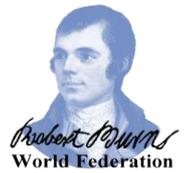




The Robert Burns World Federation Newsletter



Issue 36 January 2019

Happy 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. In this issue I have included profiles for two of those valued volunteers who serve on the Board of the Federation to help the organisation function to its best ability. It is a pleasure as always to include a wide range of articles reflecting an interest in Burns at home and abroad and appealing to all ages. *Editor*

In this Issue:

	Page
- Robyn Stapleton in Broughton House	1
- Burns Night in the 'Big Apple'	2
- Irvine Lasses get into Spirit of Christmas	2
- Largs Cronies Halloween Night	3
- New American Principal Officer in Edinburgh	3
- West Sound Burns Supper	4
- Alloway Burns Club Annual Concert	4
- Glasgow University Annual Burns Conference	4
- Friends of Ellisland Celebrate	5
- Burns Club of London 150 th Celebrations	5
- Scots Musical Museum Concert in Canada	6
- Howff Club Hallowe'n Night	7
- St Giles Cathedral Festival of St Andrew	4
- Commemoration Service in Dumfries	7
- RBANA Conference Niagara Falls	8
- 'Hame Toun' Celebrations in Ayr	9
- Ellisland Farm Programme of Events	10
- Allanton Jolly Beggars Diamond Jubilee	10

To Collector Mitchell

Friend o' the Poet, tried and leal,
Wha, wanting thee, might beg, or steal;
Alake! Alake! the meikle Deil
Wi' a' his witches
Are at it, skelpin! jig and reel
In my poor pouches.

So may the AULD YEAR gang out moaning,
To see the New come, laden, groaning,
With double plenty, o'er the loaning
To THEE and THINE;
DOMESTIC PEACE and COMFORT crowning
The hale DESIGN.

Robert Burns

'Hogmanai eve: 1795'

Robyn Sings



Robyn Stapleton, BBC Radio Scotland's Young Traditional Musician of the Year, 2014 is the star guest in an 'Evening with Burns' event on 10th January 2019 in the National Trust Property, Broughton House, Kirkcudbright. An annual highlight of the programme of the Friends of Broughton House since 2006, this event is aimed at highlighting the wonderful Burns collection in the house by linking performance to significant items in the extensive library.

Broughton House was the home of 'Glasgow Boys' artist, Edward Atkinson Hornel, who amassed one of the largest collections in the world of printed works by, or about, Burns. A keen Burnsian, he was President of the Dumfries Burns Club in 1927. J. C. Ewing, Editor of the *Burns Chronicle*, was responsible for ensuring only the best of books went to Hornel because he knew they would be made available to serious students of the Poet.

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Burns Night in the Big Apple



The American-Scottish Foundation® invites members and friends to join them for the 24th Annual Burns Night celebration, held in association with the University Club, New York, on Friday, January 18, 2019

Making a special appearance at the dinner will be 17 years

old Sophie Craig who lives just a stone's throw from the Cottage where Robert Burns was born in Alloway. A Robert Burns World Federation National Champion in both singing and in recitation, Sophie is also a member of the National Youth Choir of Scotland. Her passion for performing arts and for bringing the Bard's work to life has seen her invited to perform at numerous prestigious events throughout the UK and beyond.

Sophie has helped a number of charities but has built a very special friendship with the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice in Glasgow who provide palliative care to 1200 patients and their families each year. Following her performance for the ASF in New York, Sophie will travel to London to perform again for the Hospice at very prestigious fundraising Burns Supper.



Full details are on their website: <http://americanscottishfoundation.com/home/index.html>

Irvine Lasses Burns Club Express Spirit of Christmas



The theme of the Lasses' tree was Burns Poems and the Lasses in his Life. The decorating team were Margaret Greenlees (President), Rosemary Murdoch (Vice President), Secretaries Nancy Hogg and Barbara McInnes and Committee Members Cynthia Leitch and Susan Whitelaw.

The Lasses were delighted to support the Seagate Rotary's Christmas Trees project for Young Carers. This charity is focused on providing support and advice to young people aged 8 to 18 who have responsibility at any level for caring. The charity is also in the middle of a programme to make schools more aware of the problems young carers may experience with their home duties affecting their timekeeping or school work.

