

# Howff Club News

The newsletter of the Dumfries Burns Howff Club

October 2011

Midway through his presidential year, Frank Manson has represented the club at many events

Since taking office in April, it has been my privilege to represent the club at various events such as the launch of the St Mungo Trail, the wreath laying at Covington Mains, the Brow Well ceremony and attending the Robert Burns World Federation conference in Peebles.

I would like to congratulate our treasurer David Baird on the truly excellent manner in which he carried out his role as President of the Robert Burns World Federation and also to congratulate our honorary member Jane Brown on being elected JVP at the conference.

The Jean Armour Dinner held in July was a great start to the year's functions. David Baird gave the oration at the Jean Armour Statue before we sat down to an excellent meal in the Globe. The guest speakers that night were Josephine Neil and Kevin Thompson and the star of the night young "Burnsian" of the year Leona Evans. I am sure the latter comment will not offend the various club members who contributed on the night or Willie McRobert on accordion.

The Club Outing took place in July and "the trip doon the watter" was graced with sunny weather. Twenty-one members, spouses and guests enjoyed the magnificent scenery on the cruise to Tignabruaich on the PS Waverley "from scenes like these old Scotia's grandeur springs". Hopefully, enough funds will be raised by the owners to keep the steamer operating.

The work of the constitution sub-committee has concluded and the updated constitution has gone to an extraordi-

## Brighter grows its beam

nary general meeting of members for approval on October 3, 2011.

Many thanks to all the members of the club and to Honorary Secretary David Smith for all their support in making the start of my presidential year so very enjoyable.



**PRESIDENTS ALL:** the Howff presidential team for 2011/12 are keenly involved in promoting the club



### WINTER CLUB NIGHT PROGRAMME AND IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES

**October 27, Thursday** - History of Glasgow Tobacco Barons, Bob Dalziel.

**November 24, Thursday** - Panel Discussion on a Burns Theme.

**February 23, Thursday** - Story of Tam o' Shanter, Jim Thompson.

**March 29, Thursday** - John Lapraik, Josie Neil.

**April 19, Thursday** - Evening visit to

Devil's Porridge Exhibition, Eastriggs (please pre-book).

*Talks commence at 7.30pm in the club-room.*

**October 31, Monday** - Hallowe'en Supper, Speaker: Professor D Purdie.

**November 30, Wednesday** - St Andrew's Night Dinner, Speaker: Rt Hon George Reid.

**January 25, Wednesday** - 123rd

Anniversary Dinner. Immortal Memory, Len Murray.

**February 29, Wednesday** - Leap Year Dinner Toast to The Club, Gavin Findlay, Dumbarton.

*Functions commence at 7pm prompt.*

**March 23, Friday** - Games Night at Marchmount Bowling Club.

**May 3, Thursday** - Annual General Meeting (note change of date).



**WORK AND PLAY**: the Howff Club committee prepare for another year and members and friends take a trip doon the watter on the Waverley.



## Travels with Baird and the Bard

Since being adorned with the Great Golden Chain of Office of the Robert Burns World Federation in Aberdeen last year, I have not been idle. Being President brought with it a number of responsibilities, which are not immediately apparent. It was a privilege to be President, it brought me into contact with a huge number of Burnsians and clubs throughout the world.

It would be impossible to single out any event as being the "best". Each one was unique, ranging from the enormously warm welcome by the Atlanta Burns Club, as I joined them for the Centennial Celebrations of the laying of the foundation stone of their replica Burns Cottage in November 2010, to the joy

*Now, sir, if ye hae friends enow,  
Tho' real friends I b'lieve a few;  
Yet if yer catalogue be fu',  
I'se no insist:  
But, if ye wasn't ae friend that's true,  
I'm on yer list.*

of sharing in a huge number of club celebrations and contact with a range of places and people around Scotland. Attending the Robert Burns Association of North America Conference in May 2011 and a tour of Australia in August, where we met Burnsians in Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney and visited Camperdown in Victoria where the Greenshield's Statue is situated.

The local events were

special to me and I was moved to be asked by the President of the Howff Club to give the oration at the Jean Armour Statue this year. The Brow Well service is a poignant and evocative annual ceremony and again I was extremely proud to give the oration in this special year for me.

With mixed emotions I parted with the Great Golden Chain at Peebles in September 2011 and I have confidence in the continuation of the Federation under the guidance of my successor, Jim Shields.

I thank all of the clubs that have supported me and invited me to be part of their celebrations and look forward to continuing this through my speaking engagements this January.

In 1834, three window panes with verses inscribed by Burns, were removed from the Globe Inn and are now in the National Burns Museum at Alloway. The club has had facsimiles of the panes reinstated in the Globe where they can be seen in Burns bedroom. This project commemorated the 400th anniversary of the Globe Inn.

Congratulations to the club's skilful bowlers who achieved a draw in the annual match with Dumbarton Burns Club. We were the host and some spectacular bowling was displayed at Dumfries Bowling Club on September 18. Thanks to the bowling club for their hospitality and the Globe Inn for providing the catering.



## From our Secretary

President Frank Manson's team were victorious in the club Treasure Hunt on July 14 when four teams of intrepid members and friends shuffled round eight town centre pubs in search of the cryptic clues. It should be recorded that intoxication was for some reason avoided this year and the pies and mushy peas were much enjoyed at the end.

Our functions this season promise to be memorable with top notch speakers and guest artistes. As usual, demand for tickets is likely to be high and you should contact committee members in good time.

A big welcome to our new members. We were able to admit six this year. John Moorhouse, Castle Douglas; Keith

Thompson, Dumfries; John Johnston, Dumfries; Alan Caskie, Heathhall; Trevor Dykes, Moniaive and young Lee McQueen from Dumfries. The waiting list shows no sign of diminishing. There are 33 applicants, the earliest from October 2007.

**Howff Club E-MAIL EXPRESS**  
Our electronic newsletter has more than 100 subscribers. If you wish to register, send your e-mail address to:  
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Follow the president's doings in his blog on the website [www.burnshowffclub.org](http://www.burnshowffclub.org) Reports and photographs from events and activities can be seen on the website.