



The Robert Burns World Federation Newsletter



Issue 34 September 2018

Federation members have just enjoyed a hugely successful Annual Conference held, appropriately, in Irvine, home of the incoming President, Bill Nolan, whose inauguration was the highlight of the weekend. Marc Sherland, Glasgow & District Burns Association, was voted in as the new Junior Vice President. An important aspect of the conference is the presence of delegates from the USA, Canada, Australia and Norway reinforcing the international appeal of our National Bard which deserves to be actively nurtured to ensure his legacy continues to flourish abroad.

Editor

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To A Gentleman

(Who had sent a newspaper and offered to continue it free of expense)

Kind Sir, I've read your paper through,
And faith, to me, 'twas really new!
How guessed ye, Sir, what maist I wanted?
This mony a day I've grain'd and gaunted,
To ken what French mischief was brewin;
Or what the drumlie Dutch were doin;
That vile doup-skelper, Emperor Joseph,
If Venus yet had got his nose off;
Or how the collieshangie works
Atween the Russians and the Turks.

by Robert Burns

New President Inaugurated at Federation's Annual Conference



The Federation's Annual Conference was held in Riverside Lodge Hotel, Irvine, over the weekend of 7-9th September 2018. 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, Bill Nolan, from Irvine, pictured left with outgoing President Ian McIntyre.

The weekend witnessed a wonderful collaboration between the Federation's conference committee, Irvine Burns Club, Irvine Lasses Burns Club and North Ayrshire Council all working extremely hard to provide an exciting and most enjoyable event.

The Irvine Town Hall and Leisure Centre, 'The Portal,' proved an excellent venue for Inaugural Dinner with superb catering being provided by the North Ayrshire Catering Services.

[Above and next 2 photographs courtesy of Alister Firth]

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Annual Conference (cont'd)

At the AGM Marc Sherland, from the Glasgow & District Burns Association, was elected as the new Junior Vice President, shown with Brian Goldie who steps up to the position of Senior Vice President.

Also being honoured was Jim Thomson (right) who was awarded the accolade of Honorary President of the Robert Burns World Federation, for his outstanding contribution to streamlining the Federation's finances and steering the organisation through an extremely challenging financial situation.



The conference offered the ideal opportunity to announce the launch of the 'Year of the Haggis 2019' a joint initiative between the Federation and the Scottish Federation of Meat Traders (SFMTA).

The Year of
2019
The Haggis

[Photo by Jim Miller]

Delighted to share this initiative with the Robert Burns World Federation, SFMTA President Paul Boyle said: "Without the Robert Burns World Federation's endorsement we would be just another meat promotion but the backing of such a revered organisation as yours adds formality in designating next year to be officially the Year of the Haggis 2019. More photographs available on the SFMTA website at: [https://craftbutchers.co.uk/story.php?t=Year of the Haggis announced&ID=2545](https://craftbutchers.co.uk/story.php?t=Year%20of%20the%20Haggis%20announced&ID=2545)



One sad aspect of the conference was the departure of the Administration Manager Margaretann Dougall after a hugely successful 5 years tenure in the post. With the last couple of years involving long commuting journeys to Kilmarnock, Margaretann understandably would like to be nearer her home and family and had reluctantly offered her resignation. [Photo by Jim Gibson]

Outgoing President Ian McIntyre spoke for the whole conference when he praised Margaretann for her dedication, integrity, professionalism and, above all, her unfailing and uplifting sense of humour even through the most challenging times. She will be very much missed.

The good news, however, is that Beverley Thomson, the current administration assistant, has agreed to step up to the vacant post thus providing a welcome degree of continuity, expertise and another cheery voice at the end of the phone.

At the seminar on Saturday afternoon Professor Murray Pittock, Pro-Vice Principal and Bradley Chair of English Literature at the University of Glasgow, outlined a Scottish Government backed research study, led by the University, to assess the economic value of Robert Burns to Scotland. The data-gathering phase will

Annual conference (cont'd)

will be essential and Prof Pittock enlisted the help of Burns Clubs and individual members in completing a questionnaire on the financial impact of Burns Suppers and other events associated with the Poet.

