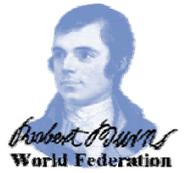




The Robert Burns World Federation Newsletter



Issue 7 January 2014

Happy New Year. I find it incredibly hard to believe that we are starting our second year of newsletters. The response to the new format has been very positive and I am encouraged by your kind comments and suggestions. Most of all I am very grateful for all the copy you have sent in which makes the task so much easier. Hopefully the March edition will be brimming with news of Burns Suppers from far and wide celebrating our national poet. Although Robert Burns is not the focal point of the 2014 Year of Homecoming he will still feature prominently because he is so deeply woven into the fabric of the nation that he will inevitably emerge somewhere. For example, what better finale could there be for the Commonwealth Games than a rousing rendition of Auld Lang Syne with all the nations coming together for a' that. *Editor*

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There Was a Lad

Our monarch's hindmost year but ane
Was five-and-twenty days begun,
'Twas then a blast o' Janwar' win',
Blew hansel in on Robin.

Chorus. - Robin was a rovin' boy,
Rantin', rovin', rantin', rovin',
Robin was a rovin' boy,
Rantin', rovin', Robin!

He'll hae misfortunes great an' sma',
But aye a heart aboon them a'
He'll be a credit till us a'
We'll a' be proud o' Robin!

by Robert Burns

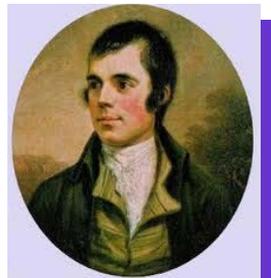
A Jacobite Adventure with Burns and Friends



Join us in Alloway Church on Sunday 26th January 2014 from 2.00pm till 3.30pm as we follow Bonnie Prince Charlie's journey through Scotland in 1745/46. The story of the Prince's 14 months in this country will be told in songs, poems and prose from the works of Burns and a number of other famous Scottish literary figures. There will also be a few unexpectedly modern twists to the tale. All the entertainment will be provided by Luath, a local folk group, and members of Alloway Burns Club.

Admission is free and a warm welcome to all is guaranteed.

Alloway Burns Club



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Burns and Santa

ADVERTISEMENTS.

HUGH LAUDER & CO.,
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ARE now showing in their Spacious Premises one of the Largest Stocks in the West of Scotland. Buying all their Goods direct from the Manufacturing Districts for Cash, they are enabled to offer to the Public everything at the lowest possible prices.

None but the most reliable Goods kept in Stock.

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DEPARTMENTS.
CARPETS, RUGS, LINOLEUMS, BED-STEADS, CURTAINS, NAPERY, BLANKETS, ETC. MILLINERY, MANTLES, DRESSES, TRIMMINGS, HOSIERY, GLOVES, RIBBONS, ETC.

"The Emporium" is in its present perfected condition the largest and most beautifully appointed Of any Scottish provincial Drapery Warehouse."—*Mercantile Age*, March 14, 1890.



GENTLEMEN'S DEPARTMENT.

Large Stock of NEW TWEEDS, COATINGS, and TROUSERS always on hand. Showroom brilliantly lighted, and under Superior Management.

GOOD FIT GUARANTEED.

GENT'S TWEED SUITS, 45/- to 65/-; TROUSERS, 12/6 to 21/-.

BOYS' and YOUTHS' Ready-Made Suits all sizes.

TRAVELLING RUGS, BAGS, UMBRELLAS, WATER-PROOFS, SHIRTS, SCARFS, &c.



MOURNING ORDERS PUNCTUALLY ATTENDED TO AT
HUGH LAUDER & Co.'s. KILMARNOCK.

Over the years Robert Burns has generously given his name and image to what seems like almost every product and business from Ayrshire. In doing so, he has of course encountered Santa. This advert from the first ever *Burns Chronicle* and *Club Directory* in 1892 features Santa conversing with young Robert, enquiring "Hey ye been in, Rabbie?"

Lauder's Emporium – "the largest and most beautifully appointed of any Scottish provincial Drapery Warehouse." The Emporium was at 51 King Street, but sadly is long gone from Kilmarnock.

This article was sent in by Ross McGregor of the Burns Monument Centre Kilmarnock who goes on to comment:

"The Burns Chronicle lives on, however, and is still published by the Robert Burns World Federation. The *Chronicle* has recently returned to its original format, containing a fantastic range of articles and research from Burns enthusiasts across the world."

