

# The Robert Burns World Federation Conference & AGM 2011

The conference was held this year in the Peebles Hydro. There was a significantly larger turnout than in recent years with over 200 delegates registered.

The RBANA contingent this year was 15 strong, with the Calgary, Halton Peel, Niagara Falls & Winnipeg Clubs well represented.

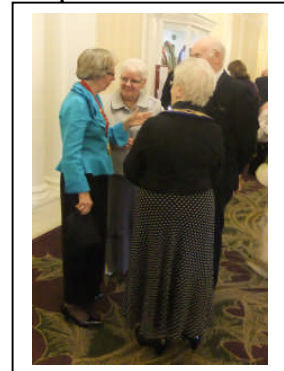
The weather was not great, cloudy & cool, but the ambience of the Hotel made that irrelevant and there were times when the view from the hotel was spectacular.

On the Friday evening we gathered for dinner in the dining room and enjoyed an outstanding meal, after which we retired to the ballroom for a traditional ceilidh, hosted by John Haining.



The Federation AGM was held in the ballroom on Saturday morning and the announced appointment of Bill Dawson as permanent Editor for the Burns Chronicle was enthusiastically received.

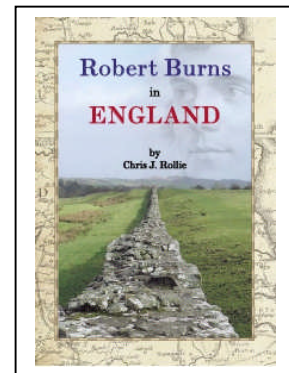
A certificate of appreciation was awarded to Gordon Ashley, a member from Australia, for his efforts in raising awareness of the need for and commitment from the authorities, to restore the vandalized Burns statues in Camperdown, Australia and Bathgate in Scotland.



As always there was lots of opportunity for socializing and greeting members from 'a the 'airs.



The Saturday afternoon sessions were again held in the Hotel Ballroom and were led by Cammy Goodall, and Angus Middleton who engaged us with most interesting presentations, then Chris Rollie, followed with an illustrated overview of his book 'Burns in England'.



The formal dinner was held in the evening and followed a Burns Supper style menu.



During the dinner the formal appointment of the new executive took Place. Jane Brown from the Globe Inn was installed as Second Vice president by Robert Stewart who in turn was installed as senior Vice President by Jim Sheilds. Jim in turn was installed as the new President by retiring President David Baird.



Following the ceremonies and dinner we retired to the Ballroom once more, to dance the evening away.

The band was the same one who entertained us so enthusiastically in Aberdeen last year.

The well attended worship service on Sunday Morning was led by Margaret Anderson a lay preacher from Edinburgh.

The a-cappella hymn singing was strong and the new President Jim Shields acted as precentor to start us on key (in the same tune) “auld kirk style”.

Following the service we all took our leave, promising to be at next year’s venue, in Harrogate Yorkshire, but for many Williamsburg in April, for the RBANA conference.

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