



## Burns Supper in Florida (cont'd)

The Sarasota Scottish Country Dancers presented 3 set dances and then we did some ceilidh dancing finishing up with the Gay Gordons. Past President Jim Martin anchored the program by reading one of his favourite poems "A Parcel of Rogues in the Nation". We closed the evening by singing Auld Lang Syne. Everyone seemed to have a great time and we all look forward to Burns Supper 2016. If you are going to be in the Sarasota area next winter come and join us. [David MacMillan, Secretary Burns Club of St. Andrew]

## Houston Texas Burns Bust Rededication Ceremony

On Sunday, January 25, 2015, the twelfth anniversary of the dedication of the Robert Burns Bust gifted by the Heather & Thistle Society to the City of Houston, the Bust was rededicated in its new surroundings; Hermann Park has recently reopened after an extensive remodeling to mark its centenary. A great day drew a nice crowd when the Houston Highlanders Pipe Band opened the proceedings. RBANA President Robert Boyd (far right below) gave the introductory remarks and read a letter to Jack Hume from Shirley Bell, retired CEO of RBWF, who dedicated the Bust in 2003, which she fondly recalled as being one of the highlights of her career at the Federation. Jack, the leader of the Bust project, then spoke about how happy he is with its very prominent position in the Avenue of Heroes – a promenade of international figures. Helen Mann spoke on behalf of the British community in Houston, and a prayer of dedication was given by Rev. Melvyn Douglass. The Houston Highlanders performed a set to close, and in a nice postscript, three pipers wound their way playing up the new spiral walkway round the 30-foot mound that is a new feature of the park; at the top one of the pipers proposed to his girlfriend, and she said YES! The group repaired to the Black Labrador pub to ruminate on another great Burns weekend.



Jack Hume and the spiral walkway



A prayer from Mel Douglass

## Inverness Burns Club

Pre-Supper Top Table Guests' photographed at the Inverness Burns Club Annual Supper held on Friday 30th January 2015 at the Lochardil House Hotel attended by Hon. Presidents, members, guests and artistes making up a company of some 114 dedicated Burns enthusiasts.

Photograph (Rear) Piper Bill Hamilton, Andrew Smith husband of Fiona, Eleanor Lamont wife of President Dawson and Anna Henderson wife of David.

(Front) Hon. Secretary Glen Stewart, Rev. Fiona Smith (Reply frae the Lasses), Hon. President Cliff Sim (Immortal Memory), President Dawson Lamont (Chairman and Address to the Haggis), David Henderson Hon. President (Toast Tae the Lasses) and Hon. Treasurer Fiona Larg.





## Russian Students at the Mitchell



Anastasia Salukhova Burns Essay Winner and Knowledge of Scotland Entrant Elizaveta Tyotkina exchanging gifts with Susan Taylor in The Burns Room at the Mitchell Library. The St Petersburg Forum organiser Helen Morison is always grateful to the Library staff for their assistance when she brings visitors in to view The Leningrad Album or to visit the Burns Room. The girls enjoyed studying the album from Leningrad, compiled by ladies from St Petersburg in 1943 in appreciation of the Scottish Album presented during the siege in 1941 by the ladies of Airdrie and Coatbridge. If you haven't already seen this beautiful album do visit the Mitchell and have a look for yourselves.



## Strathpeffer Burns Club Celebrates



The milestone 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Club got off to a rousing start with the top table guests being piped into the room by Louise McBain who was in startling form.

After a superb meal provided by the staff of the Strathpeffer Hotel, Club President Hugh Aberach MacKay introduced Mr Martin Cassidy, the current President of the Alloway Burns Club in Ayrshire to propose the Toast to the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns. Martin commenced his address in a light hearted mode with a host of anecdotes before moving into the more serious side of the Memory. In response, George Tait proposed a full and humorous Toast to the Speaker.

An innovative toast to "Oor Native Land" was proposed by local airline pilot, Kenneth MacKenzie, giving the audience a bird's eye view of Scotland's political and cultural landscape, from the cockpit.

