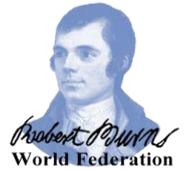




# The Robert Burns World Federation Newsletter



Issue 33 July 2018

Following on from the reports of the hugely successful Secondary Schools' Festival in the May newsletter, this edition concentrates on the equally inspiring Primary Schools' Festival also held at Denny High School, Falkirk. The enthusiasm of pupils involved is self-evident from Jim Miller's photographs. Reports from the USA, Australia, Ukraine and Russia just serve to emphasise the worldwide appeal of our National Bard. It is also particularly gratifying to read about club celebrations, fund raising efforts, literary and other competitions, all of which make up the very fabric of the Burns Federation.

*Editor*

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## Fair Eliza

Not the bee upon the blossom,  
In the pride o' sinny noon;  
Not the little sporting fairy, ye,  
All beneath the simmer moon;  
Not the Poet in the moment  
Fancy lightens in his e'e,  
Kens the pleasure, feels the rapture,  
That thy presence gies to me.

Robert Burns

## Primary Schools Festival



The Primary Schools Festival was held in Denny High School, Falkirk on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May with 125 enthusiastic pupils taking part. The event went very well and Schools' Convenor Mrs Isa Hanley and her committee deserve congratulations on a splendid job done in organising this major event on the Federation's calendar. Thanks are also due to the unstinting support of the Head Teacher and the hard work of the janitorial staff. Junior Vice President Brian Goldie, with the backing of Falkirk Burns Club and Falkirk Council, also contributed greatly to the event's success.

Winner of the title 'Junior Burnsian' for 2018/19 is Gregor Grierson, representing the Dumfries and Galloway Burns Association.

Golden Wonder provides vital sponsorship for the schools competitions. We also received very welcome support from the Jean Armour Burns Trust and the Ravenscraig Burns Club among others.

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**Primary Schools Festival (cont'd)**



The Overall winning team was the Fife Burns Association who won the Super County Cup. This trophy is awarded to the District Association which has the highest total of points across the four disciplines of verse speaking, singing, instrumental, and bagpiping. The winning team are seen here with the jubilant youngsters are RBWF Senior Vice President, Bill Nolan (right) and Junior Vice President Brian Goldie.

The winner of the Singing section was Joe Clark representing the Dumfries and Galloway Burns Association (right); the best instrumentalist was Eliza Bevan representing the Borders Association of Burns Clubs (below left); the best reciter was Eklavya Singh (below right) representing the Glasgow District Burns Association.



The best piper was Gregor Grierson from Dumfries and Galloway Burns Association whose superb medley of pipe tunes clinched the title of Junior Burnsian.

As a special treat for the packed audience, all the piping competitors laid on an impromptu concert as part of the entertainment while the judges performed

the very difficult task of picking the winners in each of the categories and also the overall winners.



The day proved, yet again, that the Schools' Festival is one of the jewels in the crown of what the Robert Burns World Federation stands for. It is not only the joy on the faces of the winners but also the shared enjoyment of those who didn't win prizes on this occasion but who did themselves, their parents, schools and districts proud



## A Spring Clean for Highland Mary's Monument



Mauchline Burns Club have taken it upon themselves to care for Highland Mary's Monument at Failford, just outside Mauchline. This is part of our project to make the Mauchline Area more attractive to tourists and also to keep Burns' memory alive. The Monument, opened in 1921, was funded by Clydeside shipbuilders, Harland and Wolff, through Mary's family connection. For u-tube users a Pathe film of the opening procession, is well worth a look.

Mary's pronunciation of English was heavily accented with Gaelic and this was why she became known as 'Highland Mary'. Mary was a maid in nearby Montgomerie Castle, now no more.

Robert Burns had an affair with Mary while married to Jean Armour. Robert felt that Jean had deserted him when she moved to Paisley in March 1786. Their brief affair had started in April 1786 and their parting took place on 14 May of that year.

[It is worth noting, however, that in his comprehensive biography James Mackay proposes, "From that date (*14 April*) forward, Robert acted in the sincere belief that he was a single man." pp188. This followed the legal action taken by James Armour, Jean's father, to annul the 'irregular marriage. Ed]

Burns had first seen Mary Campbell in church while he was living near [Tarbolton](#). He dedicated the poems *The Highland Lassie O*, *Highland Mary* and *To Mary in Heaven* to her. His song, *Will ye go to the Indies, my Mary, And leave auld Scotia's shore?* suggests they planned to emigrate to [Jamaica](#) together. However after a brief illness Mary died at [Greenock](#).

