



# The Robert Burns World Federation Newsletter



Issue 42 January 2020

**H**appy New Year to members and friends alike. January is the month when subscription fees for the Robert Burns World Federation Ltd fall due so it is worth a reminder that the organisation exists to encourage the study of the life and works of Robert Burns by present and future generations so that his thoughts and ideas can be better realised. Above all it is worth noting that the RBWF is a charity, an umbrella organisation of thousands of volunteers, trying its best to treasure and promote the memory of our National Bard. Your help in providing financial support through membership fees, donations and fundraising is much appreciated. The international reach of the Federation was reinforced in this current issue with a wonderful article from China, a first for the newsletter. It is a pleasure as always to include a wide range of articles reflecting an interest in Burns at home and abroad and appealing to all ages.

*Editor*

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## Does Haughty Gaul Invasion Threat

Does haughty Gaul invasion threat?  
 Then let the louns bewaure, Sir,  
 There's WOODEN WALLS upon our seas  
 And VOLUNTEERS on shore, Sir,  
 The *Nith* shall run to *Corsincon*,  
 And *Criffel* sink in *Solway*,  
 E'er we permit a Foreign Foe  
 On British ground to rally.

(Written in 1795 for Jean Lorimer, his *Chloris*, who inspired several of his songs)

**Robert Burns**

**1795**

## Burns Features in Chinese Podcast



Zoe Chen (on the right) is a library staff member of the University of Nottingham Ningbo China (UNNC) and runs a podcast project at the University in which invited guests select a poem and share their analysis of, and thoughts about, their chosen poem.

They upload episodes on Ximalaya FM and other platforms for free so that the podcast will be a channel to introduce the beauty of poem, and the knowledge or story behind the poem to all stakeholders on campus, as well as the larger communities outside the university.

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## Chinese Podcast (cont'd)

One of her guests Professor Yu Zhongli (Lily Yu) wanted to read Burns' poem/song *My Luve's like a red, red rose*. The Chinese title “苏格兰版‘山无陵，天地合’” means “The Scottish version of ‘When the hills are all flat and the rivers are all dry’”, a quote from an ancient Chinese poem in Han Dynasty (206 BC–220 AD), thus making a fascinating link between two cultures, centuries apart.

Professor Yu (pictured) is an Associate Professor in Translation Studies (Mandarin & English) in the School of Education and English at the University of Nottingham Ningbo China. In this episode she reads the poem in her soft gentle voice in both English and Chinese, and shares her interpretation of this poem and Robert Burns.



The translation history of the poem 'A Red, Red Rose' in China is also introduced. This poem was first translated into archaic Chinese (or classical Chinese) in 1909 by Su Manshu (1884-1918), a famous writer, poet and translator. Since then many other Chinese translations have been produced, such as those by Wang Zuoliang, Yuan Kejia, Guo Moruo, and Bi Hong. They are all well-known in translation and English or Chinese literature. In this episode, the translation of Wang Zuoliang is shared with the audience.

In the second half of the podcast Professor Yu gives a brilliant analysis of the literary devices which Burns uses in what appears to be a very simple poem. The analysis offers the perfect refutation of Jeremy Paxman's claim that Burns was "no more than the king of sentimental doggerel!" Her love of the poem stemmed from her time as an undergraduate studying at the University of Edinburgh. She is not in the least surprised that Nobel prize-winning songwriter Bob Dylan declared the song as his greatest musical inspiration.

The host for the interview is Jiatae Wang, a year-3 student learning International Communications (on left in photo on page 1).

The podcast can be heard at: <https://www.ximalaya.com/renwen/28921486/233714155>

## New Cumnock Burns Club - St Andrews Night Debates



Around 40 Burnsians attended New Cumnock Burns Club's annual St Andrew's Debate on 1st December. Largs Cronies (Angus Middleton and Robert Honeyman) and New Cumnock (Willie Paterson and Jim Wilson) debated 'Tam o' Shanter is Burns' greatest poem'. The motion was defeated with the Largs team winning the vote. The second motion debated was 'Robert Burns would have supported Scotland's declaration of a climate emergency'. The teams were Irvine Lasses (Margaret Cook and Marie Sommerville) and Dundonald Burns Club (Peter Clark and Des Rowe). Irvine Lasses supported the motion and won the day. New Cumnock President Willie Dick chaired the debates and at the end presented all participants with a bottle of New Cumnock Burns Club whisky. A great afternoon full of

good fun amidst convivial company.