In the unfortunate absence of Orcadian Charles Copeland, the Club Secretary stepped into to propose the "Toast to the Lassies" which was charmingly responded to by Black Isle vet, Mary Jo Grant.

Norman MacKillop rounded up with an interesting account of the Club's history before proposing a Toast to the speakers and artists including a sincere vote of thanks to the "resident band" - Hamish Polson, Louise McBain and Hamish Menzies who had the hotel rocking with their lively repertoire. He then thanked former Mod gold medalist, Kerrie Finlay who enraptured the audience with her beautiful singing.

## Irvine Lasses Burns Club Supper

Irvine Lasses Burns Club celebrated its 40th anniversary at a supper on 5th February 2015. President Annie Small welcomed Past President of Irvine Burns Club Bill McGregor who proposed the Toast to the Club. Also taking part in the celebrations were Founder Member Anne Gaw, Irvine Burns Club President Derek Murdoch, and RBWF President Jim Thomson who presented the Club with a certificate from the Federation. Here's to the next 40 years!



## St Ronan's Primary School Innerleithen Burns Tradition Bearers



Children at St Ronan's Primary School in Innerleithen took the plaudits as their Burns Lunch celebration proved to be a resounding success.

The event, launched 32 years ago, has become part of the folklore at the 270-pupil school - and it's so popular with the pupils that they are looking forward to it many months in advance. The chairman Anya Wilson, from P7, orchestrated the occasion like an old hand as the children made speeches, recited poetry and entertained with song and dance. Headteacher, Keith Belleville, was delighted to be able to take a back seat

The Guest of Honour was Anne Hewitt, a teacher for 43 years - first at Broughton and for 10 years at St Ronan's. Miss Hewitt said "When I got to High School we did not do Burns poetry - it was only when I started teacher training that I got the opportunity. She told the children she read a Burns poem during her training and that her teacher did not have a clue what she said but that it "sounded nice".

It was after that she became acquainted with the Robert Burns World Federation, an organisation that promotes the life, poetry and works of Scotland's renowned bard. Scarlett Fairbairn, from P7, gave the toast to The Immortal Memory of Burns and said: "Whether it's for his poetry, lyricism, outlook on life or that he was a ladies' man, Robbie Burns offered something for everyone." Burns has a link with St Ronan's School as it sits on the site of Pirn House which was visited by the poet in 1787. Former headteacher Alastair Campbell was responsible for launching the Burns Lunch and the present incumbent Mr. Belleville is determined that it will continue while he is at the school and for a long time after that. Read the full article at:

<http://www.peebleshirenews.com/news/innerleithen/articles/2015/02/02/522923-st-ronans-pupils--inspired-by-burns/#sthash.37RycWxX.dpuf>

## Burns Memory Alive and Well in New Zealand

The Wanganui Burns Club held its 2015 Burns Supper at the Returned and Service's Association (RSA) club premises. A colourful night with speeches and dancers from our local club, a sing-along of Scottish songs and our all-lady Haggis Party (shown right) including a 13 year-old piper making her debut. Our new President Kate Smith, originally from Stirling, gave the *Address the Haggis*. Captain Robert McMillan, originally from Bute, proposed the Immortal Memory and Sue Kumeroa gave the Reply to the Toast to the Lasses.



## Federation Office Move Delayed



The RBWF office staff have been made aware that some items of mail are being sent to our "new address" as advertised in the Burns Chronicle. However, the planned office move has been delayed, and we are currently still at our Dower House address. We are not likely to be moving before May/June time. We will keep you up to date with the progress of the move and when mail should be re-directed.

Please accept our apologies for the confusion; we have asked the current occupiers of the office to re-direct any mail to us.



## Anyone for Robert Burns Tourist Guide Training?



At a recent Board meeting there was a discussion on the possibilities of having Members of the Robert Burns World Federation taking part, ***on a part time paid basis***, as trained Robert Burns Tourist Guides. (Final title to be decided.)

Tourism to Scotland is an expanding business and one of the many attractions is that of Robert Burns – evident in the thousands who go to Burns' locations every year.

A training seminar would be held for applicants and the new Robert Burns Tourist Guide would be allocated to a specific location where there is a Burns connection. The nominated Guide would meet Tourists – either groups or individuals- and

show and explain the particular Robert Burns association with the location.

