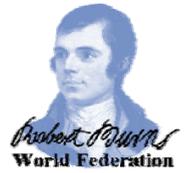




# The Robert Burns World Federation Newsletter



Issue 3 May 2013

With the Burns Supper season behind us this issue of the newsletter gives prominence to the Burns-related activities in schools. Probably the most important contribution the Federation makes to Scottish culture is the promotion of competitions among the younger generation which stimulate an early interest not only in the works of Robert Burns but in a wide range of Scottish literature, music and art. Past President Anne Gaw has submitted a most interesting article on the background to the formation of the annual Schools Festivals which showcase the very best of young talent and provide the clearest possible evidence that the legacy of our National Bard is in safe hands for the future. It also reflects great credit on parents and teachers who willingly put in immense time and effort honing skills and encouraging participation. *Editor*

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## Now Spring Has Clad

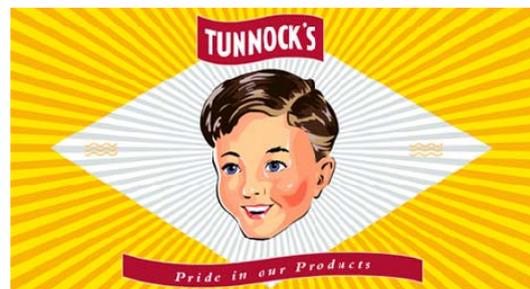
The trout within yon wimpling burn  
Glides swift, a silver dart,  
And, safe beneath the shady thorn,  
Defies the angler's art:  
My life was ance that careless stream,  
That wanton trout was I,  
But Love wi' unrelenting beam  
Has scorch'd my fountain dry.

by Robert Burns Tune: Unknown

## Schools Festivals



Proud winner of the title *Junior Burnsian* is talented fiddler Hannah Wyness representing the Scottish Borders. Presenting the award was Mr Bill Shanks representing the renowned Uddingston-based company Tunnocks which provide vital sponsorship for the schools competitions.



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## Schools Festivals (cont'd)

Promoting an interest in the life and works of Robert Burns throughout schools has long been one of the main aims of the Burns Federation (as it was first known). In 1911 the Federation decided "To encourage and arrange school competitions in order to stimulate the teaching of Scottish history and literature." This took the form of running in-school competitions for which the Federation issued certificates to the winners and this continues still, although, with an increased number of competitions the Federation now sends out thousands of certificates annually. (Many celebrities have publicly proclaimed their pride in winning one of these in their youth!)

It was much later that we had the start of the Festivals for Primary and Secondary Schools and that came about with a generous donation in memory of a Past President of The Burns Federation. Matthew McLaughlan was President of the Federation in 1971/1972 and, unfortunately, died around 1977. Later his wife sent a substantial donation to the Federation in his memory with the special request that this should be used for "the work of the Schools committee." Mr James Glass was Schools Convenor at that time and after discussion at Committee it was decided to start the Festivals and to purchase a Trophy in the name of Mr McLaughlan for competition. A small sub committee was formed with the late Peggy Thomson in charge and soon our Festivals were on their way. These proved very popular and Mrs McLaughlan travelled up from Yorkshire most years accompanied by her daughter Jean who, after her mother's death continued to attend with her husband, keeping up the family interest which continues to the present day.

The Festivals have grown over the years and we now have sections for Singing, Recitation, Instrumental Music and Bag piping. Competitors cover an age range from Primary 4/5- 6/7, Secondary 1/2, 3/4, 5/6. These Festivals really prove that Scotland's Got Talent.

Past President Anne Gaw



Overall Primary Winning Team  
Renfrew & Inverclyde



Young Burnsian Annie Lennox from Grampian  
with SVP Jane Brown, CEO Alison Tait and  
JVP Jim Thomson



Overall Secondary Winning Team  
Dumfries & Galloway

The Secondary and Primary National Festivals were held in Dunfermline High School on Saturday 20 April and Saturday 27 April respectively, both very successful days, at a wonderful venue. Headteacher Brian Blanchflower, his staff, and his pupils could not have been more helpful, welcoming and supportive. The performances at both events were of an incredibly high standard and we were delighted to have winners of top awards from areas – Renfrew and Inverclyde and Scottish Borders - which had never previously won the top honours. The Young and Junior Burnsians go to Westsound Burns Supper in Glasgow in January 2014. See website [www.rbwf.org.uk](http://www.rbwf.org.uk) for all the results.

