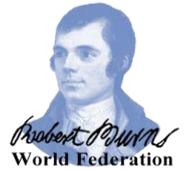




# The Robert Burns World Federation Newsletter



Issue 31 March 2018

This newsletter reports on many Burns Suppers from far and wide reflecting participation by young and old alike. In this 'Year of Young People' it is encouraging to report the involvement of so many talented youngsters in Burns activities and I look forward to the May edition where I'll be reporting on the Schools' Festivals. 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. Burns Howff Club in Dumfries has very kindly sponsored this edition of the Newsletter for which the Federation is extremely grateful. Other clubs may wish to follow the Howff Club's lead. [Ed]

## In this Issue:

	Page
- Consular Burns Supper	1
- Norwegian Air Tribute to Burns	2
- Annie Small Makes History	2
- Wreath-laying Ceremony in Edinburgh	3
- Young Ambassador for Ellisland	3
- Behind Closed Doors	4
- Largs Cronies Burns Supper	4
- Burns Unbroke Arts Festival	4
- Ayr Wreath-laying Ceremony	5
- Masterclass for Glasgow Pupils	6
- Ellisland Burns Supper	7
- Burns and the Stage	7
- Burns Goes Down a Storm in New Jersey	8
- Falkirk Youngsters Put on a Show	8
- Burns Supper at Scottish Parliament	8
- Morton Family Burns Get-Together	9
- Dumfries Tributes to Burns	10
- Jack Hume Remembered	10
- South Ayrshire's Burnsfest Ready to Rock	11

## O, wert thou in the cauld blast

Oh wert thou in the cauld blast  
On yonder lea, on yonder lea;  
My plaidie to the angry airt,  
I'd shelter thee, I'd shelter thee:  
Or did misfortune's bitter storms  
Around thee blaw, around thee blaw,  
Thy bield should be my bosom,  
To share it a', to share it a'.

Or were I in the wildest waste,  
Sae black and bare, sae black and bare,  
The desert were a paradise,  
If thou wert there, if thou wert there.  
Or were I monarch o' the globe,  
Wi' thee to reign, wi' thee to reign;  
The brightest jewel in my crown,  
Wad be my queen, wad be my queen.

Robert Burns

## Youngsters Star at Consular Dinner



Sean Russell from Falkirk had the honour of addressing the haggis at the Scottish Parliament Consular Burns Supper in January. Young Burnsian of the Year, Rowan Hastie, also recited (front row between Ewan and Presiding Officer, Ken Macintosh).

This event provides an opportunity for Members to meet with members of the Scottish Consular Corps, and to join them and other invited guests in celebrating Scotland's National Bard. The evening features traditional Scottish music, poetry and song

performed by artists from across Scotland.



Registered Office: Dean Castle Country Park, Dower House,  
Kilmarnock KA3 1XB Company Registration No 196895  
Scottish Charity No SC 029099 e-mail: [admin@rbwf.org.uk](mailto:admin@rbwf.org.uk)  
Website address: [www.rbwf.org.uk](http://www.rbwf.org.uk)

Newsletter Editor -Mike Duguid (Literature Convenor)

Email [mike.duguid@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:mike.duguid@dsl.pipex.com) Tel: 01557 860040

To unsubscribe please email [admin@rbwf.org.uk](mailto:admin@rbwf.org.uk)

## Robert Burns to Become First Scottish 'Tail-Fin Hero' for Norwegian Air

Norwegian is proud to announce that Scottish poet Robert Burns will become its first Scottish 'tail fin hero'. The renowned poet's portrait will grace the tail fin of a Norwegian Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft which will take to the skies later this spring.



The announcement came on 25<sup>th</sup> January to coincide with Burns Night. Since Norwegian's first aircraft took to the skies, the airline has always honoured iconic figures on the tails of its aircraft. Robert Burns will become Norwegian's sixth UK tail fin hero and first Scottish hero, following the announcement of rock legend Freddie Mercury, footballer Bobby Moore, children's author Roald Dahl, pioneering pilot Amy Johnson, author Jane Austen and aviation maverick Sir Freddie Laker.

