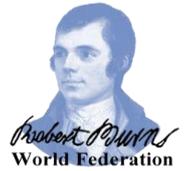




The Robert Burns World Federation Newsletter



Issue 37 March 2019

This newsletter reports on many Burns Suppers from far and wide reflecting participation by young and old alike. As the 'Year of Young People' draws to a close, 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. It is fitting therefore to feature a profile of Lesley Macdonald the new Convenor of the Education Committee. Such has been the volume of articles reporting Burns Suppers that some submissions have had to be held over until the May newsletter or, unfortunately in some cases, left on the cutting floor, for which I apologise. I offer my grateful thanks to all those who have contributed to your newsletter. Ed

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Lines on the Falls of Fyers Near Loch Ness

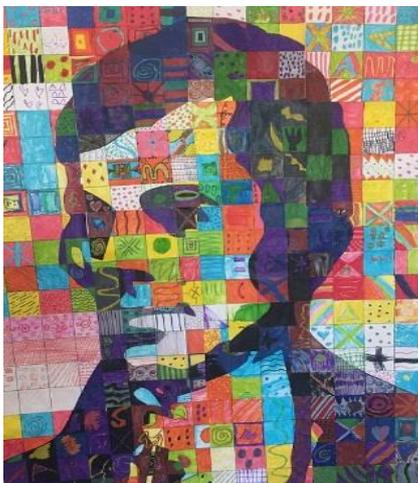
(Written with a pencil on the spot)

Among the heathy hills and ragged woods
The roaring Fyers pours his mossy floods;
Till full he dashes on the rocky mounds,
Where, thro' a shapeless breach, his stream resounds.
As high in air the bursting torrents flow,
As deep recoiling surges foam below,
Prone down the rock the whitening sheet descends,
And viewless Echo's ear, astonish'd, rends.
Dim-seen, through rising mists and ceaseless show'rs,
The hoary cavern, wide-surrounding, lours;
Still thro' the gap the struggling river toils,
And still, below, the horrid cauldron boils -----

Robert Burns

5 September 1787

Pupils Bring Burns to Life



This spectacular Burns collage was made by P6 pupils from Woodlands PS in Irvine and involved a range of pattern cuttings and logos. To create the picture, which is an exercise in shading awareness, the children split into groups and work in teams to fill the template, the subject of which they are unaware, and by using light and shade tones within the template, the image of Robert Burns emerges when it all comes together.

The same class visited Wellwood Burns Museum on Friday 25 Jan for an Burns Birthday Party complete with a "260" birthday cake. They also sang "Happy Birthday" and "Auld Lang Syne" - the most sung and second most sung songs in the English-speaking world ... and ate their cake! They had fun which made their visit so memorable and enjoyable for them.

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Lasses Lunch Booking Details



Alloway Burns Club is pleased to invite you to: The 20th RBWF Lasses Lunch Sunday 7th April 2019 12 Noon for 1.00pm at BRIG O'DOON HOUSE HOTEL Alloway, Ayrshire Guest Speaker – Julie Griffiths.

To book places please complete the form below and return, by Friday 8th March 2019 together with payment: Cheques - payable to The Robert Burns World Federation Ltd – to: The Robert Burns World Federation 3A John Dickie Street Kilmarnock KA1 1HW. Bank details for BACS online payments: Bank of Scotland Account: 00856523 Sort code: 80-08-53. Please advise the RBWF office once payment is transferred. To allow you to pay by credit/debit card online please contact the RBWF office on 01563 572469

We would welcome raffle prizes on the day or contact secretary@allowayburnsclub.org.uk in advance of the event. Any men accompanying ladies will be hosted with a visit to the Bachelor's Club in Tarbolton, and lunch at the Black Bull Inn.

<http://www.rbwf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Event-Flyer-Lasses-Lunch-2019-2-pages-1.pdf>

All forms are to be returned to the address below by Friday 8th March and please do not hesitate to contact us for any more information. [Image courtesy of Paul Walker see: <https://paulwalkerimages.co.uk>]

Irvine Burns Club Triumvirate



There can't be too many Federated Clubs who simultaneously have had three of their members holding the post of President at Club, District, and World level. (L to R in the pic are Archie Chalmers (Irvine Burns Club), Annie Small (Ayrshire Association of Burns Clubs) and Bill Nolan (Robert Burns World Federation).