RBWF Friendship Tiles

The Robert Burns World Federation intends to raise funds to secure and develop a range of services within our Kilmarnock Headquarters as part of our Outreach and Education programmes. One opportunity to contribute is the sale of 'Friendship Tiles' - these are ceramic tiles which can be purchased for a Club, Association or an Individual. This is also a great way to commemorate someone or something of note.

The tiles will be on display at our Kilmarnock Headquarters. The text on the tile will be chosen by the purchaser (there is a limit of 16 characters in each of 3 lines). Each tile will cost £30, there will be an additional charge of postage to anyone wishing the tile to be sent instead to themselves. Each tile will be decorated with a silhouette of Burns in profile.

Order forms can be obtained from Kilmarnock Headquarters or follow the link below:

www.rbwf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/RBWF-Tile-Form.pdf

Largs Cronies' President's Halloween Evening



On Thursday 25th October 2018, Jane Brown, Past President of the Robert Burns World Federation, was guest of honour at Largs Cronies' annual President's Halloween Evening held at Largs Sailing Club.

Jane gave a most interesting account of her travels to numerous Burns Clubs throughout the UK, Canada and the USA and then told some amusing stories relating to her former role as manageress of the Globe Inn in Dumfries.

Jimmy Law of Skelmorlie Poosie Nansie's provided some light hearted entertainment with his selection of humorous recitations which included "Old Lochgelly" (a Jimmy Law standard).

Musical entertainment was provided by Rev Bill Armstrong, who enchanted the audience with his rendering of "Bonnie Gallowa" and "Ae Fond Kiss". The raffle at the dinner raised £190 which would be used to fund the Cronies' very successful annual Burns' Schools' Competition in local primary schools.

Vice President Angus Middleton thanked everyone who had come along for the evening and gave a special vote of thanks to all those who had entertained us thereby ensuring a great night was had by all. He was only sorry that President Joe McGinty was unable to attend in person due to illness but was sure Joe's thoughts would be with us.

On 24th January 2019, Largs Cronies will be holding their 30th Annual Dinner at the Willowbank Hotel, Largs, with Bobby McCallum proposing the Immortal Memory.

Back Row from left: Past President Robert Honeyman, Secretary Brian Jackson, Past President David Galt, Past President Ray Connal, and Vice President Angus Middleton.

Front Row from left: Eileen Doris Bremner, Jane Brown (Past President of the Robert Burns World Federation), Jimmy Law, Annie Small (President of the Ayrshire Association of Burns Clubs).

New American Principal Officer to Scotland

On the 23rd of November 2018 the Edinburgh and District Burns Clubs Association (EDBCA) President Gordon Jamieson accompanied by Jim Shields, Past President of the Association, visited the American Consulate in Edinburgh to meet and welcome the new American Principal Officer Ellen Wong to Scotland and Edinburgh. This was an opportunity to continue the warm friendship with America and Robert Burns.

Ellen made Gordon and Jim most welcome and assured them that Robert Burns is held in great affection in America and that the Scots have made her feel welcome. Ellen is hoping to attend functions organised by the Burns fraternity. Gordon on behalf of the EDBCA invited Ellen to join the annual wreath-laying ceremony to be held within the Scottish Portrait Gallery on Queen Street, Edinburgh, on the 27th of January 2019.

Gordon and Jim thanked Ellen for the warm welcome and looked forward to future meetings. [Gordon Jamieson President EDBCA]



"State Department photo"

West Sound & RBWF New Member Offer 2018

One of the less publicised advantages of joining the Robert Burns World Federation is the fantastic opportunity to win 2 tickets for the annual West Sound Burns Supper. West Sound FM is a corporate member of the Robert Burns World Federation and they very kindly supply us with two free tickets for new members, who have joined during the year, to attend what many regard as the grandest and best Burns Supper.