As this is a new territory for the Federation and, before extending an invitation to non-Federation Members, the Board decided that Members should be informed and a response requested to gauge the level of interest.

There is no guarantee at this stage that the proposal will take place but everyone in a Burns Club or an individual Federation Member can apply to be put on this initial list. If there is sufficient interest for part time Burns Tourist Guides then the project will be developed and a two day (weekend) training course set up depending on funding being sourced.

There is not an age limit and there will be a continuing requirement for commitment and enthusiasm – the most important aspects are good knowledge of the location allocated. The training will cover aspects of presentation and best practices in addressing people.

Potential candidates for these self-employed part-time positions are asked to e-mail their contact details and a brief summary of what area they would like to work in to Marketing Director Murdo Morrison ([murdomorrison13@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:murdomorrison13@blueyonder.co.uk)) with their contact details and also why they wish to be considered.

## Edinburgh & District Burns Club's Association (EDBCA) - Wreath Laying Ceremony



On the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2015, within the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, the Edinburgh and District Burns Clubs Association held its Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony. The afternoon started at 2.00pm with Jim Weatherston on banjo singing beside the Flaxman Statue of Robert Burns. This was followed by Gordon Jamieson, Secretary of EDBCA, giving a welcome to all the invited guests and friends. Jim Shields the President of EDBCA then laid a Wreath and remarked on the life and History of Robert Burns.

Representatives from the various official bodies laid wreaths in memory of Robert Burns. This included the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Donald Wilson, who informed the representatives that it is 200 years since the first Burns Club was formed in Edinburgh. Zoja B. Bazarnic, from the American Consulate in Edinburgh, also spoke about how much Burns was loved in America. Marco Biagi, on behalf of the Scottish Government and the Scottish People, gave an interesting talk on Burns and the importance of Edinburgh in the poet's life. Also represented were the Provincial Grand Lodge of Scotland, the National Trust for Scotland, the Depute Provost of East Lothian, the

Provost of Mid Lothian and the Director of the Scottish National Portrait Galleries, Christopher Baker, who stated he was happy to offer his continued support to the EDBCA. Isa Hanley, a Director of the Robert Burns World Federation, laid a wreath for the Federation. The party sang "A Mans a Man for a' that" before adjourning for tea and coffee.

[Gordon M. Jamieson, Secretary EDBCA]

## Burns Howff Club - 126<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner

Former Director of Education for Dumfries and Galloway, Fraser Sanderson, toasted the “Immortal Memory” of Robert Burns at the Burns Howff Club’s 126<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner held in the Globe Inn, Burns’ favourite “howff”. In it he discussed Burns’ ability to capture human emotion and his broad range and diversity from ordinary life and the drinking ballads like “Tam O’ Shanter” through love songs to his clear patriotism against a background of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, a period of rapid change and Anglicisation.

Mr. Sanderson considered Scotland post referendum and how there appears to be a new national confidence and shared vision of a better and fairer society with equality and opportunity for all, irrespective of political views - a confidence Burns would have recognised and shared. Fraser received a standing ovation from the company and accepted a certificate of honorary club membership from President John Clark (on left in photo).



Earlier, the President welcomed the haggis, borne aloft by the Globe Inn’s Jane Brown as “Poosie Nancie” (centre) accompanied by a stirring air from Pipe Major Callum Watson, club piper and senior vice president, (right) before being addressed by the president with gusto.

The traditional toast to “The Lasses, O” was delivered by Ayrshireman Niven Rennie, President of the Scottish Police Superintendents’ Association, in a hilariously funny and original style but also reflected on the women and romance in Burns’ life.

Contributing to the entertainment programme were John Caskie with a selection of the songs of Burns and a dramatic recitation of “Tam O’ Shanter” from prize winning Bobby Jess. Music was provided by James Coutts on the accordion and by Ian Kirkpatrick on the club’s Millennium Fiddle.