Archie was installed at Wellwood on Sunday 27 Jan 2019 by Annie who was stepping down at the end of her year in office.

Burns Behind Bars

On 6th Feb Kilmarnock Prison hosted its Annual Burns Supper for inmates and local dignitaries. Jimmy Law of Skelmorlie Poosie Nansie's Burns Club chaired the event and put together a strong team of some of Ayrshire's finest to entertain the lads and lassies. Jimmy Miller of West Kilbride piped in the haggis which was addressed by Jimmy Law. Chaplain, the Reverend Jill Clancy gave the Selkirk Grace ahead of the most wonderful feast prepared and served by the inmates.



Bobby McCallum of Ardrossan delighted us with a song before Wull Dick of New Cumnock Burns Club delivered a most meaningful, humorous, and well-prepared Immortal Memory. Auchinleck's Jim Morrison had everyone in stitches with his hilarious Toast to the Lasses. John o' Clods (aka) Jimmy Law was seen wringing a coos tail as he ran around the room reciting Grim Grizzel much to everyone's amusement. Ashleigh Palmer of Kilmarnock Prison staff responded on behalf of the Lasses. Cleverly done in verse, this was Ashleigh's first attempt at speaking at a Burn Supper. Well done to her for a splendid performance.

Kevin and Jim finished the evening's entertainment with 'Caledonia.' Michael Guy, the Governor gave a comprehensive vote of thanks before the company nearly raised the roof with Auld Lang Syne. All in all it was a most memorable 'Supper' to a most appreciative audience.

Edinburgh & District Burns Clubs' Association Wreath Laying

On Sunday, 27th Jan the Edinburgh and District Burns Association (EDBCA) held their annual Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery beside the Burns' statue by sculptor John Flaxman.

President Gordon Jamieson gave a warm welcome before giving a brief history of Burns' connection to the City. Jim Weatherston and Cammy Goodall started proceedings with a rendition of some of Burns' best-loved songs before Gordon laid the first wreath on behalf of the EDBCA.

Further wreaths were laid by: Right Honourable Frank Ross, Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh; Councillor John McMillan, Provost of the County of East Lothian; Councillor Peter Smaill, Provost of the County of Midlothian; Alan Dickson, Depute Provincial Grand Master representing Edinburgh Freemasons; and, Sir John Leighton, Director General of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. Concluding the ceremony, Brian Goldie, Senior Vice President laid a wreath on behalf of the Robert Burns World Federation. The participants were joined by a gathering of sightseers in the main hall and observing from the gallery above the statue.



On Sunday 9th Dec 2018 the EDBCA were also present at the Burns Monument as part of Edinburgh's '24 days of Advent' doors-open days. The 'Open Doors of Advent' was a great success with 208 visitors entering the Monument and over 300 visiting the site despite the awful weather. Andrew Raeburn, Secretary, EDBCA

Largs Cronies Burns Club - 2019 Annual Dinner

Largs Cronies Burns Club held its 30th Annual Dinner at the Willowbank Hotel on Thursday 24th January. The proceedings were opened with a welcome to members and guests from the Chairman, Immediate Past President David Galt. David then read out a letter to the Cronies and guests from President Joe McGinty, who unfortunately was unable to attend due to illness.



Grace was said by Rev David Watson. The Haggis was addressed by Dr Tom Clark, having been piped in by club piper, Allan Wilson. The Principal Speaker for the evening was Bobby McCallum, a popular speaker within the Ayrshire Burns Circuit, who delivered a most entertaining "Immortal Memory", while club member Rev Jonathan Fleming, proposed the "Toast to the Lasses". The evening's entertainment included recitations from club members, David Galt (Holy Willie's Prayer), Ross McCallum (Tam o' Shanter) and Ray Connal (To Robert Aiken), and singers, Willie Menzies and Rev Bill Armstrong, accompanied by Ronnie Munton, entertained us with a varied selection of Burns' songs.

