



The Robert Burns World Federation Newsletter



Issue 20 March 2016

This newsletter reports on many Burns Suppers from far and wide reflecting participation by young and old alike. It is particularly gratifying to learn about the links between Bantaskin Primary School in Scotland and a school in Ukraine which has developed a Burns Museum and avidly promotes the life and works of Scotland's National Bard with its pupils. Such has been the volume of articles reporting Burns Suppers that some submissions have had to be held over until next month's newsletter or, unfortunately in some cases, left on the cutting floor, for which I apologise. Some of these will have involved the President, Dr. Peter Hughes, but the fact that he still appears in many articles in this issue just confirms the incredible amount of time and effort expended by him and other members of the Board on behalf of the Federation. Ed

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It Is Na Jean, Thy Bonnie Face

It is na, Jean thy bonie face
Nor shape that I admire,
Altho' thy beauty and thy grace
Might weel awauk desire.
Something in ilka part o' thee
To praise, to love, I find;
But, dear as is thy form to me,
Still dearer is thy mind.

It is Na Jean, Thy Bonie Face by
Robert Burns

Burns Supper in the Scottish Parliament



Nathan King from Wallace Hall Academy, Thornhill, had the honour of addressing the haggis at a Burns Supper held in the Scottish Parliament. It is always very encouraging to see youngsters who have done well in the Federation's competitions being given the honour of taking part in prestigious Burns Supper such as this one and the West Sound Burns Supper.

A group of 120 delegates from around the world also attended the supper and Nathan can be seen on the front row of the group photograph below. Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament,

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Burns Supper in Scottish Parliament (cont'd)



Patricia Marwick (front centre) acted as host for the visit. She also highlighted a new portrait of Robert Burns, which had been created by a group of students from the Glasgow Clyde College and was being showcased at the Supper.

The students spoke of their pride at seeing a mural they created being exhibited inside The Scottish Parliament for Holyrood's annual Burns Supper.

Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon was among those to attend the mural's unveiling and praised the students for their artistic flair.

The students from the College's Skills for Life and Work programme have been channeling their creativity into the portrait, which is a collage made from recycled packaging from traditional Scottish products, including more than 175 Irn-Bru bottle tops and Tunnock's teacake wrappers, as part of a Scottish Studies unit. The mural also pays homage to breaking news in Scotland as Rabbie's tie is made from recycled pages from The Herald and the Evening Times.



Birthday Tributes to Burns at St Michael's Church and Burns Mausoleum



Despite the driving rain and biting wind, the Southern Scottish Counties Burns Association (SSCBA)'s annual commemorative service at St Michael's Church, Dumfries, had one of its largest attendances in recent years. Pupils from seven Primary Schools and two Secondary Schools attended with many taking part in the service with hymns, songs recitations and readings.

Guests, welcomed by SSCBA President David Miller, included Deputy Lord-Lieutenant of Dumfriesshire John Henderson; Dumfries Provost Ted Thompson; MSP Elaine Murray; MSP Loan McAlpine, and representatives of Dumfries and Galloway Council, Police Scotland, the Robert Burns World Federation and eleven SSCBA member clubs.

Wreaths were laid at the Burns' Mausoleum at a ceremony organised by the Dumfries Burns Club before the gathering retired to St Michael's Church for refreshments.

Florida Celebrates the Bard



The St. Andrew Society of Sarasota and Burns Club of St. Andrew hosted its annual Burns Supper at the Laurel Oak Country Club on January 23rd with 132 members and guests in attendance. Capt. Carl and Mary Lou Morris (left) were the joint chairpersons and did an outstanding job planning the evening.

Guests were all treated to a glass of whisky and scotch eggs when they arrived and after the singing of "Flower of Scotland" Andrew Gardner gave a rousing "Address to a Haggis" and the party was on!

After a delicious meal and some great haggis May Crawley, Honorary President of the Robert Burns World Federation, (right) offered greetings from the Federation. John Canning gave a thoughtful and entertaining Immortal Memory Address that was well received. J. J. Smith provided some Scottish ballads and then Dr. Ed and Roberta Hamilton provided the Toasts to the Lassies and the Response.



The Sarasota Scottish Country Dancers led some ceilidh dancing with very good participation. President Dr. Bert Mitchell (far right with his wife and some friends).

