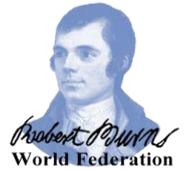




The Robert Burns World Federation Newsletter



Issue 27 May 2017

One of the most important contributions the Federation makes to Scottish culture is the promotion of competitions among the younger generation. This issue showcases some of that talent and demonstrates clearly that the legacy of our National Bard is in safe hands for the future. The Schools' Festivals reflect great credit, not only of the fine work done by the Schools Committee, but also on parents and teachers who willingly put in immense time and effort honing skills and encouraging participation. As the report below shows, this year's Secondary Schools' Festival at St. Athanasius Primary School was no exception. *Editor*

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Bessy and Her Spinning Wheel

Wi' sma' to sell, and less to buy,
Aboon distress, below envy,
O wha wad leave this humble state,
For a' the pride of a' the Great?
Amid their flairing, idle toys,
Amid their cumbrous, dinsome joys,
Can they the peace and pleasure feel
Of Bessy at her spinning wheel!

Tune: *Cosen Cole's Delight*

by Robert Burns

2017 Secondary Schools National Festival



The 2017 Secondary Schools National Festival was held on 22nd April, hosted by the Lanarkshire Association of Burns Clubs (LABC). Competitors travelled from all over Scotland to gather at St Athanasius Primary School in Carluke.

Proud winner of the title *Young Burnsian* was Eryn Rae representing the Borders Association of Burns Clubs, seen left playing her exquisite melody of fiddle tunes. Chosen as the best from 110 performances in recitation, singing, instrumental and bagpiping, Eryn will be a worthy ambassador for the Federation.

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2016 Secondary Schools National Festival



A hall packed with pupils, parents, friends and family settled in eager anticipation for what turned out to be a most enjoyable and uplifting occasion. Unfortunately the Convenor of the Schools Committee, Patricia Leslie, was not well enough to attend the festival so Past Convenor, Isa Hanley, stepped in and opened the festival by introducing RBWF representatives, Senior Vice President Ian McIntyre, and Immediate Past President Peter Hughes, and also welcomed the Provost of South Lanarkshire, Eileen Logan. Peter Hughes, as Vice

President of the Lanarkshire Association of Burns Clubs President (LABC), welcomed everyone to the festival and offered his best wishes to all the competitors.



All through the school the wonderful sound of Burns could be heard in words and music. Performers were given great support and encouragement by the family and friends who accompanied them on the day. The varied programme and overall standard impressed the audience, adjudicators and Burnsians alike.



While the final deliberations were taking place Peter Hughes entertained the crowd with a selection of songs. The adjudicators stressed the difficulty in choosing winners from the high standard of participants. They offered constructive advice to

the performers and encouraged them to continue in their appreciation of Scotland's National Poet.

Pictured are the individual winners: **Verse Speaking:** Cameron Kerr (right) for the Ayrshire Association of Burns Clubs; **Instrumental:** Eryn Rae, Borders Association of Burns Clubs; **Singing:** Lucy McCutcheon (above), Southern Scottish Counties Burns Association (SSCBA) **Bagpiping:** Cameron May Lanarkshire Association of Burns Clubs. The team from the Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Association of Burns Clubs won the verse speaking section, the Fife team won the instrumental and the singing categories; the bagpiping section was won by the team from the SSCBA which helped them capture the title as Overall Team winners with most points accrued across all disciplines.



Prior to the presentations, Senior Vice-President Ian McIntyre proposed a Vote of Thanks. He acknowledged the efforts of the Schools Committee, the assistance of the LABC, the staff at St Athanasius Primary School but, most importantly, the enthusiasm of the competitors and the support of their teachers and families. He congratulated Isa Hanley (left) for stepping in to lead the event, before inviting her to announce the winners.

Secondary Schools National Festival (cont'd)



[All photographs courtesy of Jim Miller]

Picture shows Eryn Rae receiving her award as *Young Burnsian* for 2017-18. Eryn will perform at the prestigious West Sound Burns Supper in Glasgow in January 2018.

From the left: Peter Hughes RBWF Immediate Past President, Eryn Rae, Eileen Logan, Provost of South Lanarkshire, RBWF Senior Vice President.

'Golden Wonder' provide vital sponsorship for the schools competition and very welcome financial support also comes from the Jean Armour Burns Trust.

