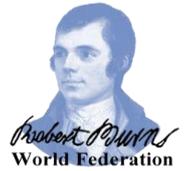




# The Robert Burns World Federation Newsletter



Issue 31 January 2018

**H**appy New Year to members and friends alike. January is the month when subscription fees for the Robert Burns World Federation Ltd fall due so it is worth a reminder that the organisation exists to encourage the study of the life and works of Robert Burns by present and future generations so that his thoughts and ideas can be better realised. Above all it is worth noting that the RBWF is a charity, an umbrella organisation of thousands of volunteers, trying its best to treasure and promote the memory of our National Bard. Your help in providing financial support through membership fees, donations and fundraising is much appreciated. You will see on the last page a revised membership form which greatly enhances the joining process. **Please note the address on the form is for the new premises which won't be occupied for a few weeks yet.** It is a pleasure as always to include so many articles relating to interest in Burns in overseas countries such as Hungary, Estonia, Russia, USA and Canada, Australia and in foreign languages such as Silesian. *Editor*

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## The Jolly Beggars [First Recitativo]

When hailstones drive wi' bitter skyte,  
And infant frosts begin to bite,  
In hoary cranreuch drest;  
Ae night at e'en a merry core  
O' randie, gangrel bodies  
In Poesie-Nancie's held the splore,  
To drink their orra duddies:  
Wi' quaffing and laughing  
They ranted an' they sang,  
Wi' jumping an' thumping  
The vera girdles rang.

Robert Burns

Circa 1785

## Sophie Flies the Flag



Sixteen year old Sophie Craig, a member of Alloway Burns Club in Ayr, is travelling to Hungary in January 2018 to perform for an International Charity and help them to celebrate the works of our National Bard.

Sophie was delighted to receive an invitation from the Robert Burns International Foundation charity to attend their prestigious event, which is held in the 5 star Corinthia Hotel in Budapest, to entertain over 300 guests with a mixture of recitation and songs of Robert Burns. The charity, which has Sir Alex Ferguson as it's Honorary President along with the British Ambassador in Hungary and the Hungarian Ambassador in London as joint patrons, raises significant sums of money to help sick and disadvantaged children in Hungary and Central Europe.

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## Sophie Flies the Flag (Cont'd)

Sophie has recited and sung at numerous events over the last few years. She is very proud to be a Friend of the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice and has also been delighted to help other charities close to her heart including the Ayrshire Hospice and the Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity. She is therefore thrilled to be able to help the Robert Burns International Foundation with this fantastic event.

January is always a busy time and 2018 will be no exception. Sophie will also be performing at a very special Supper in Burns Cottage on the anniversary of his birth, the 25th January. This fabulous event, which is organised by the Friends of Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, raises funds to help with the restoration of the Burns Monument at Alloway. The number of guests is limited to 24 and the names of those attending, along with the names of the nine gentlemen who attended the very first supper in 1801, will be retained at the Museum to become part of the history of Burns Cottage.

Sophie said "I am really looking forward to being able to help such a fantastic organisation as the Robert Burns International Foundation and share the songs and verse of Burns with many international guests. To be able to also perform at Burns Cottage on the anniversary of Burns birth is a tremendous honour and one that I am sure that I will always remember. "

Sophie has received great support from Trump Turnberry Hotel who have generously helped to support the charity. General Manager Ralph Porciani at Trump Turnberry said "we are delighted to help such a fantastic cause and to support an outstanding talent such as Sophie. We all look forward to seeing her at Trump Turnberry again very soon."

Sophie would also like to express her great thanks to Mr. Boyd Tunnock C.B.E. of Tunnocks, a great supporter of all things Burns, for his generous donation towards the R.B.I.F charity.

## Dumbarton Burns Club St Andrews Night

Our St Andrews Night was held on 24 November at the Dumbuck Hotel in Dumbarton. President Geoff Depledge chaired the evening.



Our principal speaker was Donny Monro Graham (Haggis Club Member) who proposed his unique Toast to Scotia, in which he incorporated poetry by some of Scotland's main poets with his own verse, including literally singing for his supper.

Tom and Elizabeth Clark are the prime movers of the St Petersburg Forum, members of several clubs and associations. They proposed and responded to the Toast to the Lasses. Tom baffled the audience by speaking for some time in Russian.