## RBWF Friendship Tiles



The Robert Burns World Federation is raising funds to secure and develop a range of services within our Kilmarnock Headquarters as part of our Outreach and Education programmes. One option available is to contribute in the sale of 'Friendship Tiles' - these are ceramic tiles which can be purchased for a Club, Association or an Individual. This is also a great way to commemorate someone or something of note.

The tiles will be on display at our Kilmarnock Headquarters. The text on the tile will be chosen by the purchaser (there is a limit of 16 characters in each of 3 lines). Each tile will cost £30, there will be an additional charge of postage to anyone wishing the tile to be sent instead to themselves. Each tile will be decorated with a silhouette of Burns in profile. So far 100 tiles have been sponsored and are now affixed to the wall in a downstairs room in the Federation HQ.

Order forms can be obtained from Kilmarnock HQ or follow the link below:

[www.rbwf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/RBWF-Tile-Form.pdf](http://www.rbwf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/RBWF-Tile-Form.pdf)

## Kilbryde Burns Club - St Andrews Night



Joyce and I attended a meeting of Kilbryde BC at which I delivered a toast to Scotland and St Andrew. I received a cheque for the Federation to the value of £700 from Tommy Johnstone and Sam Thompson who represented Ravenscraig Burns Club.

Also attached a meeting of presidents past and present, included in the pic are John Haining (left) 2007/08 and Bob Dalziel 1998/99, two well-known names within the Burns movement.



Ravenscraig have a long association of sponsorship with the RBWF and to date have donated thousands of pounds. [Brian Goldie RBWF President]

[One of most enjoyable Burns Suppers I ever addressed was at Ravenscraig in 2011. What made it most memorable was the fact that it was chaired in alternate years by either a member of the management team or a member from the workers side. This had been the case when the steel plant was still in operation and was the only occasion when management and workers attended the same function, something about which Burns himself would have been very proud.

It so happened the year I spoke it was someone from the management side who chaired the supper. Despite having been the one who, after he had moved to British Steel HQ, had to announce the closure of the plant in 1992 he had obviously been held in high esteem by the workforce and hence had been given the honour of chairing the Burns Supper. It was clear to me that the love of Burns was the catalyst which helped ameliorate the rancour and division which had characterised that extremely stressful period for all concerned. **Ed]**

## Young Trad Christmas Concert

On Saturday 14 Dec the Youth Ambassadors for the Friends of Ellisland Farm, led by Rose Byers (right), staged another fantastic Christmas concert with the best of young Scottish talent on show. Headlining the event was BBC Scotland's Young Traditional Musician of the Year 2018 Hannah Rarity accompanied brilliantly on guitar by Anna Massie, BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year 2003.

As well as organising the event, Rose also MC'd the evening and sang and joined her young friends, including Star Murdy (fiddle), Gregor Grierson (bagpipes), Anna Pearcey (fiddle), Kate Harrold (guitar), Niamh Stainhope (fiddle) and Kyle Anderson (accordion), in a delightful mix of music.



## Robert Burns and the Discovery and Re-Creation of Scottish Song

Attendees at the International Burns Federation Conference in Glasgow in September enjoyed hearing Dr Katherine Campbell (below left) speaking about the work which she and Dr Emily Lyle (below right) have been preparing for publication in 2020 by the Musica Scotia Trust as *Robert Burns and the Discovery and Re-Creation of Scottish Song*.

The materials for the study of Burns's production of poems and songs are very rich and diverse and this book makes a portion of the work more accessible by its concentration on the songs alone. Within the area of song, certain strands have been selected for examination, with the aim of achieving clarity of understanding of specific aspects of Burns's process of composition and of his environment as it related to traditional song. Burns's song compositions strongly affected what was carried forward from the past but his work did not eclipse the continuing oral tradition and attention is drawn to certain elements in the post-Burns era that reflect the situation before his intervention and can throw light on what he accomplished that is additional to what can be gleaned from eighteenth-century history.



