



'The Vision'

The Robert Burns World Federation Newsletter



Issue 55 March 2022

The lines I quote from one of Burns's poems often refer to a particular season or a timely reference to another aspect of nature; others reflect his romanticism. The one below, I believe, contains the very essence of his approach to life. In it he questions why it is that, while everyone is born with an independent mind, many face oppression which stifles that independence and prevents them from reaching their full potential. He was determined to challenge that oppression, whether it be religious, from hypocritical elders such as Holy Willie or dogmatic ministers or, tyrant landlords such as the one who threatened the eviction of his father from his home or, from political edicts which trampled on any hint of the rights of the individual and treated them like slaves. As ever, his views are as relevant today as they were over 200 years ago.

In recognition of the generous sponsorship from Annandale Distilleries I have dedicated the last two articles to highlight the visionary approach adopted by the owners of the Distillery and the famous Globe Inn. [Ed]

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Man Was Made to Mourn

If I'm design'd yon lordling's slave,
By Nature's law design'd,
Why was an independent wish
E'er planted in my mind?
If not, why am I subject to
His cruelty, or scorn?
Or why has man the will and pow'r
To make his fellow mourn?

Robert Burns 1788

New Burns Book in Ukrainian



On 25th January 2022 the presentation of a new book "Man is a Man," based on a selection of the works of Robert Burns, took place in the National Museum of Literature of Ukraine.

The book is a first in the history of Ukrainian literature in that it contains translations of Robert Burns's works in Ukrainian accompanied by a commentary on each work. The presentation of the book was devoted to the memory of Danylo Kurdelchuk, long-term Chairman of the International Public Association "Volyn Brotherhood", founder of the NGO "Friends of Scotland". The bright memory of Danylo Markovych was devoted to the speech of his granddaughter (pictured left), the head of the Danylo Kurdelchuk Foundation, Olena Kurdelchuk.

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New Burns Book in Ukrainian (Cont'd)



Burns's works strike a chord with Ukrainians. They can associate with him because he knew the folklore poetry of Scotland, collected, recorded and processed folk songs, and used them in his own works. Hence, it is the special combination of literary skill and simplicity that distinguishes Burns's poetry. The glorification of the power of his people, the assertion of his right to freedom and independence, the fight against invaders – all these motives of his work are clear to every Ukrainian.

The compilers of the book are Ukrainian academic Anna Dyka and Petro Kormylo from Dumfries in Scotland. They and Danylo Kurdelchuk were united by friendship and great interest in the development of Ukrainian-Scottish cultural relations. Danylo Markovych took care of many projects, but the popularization of Robert Burns' work in Ukraine received special attention.

This new 740-page collection of poetry is the pinnacle of Ms. Hanna Dyka's long-standing ascetic creative activity as a well-known translator and researcher of translation history in Ukrainian literature.



The presentation was completed by the Director General of the National Museum of Literature, Galina Soroka. She was

delighted with the success of the event, its importance for the literary and artistic life of the capital and the country and, the relevance and necessity of popularization of classics of world literature.



The musical highlight of the evening was the performances of the head of the group "Chorea Kozatska", people's artist of Ukraine, bandura player and lyricist Taras Kompanichenko and virtuoso musician Maxim Bereznyuk.

[With grateful thanks to Hanna Dyka. Ed]



Tommy Brennan Obituary



Tributes have been paid to Ravenscraig union leader Tommy Brennan following his death in January. Tommy was widely known for being the convenor of shop stewards at Ravenscraig steelworks and leader of the fight to try to save the Scottish steel industry in the 1980s and 90s. Following the plant's closure, Tommy became a Trustee of the Scottish Steelworkers Memorial Fund and an official of steelworkers' Community Union.

Away from his union activities, Tommy was also a regular on the Burns Supper circuit and was a club secretary of the Ravenscraig Burns Club.

Tommy Brennan Obituary (Cont'd)

[I was privileged to speak at the Club in 2009 and I recall their club report after the event. "The proceeds from this year's Burns Supper held by the Ravenscraig Burns Club will help children perform the works of the Bard. Members handed over £1200 to projects which will help mark the 250th anniversary of Burns' birth. Club secretary Tommy Brennan presented a cheque for £600 to Mike Duguid, senior vice-president of the Robert Burns World Federation, to help meet the cost of running the National Schools Competitions and Choral Festivals.



