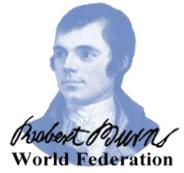




# The Robert Burns World Federation Newsletter



Issue 23 September 2016

Federation members have just enjoyed a hugely successful Annual Conference in the Peebles Hydro. The highlight of the weekend was the inauguration of our new President, Bobby Kane. A native of Whitburn West Lothian, Bobby has worked in several different areas of the food industry. He and his wife Karen have been very active in promoting the life and works of Burns in schools, most notably through the staging of the Choral Competition. Bill Nolan, Irvine Burns Club was voted in as the new Junior Vice President and aims to use his extensive managerial experience to reach out across the generations to promote the life and the works of Burns but also to generate new ways in which modern media can be used to widen the influence of the RBWF globally. During the weekend a very poignant minute's silence was held to commemorate the tragedy of 9/11 which occurred exactly 15 years ago. *Editor*

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## Here's a Health to Ane I Lo'e Dear

Although thou maun never be mine,  
Although even hope is denied;  
'Tis sweeter for thee despairing,  
Than aught in the warld beside – Jessy.

Here's a health to ane I lo'e dear,  
Here's a health to ane I lo'e dear;  
Thou art sweeter as the smile when fond lovers  
meet,  
And soft as their parting tear - Jessy

by Robert Burns

## New President Inaugurated at Federation's Annual Conference



The Federation's Annual Conference was held in the Peebles Hydro Hotel over the weekend of 9-11th September 2016. In addition to the AGM, two splendid dinners, a seminar, a ceilidh and an uplifting church service, the main event was the inauguration of the new President of the Federation, Bobby Kane (left). During the handover Bobby praised outgoing President, Dr Peter Hughes, for his outstanding year of office during which he had travelled thousands of miles and worked tirelessly on behalf of the Federation. He had shown strong leadership and continued the work of his predecessors in streamlining the management structure and placing the Federation in a much stronger financial position.

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**Annual Conference (cont'd)**



Following election at the morning's AGM the new Junior Vice President, Bill Nolan (left) joined President Bobby and the new Senior Vice President, Ian McIntyre.



Also being honoured were butcher John Chapman from Wishaw, an ardent supporter of the work of the Federation and Boyd Tunnock of Thomas Tunnock Ltd (right) who have

been generous sponsors of the Federation's Schools' Competitions for the past five years. Both were recognised by being awarded the accolade of Honorary President of the Robert Burns World Federation.



As the Sunday Service at the conference was held on 11<sup>th</sup> September, a minute's silence was observed in memory of all those who died or were injured in the 9/11 attack in America.

In his sermon the Rev David Ness made reference to Burns' poem *Man Was Made to Mourn* a sentiment which was echoed on the plaque on the plinth erected outside the Federation's headquarters in the Dower House Dean Castle

Country Park, Kilmarnock.

President Bobby Kane led a commemoration at the 9/11 memorial plinth accompanied by: (from left) PP Murdo Morrison, PP Mike Duguid, Immediate PP Dr Peter Hughes, SVP Ian McIntyre.



**Annual conference (cont'd)**



This happy group of youngsters, fans of our new President Bobby, took to the dance floor with gusto at the ceilidh on Saturday evening. However, they still have some way to go to keep up with 93 year-old Mary Blackwell (in white on



right) who exhausted a string of male partners as she danced the night away.

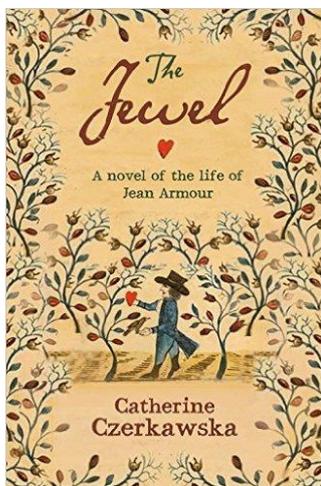


At the seminar on Saturday afternoon Scots poet Rab Wilson from Sanquhar gave a fascinating talk about the background to, and outcome of, the forensic reconstruction of Burns' head undertaken by Dundee University. Rab also delivered a dramatic recitation of Burns' *Death and Doctor Hornbook* as well as regaling us with quotes from his own wonderful collection of poetry in Scots. This highly engaging session was interspersed with songs when he accompanied his wife Margaret as they entertained the company with some beautiful Burns' melodies (photo left).