The book keeps close to contemporary records to give a sense of resting on solid ground and experiencing interactions with specific people. The approach is partly chronological but does not aim at a complete coverage of Burns's life. The two main phases of Burns's song acquisition and production are treated as his Ayrshire and Nithsdale periods while the intervening time, the period of Edinburgh and the tours, is represented mainly by studies of the set of songs sent to William Tytler and of the journey to the north, where it has been possible to provide fresh insights into Burns's sources, including the Inverness lady who sang Gaelic songs for him. Although the relationship with bawdy material is pervasive, one chapter gives this matter special attention and includes some discussion of the chapbooks where this material is sometimes preserved. Since Burns's own musical skills were limited, he

needed a music collaborator and found a congenial one in Stephen Clarke who is treated in two of the ten chapters. The book contains over a hundred musical examples and is accompanied by a CD prepared by Katherine Campbell which presents one example taken from each chapter. The CD ties in with the themes of discovery and re-creation, presenting on the one hand a traditional song version which Burns would have, or might have, been familiar with, and then taking Burns's own song and re-creating it for a modern audience through the use of piano accompaniments devised by Katherine Campbell. [Katherine Campbell and Emily Lyle]



The Musica Scotica Trust is a Scottish charity, founded in 1996 by the late Dr Kenneth Elliott of the University of Glasgow, to encourage Scottish music of all periods through performing editions, scholarly and accessible publications, research-oriented seminars and an annual conference. Details for purchasing *Robert Burns and the Discovery and Re-Creation of Scottish Song* will appear in the next *Newsletter*.

## St. Andrew's Day Service at St. Giles' Cathedral



The Robert Burns World Federation was represented by a smaller delegation than usual at the annual Festival of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Patron of Scotland on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

From L to R: Joyce Goldie, (RBWF President) Brian Goldie, Alex and Isa Hanley, Mags and Gordon Jamieson (President Edinburgh and District Burns Clubs Association), David Baird (Hon Sec Dumfries and Galloway Burns Association), Alan Beck (President Greenock Burns Club) and wife Polly, Claire Murdoch.

The Service, conducted by the Minister, the Rev. Calum I MacLeod, was as moving as usual and included some stirring music on the massive organ and impressive Anthems from the Choir. The Sermon was delivered by Dean of the Thistle the Very Rev David Fergusson and Lessons were read by Lord Wilson of Tillyorn and Gen Alastair Bruce, Governor of Edinburgh Castle. The procession of the Knights of the Thistle in their finery was most dignified. A most interesting and colourful morning which delegates were privileged to attend.

## St Petersburg Robert Burns Club



The plans to inaugurate a Robert Burns club in St Petersburg, Russia, have now come to fruition. The founding members are President Dr.Svetlana Bukreyeva and office bearers Dr.Vyatcheslav Korovkin, Dr.Alexander Bukreyev, Maxim Melnikov, Margarita Mudrak and Natasha Ermakova. The second meeting of the club will take place on 25<sup>th</sup> October in School 238, St Petersburg where the future plans of the club will be agreed.

The founders of the Club have for some years collaborated with the St Petersburg Forum and all have been guests of the Forum in Scotland. For some years each has played a significant role in supporting the Burns Suppers and the ceilidh which are features of the Days of Scotland in St Petersburg each January/February

and have a close relationship with the Association for International Cooperation who organise the Days of Scotland.

Svetlana and Alexander Bukreyev are philologists, Vyatcheslav Korovkin is an influential educationalist and Margarita Mudrak is the head of the association for International Cooperation and chairman of the English Speaking Union. Since 1998 over 100 winners of the Burns Essay and Knowledge of Scotland competitions, organised by the Association and the St Petersburg Forum, have visited Scotland. A considerable number of these have already shown an interest in joining the club. Past winners Maxim Melnikov and Natasha Ermakova will be responsible for liaising with the past winners who wish to engage.

The St Petersburg Forum has been aware for some time that the Club was likely to be formed. The founders are all long standing friends and we are delighted that our Alumni friends and winners will now have a point of contact which will keep their links to Scotland and each other. Thanks to the Howff Club in Dumfries who have been supportive of the initiative. The five Forum directors and our Associates are all Burnsians and I am quite sure that Robert Burns would have been as delighted as we are.

[Elizabeth Clark – President. St Petersburg Forum]

## West Sound & RBWF New Member Offer 2020

One of the less publicised advantages of joining the Robert Burns World Federation is the fantastic opportunity to win 2 tickets for the annual West Sound Burns Supper. West Sound FM is an Associate Member of the Robert Burns World Federation and they very kindly supply us with two free tickets for new members, who have joined during the year, to attend what many regard as the grandest and best Burns Supper.