In a second presentation Senior Researcher Moira Hansen, a PhD student at the University of Glasgow, posed the question "Was Robert Burns bi-polar?" Using a variety of techniques from today's medical world she has been conducting an in-depth study of Burns's changing state of mind as revealed in his writings and by some of his very open and honest self-assessments in letters. The provisional results from her fascinating study suggest Burns demonstrated distinct phases of hypomania and opposite periods of low, depressive, mental state which would almost certainly categorise him today as being Type 2 on the bi-polar spectrum.

The conference was rounded off on Sunday morning with a wonderful service of worship in the Irvine Old Parish Church led by Rev Neil Urquhart, attended by several of the civic organisations of the town.

Covington Mains Wreath Laying



The Lanarkshire Association of Burns Clubs (LABC) held its Annual Wreath-Laying Ceremony at Covington Mains Farm, Symington on Sunday 1st July 2018.

Although Robert Burns visited the farm in November the weather can be extremely inclement at that time of year. Therefore the Association chose to commemorate the visit in July which certainly paid off this year.

RBWF President Ian McIntyre delivered a most competent and moving eulogy before laying a wreath at the cairn. Following the ceremony everyone retired to the Tinto House Hotel for afternoon tea and entertainment by local youngsters. [Thanks to Jim Miller for his photograph]

Brow Well Commemorative Service

Burns enthusiasts from all over Scotland gathered at Ruthwell on 18th July to commemorate the visit of the poet to the nearby Brow Well in July 1796. Burns was in the last stages of debility caused by bacterial endocarditis. Curable now with penicillin, it was untreatable in Burns' days but his physician, Dr. William Maxwell, recommended drinking the spa water from the chalybeate well, rich in iron salts, and to wade in the Solway, daily, up to the armpits.



Brow Well Commemorative Service (Cont'd)

The ceremony, organised by Dumfries & Galloway Burns Association, was held in Ruthwell Church where President Russell Williamson welcomed the company and invited the Locum Minister of Cummertrees, Mouswald and Ruthwell Congregation, the Rev. Gerald Moule, to lead the devotions. Ian McIntyre, President of the Robert Burns World Federation delivered an oration touching on the poet's last days and the visit to the well. He concluded with a poem published a century ago in the Gallovidian magazine by "Heston", the last verse reading, "Back to Dumfries! Whaur Bonnie Jean awaits my coming sair; And let me lie whaur Nith lilt by, Sae sweetly, evermair." A lament on the pipes was played by Gregor Grierson, current Junior Burnsian of the Year. The company then made its way to the Well where a commemorative wreath was laid by Mr. McIntyre.

Later, a social evening was held at the Cairndale Hotel, Dumfries when the entertainment was MC'd by Association Junior Vice President Colin Gibson with a Vote of Thanks at the conclusion proposed by Senior Vice President Fiona Evans.
[David Smith, Burns Howff Club]

Tom McIlwraith Recitation Competition – Saturday 14th July 2018



On Saturday, 14th July the Edinburgh and District Burns Clubs Association (EDBCA) hosted its Annual Poetry Recitation Competition for the Tom McIlwraith Trophy. President Gordon Jamieson extended a warm welcome and Past President Jim Shields acted as MC.

Folk band "Ragged Glory" entertained the company with a fine selection of Burns songs. Songs from Jim Shields and John Wilson (last year's winner of the McIlwraith Quaich) was followed by special guest performances from Alex Kelman and Rory McIver, school students from Grampian Region. The judging panel consisting of Helen Morrison, David Baird and last year's winner John Wilson assessed recitations of:

"Tam Samson's Elegy" (Cammy Goodall - Edinburgh & District),

"Epistle to a Young Friend" (Bob Cockburn - Borders),

"Holy Willie's Prayer" (Charlie Beaton – Grampian).

"Lament for James, Earl of Glencairn" (Brian Goldie – Stirling,

Clackmannan & West Perthshire) [McIlwraith Quaich Winner Brian Goldie and President Gordon Jamieson]

The prizes were presented by Mrs Victoria Knight and the EDBCA is indebted to Andrew Knight of Close Brothers whose generous sponsorship of the Competition is greatly appreciated.

As always, we're grateful to the Master and Brethren of Liberton Lodge No. 1201 for allowing us the use of their premises to hold our Annual Celebration.