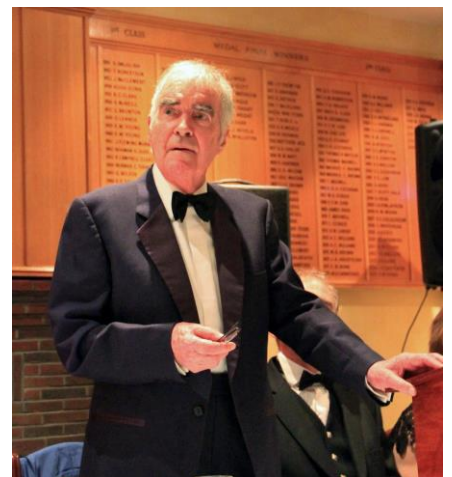
A full report on this splendid evening can be found on the club’s website [www.burnshowffclub.org/](http://www.burnshowffclub.org/)

## New Format Burns Supper for Whitecraigs Golf Club

On 9<sup>th</sup> January eighty people gathered at The Whitecraigs Golf Club in the south side of Glasgow and had the distinctive honour of hosting the first Burns Supper under a new format devised by actor John Cairney.

The evening commenced with the Selkirk Grace by the club Captain, David Kirkwood followed by the Piping in O’ the Haggis and the Address to the Haggis by club member David Brown.

During the meal we were entertained by members of The Glasgow Academy School Pipe Band along with community singing of *A Man’s A Man for A’ That*, *My Luv is Like a Red Red Rose* and *There Was A Man Called Robert Burns* (lyrics by John Cairney to the tune of *The Star of Rabbie Burns*). Claire and Will, who led the singing, also enchanted us with a magnificent rendition of *Ae Fond Kiss* and playing Reels and Jigs. David Brown recited *To a Mouse* before John Cairney delivered an emotional and unforgettable Immortal Memory.





## Whitecraigs Golf Club Supper (cont'd)

The evening concluded with a Vote of Thanks by the club's Vice Captain, Valerie Davidson, before John Cairney delivered a unique version of Auld Lang Syne. This was particularly atmospheric with John reading the words and the members humming the tune. A moment of silence followed for everyone to reflect their own thoughts.

There was no Toast to the Lassies as it was felt the songs of Burns stand as a tribute to the Lassies. Everyone thought the new format was overwhelmingly successful and had returned the Burns Supper to its original honesty and simplicity.

## A Young Burnsian Wows the Parliamentarians

Ewen Brindle had the honour of performing the *Address to the Haggis* at the Scottish Parliament Burns Supper on Wednesday 21 January.

He was put forward for this prestigious event by the Schools Convener, Isa Hanley, because in her words, "he thoroughly deserved the honour, being a great guy and the only person who has ever competed in all 4 disciplines of recitation, singing, instrumental and bagpiping at the finals of the national competitions. Ewan hails from Keith and is in his first year of study at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow.

He won the overall recitation competition and the Harry McGuffog Trophy for Best Instrumentalist in the 2014 Schools Festival in Prestwick Academy.



## Big Burns Supper (BBS) Festival in Dumfries



BBS is a festival of contemporary and traditional culture and a huge public celebration of the birthday of Scotland's national Bard, Robert Burns, in his beloved town of Dumfries. It is also part of Scotland's Winter Festivals (a programme of events managed by EventScotland on behalf of the Scottish Government) and attracts thousands of visitors from across the UK and overseas.

The festival is made possible by support from many organisations including Creative Scotland, 8020

and Dumfries and Galloway Council's Beacon Event Programme as well as the Robertson Trust, the Holywood Trust and the 'Awards for All' programme.



The parade was lit by at least 3,000 lanterns, far more than the organisers had hoped for, to mark the 2015 UNESCO Year of Light. Over 4000 spectators lined the streets and packed the centre of the town – where Burns wrote some of his greatest work. Scottish Government Minister Humza Yousaf MSP, Minister for Europe and International Development, said: "I came to Dumfries with high expectations, but I was absolutely blown away by this carnival. The creativity of the people of Dumfries is absolutely incredible. I have been so impressed and really hope to be invited back next year." There were an immense variety of costumes – many taking environmental and farming themes for Scotland's 2015 Year of Food and Drink.