The Secretary, Brian Jackson, read greetings received from kindred Burns Clubs and Bert Thomson, proposed the "Toast to the Club." The raffle, organised by Club Treasurer, Craig Anderson, raised the sum of £280 which goes towards the Annual Schools' Competition.

A most enjoyable evening was concluded with a "Vote of Thanks" given by Robert Honeyman, followed by rousing renditions of "The Star of Robbie Burns" and "Auld Lang Syne".

The Top Table

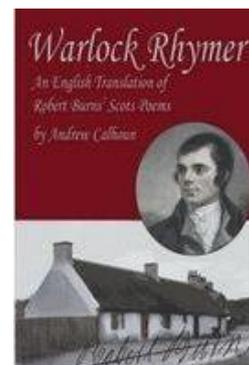
Back Row (left to right) Secretary Brian Jackson, Dr Tom Clark.

Front Row (left to right) Bert Thomson, Bobby McCallum, Past President David Galt, Rev Jonathan Fleming.

Wrong Author Published in the Burns Chronicle

The 2019 Burns Chronicle contained a paper “Thou Ling’ring Controversy” on page 10 which wrongly gave the author as Patrick Scott. This article should have been attributed to Andrew Calhoun. The Editor of the Burns Chronicle apologies to both these gentlemen for this mistake.

Andrew has recently written a book entitled *Warlock Rhymer – An English Translation of Robert Burns’ Scots Poems* published by Artemis Books, ISBN978-0-9645181-4-8, which should provide a useful source of reference for readers struggling to master Burns’ vernacular language.



Burns Fun in Florida



The Burns Club of St. Andrew was founded in May 2008 under the umbrella of the St. Andrew Society of Sarasota (SASS). The founding members were the late Frank Campbell, Member of RBWF, and Dr. David MacMillan who is the current Secretary of the club. There are now around eighteen Members, who meet monthly from Oct.–April at McAllister's Restaurant, whose original owners hailed from Troon.

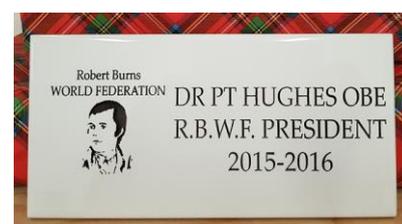
One of their newer members is David Shaddock, the 4th great-great grandson of Burns’s brother

Gilbert. David can be seen performing the Address to the Haggis at their Burns Supper which was held on January 19th. SASS was founded in 1979 to "provide social and cultural activities relating to Scottish Heritage" and to give emphasis to Sarasota’s ‘settlement by Scots’ in 1885.



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. [Example shown right]



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). There has been a good response to this initiative so far and a first display of the wall-mounted tiles should be completed soon.

Order forms at: <http://www.rbwf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/RBWF-Tile-Form.pdf>

Ulster-Scots Welcome New Cumnock Visitors

The Ulster-Scots Agency was delighted to welcome friends from New Cumnock Burns Club in Ayrshire to our ‘Burns by the Lagan’ concert. Pictured here with Agency CEO Ian Crozier are Stewart Park, Billy Hastie and Graham Greig.

New Cumnock has many Ulster connections, not least as the birthplace of Andrew Gibson, who created one of the largest collections of Burns’ material in the world outside Scotland, which is now held at the Linen Hall Library in Belfast.



Ellisland Farm Wins National Lottery Support to Help Secure its Future.



This week Ellisland Farm, the rural home of National Bard Robert Burns, has received a National Lottery grant of £39,800 for an exciting heritage project, 'Securing a Sustainable Future for Burns' Rural Home in Dumfries.' Made possible by money raised by National Lottery players, the project focuses on identifying how best to manage the site to champion its incredible history; making this important part of the Robert Burns story more accessible through imaginative use of his house, the collections and the inspirational landscape.

Chair of the Friends of Ellisland Farm, Russell Williamson added, "Throughout its history the Friends of Ellisland have worked tirelessly to maintain this important site, and we are excited about this support from HLF, and to be part of the next stage of its story." For further details see: <https://www.ellislandfarm.co.uk/news/>

A Very Special Burns Night.