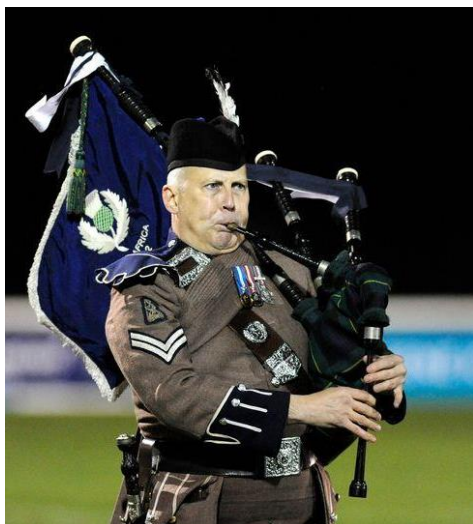
And club treasurer Sam Thompson handed over £600 to Motherwell man Bob Dalziel, former Burns Federation president and now committee member, to help meet the cost of organising and supporting the various regional finals across Scotland. Tommy Brennan said: "The club have set a high standard in the quality of speakers and annual event. "We hope this gesture will provide an opportunity for the next generation to gain experience of performing the works of Burns."

And because of the efforts of the club over the years, the Robert Burns World Federation presented Tommy Brennan with a special medal. Mike Duguid added: The club decided that money raised at their Burns Supper could be best served by recognising this valuable feature of the Federation's activities by making sure that the schools' competitions were properly funded and we are extremely grateful."



The supper itself was one of the most poignant I have ever attended and was a superb example of Burns' words on egalitarianism in action. Chairmanship of the annual supper alternated year to year between someone from management and the other from the shopfloor staff, a tradition which continued well after the steelworks were closed. It was also memorable because I was presented with one of my favourite ties but also a magnificently carved walking stick which I fear I will shortly have to employ in its proper function. Ed]

The Caledonian Society of London – Early Burns Supper



By tradition the Caledonian Society of London hold their Burns Supper in the second week of January thus allowing members the opportunity of attending many more Burns Suppers later in the month. The Burns Supper held on 13th January in the Caledonian Club, Belgravia, London was the first since 2020 and there was a good attendance (of 80 members and guests) only slightly down on numbers in pre-Covid times.

The President, Keith Macrae, welcomed everyone and invited Brother Caledonian Joe Hendry to give the Address to the Haggis. After the meal and Loyal Toasts, piping was provided by Pipe Sgt Andrew Parsons of the London Scottish Regiment, who

played a variety of tunes with a Burns theme and concluding with the regimental quick marches of the London Scottish, *Black Bear* and *Heilan Laddie*.

Musical entertainment was provided by Ms Mary Walker (Soprano) accompanied by Mr Peter Yardley-Jones on piano. Mary was brought up in



Glasgow and was a chorister at St Mary's Cathedral. On leaving school she worked at Wells Cathedral School as a graduate music assistant before going on to study at the Guildhall School of Music in London. Mary was married last summer in the Caledonian Club to Mr Calum Fraser.

Peter is Director of Music at the Swiss Church in Covent Garden. Peter is a graduate in music from the University of Glasgow, and he is often heard as organist on numerous TV productions, including "Songs of Praise".



The first musical set contained three interpretations in German by Schumann of Burns works, including "My Love is like a red, red rose". The first set concluded with *Star o' Rabbie Burns*.

The Immortal Memory was given by Dr Clark McGinn. Clark was born in Ayr and is an Honorary Research Fellow at the Centre for Robert Burns study at the University of Glasgow. He is a regular contributor to the Burns Chronicle and has published many books, a new book *Burns and Black Lives* is due to be published later this year. Many of those present agreed that the Immortal Memory given by Clark was probably the most outstanding that they had ever heard.

The second musical set by Mary and Peter presented a number of well-known Burns songs but with alternative interpretations, *Ca' the Yowes* by Britten and Pears, *Bonnie Wee Thing* by Ken Johnstone and *Ye Banks and Braes* and *Charlie is my darlin'* with new accompaniment by Roger Quilter.

The Honorary Secretary Neil McNair formally presented new members to the Society. The President welcomed them new members and presented them with their emblems and badges of membership. The new members responding by speaking individually about themselves and their commitment to the Society's charitable work in London through Borderline, Scotscaire and Forces Children Scotland.