Our overseas delegates are always particularly welcome. From the left: Jim O'Lone (Australia), Louise Pratt, Ron Pratt (Calgary) Heather O'Lone (Australia), Henry Cairney, Shona Cairney (Calgary) President Bobby Kane, Colin Harris (Winnipeg), Sheila Grace, Tony Grace (Calgary), May Crawley and Alex Crawley (St Catherines, Ontario). Also attending, but not in the photograph, was Leslie Strachan and Bill & Mary Jim Fulton from the USA.



**The Story of Jean Armour Brought to Life**



Catherine Czerkawska is an award-winning novelist and professional playwright with many years of experience and many publications and productions to her name. Her latest novel entitled 'The Jewel' is a historical novel about Robert Burns' wife, Jean Armour.

The novel is set largely during the dramatic years of their courtship in Mauchline, their married life at Ellisland and in Dumfries, and Robert's early death, all against a background simmering with political intrigue and turmoil. Catherine manages to capture Jean as the beautiful young woman with the voice of a nightingale who has to live in the shadow of her mercurial ploughman-poet with the roving eye.

Their extraordinary marriage was passionate, tempestuous, and Catherine highlights Jean's indomitable strength and character enabling the union to endure against all odds. This is very much a story of how she lived with, and frequently without, Scotland's most famous son and in the process tells us much about the life and times of Burns himself. It is a compelling story and Catherine's insight gives a

highly credible portrait of the greatest heroine in the life of our national poet.

Catherine talked about her new book at the Wigtown Book Festival on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2016.

## Southern Scottish Counties Burns Association (SSCBA) - Brow Well Service

Robert Burns enthusiasts from far and wide gathered at the Brow Well near Ruthwell on 20<sup>th</sup> July to commemorate the visit by the National Bard in July 1796 to take the chalybeate waters from the well on the advice of his doctor and to bathe in the Solway as a cure for his rheumatic heart disease.

The company was welcomed by Mike Duguid, President of the SSCBA, who said: "The Annual Service at the Brow Well is held in very high esteem by admirers of Burns because it offers them the opportunity to reflect on the fact that he died so young and yet left behind such a magnificent legacy of poems and songs which have helped define Scotland's place in the world." He congratulated Solway Firth Partnership for completing a major programme of renovations at the well, financed by Solway Heritage, the Landfill Communities Fund and Dumfries and Galloway Council with contributions from Burns clubs and individuals. A special welcome was accorded to HM Lord Lieutenant Fiona Armstrong, Oliver Mundell MSP and Emma Harper MSP who is also president of Dumfries Ladies Burns Club No. 1.



The Rev. Gerald Moule, Locum Minister of the Cummertrees, Mouswald and Ruthwell called the gathering to worship and read from scripture followed by the Lord's Prayer and Psalm 121 from the company. An oration was delivered by Dr. Peter Hughes OBE, President of the Robert Burns World Federation, in which he reflected on Burns' remarkable body of work and the tragedy of his short life but insisted that his legacy of songs and poems would endure forever. Floral wreaths were placed at the well by Dr. Hughes and by Ms. Fiona Armstrong, HM Lord Lieutenant of Dumfries, before a lament on the pipes was played by Pipe Major Callum Watson. A Vote of Thanks was proposed by Gordon Johnston, SVP of the SSCBA before the gathering dispersed for a very enjoyable social evening at the Cairndale Hotel, Dumfries. Highlight of the evening was a word-perfect recitation of 'Tam o' Shanter' by Pascal Belz, a regular visitor from France.