The Club has a close association with the Dumfries Howff Club. A number of whose members belong to both Clubs. Ten such stalwarts travelled up for the evening including Ian McIntyre the President of the RBWF. Ian addressed the Haggis and joined John Young (another having joint membership) in giving us a couple of well-known songs, in which the audience could join.

Others contributing to a great night were Ian McLean who recited Noah, Comet, and Lesley Young who joined with John for more songs, Colin Lawrie our Club piper and Vice President George McCaughhey providing a fitting Vote of Thanks.

## Edinburgh and District Burns Clubs Association Members Entertain Visitors

On a wonderfully crisp day in Edinburgh the Junior Vice President of the Federation, Brian Goldie, in the company of folk group Ragged Glory and EDBCA stalwarts Gordon Jamieson, Ralph Balfour and RBWF Past President Jim Shields entertained visitors at the Burns Monument as part of Edinburgh's '24 Doors of Advent' event. Despite the cold a steady stream of visitors came along to enjoy some seasonal fellowship.

## Young Archie Whets Their Appetites

Archie Mitchell, from Lockerbie Academy, addressed a McSween's Haggis at the Scottish Food Trade Association Dinner in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Glasgow, and made a wonderful job of it.

Reciter and Junior Burnsian winner Rowan Hastie from Sanquhar and fiddler and Young Burnsian winner Eryn Rae from the Scottish Borders, will both perform at the Westsound Burns Supper in Glasgow on 20 January 2018.



## Burns Howff Club - St. Andrew's Night Dinner

A patriotic note was struck by the principal speaker at the Burns Howff Club's St. Andrew's Night Dinner, held in the famous Globe Inn on 30<sup>th</sup> November. The toast to "Auld Scotia" was proposed by Ian McIntyre of Kirkcudbright, a Past President of the club and current President of the Robert Burns World Federation. Describing the Scots as a "mongrel race", he traced the origins of the modern nation as a mix of Viking blood, Celts and Irish with a touch of ancient explorers from Rome before Malcolm Canmore, and later William Wallace and Robert the Bruce carved out independence from the English yoke. The speaker had an enthusiastic response and was thanked and presented Ian with an inscribed tankard by President Colin Gibson.

Contributing to a superlative after-dinner entertainment programme was Willie Horne from Girvan who delighted the company with his droll recitations, "Will the Waster" and later, "The Kirkdouglass Ghoulie", not often heard in the Globe Inn.



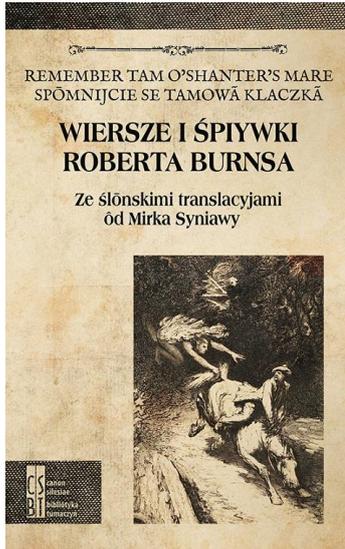
Guitarists Ken Hilsley and Doug Carroll displayed their versatility with a selection of numbers, old and new and Past President John Clark got members' passions aflame with a spirited version of Burns' "Scots Wha Hae". Music selections were played on the accordion by Lee McQueen.

Delegates were present from Dumbarton Burns Club and President Geoff Depledge brought fraternal greetings from his members and thanked the club for its hospitality.

A lively bout of community singing, led by past president and club songster, Bill Welsh brought a memorable evening to an end but not before a Vote of Thanks was proposed by Junior Vice President Rab Walker.

## Another Welcome Translation of Burns' Works

Where in the world does Robert Burns become ROBERTA BURNSA? The answer is far removed from Scotland and is in Europe. Upper Silesia is a part of Poland and the Czech Republic and at present there are many Silesians employed in Scotland and throughout the UK across a range of trades, industries and professions.



A bilingual book containing 33 poems of Robert Burns has been translated into the language by a Silesian poet and translator, Miroslaw Syniawa. Dr Tomasz Kamusella of the University of St Andrews and Hamish MacDonald of the National Library of Scotland have also contributed to the book.

The title of the book is "Remember Tam o' Shanter's Mare" and on the front cover refers to 'Wiersze I Spiywki Roberta Burnsa.'