Comment on the New-Style Annual Burns Chronicle

Bill Dawson, the Editor of the Burns Chronicle, is canvassing opinion on the content and style of the Chronicle following the return to once a year publication.

Readers are invited to comment on all aspects of the Chronicle, for example what is liked and disliked, what material is missed and what should be increased, and what Federation and Club information is wanted in your annual volume. For ease of reference, please quote from the 2014 edition for preferences and remarks of likes and dislikes and give examples from earlier quarterly editions of items that are missed.

A further enquiry into the breadth of readership is also sought, how widely read is the Chronicle in the reader's circle, or within Clubs; is the volume read and passed around or is it hoarded by the Secretary or other official. Does the Club hold the Chronicle along with other back issues for future reference within the Club or in another accessible collection?

Please email your opinion and comments on anything about the 2014 Chronicle to editor@rbwf.org.uk or send in a letter to; Editor, Robert Burns World Federation, Dower House, Dean Castle Country Park, Kilmarnock KA3 1XB.

Just in case anyone else would like to do the same, Gordon Jamieson has sent details of the bookbinder who bound his smaller chronicles (Nov 1991 – Spring 2013) into hardback editions of six issues at a time. They are very attractive blue hardback covers with gold lettering on the spine. If interested please contact Fiona Anderson D A (Glas) Bookbinder, Rhugarbh Church, Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll. PA37 1SE.

Mary, Queen of Scots Statue Appeal

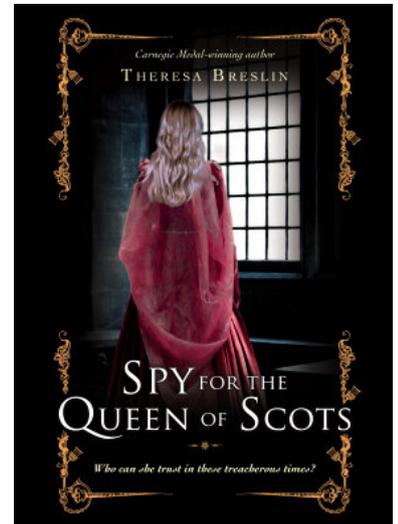


In association with Historic Scotland, the Marie Stuart Society is raising funds to erect a statue of Mary, Queen of Scots at her birthplace of Linlithgow Palace

Historic Scotland has donated a site near the Palace and has undertaken to pay for the foundations and the statue's future upkeep and maintenance.

A few years ago the Society commissioned a maquette (left) for the statue by the sculptress Anne Davidson, who has since sadly died. Scottish sculptor David Annand has agreed to undertake the scaling up of the design and the statue will be forged in Powderhall Bronze Foundry.

The Society now needs to raise sufficient funds to finance the project which has been estimated at £80,000 and welcomes contributions to the cost of erecting the statue of this iconic Scottish figure.



One of the keen supporters of the appeal is the popular multi award-winning author Theresa Breslin who has written a historical novel centered round a beautiful young aristocrat Ginette, known as Jenny, who is the closest friend and confidant of Mary, the young Queen of Scots. When she hears a whispered plot against Mary, she sets out to become a spy to keep her dear friend safe, little realising how much danger she will soon find herself encountering.

Another staunch supporter of the project is Lady Antonia Fraser who wrote her ground-breaking biography *Mary Queen of Scots* in 1969. This book deservedly broke all known records for sales of a female historical subject by a female author. It will come as no surprise that a romantic poet like Burns was affected by the story of this tragic figure in Scotland's history. He made several copies of *Lament of Mary Queen of Scots*; among those receiving manuscripts were Mrs Dunlop and Clarinda to whom he added the note, "Misfortune seems to take a peculiar pleasure in darting her arrows against 'Honest Men and bony (sic) Lasses'"

Robert Burns Guild of Performers Member Organises Benefit Concert for the Philippines