Intimation of the 2019 Competition will be issued to all Associations around April next year with the possibility of changing the date of the Competition from the end of July to avoid the height of the holiday season and other Burns-related commemorations and events. (Andrew Raeburn (Secretary, EDBCA))

BBQ at Ellisland

The Friends of Ellisland held a sizzling barbeque on Friday 27th July 18. The weather was kind and the sun shone. Everyone enjoyed their meal in the threshing barn and afterwards the trio Luath from Alloway entertained with a selection of Scottish songs chiefly those written by Burns during his time at Ellisland.

In the photo is Chairman Russell Williamson with the Junior Burnsian of the Year, Gregor Grierson, along with the catering staff. Gregor piped everyone in at the start of the night and also did a spot during the evening. The curator Stuart Cochrane delivered an entertaining vote of thanks.
(photo by Halina Cairns)



Bendigo Remembers



President of the Bendigo Burns Club, Jim Miller and club members gathered in the Bendigo Art Gallery on the 21st July to lay a wreath at the Burns Bust. The bust is a beautiful example of the work of Bendigo sculptor, Mr. J. Walker. The work is of white Carrara marble, and is thrown into bold relief by its pedestal of greyish Sicilian marble.

As Jim writes, "It is just the usual drill, read a wee bit of his work and then adjourn for afternoon tea."

Ayr Burns Club Commemoration

Ayr Burns Club gathered on 22nd July 2018 to commemorate the anniversary of the death of Scotland's, and Ayrshire's, poet, Robert Burns who died on 21st July 1796. Joining us at Burns Statue Square, Ayr were a host of Kindred Spirits, local dignitaries, Burns Club Presidents and Representatives and honoured club members and friends.

After a warm welcome from Ayr Burns Club President, Dr. Robertson McMahon, immediate Past President Mrs. Kathleen Davey asked South Ayrshire's First Citizen, Provost Helen Moonie, to say a few words followed by our local Member of Parliament, Bill Grant. MSP John Scott also said a few enlightening words. Pipe Major Gary Thomson played slow airs as the first wreath was presented by Provost Moonie followed by Ayr Burns Club President, Robbie McMahon. Wreaths and floral tributes were also presented by the Robert Burns World Federation President, Ian McIntyre, the Ayrshire Association of Burns Clubs President John Campbell, MP Bill Grant, MSP John Scott, Alloway President Andy Moynihan, Dalry Vice Chairman Jim Clark, Glasgow Haggis Club Representative Marc Sherland, Irvine Lassies President Margaret Greenlees, Kilmarnock No. 0 President Ian Capstick, Kilmarnock Howff President Lorrie Headley, Largs President Joe McGinty, Prestwick Representative Alexander Murdoch and General Meta of India Representative Alex McKenzie. Floral tributes were also presented by South Ayrshire Councilors Chris Cullen, Peter Henderson and Ian Davis and by Ayr Burns Club Members and Guests.

The final tribute by Kathleen Davey was on behalf of the new, Ayr Burns Club International No. 1 Missouri Ozark Mountains. Ayr Burns Club are honoured to welcome our kindred spirits of Missouri Ozark Mountains into our fellowship.



Camperdown's Budding Artists - Appreciation of Burns



A new generation of Robert Burns' enthusiasts is emerging judging from the artistic talents of Camperdown College junior students. Camperdown College embraced this year's Art Festival with every student from Prep to year 6 entering works. Festival member Carolyn Menzies (back row) presented students from each year level with their awards.

"We wanted to involve the younger people of the district in the festival and spread the word about Robert Burns and Camperdown's connection to him," she said. The response was wonderful.

Campus Principal, Cherie Kilpatrick said the teachers carried out a lot of Burns' research with the students. They really embraced to project and students learnt a great deal" she said. The students were also treated to a musical performance from a guest artist at the festival and enjoyed Scottish country dancing.

Mrs Menzies said the students' level of knowledge was remarkable. "It was very pleasing, because it's a whole new generation of people who might develop an ongoing appreciation of Burns's works" she said.

Falkirk Burns Plaque Has a Facelift

A group of Burnsians celebrated the visit and overnight stay of Robert Burns in the Cross Keys in Falkirk High Street on August 25th 1787.

