



'The Vision'

The Robert Burns World Federation Newsletter



Issue 54 January 2022

Happy 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. It is a charity so your help in providing financial support through membership fees, donations and fundraising is much appreciated. The main theme of this newsletter focuses on Colin Rae Brown whose importance to the formation of the RBWF cannot be overstated. As well as being the principal founding member, he also initiated the Burns Chronicle. Senior Vice President Alan Beck is to be congratulated on his primary role in leading the bi-centenary celebrations of his birth and I am very grateful to him for his fulsome articles recording the memorial celebration events. *Editor*

In this Issue:

	Page
- New Willow Sculpture at RBBM	1
- Colin Rae Brown Celebration Dinner	2-3
- Greenock Burns Trail	3-4
- Irvine Lassies St Andrews Night	4
- Annan Ladies Sad Losses	5
- 200 Club Draw – Results	5
- Overseas Essay Competition	6
- Delight at Burns Manuscripts Saved	6-8
- Novelist Inspiring Younger Generation	8
- Haggis Club Celebrates	9
- NTS Big Burns Night In	9
- Burns Books en Route to Antarctica	10
- Camperdown Children's Art Competition	10
- Burns Brought Into Virtual Reality	11
- Colin Rae Brown Celebrations in	11-12
- Isle of Arran Distillery	12

The Bonnie Lass Made a Bed to Me

When Januar wind was blawing cauld,
As to the north I took my weary way,
By my good luck did me enfauld,
I knew na whare to lodge till day.

By my gude luck a maid I met,
Just in the middle o' my care;
And kindly she did me invite
To walk into a chamber fair.

I bow'd fu' low unto this maid,
And thank'd her for her courtesie;
I bow'd fu' low unto this maid,
And bade her mak a bed for me.

Robert Burns

1796

Willow Sculptures at the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum



The wonderful addition of two new willow sculptures can now be seen in the smallholding area opposite Burns's Cottage.

Both sculptures have been generously funded by the Friends of RBBM and build on significant investment and improvement to both small holding and cottage in recent years. Both sculptures were created by David Powell in his studio in nearby Girvan..

Of terrific scale Tam o' Shanter is a replacement of a previous sculpture, and puts new vigour into the sprint of Tam and Meg to the reach the brig!

Registered Office: 3A John Dickie Street, Kilmarnock
KA1 1HW Company Registration No 196895
Scottish Charity No SC029099 e-mail: admin@rbwf.org.uk
Tel 01563 572469 Website address: www.rbwf.org.uk

Newsletter Editor - Mike Duguid (Literature Convenor)

Email mike.duguid026@gmail.com Tel: 01557
860040

To unsubscribe please email admin@rbwf.org.uk

Willow Sculptures (cont'd)

And we are thrilled with our entirely new Walking Poet - Robert Burns striding out across his childhood home with book in hand. The Walking Poet is around 16 feet high, and over time will be surrounded by a wild flower meadow in the newly established smallholding, linking Burns' connection to, and love of, nature.

We are sure that these wonderful sculptural additions will inspire and engage, attracting new visitors to RBBM and encouraging curiosity in the work of our Bard in the lead up to Burn's Night, and beyond! A big thank you to the Friends of Robert Burns Birthplace Museum!
[Photographs courtesy of the NTS]



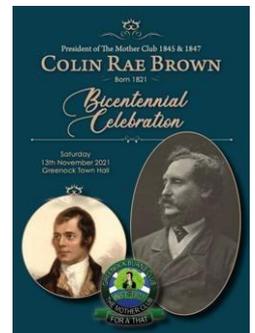
Greenock Burns Club Glorious Celebration of the Life of Colin Rae Brown



Iain White, President of the Greenock Burns Club (The Mother Club), reports that, "it all began with a comment to me from Past President Alan Beck, sometime around August 2020." He said, "Did you realise that during your Presidency it will be the Bicentenary of the birth of Colin Rae Brown?" I thought for a moment and responded, "No, but we should do something about that." "Yes, we should," said Alan. The rest, as they say, is history.

As we do these days in the Club, we formed a sub-committee to look after this area of our activities. I am grateful for the huge amount of work done by its members – Jean Abdulrahim SVP, Alan Currie pp, Billy McCready pp, Alan D Beck pp, Elliott McKelvie and Jim Henderson (President, Burns Club of London). The wonders of Zoom allowed Jim to join all our

meetings and be fully involved in the preparations.



Of course, we had a great weekend in Greenock on 13th and 14th November. As I sat at the Town Hall at the Dinner I thought of the adage, "Failing to prepare is preparing to fail." However, our detailed preparations led to a most such a successful evening. It was a lot of very hard work, but it all came together in one glorious night in the Greenock Town Hall. 216 people sat down to a magnificent meal supplied by Tony Buckley and ICE Catering. An excellent video of this historic event can be seen at: <https://youtu.be/oG3TUfuinYg>

The atmosphere in the Victorian splendour of Greenock Town Hall was electric, the food sumptuous, the speeches informative and the readings and songs most enjoyable. A warm greeting was extended to Burnsians from all over the UK and beyond enjoying one another's company and the entertainment provided by our speakers, readers and singer. Colin is a giant in the Burns world upon whose shoulders others have climbed. It was a worthy tribute to him and all that his efforts mean to the Burns world today.