Having a number of friends affected by the Typhoon disaster in the Philippines, Alison McNeill (left, on fiddle) from Reely Jiggered set about organising 'MUSIC for the PHILIPPINES.' Within 48 hours Alison had managed to get a whole host of top Inverclyde talent on the bill including folk band The Wherries, singer Megan Murray, Inverclyde Voices conducted by Palma Allan MBE and Notre Dame School Choir conducted by Gerard Gordon and accompanied by Gemma McLean. With Radio presenter Willie Stewart compering, it wasn't long before Inverclyde Radio came onboard agreeing to record and broadcast the concert from Lyle Kirk in Greenock. After some manic publicity, 'MUSIC for the PHILIPPINES' Concert on Saturday 23rd of November was a sell out and raised a phenomenal £2309. This was a major achievement for Alison to not only organise but also to arrange many of the performances all within 10 days. The full story of the event can be seen on the website: www.reelyjiggered.co.uk

Dumfries Big Burns Supper – 24th to 26th January 2014



The Big Burns Supper is an annual contemporary arts festival held in Dumfries. Featuring events and performances in music, theatre, dance, film and visual arts as well as interactive and children's events, the festival has been dubbed "The World's Biggest Burns Night Celebration".

This year's event will feature a Homecoming Carnival with over 2,000 people taking part in the most colourful creative event Dumfries has ever seen. It will feature over 30 different community groups, music from the Manchester School of Samba and as much tartan as you can shake a stick at.

There will be comedy and cabaret as Fred Macaulay brings his one man stand -up show for one night only. His next tour won't be till 2015, so this is a rare opportunity to see him at the top of his game.

A fantastic array of musical talent will be on display. Cuban singer Concha Buika, seen recently on the Jools Holland show, will perform her subtle, Cuban-flamenco mix of songs and slinky, rhythmic vocals. Under the name Mull Historical Society, Colin MacIntyre will present a selection of the best material from his six albums. The band Big Country will be there as will folk singer Dick Gaughan, the only performer to hold the dual honours of a Lifetime Achievement award by BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards and induction into the Scots Traditional Music Hall of Fame.



Throughout the weekend the ever popular mini 10-minute Burns Suppers will be served at the Globe Inn.

All the information about the events and ticket booking can be found at www.bigburnssupper.com

LARGS CRONIES' PRESIDENT'S HALLOWEEN DINNER

On Thursday 24th October 2013, Jane Brown, President of the Robert Burns World Federation, was guest of honour at Largs Cronies' annual President's Halloween Dinner held at the Village Inn, Fairlie.

From left: Brian Jackson (Secretary of Largs Cronies), Jean Jackson, Robert Honeyman (Vice President of Largs Cronies), Jane Brown (Robert Burns World Federation President), Ronnie Munton (President of Largs Cronies), Rev Stephen Smith, Hugh McGilp.



Jane spoke of her travels to Burns Clubs throughout the UK, Canada and the USA and then gave a very interesting account of her role as manageress of the Globe Inn in Dumfries. She finished her speech by dressing up as Jane Armour and reciting a specially written poem expressing Jean's appraisal of her husband about whom she said "Oor Rabbie should have had two wives."

Musical entertainment was provided by expert violinist, Hugh McGilp. Cronies' President, Ronnie Munton, said that monies raised from the raffle at the dinner would be used to fund the club's very successful annual Burns' Schools' Competition in local primary schools. Vice President, Robert Honeyman, thanked everyone who had contributed to a great night and was pleased that the date of the dinner had been brought forward a week so that World President Jane could attend.

On 23rd January 2014, Largs Cronies will be holding their Silver Jubilee Annual Dinner at the Willowbank Hotel, Largs, with Robert Burns World Federation Senior Vice President, Jim Thomson, proposing the Immortal Memory.

[Sent in by Brian Jackson]

Professor Kenneth Simpson

Kenneth Simpson, who has died aged 70, was a distinguished scholar, an authority on 18th century Scottish literature and above all Robert Burns. Born in Kilwinning, he was educated at Ardrossan Academy. He graduated from the University of Glasgow in 1965. The photo shows Ken (left) with G Ross Roy (centre) and Frank Shaw, the Burns Club of Atlanta, and his wife Susan.



In 1990 he became director of Strathclyde University's annual Burns International Conference, a role he continued to fulfil until 2004, when the event moved to the Mitchell Library, with Professor Simpson as co-director. He succeeded in establishing the conference as one of Scotland's major cultural landmarks with prestige sufficient to attract, for instance, Prof Tom Sutherland, a Beirut hostage for six years whose captivity was made bearable by reciting Burns.