No doubt this will be a fascinating read for Silesians at home and abroad.

One copy which includes cost of delivery is £8.50 and discounts apply to larger quantities e.g. if 20 are ordered the cost goes down to £4.60 per copy

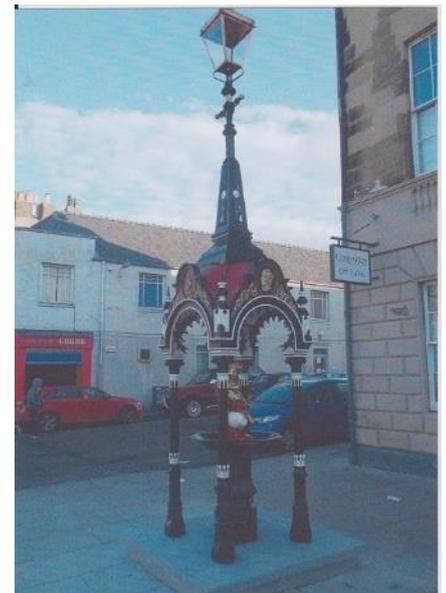
Billing information to be sent to [os@silesiaprogress.com](mailto:os@silesiaprogress.com) or contact can be made with Pejter Dlugosz and further details on [www.silesiaprogress.com](http://www.silesiaprogress.com).

## Dalkeith Monument Sparks Fond Memories

The Burns Monument in Dalkeith, a cast iron drinking fountain, was restored and relocated to the High Street by Midlothian Council assisted by Dalkeith Business Renewal and Dalkeith History Society. The fountain was originally erected in 1899. One visitor to the town, Elizabeth Walker-Hebborn commented:

"Lovely visit to Dalkeith, which was our local town in my childhood. Am so glad to see my favourite monument restored & looking wonderful 51yrs later. I remember it when it stood in the middle of the road further up the town near the shop called the Mall, I think if I remember correctly it was painted green in those days 1950's early 60's. Robert Burns forever my favourite Poet as he was my mother's, & grandfather's, has so many wonderful historic monuments, & places in Scotland, where he visited, my mother took us to most of them, but this one has always been special."

If you are in Dalkeith and visit the monument, remember to have a picture taken by the monument and post it on the page, joining a happy band of Burns fountain supporters!



## St Andrews Service at St Giles Cathedral



A delegation of Federation members from across Scotland was led in procession by President Ian McIntyre [pictured with his wife Moira and Colin Gibson, President of the Burns Howff Club, Dumfries] to take part in the Festival of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Patron of Scotland at St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh.

The Knights of the Order of the Thistle have it in their Charter to worship in St Giles on St Andrews Day, and for the past 60 years or so have invited to their worship representatives of the armed forces and police, the universities, various professional bodies, Judges and advocates etc., The Lord Provost and City of Edinburgh Council, The Royal Academy, The Grand Lodge of Scotland, and several cultural bodies, including the Robert Burns World Federation, are also invited.

## Burns Celebrated in Estonia

The Scottish Culture Society of Estonia was founded on the 12th of Feb 2009 in Tallinn. How it all started... long story, cut short [HERE](#).

We have organised Burns Suppers since 2011 with all the rituals in Estonian! This because we believe that it would be important for our people to know about Burns and his importance in the world and onto the thinking of mankind. The first translation of a Burns poem into Estonian was made already in 1867 by our national poet Lydia Koidula (My love is like a red, red, rose). And since we have a whole book of his poems in Estonian then we had all we needed to organise high level Burns Suppers in Estonian.

Knowing Burns I believe that he would have been pleased to learn that the tradition of Burns Suppers has in Estonia given a small rise of appreciation of our own national writers, as in one small island people have arranged a similar evening dedicated to Sea and writers who wrote about the sea and next year to Bread and people who wrote about our daily food.

Please note that two of our current well known poets have been inspired by our Burns Suppers in Estonian and each written a poem on Robert Burns, and read them out to the audience at our Burns Suppers.



A video of the Burns Supper of 2015 can be seen [HERE](#). A video of Scottish Days in Haapsalu 2014 (including Burns Supper) can be seen [HERE](#). When we started we hoped to see that this meaningful tradition catches on to Estonian culture. And it did! In 2015 in Hiiumaa the similar evening was arranged in honour of Bread and next year in honour of Sea and writers who wrote about Sea.