We then joined hands to sing Auld Lang Syne and headed home vowing to return next year on January 21st for the 2017 Burns Supper at Palm Aire Country Club. If you are in Florida next January please come and join us.
{David MacMillan, Hon Sec}

Burns Society of New York Anniversary Dinner



The Burns Society of New York City is an active Robert Burns Club holding an Anniversary Dinner in the prestigious surroundings of the Racquet and Tennis Club in Park Avenue.

An excellent turn out of members and friends provided an enthusiastic, appreciative, audience. The honour of proposing the toast to the Immortal Memory fell to a member of the Robert Burns Guild of Speakers – Jim Mein of Falkirk.

Jim was delighted with the experience and said "this event was held with great dignity and decorum, the hospitality and the warmth of the welcome I received was absolutely first class, as was the venue. The Trustees and the members continually expressed their thanks both to me for being there and to the Robert Burns Guild of Speakers for the continued high standard of speakers that they were recommending to them."

Back Row L to R the names are:

Fr. George W. Rutler, Chaplain of the Burns Society of New York, Craig Wotherspoon, Vice President and Anniversary Dinner Chair, Kenneth C. Donnelly, President, Thomas Halket, President of the St. Andrews Society of the State of New York, James Mein, Guest Speaker and VP of the Falkirk Wheatsheaf Burns Club, Stuart Burnet and Gary Sweeney, ex-SPL Referee. Front Row: Members David Disi and Ian Murray, Assistant Anniversary Dinner Chair

Bantaskin School School Pupils Shine

The Stirlingshire, Clackmannanshire and West Perthshire area Federation competition was held in Bantaskin Primary School on Thursday 18th February 2016. Schools taking part were St. Margaret's School for Girls Dunblane, Strathallan School Dunblane, St. Margaret's Primary Polmont, Carmuir's Primary, Bantaskin Primary and Hallglen Primary. A wonderful afternoon of recitals which saw Bantaskin take a first and second place in the Primary seven group with recitations from Cameron Broadley and Jenna Harvey, second place in the Primary five group with Erin Lunn, and first place in the Primary four group with Ava Gow. The other Major trophy was won by Strathallan School for girls. Pictured are Lord Provost Pat Reid, Moraig Baxter, depute head, and the Bantaskin prizewinners.



Burns Thriving in Ukraine School



Recently we received a parcel with handmade Christmas cards (the ones with the black and white Christmas trees) from our friends of Bantaskin Primary School. During last four months we got several presents from different Burnsians. They are David Hyslop, Jim Thomson, Isa Hanley, Brian Goldie, Priscilla Kucik, President of Milwaukee Burns Club in America. Linda Todd, Scottish artist, gladdened us with her picture "The Bard". A few days ago we received Burns Chronicle from our sponsor New Cumnock Burns Club. We want to say the words of gratitude to all Burnsians who do

their best for our Robert Burns Museum.

On Wednesday, the 17th of February we welcomed 25 teachers from each school of our district with the specialist in educational methods of our District Department of Education at the head. The delegation visited our Burns Museum and expressed their delight. They asked many questions about Scotland and its national hero Robert Burns. So Burns lives in Ukraine. [Teacher Taya Khryplyva is the inspiration behind this wonderful museum. By studying Burns' poetry pupils also help make the link to their own National Poet, Taras Shevchenko (1814-1861)]



Texas Visit



During November Jim Thomson, Immediate Past President of the Federation, was visiting his family who live in Houston, Texas and was cordially invited to spend an afternoon at the home of Robert and Irene Boyd as a guest of the Heather and Thistle Robert Burns Club of Houston at their monthly meeting. Robert, who is also President of Robert Burns Association of North America (RBANA), and the members are all firm Burns enthusiasts. The club gather once a month and jointly recite one of the works of Robert Burns and then discuss it at length and in depth. The poem on this occasion was *Holy Willie's Prayer* and the group enjoyed discussing the satire and hidden story of the piece. If you need further details of the statue please see page 2 of the March 2015 newsletter. Alternatively, email Robert Boyd at:

ireneandrobertboyd@sbcglobal.net

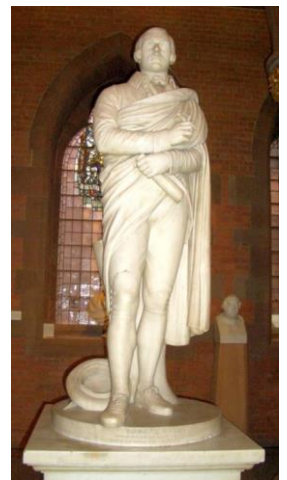
Robert Burns Association of North America (RBANA) Launches Poetry Competition