## Choral Competition

Karen McPhail organized another highly successful Choral Competition at Armadale Academy, near Bathgate, on 7<sup>th</sup> May with worthy winners being the choir from Bankton Primary School, Livingston.



Winning Choir: Bankton Primary School with Head Teacher Mrs Marlyn Taylor on left.

## Overseas Schools

As well as the Schools Festivals in Scotland, Burns-related schools competitions are held in several overseas countries. The theme for the annual St Petersburg Forum schools' essay competition was set at the June meeting of the RBWF Schools Committee as 'Man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn' from Burns' poem, *Man was Made to Mourn*. There were 27 entries forwarded for adjudication and, from the ten short listed, the winner was Michael Golovin from School 61.

The St Petersburg Art Competition was won by Ekaterina Shingareva, School 282, with a study of Anne Redpath and the winner of the Knowledge of Scotland writing competition was Stanislav Gorelov, School 254, with his essay on William Wallace.

Through the enthusiastic support of Grampian's Helena Anderson Wright, Stewart Aitken, Director Aberdeen International Youth Festival has offered three places to students from St Petersburg to take part in this year's Festival on 1<sup>st</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> August 2013. The places will be taken up by the following: Anna Vovk, School 61, Russian Folk Music & Dancing, Anna Doroshenkova, School 61, piano, flute, dancing & singing and Maya Tarasova, School 207, mezzo-soprano opera singer.

A previous representative from the St Petersburg Forum competition was Misha Pavlov who liked Scotland so much he remained to continue his studies. He recently graduated with an MA in Music from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and has been awarded a grant to continue his studies there for a MA in Drama. Anyone wishing to see this exceptionally talented singer, accompanied by pianist Pierre Audiger, can come along to an *Evening of Opera and Piano* at the Wynd Centre, School Wynd, Paisley PA 2 DB Tickets priced £10 available from Tom & Elizabeth Clark [cliftonclark@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:cliftonclark@dsl.pipex.com) 01505 612466 or Helen Morrison [helencgmorrison@btinternet.com](mailto:helencgmorrison@btinternet.com) 01236 755815.



Schools competitions were also held in Bendigo, Australia, where the winners were Ebony Hooper and Meagan Baker from Rochester Secondary College. Unfortunately the annual competition in Canada at St Michael's School of Scotland, Mississauga, Ontario, had to be cancelled because of industrial action.

In the Ukraine, the winners of the essay competition were Julia Barieva, Nadine Dyachuk and Andrey Mazur. One of the schools involved has really taken Burns to their hearts and created a wee 'Corner of Scotland.'

## A Corner of Scotland in a Small Village School in Ukraine



The background to the formation of this 'Corner of Scotland' was included in the Spring Chronicle. The teacher Taya Khryplyva was keen to express her thanks to all who have contributed in one way or another to the success and flourishing of their museum: P Kucik from the USA, Sue Wottoon from New Zealand, Jim Shields, Jim Thomson, Shirey Bell, Iza Hanley, Jane Brown, Murdo Morrison, Robert Stewart, David Smith, Michael Duguid, David Baird from Scotland and many others. Especial thanks and respect to Peter Kormylo, a member of *Friends of Ukraine in Scotland* and his wife Lesley.

Email: [tayaschool@mail.ru](mailto:tayaschool@mail.ru)

(Perhaps a primary school in Scotland would like to make contact and set up an exchange of greetings, Ed)

## The Robert Burns Connection by 7B

*"We are the pupils of P7B in Mauchline Primary School. As we all know Robert Burns lived in Mauchline and also at Mossgiel Farm just outside Mauchline. He married Jean Armour who came from Mauchline. He wrote many of his most well known poems when he lived here."*



*Our school takes part in a Burns' Competition every year. Every pupil has to learn a poem, a Scottish poem by any writer for the young ones and a Burns' poem for the older ones. Usually P7 learn an extract from *Tam O' Shanter* but this year we changed to an extract from *To a Louse*. Mr Lyell, from Mauchline Burns Club, came to the school to help us understand the poem and to give us good ideas for actions and expression. Each class has a class competition and three pupils go through to the final. People from the Mauchline Burns' Club come along to judge the competition. The overall winner of the competition wins the Burns' Club Quaich. This year, for the first time, we had a draw between Natasha Romanuik and Dylan Craig. They were invited to say the poem at the wreath laying ceremony for Burns' birthday at the Burns' Monument in Mauchline. Both Natasha and Dylan are going to the Holy Fair in Mauchline, they will each say the poem for all the visitors."*

Liam and Jordyn also wrote about taking part in the Lapraik verse-speaking competition in Muirkirk, their annual visit to Burns House Museum in the village when they have fun re-enacting *Tam O'Shanter* with costumes and music, their acting as history detectives searching for clues in the house and finally their enjoyment of a quiz based around the graveyard where blue plaques mark important personages and they can find out about the history of the village. They particularly like Mr Adair who recites *Tam o'Shanter* from memory for them because he makes it "very exciting and scary."