From the left we have Jim Henderson (President, The Burns Club of London); Lord Wallace of Tankerness (Moderator – General Assembly of the Church of Scotland); Sophie Bysouth (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland); Dr. Clark McGinn (Past President BCoL); Col. Peter McCarthy (Lord-Lieutenant of Renfrewshire); Iain White (President GBC TMC); Rev. Canon Joseph J Morrow CBE JP (Lord Lyon King of Arms); Professor Gerry Carruthers FRSE (Hon. President GBC TMC); Jean Abdulrahim (SVP GBC TMC); Provost Martin Brennan (Inverclyde Council); Raymond Jack (JVP GBC TMC); Henry Cairney (President RBWF); Lady Wallace; Louise Long (CEO Inverclyde Council)

Greenock Celebration (Cont'd)



At the dinner, Professor Gerard Carruthers was presented with the inaugural Robert Burns World Federation honorary fellowship in recognition of the Centre for Robert Burns Studies' seminal contribution to the Federation and a fitting tribute to the extraordinary Burns work of both CRB and Professor Carruthers. He was overjoyed at receiving the award, both in terms of the fellowship itself and also being its inaugural recipient. All those present recognised the remarkable contribution he had made to the academic research into Burns's life, works and memorialisation and showed their appreciation with a rousing round of applause.

On the Sunday we followed the new Greenock Burns Trail that the Club is establishing with some of our out-of-town visitors from Dumfries, London and the RBWF. After a visit to the Custom House, we headed to the Old West Kirk at the Esplanade to unveil the refurbished memorial gravestone of the family of Colin Rae Brown. It was a fitting way to end the Greenock part of the celebrations.

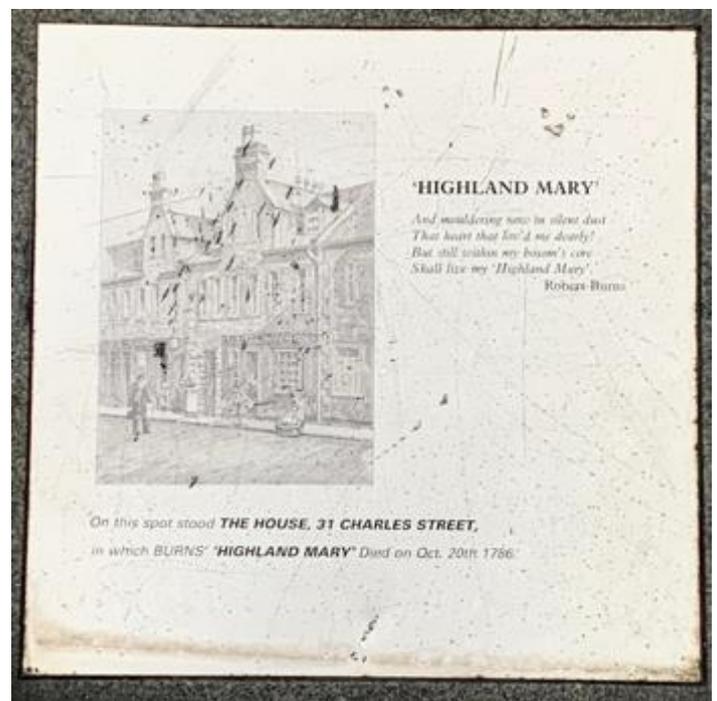
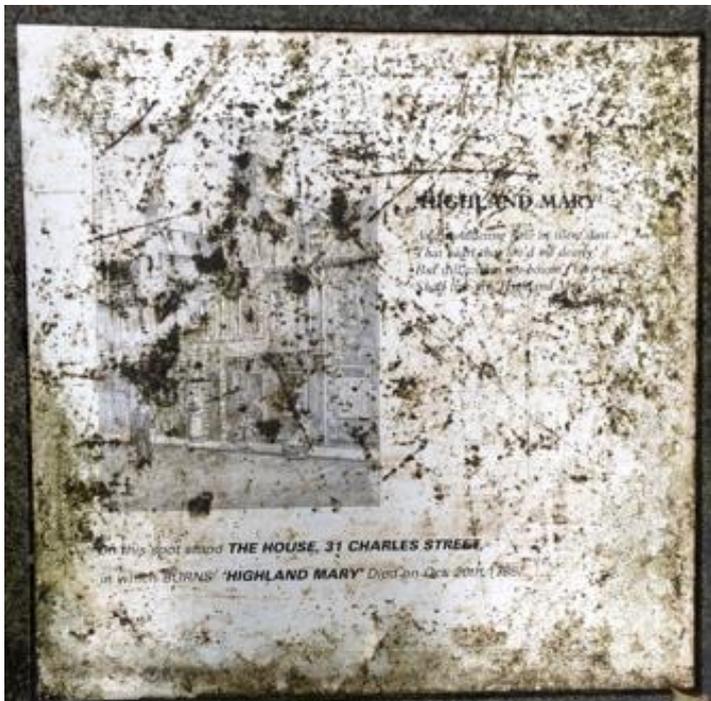
Greenock Burns Trail and Unveiling the Refurbished Brown Family Headstone