[I attended that conference and what a spell-binding talk it was. Ed]

Although Prof Simpson retired from Strathclyde University in 2003, in 2008 he became the first incumbent of the post of Honorary Professor in Burns Studies at Glasgow University - a post he held until 2011. This move induced a fresh bout of academic endeavour resulting in a stream of papers on Burns, James Macpherson and Robert Louis Stevenson; he also co-edited (with Patrick Scott) a book of essays in honour of his brother-in-arms in Burns studies, the late G Ross Roy of the University of South Carolina and, with Professor Gerry Carruthers, an online edition of the letters of James Currie, Burns' first editor.

Prof Simpson had a wide circle of colleagues and friends and many more admirers among the general public and particularly the Burns fraternity than is usual amongst academics. He will be missed by one and all.

[Based on obituary by Christopher A Whatley]

Glasgow University Conference 2014

The annual conferences first started by Professor Ken Simpson still run although they are now organised by the University of Glasgow's Centre for Robert Burns Studies. The next, due to be held in the Mitchell Library, Glasgow on 25th January 2014, is being dedicated to his memory. All the details of the day's programme, including how to book, can be found at:

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/critical/research/researchcentresandnetworks/robertburnsstudies>

The Federation's 200 Club

The 200 Club is a fun way of supporting The Robert Burns World Federation. By purchasing a share in the 200 Club you are automatically entered into the monthly draws. 200 Club fees are collected in July & August and the draws are held monthly from September – June.

The total income is shared 50/50 between RBWF and Prize Money paid out.

Each share costs £15 and, provided all 200 shares are taken up, the prize fund is as follows:

You can either purchase a 200 Club share via our web shop or by contacting the office 01563 572469.

Date	Prize	Amount	Share No	Winner
	Quarterly Prize			
Sep-13	1st prize	150.75	201	Isa Hanley
	2nd prize	60.30	81	Ayrshire Association
	3rd prize	30.15	137	Peter Hughes
Oct-13	1st prize	60.30	55	George Letham
	2nd prize	30.15	22	Robert Stewart
Nov-13	1st prize	60.30	180	Roberta Copland
	2nd prize	30.15	135	Bryan Keenan

The Robert Burns Association of North America (RBANA) Conference 2014



The RBANA Conference is due to be held in the Marriott Courtyard Hotel, Columbia South Carolina on 25th - 26th April 2014. The weather in April & May in South Carolina is ideal for vacationing. It is beautifully mild, and the blossom there is breathtaking.

One of the highlights of the conference will be a special exhibition of Burns' works and memorabilia in the Ernest Hollings Library in the University of South Carolina which houses the G Ross Roy (right) Collection of Scottish Literature, the largest outside Great Britain.



As well as the attractions in Columbia itself, there is the Burns Club in nearby Atlanta with its full-size replica Burns Cottage where a warm welcome will await.

The registration fee for the conference is \$180 (US) per person and the final date for registration is 1 April 2014. Registration forms will be available soon on the RBANA website at www.rbana.com

Room rates are \$103 (US) plus taxes for single or double occupancy. Rooms can be booked at www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/caecd-courtyard-columbia-downtown-at-usc/ or by telephone on 1-800-363-3255. Please quote 'Robert Burns Association.' The preferential rate applies the day before and after the conference. If you have any queries or need additional information about the conference please contact Mac Irvin at mirvin@ibhslaw.com or macirvine@gmail.com

Friends of Ellisland Farm Activities



On Saturday 23rd November The Friends of Ellisland held their annual St. Andrew's dinner at Ellisland Farm. The Chairman Ronnie Cairns introduced William Crawford who proposed the toast to St. Andrew and Scotland. The treasurer Betty Haining said grace and after the meal we were entertained by Lee McQueen on accordion, Les Byers curator of Ellisland who gave a recitation, Andrew Twigg who sang and Avril Kerr who recited some of her own poems. Russell Williamson delivered the vote of thanks. At the top table were Arthur Milton, Dr Maureen Milton, Ellisland's secretary, William Crawford, Chairman Ronnie Cairns and Halina Cairns.

The fine summer weather helped the Friends of Ellisland catch up on some outstanding chores. Of ever-increasing importance is the wide collection of farm implements from a bygone age and the enthusiastic Wednesday Gang of volunteers excelled as vintage machinery preservationists as they battled to keep them serviceable. The various displays help explain Burns' life as a farmer in a genuine Scottish farm steading. Farm steadings are fast disappearing and Ellisland deserves to be preserved as part of the history of Scotland's farms. The exhibits at Ellisland are much enjoyed by visitors and many compliments are received on the guided tours conducted by the property curator Les Byers.