They finish, "these are just the kinds of thing P7 do, at other stages in the school there are lots of other projects going on which connect to Burns e.g. farming and the village."

Liam Norman and Jordyn Welsh 7B

[How is your school promoting the memory of Robert Burns? If you'd like help with any aspect of the life and works of the Poet the Federation Office staff will do all they can to offer assistance. Ed]

## Childhood Reminiscence



I well remember taking part in your verse-reading competition of 1949. I was a representative of Newlands Primary School (Parkhead Cross); I was a very nervous 10-year-old and the poem was *Tae A Mouse*. To this day I can still recite it from beginning to end. As far as I recall, I won no medals but received a certificate of merit which, sadly, seems to have disappeared from among my childhood souvenirs. In more recent times, however, I wrote a substantial commemorative feature article about Burns on the 200th anniversary of his death. It was published in several major Australian newspapers and I subsequently broadcast a version of it on the ABC Radio National program, 'Books & Writing'. I managed to include some lines from *Tae A Mouse* and it was difficult to keep my voice steady as I read them. In a later radio interview, I told of my childhood experience with the poem and gave the wonderful Bridgeton Burns Club due recognition. I also wrote a piece about *Tam o' Shanter*, my favourite Burns' poem (and his too) which was published in *QANTAS Inflight* magazine and read by many thousands around the world. I wish you every success in your ongoing endeavour to keep Burns' work alive and in the minds of the schoolchildren of Glesca's East End. Submitted by John Conn, Queensland, Australia in a letter to Walker Hamilton, Hon Sec, Bridgeton Burns Club.

## West Sound Burns Supper



Host for the 2013 West Sound Burns Supper was George McNeill who was joined by Edwina Currie, Bill Copeland, Jim Robertson and classic singing group Blake. The audience were also thrilled to hear the 2012 **Junior Burnsian** Annie Bowes Address the Haggis while 2012 **Young Burnsian** George Davidson collected his West Sound Rosebowl from presenter Romeo. Being invited to perform at the West Sound Burns Supper is one of the highlights for the winners of the Federation's Annual Primary and Secondary Schools' Festivals.

The 2014 event will be held in the Glasgow Thistle Hotel on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2014 and will be the 29<sup>th</sup> consecutive West Sound Burns Supper. Tickets are priced at £85 which includes a four course banquet, quality speakers and musicians, and can be reserved by emailing [carolyn.mcallister@westsound.co.uk](mailto:carolyn.mcallister@westsound.co.uk)



## Ellisland Farm



On Friday 10th May the Friends of Ellisland Farm were proud to present a group of very talented young Burnsians who entertained a large audience in the threshing barn at Ellisland Farm. In the photo, along with the Treasurer Betty Haining and the Chairman Ronnie Cairns, are from left to right, Megan Bell, Emily McLatchie, Iona Bonaventura, Emma Dixon, Chris Gray, Nathan King and Catherine Anderson. All proceeds from the concert go towards the upkeep of the farm museum.

For details of other 'Friends' events see the website: [www.ellislandfarm.co.uk](http://www.ellislandfarm.co.uk)

## Lasses Lunch



What started 14 years ago as a small gathering of 40 ladies for a Lasses Lunch has continued to blossom and this year's event saw 187 ladies gather in Shawlands Park Hotel, Larkhall. Our main sponsor was Tunnocks of Uddingston but we were fortunate to have additional sponsorship from *Celebrating Lanarkshire 2013* which has been initiated to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of David Livingstone and information on our lunch will appear on their website: [www.lanarkshire2013.com](http://www.lanarkshire2013.com).

Hosted by the Lanarkshire Association of Burns Clubs (LABC), the event's theme for the day was the flowers that Robert Burns had written about. "It was the charming month of May, When all the flow'rs were fresh and gay," to quote the program for the event.

It all started with a warm welcome from President of the LABC, Patricia Leslie, who also read out a greeting from Federation President Bob Stewart, followed by Grace from Helen Morrison. "Ladies we have much" to quote Helen in her introduction and looking round the room it was clear to see why Helen had chosen those words.

