



Newsletter - Burns Supper 2026 Edition!

The Supper.....

On Saturday 24 January, one day before the anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns in 1759, 54 members and guests attended a most enjoyable evening at The Novotel Hotel in York.

As always, our Honorary Piper Jim Sharpe greeted all those arriving at the hotel ahead of the proceedings.

After asking all guests to take their seats, Toastmaster for the evening Neil Hounam, gathered our top table guests for the procession into the room behind piper Jim.



Top table guests - left to right
Diane Roworth (partially hidden), Jim Robertson, Helen Porter, Lord Mayor Cllr Martin Rowley, BEM,
President Frank Paterson, Lady Mayoress Elizabeth Rowley, President Elect Aileen Minns, Lance Clarke,
Moira Deuchars and Robert Marshall.



Burns Supper

After Hazel Hanson had offered Grace, the Haggis was piped into the room carried by the Novotel chef.



Grant Young then delivered a most entertaining and accomplished *Address to the Haggis* before enjoying a malt whisky toast with Jim and the Chef.





Burns Supper



President Frank Paterson proposed *The Immortal Memory* by sharing some facts about the life of Robert Burns, his early years as a child, growing up in Ayrshire. Frank recited extracts of Burns' works to demonstrate how his popularity soared throughout Scotland and across the globe including America and Russia! Frank also talked about how amazing it was that *Auld Lang Syne* has become so widely-known throughout the world - in many ways thanks to the thousands of Burns Clubs established after the death of Robert Burns.

Following, President Elect Aileen Minns proposed the *Toast to the Toon We Bide In and Our Guests* and talked about her first visit to York in 1972 with her husband David. 3 years later, they were posted to York and since then, she has been a resident of York. Aileen mentioned the various floods in York, the Minster fire and the visit to York by Pope John Paul II on the Knavesmire in 1982. Aileen also noted that the society's first President in 1894 - Alderman William McKay was also the Lord Mayor of York in 1894-95!



The Lord Mayor of York, Councillor Martin Rowley gave a response to Aileen's toast and explained that being from Northumberland, he would be pleased to find out that some part of his DNA had Scottish ancestry!

After some very entertaining life experiences involving friends, colleagues and even Sir Alex Ferguson!, he concluded his message "Strive for Better" - an attribute that he often sees in Scots!



Burns Supper

Invited guests Lance Clarke & Diane Roworth were next to entertain us.



Lance proposed the *Toast to the Lassies* and gave some fine examples of the relationship between the two sexes, often using rhymes to great effect.

Lance quoted Rex Harrison from the film *My Fair Lady* -
“Why Can’t a Woman Be More Like a Man?”

Lance was then followed by partner Diane Roworth who also used rhymes to make the point -

“Why Would a Woman Want to be Like a Man”!



The evening concluded by President Frank Paterson asking everyone to join hands (at the start of the 2nd verse!) for a rousing rendition of “Auld Lang Syne” as always accompanied by Piper Jim Sharpe.

Earlier in the proceedings, Toastmaster Neil Hounam had read out 2 messages of Fraternal Greetings received from:

The Robert Burns World Federation - President Jean Abdulrahim
Robert Burns Association of North America - President Mark Ferguson



Forthcoming Events!

There are still a number of events to enjoy throughout the remainder of the 2025/26 membership year - below are the key dates to note:

Wednesday 11th February - Men's Lunch at The Winning Post

Thursday 12th February - Ladies Lunch at the Novotel Hotel
Elli Florentini, Life on Air

Wednesday 11th March - Men's Lunch at the Winning Post

Thursday 12th March - Ladies Lunch at the Novotel Hotel
John Lacy, The Lighter Side of Policing

Saturday 14th March - St.Patrick's Day Celebration Supper
York Railway Bowls & Social Club

Wednesday 8th April - Men's Lunch at The Winning Post

Thursday 9th April - Ladies Lunch at the Novotel Hotel
Stuart Priest, Circus Skills

Saturday 2nd May - RBWF Yorkshire District - Annual Tartan Ball
Holiday Inn, Barnsley

Wednesday 13th May - Men's Lunch at The Winning Post

Thursday 14th May - Ladies Lunch & AGM at The Novotel Hotel

Friday 15th May - Society Annual General Meeting

Further details of each event will be notified nearer the time.



Next Newsletter

Our Spring 2026 Newsletter will be published in late March just ahead of Easter.

If you have any articles or information you wish to share with the membership in the next newsletter, please do not hesitate to send this to me at the email address below.

Finally please let me have any feedback you wish to give by emailing me at:

standrewyork@gmail.com

Grant Young - Secretary