His companion at that time was Edinburgh school master Willie Nicoll who joined him on his highland tour.

The Cross Keys is now a music shop and a recent town centre initiative has seen the refurbishment of the shop front and of the fine commemorative plaque above the door. The refurbishment costs for the plaque were met by local Burns Clubs and the Falkirk Historical Society.

It is planned to have a small ceremony on an annual basis followed by a Burns supper in the evening.



Commemoration Wreath at Burns Cottage

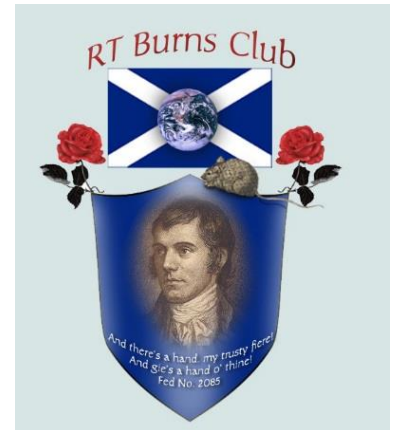


Every year on the 21st July, irrespective of what actual weekday that happens to be, the RT Burns Club places a wreath at Burns Cottage

This year they had the idea of a wreath in the format of their logo.

Take a look at their interesting and comprehensive website at:

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



Surprise Find in Glasgow Graveyard



Recently Marc Sherland toured the Southern Necropolis with a small group led by a team of local people from the Gorbals who are trying to improve the upkeep of the graveyard. As the tour was finishing, Marc asked if there were any connections with Burns and was surprised to learn that the poet's nephew, John Begg, was buried in the Eastern end of the yard. It wasn't on the tour as the grave was overgrown with weeds and although it was on the numbered trail, it wasn't currently being visited. Marc mentioned this at the G&DBA quarterly meeting and asked their permission to take on the cleaning of the grave in preparation for the RBWF Conference in Glasgow in 2019. Along with members of the 'Friends of Southern Necropolis' team he set about clearing the

weeds and also removing a broken section of headstone that had tumbled into the grave. This they propped up against a nearby headstone and together they laid white stones around the base to make the grave a stopping point on the tour. The Grave in the Southern Necropolis, also contains Robert Burns', great nephew, William Begg. Helped by members of the public and the 'Friends of Southern Necropolis' the grave now looks great. Next to finish it off coving will be placed around the edge of the 'chuckies'! During the cleaning Marc took the opportunity to speak to a group who just happened to be researching headstones in the cemetery and they were surprised and pleased to discover the Burns connection.



Annan Ladies Burns Club

Annan Ladies Burns Club, the longest serving ladies club still in existence, recently celebrated its 90th anniversary at the Annan Football Club with an evening of poetry, songs and speeches. David Gillies set the tone with his poem:

“But ninety years of poems, clatter and song
Must have had something keeping it gan sae long
Was it the writings from the Bards pen
Or even a night oot away from their men
Whatever the reason I am sure Robbie wad say
Annan Ladies Burns Club
Have a happy birthday”

ANNAN LADIES BURNS CLUB

Founded 28th Feb 1928 - The Oldest Ladies Burns Club In Existence

*We are celebrating our 90th Anniversary on Thursday 1st March 2018
with a meal and evening of entertainment and reflection.*

*Tickets will be approx. £14 and can be obtained from
Fiona Evans – secretary on 01461 204840/ 07833593233
Email: annan-ladies@hotmail.co.uk
A Warm Welcome is extended to all!*





Federation Calendar 2019 - Competition



The 2019 RBWF Calendar features Kirks and Hostelries and will be on sale soon. Further details on our RBWF Web Site.

Robert Burns wrote his opinion on a window in Lamington Church:

As cauld a wind as ever blew,
A cauld kirk, an in't but few,
As cauld a minister's ever spak-
Ye'se a' be het or I come back.

A prize of a Scottish CD based on Robert Burns and St Andrew will be awarded to the person (no age limit) who provides an appropriate caption for the photo (max of 20 words and 2 entries per person). Email it to admin@rbwf.org.uk Entries please by end September. Judge's decision final.