The Jack Hume Heather & Thistle Trophy has been presented to RBANA by Jack Hume, long time member from Houston, Texas. The trophy will be awarded annually for *writing poetry in the style of Robert Burns*. Entries are invited for the inaugural competition, under the following rules and conditions: Poems submitted must be original, and not previously published. Only RBANA members in good standing are eligible to win the trophy. Entries should be submitted by email to ireneandrobertboyd@sbcglobal.net. The deadline for entries is April 1, 2016.

Edinburgh & District Burns Clubs' Association Wreath Laying

On the 31st January 2016 within the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, the Edinburgh and District Burns Clubs Association (EDBCA) held its Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony. The afternoon started with Jim Weatherston on Banjo and Cameron Goodall singing beside the Flaxman Statue of Robert Burns. Gordon Jamieson, the Secretary of EDBCA, and Jim Shields, the President of EDBCA, thanked everyone for attending and then laid a wreath on behalf of the Association.

Representatives from various other official bodies also laid wreaths at the base of the statue. These included the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Donald Wilson, who informed the representatives that it was William Creech, later to be Lord Provost of Edinburgh, who published Burns Edinburgh Editions and how important this publication had been in promoting Burns to the world. Susan A. Wilson, for the American Consulate in Edinburgh, also spoke about how much Burns was loved in America, from the common man to American presidents. The Provincial Grand Lodge of Scotland, the National Trust for Scotland, the Depute Provost of East Lothian and the Provost of Mid Lothian along with Christopher Baker, Director of the Scottish National Portrait Galleries, all laid wreaths. Dr Peter Hughes the President of the Robert Burns World Federation laid a wreath on behalf of the Federation. The party then sang "A Mans a Man for a' that" and adjourned for tea and coffee.



Bendigo and District Caledonian Society



Held on 30th January, 2016, with 100 people in attendance the Bendigo and District Caledonian Society held its Burns Supper and according to the comments received, it was an excellent night. The chairman was our President, Andrew Hampton. The address to the haggis was delivered by Alex Trantor and the Selkirk Grace by Alex's son Andrew. The toast to the Queen was proposed by Mary Fry, The toast to Australia by Graeme Turpie and Absent Frien's by the Chairman. The Immortal Memory was proposed by David Beagley, who gave a wonderful portrayal of Burns, the Scottish Enlightenment, also incorporating Mozart. Valerie Broad, OAM very capably rendered, some beautiful Burns favourites, accompanied by Valmai Harris on the Keyboard. Michael Goodwin proposed an amusing 'Toast to

the Lasses' and Elizabeth Malyn replied with a similar, suitable and kind response. Duncan Campbell entertained the company with a couple of well-loved Burns' Songs and Jim Millar recited Burns' masterpiece, 'Tam O' Shanter'. The Star o' Rabbie Burns was performed by the Caley Singers and the evening concluded by the company singing Auld Lang Syne. It was a sight to behold, one hundred people holding hands, filling the perimeter of the hall.

Wreath Laying Ceremony George Square, Glasgow



The weather on Saturday 23rd January 2016 was kind for Glasgow and District Burns Association (GDBA) members and friends as they congregated in George Square, Glasgow for the Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony at the splendid statue of Robert Burns. Following the ceremony, Piper Dougie Melvin led a procession from the statue to Merchants Hall where light refreshments were served and the audience were entertained by the Primary 1 – 4 Choir from St John Paul II School in Glasgow. Solo singer Gemma Sutherland was a star attraction as was Trudi Logan of St Mungo's Academy who delighted all with a terrific presentation of *Willie Wastle*.

This was a first outing at GDBA for the young Choir and will hopefully not be their last. They entertained in the City Chambers prior to the

ceremony, then again at the statue. Our thanks go to Brendan O'Hagan and other staff members – and the loyal parents – for providing excellent entertainment.

The event was hosted by Acting President of Glasgow and District Burns Association, Enez Anderson. She was joined by Depute Lord Provost Baillie Gerald Leonard (nearside) and Senior Vice President of Robert Burns World Federation, Bobby Kane (centre) together with several Presidents of member Clubs from the GDBA network, all laying wreaths at the statue. The procession from the City Chambers (above) shows them being led by Piper Dougie Melvin to Burns Statue.