The sheer enthusiasm of the Members of the Friends of Ellisland is as strong as it was when they were founded. If you have yet to visit Ellisland you are missing a treat.

Come and visit, bring your friends and family and afterwards tell everyone you meet to come as well.



Halton Peel Burns Club – Presentations Offer

Over these past years, under the leadership of Club Presidents Chrys Ballantyne and Alan McKenzie, the Halton Peel Burns Club in Oakville, Ontario, has been building a catalogue of multimedia presentations on a wide range of topics related to Robert Burns and things Scottish.

This has grown into quite a significant body of work and one that the executive committee and members of the Club would like to offer and share with other Burns Clubs and interested Burnsians around the world.



Most of the presentations are in PowerPoint format and many have a script to accompany them. However, for those unaccustomed to PowerPoint, the presentations can also be sent in PDF format. The only disadvantage of PDF is that the presentation slides lose their animation features but other than that the content is the same.

These presentations took many hours to produce and, in addition, have involved hundreds of research hours to compile the stories and information related to each topic. Some of this work is of course a process of compiling information that is already in the public domain or on the internet but other information has been put together by the members through their years of study, personal research and interest in different aspects of Burns life and works.

From Dr. David Murray we have a number of presentations related to Burns and the Medical profession, Burns and Germany, Burns and Mrs. Dunlop. Ron Ballantyne has produced presentations on Burns Tours and Burns' Monuments. Alan McKenzie took on Burns and the French Revolution, Bob Ritchie produced several presentations on a wide range of subject matter and Ronnie O'Byrne produced an eclectic choice from Burns and Ireland to Burns and the Scots Musical Museum to Burns and Abraham Lincoln. Other club members have added additional presentations.

As well as putting together these topic presentations the members of Halton Peel have produced short background presentations and analysis on a number of Burns poetry and musical pieces. For additional information on accessing this information please contact Ronnie O'Byrne who is co-ordinating this activity on behalf on the Halton Peel Burns Club. Ronnie can be contacted at canadiandirector@rbwf.org.uk

Cultural Champion



Federation President, Jane Brown, has been voted Dumfries & Galloway Life People of the Year 2013 Cultural Champion. As manager of Burns' favourite 'howff,' The Globe Inn in Dumfries, Jane is well known around the town and surrounding area. She hosts Burns Suppers at the Globe and regularly gives talks about, and tours of, this famous 400-year old hostelry. As part of the Big Burns Supper event last year she provided two-minute mini Burns Suppers after which The Globe was voted as the most popular venue. As one of the nominators commented, "Nothing is ever too much trouble for Jane where Burns and the people of Dumfries and Galloway are concerned."

The award also recognised Jane as being only the sixth woman to hold the prestigious title of President of the Robert Burns World Federation. Jane joined the Dumfries Ladies Burns Club No 1 eighteen years ago and as the citation mentioned "she has worked tirelessly to raise awareness of Burns' life and work, particularly in the past few years in her role as President of the Southern Scottish Counties Burns Association."

Falkirk Burns Club Mourns Loss of Jim Watt

It is with deep sadness that we report the death of Jim Watt. Jim was the immediate Past President of Falkirk Burns Club. Jim, a young man by comparison at the age of sixty, passed away after returning from a business trip to London. It appears that Jim died of a massive heart attack. It is hard to believe that a personality such as he was, will be forever missing from the local Burns scene and beyond, where he was an able speaker and performer, who would try to accommodate even the more difficult requests for his services throughout the Burns season. Charity events, local political party events and evenings run by the district's Masonic community were his forte. Many organisations have benefited from his participation and his passing will be a shock to all concerned. As his successor, I am sure that the members like me will mourn his death while at the same time celebrating his life.



Our thoughts and condolences are with his family. Respectfully Brian Goldie, President, Falkirk Burns Club.

Burns and Broadcasting.

When dealing with printed or broadcast media great care has to be exercised in ensuring that information is up to date and accurate and the Federation tries always to do that.