On Friday 25th Jan 2019 the St Andrews Burns Club celebrated its 150th birthday at the Hotel du Vin. The first recorded meeting of the Club was on the 25th January 1869, the 110th anniversary of the birth of Scotland's national bard, Robert Burns. This inaugural meeting took place in the Royal Hotel South St. (now Southgait Apartments).

St Andrews' Provost Walter Milton and hotel owner William Davidson hosted the meeting. The gentlemen present resolved to continue the practice of meeting yearly to celebrate the Bard's birthday on the 25th January if possible or the nearest Friday night. The club registered with the World Federation of Burns Clubs and at number 13 it is one of the oldest Burns Clubs in the world.



The Club's 2019 Burns Supper was also be the first at which women were present as it saw the need to be more inclusive given that its principal aim is to promote an appreciation of Burns life and works. This coming January the club will celebrate this special occasion by erecting a special plaque on the wall at Southgait Apartments generously sponsored by Past President and Secretary Colin McAllister.

Federation Director Profile – Lesley McDonald



Lesley McDonald was elected recently as Convenor of the Education Committee and brings many years of experience in education management to the appointment. She is currently Secretary of the Larkhall Burns Club, VP of Lanarkshire Association of Burns Clubs joint Federation Choral Convenor and a St Petersburg Co-ordinator. A Justice of the Peace and Trustees of Larkhall & District Volunteer Group, Voice Print and Larkhall Thistle Football Club.

Lesley has spent 10 years in local government including being a member of the Education Committee. During her time in office she was a regular visitor to both Primary and Secondary Schools and she will endeavour to open more avenues within schools that have not yet participated in our schools competitions. She is an ardent believer that the National Schools Competitions should be self-funding wherever possible. Throughout her working life she has gained invaluable experience in working alongside finance and fundraising committees

which are clearly a much needed priority for the Federation.

Gallery Refurbishment at Robert Burns Centre In Dumfries



A new exhibition was previewed as part of a celebration of the 260th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns at the newly refurbished Robert Burns Centre in Dumfries on Sunday 27 January 2019. The refurbishment of the gallery was funded through a grant of £58,500 from Museums Galleries Scotland. Along with other Robert Burns' collections cared for by the museums in the Burns Scotland partnership, the artefacts on exhibition at the Robert Burns Centre have been 'Recognised as being of National Significance' by the Scottish Government, meaning that the partnership was able to apply for this funding.

The afternoon of celebration began with outstanding performances of Burns' poems and songs by Molly and Ella McTeir, Rowan Hastie and Troy Barbour from Sanquhar Primary School and Sanquhar Academy respectively. The capacity audience included many of those who had helped with the refurbishment project as well as representatives from all the local Burns Clubs. In his talk, Professor Fred Freeman from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland revealed the extent to which the town of Dumfries and the region as a whole influenced Robert Burns' work. This was followed by a light hearted look at late 18th century etiquette from Chris and Jackie Lee of Artemis Scotland. Finally there was a talk by Professor Gerard Carruthers from the University of Glasgow and Chair of the Burns Scotland partnership, which described current academic research and what it is revealing about Burns' life and work. Robert Burns Centre is open 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm Tuesday to Saturday and admission is FREE. Photo courtesy of www.dgwggo.com.

Thornhill & District Celebrate

The Thornhill & District Burns Club held their Burns Supper in the Buccleuch Arms Hotel on the 25th January, the 260th year of Robert Burns' birth. The President Colin Gibson did an excellent job as MC. Wilson Ogilvy proposed the Immortal Memory, Rab Walker gave the Toast to the Lasses and Rachael Gibson gave the reply. The piper Willie Prentiss piped in the haggis which was held aloft by Catherine Leggeat then addressed by Ronnie Cairns. Les Byers was in fine voice and sang a couple of Burns' songs. Ronnie then recited some short poems and Colin played his guitar and sang. Photo Top table along with past Presidents Ronnie Cairns and Bill Leggeat. [photo by Halina Cairns]



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 2019. Their Arran 10 Year-Old performed even better than last year, picking up a Gold Award in the Under 12 year olds (non-Islay) category. As their flagship expression, they were delighted to see it do so well up against a large number of other excellent drams entered into the category and to see it progress from where it was last year.