THE WEST SOUND BURNS SUPPER



West Sound Radio is honoured to be associated with the Robert Burns World Federation and indeed the sponsors of the West Sound Rosebowl at the Annual Young Burnsian of the Year Competition. The 34th annual West Sound Burns Supper will be held on Saturday 19 January, 2019 at the Double Tree, Glasgow. The event promises all the ingredients of a traditional Burns Supper but with its own special twist to honour the Bard. We are also delighted to give a platform to the 2018 Young Burnsian Euan McDonald and Junior Burnsian Gregor Grierson. The event is recorded for broadcast on Burns day but why not join us live? Early bird tickets £90 each which includes a 4 course banquet, miniature of whisky and your evening's entertainment. For more information please contact: Carolyn.mcallister@westsound.co.uk

Burns 'Hame Toun' 2019

Alloway Burns Club will present its annual concert of poetry and song as part of the Burns 'Hame Toun' celebrations which, this year, mark the 260th anniversary of the birth of the bard. This event will take place in the warmth and comfort of Alloway Parish Church from 2.00 till 3.30 on the afternoon of Sunday 27th January 2019. This year's title, "Till a' the seas gang dry" is taken from one of his great love songs and reflects the enduring popularity of Burns' songs and poems.



In light of this, much of the concert will be a tribute to the genius of our National Bard but there will also be other songs and poems. Contributions to the programme will come from members of the club both young and "slightly more mature" as well as the talented Alloway Burns Club Choir and the ever-popular local folk group Luath.

The concert is free but there will be an opportunity for those present to make a donation, if they wish, to support the Burns Supper in Ayr Town Hall which Alloway Burns Club organises every year for representative young people from all the Primary Schools in South Ayrshire. A very warm welcome is extended to all.

Centre for Robert Burns Studies – Annual Conference Saturday 12th January 2019

Following the success of previous years, The Centre for Robert Burns Studies has once again brought its annual conference to the convivial surroundings of the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, Murdoch's Loan, Alloway, Ayr KA7 4PQ.

Topics include: *Robert Burns, Scotland and the Soviet Union: Scottish national identity during the Cold War (1941-1959)* (Paul Malgrati); *'Hotaru no Hikari (Light of the Fireflies)' the Japanese uses and the reception history of 'Auld Lang Syne'* (Thomas Cressy); *Naething Could Resist My Nancy!* (Maureen Bell); *The Lancashire Burns: Edwin Waugh, Broadside ballads and Lancashire Dialect in the 19th century* (Jennifer Reid); *James Beattie and Robert Burns: an unlikely pair?* (Ian Robertson); Burns Scotland Lecture – *Robert Burns: Iconics and Comics* (Prof. Laurence Grove); *Some New Facts about Robert Burns* (Prof. Patrick Scott).

There will also be musical entertainment from the wonderful Emily Smith and question panels. The day starts with tea and coffee at 9.30 am and runs until 3.30 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/>

Friends of Ellisland Celebrate Young Talent.

The Young Trad Christmas Concert, which was held on 8th Dec at Ellisland Farm, was a magical evening which combined wonderful music, twinkly lights and Robert Burns - a 'recipe for happiness' as its star act Josie Duncan called it.

The sell-out event, which was organised by 13-year-old Rose Byers, Ellisland's Youth Ambassador, included gifted young musicians such as piper Gregor Grierson, harpist Priya Rome, fiddler Aisling Anderson, flautist Rosie Forde, singer Rowan Hastie as well as Rose herself, who performed four songs.



The concert's special guests were 'Hand Up for Trad' leader Simon Thumire, who wowed the crowd with his concertina and played alongside his son Charlie on the bodhran, and BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award Winners Josie Duncan and Pablo Lafuente. Their stunning set featured toe-tapping Gaelic tunes, seldom-heard mouth music by Robert Burns, and heart-breaking stories of mining disasters and asbestos victims. It was a warm, beautiful evening that gave hope to everyone - in these difficult times, there are plenty of talented youngsters to keep the beacon of Scottish trad music burning.

The Burns Club of London's Sesquicentennial

The inaugural event 150 years ago of The Burns Club of London was a Grand Dinner at Hallowe'en in 1868 and we are marking this anniversary throughout the 2018-19 season, with our main celebrations taking place on 28th and 29th Oct when we were honoured to have Federation President Bill Nolan and his wife Mary with us.



