



# The Robert Burns World Federation Newsletter



Issue 24 November 2016

With the Burns Supper season in January rapidly approaching, it is encouraging to be able to record not only many of the traditional events associated with celebrating Burns but also to see reports about fresh approaches being taken towards his poetry and, especially, his song writing. It is also gratifying to note the involvement of youngsters from both home and abroad taking part in events which acknowledge the life and works of our national Bard. The prospect of a collaboration between the Glasgow and District Burns Association and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in the establishment of an annual Burns Weekend Learning Camp is a particularly exciting development. The newsletter also highlights the winners of the Federation's National Raffle, organised by Past President Jane Brown, which raised an outstanding sum of £6,590 towards much-needed funds for the Federation.

*Editor*

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## Logan Water

O wae be to you, Men o' State,  
That brethren rouse to deadly hate!  
As ye make mony a fond heart mourn,  
Sae may it on your heads return!

How can your flinty hearts enjoy  
The widow's tear, the orphan's cry?  
But soon may peace bring happy days,  
And Willie hame to Logan braes!

by Robert Burns - 1793

## Honorary Life Membership Award for Joe McGinty



The most unforgettable moment of the Federation's Annual Conference at the Peebles Hydro in September occurred when Joe McGinty gave a spontaneous and emotional rendition of Rodgers and Hammerstein's song *Oh, What a Beautiful Morning* following his hugely well-deserved award of Honorary Life Membership of the Federation.

As well as being the exuberant Master of Ceremonies at this and several other annual conferences, Joe has held several posts in the Burns movement including being President of the Largs Cronies Burns Club and President of the Ayrshire Association of Burns Clubs.

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## Federation Grand Draw Winners



Katie McKail from Prestwick is seen receiving the keys to the top prize in the Federation's recent Grand Draw - a brand new Suzuki Celerio 1.0 SZ2.

Photo L-R Jemma Morrison of Border Cars, Katie McKail, Jane Brown RBWF Past President, Ian McIntyre RBWF Senior Vice President.

Retired farm manager, Iain Matthewson (right), was over the moon to learn he had won a major prize in

the 2016 Federation's National Raffle: a holiday to the value of £1000.

The winners of the raffle were announced at the Federation's annual conference and the chief organiser of the raffle, Jane Brown, past President of the Federation presented Iain and his wife, Joan, with the holiday certificate at the Globe Inn, Dumfries, appropriately in the 'snug', with Iain sitting in Robert Burns' chair.

Jane remarked that: "The prize could not have gone to a more worthwhile couple." Iain (84) and Joan (79) live in Glenmidge, and have just celebrated their first wedding anniversary; but Iain points out: "We have actually been together for three years!" Iain continued: "We can't believe our good fortune to win this amazing prize. We are both Burns enthusiasts, and the raffle ticket was a present from our friend Dr. Maureen Milton for my birthday in April! What a birthday present."



Joan went on to explain there were other reasons to celebrate. "My harp trio – with Maureen, myself and our visiting friend from America, Sharon Affeltranger – uploaded a video of our contribution to the BBC Virtual Orchestra Proms 2016 initiative ... playing the Toreador song from the opera Carmen. Iain did the filming and technical stuff! "So we were glued to the television screen for the recent last night of the Proms, and overjoyed to find our trio featured in the final line-up of the Virtual Orchestra: 1200 entries were submitted from throughout the UK, with Bizet's rousing tune played on over 50 different musical instruments, and the BBC put the whole thing together on screen in an amazing musical montage. And then the phone rang...with the news Iain had won a major prize in the Robert Burns Federation raffle. We could not believe it! "And we had just celebrated our first wedding anniversary."

Iain and Joan are now happily trying to decide where to go for their 'exotic' holiday. "It will not be abroad," Iain says firmly. "Sun, sand and surf are not for us. Somewhere in the remote highlands and islands of Scotland would suit us fine... Staying in a well-appointed country house hotel, where we can enjoy bird watching and exploring the glorious countryside during the day, and where Joan can play her harp in the evenings in appropriate style!"