Norwegian's Chief Commercial Officer Thomas Ramdahl said: *"Our 'tail fin heroes' offer us a perfect chance to pay tribute to some of the greatest Scots of all time. Robert Burns has inspired generations and as the world celebrates the anniversary of his birth, it is an honour to have one of the greatest poets of all time adorn our aircraft."*

For more information visit [www.norwegian.com/uk](http://www.norwegian.com/uk)

[Norwegian poet Henrik Wergeland (1808-1845), recognised as the 'Father' of Norwegian literature, was a great admirer of the poetry of Robert Burns and, like him, died at the age of 37. Ed]

## Annie Small - History Maker



Annie Small, who is a Past President of Irvine Lassies Burns Club, has carved herself a niche in the history of the Irvine Burns Club by becoming the first ever female President of the Club breaking a 192-year tradition of male-only Presidents.

Senior Vice President of the Robert Burns World Federation and also Secretary of Irvine Burns Club, Bill Nolan, said: "It's a very special honour for Annie to carry as first woman President of Irvine Burns Club, but more importantly she is the first daughter of a past President who has been able to follow her dad into the chair. "We've had lots of sons follow their fathers into the chair, but we've never had a daughter so it's a unique honour for Annie as her father Alex Rubie is still held in high regard within the club's base in Wellwood."

MSP for Cunninghame South, Ruth Maguire lodged a motion at the Scottish Parliament congratulating Annie Small for her ground-breaking achievement.

Photo courtesy of the Irvine Herald shows Annie with the club's new vice-chair Archie Chalmers (left) and the immediate past President Allen Paterson.

[From 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> September this year Irvine Burns Club will help host the World Robert Burns Federation's Annual Conference, alongside the Hallmark Hotel. It is worth remembering the Federation has had 6 women Presidents starting with Mrs Jane Burgoyne in 1970/71. Ed]

## Edinburgh & District Burns Clubs' Association Wreath Laying

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of January 2018 the Edinburgh and District Burns Clubs Association (EDBCA) held its Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony within the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. Jim Shields President of the EDBCA welcomed everyone before inviting Caroline Hood, Jim Weatherston, Helena Anderson Wright and Elizabeth Naik to entertain the company with songs and recitations.



Jim Shields laid the first Wreath on behalf of the EDBCA. This was followed by Joan Griffiths representing the Lord Provost of Edinburgh who informed the representatives that Edinburgh was very important to Robert Burns as the Edinburgh Edition was to bring Burns to the world stage. 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, and the Provost of East Lothian, along with the Scottish National Portrait Galleries represented by Imogen Gibbon, also laid Wreaths. Brian Goldie Junior Vice President of the Robert Burns World

Federation laid a Wreath on behalf of the Federation. The party then sang "Auld Lang Syne" and adjourned for tea and coffee and shortbread.

Professor David W. R. Purdie, co-author of the Burns Encyclopaedia, gave a short history of the life of Robert Burns before offering a fulsome tribute to Jim Shields, the outgoing President of the EDBCA, for his outstanding contribution in raising the profile of the organisation. Achievements included the introduction of the Tom McIlwraith Competition for Poetry, obtaining sponsorship for the EDBCA Schools' Festivals, and raising the Wreath Laying Ceremony to the wonderful event it is today.

As the guests were enjoying a glass of wine Margaret Anderson of the EDBCA assisted by Susan A. Wilson from the American Consulate recited "To a Louse" followed by Gordon Jamieson of the EDBCA reciting "Tam O Shanter" before guests joined hands and sang Auld Lang Syne.

Photograph, provided by Ian Rutherford/The Scotsman Publications Ltd, shows representatives of the EDBCA, RBWF local and civic dignitaries

Gordon M. Jamieson, Secretary EDBCA.

## Young Musicians' Ambassador for Ellisland

The Friends of Ellisland are delighted to announce that Rose Byers has been appointed as the museum's Young Musicians' Ambassador. Rose is a member of The Friends of Ellisland and an ardent supporter of the museum at Burns' home at Ellisland. Rose is also a popular and talented entertainer who enchants audiences with her performances of Burns' songs at events around the region.

