

BURNS DAYS OUT | BURNS ARTS | BURNS WALKS | BURNS HOWFFS
BURNS BIDES | BURNS PRODUCTS | BURNS COLLECTIONS
BURNS EVENTS | BURNS TOURS | BURNS TRIBUTES & MORE!

Ayrshire

Birthplace of Burns



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Brochure by
cleverriver.co.uk

Map by South
Ayrshire Council

WELCOME



To The Land o' Burns Ayrshire - Birthplace of Burns!

Robert Burns (1759-1796) is revered as the national poet of Scotland. His continuing legacy is celebrated worldwide.

Ayrshire is by far the most renowned destination in the world when it comes to Robert Burns. Burns was born and spent most of his life in Ayrshire. From the cottage where he was born in Alloway, to the room he stayed in with Jean Armour in Mauchline, from the walks he took in his beloved Ayrshire countryside, to his encouragement in Irvine to publish his work which was then printed in Kilmarnock.



Robert Burns

We invite you to join us - take a walk in his footsteps and explore the Burns legacy ...



THEN CATCH THE MOMENTS AS THEY FLY AND USE THEM AS YE OUGHT MAN

Here's A Bottle And An Honest Friend

BURNS NATURE LOVERS

Ayrshire continues to be surrounded by the nature Burns loved so much and there are many walks detailed within the brochure to enjoy. For a lovely day out surrounded by countryside, wooded areas and the River Ayr head to Auchincruive Estate where you can start your trail at the Wallace and Burns Cairn and then pop into The Bothy Café or Clocktower Café Bar for quality food and drink.

BURNS IN LOVE

Take a stroll around Burns Monument Gardens, climb to the top for panoramic views. Cross over to the Brig o' Doon Hotel and award winning Tales Restaurant overlooking the River Doon. Enjoy Red, Red Rose cocktails and hand painted Burns crockery.

BURNS HERITAGE HUNTERS

It's great to look from outside but even better to get deep inside the original buildings from Burns' time. Those that offer entry include -

Alloway - Burns Cottage.

Mauchline - Burns House Museum, Nanse Tinnocks and Poosie Nansie's Tavern.

Irvine - The Crown Inn.

Kilmarnock - New Laigh Kirk.

Tarbolton - Bachelors' Club, Tarbolton Lodge.

Kirkoswald - Souter Johnnie's Cottage.

Ayr - Tam o' Shanter Inn, Black Bull Inn, Corney & Barrow Wine Shop.

BURNS GUIDED TOURS

Many tour providers offer a guided tour of Burns attractions - check out Kilted Piper Tours, Glascotours, Tartan Tours, Rabbie's Tours and many more.



BURNS COLLECTIONS

To view all the Ayrshire Burns collections you may need a few days.

Alloway - Robert Burns Birthplace Museum (world's largest Burns museum collection).

Mauchline - Burns House Museum (interpretation of Burns' time here).

Irvine - Wellwood Burns Centre and Museum (exhibits, sculpture, chair from Templeton's bookshop and more).

Kilmarnock - The Dick Institute (permanent collection including working replica of Wilson's printing press), Robert Burns World Federation HQ (artefacts and curios), Burns Monument Centre (poetry books and biographies).

Tarbolton - Bachelors' Club (restored room), Tarbolton Lodge (relics, letters - view by appointment only).

Ayr - Carnegie Library (over 900 items including older Editions, Editions in other languages and biographical works).

BURNS WITH KIDS

Lots of the Burns attractions will be of interest to children and the **Robert Burns Birthplace Museum** holds lots of children's events throughout the year.

To make a fun filled kids day out start in Ayr town centre and play **Burns Hame Toun** on the Questo app where you have to solve clues and find Burns landmarks. To keep the theme going enjoy 'The Belter' a haggis special from popular town centre take-away Spudbuds.

For a longer walk follow the **Blue Bonnet** signs between Ayr and Alloway and then grab a coffee and cake outside at the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum while the kids play at **Burns Wa-Hey playpark**. Then head across the road for a look through the **Alloway Tunnel** with lots to see.