Jane added: "We are looking forward to having a full account of where Joan and Iain decide to go for their very special holiday. Watch this space!"

## Refurbishment of Burns statue at Portpatrick

In 1923, a handsome half life-size sandstone statue of Scotland's National Bard, Robert Burns, was erected by Portpatrick Burns Club in Wigtownshire, on a site at the local bowling club. It stood there happily until a major storm in the early 1980's brought down the hill side overlooking the bowling green and carried the statue away.

A visiting member of Dumfries Burns Howff Club spotted the broken pieces under a bench and suggested that the club take on restoration work as a project. Accordingly, on several successive Sundays in 1983, a team of club members made the journey from Dumfries to Portpatrick and succeeded in restoring Rabbie to his former glory.

Over the intervening years, the condition of the statue deteriorated and sadly the Portpatrick Burns Club became defunct. However, in 2016, Stranraer Burns Club arranged to have the statue repainted and the environs tidied up with the cooperation of Portpatrick Bowling Club.

To mark the event, a ceremony was held at the Bowling Club on 25<sup>th</sup> Sep when a party from the Howff Club met up with members of Stranraer Burns Club and Portpatrick Bowling Club to "unveil" the restored statue.



Howff Club President William Johnston (left of statue) thanked Stranraer Burns Club President Murray Irving MBE and Past President, Eric Archibald, also Burns Howff Club Secretary David Smith, Portpatrick Bowling Club President Tommy Evans and Past President Ian Clark for their efforts, especially local artist Mrs Georgina Wilson (centre) who skilfully repainted the statue which again has pride of place overlooking the harbour.

## RBWF Lasses Lunch 2017

Irvine Lasses Burns Club will be hosting the Lasses Lunch at the Hallmark Hotel, Irvine, on Sunday 14th May 2017, 12 noon for 1 p.m. The guest speaker will be Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC, with entertainment from Susan Chown, a past winner of the Tam o' Shanter competition and the first female to win the Lapraik competition. The cost will be £25 and ticket application forms will be available in January. Irvine Lasses look forward to welcoming you back to Irvine.

## The Mitchell Library

When The Mitchell Library opened in 1877, one of the earliest decisions of the library committee was to put together a collection of items relating to Robert Burns as a memorial to Scotland's national poet.

The Library aimed to collect all available works by Robert Burns, about him or anything that was in any way related to him. The Collection is still being added to and now contains over 5,000 items. It is believed to be one of the largest in the world. Highlights of the collection:

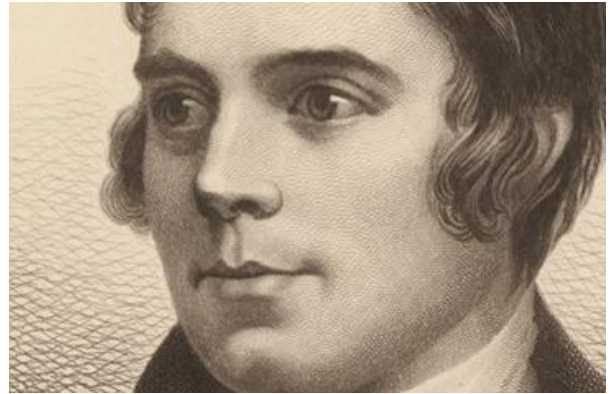
Over 900 editions of the works including 2 copies of the 1786 Kilmarnock edition and two printings of the 1787 Edinburgh edition

15 original manuscripts in the poet's hand, including the only surviving letter written by Burns in Scots and the only copy in existence of 'The Ordination'

Translations of the poet's works into more than 36 languages

Ephemera, artefacts and scrapbooks

[Significant for the Federation is the fact that the Library includes a "Complete set of The Burns Chronicle" as one of their highlights.]