The Arran 18 year-old also gained a Gold Award in the 13-20 year olds (non-Islay) category, a pretty broad category so the win suggests Isle of Arran can no longer be considered the 'new kid on the block'.

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

Calgary Burns Club 34th Annual Banquet

President Jim Hutchens welcomed a full house to the Annual Banquet on Friday 25th January 2019 and the assembled company enjoyed a wonderful evening of entertainment as they celebrated the 260th Anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns.

Once again, the Calgary Burns Club Singers presented a wonderful range of songs which were thoroughly enjoyed by everyone present.

RBWF Past President Dr Peter Hughes presented the Immortal Memory and in traditional Calgary style, he was presented with a beautiful white cowboy hat and welcomed as an honorary Calgarian.



Medicine Hat Burns Club Annual Celebration



On Saturday 26th January 2019 President Andy Harrower welcomed the assembled company to a wonderful celebration on the 260th Anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns. RBANA President Ken Montgomery added to the occasion in typical fashion.

RBWF Past President Dr Peter Hughes was given a very warm welcome as he presented the Immortal Memory, having previously visited the club during his Presidential year in 2015.

As usual, the company enjoyed the traditional Medicine Hat "Jolly Beggars World Famous Scotch Bar" which featured the Isle of Arran Distillers "Arran 20-year Brodick Bay Explorer Series" as the top whisky of the evening.

Photo L to R: Andy Harrower, Dr Peter and Ken Montgomery.

Yorkshire District Tartan Ball

The Annual Tartan Ball is the highlight of the Yorkshire District's social year, with excellent food and superb music provided by Piper Tony Hindley and Iain MacPhail and his Scottish Country Dance Band. It has become so popular that in addition to clubs and societies in Yorkshire, we regularly welcome visitors from further afield; we already have commitments from friends in Dumfries, Ayrshire, Tamworth, Bedfordshire and Leicestershire who have enjoyed the friendly and welcoming atmosphere over a number of years. With so many clubs having fallen by the wayside in recent times, the Tartan Ball provides the ideal opportunity to meet up with old friends who thoroughly enjoy maintaining "*auld acquaintances*" and indeed enjoy making new friendships!



With overnight accommodation at the special rate of £50.00 per double/single room including a full English breakfast and use of leisure facilities, this event at only £33.50 per ticket, is one not to be missed.



To reserve your tickets, please contact Vivien M'Itwamwari, 01427 753856, avmits@tiscali.co.uk and to book your room at the Holiday Inn, Dodworth, Barnsley, please phone 01226 299571, quoting Tartan Ball 13th April 2019. For full details see: <http://www.rbwf.org.uk/burns-federation-yorkshire-district-tartan-ball/>

Youngsters' Talent Expected to Shine at Schools Festivals



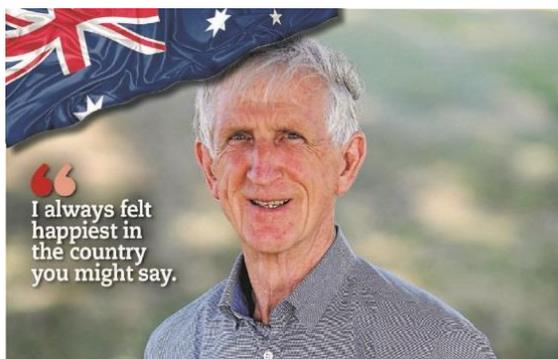
The Federation is delighted to announce that the 2019 National Festivals for Scottish school children will be held at Irvine Royal Academy, Kilwinning Road, Irvine, KA12 8SJ

The Secondary event will take place on Saturday 23rd March 2019 and the Primary event on Saturday 11th May 2019. Registration starts at 11 am. Everyone should assemble in the Main Hall at 12.00 noon for the opening ceremony which will commence at 12.15pm.

The Choral Competition will be held on Saturday 27th April at St. Athanasius Primary School, Carluke. Registration will begin at 11.30 am.