This is a key event for GDBA and is followed the next day by the Annual Commemoration Service at Glasgow Cathedral. This is also a popular event and once again GDBA Club Presidents were out in force to worship with the congregation. Rev Laurence Whitley acknowledged Past Presidents of GDBA Archie Shaw and Tom Myles who passed away in January. Both were loyal members of GDBA over many years and will be sadly missed by all.

Anyone interested in finding out more about Glasgow and District Burns Association should contact Secretary Ken Dalglish at kdalglish@aspenpeople.co.uk or 07801 553238

Inverclyde Secondary Schools' Burns Supper



The 28th Inverclyde Secondary Schools' Burns Supper was held on the evening of Thursday 24th February, 2016, when family and friends gathered at Craigmarloch School for this special evening, which showcases the talents of the young people of Inverclyde.

This year's venue was Craigmarloch School, a "state of the art" school, which is part of the shared campus, incorporating Port Glasgow High School and St. Stephens High School. For a full report see link below

[Inverclyde pupils' Burns Supper was poetry in motion](#)

Kilbryde Burns Club Celebrates the Bard's Birthday

On Monday 1st February Kilbryde Burns Club President, Wendy McNab, welcomed a capacity audience of members and special guests to the Village Bowling Club Pavilion for the Club's 19th annual Burns Supper. Celebrations began with Archie McLachlan piping in the top table guests. Jennifer Brown then recited the Selkirk Grace before the haggis, carried aloft by Alan Nicol, was addressed in appropriately rousing fashion by May Lobban. After an excellent meal the company settled down to enjoy a packed programme of speeches, poetry and songs in celebration of Scotland's national Bard.



A fine toast to the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns was proposed by Derek Murdoch, Past President of Irvine Burns Club. His well-researched account of the life and works of the poet was a timely reminder of the turmoil Burns and his contemporaries faced in the late 18th century as they adjusted to the Industrial Revolution.

The humorous highlights of the evening were, of course, the Toast to the Lasses and the reply to it. Martin Cassidy, a past President of the Alloway Burns Club proposed the Toast with some well-chosen quotes and quips, building his speech gradually from a gently negative view towards a positive one of the fair sex, reminding us that "the wisest man the warl' saw, he dearly loved

the lasses, O". In her reply Marion MacDonald certainly did not miss the target as she focussed on men's vanities, vices and their myriad imperfections, but, like Martin, she relented and emphasised that "the heart ay's the part, ay, that makes us right or wrong!"

In the course of the evening several of Robert Burns' best loved songs were beautifully rendered by Mhairi Phillipson who also played guitar and fiddle. But no Burns Supper is complete without the recitation of 'Holy Willie's Prayer' and 'Tam o' Shanter', both of them declaimed masterfully by retired lawyer Stewart Houston. Surely, no one but a 'legal eagle' like Stewart could have put Willie Fisher so firmly in the dock as a sinner or wagged his finger at the audience so meaningfully, warning them to 'remember Tam o' Shanter's mare'! Thanks were expressed to the principal speakers and to all the artistes.

Generous Gift of Burns' Chair to Irvine Burns Club

A chair said to be a favourite of Robert Burns has made its way back to Irvine just days before the nation celebrates the Bard's birthday. The 18th century relic has been in Australia since the early part of the 20th century, and came from William Templeton's bookshop in Irvine. In 1781 it was said to have been a favourite of Robert Burns, who was a frequent visitor to the High Street shop and friend of the owner, William Templeton.

It has been gifted to Irvine Burns Club by Australian Alex Gilroy, a descendant of William Templeton, who visited Irvine last year, leaving other Burns' artefacts.

Among one of the first people to see the Templeton chair at Wellwood was Professor Dr. Gerard Carruthers, head of the school of Burns studies at Glasgow University. Dr. Carruthers said: "Seeing this 18th century chair here in Irvine confirms that the town played a massive part of turning Burns' life around, from the struggling farmer to the national bard of Scotland. Read a full report at: [Robert Burns' chair returns to Irvine \(From Irvine Times\)](#)



Recognition for Bill Smith at the Arbroath Burns Club Supper



President Dr. Russell Smith of Arbroath Burns Club welcomed R.B. W. Federation president Dr. Peter Hughes to its annual supper on Friday 23rd Jan 2016.