## THE WEST SOUND BURNS SUPPER

West Sound Radio is honoured to be associated with the Robert Burns World Federation and indeed the sponsors of the West Sound Rosebowl at the Annual Young Burnsian of the Year Competition. The 35th annual West Sound Burns Supper will be held on Saturday 18 January, 2020 at the Double Tree, Glasgow. The event promises all the ingredients of a traditional Burns Supper but with its own special twist to honour the Bard. We are also delighted to give a platform to the Young Burnsian Liam Kearney and Junior Burnsian Sonia Zhang. The event is recorded for broadcast on Burns day but why not join us live? Early bird tickets £90 each which includes a 4 course banquet, miniature of whisky and your evening's entertainment. For more information please contact: [Carolyn.mcallister@westsound.co.uk](mailto:Carolyn.mcallister@westsound.co.uk)

## President Enjoys Some German Hospitality



President Brian Goldie and his wife Joyce visited Uetze in Germany to visit the Clansmen and view the new art installation 'Fleeing Tam' depicting Tam O' Shanter. They had a very enjoyable time with their hosts at a party on the Friday evening. They followed up on that with a Saturday jaunt to



the Xmas market in nearby Celle before packing up and heading for home on Sunday.

The Fleein' Tam is very impressive as was the enthusiasm of the party goers.

## Irvine Lasses Burns Club – St Andrews Night



The Irvine Lasses Burns Club held their annual St. Andrew's Night on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December.

Photo (from L to R) Sadie Chalmers, RBWF President Brian Goldie and his wife Joyce, Archie Chalmers, President of Irvine Burns Club, entertainer Alastair McDonald, Rosemary Murdoch, President of Irvine Lasses Burns Club, Ian Clarkson, Provost of North Ayrshire Council. Rosemary made special mention of the Lasses Committee whose catering and hosting skills excelled in what proved to be a most enjoyable evening.

## Centre for Robert Burns Studies Events

### Annual Conference

Following the success of previous years, The Centre for Robert Burns Studies has once again brought its annual conference to the convivial surroundings of the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, Murdoch's Loan, Alloway, Ayr KA7 4PQ on Saturday 11th January 2020,

There will also be musical entertainment from the wonderful Robyn Stapleton and question panels. The day starts with tea and coffee at 9.30 am and runs until 5 pm. Booking essential (please note, places are strictly limited so book early to avoid disappointment).

See: <http://www.burnsmuseum.org.uk/event/centre-robert-burns-studies-annual-conference/>

### A Burns Concert

In collaboration with the Centre for Robert Burns Studies, this concert features some of the fiddle tunes that inspired Burns across his life. He learned tunes from his native Ayrshire and Dumfriesshire, found others on his travels across Scotland, and picked them up from published collections, especially those by famous fiddlers Niel Gow and William Marshall. Alongside the timeless lyrics Burns often wrote to match them, John Shedden will let us hear what Burns had to say about these tunes in his song notes, tour journals, commonplace books and letters. On Thursday 23 January 2020, 10 am - 2 pm in the University Concert Hall.

### Burns Night at the Museum, 24th January, 7pm-10pm

The Centre for Robert Burns Studies are delighted to again work with their friends at The Hunterian to bring you 'Burns Night at the Museum', part of Scotland's Winter Festival programme. In recognition of 2020 being Visit Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters, our theme this year is on 'Burns on water'. There will be activities and experiences suitable for all the family within the atmospheric setting of The Hunterian Museum. The event is free but booking will be essential for this very popular event. Save the date in your diary now and look out for ticket information in the New Year.

### 'Robert Burns: Poems, Songs and Legacy' – Online Course

The hugely successful Glasgow University MOOC 'Robert Burns: Poems, Songs and Legacy', is running again from 20th January 2020. The course is free with options to sign up for other paid courses. Sign-up is open at: <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/robert-burns>

### An 'Evening with Burns' in Broughton House



Emily Smith, BBC Radio Scotland's Young Traditional Musician of the Year, 2014, and husband Jamie McClellan, will be the star guests in an 'Evening with Burns' event on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020 in the National Trust Property, Broughton House, Kirkcudbright. An annual highlight of the programme of the Friends of Broughton House since 2006, this year's event will also feature two rising young stars, Rose Byers (Lockerbie Academy) and Anna Pearcey (St Joseph's College), both winners of many awards at the Federation's Schools' Competitions.

Broughton House was the home of 'Glasgow Boys' artist, Edward Atkinson Hornel, who amassed one of the largest collections in the world of printed works by, or about, Burns. A keen Burnsian, he was President of the Dumfries Burns Club in 1927. J. C. Ewing, Editor of the *Burns Chronicle*, was responsible for ensuring only the best of books went to Hornel because he knew they would be made available for research.