## Thornhill & District Burns Club – BBQ in the Sun and Kelpies Trip



The Thornhill & District Burns Club held its annual barbecue at the home of the club treasurer and organised by the President, Bill Leggeat. Members enjoyed plenty to eat and the sun shone. That was the penultimate summer event, the last being at Dumfries House in August. Their winter season starts in September when on the first of the month there will be a quiz night. Meetings are held at the Friendship Hall West Morton Street Thornhill. If you would like more information about joining the club then phone the secretary Catherine Leggeat on 01387 740065.

The Club also enjoyed another of their summer events organised by the President Bill Leggeat. This time it was a visit to the Falkirk Wheel where they spent an interesting time visiting this iconic structure. Some members took the boat trip up to the Union Canal, while others enjoyed a walk round to see all the new development going on around the grounds.

It was then on to see the Kelpies, two magnificent structures which are breath-taking. In the photo are some of the members who took the trip.



## Wreath at Burns Cottage 21st July 2016 - RT Burns Club



The RT Burns Club (membership 2,300) has for many years placed a wreath at the bust of Robert Burns which is situated in the flower garden of Burns Cottage

Attached is our photo of the wreath and many more will be seen on our Facebook page or main website:

<http://www.rtburnsclub.com/>

I would like to thank the staff at the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum for all their cooperation in this and previous events.

[Best wishes, Reg Tait, CEO RT Burns Club]

## The Army Needs YOU!

Especially if you have a talent to share and contribute to a Burns night being held in the Senior NCO Mess at Chicksands Bedfordshire. A wee bit away from Scotland admittedly but where Burns events are being held nothing is impossible. Sgt Jones contact details are as follows –

Day Tel number 01462 752917 E mail [SethJones967@mod.uk](mailto:SethJones967@mod.uk)

Please get in touch and offer your services and help promote Robert Burns on this military-based occasion.



**Charles Pearson Lowson 1920 - 2015**

It is with much sadness I have to tell you that the Auckland New Zealand Burns Club's official piper for many years and dear friend Chic Lowson died on the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2015. 'Chic', as he was known to everyone, was a long serving member of the Robert Burns Association, Auckland New Zealand. Born in Canoustie, Dundee, Chic and his wife Elizabeth moved to Lusaka, capital of Zambia in 1950 where he learned to play the bagpipes in the Lusaka Pipe Band. They had a son (deceased) and two daughters.

After moving to New Zealand Chic continued piping and joined the Papakura Pipe Band in South Auckland and later the Pipes and Drums of the Signals Association where he was made a life member. Always wanting to help others he formed a community Pipe Band to play for charity events. His experience in the Engineering Department of Auckland University came in handy whenever pipers came to his well-stocked basement with pipes and reeds needing attention, he gave his time generously.

Chic had a special talent for composing tunes and writing poetry sometimes getting quite emotional when he recited his poems. He always opened the Burns meetings with a selection of pipe tunes and later during the afternoon a selection of his poems. In his 90<sup>th</sup> year he was invited to be the Solo Piper at the Howick Military Tattoo where he played his own composition 'The Song of the Soul'. A tribute was paid to Chic at the November 2015 Burns

Meeting when David Harvey the present Official Burns Piper played Chic's composition "Song of the Soul" and read his poem 'Leafy Hollow'. Chic was a profoundly spiritual person, he believed that his tune 'Song of the Soul' was given to him by a being in the spirit world.

Chic was a musician, composer, poet and philosopher, always searching for more knowledge. A man of high principles whose memory will live on at the Auckland Burns Association. [Jeanette Mc Farland]

**Alloway Burns Monument Restoration Appeal**

Built in 1823, Burns Monument embodies the enduring love affair between the people of Alloway and Robert Burns, a 'Great Scot'. But its future is under threat. Constant exposure to water is damaging the monument and this once majestic building is at significant risk of permanent damage. Urgent repairs are now required to conserve the fabric of Burns Monument and make it a living memorial to Robert Burns.

