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1959



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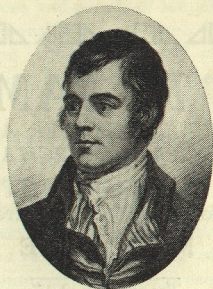
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The Mauchline Burns Club
PRESENTS
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OF
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AND
Present-day Industry



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Saturday, 12th, to Saturday, 19th September
1959

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Foreword

FOUR years ago, the Mauchline Burns Club celebrated the Festival Year with an Exhibition which endeavoured to present a record of life and activities of Mauchline and its people, past and present. Despite the appalling weather of that week in January, 1955, several thousands attended the Exhibition and many expressed the hope that the Burns Club might see their way to stage another in some future year.

This year, when the Burns Bi-Centenary has aroused the interest and enthusiasm of people all over the world, the Club decided to mark the occasion by staging another Exhibition which would again display the life and work of Mauchline folk through the years. It is perhaps only natural that there should be somewhat of a rivalry, even competition, between those communities which boast of a connection with our National Bard, but many Burns-lovers are strangely apt to forget that the scenes and people of Mauchline parish figure so prominently in so many of his writings. It is therefore hoped that this Exhibition will reinforce and strengthen the proud claim that Mauchline makes to be "the heart of the Burns country."

We have again been fortunate in securing the co-operation of local trades and industries in showing specimens of their present work. "What Mauchline makes makes Mauchline," and we are very pleased to give these modern exhibits the publicity they deserve. Successive editions of the *Statistical Account of Scotland* reveal the passing of so many of the old crafts from our community, but the present Exhibition shows that the old skills and pride of craftsmanship live on.

On behalf of the Burns Club, I take this opportunity of thanking both our exhibitors and advertisers for their valued support and also all the members of the community who have so kindly gifted articles for exhibition. We are especially grateful to the members of the Mauchline branch of the W.R.I. for their assistance in collecting and staging the relics of bygone days.

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Mauchline Burns Club

ON 8th February, 1923, a company of sixteen gentlemen met in the Lesser Temperance Hall for the purpose of forming a Burns Club. The meeting was called by and presided over by the late James MacIntyre. In his remarks, Mr. MacIntyre pointed out that Robert Burns had written much of his best work while resident in the parish of Mauchline, and, in view of that, he felt that Mauchline should have a Burns Club which would study the works of the poet as well as foster and encourage a love of his poems and songs. The meeting unanimously decided to form a club and that it should be called the Mauchline Burns Club. The first President was the late Mr. John Taylor Gibb, the Mauchline historian.

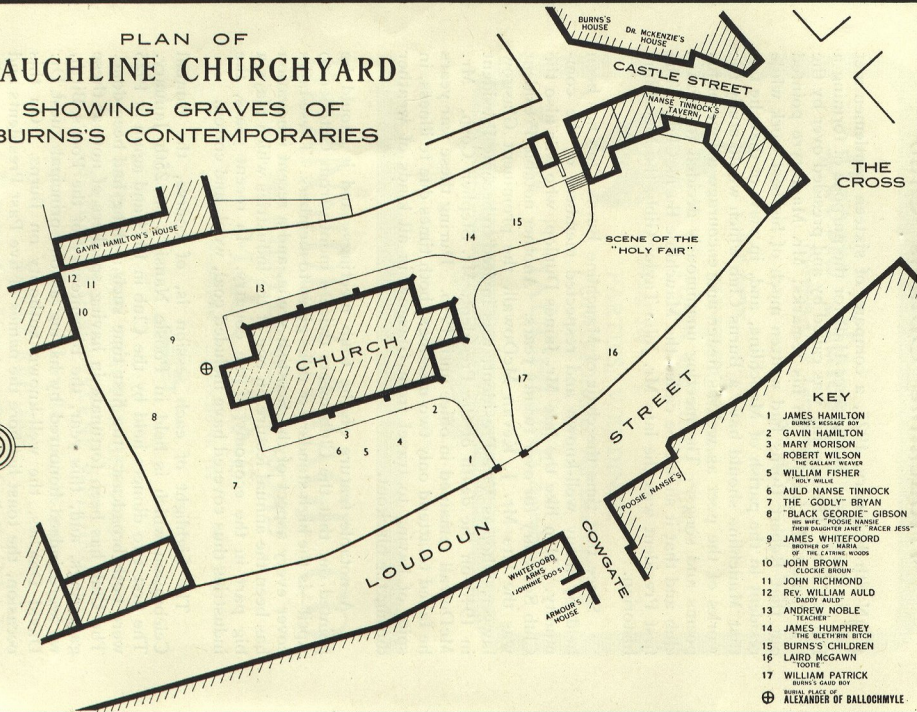
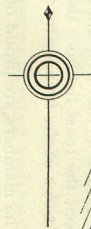
Since that time the chair of Mauchline Burns Club has been held by many well-known and respected members of the community. Men like the late Mr. James Dunlop, who was also the Club Secretary for over twenty years. Another notable President was the late Mr. J. Kevan McDowall, the prominent Glasgow lawyer, who, as Vice-President, was invited to become President in 1940 on the death of the President, Mr. Stephen Cosh. Mr. McDowall remained in office until 1946. During these war years he failed to attend only two meetings, both times due to illness, in spite of having to travel from Glasgow in all kinds of weather during the blackout.