Emily and Jamie's first joint album has just been released and details can be found at: <https://smithandmcclellan.com/new-album-small-town-stories>

## First Facebook-Based Club Joins the Federation

A new and novel club has recently joined the Federation. The “Researching the Life and Times of Robert Burns” Club has recently been welcomed as No.2262. It is a purely Facebook social media-based club and accepts research articles and other contributions on all aspects of the life and times of Robert Burns, his family, friends and associates. Membership is worldwide and articles are often shared with other Federation clubs that have a Facebook presence. The contributions are monitored by admin for relevance and inappropriate advertising is usually deleted. Bespoke and other photographs are encouraged and enhance the text of member’s contributions. Members are encouraged to comment, ask questions, give relevant advice, etc. The social media format facilitates access to a wide audience and we aim to make contributions towards the knowledge and understanding of Robert Burns, his poetry, songs, publications, influences, etc.

Roger Griffiths (Admin/President)

## Dumfries to Host a Spectacular Burns Festival

Between 24<sup>th</sup> January to 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020, across Dumfries, the world’s largest Burns night celebrations will take place with 9 days of music, theatre, comedy and much more with stars such as the Razorbills, Emily Smith and Jamie McClennan, Morcheeba, the Kingdom Choir (of royal fame) and Skerryvore taking part. There are also many family and free events in the programme as well as dance tuition and demonstrations. Full details of all the events are available on the Festival website: <http://bigburnssupper.com>

## Lasses Who Lunch

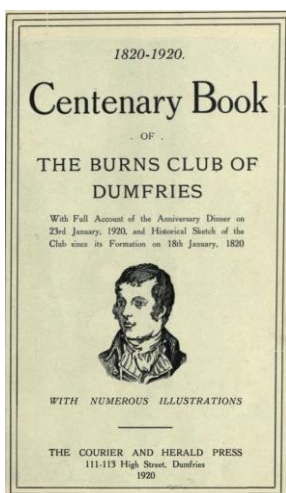
Stirlingshire, Clackmannanshire and Falkirk Burns Association is looking forward to hosting the RBWF Lasses Lunch on 17th May 2020 at the Golden Lion Hotel in Stirling, 12 o'clock for 1pm. For further details email: [brianandjoycegoldie@btinternet.com](mailto:brianandjoycegoldie@btinternet.com)

Save the Date - more details to follow.



## Dumfries Burns Club 200th Anniversary

Dumfries Burns Club will be celebrating its 200th Anniversary on Saturday 18 January 2020, the actual date of the Club’s inauguration in 1820, and the event will be held in the impressive Easterbrook Hall, Bankend Road, Dumfries DG1 4TL.



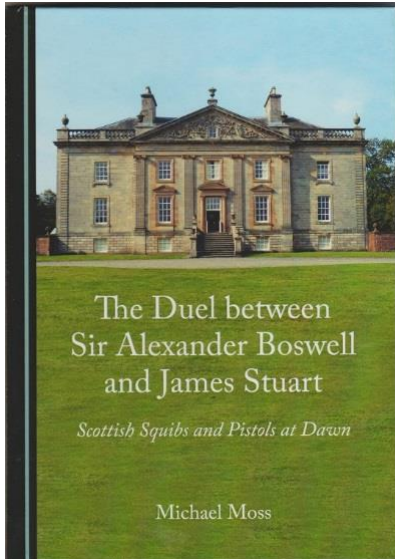
It will not be in the form of the traditional Burns Supper, although there will be an Immortal Memory proposed by the President of the Robert Burns World Federation Brian Goldie and Toast to the Lasses proposed by Fraser Sanderson, ex Director of Education for Dumfries & Galloway. The reply will be given by Baroness Goldie. The Rt. Hon David Mundell, ex Secretary of State for Scotland, will propose the Toast to Dumfries and the Club, of which he is a member.

There will be entertainment by a group from Edinburgh – Ragged Glory. Local winners of RBWF Schools’ Competitions will sing and provide musical entertainment. John Caskie, a well-known singer and entertainer, will be MC for the evening. For the moment it is hoped that individuals might show an interest in this historic event and clubs might arrange to take a table. The cost of the tickets will be £35 per person for a three-course dinner with coffee. There will be a welcome drink and a glass of wine at the table.