The Scottish Culture Society of Estonia set out in 2016 to launch CD of Burns songs in Estonian to promote Robert Burns and his works in Estonia. This CD will bring the spirit of Robert Burns closer to the listeners internationally.

We know that having a CD of Burns songs in Estonian would bring Robert Burns closer to people and arise interest in him, let alone sooth their souls. Everything that Burns wrote about is so humane and understandable for a common man, so his songs will touch people deeply. We also have a great translator of old age who has made several Burns poems that have been translated to Estonian so enjoyably singable. We have three musicians who have been playing Celtic music in Estonian for 25 years. It all added up and we felt - now or never. Society's so far the greatest project has been and is the CD of Burns Songs in Estonian.

Why we set out to do it? Please take a look at this [VIDEO](#). For an update as of Nov 2017 see [HERE](#). Listen to the demos [HERE](#).

Are you a Burns Club? We have a special deal for you, please take a look [HERE](#).

## National Burns Memorial Homes at Mauchline

“As 2017 comes to a close I am delighted to report that all our 18 cottages continue to be occupied and we have a waiting list containing several names. We resumed our Burns Supper in February which was hugely enjoyed by the cottagers and Trustees. Now an annual event again, planning for the February 2018 supper is already underway. A wreath laying ceremony will take place at the tower within our complex on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2018 followed by entertainment and light snacks served in the pavilion. Anyone who lives nearby is most welcome to come along.



We are just about to complete a £15,000 upgrade to our pavilion. This has been an important project and we are already seeing greater use of the facility. We are a registered Scottish Charity (SCO01850) and, as such, we receive no Government or Local Authority funding. I would remind you that our near neighbours, The Jean Armour Houses Ltd, is no longer a charity and is run by East Ayrshire Council.

We very much appreciate the financial assistance from our regular supporters and rely heavily on such support every year. Unfortunately, our level of donations continue to be lower than in the past but the work we have to carry out to maintain and improve what we have does not abate and comes at a cost which is on top of the routine costs of running the organisation. Please consider a donation. I can assure you it will be put to good and proper use.”

Contact: George M Ross, Secretary on 01360-440751 or email to [grandegeo@hotmail.com](mailto:grandegeo@hotmail.com)

## Alloway 1759 Festival Celebrations



This winter festival includes a unique Burns supper in Burns Cottage, Burns Big Birthday Bash, The Alloway 1759 World Haggis Hurling Championships and more, see: <http://www.burnsfestival.com/alloway-1759/>

The ‘Haggis Hoolie’ on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018 is a family-friendly nod to a Burns Supper. The Borland Ceilidh Band and a variety of talented local musicians will perform while you enjoy traditional 3-course Burns Supper fare. Then, let the band ‘put life and mettle’ in your heels as the dancing gets going. [View](#)

On Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018 Burns Cottage you can join the Friends of Robert Burns Birthplace Museum for this very special fundraising event to celebrate the Bard's Birthday in the place where it all began. Details at: <http://www.burnsfestival.com/alloway-1759/the-burns-supper/>

## Burns Comes Alight in Alloway

Pick up your group's lantern and poetry map as you enter Burns Cottage and gardens taking in the brand new misty pond. Then meander along the illuminated Poet's Path celebrating Burns landscape and the seasons. Cross the bridge and prepare to be lured to the spooky Auld Kirk Graveyard before completing your journey back to the museum where drouthy neibours revel. In this journey o' exploration surprises are a plenty. Discover special illuminations, be enchanted by mischievous sights, sounds and entertainment and delight in landmarks coming alive.



Date: Sat 27 Jan 2018. Timed tours 6pm - 9.30pm (11.30pm close) Price £7.50 / £5 concession  
TICKETS ON SALE NOW – Call 01292 288235 OR VIA [www.ayrgaiety.co.uk](http://www.ayrgaiety.co.uk)

## Dumfries and Galloway Burns Association - Commemoration Service Invitation



President Mike Duguid and members of the Dumfries and Galloway Burns Association (DGBA) extend an invitation to join them for their commemorative service, marking the anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns. The service will be held at 1.30pm in St Michael's Church, Dumfries, on Thursday 25th January 2018.

Club Presidents or representatives are invited to be part of a 'ceremonial parade' at the commencement of the service. The service, to be conducted by the Minister of St Michael's, Rev Dr. Maurice Bond, will feature contributions from local school children.