In her role as Ambassador, Rose will produce the annual Young Musicians Concert which takes place during the summer at Ellisland. On top of this, she aims to arrange a few extra family themed events at Ellisland and also promote the museum and Robert Burns to youngsters across D&G.



To contact Rose regarding her ambassadorship then please email her at [friends@ellislandfarm.co.uk](mailto:friends@ellislandfarm.co.uk)

(Pictured receiving her Ambassador's Papers from Chairman Ronnie Cairns. Photo courtesy of Allan Devlin)  
For more information see <https://www.ellislandfarm.co.uk/>

## Behind Closed Doors

An appreciative audience of Staff and Prisoners in Kilmarnock were gathered to enjoy a brief relaxation with a team of Robert Burns Speakers.

The main participants in this Burns Supper were Speakers Guild members Robert Dalziel, Past President of the Federation, Alex Baird, Jim Jamieson and Guy Miller also contributed to the proceedings.

The minutes certainly winged their way with pleasure and the unscheduled but welcome rendition by a prisoner of "My Luv is like a red, red, rose" added to the informality of the occasion

All concerned in the performances, the audience, the Staff and the guests expressed their satisfaction with the evening. Michael Guy Director HMP Kilmarnock forwarded a cheque payable to the Federation to signify the gratitude for the commendable efforts by all concerned.



## Largs Cronies Burns Club 2018 Annual Dinner



the Annual Schools' Competition.

Largs Cronies Burns Club held its 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner at the Willowbank Hotel on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January. The proceedings were opened with a welcome to members and guests from Club President, David Galt, followed by the saying of Grace by Rev David Watson. The Haggis was addressed by Rev Bill Armstrong, having been piped in by club piper, Allan Wilson.

Angus Middleton, a Past President of the Robert Burns World Federation (and the newest recruit to Largs Cronies), delivered a superb "Immortal Memory", while club member Willie Menzies, proposed the "Toast to the Lasses". The evening's entertainment included songs and recitations from club members,

The raffle raised the tidy sum of £261 which goes towards

Back Row (left to right) Willie Menzies, Secretary Brian Jackson, Rev Bill Armstrong.

Front Row (left to right) Vice President Joe McGinty, President David Galt, and Angus Middleton.

## Burns Unbroke – New Contemporary Multi-Arts Festival

Burns Unbroke takes place at Summerhall, Edinburgh (see [info@summerhall.co.uk](mailto:info@summerhall.co.uk)) and features the work of over 30 visual artists, across eleven galleries, an Alternative Burns night, a Flyting competition, a series of Whisky Masterclasses generously supported by Arran Whisky, and a tailor-made programme of music plus children's performance and workshops.

The title of Burns Unbroke was inspired by the epigraph which prefixed Burns's first publication in 1786

*The simple Bard, unbroke by rules of art,  
He pours the wild effusions of the heart;  
And if inspir'd 'tis Nature's pow'rs inspire;  
Her's all the melting thrill, and her's the kindling fire*

The exhibitions programme and corresponding series of artist talks run for six weeks finishing on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2018. The exhibitions are open to the public every day (except Mondays), 11.00am – 6.00pm and entry is free.



## Ayr Burns Club Wreath Laying

Ayr Burns Club and Kindred Spirits gathered to pay tribute to Burns with their annual wreath laying ceremony at Burns Statue Square, Ayr on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Accompanying them again this year was the wonderful piping of Gary Thomson, Pipe Major of Ayr Pipe Band. Because of the threat of bad weather club President Kathleen Davey decided to keep the main speeches till later, in the warmth of the Market Inn.

The ceremony began with South Ayrshire's Depute Provost William Grant laying a wreath on behalf of the people of South Ayrshire. Also joining us were South Ayrshire Councilors Martin Dowey, Derek McCabe and Arthur Spurling. The Council's Chief Executive, Eileen Howat presented a floral tribute.

