



**ROBERT BURNS
NIGHT**



**CATHY SEGEE AND
NANCY NESS**



**BEST DRESSED
CONTEST**



**BOOK NOOK
POETRY OF ROBERT
BURNS**

BANGOR CELTIC CROSSROADS NEWSLETTER

Robert Burns

In the Celtic world January is the month to celebrate Scotland’s Bard Robert Burns (1759 - 1796). For the last three years, Bangor Celtic Crossroads has held a fundraising event, a Robert Burns Supper. If you have attended, you know how much fun this can be. While we are unable to provide you with food and grog this year due to the pandemic, we are using this month’s newsletter to focus on how this event is celebrated around the world.

Robert Burns was born on 25 January 1759 in the village of Alloway, near Ayr. His father was William Burnes, a gardener turned tenant farmer from the north-east of Scotland, and his mother was Agnes Brown, an Ayrshire woman of farming stock. Burns’s early life was marked by constant back-breaking work on a succession of small farms, but his father saw to it that he never lacked another kind of culture. He learned the three Rs,

some French and much Scripture. Added to that, he was a voracious reader and also absorbed huge amounts of traditional stories and songs from his mother and a kinswoman of hers, Betty Davidson. Poetry sprang early into his heart, at the same time as love, and his first composition was a song for the girl he partnered in the harvest. Rarely having much time to sit and ponder poems, it became his habit to compose as he worked.



A typical Burns night program might look like this.

<https://www.scottishpoetrylibrary.org.uk/poet/robert-burns/>

Piping in the Guests

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ctt4ENeC58>

Chairperson’s Welcome

Welcome everyone to Bangor Celtic Crossroads fourth annual Burns supper (virtually). The Burns supper is a Scottish tradition that takes place every year throughout Scotland and the Scottish



diaspora. But what is the history behind the practice?

Poet Robert Burns is considered one of the most famous characters of Scotland's cultural history. Burns began life

as a poor tenant farmer but was able to channel his intellectual energy into poetry and song. He is best known as a pioneer of the Romantic movement for his lyrical poetry and his rewriting of Scottish folk songs, many of which are still well known across the world today. Since his death on July 21, 1796, his work has inspired many Western thinkers, including some contemporary songwriters such as Bob Dylan.

Address to the Haggis

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C8l2m3_2Xig

Toast to the Haggis

All raise a glass to the haggis!

Musical Entertainment



Cathy Segee and Nancy Ness performing at the 2018 Burns supper in Bangor



Piping in the Haggis

Dinner

Served with some suitable background music, the sumptuous Bill o' Fare includes:

Starter

Traditional cock-a-leekie soup

Main course

Haggis, neeps & tatties (Haggis rutabagas and mashed potatoes)

Sweet

Cloutie Dumpling (a pudding prepared in a linen cloth or clout) or Topsy Laird (a Scottish sherry trifle), shortbread or cranachan.

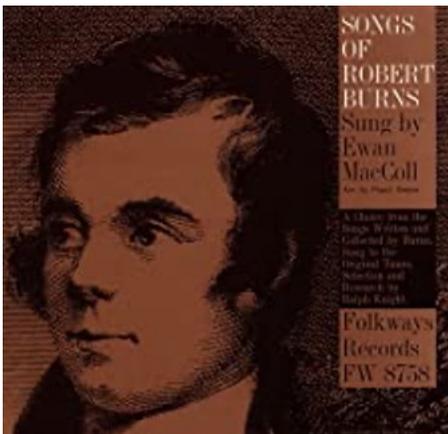
Tea/coffee

Entertainment

Robert Burns' poems and songs. Guests are invited to come forward and share a song or poem.

Some recordings you might enjoy

Songs of Robert Burns, sung by Ewan MacColl, accompanied by Peggy Seeger. Folkways Records 8758.

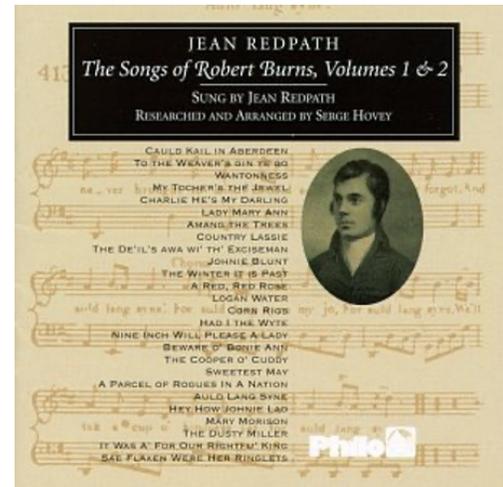


"In this album, Ewan MacColl, one of the leaders of the British folk revival, presents a faithful and engaging interpretation of Burns' great work. Liner notes include an appreciation of Burns as a

songwriter and lyrics, with explanations of some of the unfamiliar words and phrases."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b2GSB0CLpe8>

"Songs Of Robert Burns (7 Volumes), as researched and arranged by composer Serge Hoovey and sung by Jean Redpath. Includes 25 page CD booklet with lyrics, notes and biography of Serge Hoovey and Jean Redpath. Jean Redpath was internationally known as a singer and lecturer of traditional Scottish ballads and was considered the foremost authority of the songs of Robert Burns. Redpath was born



in Edinburgh, Scotland and performed the songs in her native land for over thirty years. Redpath also appeared on such radio programs at Morning Pro Musica on Boston's WGBH public radio station and between 1974 and 1987 Redpath was a regular on the Garrison Keillor's Prairie Home Companion radio show. In August 2014 she died from cancer at a hospice in Arizona at the age of 77."

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pzyIhd7fi1I&list=OLAK5uy_ngVkJkSVTV5XwTC_PvxbgN5BaS0iWw3KE4

A Best Dressed Contest



2020 Burns supper Best dressed contest

Finis:

All stand and sing the closing song, Auld Lang Syne:

*Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And auld lang syne?*

*For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne,
We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.*

*And surely ye'll be your pint-stowp,
And surely I'll be mine!
And we'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.*

*For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne,
We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.*

Book Nook

by Candis Joyce, Bangor Public Library

The Bangor Public Library has a long list of books about Robert Burns and collections of his poetry.

See [this link](#) for a complete list.

One of the nicest is: The Complete works of Robert Burns (self-interpreting) illustrated with sixty etchings and wood cuts, maps and facsimiles... Philadelphia, Gebbie and Company 1886-87.



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<https://bangorceltic.org/tickets/donation/>

