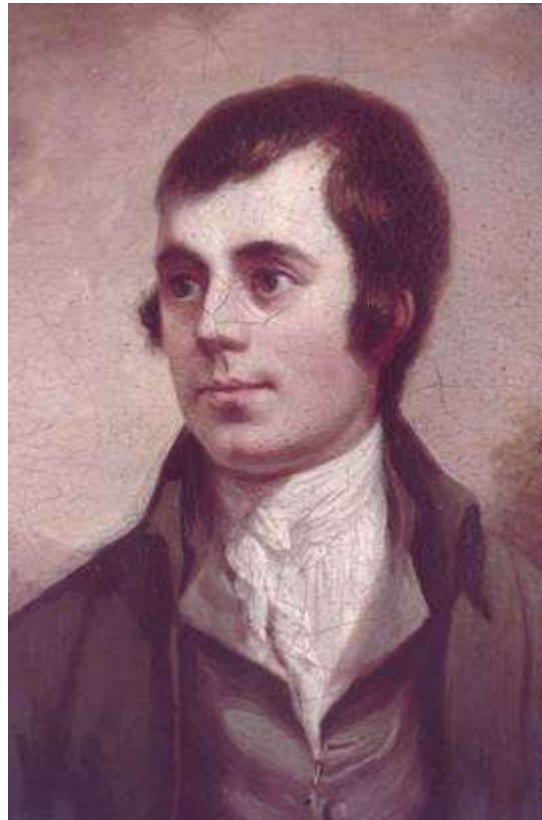


THE MAUCLINE BURNS CLUB

Federation No 310

90th Anniversary

1923 – 2013



Researched and Compiled
By
Ian Lyell, Hon. President

FOREWORD

In this 90th year of The Mauchline Burns Club, several significant events have taken place, notably a very successful Burns Supper in the grand surroundings of Dumfries House. We were reminded that evening of the journey which the Club has taken, and we recognised thankfully the contribution of so many people down the years. During the evening Lord Browne recounted the club history compiled by Ian Lyell and evoked many memories in the company. This booklet is a compilation of the story of the years – a marker to establish the past, and a useful guide for those who would follow us.

Since **1923** it is clear certain precedents were established which today we are pleased to continue. These include enhancement of the village, connection with the local school, input into the national media, and support of good causes.

No one is more qualified to take on this task than Honorary President Ian Lyell. He has been involved in the life and activities of the club for 50 years. He has held various offices, including 35 years as Secretary. He has used his word skills to good effect in writing many plays and stories about Burns, some of which have been heard and enjoyed at several Holy Fairs. He was instrumental with others in saving the Burns Museum from oblivion. He is an enthusiast in preserving the memory of Burns and a constant innovator in the life of the club.

This book draws together the story of the years, and with the visual illustrations and photographs which Gavin Lyell has so professionally produced, is a useful and attractive source of information for years to come. We are also indebted to Past President Billy Sharpe for his extensive skills in compiling the material and making it ready for printing,

I hope it will be widely read and I commend it warmly.

Tom Wilkinson
President – The Mauchline Burns Club



DUMFRIES HOUSE

The Great Steward of Scotland's Dumfries House Trust

I am delighted to send you all my very best wishes as you celebrate your 90th Anniversary Burns Night at Dumfries House. It is, I think, a splendid way to renew the connections between this historic house and Scotland's national poet. After all, I am sure you are aware that his father-in-law, James Armour, the mason, worked on some of the stonework here and Burns's friend, John Kennedy, Factor of the Estate, gathered twenty subscribers to enable publication in 1786 of the great Kilmarnock edition of Burns' poetry.

For me, one of the delights of the successful attempt to save Dumfries House has been the excuse it gives me to pay frequent visits to the heart of Burns Country, to meet so many of its "honest men and bonnie lasses" and to reread some of Burns's poetry.

HRH The Prince of Wales

Cumnock, Ayrshire KA18 2NJ
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Registered No. SC331738
Scottish Charity No. SC038770

The Beginning

On Thursday, 8th February, **1923** in the Lower Temperance Hall – now the site of the Hospice shop – 16 gentlemen attended a meeting to revive a Burns Club in the village. The previous Jolly Beggars Club had disbanded in **1919**.

The meeting had been called by James McIntyre. Agreement was unanimous. Titles of Mossiel Club and Jolly Beggars Club were proposed but The Mauchline Burns Club won the day.

The first President was John Taylor Gibb, responsible for the **1911** Mauchline book, while McIntyre himself became Secretary and Treasurer. Membership of the Burns Federation was also agreed and on 17th May the inaugural meeting was held.

The first full session began on October 5th with monthly meetings until March. The October topic was Modern Scots poets in the vernacular. There was no printed syllabus but future speakers would be announced. However, by January **1924** a syllabus was planned. In January **1924**, Gibb became Secretary and Treasurer but only until March when Wm. Breckinridge took over. McIntyre was now the President. At the AGM, life membership was decided at 15 shillings and ‘an hour was spent in song and sentiment’.

1925 A member has to be written to concerning his behaviour, and in December after an enquiry the member was expelled.

Unfortunately we are not told the name or the sin.