Tributes were presented by the President of the Ayrshire Association of Burns Clubs, John Campbell, Ayr Burns Club President, Kathleen Davey, Alloway Burns Club Past President Malcolm Ferguson, Dalry Burns Club President, Robert Barr, Dundonald Burns Club President Pete Clark, Durham & Northumberland Caledonian Society President, Melvyn McCrostie, Kilmarnock How President, Laurie Headley, Kilmarnock No 0 President Ian Capstick, and Prestwick Burns Club President Tom McCrorie. Red Roses were presented by Ayr Burns Club Members and Alex McKenzie of Ayr Burns club laid a tribute on behalf of General Raj Mehta of the Indian Army who is a lifelong Burnsian.



A lunch at the Market Inn was followed by an afternoon of fellowship, fun and entertainment. This year our club were asked to help make the 25th January a bigger celebration than ever. As part of its work to promote Scotland's Winter Festivals, The Scottish Government is creating a global virtual toast to Burns and Ayr Burns Club participated by posting their pictures of the day to Facebook.. You can view pictures and listen to Kirsten's beautiful rendition of Auld Lang Syne on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Ayr-Burns-Club-402491100236/>

## Masterclass for Glasgow Academy Primary Pupils



The Office of the Robert Burns World Federation receives many letters and e-mails throughout the year. All will get answered or relayed to an appropriate destination to ensure that the Federation continues to be a source for any "Robert Burns" matters.

A phone call from Jean McMorran, Head of the Glasgow Academy Milngavie, was to enquire about the availability of someone to recite Burns Poetry.

The School situated in Milngavie is also in the area of residence of Len Murray, Dean of

the Robert Burns Guild of Speakers. Len who has spoken on Burns around the world had a time slot available in his busy diary and was pleased to undertake the assignment. His "School report" gave him the highest marks for presenting the poetry of Robert Burns and communicating with the children giving an insight in to the poems and the Poet. As a direct result of Len's visit the School has taken advantage of the free membership offer by joining the Federation.

## Burns Supper at Ellisland Farm



On the 3rd February 18 the Friends of Ellisland held their Burns Supper at Ellisland Farm Museum. The Chairman, Russell Williamson welcomed everyone and asked Betty Haining to say grace. The haggis was piped in by Euan Grierson and addressed with flourish by Ronnie Cairns. After dinner, Lee McQueen, always a favourite with his fantastic accordion playing, got everyone in the mood for an entertaining evening. Rose Byers, with her beautiful voice, gave a stunning performance. The Immortal Memory by

Professor Gerard Carruthers was delivered on a different slant and very much enjoyed. Next we were delighted to enjoy fiddle playing by Wallace Galbraith MBE. This was followed by the Toast to the Lasses delivered by Alex Ross and replied with great humour by Andrea Thompson. Les Byers was in good form and sang some favourite songs. An in-depth Vote of Thanks was given by curator Stuart Cochrane.

In the photo from left to right: Gerard Carruthers, Russell Williamson, Andrea Thompson, Alex Ross, Wallace Galbraith and Rose Byers.

## Burns and the Stage

*Clarinda* is musical play by Scottish writers Kevin Walsh & Mike Gibb (whose other works include *Outlander the Musical* based on the Diana Gabaldon books) based around the love affair between Robert Burns and Nancy McLehose.

It premiered at the Netherbow Theatre on Edinburgh's High Street, a few hundred yards from Canongate Cemetery where Nancy is buried, on 25 January 2008 before embarking on an extensive 21 date tour of Scotland. Over the last ten years productions in its full length form include a U.S. debut in 2013 in Jacksonville, Florida.

It has also spawned an abridged version, a two hander (Burns & McLehose) with a running time of approximately 30 minutes that has graced many a Burns Supper, Scottish Gatherings and the Robert Burns World Federation Conference and as far afield at Pittsburgh PA.