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

Australia Honours Camperdown Stalwart



Now Chairman of Camperdown's Robert Burns Scottish Festival organising committee, GP John Menzies, has been awarded the Order of Australia Medal Merit (OAM) for his service to Australia's south-west communities.

The Festival was inaugurated to celebrate the refurbishment of the Robert Burns Statue, the oldest still extant in the world. In June 2009, the statue had been attacked by vandals chipping the stone hat and breaking the legs of Burns' dog, Luath.

Following a dogged campaign by Gordon Ashley (right), a past member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly, the statue was restored and in January 2012, moved indoors to the Camperdown Civic Centre from its original location in the Botanic Gardens to safeguard it from further vandalism.



Several Presidents and Past Presidents of the Robert Burns World Federation have enjoyed the warm hospitality of John and his wife Carolyn during the Festival which has grown into a major event and takes place this year from 3rd to 7th July. A keen bagpiper, John took up the instrument in his 20s after finishing university and now performs in the Warrnambool and District Pipes and Drums band. He also sponsors the Rabbie Burns Plate, a 1000m sprint for 3-year-old maidens run at the Camperdown racecourse. The Federations sends warmest congratulations on a well-deserved award.

Falkirk High Pupils Rise to the Occasion



The Federation's SVP Brian Goldie and his wife Joyce attended the Falkirk High School Burns supper on 6th Feb. We were treated to an event which while run entirely by the Pupil Junior Management Team, comprising third year pupils was an excellent example of the expertise of the younger generation provided they are given the trust amid minimum supervision to organise their own event.

Cameron Broadley addressed the haggis with aplomb. Songs, recitations and highland dancing were the order of the evening as the programme followed the customary procedure of Toast to the Lasses and reply while I performed Tam O' Shanter. The

fantastic Immortal Memory toast was delivered by a group who described the various aspects and life experiences of the bard to the delight of the company. A great evening was had by all and was enjoyed by students, teachers and parents alike.

Dumfries Burns Club's 200th Anniversary Celebration



AT THE MAUSOLEUM.—The President of the Burns Club (Mr Grierson) receiving from Provost Macaulay the Town Council's floral tribute to be laid on the tomb. On the Provost's right are Sheriff Morton, K.C., and Miss Jean Armour Burns Brown, great-grand-daughter of the Poet; and on his left Mr Grierson, Sir J. Lorne MacLeod, Mr John M'Burnie (Secretary), Lord St. Vigens, Colonel J. Beaufin Irving, Mr Holbrook Jackson.

This is prior notice that Dumfries Burns Club, founded in 1820, will be celebrating its 200th Anniversary in January 2020.

It is proposed that the Anniversary Dinner will be held on 18 January 2020, the actual date of the inauguration of the club, and it is hoped that clubs around Scotland might like to join us at this historic event. Further details will be forthcoming when arrangements have been finalised.

Any initial queries for clarification can be directed to Dumfries Burns Club President, Mrs Jean Macmillan-Forster 01387 950711 or email jmf3939@gmail.com

Photo taken at the centenary event in 1920.

Allanton Jolly Beggars Burns Club Engages Young Talent

Allanton Jolly Beggars Burns Club have, yet again, invited school pupils to take leading parts in their annual Burns Supper. This year a pupil from Falkirk High School addressed the Haggis with due ceremony and the Toast to the Lasses and Reply performers were from Clyde Valley High School. One of the stars of the evening, from Glasgow Academy, gave a talented rendition of "Rights of Woman" to loud applause. He is in the centre of the picture between Provost Jean Jones of North Lanarkshire Council and President Murdo Morrison.



Dublin Dinner



Rory McIver - President of the Dublin - Scottish Society of St Andrew in Dun Laoghaire, welcomes Willie Gibson - President of the Prestwick Burns Club to deliver the Immortal Memory. In addition to Rory (from Stornoway) who chaired the evening, the Toast to the Lasses and Reply, were both given by Scots, Graham McLaren and Shona Ashmore. The Society was founded on St. Andrew's Day in 1831 "for the relief of indigent and distressed natives of Scotland in Dublin". For over a hundred years funds were dispersed for fares back to Scotland, for burials and in weekly payments to widows and other deserving families. By this stage assisted passages back to Scotland were becoming much less frequent and the main disbursement of funds was through "annuities" or "pensions" to elderly and needy Scots in Dublin. This, the original purpose of the Society, is still maintained and today they are paying monthly pensions and giving Christmas gifts to elderly people and making small donations to a number of charities.

