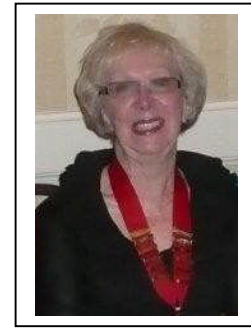


President's Blog February 2011



As I write this blog most of us will have put our annual Burns' Suppers behind us. A few clubs I am told are still about to have their celebrations of the Bard's 252nd birthday. We have the first 8 Supper reports posted on the website and look forward to receiving the rest.

I received a delightful e-mail from Andrew Thompson, Public Relations Officer of the South Lanarkshire Council. It contained 3 links to performances of Burns' poems and songs by primary school pupils competing for the Bridgeton Burns Club Competition for schools. To see and hear these children brought a smile to my face. You will agree that "Burns is alive and well" in the voices of these talented children.. I've added the links at the bottom of this page.

This update to the website is a most exciting one and the latest information and registration package for the upcoming RBANA 2011 Conference in May is now added to the "NEXT CONFERENCE" page. I encourage everyone to seriously consider coming to Winnipeg. The fellowship with other Burnsians is great and the widening of our circle of friends is stimulating.

There have also been several news items of great interest and these have been posted in the 'NEWS' section of this web page. There is the investigation into the much acclaimed account, touted by so many Scottish politicians, that Andrew Carnegie had required a bust of Burns to be prominently mounted in all the libraries he financed. Yet why can none be found? Check the report, which has also been published in the Winter 'Burns Chronicle'.

You may have missed the report in the January update, where RBANA was involved in persuading the Fredericton NB council to restore the Burns Statue in the city to its pedestal. The flurry of reaction to the negative decision and the national attention from our intervention prompted members from the Irving family to offered funds for the restitution

There are reports and a video of the recent discovery of two previously unknown letters written by Burns and also an early manuscript, in Burns handwriting, of the poem 'The Wounded Hare'.

Another project is noted, the BBC has recorded all of nearly 700 poems by Robert Burns. These are recited by some of Scotland's best know performers, even including Prince Charles and Alex Salmond. A link to the BBC page has been added to the "NEWS" page.

Here are the Links to the Children's competition performance videos:-

<http://www.youtube.com/user/SouthLanarkshireTV#p/c/D8772C2144277BCF/1/DN4DO-NVfNY>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/SouthLanarkshireTV#p/c/D8772C2144277BCF/3/4MFdmG7bOJ8>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/SouthLanarkshireTV#p/c/D8772C2144277BCF/6/XdzP0rwXdm8>

*Your friendship, sir, I winna quat it,
An' if ye mak objections at it,
Then hand in neive some day we'll knot it,
An' witness take,
An' when wi' usquabae we've wat it
It winna break.*

Third Epistle to J. Lapraik; Robert Burns

Looking forward to Winnipeg with great anticipation

Chris Ballantine