We met with our visiting friends at the Tontine Hotel on the morning after the dinner at 11.30 and embarked upon a short tour which we in the Club are calling the Greenock Burns Trail as it develops. One day in the future it will include the statue of Burns which the Club aims to erect in Greenock when funds are raised for the project. The tour took us to Highland Mary's grave in the Greenock Cemetery, Colin Rae Brown's House at 5 George Square (left), the plaque marking the place where Highland Mary died just off High Street and finally to the Exhibition and Archive Room at the Custom House where we enjoyed some refreshments.



Following our rest stop at the E & A, we headed round to the Old West Kirk on the Esplanade. This is where the memorial that Colin Rae Brown erected to his family had lain in ruins – in 3 pieces – until the Club recently got it repaired after negotiation with the Church and the family. Funnily enough, a wee bit of refurbishment had been required on the High Street plaque to Highland Mary which had been put in place, some years ago, owing to the sterling efforts of the late Mabel Irving (Past President). I hadn't looked at it for a long time and was horrified to find it covered in algae and grime. The restoration task was a lot easier than that of the Memorial Stone – a return visit by yours truly with a scourer did the trick!

Highland Mary Plaque on High Street – before and after



Greenock Burns Trail (Cont'd)

The ceremony of unveiling the refurbished Brown memorial was launched by Club Piper Billy McCready giving a few tunes. We were grateful to Rev Jonathan Fleming of Lyle Kirk who gave a prayer and blessing. President Iain White then introduced Past President June Forbes, the Club's oldest Past President, who unveiled the memorial with grace and dignity and said a few words indicating how proud she was to have been given the honour of performing that task.



The memorial stone was in 3 pieces on the ground (above). The remarkable change is seen in the photo(right) after Past President June unveiled the restored version. Fraser Downie of Stokes Memorials did a magnificent job.

As most of us know, June passed a late fitness test for the Rae Brown weekend having been laid up at home after a fall. Once she had unveiled the stone, Club President Iain signed things off with:

*An each took aff his several way,
Resolv'd to meet some ither day*



[All the articles on Greenock above are courtesy of Iain White, Editor of the their Club newsletter. Ed]

Irvine Lasses - St Andrew's Night



Irvine Lasses Burns Club held its annual St Andrew's Night celebration on Thursday, 2nd December in Wellwood Burns Centre. It was great to be back together again and enjoy each other's company. The President, Susan Whitelaw welcomed the guests, Ian Clarkson, Provost of North Ayrshire Council, David Burns, President of Irvine Burns Club and Alan Beck, Senior Vice President of the RBWF.

Following their success in opposing the motion at the New Cumnock Burns Club Debate, held on 28 November, President Susan presented flowers to Margaret McDougall and Past President Rosemary Murdoch.

On behalf of the Club, the President presented cheques to both David Burns and Alan Beck to continue the valuable work they carry out for their respective organisations in advancing the name and works of the National Bard locally, nationally and internationally.

The provost switched on the lights of the Christmas tree and Alan Beck played the piano whilst we all sang "Jingle Bells." The company went on to be joyfully entertained by musician, singer and song writer, Pauline Vallance who sang and played the clarsach, the Celtic harp. The rapturous applause given to Pauline showed how well she had been received.



[Susan M. Whitelaw, President Irvine Lasses Burns Club]

Annan Ladies Burns Club Suffer Double Loss



Eva Stubbs sadly passed away recently following a short illness. Eva was a member of Annan Ladies for approx. 50 years and Treasurer since 1977. Her diligence with the bookkeeping was second to none! You know what they say about treasurers; well, you certainly wouldn't get her to spend the money easily, that was for certain! Eva was a delegate for our club to the SSCBA/DGBA for many years and was faithful in her attendance. She was a stalwart of the Schools' Competition and I'm not sure anyone could fill the vacancy she leaves on the registration desk. Eva attended many Federation Conferences and I always thoroughly enjoyed listening to the stories of these.

Eva was a much-loved member and friend of Annan Ladies and will be sadly missed.

It has been a very sad time for Annan Ladies, with not only the passing of Eva Stubbs, but the sudden passing this week of our President Morag Crosbie.

Morag was a member of Annan Ladies for many years. She was a born entertainer, and a first-class reciter of Burns. Her *Tam o' Shanter* was legendary and in younger days she would race around the hall during her performance. She toasted the haggis at countless Burns suppers over the years. Her heart-rending rendition of *The Death and Dying Words of poor Mailie* will live long in the memory of those who heard it. Morag would take great delight in entertaining the members with her funny stories and jokes. She was one of a kind and leaves a giant hole in our club.