An Irish TV Company, Dearcan Media, arrived earlier in 2013 and, with the considerable help of members of the Federation, they compiled an hour long programme based on the life and works of Burns. Filming took place at Ellisland Farm and other locations and has resulted in an hour long broadcast which will be on an Irish TV Channel TG4 on January 25th at 9.20 pm and should be available for viewing on iplayer. The broadcast is in Irish Gaelic and inputs from Murdo Morrison in Scottish Gaelic have English sub titles.

More recently a journalist from the Netherlands was given assistance in compiling an article about Robert Burns and this can be viewed on the web. <http://www.cultureforfriends.eu/article/ROBERT-BURNS>

Two well known Burns supporters, who have both served a term of Office as Presidents of the Robert Burns Federation, will be broadcasting on TV. George and Enez Anderson were both awarded the distinction of becoming Honorary Presidents in recognition of years of dedicated service to the Federation. They were filmed by Sky News in Royal Exchange Square and Buchanan Street reading from "Ae Fond Kiss" and this will be broadcast on the Regional Channel of Sky News on the 23rd January 2014.

It appears every year that the Media remembers Robert Burns but mostly only in the month of January. Some journalists seem to thrive on raising a 'stushie' just to grab attention. A favourite "ploy" is to raise an issue with someone who perhaps has nothing to do with the Federation. A typical one is to stir up trouble based on the fact that there are Burns Clubs who do not have ladies in their membership or at their Burns Suppers. This is a hardy annual question and it is framed with the deliberate intent of sparking a reaction from the Federation. The "answer" from the Federation is then fed back to the other party involved and to the delight of a particular type of journalist the flames are fanned and a full scale controversy ensues.

There are also TV companies who want to film a Burns Supper for broadcasting but the film crew have got to understand that this is not their evening and reaching an amicable understanding of the conditions for filming is essential. If that understanding is not put in place the TV crew will assume that they have carte blanche to do exactly what they want to do; your Burns Supper becomes theirs. Having an evening spoiled and dominated for a few minutes on some TV station's programme is usually a high price to pay for little return.

The Bard and Gaelic

The Gaelic language is now mostly situated in the North West of Scotland but at one stage a form of Gaelic was spoken extensively in the South West. The Bard himself did not speak Gaelic but he certainly heard it spoken on his tours of the Highlands and would also hear it from cattle drovers at markets. His favourite dog was called Luath – which is appropriate as it means “fast” and Burns also used Gaelic tunes on a number of his compositions. Although most of these tunes have died out in the Gaelic world they still continue in the world of Burns. If he had not borrowed them they would have been lost forever.

The place names of Dumfries and Galloway are often of Gaelic origin and there is a group in the area which is learning the language. On the 8th of February the group are holding their second Gaelic Burns supper which is in the Crocketford Community Centre.

The organiser is Andrew Wilson who can be contacted at 4 Bank Street, Wigtown, Newton Stewart DG 8 9HP, by telephone 01988 402196 or e mail beltie@me.com.

On the 25th January BBC is going to broadcast for the first time a Burns Supper in Gaelic on Radio. Proposing the Immortal Memory will be Murdo Morrison from the Robert Burns World Federation, Broadcaster Bill Innes will propose the Toast to the Lasses and the reply will be from Anne Lorne Gillies a well known singer, author and broadcaster.

Fauldhouse & Crofthead Burns Club Bagpipe Banner Presentation



On Friday 11th October 2013 at the monthly meeting of the club, Vice-President John Campbell presented President Gordon Thomson with the club's very own Bagpipe Banner. The Federation was represented on the night by SVP James Thomson and JVP Peter Hughes.

The banner displays the full Armorial Crest of Robert Burns, along with the club's name and Federation Number which are embroidered on both sides.

On checking with the Federation, no historical record can be found of any Bagpipe Banner having existed before and it is believed to be the first of its kind.

An 'Evening with Burns' at Broughton House



The Friends of Broughton House hosted another popular 'Evening with Burns' event on Thursday 9th January 2014. As a schoolboy in St Petersburg, Mikhail Pavlov won a Burns essay competition in 2005. His prize was a visit to Scotland during which he also demonstrated his talent as a singer, so much so that he was sponsored to attend the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Having graduated in 2010 he is now on a scholarship to continue his studies on the Masters programme. He was joined by two fellow students at the Conservatoire: the superb Lyric Soprano Mary McCabe from Northern Ireland, and outstanding concert pianist Pierre Audiger



for an evening of song and recitals ranging from Burns to Bernstein.