Enquiries can be sent to Mrs Jean Macmillan-Forster, Immediate PP of the Club. Her telephone number is 01387 950711 or e mail [jmf3939@gmail.com](mailto:jmf3939@gmail.com) or to me, the Interim Secretary [alexandisa@btinternet.com](mailto:alexandisa@btinternet.com)

Ticket are now available to purchase. The Holiday Inn Hotel is only a few yards away from Easterbrook Hall if accommodation is required.





This excellent book is aptly sub-titled *Scottish Squibs and Pistols at Dawn* and is primarily a fascinating account of the events leading up to, and impact of, a fatal duel between Sir Alexander Boswell and his cousin James Stuart. Alexander, the son of James Boswell, a friend and biographer of Samuel Johnson, was an extravagant character and a Tory who lampooned his Whig opponents, one of whom was his cousin James Stuart.

Importantly, Boswell (1775–1822) lived during Burns's lifetime and the book provides a comprehensive picture of that extraordinary period in Scotland's history, particularly the political environment. Despite his flaws, Boswell tried to be a benefactor to his tenants but eventually had to take a tougher stance against those who failed to pay their rent and no doubt some suffered the same fate as did Burns's father by being threatened with eviction.

Like Burns, Boswell was a published poet and prolific songwriter who shared the same publisher, George Thomson, for promoting his songs, many of which were sent, as were Burns's, for arrangement by Beethoven and Haydn.

The 'squibs' in the title refer to the wickedly sarcastic lampoons Boswell fired off at his opponents. Although some are humorous, most are visceral and bawdy and therefore it comes as no surprise that personal honour in Boswell's and Stuart's case was literally tested to destruction. Many of these poems appear for the first time print in this book. As an example there is a drinking song of which Burns would have heartily approved:

The Parson boasts of mild ale / The Squire of old October / But little their boasts avail / If guest trudge homewards sober / To drink's my dear delight / With boon boys and good liquor / The Squire is a thirsty wight / But who can quench the vicar

Boswell was instrumental in the erection of Burns Monument in Alloway, initiating the Monument committee, raising funds and, in his position as the Most Worshipful Grandmaster of Mother Lodge, delivering a eulogy praising 'Burns's genius and the universality of his appeal' at the laying of the foundation stone on 25<sup>th</sup> January 1820.

The author of the book Michael Moss is Professor Emeritus of Archival Science at the University of Northumbria and is to be commended for his detailed research for the book, especially in light of the fact that the records of the duel in the Glasgow Magistrates Court were lost and had to be pieced together from multiple other sources.

Published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing ISBN (13): 978-1-5275-3495-7 and ISBN (10): 1-5275-3495-2

### **Burns Features in Radio Four's 'In Our Time'**

Robert Burns was the subject in a recent edition of the prestigious Radio Four programme 'In Our Time' hosted by Melvin Bragg (right). The panel of three answering Melvin's questions were: Professor Robert Crawford, Professor of Modern Scottish Literature at St Andrews University; Professor Fiona Stafford, Professor of English Literature University of Oxford and Professor Murray Pittock, Bradley Professor of Literature at the University of Glasgow and Pro Vice Principal at the University. Inevitably, in a media seeking sensationalism, Burns's love life and drinking seemed to take precedence in the first part of the programme. However, later on we get some better focus on his works and poetic abilities and this is particularly true in the last 15 minutes of the broadcast, an addendum to the main part of the programme, in which the speakers highlight Burns's influence on other poets and writers, his clever use of the Scots and English languages and his importance as an international figurehead.



The programme is still available on I Player at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0009kkn>

[ED]

## Irvine Burns Club Welcomes Leading Academics to Wellwood Burns Centre

Burns Scotland is a partnership of the principal Burns Centres and Museums across Scotland that contain and display significant collections of the works of Robert Burns. Its remit covers not only his writings but also a whole range of Burns and Burns-related items including art, memorabilia and what are now termed colloquially as “Burnsiana”. The Burns Scotland Partnership includes several national institutions, local authorities and private collections working together to conserve and document the distributed national Burns collection. It does so by facilitating access for different audiences and by recognising the enormous learning and research potential of the collection. Significantly, any collection or items aspiring to be recognised for membership of Burns Scotland are subject to inspection and rigorous scrutiny of their authenticity before being admitted.