## Falkirk Burns Club Celebrate in Style



Friday evening January 23<sup>rd</sup> witnessed Falkirk Burns Club's 149<sup>th</sup> annual celebration of the birth of Robert Burns. The assembled company with club president Brian Goldie chairman for the evening were regaled by speeches and recitations of the bard's poetry which would not be out of place in any theatre or in any part of the world.

The proceedings began with Ian Crozier's address to the haggis and the poor beastie had no chance of survival.

The ensuing meal was a credit to the Park Hotel and was well received by the members and their guests.

The toast to the Immortal memory of Burns was delivered ably and concisely by former Red Hot Chilli piper Stuart Cassells whose range of information, quotations and eloquence of speech made a fitting tribute to Burns' life and works.

The recitation of *The Twa Dogs* by Ian Crozier, John Merrillees and Grant Williamson was one of the best we have ever heard for this particular poem as was Jock Wilson's recital of the epic Tam o' Shanter.

The toast to Scotland was proposed by Eric Budgell, a member of the Robert Burns World Federation, and a member of the guild of Robert Burns' speakers. Eric outlined what effects the course of history has had on our country, from politics, attitudes in the differing areas of the east and west of the country and even the divisions caused by the recent independence referendum.

The evening continued with a humorous toast to our guests and a similarly styled vote of thanks. These were delivered by Bill Doig and David Barclay respectively who as friends and colleagues were the perfect foil for each other.

The music for the event was supplied in the first instance by piper Tommy Couper who exhibits the fact that he is truly world class and though not a Red Hot Chilli, he is certainly a red hot piper. The vocals were by local singing duo Mak a Din, who set the mood for the evening with their renditions of *MacPherson's Rant*, *Leezie Lindsay*, *Ye Jacobites by Name* and *Killicrankie*. I have no doubt that our members will be pleased to hear that they have been booked for a return visit for our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2016.

## Yorkshire Tartan Ball

Shake away those 'Winter Blues' and join us in the Springtime when a warm welcome will be extended on Saturday 12 April 2014 to the Tartan Ball at the Holiday Inn, Barnsley Road, Dodworth, Barnsley S75 3JT

Iain MacPhail and his Scottish Dance Band from Edinburgh will entertain and dinner is a three course with menu choice, all for a very reasonable price of £30.00.

The special rate for those wishing to stay overnight in the hotel is Standard Twin/Double Room - £50.00; Single Room £25.00 including full breakfast and use of the leisure facilities

Book direct with hotel on 01226 329100 or 01226 299571 quoting 'Tartan Ball 18/04/15.'

Further details and application forms from hon. secretary May McGuffog E-mail [mmandhmcg@aol.com](mailto:mmandhmcg@aol.com) Tel.No 01274 582577





## Greenock Burns Club's 213<sup>th</sup> Supper



On Monday 26th January, 2015, members and guests of The Greenock Burns Club held its 213<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration within the Tontine Hotel, Greenock.

The top table guests were piped into the room by Rachel McDaid, the granddaughter of our President, Billy McCready, who chaired the evening's proceedings.

Alasdair Henry's stirring "Address to A Haggis" caused much hilarity when a "false erm" was catapulted into the company.

The President took a moment to pay tribute highly respected and much loved George Bryden, Past President, (pictured right) who passed away several months ago.

Joe Gatherer, accompanied on piano by Iain McCrorie MBE, entertained the company with beautiful renditions of Burns' songs and Adam Piggot gave dramatic renditions of "Holy Willie's Prayer" and "Tam o' Shanter"

Principal speaker for the evening was Angus Middleton, President of the West Kilbride Burns Club and Past President of the Robert Burns World Federation, who proposed an entertaining and informative Toast to the Immortal Memory of The Bard. He was duly installed as this year's Honorary President.



The Toast to the Mother Club was proposed by Scott Renfrew, Head Boy at Clydeview Academy, who showed maturity beyond his years. A suitable reply was made by Christine MacLeod, Senior vice-President, who thanked him for an excellent Toast.

