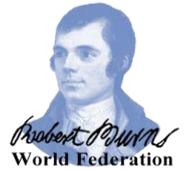




The Robert Burns World Federation Newsletter



Issue 18 November 2015

With the Burns Supper season in January rapidly approaching, it is encouraging to be able to record not only many of the traditional events associated with celebrating Burns but also to see reports about a multitude of different avenues available for learning more about our national Bard. In particular, there is a welcome trend in making resources available online which has to be the way forward for appealing to a younger audience and this can only be seen as a healthy and positive development. It is also gratifying to see so many Burns events being the conduit for charity fund-raising, something Burns would have been especially proud of, viz: "God knows I am no saint; I have a whole host of follies and sins to answer for; but if I could—and I believe I do it as far as I can—I would wipe away all tears from all eyes." *Editor*

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To William Simpson of Ochiltree – May 1785

The Muse, nae poet ever fand her,
Till by himsel he learn'd to wander,
Adown some trottin burn's meander,
An' no think lang:
O, sweet to stray, an' pensive ponder
A heart-felt song!

The warly race may drudge an' drive,
Hog-shouter, jundie, stretch, an' strive;
Let me fair Nature's face describe,
And I, wi' pleasure,
Shall let the busy, grumblin' hive
Bum ower their treasure.

by Robert Burns

Annual Conference 2015



Despite being slightly down on numbers attending, the Federation's Annual Conference was a great success with 120 members and friends, from near and far, enjoying great camaraderie and wonderful weather at the Peebles Hydro. The weekend followed its usual format with in-house entertainment on the Friday evening ably conducted by the ever-exuberant Joe McGinty acting as the Master of Ceremonies.

The AGM on Saturday morning went smoothly with outgoing President Jim Thomson (above) outlining the huge amount of progress which had been made in bringing the Federation's finances under stricter control and setting out a vision for the continuing success of the organisation

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Annual Conference 2015 (cont'd)

In the afternoon Professor Gerry Carruthers, Director of The Burns Centre at Glasgow University, delivered a most interesting and thought-provoking talk on the various clubs and societies to which Burns belonged.

The evening's formal dinner saw the inauguration of the new President Peter Hughes and the elevation of Bobby Kane (right) to Senior Vice President. Ian McIntyre, from Kirkcudbright, (left) was installed as the new Junior Vice President following his election at the AGM.

The dinner was followed by dancing to the Andy Kain Band whose foot-tapping music brought the enthusiastic company on to the dance floor with our overseas delegates to the fore in the front row.



On Sunday morning we were fortunate, once again, to have one of our own members, Margaret Anderson, officiate at our Sunday service in which she delivered a very personal sermon recalling her own experience of revelations prompted by close reading of biblical texts.

It was a most enjoyable weekend but the personal plea of Conference Convenor, Jimmy Gibson, is for more members to attend next year and meet up with our many friends within our Burns movement. The impressive hotel is constantly undergoing refurbishment by the new owners as they strive to maintain and improve the standards and services on offer. The Conference Committee has negotiated a very attractive, three-year, deal with Peebles Hydro and look forward to returning next year. The generosity of those in attendance enabled a healthy profit from our raffles and silent auction.



Definitely helping the evening go with a swing were the miniatures of Isle of Arran 'Robert Burns' single malt whisky generously donated by the distillery as part of a deal with the Robert Burns World Federation.

Tam O' Shanter Recitation Competition

The Globe Inn, Robert Burns' "favourite howff" was the venue for the annual Tam O' Shanter competition, organized by Dumfries Ladies Burns Club No. 1 on 15th September.

The audience was welcomed by Emma Harper, President of the club who introduced the panel of distinguished adjudicators, Dr. Peter Hughes, President of the Robert Burns World Federation, Les Byers, Burns scholar and curator of Ellisland Farm (far left) and Mrs. Jean MacMillan-Forster, past president of Dumfries Ladies Burns Club No 1 (second right).

Six "Tams", from many parts of the country and all with their different interpretations of the Bard's famous poem, strutted their stuff to an enthusiastic company before the judges retired to consider their verdict.

Entertainment during the interval was supplied by well-known Burnsian, John Caskie, whose songs, sentimental and patriotic, were much enjoyed.