Photo copyright: Douglas Silvester

Much Loved Tam o' Shanter Cottage

[It is always a great joy as an editor to receive an article which offers something totally unexpected. Such was my pleasure when John and Margaret Skilling sent me details of Tam o' Shanter Cottage – a building standing in the depths of England. Ed].

Tam o' Shanter Cottage, which was probably built about 300 years ago by a heath squatter, is situated at the edge of Bidston Hill in the Wirral. As far as is known it had no particular claim to fame until 1837 when Richard Lea the occupier at that time embellished the building with a carved stone slab depicting the Robert Burns poem *Tam o' Shanter*.

In a book "Auld Lang Syne", by Harry B. Neilson, printed in 1935, mention is made that the date 1837 can be seen on a stone garden wall of Tam o' Shanter cottage. It is stated that Richard Lea cut the date on the wall and carved the Tam o' Shanter stone. It is known that in 1841 Richard Lea was recorded as being a master stonemason.



Thus the cottage became known as Tam o' Shanter Cottage and became a favourite subject for artists and visitors alike. In 1950 the then Minister of Town & Country Planning graded the building as one of special interest, which warranted every effort being made to preserve it.



Sadly most of the building was destroyed by fire, twice, once in 1954 and again in 1975 after it had been refurbished following the earlier fire. Greatly to the credit of the Birkenhead History Society they won permission from Wirral Borough Council for the cottage to be rebuilt and restored to its former glory, not as a residence but rather as a field study centre. So was born the Urban Farm. In 1986 a voluntary organisation called the Wirral Urban Farm Association together with the Tam o' Shanter Cottage Trust began to develop the 4 acres around the cottage as a city farm.

The aim of the new trust was to make this varied collection of farm animals accessible to many people, especially children. By fundraising, grants, donations, support from the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral the farm is able to maintain itself without an admission charge while being open every day (9.30am – 4.30pm).

<http://www.tamoshanterfarm.org.uk/history/>

Ukraine School's Love of Burns



“This year my student of the 9th grade was placed third in the Burns Essay Competition. The School’s Robert Burns Museum recently received a beautiful painting of Scottish national symbol. It was painted and sent by the Scottish artist Linda Todd. We are very grateful to Linda who never forgets about a tiny corner of Scotland and its national hero Robert Burns remembered in a small village school in Ukraine. Dear Burnsians, we'd be delighted if some of you or your clubs could donate just one item concerning Burns to our Museum. Let Robert Burns live in Ukraine.” Send to:



Taisa Khrypivva, Ploske, Reshetylivskiyi rayon,
Poltavska oblast, Ukraine - Україна, 38441

Farm Supper at Ellisland

The Friends of Ellisland held their annual Farm Supper at Ellisland Farm on the 1st September and the barn was filled to capacity. The buffet was set out in the marquee and everyone remarked how much they enjoyed it. The entertainment commenced with the Chairman Russel Williamson introducing John Caskie MBE singing, accompanied by Willie McRobert on the accordion. Rose Byers sang and also played her fiddle. Tom Hughes brought a different type of entertainment to Ellisland by playing the Border pipes and storytelling. Jane Brown recited two hilarious poems.



In the photo from left to right. John Caskie MBE, Willie McRobert, Rose Byers, Russell Williamson, Tom Hughes and Jane Brown.

(photo by Halina Cairns)

Wauchope Cairn Ceremony



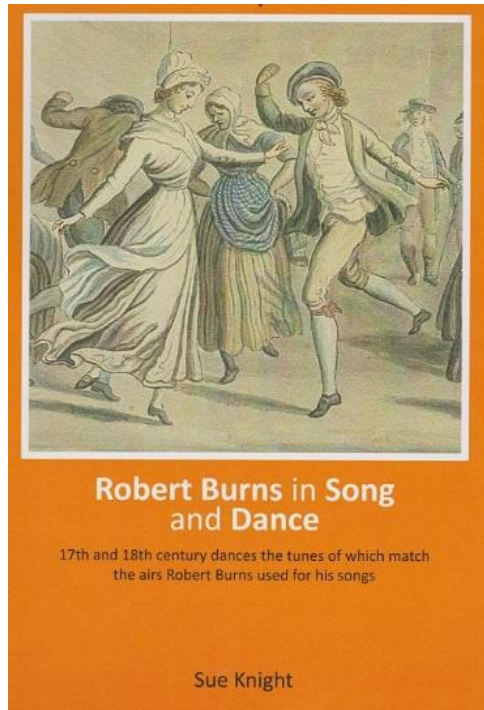
Wauchope Cairn is situated on the site of the house where Mrs Elizabeth Scott and her husband Walter lived in the 1780's.