1926 A dance – tickets gents 2 shillings, ladies one shilling, was held.

1927 Membership to be by ballot with three negatives disqualifying.

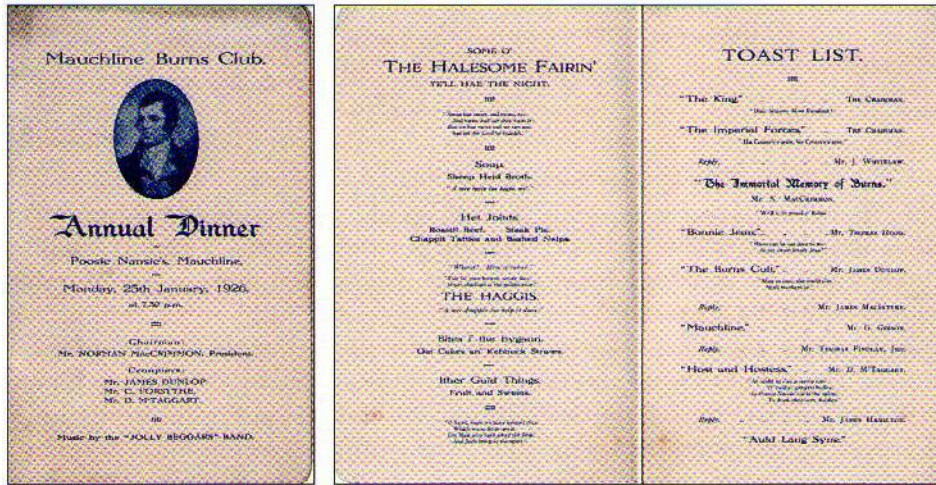
1929 Local resident, poet and playwright Joe Corrie spoke on The Common Man and Poetry. In **1930** his subject was folk songs.

1925 Membership was 4 shillings and sixpence – (23 pence) and could be paid in instalments; Past Presidents were to be given a badge. Sounds familiar.

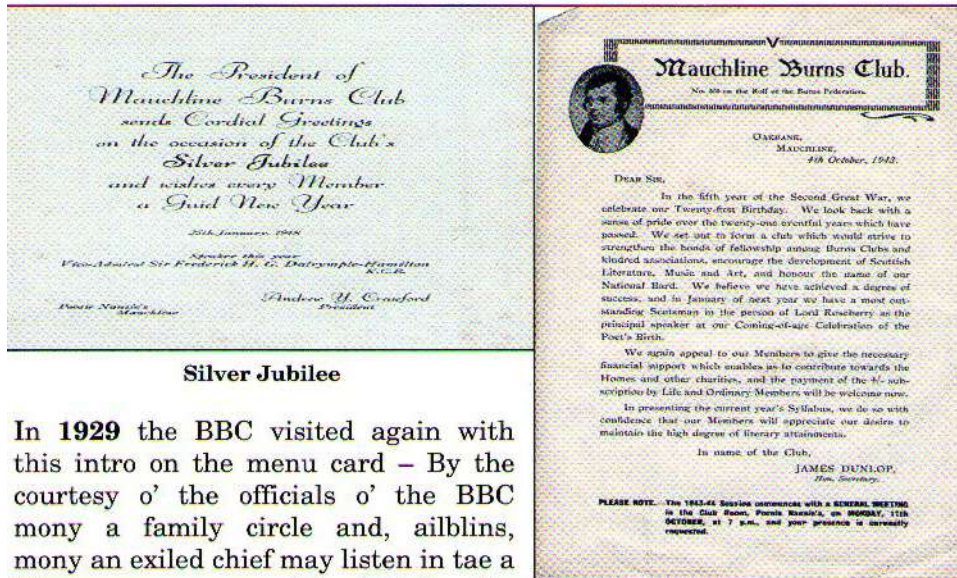
In **1931**, 5 such Presidents received their badge.

At the supper in **1925**, held in Poesie Nansie’s, there were generous gifts of Auld Brig Whisky, Tam o’ Shanter tobacco and churchwarden pipes supplied by Gibson the landlord. 70 attended with music provided by The Millwall Pipe Band and The Empire Male Voice Quartet

A collection for hospital radio for children raised over £2.00 but the evening itself ran at a loss of £2.00



Burns Supper 1926 - Front Cover and inside Menu and Toast List



Silver Jubilee

In 1929 the BBC visited again with this intro on the menu card - By the courtesy o' the officials o' the BBC mony a family circle and, ailblins, mony an exiled chief may listen in tae a bit o' our programme this nicht frae the famous Howff. Their imagination maun supply the fragrance o' the steaming haggis, an' the plunk o' the corks may help to convey the spirit o' 'the getherin'. The post of croupier on this occasion was Tam Hood, a great-grand nephew of Jean Armour.

Mauchline Burns Club 21st Birthday

The first Burns' Supper was held in Poesie Nansie's on 25th January 1924 with John Taylor Gibb himself delivering The Immortal Memory. It was a unique and groundbreaking occasion as it was the first time ever broadcast of such an occasion by the BBC. The supper itself was interrupted for the 30 minute transmission which went all over the world. Three photographs exist of the occasion with a crowd gathered outside Poesie's listening to the broadcast. This was to be the first of many radio and TV broadcasts.