The chairman of the judging panel, Dr. Hughes (left) spoke of the difficulty in finding the winner from such talented exponents of the poem but announced that Susan Chown, Alloa, (second left) was the winner with Ian Park from Kincardine, in second place and John Watson of Richmond, North Yorkshire, third.

The trophy was presented by David Miller, President of the Southern Scottish Counties Burns Association (right) who also thanked the club for arranging the competition. President Emma Harper (second right) thanked all the competitors, the judges and the staff of the Globe Inn for a memorable night before a chorus of "Auld Lang Syne" brought the proceedings to a close.

Rededication of the Highland Mary's Monument

I was privileged to be among the guests at the rededication ceremony of the Highland Mary monument at Greenock Cemetery on 30th August 2015. The occasion was blessed with a lovely sun-filled morning (residents of that fine area of Inverclyde will be the first to agree that sunshine is always a cause for comment in their part of the world!). The weather added to the sense that something special was coming out into the light, and so it was. Since the start of the decade planning, fund-raising and awareness-heightening around the restoration of the monument have been tirelessly pursued by Greenock Burns Club (the 'Mother' Club), most especially by two past presidents, Billy McCready (Manager of the refurbishment project) and Margaret Dickson. Sitting in a vast burial ground, once apparently, the largest in Europe, Highland Mary's resting place - since being reinterred there in 1920 - had by the 1980s become pretty dilapidated. The current photo on Wikipedia gives a sense of the 'before', the images accompanying this article the astonishing 'after', even with a camera-man, whose abilities are, to say the least, rudimentary.

The Reverend Douglas Hamilton, yet another Greenockian past president, led the gathering in prayer and remembrance of Mary Campbell, pointing out that much had been claimed about her life - by academics and others, and that much of it remains still a mystery.

Highland Mary's Monument (cont'd)

Wreaths were laid by the Mother Club, by the Lord Lieutenant of Renfrewshire, Guy Clark, by the Robert Burns World Federation, Inverclyde Council, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Freemasons (Renfrewshire West) and on behalf of the official 'Highland Mary Refurbishment Project'. These bodies and a number of private individuals are to be commended for their intrepid and passionate pursuit of a project that revivifies a piece both of 'local' and Burnsian history.

After the recital of a poem written especially for the day, by Jack Glenny (yes, you've guessed it – another Greenock pp!), and a lovely bagpipe lament by Rachael McDaid, the party repaired to the Tontine Hotel for an

excellent high tea and a number of speeches and fraternal greetings. One highlight among so many in the afternoon was some footage of the 1920 interment of Mary, shown to audible gasps of amazement among the gathering.



Leaving Greenock in the late afternoon, I felt good to have been simply an observer of so much good work by so many good people. As I drove along the Clyde I felt the urge to recite, according to the custom of my own faith, the litany of prayers for the dead, for Mary. Hers was a brief, beautiful, fragile life, as all our lives are, but Mary's was touched more than most by history. I think of that brief life and that wonderfully restored monument and I rejoice.

[Article written by Prof. Gerard Carruthers, University of Glasgow]

Past President Jane's Travel Memoirs Enjoyed by Thornhill Audience



At the October meeting of the Thornhill & District Burns Club, the President, Rev. Ella Pennington (right) introduced Jane Brown, manageress of the Globe Inn in Dumfries, who gave a talk and power point presentation of her year as President of the Robert Burns World Federation. She'd travelled extensively in her year in office and illustrated her talk with photos from the various places and Burns clubs she had visited, including visits to the USA Canada and Australia. A highly entertaining and interesting lecture enjoyed by the members of the club.

President, Rev. Ella Pennington, had been inaugurated at a previous meeting when outgoing President Ronnie Cairns (4th from right) handed over the chain of office. Some new members were welcomed into the club and there followed a light hearted evening with a 'Kiltie' game organised by Catherine Leggeat.

The next meeting is on the 5th Nov at the Friendship Club Thornhill; the speaker will be the author and great Burnsian, Patrick Scott Hogg.