Mrs Scott was an admirer of Robert Burns and maintained a correspondence with the poet following the publication of the Kilmarnock Edition. In 1985, Hawick Burns Club erected a cairn bearing a plaque with a quotation from Burns *Answer* to Mrs Scott in which he expresses his famous wish:

*That I for poor auld Scotland's sake,
Some useful plan or book could make,
Or sing a sang at least*

At this year's annual ceremony at the Cairn, Federation Junior Vice President Brian Goldie delivered a tribute to Burns in the presence of members of Hawick, Dumfries, and the Howff Burns Clubs. On a beautiful sunny day, following the ceremony, they retired to the local Burns Club venue where they enjoyed a buffet and convivial drinks after which members and guests took part in an afternoon of entertainment.

Burns and Scottish Country Dancing



Anyone who has attended a ceilidh will be familiar with the irresistible attraction of the Scottish music which has everyone up on the dance floor for a whirl at an 'Eightsome Reel' or a 'Strip the Willow.'

Burns was no exception and such was the attraction of country dancing that Burns defied his father's express displeasure at this pastime and specific instruction not to attend such gatherings.

A highly commendable new book sheds light on dance tunes associated with Burns's song 'airs' and so provides a most valuable insight into this aspect of life as Burns would have experienced it in the eighteenth century.

Author Sue Knight deserves enormous credit for her painstaking research which resulted in her identifying one hundred and twenty 17th and 18th century dances which have the same tunes as the airs of songs which Burns collected or wrote. As Professor Kirsteen McCue writes in the Foreword, "We can place Burns within this wild world of Scottish dance and begin to appreciate the 'other lives' of many of his favourite 'airs'."

Sue's earnest hope is that a ball, featuring dances identified in her research, could be organised to showcase a selection of dances which would have been familiar to Burns.

Readers with access to Dropbox can view a video featuring some of these dances at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/2jy8nbtvth4yxjh/A%20Celebration%20of%20the%20life%20of%20Robert%20Burns%20in%20Song%20and%20Dance.mp4?dl=0>

The book (ISBN 978-1-907931-75-5) is available through Solway Offset Printers in Dumfries (info@solwayprint.co.uk)

Forthcoming Events for Burnsians to Enjoy

Robert Burns in books - what research tells us

Mitchell Library, Glasgow; Tuesday 18th September, 18:15-19:30

CRBS's Dr Craig Lamont will be joined by University of Aberdeen's Iain Beavan to discuss the vast area of Burns in books. This event is free and open to all but booking in advance is required, either at the reception of the Mitchell Library or by phone on 0141 287 2999. More info available at <https://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/media/2841/00927-mitchell-event-guide-for-web-final.pdf>

What do we really know about Robert Burns and slavery?

Mitchell Library, Glasgow; Tuesday 16th October, 18:00-20:00

As part of events for Black History Month, Prof Gerry Carruthers asks what we can really say about Burns's attitude to slavery and abolition.

This event is free and open to all but tickets must be pre-booked at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/what-do-we-really-know-about-robert-burns-and-slavery-tickets-48917324033>

Robert Burns's The Jolly Beggars

The British Library, London; Monday 29th October, 19:00-21:00

With period instruments, soloists and the Glasgow Chapel Choir, this is chance to hear Burns's work as it was first heard in the 1810s. For information and tickets see: <https://www.bl.uk/events/robert-burns-the-jolly-beggars>

Editing Robert Burns for the 21st Century symposium*National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh; Friday 2nd November, from 13:30*

This first symposium will include various speakers addressing a range of topics relating to the ongoing work of the edition.