Beautifully engraved plaques in the shape of red roses with names and messages from people who have helped to protect Burns Monument will 'bloom' in Burns Monument Gardens from summer 2016. If you're one of the first 200 people to donate £75 or more, your name and message will be added to A Rose for Burns. The first £100,000 of this appeal will go towards urgent repairs to Burns Monument. Any funds raised over this amount will go towards ensuring the stories of our Great Scots continue to be told for future generations.



[www.nts.org.uk/Great-Scots/Save-Burns-Monument](http://www.nts.org.uk/Great-Scots/Save-Burns-Monument)

**Talk at the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum**

As an inheritor of the language of Robert Burns, John Hutcheson brings out the poet's thoughts and feelings in verse and song while accompanying himself on guitar in folk style.

Date: Wed 28st September 2016, 3 pm in Temporary Exhibition Space, RBBM.



## St Petersburg Favourite Graduates

Many members of the Federation will remember Seraphima Necheva from St Petersburg, winner of the 2009 schools essay competition run by the St Petersburg Forum in conjunction with the Federation. As it was the Year of Homecoming she had the special treat of having a tour of the Scottish Parliament and meeting with the First Minister Alex Salmond. In his office she delivered a 15-minute abridged version of her essay without a note in sight. Her understanding of Burns' poetry was incredible for one so young and few in the audience were left without a tear in their eye. It is a delight to follow up the story with a report from Seraphima on her continuing educational success. Ed

"I had passed the exams with high honours and my research paper on Norwegian verbs had been chosen as the best at the department. I was awarded the diploma by the President of the University L. Verbitskaya as a special honour (she is a prominent professor of the University and has many high awards from the government), and it was really unexpected.

The official ceremony where we are going to receive diplomas takes place on 12<sup>th</sup> July; I am going to have a red tassel on my graduation cap. And I will always remember that the way to my education in linguistics and this graduation started long ago - when you fulfilled my dreams of Scotland and inspired me to study languages.

On July, 25 I am starting my job as a coordinator and teacher for Norwegian students at the Norwegian University Centre in St Petersburg."



## Solway Burns Club Cairn



It is twenty years since The Solway Burns Club erected a cairn at Waterfoot in Annan to commemorate the two hundredth anniversary of the death of Robert Burns. This is on an exposed part of the merse close to what was once a busy wharf and would have been where Burns carried out some of his tasks as an excise man. The Club members met at the cairn on a bright and blustery day where we had a few speeches and a lively toast to the Bard and the Club. We then made our way to the President's house for what turned out to be an indoor garden party with more toasts and plenty of chat and delicious food provided by the members. Visitors to the cairn can drive there by Waterfoot Road and there is ample parking space.

Eileen McCorkingdale (Solway Burns Club)

## Burns Statue Reappears in Newcastle



An opening ceremony was held in Walker Park, Walker, Newcastle last Saturday following the completion of major conservation works at the site of the 20-acre area of parkland established in 1888. The event was attended by the local MP, Nick Brown, and a representative from the Heritage Lottery which contributed £1.8 towards the total £2.6M project.



## Newcastle Statue (cont'd)

Invited guests gathered beneath the column on which a copy of the original Burns statue now stands – and on the very spot where the original was raised in 1901. The statue was erected to commemorate the visit by Burns to Newcastle in 1787.

A trio of young folk presented three versions of “To a Haggis” – the first as written by Burns; the second an 18<sup>th</sup> century Geordie version; and the third, a contemporary English version.

Nick Brown, MP, informed the gathering of the ways in which expatriate Scots in the coalmining, chemical and shipbuilding industries wove their own traditions and their love of Burns into Walker’s community life. The original statue has been restored and stands as a permanent exhibit in the Visitor Centre at Walker Park.