John Taylor Gibb (centre)

SYLLABUS FOR SESSION 1928-29.	
1928	1928
Sept. 13—General Meeting. "Burns and Streams around" (illustrated with Songs), by Mr. J. D. SLOAN, Ayr Burns Club.	Jan. 18—Concert in aid of the Burns Homes, Mauchline (in Temper- ance Hall).
Oct. 5—Whist Drive and Dance (in Temperance Hall).	Jan. 25—ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF THE POET'S BIRTH.
Nov. 1—General Meeting. "Here and There," by Rev. WILSON BAIRD.	Feb. 14—General Meeting. "The Eye and how it functions" (with illustrations of Optical Illusion and Phenomena), by Mr. R. URQUHART.
Nov. 30—School-children's Competition Concert (in Temperance Hall).	Feb. 28—Annual General Meeting.
Dec. 15—General Meeting. "Hogg, the Ettrick Shepherd" (illustrated with Songs), by Messrs. JACKSON and GEORGE, Newton-on-Ayr Burns Club.	
	.. PLACE OF MEETING: .. POESIE NANSIE'S HALL.

Greetings cards were received in 1939 from clubs in Victoria, British Columbia and Atlanta Club, New York.

The Celebration in 1942 was from 2.00 pm until 6.30 pm.

1946 Dissatisfaction was expressed with the Supper held in the Temperance Hall. It subsequently moved to Poesie Nansie's.

1948 It was felt the programme was too long and toasts should be limited to ten minutes.

1951 Toasts were to be limited to three minutes with none omitted but the proceedings to begin a 6.45 pm.

1958 Catering cost 14 shillings plus one shilling to cover extras and a drink.

1959 The bi-centenary Immortal Memory was proposed by David Daiches, Fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge. Dr. Daiches became an ambassador for the Club in his praise of it.

1973 With ladies present, Jane Burgoyne delivered the Immortal Memory.



1959 Supper – A. MacPherson (2nd right)



Church Service 1959



1959 Supper – W. McFarlane, (right)



1959 Supper

1980 The appeal and raffle proceeds paid for Wilhemina Alexandra's fichu as well as its restoration.

1985 Immortal Memory was delivered near midnight as the speaker had double booked us with Greenock.

2003 Dinner was held in Kilmarnock Supporters' Club as the Loudoun Arms was being refurbished. The Appeal was for the setting up of the Club's website.



1059 Bi-Centenary Church Invitation

2013 To mark the ninetieth Anniversary of the Club the Annual Celebration was held at Dumfries House with a company of 150 ladies and gentlemen. The Immortal Memory was delivered by Lord Strathclyde, the toast to the Club by Lord Browne ex-Secretary of State and Minister of Defence. The President was the Rev. Tom Wilkinson. A letter of congratulation was received from HRH Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay. (see page 2)



Lord Browne - D. Howe, Hon Treasurer



Supper 2013 Top Table

1930 Move meetings from Thursday to Monday to improve attendance.

1933 Plans to celebrate Jean Armour birth bi-centenary.

1929 Meetings to be held on the first Friday of each month.

1934 A minstrel concert was held.

Trips

It is interesting to note that much of what occurs today was put in place in the early days. Two outings were proposed for June and October **1925**: one to Dumfries by Ayr and District Motor Co. cost 7 shillings; the other was to Alloway. The Dumfries outing with ladies was so popular two buses had to be hired. A wreath of laurels from Ballochmyle and daisies from Mossgiel was laid at the Mausoleum. The party arrived back at 10.00 p.m.

Other outings followed: **1925** Cessnock Castle; **1927** Edinburgh with meals at St. Cuthbert's Cooperative and transport from Ayr and District Motor Service; **1930**; Alloway; **1933** the Scott Country; **1936** Bonnie Galloway; **1948**; the Scott Country.

1958 A visit to a lace factory in Newmilns.

2001 Air Traffic Control at Prestwick Airport.

2002 Annual visit to Hon. President's School musical in Gaiety Theatre.

Trips

2003 Visit to Dumfries.

2004 Part of Highland Tour undertaken.

2005 Border Trip.

2006 Visit to Edinburgh, and Edinburgh Edition purchased in book sale. It was placed in the Museum.

2007 August visit to Flanders and Ypres. Several members and family attended the unveiling of the monument at Zonnebekke to the Scots who died in the Great War. As part of the official party, Club members laid a wreath and Ian Lyell recited A Man's a Man.



That evening before a military tattoo at Zonnebekke chateau, Andrew Cooper addressed a haggis which was then served to the audience. Next morning at 4.00 a.m., the group joined a large company following the first steps of the Passchendaele attack. The visit finished with a visit to Tyne Cot Cemetery.

In **2008** the Club sent across four benches to enhance the landscaped area round the monument

2011 Two day trip to Inverness Area..

2012 The Highland journey continued from Elgin down the East Coast.

1936 March – A New South Wales newspaper reported that the Club's greetings card to Stockton Burns Club N.Z. had gone down in the liner City of Khartoum but had been salvaged and delivered in time for their Annual Celebrations.

1941 Club addressed by W. D. Cocker prominent Scots poet, on Scottish Vernacular Verse.

1941 Oil painting of burial of Burns presented by Andrew Hood. He addressed the haggis for the next twenty odd years.

Donations

Since its inauguration the Club has been generous and wide ranging in its donations to good causes; **1926** the first was 10 shillings to a memorial to Burns' mother at Haddington; **1929** a concert was held in aid of the Burns Memorial Homes, this was the first of many such contributions; **1931** 5 shillings went to the printing of a guide to Alloway;

Donations

1932 10 shillings to the purchase of the Tam o' Shanter Inn, Ayr as a museum; **1933** an annual contribution of 5 shillings to Mr. Crawford of Failford to look after the Highland Mary Monument; **1933** 10 shillings to the Glencairn Club of Cornwall for a stained glass window; **1936** another activity supported regularly was the Old Folks' Treat, on this occasion one pound two shillings and ten pence; **1941** Mauchline Races received ten shillings and six pence; **1946** the Scottish National Dictionary was subscribed to at £20.00 and £5.00 per year. These volumes are now in the Museum. A donation of £1000.00 was given to the National Trust Museum at Alloway in **2008**.