A Double Helping Served up at Ellisland Farm



The Friends of Ellisland enjoyed two Burns suppers, the first on 4th Feb and the second on 11th Feb. The venue looked extremely inviting and welcoming for both occasions with flowers and candles on the tables. Chairman Ronnie Cairns welcomed everyone to Ellisland and read out fraternal greetings from kindred clubs.

First Supper: the grace was given by Stuart Cochrane. The haggis was piped in by Callum Watson and addressed by Les Byers. The Immortal Memory was well presented and eloquently delivered by Hugh Farrell. The toast to the lassies was proposed by Colin Gibson and the reply was by Jean Mac-Millan Forster. Entertainment was first class

with Wallace Galbraith MBE on fiddle, Lee McQueen played accordion, John Caskie sang and Les Byers recited Tam o' Shanter. The VOT was given by Maureen Milton. In the photo from left to right:-Jean Mac-Millan Forster, Hugh Farrell, Chairman Ronnie Cairns, Halina Cairns & Colin Gibson.

Second Supper: Grace was said by the Treasurer, Betty Haining, the haggis piped in by Euan Grierson and addressed by Avril Kerr. After dinner Lee McQueen entertained with an accordion medley and then the company delighted in the beautiful singing voice of Natalie Gallacher. Scott McEwen delivered an impressive Immortal Memory. Euan Grierson followed on with the lament. Avril Kerr, in her own inimitable way, recited two Burns poems. Stuart Deed gave a different slant to the toast to the lassies which was ably replied by Fiona McEwen. Stuart Cochrane then sang a couple of songs and the evening was rounded off by the VOT by Russell Williamson. As is the custom at Ellisland the company joined together to give a rousing rendition of Auld Lang Syne. In the photo from left to right: Stuart Deed, Yvonne Deed, Halina Cairns, Ronnie Cairns, Fiona McEwen and Scott McEwen.



Local MP Urges More People to Visit 'Hidden Gem' Ellisland Farm

Local MP Richard Arkless is calling on local residents and schools to make more of the Robert Burns' visitor experience at Ellisland Farm. Richard recently took his family for a visit to Robert Burns' former home and is pictured sitting at the Poet's desk on which he wrote many of his most famous works.

Ellisland is now a popular museum and visitor attraction that provides a unique insight into the life of Robert Burns when he was a farmer in Dumfries and Galloway over two hundred years ago. The museum offers guided tours and encourages visits from school groups who are welcomed free of charge. Commenting, Richard said:

"We all had a brilliant day out at Ellisland Farm and enjoyed it immensely. It really was an eye opener into what life must have been like for Burns all those years ago. I could really feel his presence there and found it to be a very moving day. If you are interested in Burns then Ellisland really is a must-visit attraction and even if you're not particularly interested in the man himself, the museum provides a fascinating insight into the life of a Scottish farmer 200 years ago."



Stuart Cochrane, the Museum's Curator said: "Our fantastic Schools Program is free to all schools in Scotland. It is a superb way to find out more about the life of Robert Burns, his poetry and also rural life in Scotland spanning over 200 years. Visits usually begin with everyone dressing up in 18th century costumes, then milking the cows, some butter making and we can even do the washing ironing as Jean Armour would have done."

"Ellisland is the "hidden gem" of the Burns trail. Today the house is the least changed of all of his homes and where many people say "This is where they come closest to Burns." Auld Lang Syne, Ae Fond Kiss and Tam o' Shanter were all written at Ellisland while he was enjoying family life and contentment for the first time in his life."

For more information and to receive an educational pack from Ellisland Farm, please email - friends@ellislandfarm.co.uk or call on [01387 740426](tel:01387740426).

Robert Burns Essay Competition in Bendigo



On Monday 20th March, four Rochester Secondary College students received award certificates and medals from the Robert Burns World Federation after entering the 2016 Robert Burns essay writing competition which was based around lines from the poem "The Rights of Woman."