[Fiona Evans, President of the Dumfries and Galloway Burns Association]



200 Club Draws – September 2021 – December 2021

Date	Prize	Amount	Share No	Winner
Sep-21	Quarterly Prize	£129.75	179	Lanarkshire Assoc
	1st prize	£51.90	142	Dumfries Ladies B C
	2nd prize	£25.95	62	Alf Ingum
Oct-21	1st prize	£51.90	161	Lorrie Headley
	2nd prize	£25.95	61	Alf Ingum
Nov-21	1st prize	£51.90	150	Sandyford B C
	2nd prize	£25.95	61	Alf Ingum
Dec-21	Quarterly Prize	£129.75	84	Prestwick B C
	1 st Prize	£51.90	14	Aberdeen B C
	2nd prize	£25.95	84	Prestwick B C

Overseas National Literature Competition 2020

The following is an excerpt from an essay by Bohdan Melnychuk, a 7th grade student at Tlumach gymnasium in the Ukraine. It shows a remarkable command, not only of the language, but also the poem itself.

Of Burns' poem *To a Louse* he writes, "The poem features a philosophical tone as it considers aspects of human life and wider society. The satirical voice of the narrative persona invites comparison with other poems in the set such as "Holy Willie's Prayer" and "To a Mouse." It explores the following themes: the importance of self-awareness, the concept of social justice and equality, our human duty to understand the importance of all life, however insignificant it might seem. Each stanza in this poem follows the rhyme scheme AAABAB which was Burns' favorite and was known as the standard Habbie.



Throughout this poem, the poet uses the device of an apostrophe. This rhetorical device is used when a poet addresses his or her poem to an absent or silent audience. Here the poet speaks directly to the Louse, as well as to the lady on whose bonnet it is sitting, but we never see either of them responding to the poet at any point in the poem.



In line 2 of the 2nd stanza, the poet uses the device of alliteration.

In lines 3 and 6 of the 3rd stanza, the poet uses the device of metaphor. Here the poet compares the Louse and other head insects to cattle, and the head of a beggar to a plantation.

In line 5 of the 3rd stanza, the poet uses the device of metonymy. Here the poet uses the word "horn" and "bone" to mean comb since combs were often made of such material in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

In line 2 of the 5th stanza, the poet uses the device of simile. Here the poet compares the nose of the louse with a gooseberry, both being gray in colour, and also uses the word "as" while making this comparison.

In line 5 of the 7th stanza, the poet uses the device of synecdoche. Here the poet uses part to represent the whole when he writes "winks" and "finger-ends" to mean the people sitting around the lady at church.

Throughout the poem, the poet tells the louse that the lady's bonnet is not an appropriate site for its habitation. This is because the lady is an aristocrat and takes much care of her appearance. A more suitable place for the louse would be on the body of someone belonging to the lower classes. By making such ridiculous statements, the poet is trying to expose how artificial the concept of class is. It is a man-made institution. Man should also perceive each other in this way and prevent any discrimination amongst one another. If we look at the lady, we can claim that she doesn't notice anything unusual or strange in the surrounding world because she prays. She may look ridiculous to the public, but, in reality, she sparkles with beauty and glamour. There is one thing that spoils her reputation. It's a louse.

[This article was included hastily to replace one on the Big Burns Supper in Dumfries which was cancelled because of Covid just before I went to press. I'm sorry I couldn't include the whole essay. Ed]

Delight as Works by Burns Manuscripts Are Saved for the Nation

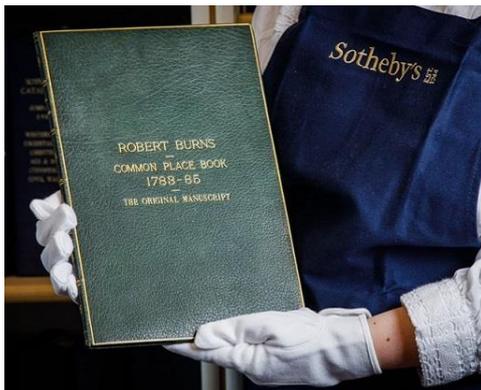
The Scottish members of a consortium set up to save a unique collection of literature for the nation have welcomed the news that their international appeal has reached its target of £15 million.

This means that the Blavatnik Honresfield Library (formerly Honresfield Library) – a treasure trove of items from the world's most beloved writers, unseen by the public for almost a century – will no longer be sold at open auction and instead will be shared with libraries and other organisations across the UK. The Blavatnik Honresfield Library was formed towards the end of the 19th century by William Law (1836–1901), a Rochdale mill owner, who created an exceptional collection of English and Scottish manuscripts and printed books which had the Brontës at its heart, as well as manuscripts in the hands of Jane Austen, Robert Burns and Sir Walter Scott and a significant collection of printed books. It has been largely inaccessible for the last 80 years.

Delight as Works by Burns Are Saved for the Nation

The Scottish members of a consortium set up to save a unique collection of literature for the nation have welcomed the news that their international appeal has reached its target of £15 million.

This means that the Blavatnik Honresfield Library (formerly Honresfield Library) – a treasure trove of items from the world’s most beloved writers, unseen by the public for almost a century – will no longer be sold at open auction and instead will be shared with libraries and other organisations across the UK. The Blavatnik Honresfield Library was formed towards the end of the 19th century by William Law (1836–1901), a Rochdale mill owner, who created an exceptional collection of English and Scottish manuscripts and printed books which had the Brontës at its heart, as well as manuscripts in the hands of Jane Austen, Robert Burns and Sir Walter Scott and a significant collection of printed books. It has been largely inaccessible for the last 80 years.