At the end of the evening the Piper played the Society's own Strathspey "The Caledonian Society of London" and the President then called all present to form a circle around the room. As is our tradition the first four verses of Auld Lang Syne were sung solo by an individual member, with everyone joining in the chorus and final verse. The evening concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

Neil McNair - Honorary Secretary, The Caledonian Society of London

Professor Ted Cowan - Obituary

Few people could deserve more the words of Burns's *Epitaph on my own friend, and my father's friend William Muir in Tarbolton* than Professor Ted Cowan who died in January.

An honest man here lies at rest,
As e'er God with his image blest.
The friend of man, the friend of truth;
The friend of Age, and guide of youth:
Few hearts like his with virtue warm'd,
Few heads with knowledge so inform'd:
If there's another world, he lives in bliss;
If there is none, he made the most of this.



Professor Ted Cowan – Obituary (Cont'd)

I first met Ted when I was a mature student and he was lecturing at Glasgow University at the Crichton campus in Dumfries before he became the Director there. I was hooked from the start because he was such a brilliant lecturer, informative, humourous, controversial and engagingly enthusiastic about his subject. Such was his inspiration that, by the time, as Director, he led the campaign to save the university campus, he had turned me from the upstanding establishment figure of an ex-Royal Air Force officer into a protesting student marching down Sauchiehall Street with a 'Save Our Campus' banner. He deserves huge praise for his role in saving the campus.

It was also directly through his inspiration that I acquired sufficient knowledge and courage to take on such roles as President of the Robert Burns World Federation and Chairman of the Kirkcudbright History Society. In the latter capacity I had the pleasure of welcoming Ted to deliver several talks, all of which were hugely appreciated by the audience.

He was also greatly in demand as a speaker at Burns Suppers and in the bi-centenary year of Burns's death 1996, he was involved in hosting the African American writer and poet Maya Angelou on her pilgrimage to Burns Country in Scotland. She had come over specifically to pay homage to one of her most influential and inspiring poets and was welcomed to Ayrshire by a group of Burnsians who held a party in her honour to celebrate Burns's genius. They sang his songs and read his poems, while Angelou, in return, performed one of her own works. It is an evening where a shared passion for the Scottish bard created a unique atmosphere.

His loss to Scottish History scholarship and research will be immense, especially here in the South West, an area he championed at every opportunity. Even though his death is awful and unexpected I'm sure he would want us to remember him with a smile. I feel privileged to have known him. [Ed]

Professor Ted Cowan – Tribute from Canada

Professor Ted Cowan was a towering figure in stature and in intellectual influence. At the University of Guelph, where he played a critical and decisive role in continuing the pioneering work of Rev Dr Stanford Reid and others in building Scottish Studies as a field, he was renowned for his bonhomie, his mentorship and his rigorous scholarship.

Ted Cowan delighted the Scottish-Canadian community with his dynamism and erudition: his legacy includes partnerships which established the Scottish Studies Foundation, which has in turn created the first Scottish Studies research chair in North America. From 1979 to 1993 Ted Cowan guided the Scottish Studies programme at Guelph from strength to strength, and epitomised the community-engaged scholar. His studies of early-modern popular culture and belief in Scotland captivated readers, engaged public audiences, and advanced scholarship in the field.



A polymath and gregarious scholar, Ted Cowan was a bright light in the Scottish Studies firmament, a beloved teacher and colleague, and a scholar whose departure for the University of Glasgow—a mark of the international esteem in which he was held—was received with equal parts regret and pride by the Scottish-Canadian community whom he had served so faithfully during his tenure at Guelph. He left a dynamic programme with an international reputation for research excellence, a coterie of exceptional graduates who had benefited from his tutelage, and a wider community whom he had inspired and educated during his time in Canada.

We extend our deepest sympathies to Ted's family on both sides of the ocean. His memory is dear to us at the University of Guelph. We are grateful for the time he spent here, and for all that he did for so many people, and in so many ways, to advance the University's mission to 'improve life'.