Also performing was Kirkcudbright's own highly talented young violinist Iona Bonaventura who delighted the audience with a medley of Scots tunes.

***As Others See Us* – the Story of Robert Burns**

Start celebrating Burns' Night early with the Sonic Boom Theatre Company at The Ayr Gaiety on Friday 24th January 2014. Their show *As Others See Us* tells the story of the life and loves of Robert Burns through the eyes of his long suffering wife, Jean Armour. Featuring some of his best works, hear about the paramours behind the poems from the one woman who remained constant as she tells the life of Scotland's favourite son; a life of scandal, heartache and above all else, enduring love. Starring Kenny Boyle as Robert Burns and Clare Sheppard as Jean Armour.

Tickets are £14/£13 concession and can be booked online (£2 booking fee per transaction). Full information and booking is available at <http://ayrgaiety.co.uk/as-others-see-us-the-story-of-robert-burns/>



Robert Burns and Kilmarnock's Literary Heritage



Silverwood Primary School's P7 class will soon be creating a display entitled 'Robert Burns and Kilmarnock's Literary Heritage' featuring highlights from the Kilmarnock Monument Museum's collections relating to Burns, Kilmarnock printers and booksellers, and some lesser known poets and writers from the town.

The class is delving into rarely seen periodicals, poetry pamphlets, books, photographs and advertisements. They will work in 3 teams: Curator Team, Collections Team, and Display Team. The display will be complete in the week beginning 13 January 2014 – when wall display units will be filled with colourful and informative images from Kilmarnock's literary past.

The display is open Tuesdays to Saturdays. With Silverwood P7's help, the project will hopefully inform people about Kilmarnock's important literary heritage and the rich collections it has produced.

See more at: <http://bmc.burnsmonumentcentre.co.uk/robert-burns-and-kilmarnocks-literary-heritage>

Alloway Sessions 2014 - Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th January 1pm – 5pm.



Two afternoons of musical entertainment at Burns Cottage, the birthplace of Burns. A selection of traditional bands and performers will take to the stage to perform the music of Burns and some Scottish favourites.

There are still spaces available for more performers – email scochrane@nts.org.uk

Local lad David Douglas is headlining - www.daviddouglasmusic.co.uk

£10 per session [Book Online](#)

Farewell Gift for Consul General

On the 20th of December 2013 Jim Shields, President of the Edinburgh and District Burns Association (EDBCA), and Gordon Jamieson, Secretary of the EDBCA presented Sergey Krutikov the Consul General in Edinburgh with a token in recognition of his great kindness and support of the EDBCA and the St Petersburg Forum. A book on the Burns Federation and a Burns Badge were also presented to celebrate his tenure of office in Scotland before returning home in January 2014.



Service at St Giles Cathedral



On 1st December 2013 a delegation of Federation members was led in procession by President Jane Brown to take part in the Festival of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Patron of Scotland at St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh. The Knights of the Order of the Thistle have it in their Charter to worship in St Giles on St Andrews Day, and for the past 60 years or so have invited to their worship representatives of the armed forces and police, the universities, various professional bodies, Judges and advocates etc, The Lord Provost and City of Edinburgh Council, The Royal Academy, The Grand Lodge of Scotland, and several cultural bodies, including the Robert Burns World Federation.

This invitation recognised the enthusiastic support given by people such as the late Tom McIlwraith, RBWF Past President, regarding the installation of the large beautiful Burns stained glass window.



The Year of the Haggis Launched in Scottish Parliament



The "First Haggis of the Season" caught that morning on the slopes of Clachnabrochan was donated by Joe Findlay, Scottish Haggis Champion 2013, from Portobello

Attending the ceremony were-
Back row left to right... Dr Alasdair Allan MSP, who addressed the Haggis in both Gaelic and Scots, Ian Faulds of Kilmarnock who is the President of the Scottish Federation of Meat Traders Association, Willie Coffey MSP of Kilmarnock, Murdo Morrison Robert Burns

World Federation, Margaret Mitchell MSP Lanarkshire
Seated Joe Findlay, Lewis Macdonald MSP Aberdeen, Ron Gibson MSP Chair of Parliamentary Burns Group.

