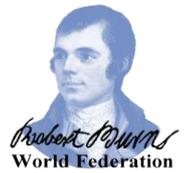




The Robert Burns World Federation Newsletter



Issue 43 March 2020

I'm sure members would want to join me in wishing Beverley Thomson and Laura Hoggard our best wishes following their decision to cease employment in the Federation office. On a personal note I will be eternally grateful to Beverley for her assistance in proof reading the newsletter and for her all-round support for my role as Convenor of the Literature Committee. This newsletter reports on many Burns Suppers from far and wide reflecting participation by young and old alike. Reports from Thailand to Turkey, Calgary to Greenock and New York to Vancouver just reinforce the global reach of Burns. Such has been the volume of articles reporting Burns Suppers that some submissions have had to be held over until next month's newsletter or, unfortunately in some cases, left on the cutting room floor, for which I apologise. [Ed]

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A Winter Night

Now Phoebe in her midnight reign,
Dark-muff'd, view'd the dreary plain;
Still crowding thoughts, a pensive train,
Rose in my soul,
When on my ear this plaintive strain,
Slow, solemn, stole:

Blow, blow, ye winds, with heavier gust!
And freeze, thou bitter-biting frost!
Descend, ye chilly, smothering snows!
Not all your rage, as now united, shows
More hard unkindness unrelenting,
Vengeful malice, unrepenting,
Than heaven-illumin'd Man on brother Man bestows!

Robert Burns

20 November 1786

Dumfries Burns Club Celebrates 200th Anniversary



Dumfries Burns Club celebrated its 200th anniversary on Saturday 18 January 2020, exactly 200 years to the day since it was inaugurated. Some 180 guests attended the spectacular dinner in Easterbrook Hall and they came from as far afield as Aberdeen to Yorkshire and Greenock to the Scottish Borders. A number of the guests were presidents of their local clubs and there were also seven past presidents of the Robert Burns World Federation (RBWF) in attendance.

President Miller Caldwell chaired the evening with great aplomb. The Immortal Memory was delivered by Brian Goldie, the current President of RBWF. Fraser Sanderson, ex-Director of Education for Dumfries & Galloway proposed the Toast to the Lasses which was replied to by Baroness Annabel Goldie. The Rt Hon David Mundell MP toasted Dumfries and the Burns Club, of which he is a member.

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Dumfries Burns Club Celebrates 200th Anniversary (Cont'd)



After the speeches, John Caskie MBE led the entertainment in his usual expert manner. John himself sang and the entertainers were *Ragged Glory*, a well-known group from the Edinburgh area. Anna Pearcey played the fiddle and Ailsa Black sang, both of the girls having been winners in local and national Burns competitions across the country. The Piper was Gregor Grierson who piped in the guests as well as playing a lament after the Immortal Memory and a solo turn during the evening. There was also a song from Alan Beck, President of Greenock Burns Club (the Mother Club).

The Lord Lieutenant for Dumfries, Fiona Armstrong, and the Provost of Dumfries & Nithsdale, Tracey Little were top table guests and each of them spoke eloquently about their love of Burns and the magnificent achievement of the Dumfries Burns Club in reaching such a significant milestone.

An enjoyable night was had by all and it was agreed that all the hard work put into it had been well worth it for this special occasion.

Photo L to R: Fiona Armstrong, Fraser Sanderson, Brian Goldie, Miller Caldwell, Baroness Annabel Goldie, David Mundell and Tracey Little.

Lasses Lunch Booking Details

Stirlingshire and Clackmannanshire Association of Burns Clubs is pleased to invite you to: The 21st RBWF Lasses Lunch on Sunday 17th May 2020 at 12 Noon for 1.00pm at the Golden Lion Hotel, Stirling. Guest Speaker – Baroness Annabel Goldie.