Rainy day? **The Dick Institute** is a winner with Burns and much more!



WHEN UP THEY GAT AN' SHOOK THEIR LUGS
REJOIC'D THEY WERENA MEN BUT DOGS

The Twa Dogs

(Above) Poet's Path, Alloway and (Below) Kilmarnock Town Centre



BURNS AYRSHIRE TRIBUTES

Turn to the centre pages of the brochure for a map of Burns Ayrshire Tributes.

BURNS GRAVE GO-ERS

Although Burns himself is not buried in Ayrshire, the graves of many of his friends and family can be found here including -

Alloway - William Burnes (father).

Maybole - William Niven (school friend).

Kirkoswald - Real life Tam o' Shanter characters, maternal grandparents, Hugh Roger (schoolteacher).

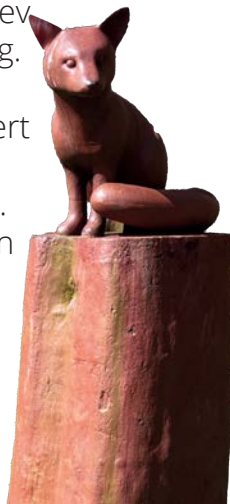
New Cumnock - Auld Licht Rev James Young.

Dundonald - Rev Dr Robert Duncan (Twa Herds).

Irvine - Helen Miller Mackenzie (Mauchline Belle).

The Mauchline Burns Club Trail at Mauchline Parish Church has blue plaques at notable graves -

- A – Burgher Kirk Stone
- B – Walker Memorial Kirk Stone
- C – Willie Patrick (Burns' Gaud Boy)
- D – Laird McGaun (Master Tootie)
- E – James Smith (Covenanter)
- F – Andrew & William Smith (Boxware Manufacturers)
- G – Burns' Four Children
- H – James Humphrey (Burns' Bletherin' Bitch)
- I – Andrew Noble (Schoolmaster)
- J – James Whitefoord (Brother of Maria of Catrine Woods)
- K – John Richmond (Friend)
- L – James Lamie (Kirk Elder)
- M – Rev William (Daddy) Auld
- N – John Brown (Clockie Brown)
- O – The Alexanders of Ballochmyle
- P – The Gibson Family (Poosie Nansie)
- Q – Godly Brydan
- R – Dr. Matthew Stewart (Father of Professor Dugald Stewart)
- S – Nanse Tinnock (Innkeeper)
- T – Mary Morrison
- U – Willie Fisher (Holy Willie)
- V – Robert Wilson (The Gallant Weaver)
- W – Gavin Hamilton (Lawyer and Friend)
- X – Wife of Julian Harney (Last Chartist)
- Y – James Hamilton (Burns' Message Boy)
- Z – John Burns (Poet's Brother)



BURNS EVENTS IN AYRSHIRE

As home of the first ever Burns Supper (Burns Cottage, Alloway), this is a tradition that continues annually in hotels and bars around Burns Night in January. In addition, throughout the year a range of other Burns events and festivals also take place including those organised by the **Robert Burns World Federation** rbwf.org.uk/events

Mauchline Holy Fair mauchlineholyyfair.com

The Mauchline Holy Fair began before the 1700s and was immortalised by Burns in 'The Holy Fair'. It was brought back in 2002 by Mauchline Burns Club and a new passionate group has ran it since 2015. The event always takes place the last Saturday of May.

Robert Burns Birthplace Museum nts.org.uk

A programme of events runs throughout the year including highlight talks, workshops, Burns Night events and seasonal family activities.