Several years ago Mike Gibb was commissioned to write a playlet to mark the discovery of a letter written by Burns to opera star Elizabeth Kemble and the work, *Epistle to Elizabeth*, was performed at the 2013 Robert Burns World Federation Conference. It was also performed last year in Townsville, Australia and further productions are in the pipeline. It is cast for two (Burns and Kemble) and runs for approximately 15 minutes.

Both pieces are ideal for any Burns Association wanting to offer their members something a little different at their Burns Suppers or Conferences. There is no royalty charge for the rights to perform the shows in these abridged forms although a small donation to the Bianca animal shelter is always appreciated.

For further information contact the writer Mike Gibb at [mikegibb32@outlook.com](mailto:mikegibb32@outlook.com) or by telephone at 00 44 1224 313113. There is also a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Hamepages-174335696379126/>

## Burns - a Big Hit in New Jersey.



The Federation had a call from Jack Wright in Cape May, New Jersey, asking us to publicise a Burns Supper and requesting clubs to send in a video clip from their supper with a greetings message. He was delighted to receive video messages from both Alloway and Cape Town and said, "It really struck a chord down here."

He writes, "The event went so well and I really appreciate your help. We had nearly 400 people and could have sold another 100 tickets I believe. So next year, we are turning it into a BURNS WEEKEND, with half of the proceeds going to local charities (music and animals, both of which I think Burns would approve)."

We are in talks with big-name Scottish music groups and plan to fly them over. We intend to incorporate whisky tastings, movie showings (Whisky Galore, Angel's Share) as well as Burns readings in different venues throughout our little town."

Jack heads publishing company 'Exitzero' [see: [www.exitzero.us](http://www.exitzero.us)] and is planning to join the Robert Burns Association North America (RBANA) and the Robert Burns World Federation.

## Falkirk Youngsters Put on a Show

RBWF Junior Vice President Brian Goldie writes, "I attended the Falkirk High School Burns Supper last evening and once again a full and very enjoyable programme showed that the Burns culture is alive and well.

Toasts, recitations and song were the order of the day and I am pleased to say that the junior management team once again did a splendid job in putting the event together.

I am now happy to say that I have been titled *Falkirk High School's Burns Consultant*...long may it continue." Picture courtesy of JMT



## Burns Supper at the Scottish Parliament



As well as the Consular Burns Supper hosted by the Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, the Members also host one for MSP staff, security staff, and other Parliamentary staff.

RBWF President Ian McIntyre had the honour of proposing the Immortal Memory at this year's supper and past President of the Dumfries Ladies Burns Club No 1, Emma Harper MSP, acted as MC for the evening.

Sir Paul Grice – CEO of Parliament gave the Toast tae the Lasses with Linda Fabiani, Deputy Presiding Officer, replying. Finlay Carson addressed the haggis with Liam McArthur MSP offering the Selkirk Grace. Stuart McMillan the Parliament piper and piped in the Haggis.

## Morton Family Gathering to Honour Burns



The King Robert Hotel in Stirling hosted a unique Burns Supper on Saturday, January 27 with almost 60 people attending - all related! The Morton Family Burns Supper first took place in 1994 meaning the event saw the family celebrate its 25th supper. Donald Morton is the only person to have attended every one.

"It all started when my uncle Wilson, brother Harry and cousin Jean decided to hold one," said Donald.

"The first one took place in Harry's house and there were only a handful of us there but since then we've increased in numbers. My dad came from a family of sixteen - 12 boys and four girls - and the Bard's works were something which they learned from my grandparents. From the start we've followed the full Burns Supper programme. One additional item is the Toast to the Mortons and this year my cousin Bobby actually wrote a song, *It's Great To Be A Morton* is sung to tune of *The Work of the Weavers*.

We're affiliated to the Robert Burns World Federation and well on to the second, third and fourth generations of the family coming from as far away as Blackpool and Norway. Oslo's Iain Vartun has been performing Tam o' Shanter for the past few years. His mum Isobel Morton moved to Norway to work as a nurse in the 60s."