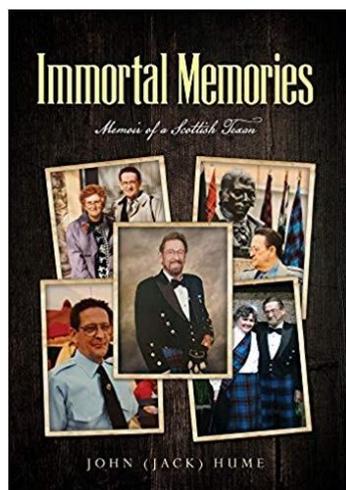
To book places - please complete the form below and return by Friday 15th March 2019 together with payment: Cheques - payable to The Robert Burns World Federation Ltd – to: The Robert Burns World Federation 3A John Dickie Street Kilmarnock KA1 1HW. Bank details for BACS online payments: Bank of Scotland Account: 00856523 Sort code: 80-08-53. Please advise the RBWF office once payment has transferred. Online Invoice: To allow you to pay by credit or debit card online, please contact the RBWF office on 01563 572469.



We would welcome raffle prizes on the day or contact brianandjoycegoldie@btinternet.com in advance of the event. We would be delighted to arrange either a lunch or visit to a local brewery for any partners attending but please advise the office of names and numbers by the 17th April 2020 so this can be organised.

<http://www.rbwf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Lasses-Lunch-Booking-Form-2020-1.pdf>

Book Review: Immortal Memories – Memoirs of a Scottish Texan



This recently-released book relates to the life and times of the late Jack Hume with a foreword written by Robert Boyd, former Chieftain of the Heather and Thistle Society of Houston and also a Past President of the Robert Burns Association of North America. The book gives a most interesting insight in to the difficulties of being an emigrant from Scotland and becoming an immigrant to the United States. The trials and tribulations of his young life were many but moulded him to being resolute in the life before him. He succeeded against many odds and became a caring and sharing person.

Thousands of Scottish men and women followed the emigration path for a variety of reasons leaving behind a way of life and facing new challenges in a different environment. In the case of Jack Hume, having served time in the Army, he set off with his wife Phemia and a small child. An employment opportunity beckoned which unfortunately faded on arrival because of delays

on the journey. The word “failure” was not in his vocabulary and as he was devoted to providing for himself and his family he found alternative employment. Throughout his life he maintained a great interest and admiration of the works of Robert Burns. With infectious enthusiasm he encouraged, aided, supported and spoke about the Bard. He was devastated with the loss of Phemia who had been his constant companion for years. He always had a fatherly pride in his two daughters and grandchildren and they, in turn, revered him. After some time he married Guida and in his closing years found contentment and companionship which he treasured.

This book is of interest to everyone and from a category of “should be read” moved to a top category of “must be read” Indeed – in itself an Immortal Memory.

Published by Palmetto Publishing Group: ISBN10 1641114207 or ISN13 9781641114202

[Review by Murdo Morrison Hon President RBWF]

Edinburgh & District Burns Clubs Association Wreath Laying

On the 26th of January 2020 within the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh and District Burns Clubs Association (EDBCA) held their Annual Wreath-Laying Ceremony. The afternoon started with May Weatherston and Jim Weatherston on banjo/guitar and Cameron Goodall on guitar singing beside the Flaxman statue of Burns. Gordon Jamieson, Past President and Secretary of EDBCA, welcomed everyone before laying a wreath on behalf of the EDBCA. The Treasurer, Ralph Balfour, then invited the representatives from the various official bodies to lay wreaths at the base of the statue in memory of Burns. This included the Lord Provost of Edinburgh Frank Ross who informed the representatives that it was William Creech, later to be Lord Provost of Edinburgh, who published Burns’s Edinburgh Edition and stressed how important this publication was in promoting Burns to the world. Ellen Wong for the American Consulate in Edinburgh, laid a wreath on behalf of the American people but was unable to speak due to a sore throat. Representatives from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Scotland, the National Trust for Scotland, the Depute Provost of East Lothian and the Provost of Mid Lothian, along with Professor Chris Breward on behalf of the Scottish National Portrait Galleries, all laid wreaths. We were very pleased that Brian Goldie, President of the Robert Burns World Federation, was able to attend and lay a Wreath on behalf of the Federation. The party then sang “A Mans a Man for a’ that” and adjourned for tea and coffee.



Gordon M. Jamieson, Past President and Secretary EDBCA.

Richard Gowing Obituary

Richard Gowing was the great, great, great grandson of Robert Burns - descended from Col. James Glencairn Burns (b.1794) - the Poet's third surviving son who, following his father's death in 1796, was educated at Dumfries, then in London, and thereafter pursued a distinguished career with the East India Company, before retiring to Cheltenham.