Kevin James, Scottish Studies Foundation Chair

Auldgirth Celebrates the Bard's Birthday



Auldgirth Village Hall held their first Burns Supper on the 19th February 2022 and proved to be a successful evening enjoyed by all. We had a distinguished top table consisting of Colin Gibson who gave the Immortal Memory, followed by John Glover's Toast to the Lassies. Julie Langlands, hall committee secretary, replied. The haggis was piped in by Willie Prentice and addressed by Ronnie Cairns. Rev John McHale said grace and after a traditional meal the entertainment was provided by Tom Hughes who played a border pipe selection, followed by a fiddle medley given by Anna Pearcey. Ronnie Cairns recited Tam O' Shanter and Vote of Thanks was by Neil Jarvis, hall treasurer. The evening ended in the usual manner by the company giving a rousing version of Auld Lang Syne.

Irene Boyd Obituary

Irene Elizabeth Boyd (nee Mills), dearly beloved wife of RBANA Past President Robert Boyd, passed away peacefully at home in Houston, Texas on 8th January, 2022 after a long illness. Irene was born and raised in Largs. She met Robert at a wedding of mutual friends in Robert's home town of Prestwick and they were married in Largs in 1969. Having moved around the UK quite a bit, ending up in the London area, Robert got an opportunity to move to the United States.

The Boyds, now with three young daughters, moved to Houston in 1987. They joined the Heather & Thistle Society there in time to attend the Burns Supper in 1988 and were enthusiastic members from then on. Robert and Irene first joined the broader Burns community in 2007 when they went to the joint RBWF/RBANA meeting in Winnipeg to help promote the concept of Houston hosting the 2008 RBANA Annual Conference on a cruise ship out of Galveston.

Irene immediately became a popular addition with her winning smile and infectious laugh. She was the main behind-the-scenes organizer of the RBANA cruise in March 2008 both beforehand and on the ship itself. She had always been very supportive of Robert's move to the US, and also when he became H&T Chieftain in 2008 and RBANA President in 2014. Irene's last hurrah came when she was the gracious hostess of the 2016 RBANA Annual Conference in Dallas. Her health declined steadily from then on, but she retained her positive attitude right to the end.



Killie Burns Summer Festival

Later this year, we are going to put on the Killie Burns Summer Festival again and the dates have been set as 23rd - 31st July. Already initial plans are being laid out with an exciting array of participating groups including Ayrshire Association, Kilmarnock No 0 Burns Club and the Kilmarnock Howff Club; the Dalry Burns Club have even offered to put on a performance of the Jolly Beggars.

Killie Burns Summer Festival (Cont'd)



However most important of all is an event we are calling the Big Burns Bash, to be held on 30th July in the Park Hotel in Kilmarnock, which will be a chance to celebrate the success of the Festival and the Federation's vital place in the life of Kilmarnock. Tickets will soon be on offer at the excellent price of only £35 for a fantastic evening of stellar entertainment.

We hope to link with events within The Dick Institute, K-Fest, Celebrate Kilmarnock, Centre Stage and the Kilmarnock Historical Society. Please get involved and contact Marc Sherland at [email msherland@rbwf.org.uk](mailto:msherland@rbwf.org.uk) if you want more details.

RBWF Lecture Series

The popular RBWF Lecture Series resumes with what should be a fascinating online talk from Bashabi Fraser on 'Robert Burns and Rabindranath Tagore.' Rabindranath Tagore was the principal poet of the Indian people and in 1913 he was the first non-European to be awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. What is less known, however, is that he was a fan of the poetry of Robert Burns and attributed some of his poetic ideas to the influence of Burns.

Professor Bashabi Fraser has set as the full title the following: 'The Golden Thread of Poetry: Robert and Rabindranath Tagore, the National Bards of Scotland and India.' Through his poems, novels, short stories, poetic songs, dance-dramas, and paintings, he transformed Bengali literature and Indian art. He was instrumental in bringing Indian culture to the West and vice versa, and he strove to create a less divided society through mutual respect and understanding, following the example of his great contemporary and close friend, Mahatma Gandhi.

The presenter, Dr Bashabi Fraser, CBE, is an award-winning poet, children's writer, editor, translator and academic. She is Professor Emerita of English and Creative Writing and Director, Scottish Centre of Tagore Studies (ScoTs) at Edinburgh Napier University; a Royal Literary Fund Writer and an Honorary Fellow at the Centre for South Asian Studies at the University of Edinburgh and Chief Editor of the academic and creative peer-reviewed international e-journal, *Gitanjali and Beyond*. Bashabi's Lecture will be on Thursday 14th April at 7:30 pm.