Donald added: "At the supper we bring raffle prize and each year we've raised thousands for various charities and this year £426 will go the Beatson Hospital in Glasgow." [Photos: Stirling Observer]

## Robert Burns Guild of Speakers Kept Busy

The Robert Burns Guild of Speakers were greatly involved with the annual celebrations. Members participated in over one hundred Burns Suppers. Dean of Guild Len Murray was the main speaker in the Great Hall at Stirling Castle with the event being hosted by Historic Scotland. Vice Dean John Haining proposed the Toast to the Lasses at the Lord Provost of Glasgow's Burns Dinner with another Guild member, Alison Walker, responding. The event raised £40,000 for the Lord Provost's Charity. Mike Duguid, also a Vice Dean, was on Immortal Memory duty at the prestigious Caledonian Club in London.

Three Guild Members crossed the Atlantic - Neil Macgillivray to Halifax Nova Scotia, Past RBWF President Jane Brown to Calgary (first ever lady to propose the Immortal Memory) and Peter Kormylo to the Burns Society of the City of New York. By contrast, four other Guild Members were in Prison! Bob Dalziel, Jimmy Jamieson, Alex Baird and Archie Gilbert and, after speaking their sentences, they were released. See earlier article 'Behind Closed Doors.'



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



The Dumfries and Galloway Burns Association (DGBA) held its Robert Burns Commemorative Service at St Michael's Church in Dumfries on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

DGBA President Mike Duguid welcomed everyone before the Rev Dr Maurice Bond conducted the service and delivered a wonderful address. Provost Tracy Little spoke admirably of the town and of the pupils from six local primary and three secondary schools who had participated in the service.

After the service a wreath-laying

ceremony, conducted by Dumfries Burns Club's President, Jean Macmillan Foster, was held at Burns Mausoleum before refreshments were served in the Church Hall.

Senior pupils from St. Joseph's College. From left, Annabel Macgregor, head girl, Michael Cairns, head boy, Finlay Jack and Ella Davidson, their deputies.

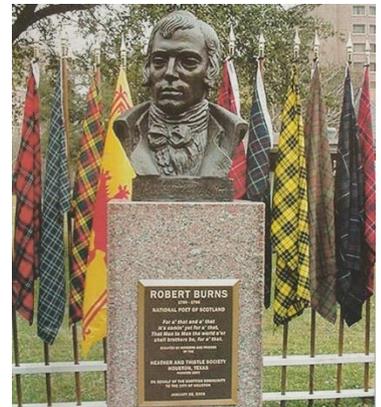


### John (Jack) Hume 1929 - 2018



Jack was born in Greenock, Scotland on January 11<sup>th</sup> 1929. He emigrated from Scotland to Houston in 1955 with his wife Phemia Davin Hume, deceased 2004. He leaves behind to celebrate his life his wife Guida, whom he married in 2008, daughters Margie Carmichael (Tom) and Mary Hume Thompson (Darwin), three grandchildren and a great-grandson.

Jack, as a new immigrant, joined the Heather & Thistle Society in 1955 and served two terms as its Chieftain. He formed and led the Heather & Thistle Robert Burns Club and was Chairman of Hermann Park Robert Burns Memorial Project which in 2003 donated the beautiful



Bust which now stands in the park.

In 2016 he presented the Robert Burns Association of North America (RBANA) with the Jack Hume Heather & Thistle Trophy for original poetry written in the style of Burns. He was known nationally and internationally as a Robert Burns' scholar, lecturer and speaker on Burns's works. Jack was the well-loved face of the Scottish community in Houston. A celebration of Jack's life was held on Sunday, February 18, when over 150 of his family and friends gathered to remember him. Everyone was comforted to know that our Robert Burns Bust stands as a memorial to the Bard, but now also to Jack himself.

Memorial donations in Jack's name were made to St. Jude's and the Robert Burns World Federation.

### Yorkshire District Tartan Ball

This year's 'Tartan Ball,' sponsored by the Burns Federation Yorkshire District, will be held on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2018 in the Holiday Inn Barnsley Road, Dodworth, Barnsley, S75 3JT.



There is a three-course dinner with tea and coffee and the ever-popular Iain MacPhail Scottish Dance Band from Edinburgh. All this for £35.00 per person.