Rod Fyffe, the Deputy Mayor of Bendigo and Jim Millar of the Bendigo and District Caledonian Society Burns Club presented the awards. Rod Fyffe is pictured presenting the winner Olivia Dimovski with her medal and certificate. Also in the photo are Makesyn Honey who was second and Sarah Trewick who won

the 'most promising' award. Third-placed Grace Bubb was unable to attend the presentation

Peter MacIver of Rochester Secondary College said he thought his students had shown a good grasp of the poem and gained an insight into the world in which Burns lived. He also said that, "Readers of the Scottish Banner who had a connection with education should get involved with the Burns essay competition as it was a great opportunity for Year 9-10 students to find out about Scotland and one of the great Scottish poets."

Annual Conference Heads to Peebles Hydro



The Robert Burns World Federation Annual Conference will be held over the weekend of 8th - 10th September 2017. As in the last couple of years the location will be the delightful location of the Victorian buildings of Peebles Hydro Hotel where a warm welcome is assured. The cost will be the same as last year at £225, with an initial deposit of £70 required to secure your booking.

The Booking process is now open with an easy to complete form, downloadable from their website and also by clicking on the button below. The organisers state that they would be delighted for as many people to join them in this annual and unique celebration of all things Burns.

<http://www.rbwf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Conference-booking-form2017.pdf>

AYE CAN ~ Royal Conservatoire Weekend

Progress has been swift in setting up the young peoples' Burns and Scots Arts Weekend at the Royal Conservatoire. Titled 'AYE CAN' the weekend chosen will fall on 22 July 2017 - 23 July 2017 from 10am - 5pm and the fee is only £90. The course is aimed at the age range of 12 - 17 and will be tutored by Conservatoire staff and students.



Already a number of Burns Clubs have indicated that they will provide Bursary places for this great opportunity to explore the life and work of Robert Burns and the Scots Arts and Language.

New for 2017, this summer course is being delivered in partnership with the Glasgow and District Burns Association and will offer a chance to delve deep into the language of Scotland's bard, Robert Burns.

Over two days participants will have the opportunity to learn about the Scots language and develop understanding of Scottish culture through songs, poetry and games. The songs, poems and text used during the summer school will draw from the work of Robert Burns and other contemporary writers.

At the conclusion of the weekend there is an intention to stage a special 'Concert' of the work produced by the participants and it is hoped that dignitaries from the Burns world as well as parents will enjoy attending.

<https://www.rcs.ac.uk/lifelong-learning/aye-can-ages-12-17/>

'Masters' Comes to the Hills of Ayrshire

It's hard to believe that the Lapraik Speaking Competition is now in its 10th year. To celebrate the Anniversary, the organisers of the Lapraik Festival have invited all previous winners of the World John Lapraik Speaking Competition to return this year to compete for the 'Lapraik Masters' trophy and title.....a once in a decade opportunity! The line-up for the competition reads like a 'who's who' of Burns reading talent with Wull Horne, Alister Sim, Jimmy Law, Bobby Jess, Ian Buick, Neil Macgillivray, Graham Wight and Susan Chown all agreeing to compete. A judging panel of Professor Gerry Carruthers, Mrs Karen Kane and Mr Bill Dawson have agreed to take on the challenge of finding a winner among such a talented field and the exuberant Angus Middleton will be MC for the event. RBWF President Bobby Kane will be there to support the event and present prizes. The competition starts at 2pm on Saturday 3rd June 2017 at Muirkirk Caravan Park.....in the Hills of Ayrshire!

But that's not all!.....our Annual John Lapraik World Speaking competition also takes place on the same day and at the same venue...but with a 10 am start. The line-up of competitors has not yet been finalised as

John Lapraik Speaking Competition (cont'd)

yet but well-known readers such as Willie Waugh, Hugh McHarg, Willie Dick and local favourite, Eric Dempster have already thrown their hats in the ring. The judging panel comprises Jim Thomson, Dr Rhona Brown, Susan Chown and James Waite with Angus Middleton, once again, leading the programme.

The John Lapraik Memorial Reading will be given at Lapraik's grave in the Muirkirk Parish Kirkyard at 1pm.....during the break between the two competitions. The competitions are all-ticket events and tickets, costing £5 for each competition, can be obtained by contacting Festival Co-ordinator, Douglas McKenzie at loudoun73@hotmail.com or via the Festival website www.lapraikpoetryfestival.co.uk

Lapraik Poetry Festival

2nd - 10th June 2017
10th Anniversary - New Events

These competitions are part of the Lapraik Poetry Festival which also includes 'Crambo-jingle and Sang'....an evening of Tradition Music and Poetry. Headlining the event this year is celebrated fiddler Alistair McCulloch. Other events include the Young People's Speaking Competition, which encourages our World Speaking champions of the future.