President Peter Hughes proposed an excellent toast to the "Immortal Memory of Robert Burns" during a superb night of Burns entertainment which included Craig Millar and Mark Watson from Broughty Ferry who extolled the virtues of the "Lasses" and Jim Aitken from Bridge of Earn who told the highly entertaining tale of "Tam o' Shanter."

During the evening a presentation was made to Past President Ken Smith to acknowledge his contribution to the committee and the club over the past 50 years. As well as being a club and a committee member, Ken has been a member of the RBWF for many years and attended his first conference in Perth in 1990. A popular Burns speaker, Ken is "weel kent" for his "Tam O' Shanter" and "Rabbie Doo".

Balerno Burns Club

The village of Balerno celebrated the life of Robert Burns in traditional manner at "Let it Blaw", the Balerno Burns Club. Believed to be the oldest organisation in the Currie & Balerno area having been founded in 1881, "Let it Blaw" celebrated its 135th Anniversary at the Annual Supper on Saturday 23rd January 2016. This year the Club has a newly elected President, Ron Hardy, and a newly appointed Honorary President, Jimmy Johnstone MBE. The full list of toasts for the evening can be found on the club's excellent website www.letitblaw.org/



The songs and recitations of the evening were dominated by nine Club Members (Andy McGowan, Ian Duncan, Iain McSporran, Neil Allan, Alex Hood, Max Downie, Charlie Boyle, Charlie Husband OBE and Jim Weatherston) presenting Burns' famous cantata "The Jolly Beggars," (below) and performances by Tam McDonald, Greg McCarra, Gavin Scott, Jim Donald, Brian Buckner, Roy Cook, Ian Young and Alex Hood for the Club Bard's Oration. A special mention goes to Kerr Cowan Jnr., grandson of the Club Piper (above). The Club's attention now turns to the Children's Burns Competitions at Dean Park Primary School where "Let it Blaw" has provided the children's prizes and certificates since 1892.



Falkirk Burns Club Celebrate in Style



Retiring President Brian Goldie introduced the top table guests before announcing the outline of what turned out to be a highly successful evening. Ronnie Mayes was awarded a Robert Burns World Federation certificate of achievement on reaching his sixtieth year as a member of the club, including a stint as President. The address to a haggis was delivered by Sean Russell, a protégé of the club who has been mentored by Brian Goldie and now studies at Falkirk High School. Sean received a standing ovation for his efforts and is most definitely a star for the future. [Shown left with Past President Sandy McGill.]

The toast to the Immortal Memory was delivered by David Sibbald and was one of the best we have heard in many a long day. The toast to Scotland delivered by George Marcinkiewicz was a humorous look at the perception of our nation and most certainly made Scotland look a brighter place to be. Recitations by Ian Crozier, John Merrillees and Grant Williamson included the classic *Death and Dr. Hornbrook* and *The Lass that Made the Bed Tae Me* which were well received. Once again the singing duo Mak A Din, with a wee bit of assistance from the President provided the vocals and kept the crowd entertained with *Ye Jacobites*, *Killiecrankie*, *Leezie Lindsay* and more. Piper Tommy Couper delivered another world-class performance and although he is not a Red Hot Chilli piper....he is certainly a red hot piper.

Newly elected vice president David Barclay delivered a magnificent toast to the guests while Simon Murrison delivered the vote of thanks. The evening ended with a resounding *Star O' Rabbie Burns* and *Auld Lang Syne*. Congratulations to new President David McClements and Deputy David Barclay.

Greenock Burns Club Annual Supper

The Greenock Burns Club held their 214th Annual Celebration on Monday 25th January, 2016, within the Tontine Hotel, Greenock. A full report on the event can be found on the Club's website:

greenockburnsclub.com/. One of the pleasing aspects of the Supper is the involvement of youngsters who have done particularly well in the Inverclyde Music Festival and in the Inverclyde Schools' Competitions.



President Christine MacLeod (centre) introduced the principal speaker for the evening – Joe Gatherer (second left), who proposed the Toast to the Immortal Memory of The Bard. Joe is a local solicitor, an accomplished singer and a long-standing member of The Mother Club. He proceeded to take us on a journey of Burns' life with the main focus being on his 1786-1787, the year in which Burns was most prolific in his writing. While speaking about Burns being internationally renowned, he delighted the audience by singing "Ae fond Kiss" in Russian.