To book go to: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/robert-burns-world-federation-33880775813>

Free Highlights Talk at the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, Alloway

A special thank you also to everyone who contributed to the evening, from the Friends of Robert Burns Birthplace Museum to all the volunteers at RBBM. Their energy, expertise and enthusiasm truly made the event the inspiring and engaging evening it was. To watch a segment of contributions to the evening from volunteers Hugh Farrell and Alison Wilson, please click here: [2022 BBNI Burns Big Night In 16 RBBM 2nd film - VOLUNTEERS v01 on Vimeo](#)



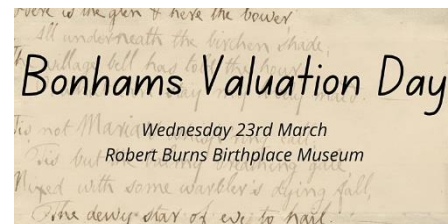
On the 16th of March at 2.30 pm Myra McLanaghan, Birthplace Museum Volunteer, discusses in, 'When an Honest Man Became a Doonhamer,' the significance and details involved in Robert Burns's move from Ayrshire to Dumfriesshire. Booking at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/highlight-talk-when-an-honest-man-became-a-doonhamer-tickets-244344259257?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Free Highlights Talk (Cont'd)

Bonhams Valuation Day, Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, Ayr in association with the National Trust for Scotland.

About this event

Bonhams specialists will be hosting a valuation day at The Robert Burns Birthplace Museum in collaboration with the National Trust for Scotland to give members of the public the opportunity to find out what their treasures are really worth. Valuations of all things Scottish including pictures, works of art, silver, jewellery, books, furniture, ceramics, glass and arms & armour will be given and entries will be accepted for the annual Scottish Art Sale, held on 18 May in Edinburgh. Auctioneers will also be able to advise on the value of any other art or antique item.



Bonhams are the only firm of international auctioneers and valuers with a saleroom in Scotland with auctions for Scottish Art and Whisky, together with Scottish Antiques. Auctions in the UK are held both in Edinburgh and London and the team of valuers cover all of Scotland on a regular basis and are able to visit your home to view larger items.

For further information on the valuation day please email edinburgh@bonhams.com or call 0131 225 2266

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bonhams-valuation-day-tickets-277473890877?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Free Highlights Talk in the Temporary Gallery at the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, Alloway.

About this event

On the Wed, 23 Mar 2022, 14:30 pm John Rattenbury, Guide Organiser at the Burrell Collection talks about The Burrell Renaissance Project. After closing over five years ago, the world-famous Burrell Collection in Glasgow's Pollok Park reopens in March on completion of a multi-million-pound refurbishment.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/highlight-talk-burrell-renaissance-project-tickets-275749372797?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

On the 27th of April at 2.30 pm Mark McLean, former Learning Manager at NTS Newhailes House, presents *Scotch on The Rocks: Literary Friction in the period of the Scottish Enlightenment*. Mark guides us through the heat and light generated by the tension arising from the use, discarding of and views on Scots language in the eighteenth century and beyond.

Ted Hirtz 1936 – 2022

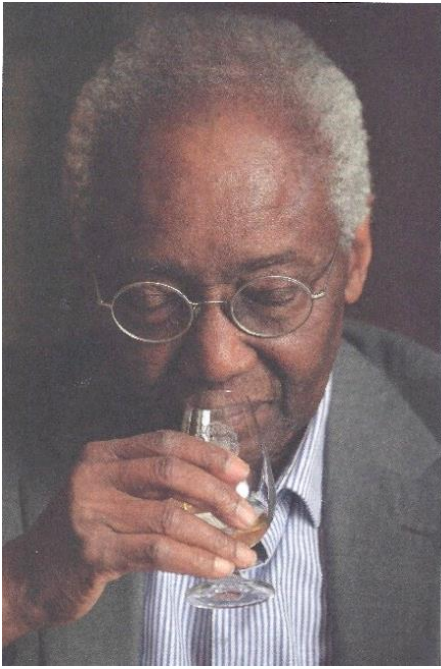
Theodore S. Hirtz, Jr. US Director of RBANA from 2006 until 2018, was born in St. Louis, MO, on March 6, 1936, and passed away peacefully at his home in Houston, Texas on 21 Feb 2022. He spent his entire career in the law in Houston and never feared representing the underdog against great odds. Perhaps not surprisingly then, Ted had a lifelong love of Burns. He was a dedicated member of the Heather & Thistle Society (H&T) and was Chieftain in 1992.