Lunch was excellent and was followed by a song from Hazel Blair. Hazel is an excellent singer and her personality shone through while she performed. Patricia then introduced our special guest speaker – Liz Lochhead, the Scots Makar, Liz was very entertaining speaking about the lasses in Burns life. Liz was followed by another song from Hazel who handed over to the SVP Jane Brown to provide the vote of thanks. As usual Jane had us all laughing while she got on with the serious business of thanking everyone. The company then sang Auld Land Syne to close the event.

Front row, left to right: Eileen Logan, Provost of South Lanarkshire Council; Kay Blair, LABC and principal guest Liz Lochhead; Back row, left to right: Jane Brown, Senior Vice President Robert Burns World Federation Ltd, Patricia Leslie, President LABC, and Jean Jones, Deputy Provost North Lanarkshire Council;

Huge thanks to the Lasses Lunch committee of the Lanarkshire Association of Burns Clubs from the Robert Burns World Federation.

On behalf of the St Michaels Burns Club in Dumfries Betty Haining volunteered to host the event next year in Dumfries, mark your calendar for 18<sup>th</sup> May 2014, RBWF Lasses Lunch, the place to be on that date.

## St Michael's Burns Club Dumfries



Members of St Michael's Burns Club, Dumfries received a special invitation recently when Honorary President of the Club, The Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry invited them to Drumlanrig Castle for morning refreshments and a tour of the Castle, personally conducted by His Grace.

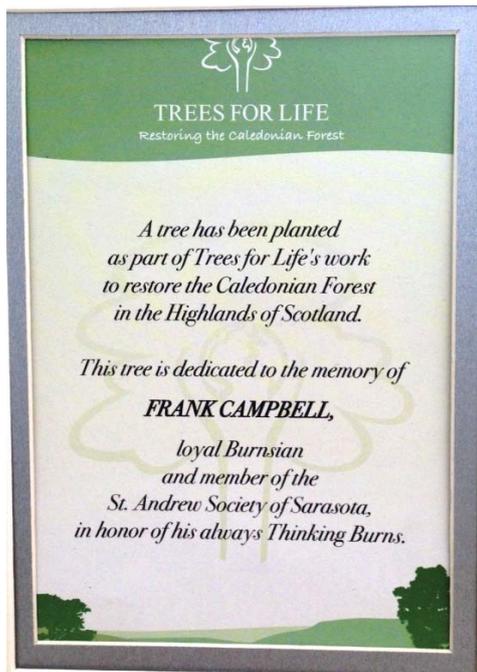
President of the Club, Mrs Betty Haining presented the Duke with his Honorary President's medal and a copy of the Homecoming 2009 Burns Chronicle, commemorating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns, edited by Peter Westwood.

The tour of the castle was both very interesting and informative and was brought to life in the many anecdotes given by the Duke who was most generous with his time and was happy to answer questions put to him. Everyone in attendance agreed that this was a very special event in the Club's calendar.



## Frank Campbell

Many members of the Federation will remember Frank Campbell as a most generous and keen Burnsian.



His son writes, "I have just received the framed certificate of the tree planted in my father's name. That was a very fitting gesture your group thought of, as my father's love of Scotland never diminished in all the years he lived over here. It is nice that he will always be remembered. My dad had a lot of friends, especially those that were infected with the love of Burns. His passion for the bard was what kept him going through his last few years. Please express our family's gratitude to the members of your society for this very kind remembrance to him. We will look you up to say a personal thank you, when we are back down in Florida." Best regards, Frank and Annie Campbell

Diane Madsen made the arrangements for the "Trees for Life" tribute and the Burns Club members all chipped in. She writes that Frank, "was the spark plug for our Burns Club and many other things as well. I was so grateful to him for all the kind help he provided when I wrote my mystery novel about Burns, *A Cadger's Curse – the Robert Burns Secret*. I fully support the Robert Burns World Federation!" With all good wishes, Diane Gilbert Madsen [www.dianegilbertmadsen.com](http://www.dianegilbertmadsen.com)  
Submitted by David MacMillan President Sarasota Florida Burns Club.

## Spanish Visit.

During a hectic round of speaking engagements in Spain Past President Jim Shields was invited to address pupils at the British School of Madrid. King's College is a co-educational day and boarding British curriculum school. Founded in 1969 by Sir Roger Fry the college has a world wide reputation for educational excellence. Tartan features in the College's uniforms.