A notable feature of the Club meetings—and it should be pointed out that the Club meets twice a month from October to April—is the high standard of talks given to members. These talks cover every aspect of the Scottish scene, and a recent innovation has been the annual lecture on one of the industries which plays a big part in the economy of the country. In recent years, the industries thus covered have included coal, wool, and cotton.

The highlight of each session is, of course, the Annual Celebration which is held in Poosie Nansie's on 25th January. The first two dinners held by the Club in 1924 and again in 1925 were both broadcast—the first time such a thing had been done. The Club has been fortunate in having speakers of note at these gatherings, and, this year, the Bi-centenary of the Poet's Birth, we were indeed honoured by having as our principal guest Dr. David Daiches, the well-known authority on Burns. On this occasion, the toast list bore the names of five Past Presidents and at least two of the founder members were present.

The members are proud of the Club's record, which has more than justified the enthusiasm of the small band who met in the Lesser Temperance Hall over thirty-six years ago.

PLAN OF
MAUCHLINE CHURCHYARD
 SHOWING GRAVES OF
 BURNS'S CONTEMPORARIES



KEY

- 1 JAMES HAMILTON
BURNS'S WELSH BOY
- 2 GAVIN HAMILTON
- 3 MARY MORISON
- 4 ROBERT WILSON
THE GALLANT WEAVER
- 5 WILLIAM FISHER
HOLY WILLIE
- 6 AULD NANSE TINNOCK
THE "GODLY" BRYAN
- 7 "BLACK GEORDIE" GIBSON
HIS WIFE, "POOSIE NANSE"
THEIR DAUGHTER JANET "RACER JESS"
- 8 JAMES WHITEFOORD
BROTHER OF MARRA
OF THE CATRINE WOODS
- 9 JOHN BROWN
CLOCKIE BROWN
- 11 JOHN RICHMOND
- 12 REV. WILLIAM AULD
"DADDY" AULD
- 13 ANDREW NOBLE
TEACHER
- 14 JAMES HUMPHREY
THE BLEATHIN BITCH
- 15 BURNS'S CHILDREN
- 16 LAIRD MCGAWN
"TOOTIE"
- 17 WILLIAM PATRICK
BURNS'S GAID BOY

⊕ BURNS' PLACE OF
 ALEXANDER OF BALLOCHMYLE.