Irvine Burns Club with its unique Wellwood Burns Centre & Museum is rightly proud to be a member of Burns Scotland which entitles it to display the partnership’s motif and strapline as being “Part of the National Robert Burns Collection”. In that respect, Irvine is almost unique among Burns Clubs because it not only owns its own premises but also an astonishing collection of Burns’s relics including manuscripts, books, letters, paintings and furniture. Among these are several stained glass windows and large murals linked directly to an A/V production telling the story of Irvine’s influence in changing the life of the young farmer who arrived in the Royal Burgh as an Apprentice Flax dresser in 1781 but left less than a year later determined “to endeavour at the character of a poet”

Burns Scotland continues to recognise Wellwood as being a prestigious part of the National Burns Collection and Irvine Burns Club is happy to welcome visitors of all ages, along with scholars, academics and researchers from around the world to its red sandstone Wellwood Burns Centre & Museum. Recently, Professor Gerard Carruthers, Chairman of Burns Scotland and Principal of Glasgow University’s Centre for Robert Burns Studies, hosted a seminar at Wellwood on “Editing Robert Burns for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” featuring seven of his colleagues from the CRBS and it is symptomatic of the reputation of Wellwood as a quality venue that more than 90 visitors from across Scotland attended and took part.

“Editing Robert Burns for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” is the multi-million pound project, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), producing the new Oxford University Press edition of “The Works of Robert Burns. So far, three volumes have been published, covering Burns’s prose writings and his songs for James Johnson’s Scots Musical Museum. The fourth volume, Songs for George Thomson is due to appear in print in the coming months.



Among those from CRBS who presented papers were Professor Nigel Leask (who addressed “*Burns’s Early Life in the Collected Prose*”), Dr Rhona Brown and Dr Craig Lamont (“*Editing Robert Burns’s Early Letters: The Poet and his Patrons*”), Moira Hansen “*Mail-order Medicine: Charles Fleming’s correspondence with William Cullen*”), and Dr Ronnie Young and Dr Carol Baraniuk (“*Editing The Clarinda correspondence*”).

Pic Caption: Archie Chalmers, President of Irvine Burns Club (l.) and Provost Ian Clarkson of North

Ayrshire Council (r.) welcomed Professor Gerard Carruthers (centre) and his colleagues from Glasgow University’s Centre for Robert Burns Studies to Irvine’s Wellwood Burns Centre & Museum.

[Further information from: BILL NOLAN Hon Secretary of Irvine Burns Club and a Director of Burns Scotland]

## Young Writers Competition Winner

Founded in 1970, the Association for Scottish Literary Studies (ASLS) is an educational charity (SC006535) based in the University of Glasgow that aims to promote the study, teaching and writing of Scottish literature, and to further the study of the languages of Scotland. In conjunction with the Robert Burns World Federation it runs an annual Young Writers competition for S1 and S2 pupils writing a short story of no more than 750 words. Certificates are awarded to all entrants to the national competition and the top three entrants will win prizes of £100, £75 and £50. The final submission date for the competition is 30 June 2020.



Participants in this year's competition are shown receiving their prizes. (Photo L to R) Winner of the Young Writer's Essay competition Kirsty Henderson from Thurso High School, Leslie Macdonald RBWF Education Convenor, third-placed Harris Provan Castlehead High School, Paisley and Jean Hillhouse representing the ASLS.

[Kirsty's superb winning entry can be read at: <http://www.rbwf.org.uk/asls-winners-2019/> by clicking on her essay title]

Full details of all the resources available through the ASLS see: <https://asls.arts.gla.ac.uk>

As a complement to the ASLS competition, the Federation will be running a separate essay competition for P6/7 pupils. There will be no set theme or topic and schools will be able to enter up to 6 essays. The word limit is 650 words and the closing date for entries is 30 Mar 2020. The winner will receive the Larkhall Burns Club Trophy, donated in memory of George Fairley, who was a leading light in judging the Larkhall Burns Club writing competition and especially for the encouraging critiques he offered to each competitor.

## Laigh Kirk Concert Success

On 22nd November President Brian Goldie represented the RBWF at a fund-raising concert titled "For Auld Lang Syne" held in the Laigh Kirk, near neighbours of the RBWF headquarters in Kilmarnock. He was joined by recent winner of the Tam O' Shanter competition Jock Wilson and by Gerry Fitzpatrick who took time off from his normal duties with Scottish folk group "The Real McKay." The Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra also played a major part in the concert.

One of the purposes of the event was to raise funds for the restoration of Tam Samson's gravestone and Burns' poem *Tam Samson's Elegy* was expertly recited by Jock followed by *A Man's a Man for a' That*.