The senior students listened intently to Jim Shields as he made them aware of the Bard and his works. In their latest News Letter there is a heading of "The New Robert Burns Fan Club." A direct quote from the News Letter by students Elena Jones and Paula Velayos: "As we heard about the man behind the words, we, as students in Spain, realised Scotland had a much broader scope of things to offer culturally than simply haggis, bagpipes and the tartan" The outcome of Jim's visit and presentation is that there is a new Burns Club being formed.



## Scaffolding at the Burns Monument in Alloway

Over the next few weeks the Burns Monument in Alloway will be surrounded by scaffolding; access to the Monument will not be affected. Plans were well under way to complete a detailed survey of the monument and all the other Trust properties in Alloway. In the case of the monument the purpose of the survey is to identify the cause or causes of the damp ingress and identify how these can be addressed. Any short term solutions may be undertaken while the scaffolding is in place but the major remedial work will need to be costed and funding sought. by the scaffolding and the investigations being undertaken.

The club members will meet again with representatives from the National Trust in August once the survey is complete and a further update will be issued. In addition RBBM Director Nat Edwards suggested that they would arrange a Sunday afternoon talk for August or September at the Museum on the work being undertaken at the monument to keep Burnsians and the local community informed.

[Submitted by John Skilling, Alloway Burns Club, which has been campaigning avidly to get the work done]



## President's Gathering

On September 5<sup>th</sup>, just prior to our annual Conference, we will hold the inaugural President's Gathering in 29 Private Members Club in Glasgow. The event will take the format of a quiz, maximum 6 rounds, with entertainment provided by the company between rounds. We will have teams of 5 people, you can either submit a team (or two!) or come along individually and we will allocate you to a team. It is the plan that the quiz will be inclusive (i.e. not too hard!). We would be delighted if Clubs would submit a team to pit your wits against the other Clubs/teams. Tickets will cost £10 per person and the event will finish around 10pm allowing guests to use public transport. Booking information will be sent shortly. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact [admin@rbwf.org.uk](mailto:admin@rbwf.org.uk)

## RSCDS Summer School

Every year the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Summer School attracts hundreds of Scottish country dance followers of all ages from across the world. Participants immerse themselves in a varied, exciting programme and make new friends in the historic setting of St Andrews, Scotland.

Offering exceptional value, a week long residential break provides full board, classes, activities and social dancing – all for £83 per person per night. Classes are suitable for all levels and there is no need to bring a dancing partner. Instruction from top teachers, accompanied by amazing musicians in a friendly social atmosphere make the RSCDS Summer School a very special experience.

Weekly breaks run between 14 July and 11 August 2013.

Find out more or book your place by visiting [www.rscds.org](http://www.rscds.org) (select Summer School Application) or telephone 0131 225 3854.



## Come and Join Us

Within the Robert Burns World Federation every member plays an important part in ensuring that we promote the works of Robert Burns and protect his reputation – not always an easy task.

Central to all the activities undertaken by the Federation are the Executive committees. Being a Member of a Federation Committee is not an onerous task and involvement is entirely up to the available time anyone is prepared to give. There are quarterly meetings and Members are always needed to give of their time, talents and knowledge. The Committees consist of Literature, Schools, Marketing, Heritage, Conference, and from these groups come Convenors and Members of the Board who become Directors. There is an opportunity for anyone who wishes to become a member of one of these groups. We need to draw on the undoubted talents of everyone to ensure the Federation is in good hands now and in the future.

Every year a Junior Vice President is elected and then the following year he or she (remember we have already had five lady Presidents and SVP Jane Brown becomes the sixth in September) will normally progress to Senior Vice President and from then on to becoming the President of the Robert Burns World Federation. *Its no in titles nor in rank..... (Burns' Epistle to Davie)*

## Federation On-Line Shop

Our RBWF online shop is now open for business. We have listed all of the items we have in stock in The Dower House and are actively looking for new items to add to our inventory. Please support us by buying your RBWF merchandise online. You can access the shop from our webpage or directly at this link: <http://shop.rbwf.org.uk/>

If you have any suggestions for the shop please email [admin@rbwf.org.uk](mailto:admin@rbwf.org.uk) and we will consider stocking. Please remember we have a huge stock of old Chronicles if you are collecting these. Also, at our last Exec meeting second hand books sold very well. We would be very happy to take books you would like to pass to us to sell on to fellow Burns enthusiasts.