Another first for this anniversary year is our partnership with the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum. Rab Wilson, Scriever in Residence at the Museum, will be running Scots Language workshops for Muirkirk Primary School children during the Festival week (. *I think my ideas are more barren in English than in Scottish*' Robert Burns to George Thomson, April 1793).....and on Sunday 4th June, at the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, Rab Wilson joins Professor Alan Riach to discuss (and read from) their new works, set in the context of Robert Burns' relationship with John Lapraik.....'Brither Bards'!

For more information please use the contact details above.....and the RBBM website www.burnsmuseum.org.uk

A Wounded Hare Remembered



When Jim Chubb, a local farmer and artist, visited Ellisland Farm he was so impressed with the poem 'The Wounded Hare,' written there by Robert Burns who had witnessed the hare being shot, that he was inspired to create it in metal. The end product was a striking sculpture of a hare which he has kindly gifted to the Friends of Ellisland where it is now on display. Robert Burns lived and worked on the farm from 1788 until 1791. There he wrote many of his most famous works, including 'Tam o' Shanter' and 'Auld Lang Syne'. The photo shows Jim with his hare on the path where the original was wounded. Listen to a recording of the poem at:

[BBC Radio Scotland - Robert Burns, On Seeing A Wounded Hare](#)

An Audience with Wendy Carle Taylor at the Fringe

Federation member Wendy Carle Taylor is staging another two concerts on Friday 11th and Friday 18th August 2017, at Bruntsfield Evangelical Church, as part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Online ticket sales at: www.edfringe.com

Wendy's spellbinding show offers stunning interpretations of contemporary and traditional songs in a range of languages and styles, from folk to chansons, jazz and blues. For full details of Wendy's singing workshops, including one dedicated to 'Songs of Burns' see: www.wendycarletaylor.com/



Lanarkshire Association of Burns Clubs Anniversary Dinner

The 4th Anniversary Lunch of The Lanarkshire Association of Burns Clubs (LABC) was held on Saturday 18th February 2017. Representatives from Allanton Jolly Beggars, Fauldhouse and Crofthead, Kilbryde, Larkhall and Salsburgh Burns Clubs joined in a joyful celebration of the life and works of our national Bard. LABC President Kay Blair welcomed the assembled company especially our ain drouthie cronie, RBWF World President and immediate past President of LABC, Bobby Kane from Fauldhouse and Crofthead Burns Club.

Following a hearty lunch, Kay paid tribute to Robert Burns by quoting a poem on the Bard written by Samuil



Marshak, a famous Russian poet who was one of Burns' greatest admirers. May Lobban recited W.D Cocker's poem 'Rab the Miller' much to the delight of the company, and Jim Leslie led the singing of one of his favourite Burns' song 'Killiecrankie'. Murdo Morrison entertained the company with the hilarious 'ongoings' on a night train from London to Blair Atholl. LABC Vice President, Peter

Hughes told a tale of 'The Vicar and the Frog' before performing a guitar duo with Jim Leslie of the much loved 'Rid Yo-Yo'

Bobby Kane expressed his thanks for all the support RBWF receives from the Lanarkshire Association and he proposed the vote of thanks for all who contributed to make the 4th Anniversary Lunch such a success. The company gathered for the usual closing chorus of 'Auld Lang Syne' before heading their separate ways.

Photograph: Standing from left to Right – Lesley McDonald, Larkhall Burns Club; Peter Hughes, Allanton Jolly Beggars; Philip Brown, Kilbryde Burns Club; May Lobban, Kilbryde Burns Club; Tom McDonald, Larkhall Burns Club; George Stephen, Salsburgh Burns Club; Margaret Macdonald, Salsburgh Burns Club; Jim Leslie, Kilbryde Burns Club; Lily Budgell, Larkhall Burns Club; Eric Budgell, Larkhall Burns Club; Jim Minns, Allanton Jolly Beggars Burns Club;

Seated from Left to Right- Jennifer Brown, Kilbryde Burns Club; Patricia Leslie, Kilbryde Burns Club; Kay Blair, Larkhall Burns Club; Bobby Kane, Fauldhouse and Crofthead Burns Club; Karen Kane, Fauldhouse and Crofthead Burns Club; Murdo Morrison, Allanton Jolly Beggars Burns Club. [Patricia Leslie]