Centre for Robert Burns Studies and Robert Burns World Federation 1st Annual Lecture*Kelvin Hall Lecture Theatre, Kelvin Hall, Glasgow; Friday 30th November, from 16:30*

CRBS and RBWF are delighted to announce their new collaboration - the 1st Annual Public Lecture featuring speakers from both the academic and wider Burns community in what will be an informative event.

Centre for Robert Burns Studies Annual Conference*Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, Alloway; 12th January 2019, from 09:30*

Always hugely popular, CRBS will again be offering a diverse programme of speakers addressing all aspects of Burns's life, work, reputation and influence, all in the wonderful setting of the Birthplace Museum.

Centre for Robert Burns Studies On-Line Course

Applications have now opened for our 10-week online course 'Robert Burns Online', due to start in September. This has proven popular in the past and you can now sign-up for the course at:

https://www.gla.ac.uk/study/applyonline/?CAREER=LLL&PLAN_CODES=Q361-1168. Further details on the course, including fees and bursaries, can be found at

<https://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/critical/research/researchcentresandnetworks/robertburnsstudies/courses/robertburnsonline/>.

If you have any questions then feel free to email us at arts-burnsonline@glasgow.ac.uk.

Federation's Sponsor Isle of Arran Distillery - Important Milestone

The Isle of Arran Distillery, our official sponsor, has posted on its website <https://www.arranwhisky.com/> an article about the arrival of a new copper still for their new distillery at Lagg.

Attendees at the RBWF's Annual Conference in Irvine were able to savour a drop of the Arran amber nectar as each had a miniature sample of the Robert Burns blend at their dinner table setting.



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Who Can Join? Anyone sharing our Mission, who believes in our Objectives and wants, to get involved in taking the Burns legacy to the World as an individual, Club or Society.

Benefits of Membership ~ Become a partner in imparting the legacy to the world.

Being able to enjoy the company of fellow Burnsians and share an interest as part of a worldwide organisation that has around 300 clubs and affiliated bodies committed to it.

Increase your knowledge about the life and works of Robert Burns through qualifying for a FREE copy of the Annual Burns Chronicle, which not only keeps members in touch but also provides access to academic articles and researched topics that will add to your own knowledge. The Chronicle is complimented by a regular RBWF Newsletter containing Club and Burns related news.

Become involved in a hands-on-way as a volunteer working to generate interest in Burns amongst the next generation through involvement in Schools' competitions which attract 80,000 children in Scotland, the USA, Canada, Russia, Australia, New Zealand and around the Pacific Rim.

Enabled to influence the future direction of the RBWF by having access to the Annual Conference at special rates and discounts which may also apply to other associated events (where advertised).

Have access to RBWF Headquarters staff and a range of experts, who will be happy either to answer, or source replies to questions which lead to an expansion of knowledge about Robert Burns.

Be involved in the leading global authority and promotional body on the works, life and influence of Robert Burns and help ensure his place in the history of world literature.

About your subscription ~ Subscription to RBWF, kindles knowledge of, and stimulates interest in, Robert Burns, his life and works. Membership provides a driving force, to research, educate and promote Robert Burns across the world.

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The Robert Burns World Federation

Advancing knowledge and education about the life and works of Robert Burns and the Scottish Language.

Charity No SC029099 Company Limited by Guarantee.

Email : admin@rbwf.org.uk Web : www.rbwf.org.uk

Membership Form

Special Note ~ Chronicle by airmail (international only) an additional £12

I wish to give a Donation, Specify Amount £ _____

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Company/ School Title

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3. **Credit Card / Debit Card** No **Name on Card**

Expiry Date / Type of Card ___CSC security No

4. **Invoice** Contact for an invoice with payment details.

5. **Pay through your bank** by BACS transfer : Sort Code 80-08-53 Use your name as reference: Account No 00856523

6. **Paypal** join online, use ref: admin@rbwf.org.uk

Completed form to ~ **The Robert Burns World Federation Ltd**, 3A John Dickie Street, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, Scotland, KA1 1HW.

Gift Aid Declaration ~ Increase the worth of your RBWF fees and donations. For every pound you give, we get an extra 25 pence from HM Revenue and Customs, if you are a UK Tax Payer. Even better, we can backdate this 4 years on all past fees and donations. To qualify, the Income Tax you pay must equal at least the amount we claim in the tax year.

Sign **Date** / /