Tickets and information are available from Vivien M'Itwamwari, 'Greystones', Upperthorpe, Westwoodside, Doncaster DN9 2AQ. Telephone 01427 753856; email: [avmits@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:avmits@tiscali.co.uk)

## Youngsters' Talent Expected to Shine at Schools Festivals



The Federation is delighted to announce that the 2018 National Festivals for Scottish school children will be held at Denny High School, Herbertshire Park, Denny, FK6 6EE

The Secondary event will take place on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2018 and the Primary event on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2018. Everyone should assemble in the Main Hall at 12.00 noon for the opening ceremony which will commence at 12.15pm

We are indebted to Golden Wonder for its sponsorship of the schools' competitions.

## Glasgow's Trades House Burns Fest Concert

On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February, at the grand location of the Trades House in Glasgow, visitors saw the prize giving and concert for kids who were placed 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the verse speaking, song and musical instrument disciplines, in the Burns Festival Competitions organised by Trades House and supported by the Glasgow Association of Burns Clubs. Diversity was the name of the game with a clarsach player, pianist, violin soloists, singers and some notable recitations. Every performance was a standout success and the parents in attendance were clearly proud of their children, Burns and the Scots language.



The children with the trophies and clutching their certificates who will be the ones representing the Glasgow and District Burns Association in the National Festival on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at Denny High School near Falkirk.

The event was attended by senior officers of the Trades Incorporations, local Burns Clubs and several members of the Robert Burns World Federation. [Photo courtesy of George Mahoney]

## Halifax Burns Club Celebrate Burns' Birthday



Two hundred and twenty guests were present for the Halifax (Nova Scotia's) Burns Supper. The warmth of the hotel was a complete contrast to the temperature on the previous evening when it was -10c in the local park beside the statue of the Bard. Undeterred, fourteen brave Club members gathered to pay homage to the Bard with rousing choruses of Burns' songs. The statue, designed by G. A. Lawson, was erected in 1919. [Photo courtesy of Stewart Cameron]

The Toast to the Immortal Memory was proposed by Neil Macgillivray, who had travelled from Glasgow and delivered a greatly appreciated oration. A most able MC, David Glover, a Glaswegian now living in Halifax, gave talented local entertainers an opportunity to perform. The highlight of the evening was the first ever award of an Honorary Presidency to Captain Angus MacDonald originally from the Isle of Bute and a great supporter of the Burns Club.

## The Good Shop Project

Marc Sherland has secured the use of a fully fitted community use shop in Buchanan Galleries from 26th - 31st March, with the aim to mount community awareness activities including the Burns community, the writing community and the WEA.

A full programme is being developed involving the RBWF Membership drive and there will be a repeat of the popular Tapsalteerie event on Saturday 31st March from 1:30 - 4pm. He is interested in hearing from anyone who has some time and energy to help with this. [marcsherland@me.com](mailto:marcsherland@me.com) Full programme available soon online.



## Scottish Parliament Debates Burns and the Scottish Economy

On Wednesday 17th January, MSPs debated the question 'What is Burns worth to Scotland?' and sought to promote the commission of an independent enquiry to evaluate the global phenomenon of Burns.

Joan McAlpine, MSP who represents Dumfries East Constituency, introduced a debate in The Scottish Parliament on the Economic Potential of Robert Burns to the Scottish economy based on her Parliamentary Motion that was lodged on 30th November 2017.

This has to be seen as a very positive step forward and one that all lovers of our National Bard would surely support. BBC Scotland's Holyrood Live covered the debate with a live feed and with reports, backgrounders and links to relevant organisations, as well as publishing any relevant tweets.