School Contacts

1923 An essay competition was to start.

1927 A verse and song competition was to be held on a Saturday with only the adjudicator present, public concert later in the month.

**HUMOROUS & DRAMATIC
RECITAL**
by Mr. CHARLES AITKEN
AND
School-children's Singing and Reciting Competition
Temperance Hall, Mauchline
Friday, 2nd December, 1927
PROGRAMME

Curfew shall ring to-night R. W. Thoms
To and from the Posthouse B.H. Gordon
Smooth Airdrie, the Fisherman (recited by Bessie Lord Temperance)

SCHOOL-CHILDREN'S COMPETITION

No. 1. Recitation - To a Mountain Falls Margaret MacIntyre	No. 2. Recitation - To a Mountain Falls Margaret MacIntyre
No. 2. Song - For the Sake o' Jeannie Isaac Haldie	No. 3. Song - For the Sake o' Jeannie Isaac Haldie
No. 3. Song - Auld Water David Ritchie	No. 4. Recitation - A Man's A Man Margaret Fyvie
No. 4. Recitation - A Man's A Man Margaret Fyvie	No. 5. Song - Auld Water George Baird
No. 5. Song - Auld Water George Baird	No. 6. Song - To Bards and Brats Nancy Stewart
No. 6. Song - To Bards and Brats Nancy Stewart	No. 7. Song - A Vigilant Lad Jessie Stewart

Voluntary Steps for Special Prizes will be selected at this stage.

Selections from "Heart of Midlothian" W. Walter Scott
Selections from "Richard III." Shakespeare
After-Dinner Oratory Mrs. David Murray

PRESSENTATION OF PRIZES

Scene from "William Tell" Harold
Candle Deceit Mrs. Anderson ("Surfaktan") J.

The above interspersed with numerous songs and stories

Accompanied by Mr. D. R. BAIRD

Mauchline Burns Club's School Children's Competitions
The Final Competition and Presentation of Prizes
WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE
OLD CHURCH HALL, MAUCLINE
ON
MONDAY, 11th APRIL, 1948
Chairman - ANDREW Y. CRAWFORD, Esq., President

The following Competitors who qualified for the Finals will render their Test Pieces:-

Recitation - "The New Order" LAY LINDA (10/11) JANE WILSON (12/13)	Recitation - "At the Finish" BARRY BAIRD (10/11) JIMMY THOMAS (12/13) NAOMY CAMPBELL
Song - "It Bees not Awe" LAY WILSON (10/11) JANE WILSON (12/13)	Song - "Sunday Low Day" KATE SCOTTIE (10/11) LANE TUNSTON (12/13)
Recitation - "The Friends Day" LAY LINDA (10/11) JANE WILSON (12/13)	Recitation - "The Best Partner" JANE WILSON (10/11) JANE WILSON (12/13)
Song - "The Queen's Rivalry" LAY LINDA (10/11) JANE WILSON (12/13)	Song - "Gullie's" BETTY LINDY (10/11) JANE WILSON (12/13)

Adjudicator: Mrs. CRAIG, Kilmarnock

SUPPORTING PROGRAMME BY GUEST ARTISTS
Mrs. A. Y. CRAWFORD will Present the Prizes

Home Office at 8.00 p.m., Commencing at 7 p.m.
TICKETS (incl. Vat): 5/6, 2/- and 1/6; Children, Half-Price

1928 A silver cup was gifted by a William Waddell of Glasgow. A base and globe were bought and it was to be awarded to the supreme winner.

1929 80 pupils were involved in verse, song and essay competitions.

1930 A children's Halloween party was held.

1934 Over 80 competitors from a roll of 380 with the winners performing at the old folks' treat.

1951 The competition was to be revived with the finalists again appearing in a public concert.

School Contacts

1952 Head Teacher and member Andrew McPherson felt the concert was a waste of time and energy but that the competition itself should be kept.

1973 Bill Bee intimated there was no sign of our competition cups and that an insurance claim would be made.

1999 A contribution was made to establishing a school garden.

2008 the verse speaking competition was revived with the Club donating a small silver Quaich for the P7 winner. Ian Lyell and the current President were the judges. Ian increased the contact with taking a Burns program computer class and teaching P7 Burns verse. The P7 winner performed in the church at the Holy Fair.

1942 January old people entertained. Dinner catered by Learmont Bakers for two shillings and sixpence.

1942 24 copies of a song sheet with paper covers, and six with cloth were ordered for a song at the start of each meeting.

1942 Sir Patrick Dollan Lord Provost of Glasgow became Hon. President.

Kirkyard

In **1925** one of the Club's perennial interests began when it was decided to put in the kirkyard plaques to mark the graves of those mentioned in the poet's poems. Gibb was to make a plan of the location of these. Pollock's Implement Works was to make the plaques.

In March **1927** this was followed by an annual donation of £1. 5 shillings to pay for grass cutting.

From **1953** on the markers were regularly repaired or replaced; and in **1957** the notice board was replaced impervious to water .