Immediately after the service the Dumfries Burns Club will host a wreath-laying ceremony at Burns Mausoleum where leading members of DGBA regional Burns Clubs, along with local dignitaries, will lay their tributes at the Bard's tomb. Following this ceremony, teas and refreshments will be served in St Michael's church hall.

We would be delighted if as many of your club members as possible would be able to join us for this special commemorative event. In order that appropriate seating arrangements can be made at the church, please inform us, before Friday 19th January 2018, if your President or a representative will attend.

David Smith Secretary DGBA [david.smith672@btinternet.com](mailto:david.smith672@btinternet.com)

## Robert Burns Association North America (RBANA) Annual Conference 2018

The 2018 conference is being organized by Les Strachan and Bill Fulton. Based on past experiences they have made this a US East coast destination city to allow members and attendees a wonderful weekend in a historic and vibrant city.



The base hotel for the 2018 function is the Courtyard Marriott Hotel 21 N. Juniper Street. Reservations can be made by going to: <https://aws.passkey.com/e/49277427> or calling 1 215 496 320. Make sure to mention RBANA 2018 when booking.

This is a wonderful hotel in the very heart of the city and we have worked hard to secure great room rates. To do that we cannot offer breakfast in the price. The hotel of course has full service restaurant and just outside the door are numerous restaurants and coffee shops

The conference registration fee of \$200 includes all events, seminars, and all evening meals, the Grand Ceilidh and Concert on Friday evening plus the formal Burns Dinner on

Saturday evening with RBANA Presidential Investiture.

Golf for the RBANA trophy will be scheduled for Friday morning at a nearby course, fees and cart should be \$50 or less and will be paid by the individuals at the course. Please indicate if you wish to play on the registration form.

Based on past RBANA conferences in the USA we have guaranteed 20 rooms. We expect a very good turnout. Although the hotel has plenty of rooms we don't want you to be disappointed and miss these special rates. BOOK NOW. Registration closes on 30 Mar and we can't guarantee these rates after that time.

For full details of the conference see: <http://www.rbana.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/RBANA-AGM-Conference-2018-Registration-Package.pdf>

**Centre for Robert Burns Studies – Annual Conference Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

This event is a collaboration between the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum (RBBM) and the Centre for Robert Burns Studies (University of Glasgow) and will be held in the RBBM, Murdoch's Loan, Alloway, Ayr.

Topics include: Launch of The New Oxford Edition of The Works of Robert Burns Volumes 2 & 3 (Gerard Carruthers), The Scots Musical Museum (Murray Pittock), Absorbing Burns: Scottish Chapbook Printers and their 'Excellent New Songs' (Iain Beavan), Highland Mary's Network: A Boon for the Bard (Jean Brittain), Burns Unbroke (Sheilagh Tennant), 'Burns, Politics and the People's Poets, 1840-1900' (Kirstie Blair), 'Burns, Reform and the Suffragettes' (Michael Shaw), 'Saw ye e'er sic Troggin?: Rhyming Paisley politics' (Catriona Macdonald) The day starts with tea and coffee at 9.30 am and runs until 3.45 pm.

Booking essential (please note, places are strictly limited so book early to avoid disappointment). See:

<http://www.burnsmuseum.org.uk/event/centre-robert-burns-studies-annual-conference/>

**Liz Totten Remembered**

The sympathy of Burns Clubs and many Federation members is extended to Joe Totten and his family on hearing the sad news of the passing of his wife Elizabeth known and recognised as an untiring worker and stalwart in the world of Burns supporters.

In over thirty years' service Liz held many positions including that of President of the Lanarkshire Association of Burns Clubs and served her local Club as President for three terms of Office. As a former school teacher she brought her knowledge and organising ability to the role of the Club's Schools Convenor.

Joe and Liz's talented family contributed greatly to the Club in many ways from designing programmes to fulfilling roles as singers and reciters.

Liz will be sadly missed by all those who had the pleasure of knowing her.

**Irvine Lasses Celebration Concert**

Irvine Lasses Burns Club celebrated St Andrew's Day with a concert at Wellwood Burns Centre & Museum on 7th December.

Guests included Provost Ian Clarkson of North Ayrshire Council, Robert Burns World Federation Senior Vice President Bill Nolan and his wife Mary (both on right), and President of Irvine Burns Club, Allen Paterson (centre) who are pictured with Lasses President Margaret Greenlees and Vice President Rosemary Murdoch (far left).