In the mid-1980s Jack started a Burns Study Group within H&T. He was an enthusiastic member from the start and was noted for his thoughtful and always incisive input. Ted's legal background was extremely useful during his time as a director of RBANA, especially when revisions of the association's constitution were required in the 1980s and again in the 2000s.



Ted is survived by Susan, his loving wife of 35 years; his three sons and their wives; and six grandchildren.

RBWF Ambassador Sir Geoffrey – Burns and Whisky



When he was President of the Robert Burns World Federation Marc Sherland said that the appointment of Sir Geoffrey Palmer as our first Ambassador is a landmark in the long history of the Federation. Commenting on his appointment, Sir Geoff said “I am immensely proud to be appointed as the first Ambassador of the Robert Burns World Federation. For over 200 years Burns’s ideas regarding our ‘one humanity’ have been promulgated all over the world. Scotland should be rightly proud of his legacy”.

Some may be wondering, why Geoff and what connection does he have with Burns? Well, he has long been an avid fan of Burns and his works as evidenced by an interview he gave to the Scottish Malt Whisky Society recently when he was asked where that connection to Burns had originated his response was:

“Yes, the first ambassador! I started with Burns in Jamaica when my Scottish teacher got me to sing My love is like a red, red rose and I went and told my aunts. They got me by the neck and said: "What's that sort of thing about sex? At your age, at 10?" When I came [to Scotland], I read Burns a lot. At the end of John Barleycorn, he writes: "Then let us toast John Barleycorn, each man a glass in hand, and may his posterity ne'er fail in old Scotland."

The whole poem, it says 'do not underestimate the apparently insignificant'. It's about a barley grain. It's about barley being harvested, that's like trying to drown it. That's the metaphor. You harvest it, then you take it in and you're trying to drown it. Stupid! And then you beat it during germination, turning it. And then you put it in the fire. But nevertheless, it triumphs by producing Scotch whisky. That's what the poem is about. It's about trying to stop and defeat the apparently insignificant, which turns out to produce something glorious.”

His insight into the poem is testament to his deep understanding of whisky, having obtained a PhD in brewing and distilling at Heriot-Watt University, in Edinburgh, in 1967. He was instrumental in setting up the International Centre for Brewing and Distilling (ICBD) at the University in the late eighties. This is now recognised internationally as the centre of excellence for in brewing and distilling. His guiding principle is that Scotch whisky reflects the people, it reflects the truth of the product and the simplicity of the raw material, without unnecessary complexity to hide anything.

[With grateful thanks to the Scottish Malt Whisky Society for permission to use details from their article and to Mike Wilkinson for the image. Ed]

Tartan Week



The highlight of Tartan Week will be the New York City Tartan Day Parade on Saturday, 9th April, 2022. Earlier in the day the St Andrew’s Society of New York will hold a ‘Kirkin of the Tartan.’ This event is a pan-denominational Christian blessing of the tartan of the clans celebrating Scotland and Scots in America. Each year for over twenty years it has preceded the National Tartan Day Parade and has become a tradition in Scottish communities throughout the United States.

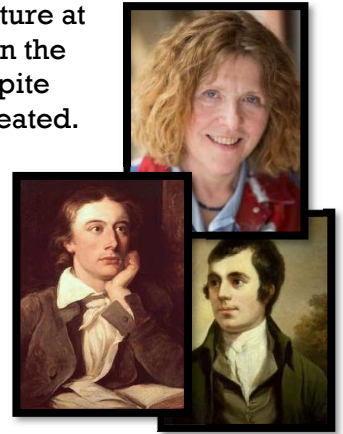
However, from a Federation point of view, an even more important event will be the celebration of the music and words of Robert Burns. Among those taking part will be Senior Vice President Alan Beck. Alan will also represent the Federation at various other events during the week with the aim of promoting the aims of the Federation to the North American audience.