Richard was born in Ashted, Surrey on the 29th June 1940. He was the second son of George Ian Burns Gowing and had a long and successful career in the RAF rising to the rank of Group Captain. He was Station Commander of RAF Scampton where the Red Arrows are based, and was awarded a CBE for the station's charity work.

He very much enjoyed the family's renewed links with the Burns' Federation and Clubs, especially those of Alloway and Bridgeton, attending several functions and Burns' nights, including the 250th Anniversary Celebrations in 2009. Their own celebrations of Burns' Night, at their home in Somerset, were famous!

Sadly, declining health forced a move from their home of 25 years to a nursing home in Southampton earlier this year, to be nearer family. He died on the 5th of December aged 79. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, daughters Sheena and Fiona, and his four grandchildren, of whom he was immensely proud. His kindness, unerring devotion to caring for his wife with Parkinson's for over 20 years and his cracking sense of humour will be greatly missed by all.

Greenock Burns Club Annual Celebration



Photo L to R: Christine Currie Senior Vice President Greenock Burns Club, Col. Peter McCarthy, Lord Lieutenant for Renfrewshire, Jim Wallace, Lord Wallace of Tankerness, Ruth Ralston TV Presenter, Alan D Beck President, Greenock Burns Club, Ruth Davison MSP, Iain White Junior Vice President Greenock Burns Club

On Saturday the 25th of January 2020, Greenock Burns Club (The Mother Club) met in the Tontine Hotel, Greenock for their 218th Annual Celebration. Club President Alan D Beck chaired the proceedings and warmly welcomed everyone. He had the pleasure of introducing the principal speaker of the evening, Lord

Wallace of Tankerness, to propose the Toast to the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns. Lord Wallace is better known as Jim Wallace, former leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats and former Deputy First Minister and MSP. Lord Wallace's Immortal Memory covered numerous aspects of Burns's life and his works, referencing his poetry and his letters. He also spoke of Burns' influence being worldwide and how proud he was to have represented Scotland at the United Nations inaugural Robert Burns dinner in New York.

The Toast to The Mother Club was proposed by HM Lord-Lieutenant of Renfrewshire, Col. Peter McCarthy who made detailed reference not only to the club's history but also to its present and its future and how it had played an integral part in Greenock life for over 200 years. In particular, he spoke of his admiration for the Greenock Burns Club Exhibition and Archive Room within the Greenock Custom House. He also praised the work carried out by our members, who volunteer so readily to keep the club at the forefront of the Burns Movement.

Greenock Burns Club Annual Celebration (Cont'd)

The Toast to the Lasses was proposed by Ruth Davidson MSP, the former leader of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party. Ms. Davidson entertained us with her extremely well-researched and witty observations, interspersed with knowledgeable facts and Burns verses to illustrate her case. Replying to the Toast to the Lasses was BBC Weather Presenter Ms. Judith Ralston who took great delight in pointing out all possible flaws in the male character - especially those of President Alan Beck whom she has known for 35 years.

As is the tradition at The Mother Club, the President thanked the principal speaker for delivering the Immortal Memory toast and thereafter installed him as Honorary President for 2020 by investing him with his badge of Office.

For a full report on the supper see the Greenock Burns Club's own website at:

<http://greenockburnsclub.com/2020-annual-celebration/>

Alan McKenzie Prominent Scots-Canadian



We acknowledge the passing of one of Canada's greatest Burns enthusiasts, Alan McKenzie. A Past President of the Halton Peel Burns Club, Toronto and former Secretary, Treasurer, President and Newsletter Editor of the Scottish Studies Foundation, Alan was an enthusiastic participant in many Scots-Canadian events, including the annual Colloquium at the University of Guelph. For details see: <https://www.uoguelph.ca/arts/scottish/events/jill-mckenzie-memorial-lecture>

His interest in his family history led him to found the Canadian Chapter of the Clan McKenzie Society in the Americas in 1987. Alan worked tirelessly to promote the Mackenzie Society in Canada, and mounted a campaign to restore the Mackenzie Castle, Castle Leod, near Strathpeffer, Scotland. For full obituary see: <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/alan-mckenzie-obituary?pid=195003840>