Burns and Mary Campbell apparently exchanged bibles over the Water of Coil at Failford and took some sort of traditional Scottish matrimonial vows. Burns wrote verses in his bible, signed them and impressed his masonic sign.

donaldh@btopenworld.com

## Melbourne Burns Club Tent at Bendigo Scots Day Out

March has been an extremely busy month for the Victorian Scottish communities and in particular the Robert Burns Club of Melbourne. On the first Saturday of March a group of members headed to the City of Bendigo to participate in the city's sixth Scots Day out. Our Burns tent was erected under the beautiful shady trees in Rosalind Park. With background music from the fourteen pipe bands competing, we were kept busy promoting our club and chatting to the many visitors.

It was surprising how many people were visiting from Scotland and were very pleased to be enjoying the lovely warm weather at the same time as the icy blasts, known as the *Beast from the East*, were lashing Scotland.



## 2018 RBWF Lasses Lunch



The 2018 RBWF Lasses Lunch was hosted by the Lanarkshire Association of Burns Clubs and was held on Sunday 20th May at the Radstone Hotel. On the day, LABC president Kay Blair welcomed 105 ladies to this popular annual event in the Federation's calendar. There was an opportunity to catch up with friends old and new during the reception in the hotel foyer before we were ushered in for lunch with our young piper, Amy McIntyre, playing as we entered.

Kay outlined the running order for the day and called on Hazel Morrison to say grace. Following an enjoyable lunch, we were entertained by the first of the performers from our schools' competitions. Lucy Wilkie sang at our lunch

before leaving to attend a rehearsal for her choir's performance at Disneyland Paris the following week

Our main speaker Jane Brown, past president of RBWF, delivered a presentation that was emotional, passionate and thought-provoking. Jane spoke of how much Robert Burns meant to her and told of the wonderful journeys she has enjoyed due to her love of Burns. She also spoke of the privilege of managing the Globe Inn in Dumfries and the many interesting people she had met over the years. Jane had her audience in fits of laughter and also in tears as she spoke of her many adventures. Although now retired, she said she was as busy as ever and plans to continue her travels throughout the world and looks forward to every opportunity that allows her to bring the works of Robert Burns to life for all age groups.

The entertainment continued with another two fine performers from our schools' competitions. Zoe May displayed her exceptional talents during her drum solo and Amy McIntyre again delighted the audience with a bagpiping solo.

Patricia Leslie, secretary of LABC, proposed the vote of thanks by acknowledging the many talents of the 'Lasses'. She said Jane Brown was a true ambassador for the Burns movement and his works would live on because of her enthusiasm and love of our national bard. Patricia also thanked everyone who had helped in making the day so enjoyable. As usual, the lunch ended with a rendition of Auld Lang Syne and the intimation that the next Lasses Lunch will be held on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2019. [Patricia Leslie Secretary]

## Barrie Meets Burns



Brae Trust along with Rose Byers on the right.

Over the bank holiday weekend of the 5th and 6th May, the Friends of Ellisland were delighted to welcome the Peter Pan Moat Brae Trust who gave demonstrations on making rag rugs and butter making, and a meeting with the housewife in Burns's kitchen plus music and stories. Children were encouraged to follow the 'Burns or Barrie' trail around the farm. Members of the Friends of Ellisland were there to show visitors around Burns's farm and explain his life there. A Barrie enthusiast gave a power point presentation and talked about his life and how the creation of Peter Pan came about. Visitors were also treated to the lovely singing voice of Rose Byers who sang a selection of songs by Robert Burns. In the photo are members of the Moat

[Photo by Halina Cairns]

## Ukraine School Celebrates Burns Scholar

Our cordial greetings to Anastasia Yanus, 8th grade student of Kremenets specialized school 2, Ternopil region, Ukraine, who won the first place in the Overseas National Literature Competition 2018 run by the Robert Burns World Federation. We also recognise the tremendous support given by her teachers Maryna Lenchuk and Nikolas Dubrovin.

Each country has its own glorious history pages worth remembering. Each nation has sons worthy of respect. Ukrainians have Taras Shevchenko, Scots - Robert Burns, who during his lifetime became a national poet. That is why the World Federation of Robert Burns (Scotland) annually holds a contest for children for the best work related to the life and work of this great poet.