I'M GAUN TO MAUCHLINE HOLY FAIR
TO SPEND AN HOUR IN DAFFIN

The Holy Fair

(Below) Mauchline's Holy Fair still takes place - now an annual celebration of Burns
(Opposite) Liberty Regain'd sculpture on Poet's Path, Alloway



BURNS CHRONICLE

The Burns Chronicle has been published since the 1890s and is the oldest journal of Scottish literature in the world.

rbwf.org.uk

CATHERINE CZERKAWSKA

Kirkmichael based writer of 'The Jewel' - a novel of the life of Jean Armour - and 'For Jean' - poems, songs and letters by Burns for Jean.

catherineczerkawska.co.uk

ALEXANDER GOUDIE TAM O' SHANTER EXHIBITION

A selection of this magnificent series of 54 paintings can be viewed at Rozelle House in Ayr with all of the paintings viewable online via South Ayrshire Council's Museum At Home.

destinationsouthayrshire.co.uk/rozelle/



ALLOWAY RAILWAY TUNNEL

An old railway tunnel in Alloway has been transformed into a lasting legacy celebrating the heritage of Burns and others. The hand painted mural by artist Chris Rutterford is now one of Scotland's largest murals. Take a walk through it!

allowaytunnel.org.uk

BURNS MURAL

By artist Michael Corr on John Dickie St, Kilmarnock.

rbwf.org.uk

JOLLY BEGGARS MURAL

Mauchline based mural by school pupils from Auchinleck on Loudon St, outside Poosie Nansie's

CRAIG CAMPBELL

Ayr artist inspired to create The Tam Collection.

tamoshanter.art

ALAN LEES

Kirkmichael artist with a series of Tam o' Shanter paintings, prints, cards, gifts and a life size Tam and Meg wood carving.

alanleesartist.com



A scene from Alloway Railway Tunnel by artist Chris Rutterford (Opposite) But Left Behind Her Ain Gray Tale from Alexander Goudie Collection

YOU'LL EASY DRAW A LANG-KENT FACE
BUT NO SAE WEEL A STRANGER

To A Painter

NORTH AYRSHIRE HERITAGE CENTRE

North Ayrshire Heritage Centre in Saltcoats holds a collection of Burns art by three very different styles of artist.

Robert Bryden (1865-1939) was born in Coylton and produced a series of illustrations of scenes from Burns' poems.

George Houston (1869-1947) was born in Dalry and produced a series of twelve etchings entitled Burns Country.

Graeme McKean is an Irvine based artist whose work is highly collectable and is held in worldwide collections.

BURNS WALKS



BLUE BONNET TRAIL

Find and follow Tam's Blue Bonnets between Ayr and Alloway to take in the 'Tam o' Shanter' route! **Download the Destination South Ayrshire app and search Trails (self-guided).**

BURNS' HAME TOUN ADVENTURE CHALLENGE

Make your way around Burns' Hame Toun of Ayr solving challenges in this family friendly town centre based adventure. **Download the Questo App and search for Burns Hame Toun or visit thelandoburns.com**

MAUCHLINE BURNS HERITAGE TRAIL

Follow the blue plaques in Mauchline to discover Burns' time there. NB - new app launching soon! **mauchlinehollyfair.com**

IRVINE BURNS TRAIL

Discover Burns' life in Irvine with this fabulous trail. **Download from irvineburnsclub.org**

KILMARNOCK BURNS TRAIL

Burns' life in Kilmarnock can be followed with this trail. **rbwf.org.uk**

RIVER AYR WAY

The Ayr to Auchincruive walk goes from Ayr harbour, through auld Ayr, along River Ayr and ends up in Auchincruive where you can find the Wallace and Burns Cairn.

See gillianswalks.com

The Annbank to Failford walk ends near Highland Mary's Monument.

See gillianswalks.com

KAY PARK WALK

A walk that takes you past Kilmarnock's Burns Monument Centre and statue.