## Russian Students Reflect on Their Trip to Scotland

A group of pupils from School 61 in St Petersburg visited Scotland in a trip, organised by the St Petersburg Forum (SPF) and the Robert Burns World Federation. The group visited various locations that had an association with our national bard such as Dumfries, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Motherwell, Stirling and Alloway.



At all the venues they put on a superb stage adaptation of Tam o' Shanter (shown here in the Dumfries production) which showed off their wide-ranging talents and charmed audiences..



Their visit also had another deeply meaningful purpose which was for some of the youngsters, whose great grandparents survived the Leningrad (now St Petersburg) siege, to present their very own modern-day Leningrad album to the city of Glasgow. One of them was Pavel Uriadov (14) pictured. [Photo courtesy of Tony Nicoletti/Daily Record

The original album, a little book with the tartan cover, a plain title and a simple message was sent by women in Airdrie and Coatbridge to Leningrad in 1941 as the city was in the grip of a Nazi blockade during which 1.2 million people died. It contained messages of solidarity and began an alliance which has survived generations to this day. But it brought hope to thousands of Russians caught up in one of the Second World War's most horrific sieges. A reciprocal Leningrad Album was sent to Scotland from Russia, arriving in 1943 and is stored in Glasgow's Mitchell Library.

Marc Sherland of the Glasgow District Burns Association hosted the group during their visit to the city and organised a series of short lectures with academics at the University of Glasgow's Centre for Robert Burns Studies. Professor Gerard Carruthers, said: "We were delighted to welcome this group from St Petersburg to the University. "Robert Burns first became popular in Russia in the 19th century. His works were translated into Russian and he was seen as a great source of inspiration for ordinary Russians. Burns is dubbed the people's poet in Russia and his work has been taught in schools along with their own national writers. The Russian's love affair with Robert Burns even saw the country becoming the first in the world to honour him with a postage stamp in the mid- 20th century.



Junior Vice President Brian Goldie and his wife Joyce hosted the visiting party on a visit to Stirling during which they visited Wallace High School, The Engine Shed (an environmental exhibit), and culminating in a visit to Stirling castle. They were shown round the castle before taking part in a hands-on workshop, dressing up in period costume before heading back to Glasgow.



[Helen Morrison, who organised the 12-day trip, asked me to let Burnsians know that they have successfully raised the money to take the May children and one parent out to St Petersburg (£3000) in January with the other parent going self-supporting. Also, on behalf of RBWF Schools Committee she wished to thank everyone for their support over the fourteen years she has coordinated the St Petersburg essay competition and Helena Anderson Wright (Grampian) for her valuable contribution of two free places at the Aberdeen International Youth Festival Lesley McDonald will be the new RBWF/ St Petersburg Essay coordinator after this year. Helen will still serve as a Trustee for the SPF. Ed].

## Glasgow University – Repeat Run of ‘Robert Burns: Poems, Songs and Legacy’ – Online Course

The hugely successful Glasgow University MOOC 'Robert Burns: Poems, Songs and Legacy', is running again from 22nd January 2018. Sign-up is open at: <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/robert-burns>

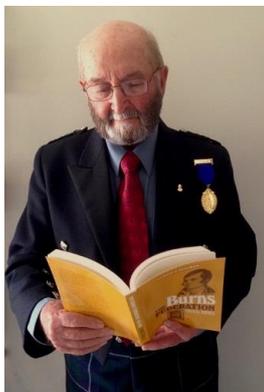
Over three weeks, we'll introduce you to the life and works of Robert ("Rabbie" or "Robbie") Burns, exploring:

- The cultural reputation of Robert Burns as patriot, lover, and man of the people
- Robert Burns as poet and songwriter
- Works such as 'Scots Wha Hae', 'Ae Fond Kiss', 'A Man's a Man', 'The Vision', and 'Auld Lang Syne'
- The commemoration of Burns in material culture
- The international celebrity and legacy of Burns



You'll examine poems, songs, manuscripts, and objects used to commemorate the poet. You'll also develop your understanding of Robert Burns's posthumous reputation - from Burns Suppers and Burns Night through to Hogmanay. So join us for a new look at a world-famous poet.

