



# THE VISION

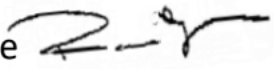
## Newsletter of the Robert Burns World Federation



Issue 71 – March 2025

Many from our RBWF community have been dismayed at the decision by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) to remove Robert Burns as a standalone author for Scottish pupils taking Higher exams. This dismay has also been expressed beyond Auld Scotia's shores, with some poignant remarks from academia and Burns/Scottish associations abroad. On page 4 & 5 of this edition, I have published an opinion piece on this situation by Professor Gerry Carruthers from the Centre for Robert Burns Studies at the University of Glasgow, and a comment on behalf of Burns Clubs across Canada and the USA by Robert Burns Association of North America (RBANA) President, Mark Ferguson. Updated comments on this topic are also shared by Peter Pringle in his 'President's Message'.

Upcoming May 8<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> 2025, is the RBANA Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. A main feature of the conference will be the events hosted by the Burns Club of Atlanta at its replica Burns Cottage. A fantastic weekend is planned to go along with that renowned southern hospitality. I have been advised that it's not too late to register. Additional information can be found at [www.RBANA.com](http://www.RBANA.com) or by email to [rbana2025agmc@gmail.com](mailto:rbana2025agmc@gmail.com)

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### Burns and March

#### "Does Haughty Gaul Invasion Threat?"

In an atmosphere of fear from French invasion, the Dumfries Volunteers were formed on 31st January 1795 when the inaugural meeting was held in the Dumfries