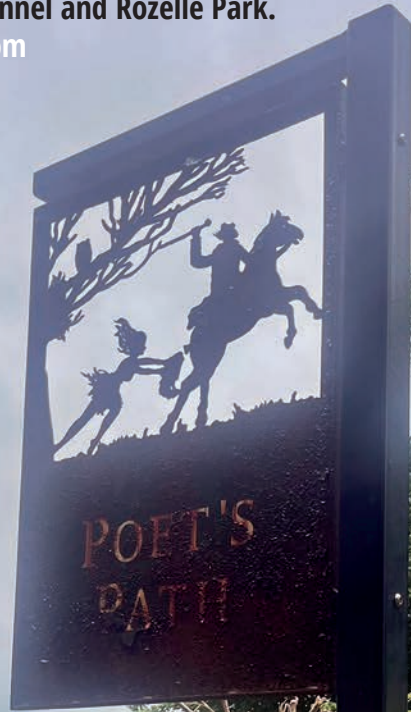
See gillianswalks.com

ALLOWAY BURNS TRAIL

Circular walk beginning at Burns Cottage and going past Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, Auld Alloway Kirk, Burns Monument & Gardens, Brig o' Doon and through the Alloway Railway Tunnel and Rozelle Park.
See gillianswalks.com

SONNET SAUNTER

Collect leaflets at the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum or Burns Cottage and scan the QR codes as you explore inspirational locations.



Poet's Path, Alloway
(Opposite) A Blue Bonnet to look out for

In the Scots language that Burns spoke, a howff is a place to meet - often a pub!

BURNS HOWFFS



SOME HAE MEAT AND CANNA EAT
AND SOME WAD EAT THAT WANT IT

The Selkirk Grace

TAM O' SHANTER INN

Ayr's oldest pub and restaurant that Burns frequented and that inspired arguably his most famous poem.

SOUTER'S INN

Kirkoswald restaurant and bar on the site of Burns' old school.

POOSIE NANSIE'S

This Mauchline inn was a popular haunt of Burns and the inspiration for 'The Jolly Beggars'.

BRIG O' DOON HOTEL

Located in Alloway with views over 'Tam o' Shanter's' Brig o' Doon. Burns themed menu items and cocktails.

THE BLACK BULL

This Ayr pub was called Simpsons in Burns' day and he wrote 'The Brigs of Ayr' from this vantage point.

CORNEY & BARROW

Burns visited the cellars of this Ayr wine shop as an exciseman. Cellar tours and tastings on offer.



AYRSHIRE FOOD AND DRINK WITH A NOD TO BURNS

Robbie's Whisky Merchants (Ayr) and **A.D. Rattrays** (Kirkoswald) often sell Burns themed whisky.

Poet's Corner (Alloway) is located across from Burns Cottage and **The Robert Burns Birthplace Museum** has a popular café.

Bars in Ayr include **Rabbie's**, **Willie Wastles**, **The Twa Dugs**, **Drouthy Neebors**, **The Burns Bar** and at Haven Holiday Park is **Brigs of Ayr**.

Kilmarnock has **First Edition Cafe**, Stewarton has **Mossgiel Coffee House** and Ayr beach has a **Rabbie Burns Fish and Chips**.



In the Scots language that Burns spoke, bide means to stay or dwell

SLEEP I CAN GET NANE FOR THINKING ON MY DEARIE

Ay Waukin O

THE RABBIE BURNS ROOM - ABBOTSFORD HOTEL, AYR

With a nod to Rabbie's literary legacy this cosy room carries a sophisticated library ambience inviting guests to immerse themselves in a world of words. Look out for a hidden door!

RABBIE BURNS LODGE - STRAITON

This Rabbie Burns Lodge sleeps 16 so would have been ideal for Burns' family and friends! Set within Balbeg Estate, Burns would have enjoyed the woodland walks, hills and nature pond.

BRIG O' DOON HOTEL - ALLOWAY

With views over 'Tam o' Shanter's' Brig o' Doon. Burns themed menu items and cocktails.

WHITESTONE COTTAGE - CULZEAN

Whitestone Cottage was the birthplace of Robert Burns' mother Agnes Broun in 1732. It sits just 800m from the entrance of Culzean Castle and Country Park, where Burns' grandfather was a woodcutter. Nature and a beach surround.

THE BARD'S ROOM - CRAUFURDLAND ESTATE

A room dedicated to Burns and his poetry being published in nearby Kilmarnock. Craufurdland Castle own an original piece of Burns writing - a four line epitaph.

BURNS AND JEAN ARMOUR ROOMS - FAIRBURN HOTEL

Located in the heart of Mauchline. Lay your head in the town of Burns and Jean.