The Collection is housed in The Burns Room and located in the older part of the Library which was built in 1911. This area is not open to the general public but material from the Collection can be consulted during library opening hours. A catalogue of the Collection is available. For more information or to arrange a visit, contact Special Collections. The Burns Room may also be hired for special events and meetings.

<http://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/libraries/the-mitchell-library/pages/home.aspx>

## Tam O' Shanter Recitation Competition



The historic Globe Inn in Dumfries was the venue on 20<sup>th</sup> September for the 28<sup>th</sup> Tam O' Shanter recitation competition, held annually by Dumfries Ladies Burns Club No.1.

Dr Ruth Thomson, Vice President of the club welcomed the company and introduced the distinguished panel of judges, Bobby Kane, President of the Robert Burns World Federation, Dr. Maureen Milton and Susan Chown, winner of the competition in 2015.

Eight competitors from Scotland and England gave their interpretation of Burns' famous story of ghosts and strong drink.

During the judge's deliberations, entertainment was provided by Les Byers, Ian McIntyre, Jane Brown, Brian Gaw and Willie Gibson before Dr. Thomson announced the winner as David Brown of Renfrewshire (centre with winner's tankard) with Bobby Jess, Dumfries, second and Brian Gaw, Kilwinning, third.

The winner's trophy was presented by Les Byers and a vote of thanks was offered by Dr. Thomson to all who had contributed to the success of the evening. [Report by David Smith]

## Ellisland Farm Comes Alive

Ellisland Farmhouse looked splendid on the 9th of September as it hosted its 1789 Housewarming Dinner. Twelve guests from all over the UK made their way to Nithsdale on "sic a night he taks the road in, as ne'er poor sinner was abroad in".



After a banquet based on Jean Armour's menu of 1789 guests retired to the fireside of Robert's spence, where singers John Shireffs and Sheila Hall of The Twa Dogs (pictured left and see [www.thetwadogs.co.uk/](http://www.thetwadogs.co.uk/)) led a few hours of songs, discussions and recitations. Curator Stuart Cochrane said "it is great to see Ellisland being used as a living home, fires lit, candles aglow and music and banter. I hope that more Burns fans can enjoy a night at Ellisland and asks them to contact him at Ellisland to arrange".

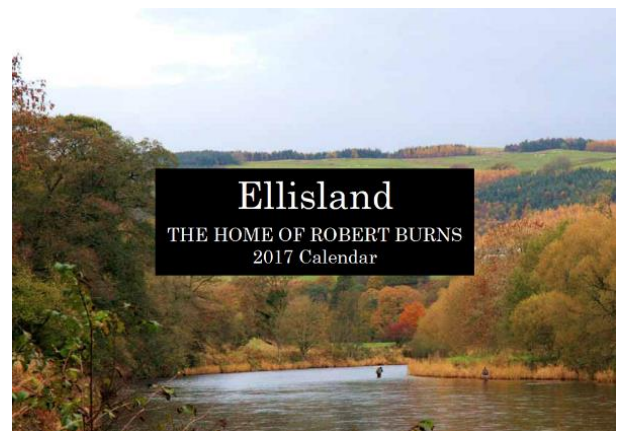
Contact details: email [stuartcochrane25@hotmail.com](mailto:stuartcochrane25@hotmail.com) or telephone 01387

740426 or 07951 070444

Stuart is also promoting an ideal Christmas Gift for Robert Burns' fans. The 2017 Calendar featuring historical and current views of Ellisland Farm, home of Burns and his wife Jean Armour for 3 years between 1788 and 1792.

All proceeds from the sale go to the Friends of Ellisland who support the preservation of the farm. The Calendar costs £6.

To purchase either visit the farm, purchase online at <https://goo.gl/Bc4yx7> or send a cheque with your name and address to Ellisland Farm, Auldgirth, Dumfries DG2 0RP. Cheques should be made out to "Friends of Ellisland" and should include an additional £1 p+p for orders of 1 - 3 calendars.