A keen scholar of Burns’ monumental statuary, Gordon Ashley, has been following the restoration project closely and has noted that both the restored statue and the copy on the column stand on plain bases, whereas the statue once rested on a base which incorporated three of Burns most famous lines in raised capitals:

“IT’S COMIN’ YET FOR A’ THAT  
THAT MAN TO MAN THE WHOLE WORLD O’ER  
SHALL BROTHERS BE FOR A’ THAT

He regrets this loss of an integral aspect of the statue’s history which reflected its original purpose and function and hopes this omission may be corrected at some time in the future.

## Glasgow and District Burns Association St Andrew’s Night

On Saturday 26th November 2016, the Glasgow & District Burns Association will celebrate St Andrew, our Scottish Patron Saint, with a glittering event held in the historic 1847, Langside Hall, on the south side of Glasgow at the edge of Shawlands. At only £20 per ticket this will be a must-go-to happening.

Entertainment will include a Folk/Ceilidh Band, recitations and the appropriate toasts, grace offered by Past President George Anderson and songs to set it in the fine tradition of a Burns-themed St Andrew’s Night.



The buffet is being provided by the Urban Food Theatre and includes haggis balls and pakora with cranachan for dessert.

There will be a raffle and an auction, as well as pop-up displays and recitations. However, the social side of the evening will present that most valuable experience.

Enez Anderson, President of the Glasgow and District Burns Association said of the event *“We can guarantee that people will be talking about this event in Auld Lang Syne, it*

*aims to set the standard for our future G&DBA events.”*

It is hoped that this St Andrew’s Night event will make a profit, which will be used to support the other activities and charitable work of the Association, including the Wreath Laying Ceremony in January and the idea of opening the Burns Room in the Mitchell Library at least once a year for a celebration of the Life and Work of Burns.

Tickets will be on sale through the member Burns’ Clubs, as well as through the Office Bearers, Ken Dalgliesh, Enez Anderson and the Past Presidents. For those wanting to order tickets from a direct source contact Marc Sherland [marcsherland@me.com](mailto:marcsherland@me.com) 0791 860 1799

For further information on GDBA activities see: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/GlasDistBurnsAssoc/>

## New Burns Songbook for Guitar and Voice

[John Murdoch, Robert Burns' private tutor, commented (incredibly in hindsight) that the poet had no ear for music. Having a similar affliction I decided to refer to a guitar-playing friend for assistance when I was asked to review a new book entitled *The Robert Burns Songbook for Guitar and Voice* arranged by Adrian Allan. Ed]

He tried a small selection of songs and played them on classical guitar and commented as follows: "There is a nice selection from simple backings to quite advanced playing in left hand fingering and speed.

The introductions are complementary to the songs and would suit guitar and cittern (which most likely would have been the guitar equivalent at the time of Burns). The chord maps are accurate and helpful but not always user-friendly keys for beginner guitarists. The vocal keys are quite high in some songs which is OK if the singer is soprano but not so suitable for other voices.

The format and overall information in the book are well thought out and put across in a manner which makes interesting reading even to someone who has never come across the songs of Robert Burns. Overall the book offers a great insight to the songs of Robert Burns with plenty to choose from and lots of interesting anecdotes and facts."

The book with CD attached can be purchased from Ellisland Farm or on E-bay from the author Adrian Allan (just search under the book's title) and the version without the CD can be purchased from Amazon.

## Tom Sutherland - Fondly Remembered

It is with great sadness we report the death of Tom Sutherland, suddenly at home in Fort Collins, Colorado on Saturday July 23, 2016. He is survived by his wife Jean, daughters Kit, Joan and Ann, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