James McKie and his Love of Burns



In January 1876 Kilmarnock printer, publisher and bookseller James McKie was featured in *The Bailie*, Glasgow's weekly magazine. It's 'Men you know' series profiled prominent gentlemen of the day, with a striking full page portrait. The feature appeared at the same time as McKie published the 2nd edition of William Scott Douglas's *The Complete Poetical Works of Robert Burns*, and the year before his Peoples' Statue edition, marking the appearance of the Glasgow Burns Monument.

With the news that East Ayrshire's McKie Collection has been awarded Recognition Funding from Museums Galleries Scotland, the Bailie piece is a timely reminder of how McKie was recognised in his lifetime. The full transcript of the Bailie article can be found on the Kilmarnock Museum's website:

<http://www.ayrshirecollections.co.uk/james-mckie-in-the-bailie-1876/#sthash.WEkBGGFa.dpuf>

The MGS Recognition funding for the McKie Collection was achieved through partnership with Burns Scotland, the national distributed Burns collection partnership. It will fund a post from 2016 – 2017 to make the McKie Collection more accessible for researchers and members of the public. Hopefully this will ensure that McKie's achievements as a collector and publisher are recognised for many years to come.

President Peter's Visit to Alberta, Canada: 23rd Sept – 1st Oct 2015

For his first overseas journey as President of the World Federation, Peter Hughes enjoyed a wonderful trip to Alberta where he was the guest of Medicine Hat and Calgary Burns Clubs.

He was very warmly received at the home of Brenda and Ken Montgomery whose wonderful hospitality ensured that his visit was off to the best possible start with a great tour of the many interesting local sights, including the world's biggest Tepee. There was an additional bonus because Ken had a 60th Birthday celebration on Friday 25th September and a large party of friends made sure it was a very enjoyable occasion.

Saturday morning 26th September involved a game of golf with Andy Harrower and Ronnie O'Byrne at The River View Golf Club and despite his lack of practice, Peter enjoyed the game and the splendid play from both Andy and Ronnie. Ronnie in particular was in sparkling form and recorded a wonderful par round.

This was followed on Saturday evening by The Medicine Hat Burns Club, Jolly Beggars Banquet held at The Cypress Club where Peter had the honour of being the Guest Speaker and proposing the Immortal Memory.



The Piper for the evening was young Ross Fraser (far left) from the Band of the Scots Guards who were visiting Alberta and whose Director of Music, Lt Col Steve Nevin (REME) allowed Ross to attend and play for the assembled company. Ross proved to be a fantastic piper and he certainly caught the eye of Poesie Nancy and her colleagues.

This very special Banquet, limited to 37 attendees, had so many great highlights, including the serving of a very special batch of Atholl Brose, produced by Major Andy Harrower.

Peter even had the pleasure of assisting Andy and RBANA President Robert Boyd to stir the mixture which was then bottled and served up at the Jolly Beggars' Banquet.

President's Alberta Tour (cont'd)

On Sunday 27th there followed a drive back from Medicine Hat to Calgary with Trekker Armstrong and Dr Paul Armstrong, President of Calgary Burns Club.

Peter was made very welcome at the home of Paul and his wife Anne (photo right) and being a keen curler, he enjoyed the opportunity to have a quick game with them at their local Ice Rink.

He had the opportunity to meet the members of Calgary Burns Club at a wonderful social gathering where once again, just as they did at our RBWF Conference in Peebles, the Calgary Burns Club Singers, performed several great numbers from their amazing repertoire.

Peter responded by singing The Haggis Song written especially for the 2014 Year of the Haggis before presenting President Paul with a song he had written in celebration of Calgary Burns Club.

The warmth of the welcome was just amazing, the hospitality was tremendous and he met so many enthusiastic Burnsians who do such a great job celebrating our National Bard with such obvious pride and an intensity which he found truly inspirational.



Scottish Fire and Rescue Burns Club – Support for Burns Memorial Homes

On 18th June 2015 the Committee of the National Burns Memorial Homes (NBMH) had a Burns Tea Party to thank the benefactors who support the Homes on a regular basis with substantial donations. Representatives invited included Mauchline, New Cumnock and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Burns Clubs (SFRSBC); Lodge Tollcross and Tarbolton St James; CEO and Councilors from East Ayrshire Council; former NBMH Trustees and family of former Trustees who have passed away. Also invited were all the NBMH Cottagers.