More information about the school's activities can be seen on their website: <http://www.tlumach-gymnasium.if.sch.in.ua> (Submitted by Hanna Dyka)

## Young Performers Wow the Audience at Ellisland



Friday the 8th June was an unforgettable evening at Ellisland Farm, once the home of Robert Burns. Immediate past Chairman Ronnie Cairns introduced a wealth of talented youngsters who entertained a capacity audience.

Gregor Grierson, the current Junior Burnsian of the Year, piped the performers in to the threshing barn at the start of the evening. Rose Byers, Ellisland's youth ambassador, was first to take to the stage to sing and also recite as did Molly McTeir, Gabriel Byers, Ella McTeir and Rowan Hastie. Emily McLatchie sang and played keyboard, Fraser Dodd sang and accompanied himself on guitar. Aimee Carruthers played fiddle and sang, Aisling Anderson played fiddle and recited. Barbara Lewis did a sterling job in accompanying the performers. Light refreshments were served at the interval. The Curator, Stuart Cochrane, delivered a fine Vote of Thanks and as is the custom at Ellisland the evening ended with a rousing rendition of Auld Lang Syne.

Along with the young entertainers, on the left of the photo is Chairman Russell Williamson, third from the right is immediate past Chairman Ronnie Cairns. (Photo: Halina Cairns)

## Obituary - Past President John Paterson

Although born in Culross, Fife, past President of the Federation (2005-2006), Major (ret'd) John Paterson, grew up in Carron, Falkirk, and it was at school he first developed a passion for the works of Robert Burns. He served in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders for 38 years before retiring to Kent.

Despite the long drive to Scotland from the south of England, John was a regular attendee at all activities involving the Federation and became a worthy and much respected President. He also travelled extensively during his Presidency with engagements in Australia, Ukraine, Hungary and Canada.



## Come and Join the Annual Conference in Irvine

The high point of the Federation's calendar is our Annual Conference and we are pleased to return to Irvine this year to enjoy this fine location set in Ayrshire. The Conference will take place over the weekend of 7th – 9th September 2018. The venue is the Riverside Lodge (formerly Hallmark Hotel) Irvine, which is perfectly located for you to enjoy an abundance of walks, history and a casual game of golf. What's more it's only 8 miles from Glasgow Prestwick Airport and 40 minutes outside of Glasgow.



The Conference fee is £200 per person with a single supplement of £25 (exclusive of Saturday lunch which can be booked directly with the hotel, if required). All delegates must book accommodation with the RBWF office on 01563 572469 advising that you are attending.

For all the information on the conference see: <http://www.rbwf.org.uk/conference-2018/>



In a drive to encourage greater involvement of clubs and individuals this year's Conference will consider two separate questions during the Saturday afternoon session with the first being a direct appeal to members and member clubs from Professor Murray Pittock of Glasgow University's Centre for Robert Burns Studies to consider: "How much is Robert Burns worth to the Scottish economy?"

Said Professor Pittock: "Being able to address delegates from all over Scotland and elsewhere at this year's Conference is a massive opportunity for us to involve the Federation and, from a recent meeting that I held with some members of the RBWF Board, there is a clear commitment towards Burns Clubs and members being involved. Some of the key information required to create The Big Picture that will make this research meaningful may only be available through local people knowing what is happening within their communities and this will be invaluable".

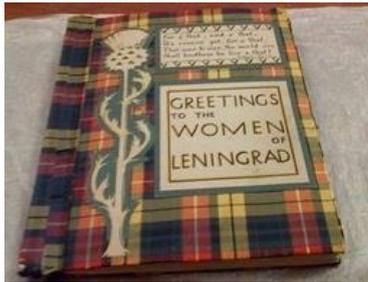
The second question of the Saturday afternoon session is being posed by Glasgow University PhD student and Senior Researcher Moira Hansen who asks the question "Could Robert Burns have been bi-polar?" Ms Hansen's research project, which is far from being either sensational or intrusive, involves examining the often-fluctuating mental health of Burns throughout his life based on evidence from Burns' own letters to others, from the observations of his friends and acquaintances and from the way in which he had expressed his feelings and general condition in his poems and songs.

Her talk and the subsequent discussion should provide a stimulating Conference afternoon that is sure to provoke reaction from several quarters but which is all about improving our understanding of this remarkable man who certainly has left us an outstanding literary legacy.

Commented outgoing President Ian McIntyre: "We have been asked by numerous delegates to make the Saturday afternoon session both meaningful and informative and we have listened to them. Both topics should produce interesting discussion and that is what Conference is about."