It could have a positive outcome if the Scottish Parliament commissions a new and independent study to assess the economic potential of Burns to the Scottish economy which, in turn, could lead to active centres receiving funding support to make them more viable and sustainable. Watch the debate at:

<https://www.scottishparliament.tv/meeting/members-business-the-economic-potential-of-robert-burns-january-17-2018>

## Camperdown Races Champagne Moment

John Menzies from Camperdown reports on the successful 2nd running of the Rabbin Burns Plate, a 1000m sprint for 3-year-old maidens. There were 10 starters, and it was won by 'Fill the Flute' - so named because her dam was Dom Perignon, [and what do you do with champagne? - fill the flute, of course! John writes, "I'm sure Burns would have approved and enjoyed it all. There were 4000 attendees/punters at the races, Camperdown's 150th annual event, quite a turnout when you consider the town's total population is only 3600. We celebrated the Bard's 259th birthday afterwards with haggis, music and dancing, and a good time was had by all"



## Thornhill and District Burns Supper



The Thornhill & District Burns Club held their annual Burns Supper on the 20th January in the Buccleuch Hotel. The President, Bill Leggeat, welcomed everyone. Betty Haining said grace. William Prentice piped in the haggis which was carried by Catherine Leggeat and addressed by Sophia Harkness. Stuart Cochrane delivered the Immortal Memory, Ailsa Black sang beautifully and Les Byers entertained with his version of Holy Willie's Prayer. The toast to the Lassies was proposed by Ronnie Cairns and replied by Emma Harper MSP. We also enjoyed songs by Colin Gibson. Roy Rodger gave the VOT. Photo L to R. Sophia Harkness, Catherine Leggeat, Stuart Cochrane, Bill Leggeat, Emma Harper MSP and Ronnie Cairns.

## South Ayrshire's Burnsfest Ready to Rock

**HIPSWAY** are set to headline Burnsfest 2018! (Rozelle Park, Ayr Sat 5 May, 1-10pm) Fresh from a reform sell out at Glasgow's ABC and a seven date tour of Scotland including Kelvingrove Bandstand, the band are set to bring their intoxicating blend of pop/rock and soul to Burnsfest for the first time performing hits such as Broken Years, Ask the Lord, Long White Car, Tinder and Honeythief.



Hipsway will be supported on stage by a full line up of the best of Scottish and local bands to create a full programme of live music on the main stage between 1-10pm. (Follow the South Ayrshire Events and Festivals Facebook page for live music updates).

For more music and a laid back vibe head over to the A-Coo-Stick tipi where hay stack seating and chilled out tunes are the norm. Look out for the graffiti Coo outside!

If poetry is your thing then make your way to the poe-tree where poems and trees combine and look out for poems popping up on the main stage too.

The Bairns Bunnet will once again cater to our wee pals with Bookbugs, Wild Planet Explorers and a Silent Disco to keep them entertained. Crafts, puppets and fairground are just a few more of the attractions on offer.

Don't forget to bring your picnic blanket and choose from our Burns food and drink village including a range of treats from Mexican food and pizza slices to haggis snacks, ice-cream and coffees. Enjoy a glass of fizz, a specialist gin or a craft Burns themed beer from our local suppliers and pop over to the Mercat for some local arts and crafts.

This FREE family festival sponsored by Burns Pet Nutrition also boasts a range of other attractions and a month long fringe festival throughout the month of May.

Come visit us and celebrate the bard! [www.burnsfestival.com](http://www.burnsfestival.com) #burnsfest #scotspirit

## Federation Sponsor Isle of Arran Distillery - on Top of the World



Several of Isle of Arran core range whiskies came up trumps in Round One of the World Whiskies Awards 2018. The Arran 18 year-old came out top in the 'Islands aged 13-20 years old' category, a pretty broad category so the win suggests Isle of Arran can no longer be considered the 'new kid on the block'.

The distillery also won the 'Islands - No age statement' category with one of their 8 years-old whiskies. Just goes to show that age does not need to be a barrier to excellent quality and taste.

Finally, they won a Silver medal in the 'Islands Under-12 year-old' category and were delighted to see it perform so well in such a busy category.

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



## Lasses Lunch – a Date for the Diary

The Annual RBWF Lasses Lunch is scheduled for Sunday 20th May 2018 (12:00 pm - 4:00 pm) at the Radstone Hotel Larkhall