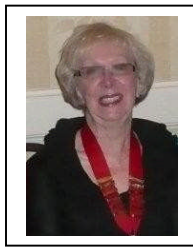


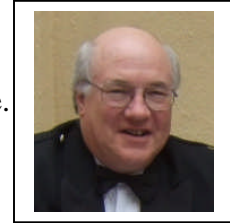
## Presidents Blog Fall 2010



Chrys Ballantyne

Hello again.

As your 2010-2011 Season swings into action I wish you well. I am happy to introduce Scott Reid as a Canadian Director from the Robert Burns Society Kilmarnock, our operating executive is now complete. Scott has previously been a member of the executive. Again I urge you to contact your executive with comments or ideas. We are open to any suggestions.



Scott Reid

### The Robert Burns World Federation

In September Ron & I were in Scotland to attend the Robert Burns World Federation AGM. Also in attendance from Canada were May & Alex Crawley from the Niagara Falls Club, Colin Harris & Rob Bruce-Barron from the Winnipeg Club, Tony Grace President of the Calgary Club and his wife who is a member of the Schiehallion Scottish Heritage Society. There were also two other Canadians from Edmonton. Our members from the USA were missed. The conference report can be accessed elsewhere on this website. Suffice to say it was indeed a memorable weekend.

### The Irvine Burns Club

One of the highlights of our Scottish visit was a call we made to the Irvine Burns Club Premises.

We were fortunate, that particular Sunday was the local Doors Open Day. On arriving we were shown to the 'Burns Room' where we enjoyed a presentation on Burns' life and experience in Irvine. This was achieved with excellent murals, using focused lighting and an audio commentary. They have a great museum collection of Burns related artifacts and letters. I was accorded the rare privilege of handling their copy of the Burns Kilmarnock edition



Chrys with the "book"

If you are ever in the vicinity of Irvine, I urge you to make a point of visiting the Club. Their website can be accessed from the links button on this website or by clicking on <http://www.irvineayrshire.org/burns/>

### Colin Hunter McQueen.



Colin autographs our book

Colin always is a source of inspiration & knowledge. What a lovely time we spent with him and his wife Alison. We purchased a copy of his new book '*Hunter's Illustrated History of the family friends & Contemporaries of Robert Burns*'. For information about the book click on:-

<http://www.drumbow.co.uk/>

### Dumfries

On then, to Dumfries and the Globe Inn, where Jane Brown was the hostess '*Par excellence*'. Jane had arranged a tour of St Michaels Church, ably conducted by Dan Cook.

On the way in we admired the statue of Jean Armour, a project sponsored by the Howff Club. The beautiful stained glass windows (illustrated on the Spring 2009 Burns Chronicle) were much admired as was the placement of the Burns Bust in a alcove created in the Church wall. It was then on to the Dumfries Theatre Royal, with a tour again led by a member of the Dumfries Guild of Players. In my past I had been a member of the Players Guild of Hamilton (Ontario) so we had much in common. To stand on the very stage where Miss Fontenelle delivered the address "The Rights of Woman" and to dare to recite a few lines of that, to test the acoustics was a thrill beyond imagination!

Jane Brown our host for the night had arranged a dinner for us with David Baird the incoming World Federation President (whom we had met in Winnipeg in 2007), the Wilson Ogilvies & other members of the Howff club and their wives.



The dinner party



Our Hostess Jane Brown brings in dessert

Neil Johnston, President of the Howff Club presented me with a book 'A wee kist o' Verse' a selection of poems from the 2009 Schools Scots Language Competition, compiled into a beautiful hardback book.

To say it was impressive is almost an understatement.



## So to Aberdeen

From Dumfries we travelled through the Border Country past the several ruined Abbeys and visited Abbotsford the home of Sir Walter Scott, then on to Perth, Pitlochry & finally Aberdeen. The Conference Ceilidh on the Friday evening featured four teenagers who had been winners in the Burns schools competitions. The music they played & sang left us in no doubt that Burns is alive and well and the future is in good hands.

The conference wound up with a worship service at St Machar's Cathedral in old Aberdeen.

With joy unfeign'd, brothers and sisters meet,  
And each for other's weelfare kindly speirs:  
The social hours, swift-wing'd, unnotic'd fleet:  
Each tells the [uncos](#) that he sees [or](#) hears.

Christ Ballantine