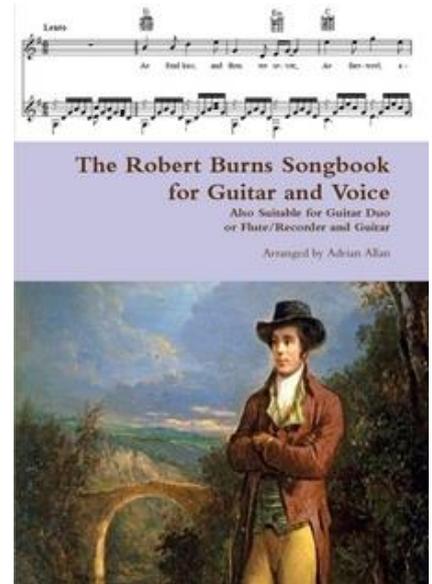
Thomas McNee Sutherland was born in Falkirk in May 1931. Educated at Grangemouth High School, he represented Scotland at Under-18 International level in 1948, playing in all three games helping Scotland to win the Triple Crown for the first time. He then signed for Rangers, but he would play just five Reserve fixtures during Season 1948-49, scoring once, before being released.



He made his love of Burns clear to the world on November 1991 when, after being released from 2,353 days in captivity in Beirut East, he astonished the assembled media by reciting Robert Burns' poem *To a Mouse* at his first press conference. One of his first public engagements was a speech in January 1992 at the 15th Burns International Conference at Strathclyde University in Glasgow, organised by the late Professor Kenneth Simpson from the university's Department of Scottish Studies. [I was lucky enough to have attended that talk and still regard it as one of the finest I have ever heard. The phrase 'you could hear a pin drop' springs to mind but comes nowhere near capturing the emotional intensity in the room. Ed]

An article in *The Scotsman* on 13 January 2004 provided an eloquent insight to Tom Sutherland's incarceration and the crucial part the works of Robert Burns played in his survival:

"But to witness the real, life-affirming spirit of Burns at its most potent, cut from cosy campuses or, for that matter, from UN gala dinners, to a foul underground cell in Beirut, where a man sits on a thin foam-rubber mattress and anchors his sanity by filling his mind with Burns' poetry. Tom Sutherland is the US-domiciled Scots agricultural geneticist and teacher who survived the six-and-a-half-year nightmare of confinement



**Tom Sutherland** (cont'd)

after he had been kidnapped by the Islamic Jihad in Beirut. "I thought of Burns, and wondered how he would have handled this situation, with no whisky, no women, no companions with whom 'to sit boosin at the nappy'," says Sutherland from his home in Fort Collins, Colorado. "Then I would recite to myself all the poems that I had memorised over the year - the Ode to a Louse, To a Mouse, Holy Willie's Prayer, The Twa Dugs and as much as I could recall of Tam o' Shanter ... And on and on, which was a grand way of making the time pass, and a wonderful inspiration."

Sutherland, who was granted a heartfelt standing ovation at the Strathclyde conferences after he spoke there following his release in 1991, recalls one particular "Burns supper" he held for the edification of fellow captive Jean Paul Kauffman, a French journalist. "I was chained to the wall in South Lebanon along with Jean Paul. On the 25th of January, 1988, I asked him if he had heard of Burns. He confessed that he had indeed heard of him, but did not know much about him. I proceeded to give him a fair introduction - in French. Translation had to be a bit loose of course, since even the English don't understand much of Burns, but Jean Paul readily picked up on the nuances. Later, in 1993, he helped me to make a documentary film entitled Burns in Beirut." Read more at: <http://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/united-nations-1-507031>

**The Helen Waddell Memorial Trophy**

An open competition in reciting the Robert Burns poem "To a Haggis" will be held at Cambusnethan Miners Welfare Woodhall Road, Cambusnethan, Wishaw

Monday 3rd Oct 2016 Assembling 7 pm for a 7.30 Start. All welcome!

Buffet available (which MUST be pre booked) £5.00 and payable on the night.

Intending competitors to notify either of the following.

**Helen Morrison** on 01236 755815 [helencgmorrison@btinternet.com](mailto:helencgmorrison@btinternet.com)

**Murdo Morrison** 01698 372638 [Murdomorrison13@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:Murdomorrison13@blueyonder.co.uk)



An address to the Haggis evening is an enjoyable entertainment and is growing in popularity. Many people who deliver Immortal Memories begin their speaking career with this sort of introduction to the world of public speaking and especially Burns Suppers.