The celebrations began on Sunday 28th when we were welcomed to Crown Court Church in Covent Garden with the Very Reverend John Chalmers, former Moderator of The Church of Scotland, as guest preacher and readings by the two presidents Bill and Jim Henderson. John said he enjoyed the opportunity to blend Burns with the gospel message and we all found the service uplifting. Crown Court church celebrates its 300th anniversary next year and we believe that William, brother of Robert Burns, worshipped there while working for a saddler in The Strand. The church contains the first church window in memory of the poet, donated by The Burns Club of London to mark the bicentenary of the poet's birth in 1959.

Following the service, we had lunch with the congregation and a 150th birthday cake was cut by the two presidents, after which we walked to the magnificent statue of Burns in Embankment Gardens, the location where the idea of the Federation was first mooted by our founder, Colin Rae Brown and his

friends David Sneddon and David Mackay of the Kilmarnock club in 1884. That walk was made particularly memorable by a violent hailstorm which forced us to take shelter. Damp but undaunted, we were piped the rest of the way to the statue for a wreath-laying ceremony. A group of us then made our way to Westminster Abbey to visit the Burns memorial in Poets' Corner.



[Further details from President Jim Henderson's report will be continued in the March newsletter. Ed]

Scots Musical Museum – Concert Programme.



Ronnie O'Byrne, Canadian Director for the RBWF, reports on a wonderful concert in which he was involved recently.

“In October, Nils Brown (who has performed at past RBANA Conferences) arranged two concerts to present a selection of songs from James Johnson’s Scots Musical Museum.

The first was performed in front of 120 folk in Montreal on Wed 3rd Oct and was hosted by the ‘Studio de Musique Ancienne Montreal’. The second concert, with an audience of 100, was hosted in Toronto on Sat 6th Oct by ‘Scaramella”.

Nils pulled together a fantastic ensemble for these concerts that included world class musicians David Gossage, Antoine Malette-Chenier, Joelle Morton, Dorothea Ventura, Kate Bevan-Baker and as well as Nils playing guitar and singing the lead tenor parts – Nils secured the services of renowned soprano - Donna Brown..... all these performers can be found on the internet very easily – they were FANTASTIC concerts.

Nils was also kind enough to involve me at each - and as well as providing a platform where I could talk about RBWF & RBANA – they included me in the programme to do a couple of recitations of Burns poems and time to give a short lecture on the history of the SMM and Burns’ involvement with Johnson and George Thomson.



Nils and the ensemble have future aspirations to take their concert programme further afield in 2019 and there’s even some talk of them bringing it to the Edinburgh Festival.”

[To see Nils in action see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2qYk5eJPhfw>]

Who Are Some of the Volunteers Serving on the Board of the Federation?

The Convenor of the Heritage Committee is David Miller a Director in McGowan Miller Construction Consultants in Dumfries, a well-established multidisciplinary company.



His background in civil engineering as a quantity surveyor makes him ideally suited for the role of Convenor of the Heritage Committee which is charged with keeping a watching brief over all memorials relating to Robert Burns and his contemporaries. The committee identifies any potential problems with these memorials and advises the authority responsible for its upkeep. Although the Federation does not have the funds, nor the authority, to intervene directly in the maintenance of memorials, they provide help wherever possible and use the status of the Federation to put pressure on dilatory authorities. As a Past President of the Burns Howff Club and a Past President of the Southern Scottish Counties Burns

Association, David has demonstrated his enthusiasm for, and dedication to, upholding the memory of the Bard.

Over the years the Federation has accumulated several items of memorabilia, books and art works associated with Burns but until now has not had sufficient space to exhibit them. However with the move to the larger premises in John Dickie Street, Kilmarnock, Federation archivist Bill Dawson will have the opportunity to put these interesting items on display. A Past President of the Federation, Bill is also the Editor of the highly-regarded annual *Burns Chronicle* and a recognised authority on Burns.



Howff Club Celebrates Hallowe'en

Members of the Dumfries Burns Howff Club gathered in the Globe Inn on Wednesday 31st October to mark the ancient Scottish tradition of All Hallows' Eve, the time in the liturgical year dedicated to remembering the dead.