Visitors to the site have varied. In **1933** a group of Americans requested a guide and in 1953 this was extended to Ceylon, Germany, Burma, India and Sudan.

1958 February A British Council party with three Russians visited . The latter included Samuel Marshak prominent poet and translator of Burns' poetry.

1987 An anonymous donor contributed £60.00 for the restoration of the

1998 It was discovered Burns' brother John was buried in an unmarked grave. A commemorative stone was unveiled costing £340,00 in April **1999**.

2008 £45,000 from Lottery Fund for lighting , paving and cleaning of Burns' contemporaries' grave stones. Andrew Bell was overseer of the project.

1947 Alex Sime appointed Assistant Secretary. He resigned in **1951** as the post was no longer needed.

1948 Bill Bee, and Rev. J. C. Glennie became members and stalwart supporters, also Bill Blake proprietor of Poesie Nansie's. The latter was our longest serving member.

1948 Defence Bonds were lifted and put into the general funds.

1951 Bill Bee took over as Secretary and was to continue until

1965 when he became President and Ian Lyell succeeded to serve for 35 years.



Temperance Hall

1965 Postcard reminders of meetings to cease and meetings to be on day before or day after Merchants' Holiday.

Wartime

On the 4th September **1939**, a special meeting was held to determine what arrangements should be made with the outbreak of war. Meetings were suspended and speakers cancelled. A month later, however, these were reinstated but Glasgow members indicated difficulties in attending due to the blackout and petrol. A Glasgow lawyer J. Kevan McDowall was President from **1939** to **1946** travelling from Glasgow in the blackout to attend meetings

In **1942** £36 was donated to the War Charities Fund, and an appeal for books was made for the emergency hospital at Ballochmyle .The Club also decided to do its part in raising funds for the Red Cross. £25 was invested in Defence bonds and in **1941**, membership increased so much that it exceeded the accommodation and a waiting list was made up. The subscription then was 5 shillings- 25p today.

Wartime

In January **1941** Wilhelmina Alexander, the great grand niece of the Bonny Lass of Ballochmyle became an Hon. President. Thirty years later, the Club purchased the Bonny Lass's fichu and had it returned to its original state by the Royal Museum Of Scotland. It was subsequently displayed in the Museum.

Wartime conditions seemed to last as correspondence to the Club in **1948** included a letter from a Canadian lady, enclosing a packet of raisins to be given to a necessitous Mauchline family. And in **1949** a raffle was introduced -the prizes including 2 jars of honey and half a dozen eggs. Remember war time rationing still prevailed

1954 Relations with the proprietor of Poosie Nansie's over lack of heating and cost of Annual Celebration hit a low. Other premises were to be considered. A conciliatory meeting with proprietor Bill Blake was held.

1955 Informal Meetings taken by members were introduced monthly alternating with the Formal.

1958 A request was put to the Cooperative board to remove the verse from the gable of what was the Whiteford Arms. This did not proceed because of conditions imposed.

1960 No objections to extension of garden into the Bleaching Green. However, it was felt the Council should tidy rest of the area as it was a refuse coup.

Exhibitions

In January **1955** the Club mounted an exhibition in the Church Halls. This displayed the history of the village and was a showcase for local businesses and industries. A brochure with adverts was printed.

The businesses were charged 12.5 d per square foot for booth space. An appeal was made for the loan of artefacts which members with an official badge collected for storage in the empty Jean Armour Homes. The value of box ware was such that members slept overnight in the Dunlop Hall as security. Almost 4000 people attended that week including 13 foreign delegates.

Sir Patrick Dollan, Lord Provost of Glasgow. Performed the opening ceremony. He had been an Honorary President since **1942** and was a regular contributor to meetings. At the Supper in **1945**, he had proposed the toast to Mauchline, while his wife Lady Dollan replied to Bonnie Jean and the Lasses. The profit of £66.00 was divided among memorial funds, the British Legion, Jean Armour Burns Houses, and the two churches.

Exhibitions

To mark the bi-centenary in 1959, the exhibition was mounted again even more successfully. It was arranged to coincide with the World Federation Conference to be held in Ayr that September. It was open on weekday evenings and Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Display cases were borrowed from the Carnegie Library and one thousand copies of the programme were printed.

MAUCHLINE BURNS CLUB

BURNS BI-CENTENARY

EXHIBITION

OF
RELICS AND ANTIQUITIES
AND
Modern Mauchline Industries

Old Church Halls, Mauchline
12th to 19th September, 1959

To be Opened by
Sir CLAUD HAGART-ALEXANDER
of Ballochmyle, Bart.
on Saturday, 12th September, at 3 p.m.

The Exhibition will be Open—
Saturdays, 3 till 9.30 p.m. Sunday, 2 till 5 p.m.
Daily, 6 till 9.30 p.m.

Admission - - - Free

ORGAN RECITAL
in the OLD CHURCH, on SUNDAY, 15th SEPTEMBER, at 6.30 p.m.

Over the period of 4 years it was noted there was a significant drop in available box ware probably due to home clearers not appreciating the value. More space was to be devoted to village history with the kirk session minutes, the Covenanter flag, and a manuscript of The Bonny Lass of Ballochmyle to be on display. Sir Claud Alexander became Hon. President of the exhibition and the Club.

1968 Concern was expressed at the Union Jack flying from the Monument on the 25th January. It was decided the Club would present a Saltire for future use.