## Superb Drama Based on Leningrad Album

On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May a company of former degree students at West College, Paisley, performed an emotionally charged drama entitled 'The Leningrad Albums'. It tells the story of the album of friendship sent in 1941 by the women of Airdrie and Coatbridge to Leningrad offering their support and solidarity during the horrendous 900 day siege of the Russian city during the Nazi occupation. Despite the severe privations, the women of Leningrad managed to reciprocate by sending an album back to the ladies of Airdrie and Coatbridge in 1943. The drama captures graphically the contrasting situations but mutual feelings between the two groups of women.



They are hoping to tour the production (running time 30/35mins) from autumn 2018 onwards. Anyone interested in booking the show can contact members of the cast at: [LeningradProject@hotmail.com](mailto:LeningradProject@hotmail.com). They would be delighted to discuss terms etc. They are meeting with the Lord Provost of North Lanarkshire, with a view to taking the show to schools in the area.

The photograph shows members of the cast, with the St Petersburg Forum champion Helen Morrison (far left), examining the reciprocal album in the Mitchell Library, Glasgow. The image on the left shows the Buchanan tartan cover in which the original album was covered.

See: <http://www.glasgowwestend.co.uk/people/theleningradalbums-wilmastark.php> for full story.

Thank you for your enthusiasm and support! Caroline Lewis, West College cast member.

## Dumfries and Galloway Burns Association - Brow Well Service



The Brow Well Service will take place at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 18th July 2018. At last year's event torrential rain forced the organisers to hold the service in the nearby Ruthwell Church which was then followed by wreath-laying at the Brow Well itself. For many attendees this was the first time they had seen the magnificent Ruthwell Cross which stands in a specially built apse of the church.

For more information about this fascinating piece of craftsmanship visit: <https://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/ruthwell/ruthwellcross/index.html>

As a result of the success of this serendipitous event, the Dumfries and Galloway Burns Association (DGBA) has decided to repeat the format this year. The RBWF President, Ian McIntyre will deliver the oration and it is hoped large numbers of Burnsians will take the opportunity of paying respects to Burns at the place where he spent his last tragically painful days, forlornly attempting to cure his rheumatic endocarditis.



Please come along to this poignant service and enjoy a social afterwards at the Cairndale Hotel, Dumfries.

For details contact DGBA Hon Sec David Baird at: [bdavid.baird@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:bdavid.baird@tiscali.co.uk)

## Robert Burns Scottish Festival Camperdown – 2018



The Robert Burns Scottish Festival celebrates Camperdown's unique link to Robert Burns. It centres round Camperdown's Robert Burns statue. Created in Scotland in 1830, the statue is the only one to have been based exclusively on the earliest known portrait of Burns by Peter Taylor. Early Western District settler W.A. Taylor, a relative of the artist, gifted the statue to the community of Camperdown in 1883 where it was placed in the Camperdown Public Park (Botanic Gardens) where it remained there for more than 125 years.

The statue was already in need of restoration when, in 2009, it was vandalised. Following the attack the statue was restored and moved to a secure location and now sits safely and in full view through a window at Corangamite's Shire's Civic Centre in Camperdown. In August 2012, the inaugural Robert Burns Concert celebrated the completion of the restoration. In the six years since then the Robert Burns Concert has grown into the Robert Burns Scottish Festival which is run by a committee of passionate volunteers and supported by Corangamite Shire.

As Dr. John Menzies, President of Camperdown Burns Club reports, "this year's event was no exception. There continues to be a concerted effort to try to broaden its appeal, especially to a younger demographic, and pleasingly that is beginning to bear fruit. My wife Carolyn and several others made a concerted effort visiting district schools who responded very well with art work on Burns themes and poetry writing, all helped by Jamie McGeechie [aka 'Little Fire'], a young musician from Ayr, who related very well to the children on several school visits. He also performed credibly at numerous events and was very well received. An unexpected corollary was the need to find \$800 in prizes for the schools!!