Robert Burns and the Scottish Economy

A study of the impact of Robert Burns on the economy of Scotland was carried out by the Centre for Robert Burns Studies at Glasgow University under the direction of Professor Murray Pittock. The study had been funded by the Economic Development Directorate of the Scottish Government, following a debate in the Scottish Parliament on a motion put down by Joan McAlpine on the Economic Potential of Robert Burns on 17 January 2018. The debate can be viewed at:

<https://www.scottishparliament.tv/meeting/members-business-robert-burns-in-the-scottish-economy-january-21-2020>

The Report assesses the value of Burns to the Scottish economy at c£203M annually and his enduring brand value to the country at an additional c£139.5M annually. Its recommendations are based on the conclusion that scope exists to increase this figure significantly in real terms.

There was recognition of the work carried out by the Robert Burns World Federation (RBWF) in supporting Burns in schools and it recommended that the local authorities in Ayrshire and Arran and Dumfries and Galloway work more closely with the RBWF and that Education Scotland is pro-active in disseminating good quality practice in Burns-related education in schools, with the support of the Centre for Robert Burns Studies. To read the full report see:

https://www.gla.ac.uk/media/Media_707867_smxx.pdf



Global Study of Burns Suppers



Every year on the birthday of Robert Burns – 25 January – we celebrate his life and enduring legacy with haggis, whisky and poetry. Since the first supper was held in 1801 by the bard's close friends as a memorial dinner it has morphed into a worldwide event celebrating Scotland's distinctive heritage and culture.

Today it is estimated that over nine and a half million people around the world take part in a Burns Supper every year.

As a follow-up to the economic study outlined in the previous article, academics at the University of Glasgow plan to pull together a worldwide map of contemporary Burns Supper activity. They will create a digital map of Burns Supper activity, past and present with detailed information on format, food and drink products used, speeches, toasts, all elements of the performance by men, women and children over all the many and diverse communities involved.

Through the generosity of Frank and Susan Shaw of Atlanta, the research project, which will run from 2020-2022 is being carried out by the Centre for Robert Burns Studies (CRBS), which has the world's largest concentration of Burns experts. [Photo courtesy of Martin Shields shows Professor Gerard, Co-Director of the CRBS, in the famous Alloway cottage enjoying one of Burns's works]

For more information, contact Aine Allardyce in the University of Glasgow Communications and Public Affairs Office or Research Assistant Paul Malgrati at arts-burnssupper@glasgow.ac.uk

St Andrew's Society Bangkok Celebrate the Bard

Many Federation members will remember American Bob Brill and his former partner from Hawaii, Grace Kenmotsu, who sadly passed away in 2016. Bob was a loyal attender of Burns' conferences and is now retired in Thailand where he is hoping to join the Saint Andrew's Society of Bangkok and reports on their annual Burns Supper.

Bob has just completed a biography of Edgar Allan Poe's Scottish connections under the title, *The Mystery of "Mar'se Eddie" in the Shire* and took the opportunity at the supper to present a copy to the British Ambassador, HE Brian Davidson.

He writes, "As well as the usual toasts, the program (sic) included the British Club Pipe Band led by Pipe Major (American) Keith Walker and the Grand Opera of Thailand so we had Burns' songs lilting throughout the room as well as dynamic animation of various roles and arias. In a world depressed by national and international chaos, and in a city known for its noise and bustle, the calm and peace in the Burns Supper was but one of the rewards of attending. To a new attendee especially, the evening's program was one of wonderful bag-piping he had not enjoyed for years, splendid orations and superb poetry recitations.



[Photo: In centre right is the Chief of the St Andrew's Society of Bangkok James McLeary; to the Chief's left in yellow kilt, is Moray Nicol who gave a robust Address to the Haggis]

Robert Densmore Brill, Jomtien Beach, Thailand

The Burns Club of Vancouver - Annual Burns Supper



The 32nd Annual Burns Supper of the Burns Club of Vancouver was held in the Westerleigh in West Vancouver on Friday 24th January. Thirty six members and guests in Highland dress or evening dress were piped into dinner by piper Tom Merry. President Donald Paton was in the chair and acted as Master of Ceremonies. [Top table shown left]

Bob Black said the Selkirk Grace and Eric Sanderson gave the Loyal Toast, following which our singer, Colin Campbell, led us in singing the national anthem. Piper Tom Merry piped in the haggis, Chef Alan bearing the platter with escorts and sword bearers Eric Sanderson and Bob Dyer. The haggis was addressed by Donald Paton. Dinner included Cock-a-Leekie soup and an

excellent beef tenderloin to go with the haggis, followed by trifle, and after dinner, piper Tom Merry played a medley of pipe tunes and Colin Campbell sang a number of Burns' songs.