Burns Monument Appeal

I'd like to flag up for you a wonderful concert, a Burns Celebration, being planned by the friends of Robert Burns Birthplace Museum (RBBM) for 22nd February 2014. It will be performed by one of the premier choirs in Scotland, the Glasgow Phoenix Choir, who will present a programme of Burns and other Scottish songs, in Alloway Parish Church. The event has been facilitated by one of our guide volunteers, Billy Hillan, who is a member of the choir and of course we are very grateful to the church for allowing us to use the building. This a very ambitious project to be run by volunteers and we aim to raise £2000 to go towards the repair and renovation of Burns Monument".



Tickets, priced £10 each, may be obtained either online or directly from the RBBM from the start of the New Year.
[Submitted by Margaret & John Skilling]

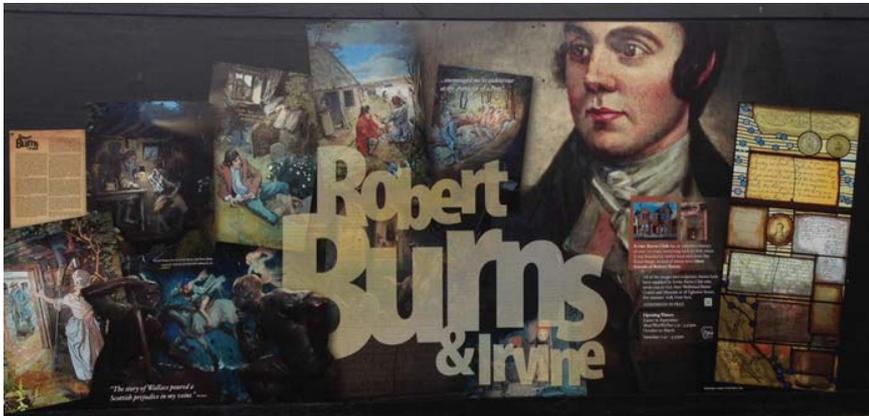
North Ayrshire Welcomes The Robert Burns World Federation Conference

The North Ayrshire town of Irvine will play host to a prestigious event celebrating the life of Robert Burns this year. The Robert Burns World Federation Conference on 12-14th September 2014 will provide a great opportunity to highlight the key role Irvine played in the development of Burns the poet.

Despite Burns' spending just a single year in Irvine, there is little dispute that the town and the people he met there made a major impact on the young Burns. His friendship with Sea Captain Richard Brown was of particular importance to his growth as a writer and poet. The Captain's tales of the open sea, exciting voyages and a world with broad horizons were an inspiration to the fledgling writer. All the while, Captain Brown would cajole and encourage Burns to focus on his writing and poetry. The rest as they say is history.

North Ayrshire Council is working with Irvine Burns Club – the oldest continuous Burns Club in the world – to organise an exciting programme of events to coincide with the Conference. The programme will be supported by Eglinton Burns Club and Irvine Lasses Burns Club.

The event was last held in Irvine in 1981 to mark the 200th anniversary of Burns' arrival in the town and hundreds of Burns enthusiasts from around the world are expected to attend the 3-day 2014 conference.



Councillor Alan Hill, Cabinet Member for Community and Culture, said: "We are extremely excited to host such a prestigious event. Despite being considered the catalyst for Burns' creative development, his connection to Irvine is often overlooked. Many people are unaware of the huge impact his time in Irvine had on Burns – to the extent that many claim he would not have become such an iconic figure had he not set foot in the town."

North Ayrshire Council has already started to bring together a fantastic array of Burns-related events to coincide with the Conference. These will range from exhibitions of Burns-themed artwork from local and international artists to musical events and live performances of some of his works. Bringing the Bard into schools provides an excellent opportunity to build on the work already taking place and to broaden Burns' appeal to the next generation by teaching youngsters about the poet, his life and work.



Federation's Red Rose Ball

Come and join us for a wonderful evening of music and merriment at the Federation's inaugural Red Rose Ball which will be held in The Park Hotel, Kilmarnock on Friday 14th February 2014, 7:00pm for 7:30pm.

Tickets £59 per person, available from RBWF office 01563 572469 or via the RBWF online web-shop at www.rbwf.org.uk

For those wishing to stay overnight - guest accommodation is available at The Park Hotel;

- £70 B&B per single occupancy room or £80 B&B per double occupancy room
- Guests should contact The Park Hotel directly and quote 'RBWF Red Rose Ball.'