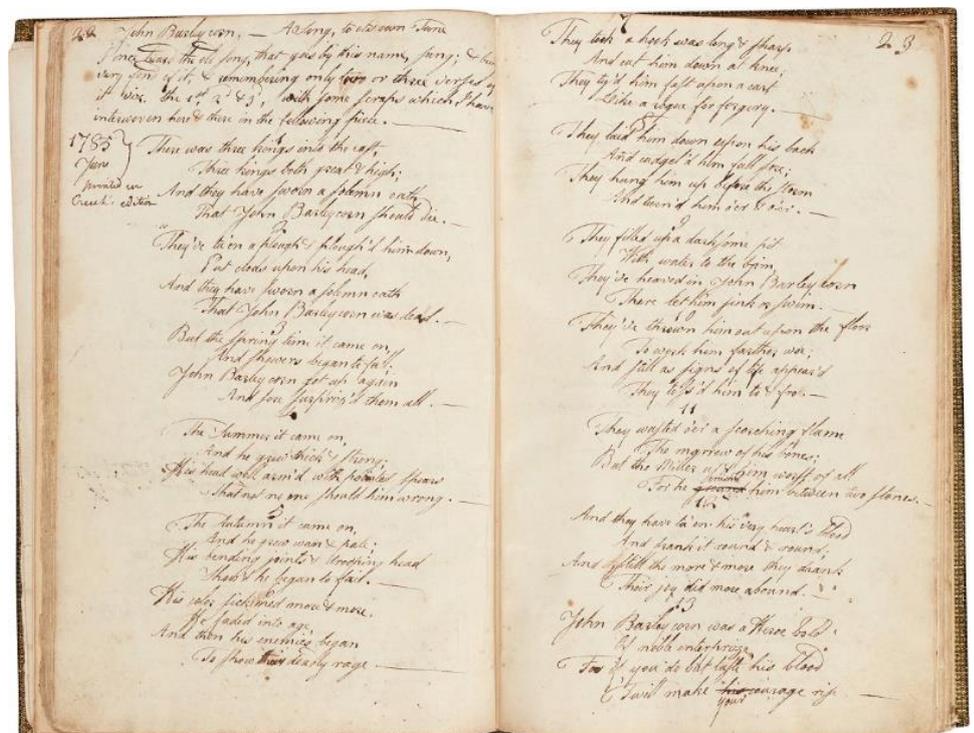


When the sale of the library in three tranches was announced in May 2021, the Friends of the National Libraries (FNL) successfully encouraged Sotheby's, the agents for the vendors, to postpone the sale of the first tranche planned for July 2021 in order to give FNL the opportunity to purchase the entire collection outright on behalf of appropriate recipient libraries within the UK.

Arrangements will be made in the coming months for the Scottish organisations to take possession of key works from the collection, conserve them and make them publicly accessible. These include an early volume of poems by Robert Burns in his own hand – containing some of his earliest recorded literary works – known as the First

Commonplace Book, as well as individual autograph poems (Cessnock Bank and the Brigs of Ayr), and some of the poet’s earliest correspondence, including the only extant letter to his beloved father.

Other Scottish material of huge importance is the complete working manuscript of Sir Walter Scott’s iconic novel *Rob Roy*, part of the autographed manuscript of Scott’s verse romance, *The Lay of the Last Minstrel*, his travel journal of an expedition off the Scottish coast in 1814, a copy of *Border Antiquities* with extensive manuscript revisions, and an exceptional group of Scott first editions in their original condition.



Phil Long OBE, Chief Executive of the National Trust for Scotland which manages the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum said:

“This is the most fantastic news. We are so grateful to everyone who contributed to the appeal for acts of such astonishing generosity, as well as to the Scottish Government for the welcome support given.

“It was a pleasure to work with the Friends of the National Libraries and the other consortium members and this is a truly collaborative achievement that will benefit generations to come.

“Those lucky enough to view the collection items have said that they express a palpable feeling of history in the making, with some of the works being part of the very foundation of our shared culture. I’m looking forward to the opportunity to display items from the collection in Scotland so that as many people as possible can share in that feeling.” [Images: Courtesy of Sotheby's]

Novelist Inspiring the Younger Generation



Victoria Williamson is a member of the RBWF and an award-winning children's author from Kirkintilloch, north Glasgow. Her latest children's novel is all about the life of the young Robert Burns which she was inspired to write after developing a love of the poetry of Robert Burns as a child through my primary school's annual Burns Competitions. *Hag Storm*, a novel for 8 to 12-year-olds, is inspired by Tam o' Shanter, and blends historical research with fantasy in a spooky tale about twelve-year-old Robert's adventures with the witches in the Auld Kirk. The book is aimed at bringing a fresh fictional perspective to the literature on Robert Burns, to engage young readers, and to inspire them to study the work of Burns. She has very kindly offered to donate 20% of the royalties for *Hag Storm* to the RBWF annually to contribute to the wonderful work done with schools which gave her so much enjoyment as a child.