Organising this competition is straightforward and any Club looking for a night with a difference can organise a Haggis-addressing competition either as the main event for an evening or as part of an event. A local butcher will usually provide a haggis and together with an audience, participants and judges an enjoyable evening can be had by one and all.

**Edinburgh - Burns Celebration Day**

On the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2016 Edinburgh and District Burns Club Association played host to a celebration of the life of Robert Burns and held a poetry competition for the Tom McIlwraith Trophy. Tom was a Past President of the World Federation and Past President of the Edinburgh and District Burns Clubs Association.

Jim Shields, Chairman of the EDBCA, welcomed performers from the eight Burns Club Associations, guests and friends and thanked them for attending.

## Edinburgh - Burns Celebration Day (cont'd)

Jim Weatherston's band Ragged Glory started the entertainment with the songs. Further songs and poetry were given by Alastair McDonald, Gordon Jamieson, and Jim Shields. A visiting Russian Professor Alexey Minchenkob, Head of English and Foreign Languages, was invited to sing and responded in great voice.

Catriona Murdoch a young National Burns competition winner added to the harmony with her of lines from Tam O' Shanter. Alastair McDonald a well-known musical entertainer also sang before performing his role as one of the Adjudicators for the competition.

After a light lunch, the company gathered for the poetry competition and what a wonderful selection of verse there was: *Epistle to a Young Friend, The Inventory, Epistle to Davie, and Excerpt from Death and Dr. Hornbook, Tam Samson's Elegy, Epistle to the Rev. John McMath and Address of Beelzebub.*

Isa Hanley, Andy McArthur and Alistair McDonald, were our judges on the day. When they retired to deliberate, the guests were treated to songs and poems from Jim Weatherston, Gordon Jamieson, and Alistair McDonald. Catriona Murdoch very kindly recited *The Louse*.

The competition was won by Andrew Raeburn representing the EDBCA reciting *The Epistle to Davie*, second was Nathan King, representing Southern Scottish Counties Burns Association reciting an excerpt from *Death and Dr Hornbook*, and third was Charles Beaton representing Grampian Association, reciting *The Epistle to a Young Friend*.

Jim Shields, President of the EDBCA, announced the winners of the competition, and presented the winners' quaich and certificates. The day ended with all joining hands and singing Auld Lang Syne.

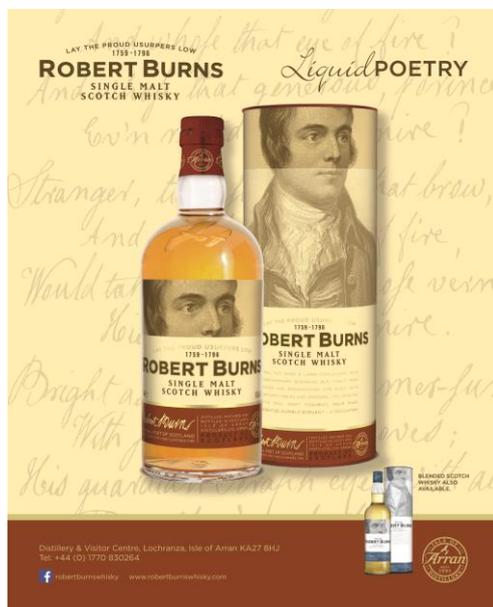
Gordon Jamieson Secretary EDBCA.