## Thomas Muir Portrait Unveiled at the Scottish Parliament

A talented young artist had a brush with history when her portrait of the 'Father of Scottish Democracy' was unveiled recently at the Scottish Parliament. Gabrielle Joy Henderson's inspired depiction of Thomas Muir won the 2015 East Dunbartonshire Schools Art Competition. An S6 pupil at St Ninian's High in Kirkintilloch, Gabrielle is pictured discussing her painting with Scottish Parliament Presiding Officer Ken Macintosh.

It is a fitting tribute to Muir, who was persecuted and eventually banished in 1793 for his work to champion reform, freedom of speech and voting rights for all.

He was an inspiration for Robert Burns who also espoused similar reforms although, as a government-employed excise officer, his involvement was constrained.

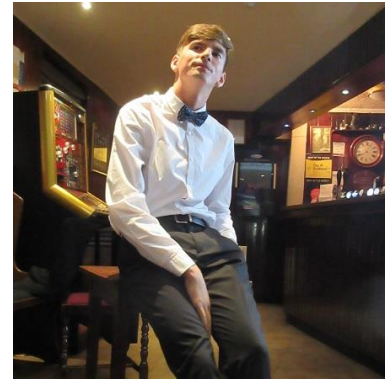


The inspirational figure's strong links to East Dunbartonshire are celebrated annually by the Friends of Thomas Muir, who organise a festival in his memory - supported by East Dunbartonshire Council. Jimmy Watson, Chair of the Friends of Thomas Muir, said, "last year was a momentous one for the Friends of Thomas Muir - marking the 250th anniversary of his birth - but we haven't rested on our laurels and there's a full programme again this year. Check out the website for details of this year's events - including this year's schools art competition - [www.thomasmuir.co.uk](http://www.thomasmuir.co.uk)"

## St Petersburg Students Visit to Scotland

The three students come from different schools in the city and didn't know one another until they boarded the plane for Glasgow. They were the winners of St Petersburg Forum's 'Knowledge of Scotland' competition: Kira Usatenko School 606 who wrote about *Tam o' Shanter* from his horse Meg's point of view, Aleksey Kruchinin School 157 who related the story of Andrew Carnegie and Gregory Katsenelson School 207 on his subject, James Watt.

The first day was spent touring Glasgow by bus. We visited the transport museum, the Glenlee and Kelvingrove Art Gallery. The next day, we visited the Andrew Carnegie Birth Place Museum in Dunfermline which Aleksey (right performing at the Globe Inn) particularly enjoyed. We lunched beside the Kelpies and spent a few hours at the Falkirk Wheel. In the evening they performed for the members of Fauldhouse and Crofthead Burns Club. World President Bobby Kane attended this function and made the students feel most welcome.



On Sunday we visited Wanlockhead. This visit had a profound effect on the three of them and was declared a highlight at the end of their visit. Their second performance was for our friends in the Globe Inn, Dumfries. They not only entertained they acted as waiters for the evening! Gordon Johnston took them on the Robert Burns tour of Dumfries before we travelled north to New Lanark where the Emperor of Russia Nicholas 1 visited on 27<sup>th</sup> December 1816.



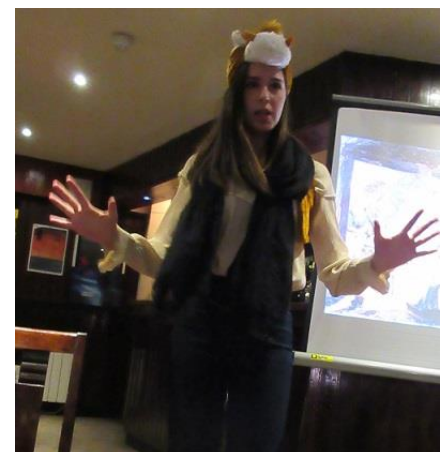
On Thursday we met Peter Pringle, Director of West College Scotland in Greenock where we were the guests of Provost Robert Moran. Gregory (pictured left) was able to see the James Watt statue and learn more about Watts's life in Greenock. We were guests of the College for lunch - prepared by the catering students. The Director of Education arranged for the group to visit Clyde View Academy where the students disappeared for the afternoon with the 6<sup>th</sup> year pupils. Another highlight!