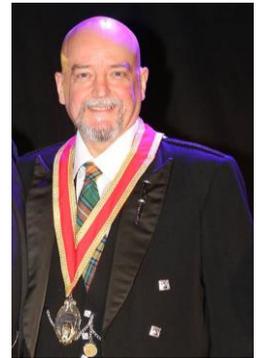


The company was welcomed by president Bill Graham who made a special welcome to several new members including Adrian Moorman from Dorking in Surrey, Leonard Brown from Newcastle upon Tyne, and Willie Horne from Girvan.

After dinner, guest speaker Marc Sherland (below), junior vice president of the Robert Burns World Federation and secretary of Glasgow Haggis Club, gave an illustrated talk on Robert Burns and the Supernatural with many quotes from the Bard's works. The speaker was thanked by the president and accepted an inscribed tankard to mark his visit. The president also announced that a

donation to the Indonesian Tsunami Appeal would be made from the proceeds of the raffle.

Contributing to a stellar entertainment programme was Leonard Brown who not only demonstrated his prowess on the accordion but proved to be a talented comedian. Club past president Colin Gibson gave a bravura recitation of "Tam O' Shanter" and another past president David Miller produced a droll version of "Holy Willie". New member Willie Horne brought the house down with a spirited recitation of "The Holy Fair". Club stalwart John Caskie MBE and past president John Clark delighted the company with a selection of Burns' songs and, supported by past president Bill Welsh, led a lively bout of community singing at the close of the evening before a Vote of Thanks proposed by junior vice president Bob Kennedy brought a memorable night to an end.



Isle of Arran Distillery Award Win



It is a pleasure to report that our official sponsors the Isle of Arran Distillery and Visitor Centre recently won the Association of Scottish Visitor Attractions (ASVA) "*Best Visitor Experience*" Award 2018.

The 3 finalists, which also included The Clydeside Distillery and The Famous Grouse Experience, were visited by the judging panel chaired by Bob Downie, Chief Executive of The Royal Yacht Britannia which sponsored the competition.

ASVA Chairman Douglas Walker said: "This win demonstrates the commitment and desire of the entire team at Isle of Arran Distillery and Visitor Centre to work together to provide a world-class experience that doesn't just meet, but exceeds, visitor expectations."

Dumfries to Host a Spectacular Burns Festival

Between 24th January to 3rd February 2019, across Dumfries, the world's largest Burns night celebrations will take place with 11 days of music, theatre, comedy and much more with stars such as K T Tunstall, Ed Byrne, Hardeep Singh Kohli, the London Community Choir, Talisk and Peatbog Faeries taking part. Full details of all the events are available on the Festival website: <http://bigburnssupper.com>

St. Andrew's Day Service at St. Giles' Cathedral

The Robert Burns World Federation was represented by a smaller delegation than usual at the annual Festival of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Patron of Scotland on Sunday 2nd December.



Senior Vice President Brian Goldie and Gordon Jamieson, President of the Edinburgh and District Burns Clubs Association (EDBCA), accompanied by their spouses, Joyce and Margaret, were joined by Jim McCambley, past president of Dumfries Burns Howff Club and past presidents of the RBWF David Smith and Jane Brown. All gathered in the Signet Library and were marshalled for the procession to the cathedral.

The Service, conducted by the Minister, the Very Rev. Iain R. Torrance, Dean of the Thistle, was as moving as usual and included some stirring music on the massive organ and impressive Anthems from the Choir. The Lessons were read

by Cllr. Frank Ross, Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh and His Grace, the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry. The procession of the Knights of the Thistle in their finery was most dignified. A very interesting and colourful morning which delegates were privileged to attend. [Report by David Smith]

Dumfries and Galloway Burns Association - Commemoration Service Invitation



President Russell Williamson 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 Friday 25th January 2019.

Club Presidents or representatives are invited to be part of a 'ceremonial parade' at the start of the service. The service, 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, refreshments will be served in the 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 2019, if your President or a representative will attend.

The Dumfries Burns Club also has a wreath-laying at the Burns Statue at 10.00 on the same day.