Irvine Lasses Celebrate

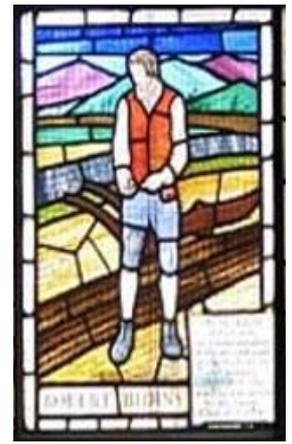
The Irvine Lasses Annual Dinner took place at the Riverside Lodge Hotel, Irvine on 2nd Feb. President Margaret Greenlees welcomed Past President of the RBWF Jane Brown who proposed the Immortal Memory. Local MP Dr Philippa Whitford Toasted the Laddies and the current President of the RBWF Bill Nolan responded. Willie Dick, President of New Cumnock Burns Club, Addressed the Haggis. A great night!

Also pictured on the back row are L to R: Hans Pieter, Lasses Vice President Rosemary Murdoch, pianist David Rocks, Derek Murdoch,



The Burns Club of London's Sesquicentennial

Crown Court Church in Covent Garden hosted a service of celebration of the sesquicentenary of the Burns Club of London at which the guest preacher was the Very Reverend John Chalmers, former Moderator of The Church of Scotland. Among the stained glass in Crown Court Church is the first church window commemorating Robert Burns. The window was given to the church by the Club from special subscriptions raised by its members to mark the bi-centenary of the Poet's birth "in gratitude to God for the finest inspirations of Robert Burns and with a deep sense of the Club's long association with the Church". For many years up to 2005 the club held their wreath laying on the Sunday afternoon the day after our Birthday Festival Dinner before taking part in the evening service. An earlier connection is that we believe that William Burns, younger brother of Robert, worshipped there while working as a Journeyman saddler in The Strand.



Burns Celebrated in Turkey



Fethiye is a port city, and district, on Turkey's southwestern Turquoise Coast. Local ex-pats Sine, Colin and Arif Rous, in conjunction with the Fethiye Rotary Club, organised a Burns Supper in aid Rotary's polio eradication project and raised almost £600 on the night.

The line-up from left to right: Deputy Mayor's wife, Deputy Mayor, Head of Council, Mrs Şıkman, Mustafa Şıkman (Chairman of Rotary and Chairman of the evening), Sine Rous and Colin Rous. Photograph by Norman Clark.

Spirit AeroSystems Charity Burns Supper

Past President of the RBWF Peter Hughes organised and chaired a charity Burns Supper at Ayr Race Course 22nd Feb on behalf of Spirit AeroSystems which raised £16,300 for Ayrshire Hospice. Two of the speakers were Eklavya Singh aged 11 and Liam Kearney aged 13 who performed Burns's poems *The Rights of Woman* and *Epistle to a Young Friend* respectively. At the end of the evening the American boss of Spirit AeroSystems bid during the auction and won a signed boxing glove from world champion Anthony Joshua having paid £850 for it He then presented it to 13 year-old Liam who was totally amazed by the generosity. The photo from left to right shows CEO Tom Gentile, Liam and myself at the presentation.



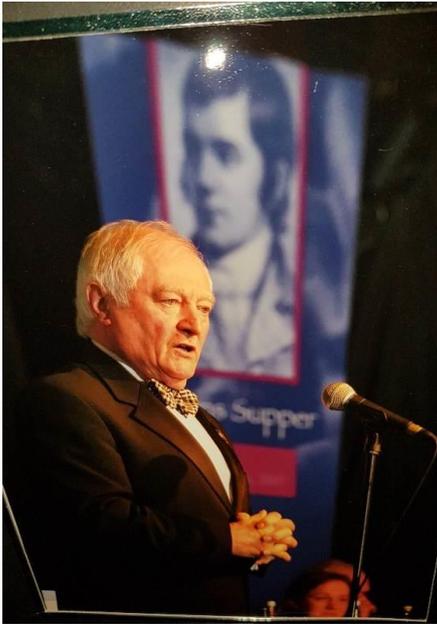
Burns Federation Conference 2019



The 2019 Burns Conference will be held on 6th to 8th Sep at the Hallmark Hotel, Glasgow, and promises to be a superb weekend of fellowship. The Sunday Service will be held in the magnificent Glasgow Cathedral.