The Toast to the Lasses, proposed by Andrew Gourley, Treasurer of the West Kilbride Burns Club, and The Reply by Lesley Diack, Secretary of the West Kilbride Burns Club, were both delivered with great humour.

The Vote of Thanks was proposed by Jim Donnelly and the evening concluded in the traditional manner with the company singing Auld Lang Syne. [For full report see: [www.greenockburnsclub.com](http://www.greenockburnsclub.com)]

## Heads up for the Kilmarnock Howff Burns Club's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner

The Howff Burns Club, Kilmarnock, is celebrating its 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner on Sunday, 29 March, 2015 (6.30 pm for 7 pm), at the Fenwick Hotel, Kilmarnock. The Speaker will be James Thomson, President, of the Robert Burns World Federation, and singer William Stewart, Dundonald Burns Club, will entertain. The cost of the dinner is cost of the Dinner will be £25.00pp. An invite is extended to members and non-members. Anybody interested in supporting this event, please contact the Secretary of the club, Brian Keenan on 0141 647 8828.

## Gatehouse of Fleet Burns Club Celebrates the Bard

Gatehouse of Fleet Burns Club held its 62<sup>nd</sup> annual Burns Supper at the Murray Arms Hotel. The President of the Club, Mike Duguid (centre), welcomed the guests and proposed a minute's silence in memory of Lord Vaux, known to most as Tony Gilbey, a Past President of the club who sadly died in December. The haggis was piped in by young local lad Euan Donald and addressed by the President.

Andy Hall (back right) proposed a highly personal Immortal Memory based on his highly successful book *Touched by Burns* which was published for the Year of Homecoming in 2009. A typically humorous and teasing Toast to the Lasses by Dr. John Locke (back left) was responded to in style and insightful wit by Dr. Janet Brennan of Barholm Castle (Front left).

Robyn Stapleton, BBC Scotland's Young Traditional Musician of the Year 2014, entertained with some beautiful renditions of Burns' songs including "Scots Wha Hae" reputed to have been partly written during Burns' overnight stay at this hotel in July 1793.



One part of the evening which makes this a very special Burns Supper is when the winners of the Gatehouse Primary School competition perform their winning poems. They were from P5, Fergus McClure (right), P6 Rachel Donald (second right), and P7 Edward Hannay (left), who also won the Dawson Trophy, and Fraser McTaggart (second right) who won the Fingland Quaich for the best Ayrshire accent.

Following a rousing rendition of Auld Lang Syne "... each took aff his several way, resolved to meet some ither day".

## Thornhill and District Burns Club Burns Supper

President Ronnie Cairns welcomed everyone to Thornhill & District Burns Club annual Burns Supper on the 31st January which was held at the Thornhill Community Centre. The haggis was piped in by William Prentice who also entertained after dinner. It was carried by Peter Moran and addressed by Colin Gibson. Brian Edgar gave an excellent Immortal Memory, the Toast to the Lassies was delivered by Gordon Murray and Catherine Leggeat replied. All the toasts were well received by members and guests. Agostina Pombo sang songs by Robert Burns and also sang some opera. Les Byers was in good form, he not only *recited Holy Willies Prayer* but gave a rousing rendition of *Tam o' Shanter*. Rev. Ella Pennington also delivered some of her own poetical works. The vote of thanks was given by Linda McDonald and the evening ended with the company singing *Auld Lang Syne* accompanied by William Prentice on the bagpipes. In the photo from left to right is Catherine Leggeat, Ronnie Cairns, Brian Edgar, Halina Cairns, Gordon Murray and Ella Pennington.





## Houston's Heather & Thistle Burns Supper

Our 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Burns Supper was held on January 24, 2015. About forty members and friends were in attendance to see the haggis piped in by Ian Martin and borne by Audrey Morrow. RBANA President Robert Boyd was in the chair. Archie Simm from RBANA member club Bonnie Jean gave the address. After dinner, Guida Hume proposed a toast to HM the Queen and the US President. Guest speaker Robin Mills (right) from the UK, a former webmaster of H&T gave a fine first Immortal Memory.