For any further information on both please contact David Baird, Secretary DGBA. bdavid.baird@tiscali.co.uk

Lasses Who Lunch

Alloway Burns Club looks forward to hosting the RBWF 20th Lasses Lunch on the 7th of April 2019 at the Brig O' Doon House Hotel, Alloway.

For further information email: secretary@allowayburnsclub.org.uk

See also www.allowayburnsclub.org.uk/ or

www.facebook.com/AllowayBurnsClub/

Save the Date - more details to follow.



Robert Burns Association North America (RBANA) Annual Conference 2019



The 2019 conference is being organized by Ron Ballantyne and is being held within sight of the spectacular Niagara Falls. The base hotel for the 2019 function is the Hilton Fallsview Hotel, 6361 Fallsview Blvd, Niagara Falls, ON L2G 3V9, Canada.

Reservations should be made direct with the hotel. Book online at: <http://group.hilton.com/RobertBurnsAssocNA> or call Reservations at 1-866-873-9829. Make sure to mention RBANA 2019 when booking.

The conference registration fee of \$225 (Canadian) or \$185 (US) 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 the RBANA Presidential Investiture.

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

We are hoping for a very good turnout of around 60 people. 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 13th Apr 2019 and we can't guarantee these rates after that time.

For full details of the conference programme and registration forms see the RBANA website : <https://www.rbana.org/next-conference-2/>

Burns Hame Toun Celebrations!



Celebrate the bard in Ayr, his 'hame toun' with town centre celebrations, the world's first Burns Supper drive thru, Burns live music nights, Burns 19, the only Burns Supper in the world to take place in Burns Cottage, the winner of the Robert Burns Humanitarian Award and much more!

The month of January is awash with Burns activity in South Ayrshire as we kick-start the 260th birthday celebration year in style! Some brand new events mingle with other favourites to create a programme the bard would be proud of ...

Burns Hame Toun (Sun 27 Jan 12-5pm) is a brand new Ayr town centre event starring The MacDonald Brothers, Clanadonia and more. Also featuring Burns Bairns Stage / Poet's Podium / Horse & Cart Rides / Landmarks Alive / Scottish Street Food / Country Dancing/ An Awfy Braw Adventure Tour / Burning Burns and much more family fun.

Burns Hame Toun Live Music Nights will take place in Ayr Town Hall. Friday 25 January will feature a trio of female Scottish talent in the form of Karen Matheson, Horse and Carol Laula. Saturday 26 January will star Manran (with support) and should get the floor stomping! Tickets available via Ayr Gaiety website or 01292 288235.

Wed 23 – Sun 27 Jan 2019. See: Burnsfestival.com

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 21st January 2019. 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.

Ellisland Farm's Full Programme of Events

After a very busy year in 2018 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 features playwright and author Catherine Czerawska on 2nd Feb and the second, Scots Poet Rab Wilson on 9th Feb, both of whom will deliver the Immortal Memory.

Winter Traditions - an evening exploring seasonal traditions on Sat 26th Jan.

The wonderful Claire Hastings (right), BBC Radio Scotland's Young Traditional Musician of the Year 2015, with Jenn Butterworth on Tuesday 29th Jan

The superb band Luath – 'Burns from the Heart' on Thursday 31st Jan

World Haggis Day and Mini Highland Games on Sunday 3rd Feb (kindly sponsored by Mogerleys Award Winning Butchers)



Tickets available by calling 01387 740426 or by ticketsolve at <https://bigburnssupper.ticketsolve.com/>

Youngsters Star in Allanton Jolly Beggars Diamond Jubilee

The Diamond Anniversary of Allanton Jolly Beggars Burns Club included a well-attended Diamond Dinner with Baroness Goldie and Alasdair Hutton as guest speakers.



To create a permanent record the pupils of Allanton Primary School came to assist in the planting of sixty trees in the nearby Allanton Woods.

Provost Jean Jones of North Lanarkshire Council, Members of School Staff, together with some Club members were in attendance. Under the supervision of Forestry Manager, Pardeep Chand, the P7 pupils defied wind and weather and completed the task.