The toast to the Immortal Memory was proposed by Alastair MacCulloch, who gave a polished address. The toast to "The Lasses" was proposed by Alistair Taylor, and Dave Mackie gave the toast to "The Twa Lands". Bob Dyer gave a short account of the story behind Burns' satirical poem "Holy Willie's Prayer", before Donald Paton recited it, suitably attired in a nightgown and depicting Holy Willie at his evening prayers. [Right]

The evening ended with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne".



Allanton Jolly Beggars Honour Members and the Bard



Organising a Burns Supper very early in the "season" ensured an excellent turnout of guests and speakers. The occasion was also used to present Honorary Member Certificates to Moira Downie and Jamie Chapman. Moira has given a quarter century of service to the Club and Jamie Chapman of local butchers Chapman was delighted to accept the honour. There is a family tradition in support of Burns and Jamie's father John is an Honorary President of the Federation

The audience comprising of members and guests were delighted to have the Immortal Memory being proposed by President of the Robert Burns World Federation - Brian Goldie. Another person who held Presidential rank in the Association of Speakers Clubs, Graham McLachlan, proposed

the Toast to The Lasses and got a suitable reply from Club Secretary Helen Morrison. Provost Jean Jones responded to the Toast to the Guests proposed by the most recent recruit to the Club, Martin Ryan.

Photo 1 to r back row: Murdo Morrison President, Jamie Chapman Hon Member, Brian Goldie Federation President. Front: Moira Downie Honorary Member, Provost Jean Jones North Lanarkshire Council

Calgary Burns Club's Grand Supper



[Photo: Left to right: Ken Montgomery, Henry Cairney, Andy Harrower and Paul Armstrong]

The Calgary Burns Club had their 44th Burns Supper on Friday 24th January in the Westin Downtown Calgary. In attendance were 450 guests who were treated to a wonderful four-course meal. The MC for the first part of the evening was Henry Cairney 1st VP Calgary Burns Club who introduced a very entertaining start to the evening comprising our Calgary Burns Club Singers led by Ron Pratt, Grace by Jim Hope-Ross, the traditional "Removes" before each dinner course delivered by Andy Burnett and Jim Hutchens, the Calgary Police Service Pipe Band, the Address to the Haggis delivered by Dr Sandy Paterson, The Loyal Toast was delivered by Bill Laing and finally the poem "To A Mouse" orated by Ron Pratt.

The MC for the second part was Dr Paul Armstrong who introduced Major Andy Harrower the speaker for The Immortal Memory, The Toast to the Lasses by Gordon McCulloch, The Calgary Fiddlers and finally the Toast to Absent Friends by Paul Kane.

President Brian Goes That Extra Mile

On Monday 3rd February, President Brian Goldie attended the annual Burns Supper at Allanton to deliver the Immortal Memory toast for Whiteadder Burns Club.

He should have consulted his map of Scotland because he presumed that his journey from Falkirk would only take 40 minutes to Allanton (Wishaw). He didn't realise that this Allanton was near Berwick which made for a long drive home in the wee hours of the morning. However, a good night was had by all and the assembled company which included some weel kent faces from Coldstream, Gala and surrounding areas thoroughly enjoyed the entertainment.