The book launch, hosted by the RBBM in Alloway on 28th October, was attended by local families and children discussed the book and the early life of Burns and Scottish folklore.

Reviewing the book, Past President of the Federation Marc Sherland writes, “*Hag Storm* is a rip-roaring romp of a tale aimed at children of all ages and very loosely based on the world of Robert Burns, but allowing itself a magical leap of imagination.

The tale is set on the Burns' family farm where a young Rab works hard in the unyielding fields, doing back breaking work, whilst keeping up the banter with his brother Gilbert, cousin Betty and a cast of recognisable characters from the known world of Burns. There are witches and gravestones, a haunted kirk and mystical goings on and young Rab has to face his fears and challenge the unholy to ensure his family's safety.



The language is accessible with a sprinkling of Scots Leid and some lovely turns of phrase, such as “We can dig all the way from Scotland to India and we still willnae find the brains you're missing, you wee daftie.”

Folklore is embedded into the text to great effect and might even inspire readers to go on with this as a future interest. “Those things are called ‘hag-stone’, and if you go carrying one around then witches can sniff you out and cause all manner of mischief.”

Well worth it as a stocking-filler at any time and especially for the young at heart with a taste for adventure.”

Hag Storm by Victoria Williamson, Published by Pokey Hat an imprint of Cranachan Publishing Ltd ISBN 978-1-91279-91-4

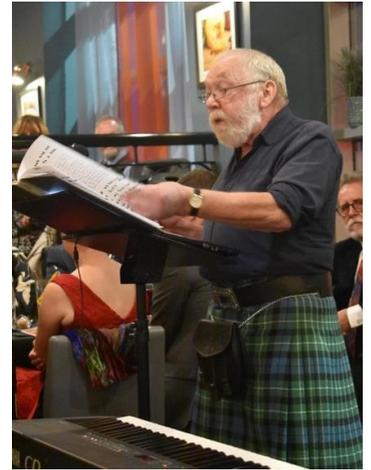
Victoria has been a teacher for many years, working in all sorts of exciting places from Cameroon, Malawi and China to the UK. She has lots of educational resources available to go with her books, and is very happy to visit schools to talk to students about reading, writing and the issues raised in her books. Have a look on her school visit and resources pages to find out more: <http://strangelymagical.com>

Haggis Club is Nearly 150 Years in Service.



The Glasgow Haggis Club, No 33 in the Federation roll, is nearing its 150th anniversary, which will be celebrated in 2022 with a range of special events and commemorations.

Recently they held a most successful St Andrew's Night at the Novotel in Glasgow and were mightily pleased that attendees came to the event from as far as Aberdeen to more local friends from Ayrshire, Greenock and Cumbernauld. Helena Anderson Wright from Aberdeen, even sang our praises at the recent Robert Burns World Federation Quarterly meeting, stating that she was made to feel most welcome and wanted more of the community the Haggis Club offered.



From tables decorated in the saltire to the excellent Scottish-themed buffet, the atmosphere generated was just right and the entertainment, from Donny Graham (above) who delivered the Toast to Scotia, to Euan Russell and Alan Beck who both sang to the accompaniment of the Musical Director, Alan Craig, it was a wonderful occasion. A special treat was a stellar performance by popular folk singer and Burns enthusiast, Alastair McDonald (left) who made the rafters ding wi' glorious soond an' laughter.



Marc Sherland, President of the Haggis Club, stated *"As always, the Glasgow Haggis members proved just how special the club is, by going the extra mile and making everything work smoothly and with joy. The MC, David Vennard and the reciters both from within the club and from our generous interclub support was fantastic."*

The Glasgow Haggis Club meets monthly from October to March and holds an Outing and a Garden Party in the summer. Anyone interested in joining the club should contact Marc Sherland at marcsherland@me.com You will be made most welcome.

NTS Burns Big Night In

The National Trust for Scotland's 'Burns Big Night In' is back for 2022. Hosted once again by Edith Bowman, this online celebration of the Bard and his life and works takes place on Saturday 22 January 2022 and tickets are on sale now. There's an even bigger and better programme than 2021, featuring even more top Scottish musicians and performers. **The public are being urged to take part in a performance for the event by submitting videos of themselves reciting *To a Mouse*.** A selection of recordings will be edited together into a video to be shown on the night to an audience of Burns fans from around the world. Videos should be submitted as landscape MP4s to bbni@luxevents.co.uk by Wednesday 12 January. Watch out for news of the event in early 2022. See: <https://www.burnsbignightin.org/home/#about>



The main speaker will be Chris Waddell who is the Learning Manager at the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum in Alloway, a post he has held since February 2013.

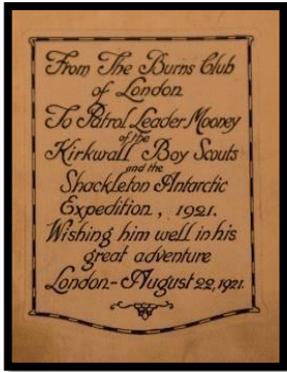
[Should you have any doubts about Chris's calibre as an expert on the life and works of Burns I recommend you listen to the podcast of his interview with broadcaster Jackie Bird Ed].