The tea party started off with a welcome speech by President Jean Martin who thanked everyone for their support and for their attendance. A cheque for £1,000 was presented by Ian Bell, Events Coordinator for the SFRSBC to the NBMH Treasurer Stewart Brown. Ian explained that the Fire Service held an annual Burns Supper for charity and normally supported in house Fire Service charities. However, with the formation of the SFRSBC, and with Secretary Joe Harkins being a Trustee of the NBMH, it was decided that some of the money raised at the Burns Supper should go to the wider Burns world. It would be hard to find a more fitting charity than the NBMH, which epitomises Burns philosophy and is a living tribute to the Bard.

There then followed a buffet tea party which allowed all the participants the chance to mingle, see the gifts and chat to each other about the Homes and the day to day experience of living at the Homes. Thereafter, the Curator of the NBMH Tower opened the doors to allow the participants the chance to climb the Tower and see the views that Burns knew so well. Two of the Cottagers then opened their homes to visitors so they could see the layout of the cottages, the standard of the fixtures and fittings and also how homely and individual the Cottagers managed to make their own individual homes. The Cottagers keep them pristine and personalised with family photos and mementoes which all add to the community feel of the Homes.



Given the renovation programme of new windows and doors, new central heating boilers and roof repairs there have been operating losses for the past two years of £15,000 per year. It costs over £70,000 per year to run the Homes. We receive **NO** Government funding and depend ENTIRELY on charitable donations. If you or your Burns Club/Masonic Lodge/Bowling Club etc. would like to sponsor the NBMH or make a one-off donation please contact the NBMH Secretary George Ross at Bower Cottage, Boquhan, Balfron, Glasgow, G630RW, 01360 440751 or grandgeo@hotmail.com

Facelift for Atlanta Burns Cottage



McDaniel and Susan Douglas) put on a first-class event with close to 90 members and guests attending. The arriving attendees were met by member and Past President, Henry Frantz, official Piper of the event. After some brief words of welcome, President Woody Woodruff introduced the special guests: Tom Gay, Phil Rutledge and Tom Cole of Gay Construction, general contractors Norman Koplun, Special Use Permit and Building Permit consultant; David Arnold, project architect; and Carol Basile, kitchen designer.



President Woodruff (left) christened the stonework of the addition with a bottle of Arran distillery's *Robert Burns* whiskey, followed by a ribbon-cutting with Richard Graham (centre) and Thomas R. Todd, Jr., the Chair and Co-Chair of the addition renovation project committee.

President Woodruff called on Past President, James Montgomery to unveil the granite slab over the back door with the inscription: "BURNS."

Piper Frantz led the members and guests inside for the reading from Burns by Frank Shaw (right), who read John Anderson my

Jo. This was followed by the building blessing and prayer from Past President, Rev. Dr. James Powell. A Burns Cottage Addition Dedication Cake, featuring the image of Burns, was cut with a Claymore sword.



Honoured guests were invited to be first in line for the dinner buffet provided by members and their spouses. When all were comfortably seated with well-charged glasses a round of toasts and thanks were offered to those most-deserving members who made the success of this project possible. Richard Graham (left) was presented with a plaque for his outstanding service in supervising this project from start to completion.

After dinner entertainment was provided by members Keith Dunn on Scottish fiddle, Hugh Peterson on guitar, Vice President Bill Tucker on percussion and Walt Hubert on various instruments.

The dedication ended with 'circling up' for Auld Lang Syne with musical accompaniment by Keith Dunn and Hugh Peterson.

Many thanks for the photos by Bob Pierson and Susan Douglas and to Ross Wyllie Editor of the Atlanta Burns Club Newsletter.

Robert Burns Poems in Georgian

My name is George Gokieli and I translate Robert Burns' poems into Georgian language. At the end of 2015 or the beginning of 2016 a book of my translations of Robert Burns' poems will be published (44 poems) by Bakur Sulakauri Publishing. The original illustrations are made by a Georgian artist Tinatin Chkhikvishvili.