Continuing in trying to broaden our appeal, Claymore, one of our leading Australian Celtic rock groups, attracted a large, and new, crowd performing at the local football club's social rooms. A major highlight was the lecture series now moved out of the historic council chambers to a large venue to accommodate the increased attendances. The speakers were excellent, capped off by the launch of the book 'From Scotland to Australia Felix- Scottish settlement in the Camperdown District' by ex-Victorian MP, Stewart McArthur"

For more information and program of events, visit the official Robert Burns Scottish Website at: <http://www.camperdownburnsfestival.com.au/Home>

### Congratulations to John Caskie MBE



On 7<sup>th</sup> June John Caskie travelled to Buckingham Palace to receive, from Prince Charles, a well-deserved honour of an MBE announced in the Queen's New Year Honours List. As a past President of the Dumfries Burns Howff Club, Chairman of the Dumfries Guid Nychburris Festival, singer and compere for the National Association of Accordion and Fiddle Clubs and past Secretary of the Dumfries and Galloway Burns Association he was honoured for his services to the Dumfries community and Scottish music in general.

Typical of John, as a thank you for the support he had received over the year's he hosted an evening's entertainment at Locharbriggs Community Centre Dumfries (of which he is also the Chairman!) with the James Coutts Band performing. Most appropriately, the band struck up with the first ever rendition of 'John Caskie MBE' specially composed by James Coutts in John's honour.

## Tom McIlwraith Trophy Competition

The Edinburgh and District Burns Clubs' Association (EDBCA) Annual Poetry Competition for the Tom McIlwraith trophy is on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July 2018. Start time is 11.00 am (Tea/Coffee and Biscuits from 10.00am) a morning harmony from 11.00 until 12.30 stopping for lunch at 1.00pm, Soup/Sandwiches, Pies, Sausage rolls + Tea and Coffee.

Competition starts at 2.00pm followed by prize giving. We expect the event to end by 4.00pm. All twelve associations are invited to take part. The cost for the day is £12.00.

## Youngsters Star in Aberdeen Concert

Helena Anderson-Wright (right) once again this year pulled out all the stops to orchestrate a fabulous concert "Till a' the Seas Gang Dry" on behalf of the Royal National lifeboat Institution. Held in the historic location of Freemasons' Hall in Crown Street, Aberdeen. The welcome was warm and generous and refreshments were offered at the break by Burnsians and Royal Lifeboat volunteers.

Talent was on show from harpist Charley Smith to bagpiper Dodie Simmers and singers and choirs gave renditions of Burns and Scots songs, including former Junior Burnsian of the Year 2015, Rory McIver. The selection of artistic talent on offer included lighter pieces such as 'I chokit on a tattie' comically sung by Jessica Mae McWilliam.



Fiddlers, Rhian Matthew and Gemma Christie presented Scots Duets and students from the Hazel Mair School of Music topped and tailed the evening with a glorious selection of popular songs. There was even community singing as the audience joined in.

Jim Shields and Beth Pratt delivered insightful talks on Burns-related topics, Jim on Robert Burns the Songsmith and Beth Pratt on 'The Inverary Bowl'.

The Lord Provost of Aberdeen, Mr. Barney Crockett was so impressed he promised to join Robert Burns World Federation. [Marc Sherland]

## Camperdown Greets Russian Youngsters

On March the 17th the Robert Burns Club of Melbourne, together with the Robert Burns Club of Camperdown and with the assistance of the Camperdown Court House tourist information centre, arranged to take a group of Russian students, and two of their teachers, to Camperdown to view the oldest statue of Robert Burns. The students were from St Petersburg school number 606 and regularly participate in the Burns Federation's poetry and literature competitions.

After a BBQ lunch in the Botanical Gardens (the original site of the statue) they were taken to view the statue in the Civic Centre where they were welcomed by Cr Ruth Gstrein and Camperdown Burns Club president Dr John Menzies. There, much to our delight, they recited Burns poetry in English and sang some Scottish songs. They then climbed the 100 steps to the top of Camperdown's famous clock tower to take in the magnificent view of the area, before heading back to Melbourne.



## Robert Burns Association of North America Annual Gathering



The RBANA 38<sup>th</sup> gathering was held in center city Philadelphia on April 20–22, 2018. Approximately fifty RBANA members and guests enjoyed the Courtyard Marriott Hotel. Members were treated to sights and tours of Philadelphia, including the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall and Old City. The Wanamaker organ was a treat for some as well as a shortened Phillies baseball game. Many ascended the Philadelphia Art Museum steps in the “Rocky” tradition and some members enjoyed a private tour of the Rosenbach Museum, home of well over 100 original works by Burns, including Mrs. Dunlop’s copy of the Kilmarnock Edition. Perfect weather was also provided.

The Friday Ceilidh was announced by Piper George McClellan (RBANA U.S. Director) and highlighted by the South Jersey Celtic Society (SJCS) musicians, Ian McIntyre (RBWF President), Henry Cairney (RBANA Vice President), Jane Brown, Willie Gibson and Joy Harris from Virginia.