1971 38 paid up members.

1973 Dissatisfaction was expressed about the accommodation in Poosie Nansie's. The Loudoun Arms Hotel on being investigated proved a satisfactory alternative and meetings were moved to there.

1973 Bars for president's chain purchased at £2.00.

1974 At the request of the Loudoun host, meetings were to be held only on Tuesdays.



The Burns House Museum

In **1955** the Club's interest in the Castle Street properties began when the lady occupants were moved to the new Jean Armour Homes. Interest was expressed in taking over the building as Club premises. **1962** concern was expressed about the property's continued closure and no response from the owners, Glasgow and District Burns Association.

1963 Museum plans in hands of Ian McGill, architect. But it was not until

1964 Owners went ahead with plans but needed Burns Club to be responsible for Nanse Tinnock's. Club declined.

1968 when under pressure through TV by the Club that restoration plans began.

1966 Nanse Tinnock's offered as Old Men's Cabin.

1967 W Bee and I. Lyell and President to represent Club on Museum Committee.

1968 Money gathered by the Club would not be handed over until work begins. Members attended local Suppers making appeals and an empty Coop shop in Earl Grey Street was utilized as White Elephant shop.

1969 2000 lottery tickets were printed at one shilling with prizes of £10, £4 and £1.

1969 Friday 1st June Museum officially opened by Sir Claud Alexander.

Most of the ground floor display would be the Club's responsibility on lines of folk museum with donations on loan.

1970 Lottery run to coincide with World Cup-3000 tickets at one shilling each.

For the next 40 years Bill Bee, Ian Lyell, Kenny Blair and Dr John Strawhorn ensured through their efforts that the Museum stayed open.

1973 The Council indicated plans for the Burns Heritage Trail in the village for the following summer. These were to include a paved pathway from the car park, a traffic free Castle Street, screening of bins at church hall and Nanse Tinnock's to be a Reception Centre. The only result was a double line of cobbles on pavements marking a walking route but with no explanation.

1976 The Scottish Tourist board indicated a willingness to pay half of the renovation of Nanse Tinnock's for use as a Job Creation Scheme.

1981 Member John Barr was thanked for painting the ground floor prior to its summer opening.

1985 Secretary Ian Lyell took over as Secretary and Treasurer on the retiral of Bill Bee.

1986 Member Andrew Bell undertook the loft insulation.

1987 Figures of Burns and Jean Armour with spoken dialogue were presented by the Club and installed in the Burns room. They cost £600.00 each and were paid for by the sales of Mauchline in Times Past.

The Burns House Museum

1987 Through the Secretary's persuasion, the Kelvingrove Gallery gifted a curling stone display.

1988 Good response from members to man the Museum on Sunday afternoons to give caretaker time off.

1992 February It was intimated that the museum would close until further notice as the gable wall was unsafe. £ 50k needed for repair. Cumnock and Doon Valley Council would make a contribution.

1995 A wholesale redesign was undertaken costing £420,000 and would include Nanse Tinnock's.

1996 St. Andrew's Day the Museum re-opened. The work on Nanse Tinnock's was completed for March 1997.

1999 The three representatives on the Museum committee resigned over concerns of maladministration.

2001 February Through Kenny Blair all the artefacts belonging to the Club were removed for safe keeping to the Baird Institute, Cumnock. There were fears of liquidation.

2001 October The Museum's ownership was transferred from Glasgow and District to East Ayrshire Council.

2002 Alex Wilson values the Mauchline ware collection and arranges for cost of repairs to go to Mauchline Ware Society.

2003 February Museum formally handed over to E.A.C. with plans to redesign the property at a cost of £680,000

2004 £12,600 in Mauchline ware fund.

2008 Alex Wilson contributed to Mauchline Ware Fund £600 from the sale of his stamp collection.

2008 A hand held audio guide to village trail compiled by Ian Lyell with songs and verse performed by members was presented to the Museum.

1976 53 paid up members. The resurgence was due to an influx of younger members who attracted similar to join.

1976 As a result of change in accommodation, the Club meetings were moved from the Loudoun to the Jean Armour Restaurant at £4.00 per evening; Annual Subscription was increased to £2.00.

1976 An attendance of 80 for the Open night in the new premises, while annual joint meetings were held with the Catrine and Dundonald Clubs.

1979 Visit by the Association of Scottish Literary Studies for which John Strawhorn wrote a thematic piece Burns in Mauchline. This was performed regularly with great success and was the forerunner of the Club's presentations at The Holy Fair.

Burns in Mauchline

The 4 years 1784 - 1788 Burns spent in Mauchline were celebrated by several events.

1984 A wine and cheese afternoon in the Museum was held to mark the poet's arrival at Mossgiel.

1986 To celebrate the anniversary of the Kilmarnock Edition, a book of photographs of old Mauchline was published. Funds were gained from local businesses to print 1250 selling at £3 in aid of the Museum. The book went into a second edition and made an initial profit of £1220.00. A class set was presented to the Primary School.

The profit paid for the figures of Rab and Jean who talked to each other in their room in the museum. These figures are now on loan to Ellisland

1988 April a joint project with the Burns Federation and Ayrshire Ass. to commemorate Burns official wedding was mounted. Participants in period costume met at the museum and walked to the Jean Armour Restaurant where the marriage was re-enacted and a dinner, appropriate speeches and entertainment were offered.