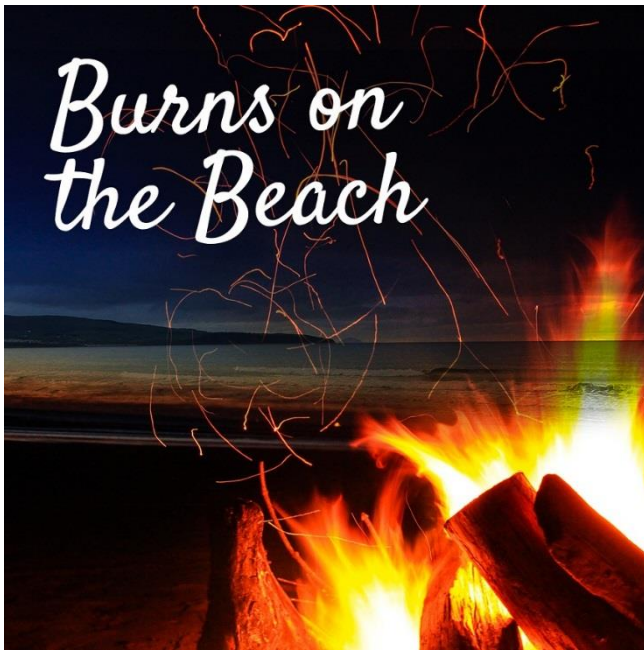


As well as promoting the work of the Federation, Brian also sang with Gerry and their performances and the contribution of the fiddlers was enhanced when Burns' own fiddle, safely transported from the Robert Burns Birth Place Museum, was played by one of the young musicians.

A great night was had by all and there were many representatives from the Burns movement in the audience of nearly 400 people.

The concert was streamed worldwide and they are already talking about a reprise of the event due to the success of the production.

## Spectacular New Event in Burns 'Hame Toun' Celebrations



An exciting new event is being planned in Burns Hame Toun of Ayr to celebrate Burns Night as part of Scotland's Winter Festivals.

Burns on the Beach will headline the Burns Hame Toun programme on Friday 24 January from 7.00pm - 10.00pm.

Burns on the Beach is organised by South Ayrshire Council, and has received support through Scotland's Winter Festivals. This event will launch Scotland's Year of Coast and Waters in South Ayrshire.

Burns on the Beach will take place at the pier end of Ayr beach. Five unique sound and light installations will light up our coastal assets including Ayr Pier, The Watchful Boat, Ayr beach and the promenade path. In addition, there will be a beach bonfire to create that cosy, winter beach vibe. The evening will conclude with a special

burning Burns finale to the sound of authentic Scottish tribal band Clanadonia, at 9.30pm.

This family friendly event is free to attend. As an optional extra, you can purchase a 'cosy ticket', which will allow you access to the nearby Horizon Hotel. You can pop in and shelter a while, view some of the light installations from above, and pick up a hot stovies snack. The Borland Ceilidh will be playing some well-known Burns tunes, as well as talking you through some ceilidh dances.

Tickets are priced £8.50 for an adult or child, or a group of four can purchase a family ticket for £30. Tickets are now on sale from [ayrgaiety.co.uk](http://ayrgaiety.co.uk) or 01292 288235. Further information on the event is available via [burnsfestival.com](http://burnsfestival.com)

If you prefer a quieter event experience then a selection of the installations only will also be available to view Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th January 7.00pm – 10.00pm under the banner of Watchful Burns.

**[Note: The Burns 'Hame Toun' concert due to be held in Alloway Parish Church on 26<sup>th</sup> January and advertised in the Alloway Burns Club website has been cancelled. Ed]**

## Isle of Arran Distillery Appoints New Manager

It is a pleasure to report that our official sponsors, the Isle of Arran Distillery, has appointed David Livingstone as the new Distillery Manager for their Lochranza Distillery. David pictured right with current manager James MacTaggart who is moving into a new role as Director of Production and Operations for both of their distilleries at Lochranza and Lagg.

David has spent the last nearly 20 years working in some wonderful distilleries on his native island of Islay. He has worked at both Laphroaig and Ardnahoe distilleries and has a wealth of knowledge and experience to bring to Lochranza in this exciting new adventure.



On taking on the new appointment David observed, "Being from the islands myself, I recognise how important distilleries are to island communities and that's something I've always been passionate about. The Isle of Arran Distillers is proud to continue to operate as an independently owned distillery that has the local people at its core."