Further information will be published on the RBWF website (<http://www.rbwf.org.uk/conference-2019/>). However, booking is now open and details can be found at: <http://www.rbwf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Conference-booking-form-2019.pdf>

Joe McGinty's Life Celebrated



Ayrshire Burnsian Joe McGinty sadly passed away in Ayrshire Hospice on February 7, 2019 with his family by his side.

Joe was born in Kilwinning in 1939 and raised in Largs, he was proud to be from "The Gem of the Clyde." Schooled at St Mary's, Largs and St Michaels, Irvine, on leaving school Joe served an apprenticeship as a Plasterer, he loved his work and was still plastering into his mid-seventies. Joe was a noted singer and it was at the Largs Amateur Operatic Society that Joe was to meet and marry Janette and celebrated their Golden Wedding in 2018.

Joe was twice President of Largs Cronies Burns Club and a Past President of The Ayrshire Association of Burns Clubs. It was through his membership of the Conference Committee of the RBWF that Joe was to receive the most satisfaction; he loved meeting the delegates from the worldwide Burns family at the annual conference. Highlights being the 2007 conference in Winnipeg and the 2016 conference in Peebles where Joe was made an honorary member of the Federation.

During Joe's illness he was touched by the care he was given by members of Largs Cronies in particular Raymond Connal, David Galt, Craig Anderson and Angus Middleton. The Funeral Mass was held in St Mary Star of the Sea, Largs, and the Chapel was filled to capacity. The service was conducted by Father Flynn and Monsignor Magee. A fitting eulogy was given by Angus Middleton and a very moving personal poem was read by daughter Clare. As Joe's coffin left the church to go for burial it did so to the voice of Ayrshire Burnsian Bobby McCallum singing Joe's favourite "A Man's A Man For A' That". A wonderful send off for one of the most popular Burnsians of his generation. Joe is survived by wife Janette, daughter Clare and granddaughters Hannah and Megan who were his pride and joy.

[We also remember Honourary Life Member, Mr James Boyd MBE, an RBWF Director from 2003 to 2005. Ed]

Dunedin Burns Club's Joint Venture

The Dunedin Burns Club joined with the University of Otago on 25 January 2019 to celebrate both the bard's birthday and the sesquicentenary of the University. Approximately 370 persons gathered in the Dunedin Town Hall for an evening of music dancing, poetry, good food and wine and eminent speakers. Professor Tony Ballantyne, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Humanities welcomed everyone

The Leckies Butchery haggis was addressed by Donna Young, previously a resident of Kilmarnock, with a translation into NZ English provided by Seán Brosnahan pictured, in the dress and manner of the John Clarke character Fred Dagg.

Greetings from the New Zealand Government were delivered the Minister of Health, the Hon Dr. David Clarke. This was followed by video greetings on a large screen from Nicola Sturgeon, MSP, First Minister of Scotland, and Frank Ross, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh. The Mayor of Dunedin, Dave Cull, then addressed the gathering, noting the close links between Dunedin and its sister city Edinburgh.



Professor Liam McIlvanney addressed the gathering on Robert Burns and the University of Otago and Dr. Dorothy Page proposed a toast to the lassies and commented on notable women who had attended the University. The Immortal Memory was proposed by Dr. Royden Somerville, QC, the Chancellor of the University and President of the Dunedin Burns Club. Dr. Somerville is a descendent of the Rev Dr. Thomas Burns, the spiritual leader of the Otago settlement and the first Chancellor of the University, son of Gilbert and nephew of Robert Burns. He spoke of the importance given to education by the Free Church of Scotland settlers who arrived in 1848.



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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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.

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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.

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