Mauchline Old Churchyard

MAUCHLINE Old Churchyard has a special attraction for Burns lovers as it marks the last resting place of several of the poet's contemporaries and its immediate surroundings are rich in Burns associations. Every year brings to Mauchline visitors from all parts of the world and the Old Churchyard is to them an object of the deepest interest, because the place has been consecrated by the genius of the National Poet of Scotland. Robert Burns worshipped in the Old Church and it was in the Old Church and the present Churchyard that he witnessed those scenes of mingled solemnity and profanation that have been so well described in his communion satire. Kirk Session records inform us that in 1779 "by reason of the school kept in the Church, by reason of many doors opening upon the Churchyard and ready access to it from all quarters, it is altogether a thoroughfare and a place of rendezvous for all sorts of idle and disorderly persons" and "that the Churchyard is now become a sort of dunghill and common office-house for all filthiness so that one can scarce walk to church with clean feet". Apart from the fact that the Churchyard was the school children's playground, we must remember that before the surrounding wall was built, cattle often strayed and grazed in the Kirkyard. The deplorable condition of the Churchyard must have continued for many years because it was in 1750 that Rev. Mr. Auld commenced his fight for Churchyard purity. Since then, the situation has gradually improved, and to-day the Churchyard is carefully supervised and well kept by an officer in almost daily attendance.

The expense of this care and attention is a constant drain on the funds of the Church, and townspeople are apt to forget that as the Old Churchyard was the Parish Burial Ground, its preservation and upkeep should be the concern of the entire community.

The graves of Burns's contemporaries may be easily found by following the numbered markers shown on the plan erected near the Churchyard gate. A copy of the plan is also shown on facing page.



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Ballochmyle Hospital

BALLOCHMYLE House was taken over at the beginning of the last war for use as an Emergency Medical Service Hospital.

By early 1940 wards had been built in the grounds, and by 1942 a total of thirty-three wards had been completed and staff accommodation provided.

Initially, mainly service personnel were treated. Besides British service men and women, Free-French and Polish troops and others received treatment.

June, 1944, saw the return of the invasion casualties.

A large number of P.O.W.'s were admitted from the local camps at Kingencleugh and Pennylands, chiefly Italians and Germans.

By 1945 the number of inpatients had been increased to about 1,000 by the arrival from London of elderly patients transferred from the flying-bomb areas.

This was the peak period for numbers, and after hostilities ceased Ballochmyle Hospital gradually assumed its present civilian role.

5th July, 1948, saw the introduction of the National Health Service, and Ballochmyle Hospital was retained to serve the needs of this area.

At present, some fifteen wards are in use for inpatients and the number of occupied beds being about 300. Outpatient attendances number approximately 37,000 per annum. Some 5,000 new patients attend every year.

The wards treat surgical, medical, plastic (including facio-maxillary and dental), gynæcological, urological, ear, nose and throat, eye and geriatric patients.

Outpatient clinics deal with these specialties as well as psychiatry, diseases of the skin and diseases of the chest.

Ancillary services are provided by the laboratory, the physiotherapy, electrocardiographic and X-ray departments.

The medical staff consists of some forty doctors, from house officers to consultants. Most of the senior members, however, also attend other hospitals in the area.

There is a nursing staff of 200, and another 200 people work in the hospital in one capacity or another.

Ballochmyle House is now used as a staff residence. It was, of course, at one time the home of Miss Wilhelmina Alexander to whom Burns dedicated "The Lass of Ballochmyle."



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This firm, founded over thirty years ago, has specialised in the growing of Trees and Shrubs, and of late years has taken up the growing of Hardy Rose Bushes.

Many of Ayrshire's younger plantations have been planted with young trees produced at Mauchline.

Present display depicts many items of Floral Art—an art which has brought us many premier awards at principal shows for our examples of Bridal Bouquets and Funeral Tributes.

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Ballochmyle Hatchery is a Commercial Chick Hatchery running several mammoth cabinet incubators with a total setting capacity of 27,000 eggs per week. There is also a considerable rearing plant for the production, principally, of four- and eight-weeks old pullets for sale.

Chicks are sent by train all over Britain and by 'plane to Orkney, the Western Isles, and the Isle of Man.

The exhibit shows an Electric Brooder with young growing pullets.

Stand No. 4.

MAUCHLINE BURNS CLUB.