In 2013, my translation of Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking-Glass was awarded the Saba Prize (the most prestigious literary prize in Georgia), for the Best Translation of the Year. If there is any interest from the Federation, collectors or individuals, please feel free to contact me at gia@gokieli.de.

Digitisation of the Burns Chronicle

The Burns Chronicle has long been one of the most important sources of information about the life and works of our national Bard. There is an opportunity for you to help make past Chronicles, from the first edition of 1892 to the present, available in an easily searchable digital form by sponsoring a volume.

The digitisation costs around £50 per volume with some of the larger ones being slightly more. Hopefully enough members will come forward to sponsor one or more volumes. **Please note that in the happy event that there are more sponsors than there are volumes, some volumes may show more than one sponsor on the dedication page.** What better way could there be for you to show your support for the Federation than by having a Chronicle sponsored in your name for posterity.

Federation members should have received details of this project from the RBWF office recently. If you have not please contact Officer Manager, Margaretann Dougall. Judging by the reaction so far, there will be strong support for this initiative so get your bid in soon. Please email 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 through the Federation office with cheques being made payable to RBWF Ltd.

Burns to the Fore at Edinburgh's Historic Buildings Open Days



On Saturday and Sunday 26 & 27th September 2015 I was present at the Burns Monument as part of Edinburgh's Historic buildings open days. On Saturday morning I started off the entertainment at 11am with Burns poems, and was joined by the Ragged Glory Band who sang and played before and after lunch until closing at 4pm.

I was joined with Ralph Balfour and Margaret Anderson who provided information regarding the history of the monument and the statue, and counted the numbers of visitors.

On Sunday morning I was joined with the Ragged Glory band and Ian Buick from the Borders who also recited poems. When Ragged Glory retired, Stewart Davie on guitar who had brought Jim Wilson with his accordion for music and songs until 2.00pm. Ian Buick and I interspersed with poems. The afternoon entertainment was swelled when Jim Shields joined us to provide more songs.

The day ended at 4.00pm which was another success, with over 1000 visitors over the two days, almost a hundred increase on last year. [Gordon Jamieson. Secretary EDBCA]

Singing Burns! One-day Course

Award-winning Scottish singer, and keen Federation member, Wendy Carle Taylor is offering a one-day course on singing Burns' songs on Friday 27th November. The venue is Edinburgh University's Paterson's Land, Holyrood Road, Edinburgh. She is inviting participants to, "celebrate the anniversary of Andrew, Scotland's patron saint, by singing world-renowned songs of Burns, our national bard. Explore the melody and lyrics of songs collected or written by Burns ranging from love ballads and humorous songs to stirring political anthems."

There will be initial coaching in voice care and warming up physically and vocally. Melodies will be taught by ear, no previous experience of singing is required and there is no need to be able read sheet music.

Full details of the venue, timings and fees can be found at: www.course-bookings.lifelong.ed.ac.uk/courses/MU/music/MU108/singing-burns/



For other events involving Wendy see her website <http://www.wendycarletaylor.com/index.html>

An Invitation from Inverary Burns Club



Inverary Burns Club
Presents

A very special

St Andrews Night Celebration The White Cockade

With

Len Murray and Alastair McDonald

In

The Argyll Hotel, Inverary

On

Saturday 28 November 2015 at 7.00pm

Tickets just £15

tel: 01499 302676 or obtain from Argyll Hotel



4 Course
Dinner

Music &
Entertainment

The White Cockade is the history in words and in song of the Jacobites. It covers the most romantic period in the history of Scotland, from the battle of Killiecrankie in 1689 to the slaughter of Culloden in 1746 and the escape of Bonnie Prince Charlie to the Western Isles.

It tells in gripping fashion the story of the Massacre of Glencoe, one of the darkest days in the history of our nation, and of the treacherous killing of the Macdonalds.

The audience are invited to join in with such songs as Killiecrankie, Ye Jacobites, Glencoe, Hey Johnnie Cope, and many others.

Cost just
£15

Resources for Teaching Burns at School and University

[Following articles in the July and September newsletters by Kirkcudbright Academy teacher Sheila Scott regarding the teaching of Burns poetry and songs in schools, I was delighted to receive the following article from renowned Burns Scholar, Professor Patrick Scott. Ed.]