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Media Involvement

The original broadcast in **1924** was to be followed both by radio and TV exposure. This was repeated the following year. On the 24th January **1959** the Sunday service was broadcast with the Rev. J. C. Glennie as Minister and Past President. Summer 1965 the Club was involved in a Ballantine's film promotion at Hollybush Hotel. Sore heads pervaded next day. It survives as 16 mm film.. On the 25th January **1967** the Supper was interrupted to allow members to watch the Club's participation in the TV programme The Burns Cult.

A BBC Scotland radio programme Down Your Way featured Mauchline and broadcaster Jameson Clark in **1968**. On the 21st January **1973** the church service was again broadcast with hospitality provided for 100 guests.



In 1976 as part of the BBC series Great Britons, a special Burns supper was mounted by us at the recommendation of David Daiches who delivered the Immortal Memory. The BBC returned in May 1977 for another programme. Over the last ten years the Club has featured in a variety of TV: Floggit, Landward at the ploughing match, Countryfile with John Craven at Mossgiel, and a Burns Supper with 6 participants for

an STV website, Reporting Scotland spent a morning and most recently Paul Murton came to the Holy Fair for his programme Grand Tour of Scotland.

1979 September saw the final meeting in the Jean Armour Restaurant as it could not renew its fire certificate. Meetings returned to the Loudoun Arms recently renovated and under new management.


1988 Piano purchased for £400.00 to be stored in Loudoun.

1990 The Secretary also became president and in 1996 became an Honorary President. He resigned in 2000 after 36 years service, but remained an active member. Jack Ferguson succeeded for a year to be followed by Andrew Cooper to date.

1995 The club paid for the cleaning of the painting of Burns' funeral

1996 Bi-centenary

When in 1996 the Official organiser of the bi-centenary was sacked, the Club marked the year with the Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra in June and a production of the Jolly Beggars by Stramash in the Community centre as well as a July wreath laying procession which involved most of the village and was followed by a generous buffet. The Club also took part in the ploughing match held at Mossgiel farm.

1796  1996

Robert Burns
Commemorative Celebrations
Sunday 25th June 1996

2.30pm
Procession of Organisations
from
Mauchline Primary School
with
Mauchline Pipe Band

3.00pm
National Burns Memorial
Ceremony of Tributes
and
Wreath Laying

"The folk that ploughed the year with the scythe from morning young" Burns

Programme

Welcome and introductory remarks
John Stramash, President, Mauchline Burns Club

Song:
Lorna Kerr, Cantoisian Farm, Craighy

Recitation: "To a mouse"
Stuart McFarlane, Primary 7 pupil

Tribute
Ian Lyell, Secretary, Mauchline Burns Club

"A man's a man for a' that"
Company and Auchinleck Academy Brass Band

Wreath Laying by Organisations

Lament
Mauchline Pipe Band

Prayer
Rev Alan B. Telfer, Mauchline Parish Church

"Auld lang syne"
Company

"Ye were never the same, a' Scotland's greenest springs;
O'er meadow, furrow, or haugh, ye were never the same;
O'er meadow and haugh, ye were never the same;
Ye were never the same, a' Scotland's greenest springs."


Most Recent Events

The new century thanks to the combination of finance being available from various bodies and a treasurer in Donald Howe who can get blood out of a stone, brought a host of projects promoting Burns and enhancing the visitor's experience. These put the Club firmly on the map.

2002 Various charitable bodies contributed to the first statue in the world of Jean Armour. This was unveiled on St. Andrew's Day by Lady Alexander and Lavinia Drew, a descendant of the poet. It was the work of Beltane Studios, Peebles, who had

computerised older portrayals into a youthful figure. Framed photographs of the event were displayed permanently in the library.

2003 Bridgeton Masonic Burns Club donates £400 to the production of a DVD of Burns in Mauchline. This was undertaken by Ian Lyell and Kenny Caldwell of Being There Productions. By **2005** £3,300 worth had been sold and it went into a second edition revised to include Homecoming Events of **2009**.

 <p>R.S.V.P.</p>	<p><i>The Mauchline Burns Club</i> are proud to invite you to the unveiling of the World's First Statue to Jean Armour</p> <p>We would be pleased if you could join us at Mauchline Cross on Saturday 30th November 2002 at 1.30pm for 2.00pm, and thereafter at Mauchline Community Centre for light refreshments.</p>
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2000 The Millennium Celebrations were marked by the refurbishing of the Loudoun spout. The opening was performed by TV personality Fred Dibnah.

2003 Associated membership £65.00 was introduced for interested parties living at a distance.

2007/8/9 calendars were produced for general sale. They covered local views, old Mauchline, and the Holy Fair.

2010 Drew Baird, surveyed Burns memorial and reported to EAC, who repaired stone work and made the building water tight.

2011 A new version of the DVD Burns in Mauchline was commissioned. This included film of the Homecoming events, particularly the Haggis, in The Guinness Book of Records.

2009 The Homecoming

The Homecoming Year 2009 was a hectic and very successful one. In March thousands witnessed 18 pairs of Clydesdales ploughing a Mossiel field.



Two months later the Club entered the Guinness Book of Records with a 1,234 lb. haggis. This was made by McKechnie Jess of Greenock. Two days before the Holy Fair, it was moved in a water tank to the Bleaching Green where it was cooked by six gas burners

On the Saturday it was lifted out by fork lift truck to be addressed by Andrew Cooper complete with a five foot sword.