Wellwood House Revised Opening Times

The opening times for Wellwood House, home of the Irvine Burns Club, have been changed recently and are now Wed/Fri Sat 2 pm – 5 pm. The house is well worth a visit, not only for fans of Burns but anyone interested in Scottish culture. There are fine murals painted on the walls depicting scenes from Burns' poetry, an outstanding library containing several manuscripts and significant editions of works by Burns' and other notable writers, a wonderful collection of letters from prominent people, including several Prime Ministers, eminent sportsmen, entertainers, explorers, authors etc. who, since the first invitation in 1828, have been invited to become honorary members of the club. All the details of what is on offer can be seen on the club's website www.irvineburnsclub.org/ but note the revised opening times above which are not on the website yet.



Sanquhar Primary School Burns Supper



The Parents Teachers Association at Sanquhar Primary School Burns Supper was chaired by the Head Teacher, Christine Wilson. The Immortal Memory was proposed by Oliver Mundell MSP with the Lasses being toasted by Stephen Hastie with an excellent reply from Bronwyn Moore.

However, the real stars of the show were the children providing all the songs, music and recitations on the night. Liam Halliday, Finley Baillie, Cassie Ebbs, Lucy Gallacher, Natalie Gallacher, Cadylee McMurdo, Emma Cocking, Archie Gallacher, Ella McTeir, Leith Haddow, Lois

Haddow, Jenzie Patterson, Molly McTeir, Saphron Johnstone and Rowan Hastie put on an incredible show, displaying the reason why Sanquhar Primary won best Primary School at the recent SSCBA competition. The evening, enjoyed by over 100 people, was brought to a close by Lynn Forsyth who provided a full Toast to the Contributors. A fantastic night was had by all and preparations have already started for the 2018 Supper!
[Stephen Hastie]

Kirkcudbright Primary School Burns Supper

I attended my last Burns Supper of the season last night at Kirkcudbright Primary School in the company of Emma Harper MSP. We were treated to an absolute feast of sang, music an' clatter from primary four pupils through to primary seven. The hospitality was generous and the Irn Bru flowed freely!! It was heart-warming to see our youngsters keep alive our heritage and language, aye, and all done wi' confidence and broad smiles. There was a huge turnout of parents, grandparents and freens to support the night's ongans. Well done to all. I was delighted to present a certificate of school membership of the Robert Burns World Federation to one of the performers, Ben Dirhan at the end of the evening.

Emma Harper, MSP and President of Dumfries Ladies Burns Club No 1 recited 'Willie Wastle' and additional songs were provided by parent, Gary Stephenson.
[RBWF SVP Ian McIntyre]



Youngsters Provide the Entertainment at Thornhill



On 2nd March in the Friendship Hall, Thornhill & District Burns club were entertained by four young students from Thornhill. After the President Bill Leggeat welcomed everyone, Helen McVey introduced the students. From left to right:-Emily Kennedy, Ailsa Black, Bill Leggeat, Helen McVey, Cailan Milligan and Bethany Nicholson

The members and visitors were entertained with songs and recitations and afterwards enjoyed light refreshments.

St Petersburg visit 27th January – 2nd February 2017

Another memorable, busy successful visit to St Petersburg by a group of 13 mainly Burnsians this year and members of the Federation. Our visit is always a combination of educational, charity and cultural events.

The visit to one of the two orphanages we support is always an emotional event. The Forum provides a teacher of English and resources for the brighter orphans giving them the opportunity to go on to further education. There are 40 orphans between 8 – 17 years. Previous donations have provided curtains, recreational equipment and this year an additional £390 for a sound system.

We were entertained at 3 schools – 606, 61 and 37 – most schools are identified by numbers and I have never managed to work out the system. 37 is in Vyborg and well worth the long journey. The students have started a Burns Club and held their first Burns Supper.

Our four competitions are decided during our visit.



Musicians are chosen to attend the Aberdeen International Youth Music Festival in July/August. Daria Trofamova outstanding young soprano and Tatiana Serova a domra player were chosen and offered places.

They will be accompanied to Aberdeen by a piano accompanist.