Murdo Morrison, President, thanked the Woodland Trust for the supply of the saplings and the School for the assistance so able given. Also appreciated was the invaluable help from North Lanarkshire Council with all the aspects of the project.

[photo courtesy of D Silvester]

Let Your Memory Live On

Friends and colleagues we would like to begin by thanking you for your support, past and present for the Robert Burns World Federation and to remind you that without your support we would be unable to witness the continued promotion and perpetuation of the works of Burns, for now and far into the future.

We have much to do and one of the more pressing aspects of our status as a charity is that we must generate what finance we need to ensure that we will be here next year and the year after that.

This is by no means an easy task and we realise that monetary constraints on households and businesses are a critical factor in charitable donations and when you consider the many ways you have donated in the past you have certainly “stepped up to the plate.”

But the time has come to approach what is a very sensitive subject for many and given that our aging membership have supported the Federation throughout their lifetime, we are asking if you would continue that support with a bequest in your will.

A gift of this nature, will guarantee that the work you have been a part of will go on and will maintain the presence and stability of the Federation as the representatives of the worldwide Burns movement.

Book Review: *Agnes Craig MacLehose – Her Story*

One of the speakers at the Centre for Robert Burns Studies Conference (see details on page 4) is Maureen Bell. Originally from Glasgow and now living in Bishopbriggs, Maureen spent nearly four decades in Aberdeenshire where she was a professional singer and tutor in Traditional Scots Song. She has sung at many Burns Suppers in the Grampian region and has also given the ‘Reply to the Toast to the Lasses’ and the ‘Immortal Memory’ and judged competitions.

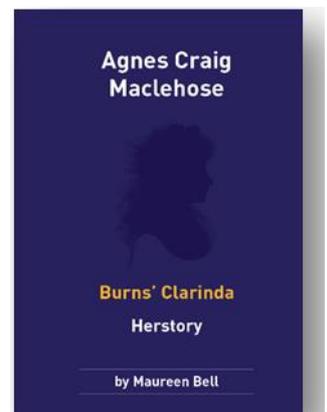
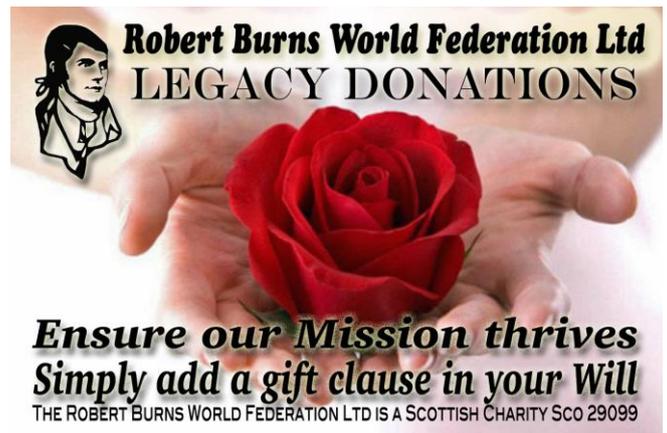
She has now written three books on a Burns theme; *Tae The Lasses* and *The Burns Calendar*, both in 2001 and her latest book, *Agnes Craig MacLehose - Burns’ Clarinda*, has just been published.

Having read the book I can thoroughly recommend it as a most worthwhile addition to the Burns canon. The latest volume is written in a highly engaging style, that of one female giving her take on the life of another, Agnes MacLehose, Burns’ ‘Clarinda,’ who lived two and a half centuries ago. Letters to and from Burns, or ‘Sylvander,’ his adopted penname, form the basis of the analysis of the intriguing 15-week relationship between these two emotional, passionate and extremely literate individuals. A factual biography of Agnes is supplemented by couthy comments, often highly perceptive, by the author as she ‘reads between the lines’ and assesses the nuances present in the flowery language assumed by both participants in their correspondence.

She does not hold back in criticizing both parties when such admonition is due and as a result offers a very honest appraisal of one of the most fascinating relationships involving our National poet.

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. See full product range at: <https://goldenwonder.com/product-range/>





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.

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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.

Charity No SC029099 Company Limited by Guarantee.

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