The University of South Carolina's *Robert Burns & 18th Century Scotland*

(URL: <http://guides.library.sc.edu/RobertBurns>) is a new website headed "A rapid reference guide to online and other sources about Robert Burns." The focus is on Burns resources that are freely accessible online, including articles, reference tools, and even some recordings and video, though it also notes many of the more authoritative and influential print resources.

Originally developed for Patrick Scott's undergraduate Burns seminar, it has now been expanded with assistance from Joseph DuRant. Using LibGuide software, the site contains separate pages of material for rapid reference (with time-line, etc.), Burns manuscripts, Burns editions, Burns songs, Burns biography, and Burns criticism, as well as about the G. Ross Roy Collection and links to other major Burns sites.

The compilers welcome suggestions, especially from teachers, for additions that will make it more useful to students both at university and senior secondary school levels.

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

The Scottish Wits Dinner will this year be held at 7.00pm for 7.30pm on Saturday, 14th November 2015. Please put the date in your diary and sign up your friends for what will be another outstanding night.

This year's top table is sure to whet your appetite and needs only a brief introduction. Our speakers are Len Murray, retired solicitor and world renowned after-dinner speaker, David Vennard, Vice President of the Glasgow Haggis Society and local minister Andy Black. Our own Bill Nolan will chair the evening with eloquence and wit as only he can!! Our entertainers will be Jocelyn Nelson and Friends from Centrestage.

After the resounding success of last year the dinner will again be held at Menzies Hotel, Irvine who continue to support the event by donating the winner's Quaich. The hotel are also offering very special rates for overnight accommodation and breakfast – Double Room £50.00 and Family or Executive Room £70.00.

Your continued support has assisted the national efforts of Action Medical Research to improve the quality of life for children with disabling and life threatening conditions. You have also enabled Irvine Burns Club to promote the culture of Robert Burns as Wellwood continues to develop as a recognised Centre of Excellence and an attraction where relics of the Bard, his manuscripts and documents relating to his life and work are exhibited.

Tickets are £32.50 each and can be ordered from:

Hon. Treasurer: William G Dickson, 66 Waterside, Irvine, KA12 8QJ

Telephone: 01294 311213 E-mail : billy.dickson@wgdickson.co.uk

Homecoming Burns Supper

On Saturday 23rd January 2016 the Homecoming Burns Supper comes to Ayr Racecourse. Yet again it promises to be a truly memorable evening in the Bard's home town of Ayr.

Guests will find themselves transported back to the 18th Century with fantastic surroundings, a sumptuous meal and of course first class entertainment. The lineup for the night includes:

'Immortal Memory' - Prof David W Purdie (right) - Doctor of Medicine, Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, freelance journalist, parliamentary speechwriter and of course renowned Burns expert!



'Toast to the Lasses' - Grant Stott - well known radio and TV presenter, actor, columnist and regular evil panto villain!



'The Reply and Tam o' Shanter' - Elaine C Smith (left) - one of Scotland's best known actresses and comedy entertainers.

Chairperson - Robbie Duncan - an Ayrshire lad, Robbie credits appearances at Burns Suppers in London, Paris & New York, and New Cumnock but mostly New Cumnock.

Musical entertainment includes the Edinburgh Police Choir, boyband Rewind and John Carmichael and his broadcasting band playing for the ever-popular Ceilidh.

All this for £75 per person - To book your table at this prestigious event call the Ayr racecourse ticket office on 01292 264179

Proceeds go to the 2016 chosen charity – Headway Ayrshire whose aim is to promote all aspects of brain injury and to provide information support and services to people with a brain injury, their families and carers.

Sponsors: [Dawn Group](#), [Nicol McKay](#), [JD Pierce](#), [Klin Group](#), [SynergyCivil Engineering](#), [Stewart Travel](#).

Free Christmas Gift to a Friend

The Newsletter has become one of the primary communication tools which the Federation deploys in reaching the worldwide Burns family. As it is published largely in an electronic, and hence no-cost, medium there is tremendous scope for increasing the readership by simply increasing the mailing list.