The Toast to the Mother Club was proposed by Mr Robert Moran, Provost of Inverclyde, who highlighted the Greenock Burns Club's contribution to the wider community of Inverclyde with events such as The Inverclyde Primary Schools Competition, The Inverclyde Secondary Schools Burns Supper and the enormous efforts made with the renovation of The Highland Mary Monument and it's recent Re-Dedication Ceremony.

Yorkshire Tartan Ball

This year's 'Tartan Ball,' sponsored by the Burns Federation Yorkshire District, will be held on Saturday 30th April 2016 in the prestigious Holiday Inn (Brooklands), Barnsley Road, Dodworth, Barnsley, S75 3JT.



There is a three-course dinner with tea and coffee and the ever-popular Iain MacPhain Scottish Dance Band will provide the music. All this for £30 per person. Tickets and information are available from May McGuffog on 01274 582577 or email mmandhmcg@aol.com.

Thornhill & District Burns Supper

On Saturday 30th February the Thornhill & District Burns Club held their annual Burns Supper at the Buccleuch & Queensbury Hotel Thornhill. It was a welcoming venue for a great Burns Supper. The President, Rev Ella Pennington, welcomed the guests and after the Selkirk grace, the haggis was piped in by William Prentice, carried by Bill Leggeat and addressed with much gusto by Les Byers. The hotel provided all guests with a tot of whisky with which to toast the haggis.



Colin Gibson was the principle speaker delivering an interesting and informative Immortal Memory, this was followed by the lament piped by William Prentice. After a short interval an excellent meal was served and enjoyed by everyone. Entertainment was provided by Barbara Lewis playing on the grand piano, Valerie Blake sang songs by Burns, an accordion selection by Jamie Young and a rousing rendition of 'Tam O' Shanter' by Ronnie Cairns. Avril Kerr, with much emotion, recited 'O, were I on Parnassus Hill'. The toast to the Lassies was given by Bill Leggeat with a light hearted reply by Morag Murray. The evening ended with a rousing rendition of Auld Lang Syne. In the photo the top table from left to right Bill & Catherine Leggeat, Rev Ella Pennington, Colin Gibson, Morag Murray & Annette Gibson.

Allanton Jolly Beggars Burns Supper



Assembling at Cambusnethan Miners Welfare Club on Saturday 16th January a capacity audience was well entertained. Dr Peter Hughes OBE, President of the Robert Burns World Federation (left), proposed the toast to "The Immortal Memory" Entertainment was also provided by speakers and singers including Danny Naughton a firm favourite of the Club. The Piper for the evening yet another favourite of the Club was Tom Boyd who led the top table procession. Also on duty to chair the proceedings in the unavoidable absence of Club President Murdo Morrison was Helen Morrison. Giving a toast to the Speaker in her own inimitable style was Kay Blair, a former Club President.

Talented senior pupils from Clyde Valley High School added greatly to the enjoyment of the evening and proposing the Toast to the Lassies was Liam Dunnachie (right) earning an equally amusing and effective reply from Claire Megahy (left). Singer Leah Grant (centre) also entertained with Burns' songs which were appropriate and appreciated. Former President Liz Totten was asked to do a reading and also to present special certificates. The Certificates were

Allanton Jolly Beggars Burns Supper (cont'd)

conferring Honorary Membership on Jim Minns and Treasurer Alan Scherr for services to the Club. Also Murdo Morrison was nominated as an Honorary President. The Club are fortunate in having the services of Mrs Isobel Robertson as an accompanist for this and other occasions.

Allanton Jolly Beggars have an unusual record in Burns circles and in Lanarkshire. Dr. Peter Hughes is the fourth President of the World Federation to come from this Club. His predecessors in this most senior position are the late Abe Train, former Provost the late Hutcheson Sneddom and former Councillor Murdo Morrison.

Perth Burns Stalwart Honoured

Donald Paton receives his retirement gift from RBWF President Dr. Peter Hughes. Donald retired as Secretary of Perth Burns Club after 35 years of service, only interrupted by one year when he was serving as Club President. Donald has given exemplary service to the Club, organising speakers for the annual dinner and for monthly Club meetings, overseeing the establishment of annual children's competitions in 1987 and the very successful St Andrews Day seminars which have become a flagship event for the club over the past twelve years. His dedicated work has firmly established Perth Burns Club as leading celebrants of the Bard and all things Scottish.