RBANA US Director Ted Hirtz led the company in *Star of Robbie Burns*. Walter May then proposed a toast to the Lassies, responded to by his wife Cheryl. The Mays, who are soon leaving Houston for Austin, were presented with the Jack and Phemia Hume Award for service to H&T, to which they have given so very much since 1998. Among other turns, Jack Hume recited *Holy Willie's Payer*, Robert Boyd performed Ronnie O'Byrne's piece *I Don't Like Poetry* and Ted Hirtz sang *Duncan Grey*. Cheryl May made a toast to Robert Boyd's three-month old granddaughter Sydney, probably the youngest to attend any Burns Supper this year. A rousing Auld Lang Syne by the company closed a very nice evening.



## Edmonton Burns Club Celebrations



The night certainly 'drave on wi' sangs an' clatter' as the company was entertained by the pipe band, highland dancers, recitations, songs, instrumental music and speeches. In full voice for Auld Lang Syne are, right to left, Hon George Rogers, Deputy Speaker Alberta Legislature, Rev. Raymond Grant Toasts to the Lassies and to Scotland, Mike Duguid, Immortal Memory, President Scott Palmer, highly popular Mayor of Edmonton, Don Iveson and Past President Joe Marshall.

On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January members of the Edmonton Burns Club held their annual wreath-laying ceremony at the Burns Statue. Sculpted by John Weaver in 2000 it is located in Oliver Park in front of the Hotel Macdonald. In the evening around 450 members and guests gathered in the Westin Hotel for a splendid Burns Supper chaired by President Scott Palmer.



## St Petersburg Art Competition

The winner of the annual St Petersburg Art Competition, run in conjunction with the RBWF, was Elizaveta Yashkina, a 15 year-old student with her highly accomplished study shown right. The students had to base their paintings on the works of the 'Glasgow Boys' artists E. A. Hornel and George Henry.





## Isle of Arran Announces Release Date for First Ever Arran 18 Year-old Malt

The Isle of Arran Distillery is delighted to present its first ever official Arran 18 year-old - the one that everyone has been waiting for! This limited edition is the introduction of an 18 year-old into our core range of Single Malts. It will be available on their web site from Monday 16th March, priced at £72.99. There will be a limit of 2 bottles per transaction on our web site as the number available from there is limited. Our worldwide distributors will also be stocking this whisky, so you should be able to find it in a specialist whisky retailer near you. If you are struggling to locate a bottle, e-mail us at [info@arranwhisky.com](mailto:info@arranwhisky.com) and they will be happy to help! The tasting notes describe the Aroma as: *Baked peaches with honey and toasted almonds. Sherry cask charring and subtle spice* and the Finish as: *Hazelnuts and nougat mingle with lightly toasted brioche and toffee apples.*



## South Ayrshire Council's Burns an' a' that! - New Venue Announced



The Burns an' a' that! Festival is an annual tribute to Scotland's internationally acclaimed poet Robert Burns. In 2015 the festival will celebrate its fourteenth anniversary with a FREE 'Weekend in the Park' celebration on Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 May at the NEW LOCATION of Rozelle Park, Ayr. Join us to picnic with an amazing line-up of live music, Burns performances, family entertainment, food and drink and much more!

The live music programme will consist of a 'mixed tape' Saturday with a variety of music genres being celebrated including rock 'n' roll, mod inspired, indie, country, pop and rock. Sunday introduces the Burns Scotrock Ceilidh with a house ceilidh band encouraging you to dance your way throughout the day to Scottish hits, folk rock and a special headline act.

New for 2015 is our special Burns Tipi where all things Burns will be celebrated throughout both days. We are also introducing a brand new acoustic music tent where you can kick back and enjoy some talented up and coming musicians.



2015 is Scotland's Year of Food and Drink and there will be a range of quality Scottish produce on sale – everything from tapas with a Scottish twist to Burns themed ales and Scottish cheese.

The Burns an' a' that! Festival is a fantastic family day out with lots of children's activities including arts and crafts, fairground, crazy golf and much more.

Visit us, stay with us and enjoy the Burns an' a' that! Festival as we celebrate the man, the music, the legacy.

Check out the website [www.burnsfestival.com](http://www.burnsfestival.com)