Yorkshire District Tartan Ball

The Yorkshire District of RBWF will be holding its Annual Tartan Ball on Saturday 18th April 2020. This event has grown in popularity over the past few years and we are delighted to welcome friends not only from the Yorkshire area but from much further afield in both England and Scotland. Iain McPhail and his musicians will be with us once again, playing music guaranteed to set your toes tapping all evening! The Ball will be held as usual at the



Holiday Inn, Dodworth, Barnsley which is conveniently situated just off Junction 37 of the M1 and the local train station is also nearby. A good choice of menu is available at a cost of £35 per person, whilst the hotel has maintained the low cost of £50 per room, including breakfast, for those who would like an overnight stay. To reserve a room, please telephone the hotel direct on 01226 299571 before 18th March 2020, quoting Tartan Ball 18th April 2020 (PLEASE NOTE: do not try to reserve your room via the General Reservations system as you will probably be told that no rooms are available – this is because we have taken a



block booking). Contact: Vivien M'Itwamwari avmits@tiscali.co.uk 01427 753856 or mob 07947233583

In a New York State of Mind

As the British Airways flight RH5EZI touched down smoothly onto the runway at JFK Airport in the late morning sunshine of January 22nd my thoughts turned to an earlier conversation in May 2019, with the indomitable Murdo Morrison, Secretary to the Robert Burns Guild of Speakers:

“This assignment is to deliver the Immortal Memory at the Robert Burns Society of New York on the 24th January. It’s held in the plush New York Racket Club in Manhattan where you will be looked after extremely well and welcomed like a long lost son. I’ll let the Chairman David Desi know you are coming. Oh, by the way,” he continued in his soft devilish Lewis lilt, *“all the previous speakers we have sent have been excellent.”* Hebridean code for don’t let the side down!

The *“Old Rustic Fox”*, was not wrong. A superb lunch at the Historic Racket Club to meet the Society’s Board Members (all were of Scottish descent) preceded the evening’s 149th Burns Supper, with excellent hospitality, fraternity and good humour.



President Ken Donnelly, who also runs Scottish Tartan Week, was a host *par excellence* and James, my youngest son who accompanied me, was made equally welcome especially when he announced his intention to entertain the company with the Bard’s poetry over port and cheese as an age-old tradition demanded. His contribution was well received. The evening was an outstanding success, and a once-in-a life-time opportunity had been fully realised and experienced. The hand of friendship was truly extended throughout with an excellent and impressive traditional Burns Supper programme in place.

During the Immortal Memory, best of order was observed, followed by kind and appreciative comments at the end of the evening, many by well-educated and appreciative Burnsians. Therefore, a sense of relief prevailed and a feeling that the honour and reputation of the Speakers Guild remained intact. As James and I strolled triumphantly back to our hotel for a well-earned night cap on a beautiful January night on the Eastern Seaboard, Murdo Morrison could rest easy.

[Report by Peter Pringle]



Burns Influence in St Petersburg



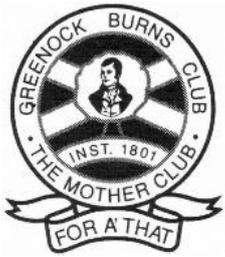
Olga Kuznetsova from St Petersburg writes, “Every New Year people all over the world start singing *Auld Lang Syne*, paying tribute to the great Scottish poet Robert Burns and thus, celebrating his Legacy. I was privileged and delighted to undertake an 3-week online Course from the University of Glasgow (Future Learn) It was a course academically structured, very interesting, which was concerned with archive materials, original publications, manuscripts and recordings of Burns songs. A few songs and poems were interpreted in the context of Scottish history and culture, such as *Auld Lang Syne*, *A Man’s Man for a’ That*, *Ae Fond Kiss*, *Red, Red, Rose*, *Scots Wha Hae*, and *To a Mouse* etc.

In the discussions that followed we could get the true image of Robert Burns, not only a song writer and poet, but a great patriot, who has become an International Icon. Special attention in the course was paid to Burns’s Language. Burns wrote in the Scots language, in the Ayrshire dialect, in “polished” Scots and often in a Standard English. He was schooled in English and had good English pronunciation. For me, a linguist by education, whose professional field was phonetics, this part of the course was of special interest. The course was a great experience in my professional development and I am grateful to the Centre for Robert Burns Studies.

Writing this on the 7th of January, 2020, Russian Christmas and wishing Peace, Happiness and Joy! I have got very fond memories of that course.”

[Photo: Olga proudly holding her certificate]

Greenock Burns Club - Burns Seminar



On Saturday 14th March 2020 Greenock Burns Club will be hosting a Burns Seminar in the McLean Museum & Art Gallery, Watt Institution, 15 Kelly Street, Greenock PA16 8 JX.

