

Report on the Retirement Party for Shirley Bell

Shirley Bell retired as CEO of the Robert Burns World Federation this October.

To acknowledge the great contribution she has made to the Federation a celebration was held on the 9th October. 96 friends of Shirley Bell attended Easterbrook Hall, Crichton Campus, Dumfries, to celebrate Shirley's 12 years at the helm of the Robert Burns World Federation.

The evening started at 7.30pm when the Top Table, including Shirley, Jack her Husband and her daughters, Alison and Lesley and new baby Hunter, entered to a standing ovation. John Haining was M.C. for the first half and warmly welcomed all the guests some of whom had travelled long distances to be there.

After a fine buffet meal accompanied by music, John read the letters and cards, including letters from

Mr Alex Salmond, the First Minister and Mike Russell, local MSP and Minister for Culture and the Constitution; who both apologized for being unable to be present due to official Government business

Mike Duguid made a presentation to Shirley on behalf of the Board. This was followed by a presentation by David Baird, of a picture of the Nith, near Ellisland Farm, painted by a local artist.

Jim Robertson then made a speech on behalf of RBANA and presented a gift voucher to Shirley from RBANA.

The formal proceedings concluded with Jim Shields presenting Shirley with a beautiful bouquet of flowers.

After a break John Caskie took over as MC for the entertainment He was ably assisted by William

Williamson; a well known local TV and Radio man. Music was provided by Holly Little; John Douglas, Accordionist; Ian Kirpatrick, Fiddler {both local lads}, {singer/songwriter} and even John Caskie himself.

The concert was excellent and much appreciated by all.

The evening finished just after 10.30pm with Shirley thanking everyone for their gifts and cards and also for their support of the last 12 years. Jim Shields gave the vote of thanks to everyone concerned in the planning and execution of the evening including all the guests. They all joined together in "Auld Lang Syne" with Shirley, Jack, Alison (Lesley and Hunter had departed by then) in the middle of all the guests.

The look of delight in Shirley's face was heart warming.

Thanks to John Haining & Jim Robertson for the foregoing information