Next day we had arranged to meet John & Margaret Skilling at Robert Burn's cottage in Alloway. From there they escorted us to Lendalfoot and the memorial erected in 2006 to mark the location, just off shore, where the Russian Cruiser Varyag sank in 1920.

Back to Alloway where they met Senior Vice President of Alloway Burns Club, Andrew Moynihan, who gave them the grand tour of Burns Birthplace and Museum. Kirk Alloway and the bridge were of particular interest to Kira. (Seen right performing as Tam's horse Meg in the Globe Inn Dumfries). After a sumptuous meal at Beth Kerr's house the students gave their final outstanding performance of their presentations to a delighted audience at Alloway Burns Club.

The weather during their visit had been excellent but on their final day it was very wet. However, it did not stop them spending the day shopping and exploring Glasgow by themselves. A final gathering of friends in the evening before an early rise for their flight back to St Petersburg rounded off a successful trip to Scotland.

[Report by Elizabeth Clark]



The second visit of Russian schoolchildren to Alloway this year will take place at 1 pm on Friday 11th November when 2 youngsters will perform in the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum following a tour of Burns' Alloway. This event will take place in the Robertson Room and will showcase the winners of the Burns Federation/Russian Schools Scottish Essay Writing Competition. They will be shown the Sharmanka Exhibition (a Russian designed exhibition based on Tam o Shanter which will be running in the temporary exhibition space at the time. See <http://www.burnsmuseum.org.uk/event/witches-brouhaha/>)

## How Did Burns's Songs Sound in the Poet's Time?



The University of Glasgow has recorded a collection of songs by Robert Burns as they would originally have been performed. The recordings come at the close of a five-year project for the Centre for Robert Burns Studies, funded by an Arts and Humanities Research Council grant, to release a multi-volume edition of Burns's work.

According to the university, the Scottish poet's songs, written in the late 18th and early 19th century, were "tailored for the parlours of the middle classes", and would have been performed in that setting on Baroque harpsichords, cellos and violas, rather than their more usual airing today; in a pub, accompanied by a violin or guitar. Accordingly, a group of 11 musicians and singers were given copies of the original publications (from 1787 to 1930s) and asked them to perform what they could read.

"We are opening up a bit of a controversial area and not everyone will like these settings, but we have not recorded them so people will like them, we have recorded them because that is what they are," said Professor Kirsteen McCue. "People don't really know what Burns's songs sounded like, because the songs have been taken out of context and have become what they are today which is a bit of everything. So it's all about the context of the time."

McCue, who led the research, said the team wanted to use replicas of instruments from the period. "So it does sound very different and that is something which can be unattractive for the vast majority of Burns lovers who just want the melody. They just want a singer with a fiddle and the songs work beautifully that way ... but that's not how they originally appeared," she said.

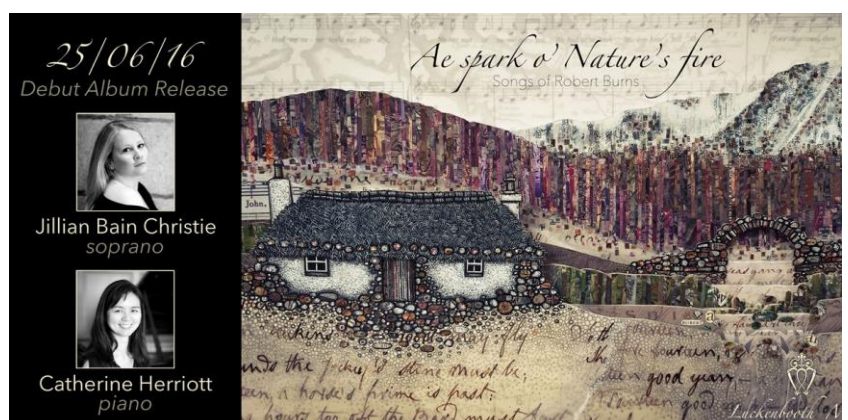
"We've always intended with the songs of this edition to foreground performance as well as print," said Professor Gerard Carruthers, the Centre's director. "The new recordings are intended to be enjoyed and also to make people think about Burns's music in its own day as well as its legacy. Burns was always open at the same time to tradition and innovation." Samples of these recordings can be heard at:

<https://wpcluster.dctdigital.com/sundaypost/in10/entertainment/listen-robert-burns-songs-recorded-way-originally-intended-heard/>

## Burns Debut Album

A debut solo album of Burns's songs *Ae Spark o' Nature's Fire* featuring Jillian Bain Christie with pianist Catherine Herriott is an excellent example of Burns's songs being refreshed and presented in a new way today. The album features arrangements by contemporary Scottish composers and includes the première recording of Paul Mealor's *Ae Fond Kiss* which was written especially for Jillian.

The album is the inaugural release by the new independent Scottish label **Luckenbooth Music** and is available from there or on iTunes.



Originally trained as a visual artist, Jillian graduated from the University of Aberdeen in 2012 with a first-class honours degree in music. Her early training is put to good use in the beautifully designed album cover. The notes accompanying the CD provide a comprehensive and perceptive insight into Burns as a songwriter and song collector; the provision of a glossary lifts the veil of understanding of the Scots words.

## Shield in Memory of Past President Moira Rennie Dunsmore



The Moira Rennie Dunsmore Shield, donated by the Association of Past Presidents of the Federation, will be presented to future winners of the 'Primary 4/5 Singing' at the national festivals, the Federation's flagship project of the Schools Competition.

The shield is in memory of Moira, a Past President of the Federation, who gave distinguished service to many aspects of the work of the organisation. When opportunity allowed, her husband Alan would also be there to assist in any way and this couple made a lasting impression on all those who had an opportunity to meet them. A dedicated team indeed. Moira's Presidential year - 1997 - was following in footsteps of her mother, Mollie Rennie, who had served as President in 1980.

The photograph shows President Peter Hughes handing over the shield to Schools Convenor, Patricia Leslie.

## Federation Loses a Staunch Friend and Supporter

It is with great sadness we report the passing of Jim-Lad McGregor from Coventry, a life-long supporter of the Federation which he joined in January 1976 with the Tam o' Shanter Burns Club. At that time the club had over 3040 members, the biggest Burns Club in the world. He served as a Federation delegate for over 30 years. Whilst still at the club he became an individual member of the Federation. Sadly the Tam o' Shanter Club no longer exists. On various occasions he donated stamps for funds for the Federation and also gave his winnings from the 200-club draw. His partner of over 20 years, Shirley Balder, donated a 50-year stamp collection to the Federation through philately expert Peter Westwood. He attended 28 Federation AGMs and always tried his best to persuade attendees to become individual members; he and Shirley were family members.



Jim grew up in Ayrshire where some of his family still live, and lived his life in a manner befitting Burns' principles of loyalty, honesty and fellowship. An irrepressible character, Jim had a long life and accomplished much. His greatest joy was to attend the Federation's Annual Conferences and travelled all over the world to attend these.

He will be missed by many people but none more so than his partner Shirley from whom he was inseparable and our thoughts are with her and Jim's family.

## Obituary Notice – George Duncan

We have also been advised of the death of George Duncan who passed away on 16th September at the age of 91.

George was well known in Burns' circles and was a Past President of the Ayrshire Association of Burns Clubs. Together with his late wife Betty, George attended many Federation Conferences. George was a member of several Burns Clubs including Irvine Burns Club, Kilwinning Burns and 149 Burns Club. He was an Honorary Member of Irvine Lasses Burns Club where his wife Betty had been President in the 1990's.

George's daughter, Cynthia Leitch, is the current President of Irvine Lasses.