Stand shows Club President's Badge of Office and Lectern, Books of Burns's Works and Biographies, Old Burns Supper Menu Cards, List of Past Presidents, Etc.

Burns wrote of Ballochmyle:
"In every Glen the Mavis sang"
as it does still on

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Stand No. 5.

NATIONAL COAL BOARD. West Ayr Area.

COAL MINING IN THE MAUCHLINE DISTRICT.

Although it is recorded that coal was worked near Mauchline as long ago as the late fifteenth century—near Tarbolton—there was no coal mining in the district between the middle of the nineteenth century and the commencement of the development of Mauchline Colliery in the 1930's.

Lochlea Colliery, sunk in 1949, and Sorn Colliery, sunk in 1952, are now working the same coals as Mauchline Colliery. It is interesting to note that Lochlea Colliery workings are under the fields of Lochlea Farm which was farmed at one time by the Burns family and where Robert Burns lived and worked for a period.

These three collieries are all situated on the northern fringe of an extensive coal-bearing area known as the Mauchline Basin, in the southern part of which is sunk Killoch Colliery, a large modern coal mine designed to produce a substantial output. Coal production from Killoch will start in 1960.

Stand No. 6.

SOUTH OF SCOTLAND ELECTRICITY BOARD. Ayrshire Area.

On the Electricity Board's Stand will be a representative display of modern Kitchen and Home Laundry Equipment.

Automatic Cookers, with and without glass doors and oven lights, will be on display alongside more conventional models.

Refrigerators with special deep-freeze storage compartments and in a variety of colours, will be there to delight the housewife.

The Home Laundry Section will give special attention to Clothes Driers, both of the spinner and warm-air types—a boon in winter and on wet days—while the Washing Machines will include small and large models to suit individual requirements.

Among the smaller appliances there will be new High-speed Electric Kettles, Steam and Dry Irons, Food Mixers and Electric Clocks.

A Demonstrator will be in regular attendance during the Exhibition to give demonstrations on the Electric Cooker, while other members of the Board's Staff will be pleased to point out special features of the attractive range of appliances that will be on show.

Stand No. 7.

JAMES CAMPBELL & SON, (D. A. McBAIN)

The Mauchline Forge and Engineering Works, Barskimming Road, Mauchline.

Exhibits — Ornamental Wrought-Iron Candelabra, Electroliers, Table Lamps, Gates, Etc.

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On the Stand of the Scottish Milk Marketing Board are shown their various Cheeses, Butters and Milk Powders, and here it is interesting to note the variation in size of package and in the types of wrapping materials used.

Cheeses are shown wrapped in the traditional bandages or coated in wax and Rindless Cheese wrapped in polythene is shown in sizes varying from large blocks to the small vacuum-packed consumer portion.

During the past three years, Mauchline Creamery has made twenty special Cheeses for publicity purposes. Each of these Cheeses weighed 1,200 lb.

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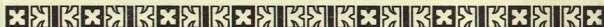
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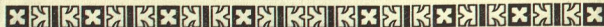
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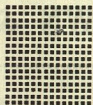
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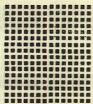
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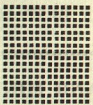
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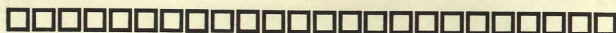
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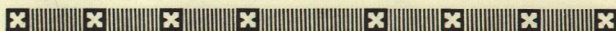
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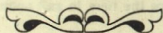
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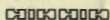
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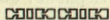


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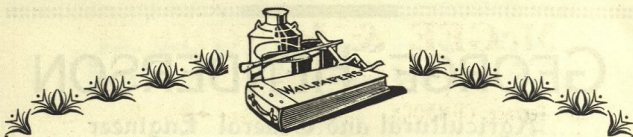
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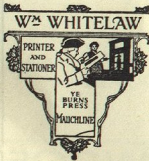
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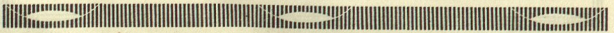


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