The Saturday Annual General Meeting (AGM) selected Ken Montgomery, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada as the new RBANA President. The 2018–2020 executive officers and directors were also elected. Presentations were made by Bill Dawson (RBWF, Burns Chronicle Editor) on Philadelphia’s contribution to the Burns legacy. Mac Irvine from Atlanta, Georgia offered an enlightening theory on Burns not mentioning Christmas in his poetry or songs. The RBANA 2019 Conference and AGM will be in Niagara Falls, Canada.

The Saturday evening formal dinner and banquet, hosted by Les Strachan (RBWF U.S. Director) provided an elegant and inspirational evening. The haggis was piped in by Doug Connor (SJCS) and Ronnie O’Byrne (RBWF Canadian Director) gave a spirited “*Address to a Haggis*”. The evening menu was excellent and enjoyed by all. The investiture of Ken Montgomery as the new President was followed by the presentation of the past President’s medal to Collin Harris (Winnipeg, Canada). The annual prize winners were

**RBANA (cont'd)**

recognized for the golf tournament, poetry competition and Burns quiz. Les Strachan was presented with a recognition award for his nearly two decades of service to RBANA.

Willie Gibson from Troon gave the *"Immortal Memory"*, one of the finest ever presented in Philadelphia. The South Jersey Celtic Society, Paul Kennedy, Paul Kennedy, Jr. and others entertained the guests with beautiful Burns tunes played on the fiddle, guitar and pipes. Bill Cocks (Medicine Hat), Ronnie O'Byrne (RBWF Canadian Director) and Andy Harrower (RBANA Canadian Director) shared an engaging recitation of *"Tam o' Shanter"*. The traditional raffle prizes were a success, thanks to the many sponsors who provided an assembly of outstanding gifts. The evening concluded with a room filled with love and the singing of *"Auld Lang Syne"*.



As always the presence of the RBWF President Ian McIntyre and his wife Moira added so much to the weekend. He of course passed on best wishes and gave all the delegates an update on the latest doings of the Federation. Other guests from Scotland including the indomitable Jane Brown, past RBWF, entertained in every way. As did that roving Burns ambassador Willie Gibson. Past president and Chronicle Editor Bill Dawson's well researched seminar was one of the many highlights of the weekend. On Sunday morning members reflected on the words of the Bard, *"Adieu! May all good things attend you!"*

Respectfully submitted Bill Fulton (RBANA U.S. Director)

**Shaw Scholarship – a Golden Opportunity to Study at Glasgow University**

Through the generous support of Frank and Susan Shaw, Atlanta, Georgia, the Centre for Robert Burns Studies is now accepting applications for the 2018-19 Shaw Scholarship to support a Masters-level research project. Please feel free to distribute to any groups or individuals who may be interested in this splendid opportunity to advance knowledge of Burns or Scottish poetry generally.

This scholarship of £5000 is available to a suitably qualified candidate looking to undertake MPhil research on any aspect of Robert Burns Studies and/or Scottish Political poetry at the Centre for Robert Burns Studies, University of Glasgow. For further details please contact Professor Kirsteen McCue: [Kirsteen.McCue@Glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:Kirsteen.McCue@Glasgow.ac.uk)

**News from Isle of Arran Distillery**

We were really delighted to receive some wonderful news from the San Francisco World Spirits Competition earlier this month.

Our Arran 10 year-old was awarded the Double Gold Medal in the competition which is one of their highest accolades. We pride ourselves on creating an honest dram which represents excellent quality and good value for money to the whisky drinker who is looking for something you can't find on every supermarket shelf.

When it was released in 2006 it was a real milestone moment for our team, as we had waited so long to have one of our single malts feature an age statement that was widely recognised.

The Federation's official sponsor, Isle of Arran Distillery, is due to release the final chapter of its Smugglers Series, Vol. 3 - The Exciseman. [A very appropriate name for an association with Robert Burns. Ed]. This highly-anticipated bottling will be released in selected countries across the world.

It will also be released for sale from their own web shop and in the Visitor Centre from 11am on Wednesday 12th July and will be available through selected specialist retailers worldwide. You can check out who distributes the Arran Malt in your country by clicking on the 'Where to Buy' section of the web site. Please note that there is a strict limit of one bottle per person.



**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.

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## The Robert Burns World Federation

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

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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