## Edinburgh's Historic Buildings Open Days - the Burns Monument

On Saturday and Sunday 24 & 25<sup>th</sup> September 2016 several members the Edinburgh and District Burns Clubs Association (EDBCA) were present at the Burns Monument on Calton Hill as part of Edinburgh's Historic Buildings Open Days. Jim Shields, President of the EDBCA, welcomed the visitors.

On Saturday morning Gordon Jamieson launched the programme of entertainment with Burns Poems before being joined by Jim Shields and also the Ragged Glory Band who sang and played until lunchtime. The singing and recitations of Burns's works continued over the rest of the afternoon. Margaret Anderson also joined in with recitations as did Catriona Murdoch, a winner in the Robert Burns National Schools Competitions who recited Burns's poems. She was accompanied by her mother, Clare Murdoch, an accomplished musician. The mother and daughter combination provided fiddle music which was much appreciated by all present.



On Sunday morning Gordon Jamieson was joined by the Ragged Glory band until lunchtime. When Ragged Glory retired, Jim Shields on guitar provided songs until 4.00pm. Ralph Balfour presented visitors with information about history of the monument and the Burns statue which had originally been housed inside the monument but was moved in 1839 to the Scottish National Portrait Gallery in Edinburgh.

The open days were again a great success with 786 visitors attending over the two days, judged to be well worth the time and effort provided by members of the EDBCA. [Gordon Jamieson. Secretary EDBCA]

## Digitisation of the Burns Chronicle - Update

The process of digitising the Burns Chronicle continues to evolve with several additional sponsors coming forward at the Annual Conference in the Peebles Hydro. So far, around 73 volumes have found sponsors with some recording dedications in memory of lost family and friends which will stand as a perpetual reminder of their passing while others record the arrival of a new generation who hopefully will appreciate the works of Burns in future years.

Please email [admin@rbwf.org.uk](mailto:admin@rbwf.org.uk) to pledge £50 per volume giving exact details of whom you wish to see as the sponsor on the dedication page. Payment should also be made directly to the Federation office with cheques being made payable to RBWF Ltd. The office holds a record of which chronicles have already been sponsored but this can also be seen by going to the RBWF website clicking on the 'Resources' tab and following the link to 'Digitised Chronicles.' Under the same tab there is a list of contents pages which is designed to help you locate particular articles of interest.

## Gatehouse of Fleet Burns Club Outing



Five members of the Gatehouse of Fleet Burns Club visited Ellisland Farm before heading to the Globe Inn in Dumfries to enjoy supper and witness the performances of the youngsters from St Petersburg reported earlier in this newsletter.

At Ellisland Curator Stuart Cochrane gave us his personal attention and conducted a very relaxed and informative tour of the farm. By the warmth



of the ingle 'bleezing finely' and a welcome cup of tea the group engaged in conversations about Burns and, in particular, his time in his last farm which Stuart is doing a wonderful job in maintaining.

## Scottish Poet Tom Scott Inspired by Burns

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*

After reading the excerpt from Burns's poem *Here's a Health to Ane I Lo'e Dear* featured in the September Newsletter, Professor Cairns Craig, Glucksman Professor of Irish and Scottish Studies at the University of Aberdeen, noted that another Scottish poet, the late Tom Scott, had obviously picked up from this verse of Burns when he wrote his sad, but lovely, "A Sang for Valentine's Day."

Professor Craig writes that, "Tom Scott wrote this for real, to a woman he'd known all his life, but years of the war came between them in their early 20's, and she married someone else, very happily. (And so did he, but he never forgot...)"

I ken ye nivir can be mine,  
braid's the burn atween you and me,  
but for this day be my Valentine.

O clear star, in your bewtie shine!

Fearna the candour o' my ee,

I ken ye nivir can be mine.



Tom Scott (1918 - 1995): was born in Portobello, near Edinburgh. He began writing political poetry written in English but after the brutal upheavals of the Second World War he concentrated on writing in Scots and became an ardent supporter of Lallans, extending the work of Hugh MacDiarmid and the other writers of the Scottish literary renaissance.