The theme of the seminar is "Editing Robert Burns for the 21st Century." The following distinguished speakers will be contributing to this special event:

Sandy Stoddart, HM's Sculptor in Ordinary of Scotland, Professor Gerry Carruthers Centre of Robert Burns Studies, Glasgow University, Professor Kirsteen McCue, Professor of Scottish Literature and Song Culture, Co-Director, Centre for Robert Burns Studies, School of Critical Studies, Glasgow University, Kevin Gallagher PhD Candidate, University of Glasgow.

The event runs from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm. Admission is £5, payable at the door, and tea, coffee and light lunch will be served. To confirm attendance please contact Margaret Dickson Honorary Secretary Greenock Burns Club at: margaret.dickson2@ntlworld.com

Spring and Summer Events at Ellisland

Saturday 7 March, 10-11.30am, Friends of Ellisland Coffee Morning. The event runs 10 am -11.30 am, with refreshments, a cake stall and raffle. Admission is £3.

Sat 11 & Sun 12 April, 10am-4pm, Easter Tam Trail
Follow Tam the Hare around the farm to discover his secret treasure and win yourself a prize! Plus, lots of Easter themed crafts. The trail and crafts are included in the admission price. Children go free! Adults £5, Concessions £4



Sat 18 April, 11am-3pm, Spring Craft Fair

Some incredible local makers are setting up their stalls at the rural farm of Robert Burns. Browse, buy or try your luck in the raffle and you may win something from these amazing craftspeople. Refreshments will be served in the Barn. Your visit to the craft fair is free, normal admission prices apply for the museum

Weds 22 April, 7-9.30pm, Kitchen Ceilidh

Join us in the farm kitchen for an evening of entertainment much like those in the time of Burns. Our regular Kitchen Ceilidh's invite our talented audience to do a 'turn'; often a song, story, music or recitation. If you would like to perform, please contact Sue Hughes, manager@ellislandfarm.co.uk so that we can add you to the programme. £7 adults, £5 children including refreshments. Due to the domestic proportions of the performance space, places are limited, so book early. Tickets available from Ellisland, Midsteeples Box Office and dgboxoffice.co.uk.

Youngsters' Talent Expected to Shine at Schools Festivals

The Federation is delighted to announce that the 2020 National Festivals for Scottish school children will be held at St Athanasius Primary School, John St, Carluke ML8 4DD. Access is via Carluke Lifestyles, Carnwath Road, Carluke. The Secondary event will take place on Saturday 28th March and the Primary event on Saturday 25th April. Registration starts at 10.30 am. Everyone should assemble in the Main Hall at 12.00 noon for the opening ceremony which will commence at 12.15pm. The Choral Competition will be also be held on 25th March at the school, alongside the Primary event. Registration will begin at 12 noon.

The Federation is extremely grateful to Mr. Francis Farrell of St Athanasius Primary School for sponsorship.

London Burns Club Inaugural Singing Competition

On Saturday 21st March at 1.00 pm in the Crown Court Church of Scotland, Russell Street, Covent Garden, WC2B 5EZ the Burns Club of London will be holding its first singing contest. Twelve specially-invited young singers aged 22-32, most of whom have already studied music and singing, or are in the early stages of their musical careers, will compete for the “Meikle Trophy” provided by Past President Jock Meikle and for the title of “Artist in Residence at the Burns Club of London”, for a period of 12 months.



The singers will sing two songs of their choice, one to be a Burns’ song and the other a “Scottish” song. They also have the option to speak for up to two minutes to explain their choice of songs.

The audience will have the option to vote. There will also be two independent judges, one being Alan Beck President of the Greenock Burns Club, the Mother Club <http://greenockburnsclub.com/>. You can find out more about Alan here <https://www.sco.org.uk/your-orchestra/who-s-who/1381-alan-beck>

Entry is FREE and refreshments will be available so do come along, guests, friends and relatives are all welcome. As well as the trophy and the opportunity to be the Club’s Artist in Residence, we want to offer cash prizes to these young artists. If you are able to make a donation to support this competition please make your donation direct to the Club’s Bank Account, and let our Treasurer know that the donation is for the singing competition. Bank details: sort code 12-01-03 account number 0020481. Treasurer contact details: David Morrison 01277 829199 email: treasurer@bcol.org.uk

Wreath Laying at Burns Mausoleum

Following the annual Memorial Service in St Michael’s Church, Dumfries on 24th January the Dumfries Burns Club conducted their annual wreath-laying ceremony at the Burns Mausoleum which was attended by many in the congregation as well as invited guests and representatives from local Burns Clubs. .