<https://pod.co/for-the-love-of-scotland-podcast/11-is-robert-burns-and-his-poetry-more-popular-now-than-ever>

Photo courtesy of Chris Waddell

Scouts Take Burns Books to the Antarctic

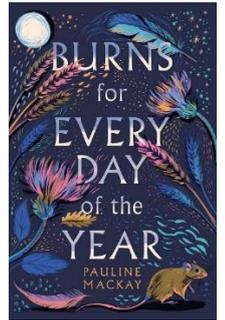
One hundred years ago, two Scottish scouts James Marr and Norman Mooney were part of the Shackleton 1921 Quest expedition to Antarctica and both took with them a volume of Burns' poem, gifted by the Burns Club of London.



Earlier this year the Club was approached by the Scout Leader who is organising a centenary repeat of this expedition, this time involving Scouts from the Kent area but also again two Scottish Scouts. One of the two Scottish Scouts is Sam Payne from Inverurie and the other, quite fortuitously, is the grandson of one of the Burns Club of London's own members, Alex Maciver grandson of Ken Maciver.



Each of the Scouts was presented with a copy of Pauline McKay's book *Burns for Every Day of the Year* by Jim Henderson, lifetime president of the Burns Club of London. This replicated what Marr and Mooney had received had for their expedition.



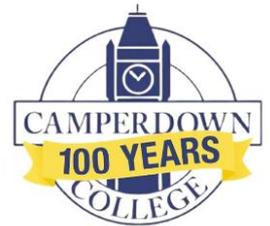
The President and Vice President of the Burns Club of London were privileged to be invited to the formal launch of the ReQuest 2021 expedition on a flotilla of boats sailing under Tower Bridge on 17th September when the books were presented to the 10 participants. You can follow the progress of the expedition on www.ReQuest2021.org.uk or, on Facebook, Kent Scouts ReQuest2021.

[Article courtesy of the Burns Club of London November 2021 newsletter. Ed]

Robert Burns Festival School Art Competition 2021



Scheduled for June, the Robert Burns Festival was unable to proceed due to restrictions facing public events and was postponed until 2022. The School Art Competition continued as a way of recognising this annual event in our local community. Junior Campus students entered art pieces that were created in their art classes with Ms Smithwick and Carolyn Menzies;



Emily and Ruaraidh Menzie's grandmother, is one of the organisers of the festival and it was lovely hearing such positive comments from her regarding the quality of art entered into the competition by students at Camperdown College. The art was viewed by many families in the windows of our local businesses in town as a way of celebrating the Camperdown link with Robert Burns. At our Celebration of Learning Assembly for Term 3, the winners of the competition were announced and prizes awarded to the following students:

Prep Division: 1st Prize – Eve Van Den Mieracker; 3rd Prize – Isla Bredin. Year 1/2 Division 3rd Prize – Zoe Unwin; Year 3/4 Division Highly Commended – Austin Wickenton; Year 5/6 Division 3rd Prize – Nate Castle



Congratulation to our students who were acknowledged for their art entries. We send our thanks to the committee of the Robert Burns Festival and look forward to celebrating this annual event in person in 2022.



[Jacinta Tolland, Assistant Principal]

Burns Enters a Whole New World



Dr. Pauline Mackay is a world-leading expert on Robert Burns Studies. She is currently Lecturer in Robert Burns Studies at the University of Glasgow and Associate Director at the Centre for Robert Burns Studies. Last year, Pauline's idea to utilise the power of virtual reality to enhance how we teach about historical figures, and interact with material culture associated with them, was successfully selected as a winner of *edify's* 'Win a Lab' competition. [*edify* is a platform that combines gaming tech, virtual reality and user generated content to enable accessible, immersive and engaging educational experiences. Educators can teach in virtual environments and deliver immersive lessons remotely - while participants interact and collaborate].

Her winning entry 'Burns Beyond Reality' allows the user to travel both back in time as well as into the imagery of Robert Burns's famous poem Tam O' Shanter. While there, the user can handle virtually curated artefacts relating to Robert Burns material culture and examine them within the context of the evolving poem. The development of this project led to Pauline presenting from within *edify* to hundreds of Burns fans and scholars. In this talk, Pauline reflects on the process that led her to bringing Burns into the virtual realm, the questions that have arisen along the way and, her aspirations for using immersive teaching in the future.

Check the full post, takeaways and resources here: <https://lnkd.in/gUGpTT6J>

Colin Rae Brown Memorial Celebrations in London



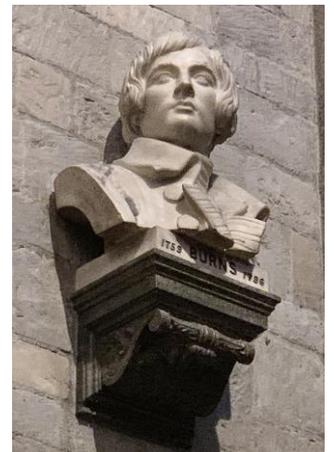
The final part of the 2021 Colin Rae Brown memorial activities was a trip to London by Greenock Burns Club (The Mother Club) and the RBWF to enjoy a weekend of events, hosted by the Burns Club of London. The President, Jim Henderson and his team had organised a full programme which began on the evening of Friday 17 December at the Caledonian Club.