## Honour for Australian Burns Stalwart



Jim Millar from Bendigo Burns Club, Australia, proudly wearing his Honorary President's medal presented by the Robert Burns World Federation in recognition of his contribution to promoting Scotland's National Poet 'down under.' In particular Jim has promoted a schools' competition over many years and has, along with his charming wife Jeanette, hosted several visits by several Presidents of the Federation and others.

On receiving the medal Jim commented; "May I say that I am most grateful to the President and all the Board Members. I hope I can wear it with the honour and humility that it deserves."

## Getting Ready for "Rabbie" - the Musical on the Life of Burns

As part of the Red Red Rose Street Festival celebrating Burns the Captivate Theatre is putting on "Rabbie", the full-length version of the musical by the late Andrew Dallmeyer, one of Scotland's leading dramatists and multiple winner of the Edinburgh Fringe First Award. Professor David Purdie, editor of the Burns Encyclopaedia, was a script advisor and Dallmeyer, for his base research, went back to Burns's letters. He was soon openly in awe of Burns's remarkable creativity and sensitivity. Not known for extravagant praise, Dallmeyer declared Burns a genius!

For music, the well-known tunes of Burns's day have been brought up-to-date by Kennedy Aitchison, the renowned musical director and orchestrator.

Sally Lyall, director, of Captivate Theatre, says: "It was a bit of struggle to find a good Burns and here we are at the beginning of November starting rehearsals. It all begins with a few folk in a big cold hall gathered round a piano!"

"Rabbie" is being performed at the Basement Theatre, 204 Rose Street, just behind the Roxburgh Hotel, from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

Tickets are £15 (£14 concession) and available from the link below:-



<http://gildedballoon.co.uk/programme/performances.php?eventId=14:1677> It should be a great evening!

## Ellisland Farm's Full Programme of Events

After a very busy year in 2017 for Curator Stuart Cochran and the Committee of the Friends of Ellisland Farm the New Year starts off with an even more packed programme of events. All the details can be found at: <https://www.ellislandfarm.co.uk/> Examples include:

Two Anniversary Dinners. The first one, featuring Professor Gerard Carruthers on 3rd Feb, is already sold out but a few places are still available for the second one on Sat 10th Feb when Miss Ruth Davidson – MSP and Leader of the Scottish Conservative Party will deliver the Immortal Memory.

The wonderful Robyn Stapleton (pictured right) "Best of Burns by Candlelight at Ellisland". Wednesday 24th January 2018, 7.30pm.



David Douglas (Scottish tenor) and Esther Swift (one of the UK's leading harpists) return to Ellisland with their spine-tingling arrangements of Burns songs and other Scottish favourites. Not to be missed.  
Saturday 20th January 2018, 7.30pm at Ellisland.

Tickets available by calling 01387 740426 or by visiting [ticketsolve <https://bigburnssupper.ticketsolve.com/shows/873581326>](https://bigburnssupper.ticketsolve.com/shows/873581326)

The World Haggis Hurling Championship, sponsored by Mogerleys Quality Butchers, returns to Ellisland with a large cash prize to be won by anyone who can beat the existing World Record. "Haggis Histories and tales" will be being told in the barn and Mogerleys Haggis Pies and lots of other tasty treats will be available. Children's Haggis Hurling Competition and Kids Haggis Activities will keep all ages entertained.



## Dumfries to Host a Spectacular Burns Festival

Between 18<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> January 2018, across Dumfries, the world's largest Burns night celebrations will take place with 10 days of music, theatre, comedy and much more with stars such as Bill Bailey, Donovan, Eddi Reader and Badly Drawn Boy taking part. Full details of all the events are available on the Festival website: <http://bigburnssupper.com>

## Malt and Whisky Music Festival

Federation sponsor Isle of Arran's Malt & Music Festival will take place next year Friday 29th June – Sunday 1st July. The White Stag Dinner will be on Friday 29th June and the main day event will be on Saturday 30th June, with the Survivors Lunch on Sunday 1st July.

Tickets will go on sale in February from [www.arranevents.com](http://www.arranevents.com). We will post info here on our web site and on our social pages (FB and Twitter primarily) to keep you updated. You will be able to purchase tickets for the White Stag Dinner and the individual masterclasses that take place during the day event on the Saturday. Past masterclasses have included a Whisky & Food Masterclass, the ever popular Stillmen's Masterclass and Mavericks of Maturation Masterclass. The 2018 line-up will not disappoint!

