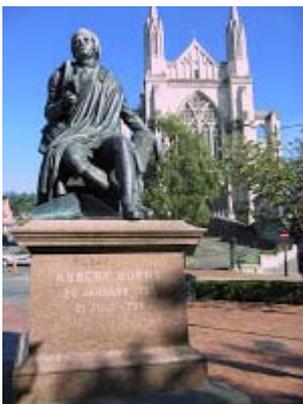
Patricia reminded the group that the present cairn had been erected 32 years and complimented the Fauldhouse and Crofthead team who had recently carried out a refurbishment of the site including the cleaning and re-painting of lettering on the cairn plaque. Provost Eileen Logan laid a wreath on behalf of South Lanarkshire Council and she hoped the refurbishment of the cairn would attract more interest from passing travellers.

In his eulogy RBWF SVP, Jim Thomson (photo left with Patricia Leslie) spoke of the welcome and hospitality Burns had enjoyed during his stay.

Following the commemoration, an afternoon tea was served at the nearby Shieldhill Castle Hotel. Entertainment was provided by Meg Sloan, a pupil at Long Calderwood School in East Kilbride and Emily Hamilton who attends Strathaven Academy. Their performances were warmly applauded, particularly as they had to compete with thunder and torrential rain battering onto the marquee roof while they performed! Bobby Kane, vice president of LABC proposing a vote of thanks and the company singing a hearty rendition of 'Auld Land Syne'



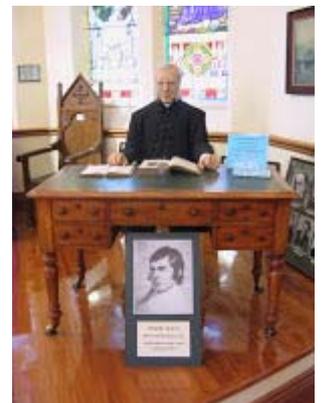
Pacific Rim Association of Burns Clubs – A First for New Zealand



The Pacific Rim Association of Burns Clubs will hold its annual conference in Dunedin, New Zealand from 31 August to 3 September 2014 with the AGM being held on 3rd Sep. A full programme of events is planned to celebrate Dunedin's links with Scotland and Robert Burns, whose statue dominates the central square in front of the Anglican Church.

Close by is the Presbyterian First Church with its close connexion to the Robert Burns story in that his nephew Thomas Burns, son of Burns' brother Gilbert, and depicted in an exhibit in the present-day church, was the founder minister of the church and played a fundamental role in setting up the city of Dunedin.

He was also a founder member of the internationally-renowned Otago University where Professor Liam McIlvanney, author of the splendid book 'Burns the Radical,' currently occupies the Chair in Scottish Studies.



For more information about this 'Dunedin Scottish Festival' contact Susan McLean, Secretary Scottish Heritage Council at willowburn@clear.net.nz

The shape thro' forty & quotha dew, afford,
 That want the halloo, fraughly chose his seat:
 The same broughe forth, in complimental mood,
 To give the lad, his wail haun'd kiltback, fell;
 And aft' he'd poug'd, and aft' he ca'd it gude,
 The foug'd t'wa, p'ardulous, will tell,
 How twas a lewdmou'd dale, for dunt was i' the bell.

The Essential Robert Burns

Ann Matheson

And let us woo' the fair! he says with solemn air,
 They chant their waly note in simple guise;
 They love their hearts, for that the noblest aim
 Perhaps thair's with warbling measures sife,
 O plaintive Mairies, worthy of the name,
 O noble tapers bide the heaven-wa'd flame,
 The fairest part of Scotia's holy lairds:
 Loveheart with thee, Mairie, till we lair;

The Essential Robert Burns – Ann Matheson
 ISBN 9780907526971 192pp illustrated £13.95

"This is a superbly readable book full of totally understandable delights, and supplies just what I and many others have felt has been very much needed for a long time. It amply fills a real comprehension gap in Robert Burns literature, being a genuinely valuable opus for the non-specialist Burns lover – and for would-be Burns lovers, to whom it opens the door." Professor Craig Sharp.

For non-Scots speakers who have never quite 'got' Burns, this is the perfect introduction to Scotland's Bard. Ann Matheson interprets, explains and explores the poet's best work and his usage of the Scots language. Each poem and song also has a full English translation. This is a Londoner's reaction to the book: "Well I've been slowly taking in Mr. Burns, it really is as though I've accepted him in, almost like eating a meal, because the words seem to fill me up... Although I most definitely need the English translation next to the poems, I didn't realise quite how much I needed the dialect too. I must read every word in Scotch after I've read the English, otherwise it just doesn't do the poem justice. That's a surprise to me, but a very welcome one, again an extra... opens my mind, it feels fantastic."

About the author: Ann Matheson is a well-known Scots language scholar. She is also the author of the books *The Bairns o Adam* and *Eck the Bee* and writes for the magazine *Lallans*.

New from Alloway Publishing



Robert Burns and Ayrshire – David Williams

ISBN 9780907526957 480 pp Full colour illustrations throughout £48

Robert Burns and Ayrshire

a guide to the
 people and places
 the poet knew

by
 David
 Williams



Weighing in at over 2 kg this is a huge 'coffee table' book that is weighty in more than one sense. The subject of over 20 years research it deftly combines biography, interpretation and background information fusing them into a rich and in-depth guide to the Ayrshire in which Burns lived and wrote.

Burns for Bairns – Irving Miller

112 pp with illustrations by Margaret Irving Miller
 ISBN 9780907526964 £9.00

Burns for Bairns is a selection of poems suitable for reading and recitation by children. This third edition features 37 new and attractive illustrations especially painted in watercolour. The book was first published in 1990 with a second edition in 1994 and several subsequent reprints and is a gentle way of introducing the next generation to the Bard's work.

Alloway Publishing

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