The topic for the 2017 Burns Essay Competition was: 'The Rights of Women Merit Some Attention'.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Tamara Santrosyan | School 61 |
| 2. Elizaveta Smol'nilova | School 295 |
| 3. Milana Gekht | School 157 |
| H/C Kristina Savvi | Liceu Aristos |

The winner Tamara is presented with her prize by Peter Pringle from the College of the West of Scotland who also proposed the Immortal Memory at the Burns Supper.



Knowledge of Scotland Competition
 Anna Zakharova – 15 years – Scottish Wild Life
 Alexander Kramov – 15 years – Robert Burns Travels
 Ksenia Sobko – 16 years – William Wallace

Photo (L to R) Anna, Alexander and Ksenia.

During the visit we had the pleasure of attending an event to mark the launch of the Burns Medal in the British Consulate. The sculptor, Alexey Arkhipov is a highly renowned artist and he has produced a very attractive Burns Medal. His others works can be seen at www.arxipow.com.



The photograph shows from left to right:
 Consul General Keith Alan, Gordon Johnston,
 Alexander Bukreyev and Sculptor Alexey
 Arkhipov. For more information about the
 medal contact Gordon Johnston
gordon@reigmor.co.uk



St Petersburg (cont'd)



We had arrived on the anniversary of the breaking of the siege of Leningrad in 1944 which had lasted for 900 days, and the day after we went to the Piskarevskoye Memorial Cemetery to pay our respects to those who had died during the siege. 420000 civilians and 70000 soldiers are buried in mass graves (each grave contains 10000 bodies and on one day 20 Feb 1942 10043 were buried).

It was a very moving experience.

Trustees of Forum (from L to R) – Elizabeth Clark, Helen Morrison, Kay Blair, Tom Clark laying flowers at Piskarevskoye Cemetery when 500,000 are buried following the lifting of the Siege of Leningrad in 1944

<https://blogs.fco.gov.uk/keithallan/2017/02/03/celebrating-scotland-in-st-petersburg-and-commemorating-links-during-the-leningrad-siege/>

International Burns



China: In Guangzhou in southern China a Burns supper was held by a group of those working in the area from various countries including England, Denmark, The Netherlands, the USA and Australia. A piper from Scotland piped in the haggis which had been prepared by a Danish lady who, despite the language difficulties sourced and produced an authentic Haggis. The menu had ranged from cockaleekie soup to cranachan, soda bread and oat cakes. This was a traditional style of Burns supper with the usual refreshments and creating a bonding amongst all the representatives of the various countries and continents.

Tanya Langford is at present in China with her two sons and her Oil Company Executive husband Shane who is fulfilling a three year assignment. Tanya was born and brought up in Australia and her mother and father were emigrants from Scotland to Australia.

Canada: In Nanaimo, British Columbia, Canada there is an unusual menu printed in Mandarin and Scots. This Burns Supper is organised by local lawyer Lloyd Macilquhan (wlloydm@hotmail.com) and becomes a joint ceremony of celebration of Scottish and Chinese Traditions.

USA: The Burns Society of New York celebrated its 146th Anniversary Dinner at The Racquet & Tennis Club, in Park Avenue, New York City. It was a splendid occasion under the watchful eye of President Kenneth Donnelly alongside his Vice President, Craig Wotherspoon, Secretary Joel I. Barad and Treasurer, M. Patrick Campbell.

The Bill of Fare was excellent and the warmth of the welcome outstanding. The company heartily joined in with a number of well-known Scottish songs and piper Lawrence Cole performed brilliantly, Peter proposed The Immortal Memory which was very well received and during the visit he was able to view the statue of Burns situated in Central Park.



Robert Burns Online Course



Starting this September 2017, the Centre for Robert Burns Studies at the University of Glasgow will be running its extended 'Robert Burns Online' course. This 10-week course gives learners insight into important areas of Burns studies including politics, religion, song, bawdry, Burns's Highland tours, biography and 'afterlife'. Whether or not you have already taken our other 3-week course 'Poems, Songs and Legacy' on Futurelearn, this longer course is suitable for and accessible to anyone with an interest in Burns.