The above photographs show the procession, led by piper Calum Thomson: on the left Russell Williamson, President of the Dumfries and Galloway Burns Association beside Miller Caldwell, President of Dumfries Burns Club, then Fiona Armstrong, Lord Lieutenant of Dumfries followed by Ronnie Cairns Chairman of the Friends of Ellisland. One of the invited guests Oliver Mundell MSP for the South of Scotland lays a wreath in the Mausoleum. Wreaths were also laid by the Provost of Dumfries Tracey Little, the Dumfries Burns Club for Sir Walter Scott, Dumfries Burns Howff Club, Dumfries Ladies Burns Club, St Michael’s Burns Club, Gatehouse of Fleet Burns Club, David Baird (on behalf of Past Presidents) and, schoolchildren from St Joseph’s School on behalf of Robert Burns and Jean Armour. [Photographs: Bryan Armstrong]

A Turkey Dinner



additional toast to "The Tunnocks Tea Cake"

Alasdair Hutton O.B.E., a member of the Robert Burns Guild of Speakers, proposed the Immortal Memory at a well-attended Burns Supper organised by the Rotary Club of Fethye, Turkey. Brian Forrest and Robin Waitt (aka The Fit-tappers Ceilidh band) provided music for the ceilidh and piper James Gray piped in the haggis. The money raised from the event (3600TL) was donated to the fund-raising appeal for the victims of the recent earthquake in Eastern Turkey. Assistance from Tunnocks included a copious and greatly appreciated, supply of Tea Cakes for which Alasdair had composed an

Fair fa' your honest sonsie face/ Great Chieftain of the teacake race/ Abune them a' ye tak yer place/ A rare Scots treat/ Weel are ye wordy o' a grace/ That's honey sweet.

The tea plate there you more than fill/ Marshmallow like a distant hill/ Plus chocolate, you can bet it will/ Taste truly grand/ So thank you Tunnocks for the thrill/A treat from old Scotland.

For a full report see: <https://www.fethiyetimes.com/fethiye-life/29192-burns-night-celebrating-scotlands-own-bard-in-fethiye.html>

[Excellent photographs by Norman Clark]

RBWF Welcomes Spirit Aerosystems as the Sponsor of the RBWF Schools Competitions

Prestwick-based Spirit Aerosystems has become the sponsor for our RBWF Schools Competition. The company is a key part of Spirit Aerosystems Inc. which has headquarters in Wichita, Kansas and which operates sites in the USA, UK, France and Malaysia.



The Prestwick site employs around 1000 people and in 2019 received the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce Award as Employer of the Year. The company has very strong Burns links having for many years hosted a large Burns Supper annually, raising tens of thousands of pounds for a range of local charities.

In 2019 our RBWF Young Burnsian, Liam Kearney performed at the Spirit Burns Supper. For the 2020 event, the winner of the Glasgow Trades House P6/P7 Burns Festival Verse Speaking, Holly Osbourne, is performing. [Left: photograph of Holly with RBWF World President Brian Goldie] Past President Jim Thomson is doing the Immortal Memory, Past President Bill Nolan is doing the Toast to the Lassies, with a reply from Jean Hillhouse and Past President Peter Hughes is chairing the event.

Federation Official Sponsor Isle of Arran Distillery - Whisky & Music Festival 2020



This year, our Arran Malt & Music Festival will take place from Friday 26th June - Sunday 28th June, with the main Festival Day on Saturday 27th June. We are looking forward to welcoming old and new friends to join us in also celebrating Lochranza Distillery's 25th Anniversary - the actual date of which coincides with the end of the festival weekend on Monday 29th June. For full details see the distillery website:

<https://www.arranwhisky.com/about/news/221-arran-whisky-festival-malt-and-music-2020>