## National Raffle Winners

The first prize in the Federation's National Raffle, a Suzuki Celerio 1.0 SZ2 5dr, supplied by Border Cars, Dumfries, was won by Kate McKail of Prestwick. The full results were as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	- Car	Winner was Mrs Kate McKail	Ticket Number 8755
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	- Holiday Voucher	Winner was Mr Iain Matthewson	Ticket Number 7392
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	- Whisky	Winner was Mr Ian Wood	Ticket Number 3982
4 <sup>th</sup> Prize	- Wine	Winner was Mr Bill Brydon	Ticket Number 8831
5 <sup>th</sup> Prize	- Hamper	Winner was Mr James Monaghan	Ticket Number 1162

## Federation's Sponsor Isle of Arran Distillery Hits New High



The Isle of Arran Distillery, our official sponsor, has just been raising a glass to celebrate making a £1m annual profit for the first time. New stills are being installed at their Lochranza site, which was opened 21 years ago, and a planning application is in for a second distillery site. Over 61 per cent of its sales are to overseas customers with its products selling in 40 different countries. Currently France and Taiwan are the strongest performing markets but the company sees China and South America as having the greatest potential for future growth. The Robert Burns single malt, one of the specially branded whiskies, continues to feature strongly in the company's extensive range.

Attendees at the RBWF's Annual Conference in Peebles were able to savour a drop of this amber nectar as each had a miniature sample at their table setting as part of the inauguration dinner.

## A Small Charity with a Global Reach – Come and Join Us

The main objectives of The Robert Burns World Federation Limited are to advance the education of the public about the life, poetry and works of Robert Burns and in furtherance thereof:

- (i) To encourage and arrange competitions among the general public, students and/or school children.
- (ii) To stimulate the development, teaching and study of Scottish literature, art, music and language.
- (iii) To conserve buildings and places associated with Robert Burns and his contemporaries.
- (iv) To strengthen the bond of fellowship amongst members of Burns Clubs and kindred societies throughout the world by encouraging Burns Clubs and kindred societies to honour the memory of Robert Burns and his works.

Clubs, Societies, Individuals and Corporate bodies who support the aims and objectives of the Robert Burns World Federation may be admitted as Federation Members.

### Benefits of Membership:

1. **FREE** copy of our in-house publication, the Burns Chronicle, which keeps members up-to-date with world-wide club activities and provides academic articles which add to our knowledge and can be included in talks and writings.
2. **FREE** bi-monthly Newsletter with general information on Club and Burns related news
3. Increased knowledge of the life and works of Robert Burns and the pleasure of passing this knowledge on to like-minded Burnsians and to children and adults who visit Ayrshire from home and abroad
4. Cordial company of fellow Federation members nationwide and worldwide
5. The possibility of working with the schools committee who promote the works of Burns vigorously to over 80,000 children in Scotland and also to many in USA, Canada, Russia and the Pacific Rim.
6. Confidence that the RBWF Headquarters either answers, or fields and disseminates, questions from the general public, as well as Federation Members, fulfilling our main purpose of advancing and promoting knowledge of Robert Burns' life and works
7. The opportunity to have an input to the future of the Federation
8. Without your subscription to RBWF, knowledge of, and interest in, Burns and his works would wither and die without a core driving force. Someone would have to re-invent a Federation of world-wide Burns Clubs.

## Application to become a Federation Member

Membership type	Cost	Tick preferred option
Individual Membership	£42.00	
Family Membership	£47.00	
Club Membership	£77.00	
Corporate Membership	£150.00	
Chronicle Only	£32.00	
School / Junior Membership	FREE (no voting rights)	
Patron	Call for details	
Airmail (overseas only)	£12.00	for Chronicle etc. to be sent via airmail instead of surface mail

Name (s) .....

Company Name.....

Address.....

Telephone..... Mobile.....

Email..... Website.....

### Method of Payment

Cheque:	No.	
Credit Card / Debit Card:	No.	Exp.Date. /
	Name on Card:	
Online Payment:	Please contact us to issue an invoice with payment details	
Note: there is a 5% surcharge on all Credit or Debit Card and Online Transactions		

Applications for Membership should be sent to:- The Robert Burns World Federation Limited, Dower House, Dean Castle Country Park, Kilmarnock, KA3 1XB. Tel/Fax: 01563 572469 E Mail [admin@rbwf.org.uk](mailto:admin@rbwf.org.uk) Web [www.rbwf.org.uk](http://www.rbwf.org.uk)