Scott was interested in medieval literature, particularly the work of the Makars, and his own writing bears evidence of their influence. He worked throughout his life on a history of Scots literature, but it was never published in his lifetime.

The Robert Henryson Society has now published the first three chapters of Scott's study on-line. You can read it at: [www.arts.gla.ac.uk/STELLA/STARN/poetry/HENRYSON/TSCOTT/morals.htm](http://www.arts.gla.ac.uk/STELLA/STARN/poetry/HENRYSON/TSCOTT/morals.htm)

## Free Christmas Gift to a Friend

The Newsletter has become one of the primary communication tools which the Federation deploys in reaching the worldwide Burns family. As it is published largely in an electronic, and hence no-cost, medium there is tremendous scope for increasing the readership by simply increasing the mailing list.

Now is your chance to win a prize simply by nominating the e-mail addresses for five persons known to you and sending their e-mail details to the Federation office at [admin@rbwf.org.uk](mailto:admin@rbwf.org.uk). These people will be put on the distribution list to get the Newsletter via e mail. As the nominee your name will be entered in to a "lucky dip" prize draw to be drawn before Christmas.

The winner can then decide who should receive the prize of a year's family membership of the Federation.



## A Right Royal Burns Weekend

Discussion is advanced between the Glasgow and District Burns Association and the Royal Conservatoire, towards setting up an annual Burns Weekend Learning Camp at the Conservatoire buildings in Glasgow. Andrew Comrie, Director of Academic Innovation and Rod MacCowan, of G&DBA, are leading the team discussing and planning this innovative pilot course, which will fit within the Summer Prospectus.



The idea is to select young people who have demonstrated an interest in learning more about Robert Burns, perhaps through prior participation in one of the several Schools' Burns Competitions, run annually by local Burns Clubs. Candidates will be enabled to attend a weekend course in the performing arts giving them the skills to present a final event concluding the experience. Although the mechanism is not yet determined for selecting candidates, it is to be hoped that local Burns Clubs might sponsor young people from their areas, as well as seeking to ensure that children from all backgrounds get the opportunity to study the Bard, whilst having a good deal of fun in the process.

Professor, Fred Freeman, the renowned Burnsian is involved in designing the project, as are a team from the Glasgow and District Burns Association. The young people to be involved will range from 11 to 14 years old and the tutors will be an enthusiastic bunch of experts selected because of their ability to promote Burns with verve, imagination and innovation.



The weekend school will fall in July as close to the commemoration of Burns' death, to add extra poignancy to proceedings. Music, and song, along with drama and dance, will all play their part and an emphasis on the Scots Leid, spoken and sung, will feature. Carefully selected work by Burns will be used, exploring context and delivery. Numbers are likely to be kept manageable for this pilot project and if this proves to be the success envisaged, then it will be repeated in future years. Notice of the end of session performance will be opened to sponsoring Burns Club Members and the parents of the participating candidates. Updates will follow over the next few months.

## Isle of Arran Whisky Strikes Gold

The Arran 18 year-old has been awarded the top prize with a Gold Medal at the Scottish Field Whisky Challenge 2016, in the £40-80 category.

Nominated by judge Robin Russell of *Robbie's Drams in Ayr*, Robin said *"This Arran has been a long time coming and is much anticipated as this fledging distillery comes of age."*

Fellow judges Mark Angus of *Gordon & MacPhail* and Darren Leitch of *The Whisky Shop* commented *"Chocolate biscuit melted in the warm summer kitchen - up there with the best."* and *"Dark chocolate with orange. Mellow and smooth - a good all-rounder."*



The Company, which is the official sponsor of the Robert Burns World Federation Ltd, is naturally delighted to see one of their most long awaited bottlings be so warmly received and looks forward to bringing more aged expressions of Arran Malt to join the 18years-old in years to come.

You can purchase the gold-winning 18 year-old Arran Malt [HERE](#)

## 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)