[I am grateful to Leah Rankin, Communications Director of the National Tartan Day NY Committee and to Ben Chateauvert for the images. Ed]

On the Trail of Keats on the Trail of Burns

On Monday 28th February Fiona Stafford, Professor of English Language and Literature at the University of Oxford delivered a fascinating talk on London-born Keats, born in the last year of Burns's life, who was an admirer of Burns and travelled to Scotland despite his poor health, to follow in Burns's footsteps, a journey that Fiona then herself repeated.

Robert Burns, a celebrity in his day, was a great inspiration to the young poets who followed in his footsteps. John Keats, among many others, responded powerfully to Burns's poetry and longed to achieve greatness in his own art. He visited Burns's grave in Dumfries before travelling over to the West coast, Alloway and into the Highlands. Fiona follows Keats journey as he walked through Scotland in search of Burns, Burns's country and sources of inspiration.



My Life at the Globe Inn – Federation Past President Jane Brown

The Globe Inn, established in 1610, has, over the years, seemingly flourished under the watchful eye of a guid woman, and for over 20 years I had the pleasure of being that woman. I look back now on those years with great fondness. Although most of the time it was very hard work, the rewards outweighed the tiredness. Being a devoted Burnsian I felt it a great honour to be the custodian of such an iconic Burns hostelry and that side of things was my passion. I did enjoy the day-to-day running and met some wonderful people over the years. I made lots of good friends and my bread-and-butter customers were just like family to me, and my staff. One of the highlights for me was when I was made an honorary member of the Burns Howff Club, a men-only club. I looked on it as a great honour and I worked with the boys of the howff harmoniously for those 20 years with never a cross word but many a laugh though.

The Globe had a good reputation for pub grub and had a very consistent and busy lunch trade as well as private dinners and functions, many of which were Howff Club events during which I was treated to hearing some very eminent speakers, which only enhanced my love and knowledge of the bard.



stories to tell there.

The bar itself was a busy, bustling, place, especially on a Friday and Saturday evening, packed to the gunnels as they say. Sometimes I needed my wits about me to deal with incidents but mostly everyone enjoyed themselves as 'Ma Broon' was on the case!!!!!!

Over the years, I met some lovely people from all over the world and ended up visiting them or being invited to speak about Burns in some wonderful places and, to this day staying in touch with most of them.

I actually lived in an upstairs room at the Globe, and I am sure the spirits looked after me, not the ones in bottles,

Since 1935, three generations of the McKerrow family have been owners of the Globe with both Matthew and George having been past Presidents of the Robert Burns World Federation. I am sure Gordon, the last owner in the family, is as delighted as I am that the Globe has been taken over by Professor David Thomson and his wife Theresa Church. They have to be commended for the sympathetic way they have refurbished the Burns Museum rooms, which are proving popular. I am certainly kept busy doing the Burns-rooms tours, which I am thoroughly enjoying and, again, meeting lots of lovely Burns fans. The other parts of the premises have also been refurbished to a very high standard and they have created a wonderful legacy for the town. I wish them every success.

I miss such a lot about my working life but have no regrets and would not change it for anything. But now it is time, I think, to write that book so watch this space and just hope and pray your past indiscretions haven't been written down in my wee red book!

Ultimate Wedding Guide – Annandale Distillery/The Globe Inn:

SPIRIT OF LOVE -Why Annandale Distillery is the perfect venue for an intimate ceremony



If you are looking for a wedding venue that's distinctly different and an important part of Dumfries & Galloway's rich history, look no further than Annandale Distillery.

Full of character, the beautiful sandstone buildings of this historic distillery, together with the beautiful grounds and artistic features, provide the perfect backdrop for your big day.

Established in 1836 and brought back to life in 2014 following a painstaking, £15 million restoration, this first distillery in Scotland - located just 20 minutes from the Scottish border and 15 minutes from

historic Gretna Green – is a stunning place to say: “I do,” in an intimate ceremony.

Licensed to hold religious, civil, and Humanist wedding ceremonies, it is also the ideal location for a renewal of vows. Annandale Distillery has a series of options for your big day, including wedding and drinks reception in The Kiln; cocktails and canapes or afternoon tea in The Maltings coffee shop, or a marquee set-up in the courtyard.