Back at Mossiel in July in a luxury marquee two Burns Suppers and a ceilidh drew crowds and great praise.

All of these activities made The Mauchline Burns Club more known throughout the world and a place to visit in Scotland.



The Guinness Book of Records Haggis

2011 Death of Bill Bee.

2011 Subscription increased to £10 to include new Club tie designed by Past President Billy Sharpe.

2011 Andrew Bell, Drew Baird, Ian Lyell managed a project involving blue plaques: 26 for the kirkyard and 24 on buildings or sites of buildings connected with Burns. These were accompanied by a new plan on the kirk wall and individual background leaflets.

Holy Fair



The Late John Murphy

Another great success has been the annual event of the Holy Fair begun in 2002 as part of the Burns an' a' that Festival on the Bank Holiday on the last Saturday in May.

After three years it was felt the professional co-ordinator could be dispensed with, the club assuming responsibility. It has attracted over 10,000 of a crowd and of all ages. It centred round Castle Street. Soon it expanded into the Loudoun Street car park. From the start a combination of professional and local amateur groups have performed on an outdoor stage and in the church.

The Club is indebted to John Murphy for his generous bequest in 2013. A variety of stalls has numbered around eighty. Funding has come from EAC, the Minerals Trust, Heritage Lottery Fund and Visit Scotland.

Not bad for a bunch of auld men

Amid all these activities there must not be forgotten the basis of the Club's formation – the study of our Scottish heritage. From 1923 until today there has been a syllabus of meetings dedicated to this aim. Even during the war these continued with an unbroken and unmatched record.

Back in 1923 Hon. President Dr. McNaught said at the Club's inauguration, Mauchline was not a very populous place, but he believed there was a reservoir of enthusiasm that would keep the Club moving vigorously and that with active and energetic office-bearers it would become one of the most prosperous clubs in the county.



This was a highly prophetic statement which certainly came to pass, although county should be replaced with Scotland if not the world.

Office Bearers

Treasurers

J. T. Gibb	1924 - 26	W. Whitelaw	1938 - 43	W. Bee	1968 - 69
W. Breckinridge	1926 - 27	A. Smith	1943 - 51	A. MacPherson	1969 - 73
J. Harper	1926 - 31	A. McEwan	1951 - 55	T. McWhirr	1973 - 77
W. Trousdale	1931 - 32	B. Tibbo	1955 - 56	P. Konopka	1977 - 94
H. Ramsay	1932 - 33	W. Bee	1956 - 60	J. Strawhorn	1994 - 2001
J/ McMillan	1933 - 38	A. McEwan	1960 - 68	D. Howe	2001 -

Secretaries

J. McIntyre	1923 - 24	R. G. Graham	1932 - 33	A. Sime	1948 - 51
J. T. Gibb	1924 - 25	S. Chambers	1933 - 34	W. Bee	1951 - 65
W. Breckinridge	1925 - 26	J. T. Gibb	1934 - 36	I. Lyell	1965 - 2000
J. Harper	1926 - 27	W. Lyle	1936 -	J. Ferguson	2000 - 01
J. Dunlop	1927 - 31	J. Dunlop	1936 - 48	A. Cooper	2001 -

Presidents

J. T. Gibb	1923 - 24	A. McDougall	1957 - 58	J. Cleland	1982 - 84
J. MacIntyre	1924 - 25	G. Dalziel	1958 - 59	J. Wyllie	1984 - 86
N. MacCrimmon	1925 - 26	J. C. Glennie	1959 - 60	K. Blair	1986 - 88
T. W. Stewart	1926 - 28	H. Lorimer	1960 - 61	P. Konopka	1988 - 90
T. Findlay	1928 - 30	R. Pirrie	1961 - 62	J. D. Owens	1990 - 92
T. M. Hood	1930 - 32	G. Bryan	1962 - 63	D. I. Lyell	1992 - 94
J. Dunlop	1932 - 34	A. Mackie	1963 - 65	A. R. Thom	1994 - 96
J. M. Irving	1934 - 36	W. Bee	1965 - 67	J. Strawhorn	1996 - 98
R. S. Chambers	1936 - 38	A. McEwan	1967 - 68	A. G. Young	1998 - 2000
S. Cosh	1938 - 39	H. Rowe	1968 - 70	A. Cooper	2000 - 02
J. K. McDowall	1939 - 46	A. K. Martin	1970 - 72	A. Bell	2002 - 04
A. Crawford	1946 - 50	J. Strawhorn	1972 - 73	J. Davidson	2004 - 06
J. D. Cairns	1950 - 51	H. S. Wallace	1973 - 75	J. Sutherland	2006 - 08
A. Hood	1951 - 53	T. Kerr	1975 - 77	W. Sharpe	2008 - 10
W. McFarlane	1953 - 54	J. C. Glennie	1977 - 78	H. Brown	2010 - 12
A. C. MacPherson	1954 - 56	W. M. Gray	1978 - 80	T. Wilkinson	2012 - 14
J. S. Johnston	1956 - 57	A. F. McIntyre	1980 - 82		

THE MAUCLINE BURNS CLUB

The objects of the Club shall be –

The study of the life and works of Robert Burns;

The study of Scottish Life and Character;

The study of Scottish Literature, Art, and Music;

The delivery of Lectures etc;

To assist in the intellectual, moral, and social
improvement of its members.

Page Make Up

W. Sharpe, Past President



www.mauchlineburnsclub.com

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