For this year only, the course fee will be frozen at £321. This price includes access to the course, tuition from Burns experts at the University of Glasgow, and access to electronic resources via the University's world-leading library. Bursaries are available. For more information see the website <http://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/critical/research/researchcentresandnetworks/robertburnsstudies/courses/robertburnsonline/>

The course can be taken for interest or for optional credits, and includes certification by the University of Glasgow. It is open to all kinds of learners and no prior knowledge or university study is required. To register interest or for further enquiries, please contact us at: arts-burnsonline@gla.ac.uk.

Kilmarnock Howff Burns Club Bus Trip - Places Available

Kilmarnock Howff Burns Club have a trip planned for **Sunday 21st May** which will have them visiting a number of places of interest including New Cumnock, Ellisland, Ballochmyle, Mauchline and Dumfries.

The cost of the trip, including high tea is £25.00, which is payable on the day. They will be leaving from Kilmarnock (old post office) at 10am and returning around 7:30 pm. There are a few spaces left on the coach and the club would like to extend an invite to anyone interested in the trip to join them. If you would like to attend, please send a message to admin@rbwf.org.uk and we will forward your details on to the secretary.



School Exchange Encouraged



Geoff Depledge, whilst on the recent visit to St Petersburg, made contact with a number of local schools and from this a Schools Twinning Opportunity has emerged. The first school is situated in Vyborg which as a provincial port dominated by a medieval castle about 174 km northwest of St Petersburg. The school has made a video to show off their creative talents and to encourage a link to be formed with a Scottish School and Burns Club. The video can be viewed by clicking on the button below or by visiting: <https://cloud.mail.ru/public/5cGP/Gn9dN22Aa>

The Video clearly shows just how keen the school are to establish international links with a Scottish school and their enthusiasm shines through with a video that showcases the achievements of the school and its pupils. There are many other schools in Russia keen to make international links and this is an opportunity which can easily be seized by adventurous teachers.

School 606 in Pushkin (St. Petersburg) - is also keen to establish a link with a Scottish School. Elena Miklyaeva, a teacher in this school, has let us know that she would welcome a reciprocal connection with a Scottish school and that such a cultural liaison would be of mutual benefit to both students and teachers. Full details can be obtained from Geoff Depledge at: gtd@geoffdepledge.co.uk

From a Friendly Professional Team Born in Ayrshire

“FOR ALL YOUR TRAVEL NEEDS”



M-Line Travel was setup by husband and wife team Colin & Janice Logan, 8 years ago. We are based in Mauchline right in the heart of ROBERT BURNS' country.

Burns tour details on our website

For genealogy tours please ask

We have 14 & 16 seater Minibuses for hire with driver. All our vehicles are mechanically checked every 6 weeks and all drivers have disclosure checks.

You can view alternative tour ideas on our web site: www.m-linetravel.co.uk or see us on Facebook www.facebook.com/mlinetravelmauchline/ or call to discuss your requirements - Tel: 07757856409 or email to mlinetravel@mail.com

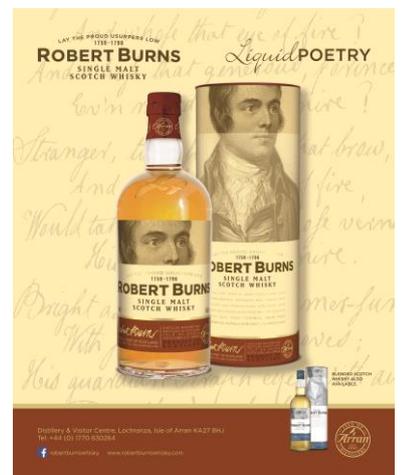
Isle of Arran Distillery Masterclasses



Since construction in 1995 the Isle of Arran Distillery had two stills and a production capacity of 750,000L. However, a recent upgrade has seen the production capacity rise to over 1.2 million litres of spirit per year. The distillery has long been known for its tropical, fruity, oily, high quality new-make spirit whose flavours

make it all the way to the bottle in our most popular core expressions, so it was imperative that they maintained consistency even after four new stills were installed. The Arran Malt way has always been to move with the times, but stay true to their island's traditional whisky-making roots.

Official Federation sponsors. For more information see: <http://www.arranwhisky.com/>



NEWS FLASH The Thornhill and District Burns Club is calling for competitors for the 'Whistle' recitation competition on Sunday 6th August 2017 at Friars Carse Hotel, Dumfries. Full details of the day's event will be in the July Newsletter or call Club President Bill Leggeat on 01387 740065 for information on performing.