Now is your chance to win a prize simply by nominating the e-mail addresses for five persons known to you and sending their e-mail details to the Federation office at admin@rbwf.org.uk. These people will be put on the distribution list to get the Newsletter via e mail. As the nominee your name will be entered in to a “lucky dip” prize draw to be drawn before Christmas.

The winner can then decide who should receive the prize of a 3-year family membership of the Federation worth £165.

Presentation to Betty Haining



One of the best loved personalities in the local “Burns family,” Mrs Betty Haining, was surprised at a gathering in the Globe Inn when the President of the Southern Scottish Counties Burns Association (SSCBA), David Miller presented her with an inscribed glass to mark her retirement as treasurer of the Southern Scottish Burns Association after more than 25 years.

Betty was lured to the Globe on 19th October on a pretext of meeting some visitors from Australia and was astounded on entering to be greeted by a loud cheer from members of the SSCBA, local Burns Clubs and friends from near and far.

President David Miller paid a warm tribute to Mrs. Haining’s work for the Association, saying she was a legend in her own lifetime as a Burns authority and an enthusiastic delegate to the Robert Burns World Federation for over 40 years. Betty served with distinction as president of the SSCBA during the memorable Bi Centenary Year in 1996 when

thousands of Burnsians descended on Dumfries in July to mark the anniversary of the death of the National Bard.

Additionally, Mrs. Haining continues as secretary of Dumfries Ladies Burns Club No 1, treasurer of the Friends of Ellisland and other organisations too numerous to mention.

Representatives of local clubs gave their own tributes to Betty before a buffet was served followed by entertainment MC’d by John Caskie which included songs from Emily McClatchie, Shane Clark and Bill Welsh and recitations from Avril Kerr, Gordon Johnston and Jane Brown.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mike Duguid, senior vice president of the SSCBA.



Robert Burns Birthplace Museum (NTS) & Centre for Robert Burns Studies (University of Glasgow) Annual Conference 2016

On Saturday 16 January 2016 the Annual Burns Conference will be jointly hosted by the Centre for Burns Studies (University of Glasgow) and the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum (NTS) which will also be the venue for the event.



As the title of the conference 'Two Bards: Burns & Shakespeare' suggests, speakers will compare and contrast the life and works of these two poets. Topics will include:

'Comparing Commemoration and Celebration of the National Bards' (Prof Michael Russell)

'Burns, Shakespeare & Freemasonry' (Prof Andrew Prescott)

'The Politics of Burns's Memory' (Prof Murray Pittock)

'Celebrating Centenaries: Burns in 1859, Shakespeare in 1864' (Mr John Burnett)

'Songs by Shakespeare & Burns' (Alison & Fiona McNeill)

'Volkischness from Alloway to Stratford: Shakespeare after Burns' (Prof Michael Dobson)

'Tam o' Shanter & the Shakespearean Fantastic' (Dr Rob Maslen)

'Shakespeare Buried and Burns Dug Up: Posthumous Adventures of Bardic Bodies' (Prof Nicola Watson)

The conference fee is £20. Registration will start at 9 am and at 4.30 pm there will be a reception within the RBBM & featuring a 'Two Bards' exhibition.

Booking information will be available soon but if you have any queries about the event please contact Rhona Brown at the Centre for Robert Burns Studies at Rhona.Brown@glasgow.ac.uk



Study Burns on Exciting New Online Course

On January 25 2016, the Centre for Robert Burns Studies at the University of Glasgow, in partnership with Futurelearn, will be launching the first Massively Open Online Course (MOOC) on Robert Burns.

This course will introduce learners to the life and works of the National Bard and over the course of three weeks, learners will explore three core questions: Who was Robert Burns? What made Robert Burns a poetic genius? What made Burns a worldwide icon?

Registration for the course 'Robert Burns: Poems, Songs, and Legacy' is free and open to all. No previous experience or qualifications are required for this course - just an interest in Robert Burns, or Scottish history and culture, or poetry and song in general.



University of Glasgow | Centre for Robert Burns Studies

Further details on the launch event and on the course will be available at the [Centre for Robert Burns Studies](#) and also in the Federation's January Newsletter.



Sponsored by the Weir Group.



Still a family business