The Club marked his outstanding service to the club with a gift of a custom made clock, presented at the Annual Dinner by Dr. Peter Hughes OBE, President of RBWF. The clock surround was designed and hand crafted in Scottish oak by Gordon Stewart of Kinghorn, and bears both Scottish and Burns decorations.

New Book on Burns in Irish Gaelic

It is highly unlikely that we ever see a news headline in the world of rugby that both Ireland and Scotland won but in the world of Robert Burns this is entirely feasible and possible.



The "win-win" situation is brought about via the resources and research of a well-known author – Padraig O' Baoighill – Dr Padraig O'Boyle. This Irishman - long life admirer of the Bard- has compiled an attractively presented and illustrated book titled "Rabbie Burns: An Nasc leh Eirinn (the link with Ireland)" in Irish Gaelic. This award-winning writer, broadcaster and journalist explores the considerable links between Robert Burns and Ireland and particularly his influence on Irish language writers.

In line with the objectives of the Robert Burns World Federation in promoting Burns, the Federation assisted with the background preparation for a Book Launch in Glasgow and in Edinburgh.

Both events were well attended by Gaelic Speakers – the Gaelic language in both countries is very similar and from the same origins. Dr Evin Downey who is the Irish Language and Development Officer hosted the proceedings in Glasgow and was assisted by Donald Macleod a Scottish Gaelic Speaker from the Island of Lewis.

The following night in Edinburgh the Author was warmly welcomed to the Irish Consulate by Vice Consul General Anne-Marie Flynn. Another Macleod from the Island of Lewis John Macleod assisted. As President of An Comunn Gaidhealach (organisers of the annual Gaelic Mod) he welcomed this new venture and wished it well. The book launch generated questions and discussions. The hospitality provided was greatly appreciated.

Due to another long term commitment President Dr. Peter Hughes could not attend but the Robert Burns World Federation was represented by Junior Vice President Ian McIntyre at the Glasgow Launch and Senior Vice President Bobby Kane at the Edinburgh event.

Robert Burns Humanitarian Award

The Robert Burns Humanitarian Award – or RBHA – is a globally-respected, humanitarian accolade supported by South Ayrshire Council and Scotland's Winter Festivals, with sponsorship from Burns Crystal and The Herald, Sunday Herald and heraldscotland.com. The event is part of the Alloway 1759 celebrations, which take place in and around Burns' birthday this month and form part of the year-round Burns an' a' that! Festival.



The honour takes its inspiration from Robert Burns who viewed everyone as equal and genuinely lived as a true humanitarian, as recognised in his famous lines: 'That Man to Man, the world o'er, Shall brothers be for a' that'.

This year's winner was David Nott, a Consultant Surgeon at Royal Marsden, St Mary's and Chelsea and Westminster Hospitals. He has given up several months every year for more than two decades to volunteer with Médecins Sans Frontiers and the International Committee of the Red Cross in war zones and amidst major humanitarian crises. He was presented with the award by Minister for Europe and International Development, Humza Yousaf MSP, at a special ceremony and the first-ever celebration concert at the Brig o' Doon Hotel in Alloway.

The winner is pictured with Margaretann Dougall, RBWF Office Manager (right), and Jane Brown, Past President of the Federation, who also represented the Federation on the judging panel.

Further information about the Robert Burns Humanitarian Award is available at www.robertburnsaward.com.

Details of the year-round Burns an' a' that! Festival are at www.burnsfestival.com.

Atlanta Member Scoops Prize CD

Keith Dunn of the Burns Club of Atlanta won the CD of the radio programme "Wha's Like Us" and correctly identified the competition photograph as the arm on the "Burns Chair" in the Globe Inn Dumfries.



He wanted to share the prize with the Club Members and having listened to it a number of times he decided to hand it over for others to enjoy.

Keith presented the CD to Bill Tucker (right), newly elected President and e-mailed a quote from the Club, "Our Burns Club was very excited, honored and appreciative of receiving this CD, with all of the fine music, poem readings and discussions from St Andrews Day, is now in the Club Library and available to members."

One of the world's leading Engineering Companies, the Glasgow-based Weir Group has very kindly agreed to sponsor the 2016 edition of the Burns Chronicle.



Official Federation sponsors
<http://www.arranwhisky.com/>