Members from both clubs performed their party pieces over haggis, neeps and tatties, with RBWF SVP, Alan Beck proposing the toast of the evening: The Memory of Colin Rae Brown. The evening was made all the more special by the performance of Perth-born tenor, Liam

Bonthrone, currently studying at the Royal Academy of Music, who delighted the assembly with his selection of Scots songs, and a wee operatic aria thrown in for good measure.

On Saturday 18 December, the members met at the west door of Westminster Abbey for the start of a morning's sightseeing, which included Burns's bust at Poets' Corner, Burns's statue on Thames Embankment (where SVP Alan Beck sang an impromptu *Ae Fond Kiss*) and the Burns stained-glass window at Crown Court Church of Scotland.

[As an aside, the Rev James Steven was an ordained minister of Crown Court Chapel in June in June 1787 and became a founder of the London Missionary Society. Burns's younger brother William went to Covent Garden in March 1790 to hear him preach and in a letter to Burns he describes him as having "grown very fat and is as boisterous



Colin Rae Brown Memorial Celebrations in London (Cont'd)

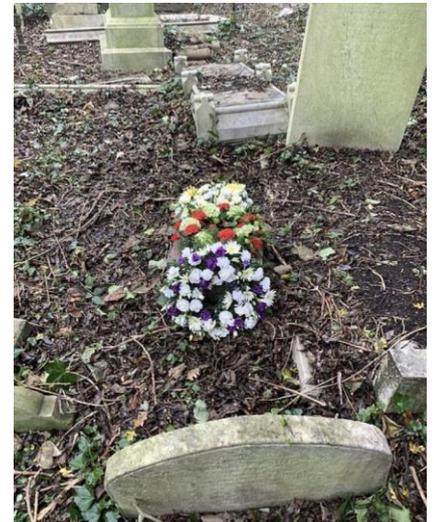
as ever. In 1803 he returned to become minister at Kilwinning where he was described as an 'energetic' preacher.

However, he is best remembered by Burnsians as being the subject of a Burns poem *The Calf* written in 1786 before James had left for London. On 3rd September of that year Burns's friend Gavin Hamilton had a wager that by noon that day Burns could not produce a poem on the subject of the sermon to be preached on that day in Mauchline Kirk by James Steven. His text proved to be, 'But unto you that fear my name, shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves the stall.' Burns promptly produced his poem *The Calf* to win the wager. **Ed]**



Sunday 19 December (two hundred years to the day of the birth of Colin Rae Brown) began with a church service at St Columba's Church of Scotland in South Kensington, not far from Brown's house in Nevern Road. The music at the service, and particularly the organ-playing of Music Director Ben Lewis-Smith, was enjoyed by the entire congregation, as were the very kind words of welcome to the expeditionary force from Greenock, by the minister, the Revd. Angus Macleod.

After a hearty lunch of roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, and not forgetting the cheesecake, in the church hall, the minibus took the party to London (Highgate West) Cemetery to lay wreaths on behalf of the Burns Club of London, The Greenock Burns Club and the Robert Burns World Federation. This was done with the greatest of respect and reverence, with Iain White, (President of Greenock Burns Club) reciting Burns's *Epitaph on my own Friend* and Alan Beck singing his *A Man's A Man*.



After a few moments of quiet reflection, the members 'resolv'd to meet some ither day', and parted company, content in the knowledge, that two hundred years after his death, they had done the memory of Colin Rae Brown proud, and whilst that memory may not be quite as immortal as his great poetic hero's, it is now fresh in the minds of Burnsians across the globe as a result of this year's commemorations.

Isle of Arran Distillery



In the September 2014 newsletter I was delighted to announce, "The Robert Burns World Federation was delighted to renew a sponsorship deal with Isle of Arran Distillers recently. This deal gives Isle of Arran Distillers exclusive rights to use the Federation's logo on its products and promotion material. In view of the company's distinctive range of single malt and blended whiskies with the 'Robert Burns' label this is a most appropriate match." Over the past eight years we have been extremely grateful to Isle of Arran Distilleries for their sponsorship, especially in the provision of miniatures of their 'Robert Burns'-labelled malt.

This sponsorship deal has now ended and we have signed a sponsorship agreement with Annandale Distillery Ltd. The distillery, geographically the first in Scotland - located in Annan, Dumfries & Galloway - is co-owned by Federation Ambassador Professor David Thomson, and Teresa Church, who were both at the Federation Conference at the Glynhill Hotel in September. As most of you already know, they are also the owners of 'Burns Favourite Howff' - The Globe Inn, Dumfries. You will hear a lot more about these two important Burns connected businesses in the New Year.