## Golden Wonder Snacks Relaunch

Our other major sponsor of the Schools' Competitions Golden Wonder has just announced the relaunch of its Snacks range after a makeover! The packs have been refreshed and some new additions have arrived, all with more punch per crunch.





**Who Can Join?** Anyone sharing our Mission, who believes in our Objectives and wants, to get involved in taking the Burns legacy to the World as an individual, Club or Society.

**Benefits of Membership** ~ Become a partner in imparting the legacy to the world.

**Being able to enjoy** the company of fellow Burnsians and share an interest as part of a worldwide organisation that has around 300 clubs and affiliated bodies committed to it.

**Increase your knowledge** about the life and works of Robert Burns through qualifying for a FREE copy of the Annual Burns Chronicle, which not only keeps members in touch but also provides access to academic articles and researched topics that will add to your own knowledge. The Chronicle is complimented by a regular RBWF Newsletter containing Club and Burns related news.

**Become involved in a hands-on-way** as a volunteer working to generate interest in Burns amongst the next generation through involvement in Schools' competitions which attract 80,000 children in Scotland, the USA, Canada, Russia, Australia, New Zealand and around the Pacific Rim.

**Enabled to influence** the future direction of the RBWF by having access to the Annual Conference at special rates and discounts which may also apply to other associated events (where advertised).

**Have access** to RBWF Headquarters staff and a range of experts, who will be happy either to answer, or source replies to questions which lead to an expansion of knowledge about Robert Burns.

**Be involved** in the leading global authority and promotional body on the works, life and influence of Robert Burns and help ensure his place in the history of world literature.

**About your subscription** ~ Subscription to RBWF, kindles knowledge of, and stimulates interest in, Robert Burns, his life and works. Membership provides a driving force, to research, educate and promote Robert Burns across the world.

<b>Types of Membership</b> ~	<b>Please Tick</b>		
Individual Membership	-	£42	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family Membership	-	£47	<input type="checkbox"/>
Club Membership	-	£77	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student Membership (proof required)		£15	<input type="checkbox"/>
School/Junior Membership	-	(FREE)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chronicle only	-	£30	<input type="checkbox"/>

## The Robert Burns World Federation

Advancing knowledge and education about the life and works of Robert Burns and the Scottish Language.

Charity No SC029099 Company Limited by Guarantee.

Email : admin@rbwf.org.uk Web : www.rbwf.org.uk

## Membership Form

**Special Note** ~ Chronicle by airmail (international only) an additional £12

I wish to give a Donation, Specify Amount £ \_\_\_\_\_

**Become a Member** ~

**Name(s)** .....

**Company/ School Title** .....

**Address**..... **Tel**.....

..... **Post Code** .....

**Email**.....

**Mobile**.....**Web**.....

**Methods of Payment** ~

1. **By Standing Order** - On the 1st day of \_\_\_\_ 20.... and thereafter annually, please remit to the account of the 'The Robert Burns World Federation' (Account : 00856523 Sort Code 80-08-53) the sum of \_\_\_\_ This order will subsist until cancelled by me.

**Name** .....

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**Account No** ..... **Sort Code** - -

**Name of bank** .....

**Bank address** .....

**Signed** .....

2. **Cheques** made out to : 'The Robert Burns World Federation Ltd'

3. **Credit Card / Debit Card No** ..... **Name on Card** .....

Expiry Date / Type of Card \_\_\_\_CSC security No

4. **Invoice** Contact for an invoice with payment details.

5. **Pay through your bank** by BACS transfer : Sort Code 80-08-53 Use your name as reference: Account No 00856523

6. **Paypal** join online, use ref: admin@rbwf.org.uk

**Completed form to** ~ **The Robert Burns World Federation Ltd**, 3A John Dickie Street, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, Scotland, KA1 1HW.

**Gift Aid Declaration** ~ Increase the worth of your RBWF fees and donations. For every pound you give, we get an extra 25 pence from HM Revenue and Customs, if you are a UK Tax Payer. Even better, we can backdate this 4 years on all past fees and donations. To qualify, the Income Tax you pay must equal at least the amount we claim in the tax year.

**Sign** ..... **Date** / /

**Notify us, if you** ~1. **Want to cancel** this declaration or 2. **Change** your name or home address