Our events team have years of experience in the wedding industry and know that couples want to have as much fun as possible on their wedding day. We work closely with you to make your big day dreams come true in one of the most special locations in Scotland. We can also help with recommendations for florists, photographers, and for entertainment.

Annandale Distillery can accommodate up to 60 guests in either the kiln area or our beautiful cobbled courtyard. To make your unique distillery wedding even more memorable by filling your own whisky cask, or creating your own miniatures to gift to your guests.



You can continue your wedding celebrations with a gourmet meal at The Globe Inn, Dumfries, where the spirit of love is very much alive and well. The award-winning restaurant is located just a short drive away from Annan, and with its historic connections to Robert Burns, its award-winning Michelin-experienced chefs, and stunning grand dining room, your reception will be like no other. The grand dining room, with its panelled walls, stunning chandeliers, original fireplace, and beautiful furniture, seats 26, while our 1610 restaurant, which seats 60, is the perfect venue for a less formal but equally stunning meal and reception. Celebrate your special day at Annandale Distillery and The Globe Inn, where your memories will last a lifetime.

* Call Jade Fawcett at Annandale Distillery on 01461 207817; weddings@annandaledistillery.com

www.annandaledistillery.com - www.globeinndumfries.co.uk -

The Globe Inn - An Inspiring Experience

The Globe Inn is one of the most special places in the world to dine, experience it for yourself and discover why it was Burns favourite howff.



For a unique, and truly memorable dining experience in one of the most special settings in the world, The Globe Inn in Dumfries is a must.

One of the oldest inns in Scotland, dating back to 1610, it was most famously the “favourite howff” of Robert Burns, who lived, loved, and entertained there. It continues to win hearts to this day, as well as awards, including the coveted Restaurant of the Year title in the 2021 Dumfries & Galloway Life Awards.

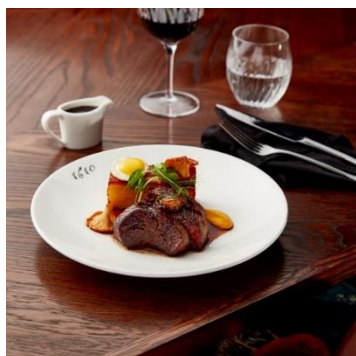
Truly capturing the ‘spirit of the Bard’, dining at The Globe Inn brings a new dimension to dining, and is an unforgettable experience you’ll savour

long after you’ve enjoyed the last spoonful of dessert and finished the evening with a nightcap.

Created with passion by one of the country's finest culinary teams – Michelin-experienced chefs: Jonathan Brett, Head of Cuisine; multi award winning Scottish Young Chef of the Year Sous Chef Fraser Cameron; Chef de Partie Gary Spratt, and chef Abbie Thompson – the dishes are deliberately bold, delicately plated, and delightfully served: traditional Scottish food expertly prepared using fresh, local ingredients and modern and classical culinary techniques.

Experience the culinary delights of The Globe’s lunch and dinner menus in the atmospheric 1610 casual fine dining restaurant, tasting your way through a wonderful range of dishes, flavours, influences and styles, complemented by a drink from The Globe’s enviable drinks collection, which caters for all wine drinkers, cocktail connoisseurs and whisky drinkers, with more than 300 whiskies from around the world, including Annandale Distillery’s award-winning Man O’ Words, inspired by the Robert Burns, and Man O’ Sword, named for Robert The Bruce.

Open Wednesday to Saturday evenings, from 5-11 pm, with a lunch service from 11 am to 3 pm on Fridays and Saturdays, The Globe Inn also offers three unique fine dining experiences. There’s the divine Grand Dining Room, for up to 30 guests, with three, five and seven-course menus. Burns’ Dining Room, where the Bard once ate, drank, and held court is the perfect place for an exclusive and intimate experience, where you can enjoy a bespoke 10-course menu with perfectly paired beverages. And Mrs Hyslop’s Kitchen, the original 18th century kitchen where, around a table for six you can choose one of the excellent set menus along with interesting beverage pairings and entertainment options for a dining experience to remember.



The Globe Inn is a must-visit dining destination for anyone who loves fine food, dining experiences, and the chance to eat in one of the most special settings Scotland has to offer.

The Globe Inn, tel: 01387 323010; mail@globeinndumfries.co.uk;
www.globeinndumfries.co.uk