BURNS BIDES



**(Above) Robert Burns Birthplace Museum
(Below) Brig o' Doon, Alloway**



Two of Burns' Ayrshire farms where he lived and worked have carried on his legacy of doing good things and creating wonderful products! (Not open to the public)

LOCHLEA DISTILLERY



Lochlea is an independent family owned farm and distillery based in the heart of Ayrshire. Lochlea single malt Scotch whisky is distilled and matured using barley grown and harvested on the farm.



MOSSGIEL ORGANIC DAIRY

Mossgiel Organic Farm promotes a vision for sustainable dairy products, working with nature rather than against it. Mossgiel have resurrected the good old fashioned glass bottle of milk with Burns' face proudly displayed on it.



O WHISKY! SOUL O' PLAYS AND PRANKS!
ACCEPT A BARDIE'S GRATFU' THANKS!

Scotch Drink

ISLE OF ARRAN DISTILLERS

Burns single malt and blend whiskies are made in the Lochranza Distillery.



BURNS AYRSHIRE TRIBUTES

Throughout the world there are well over 100 tributes to Burns including statues of himself and others connected to him, busts, plaques, monuments, cairns and unique homages such as a full sized Burns Cottage replica in Atlanta Georgia, USA!

Here in Ayrshire, the birthplace of Burns, we have an amazing selection of tributes.

Burns Statues can be found in Ayr (Burns Statue Square and Ayr Central Shopping Centre), Kilmarnock (The Cross - with Wilson the printer - and Kay Park), Irvine Moor and New Cumnock.

Burns Busts can be found in Maybole Town Hall, Ayr's Auld Kirk and Carnegie Library, Ayr. A miniature statue is in The West Kirk, Ayr.

Tam o' Shanter Character Statues can be found in Monument Gardens, Alloway and Souter Johnnie's Cottage Gardens, Kirkoswald.

Animal Statues can be found along the Poet's Path, Alloway and there are two duggs at Kilmarnock Cross.

Other Statues and Monuments include of course the Burns Monument in Alloway, National Burns Memorial Tower in Mauchline, Coila statue in the grounds of the University of the West of Scotland in Ayr, Jean Armour statue in Mauchline, Highland Mary monument in Failford, Burns Garden at The Douglas Park Project in Largs, Bonnie Lesley memorial in Stevenston and Ardrossan also has a memorial that includes Burns alongside Livingstone and Watt.

Burns Cairns can be found in Tarbolton, Irvine, New Cumnock, Mauchline (Mossgiel) and Auchincruive (with Wallace).

Burns Murals can be found as part of Alloway Railway Tunnel, on Kilmarnock's John Dickie Street and depicting The Jolly Beggars in Mauchline.

Other tributes include Dr Fleeming's pavement art (Irvine Cross), a plaque for his teacher Murdoch at 56 Sandgate, Ayr and street names within the Forehill area in Ayr.

Burns Statues

1. Burns Statue Square, Ayr
2. Ayr Central Shopping Centre
3. The Cross, Kilmarnock
4. Burns Monument Centre, Kilmarnock
5. Irvine Moor
6. New Cumnock village centre

Burns Busts

7. Maybole Town Hall, Main St
8. Carnegie Library, Main St, Ayr
9. The Auld Kirk of Ayr, Kirkport
10. The West Kirk, Sandgate, Ayr

Tam o' Shanter Character Statues

11. Monument Gardens, Alloway
12. Souter Johnnie's Cottage Gardens, Main Rd, Kirkoswald

Animal Statues

13. Poet's Path, Alloway
14. The Cross, Kilmarnock

Other Statues and Monuments

15. The Burns Monument, Alloway
16. National Burns Memorial Tower, Kilmarnock Road, Mauchline
17. Jean Armour statue, Mauchline
18. Coila statue, the University of the West of Scotland, Ayr
19. Highland Mary Monument, Failford
20. The Bonnie Lesley Memorial, Glencairn St, Stevenston
21. Ardrossan War Memorial (with James Watt and David Livingstone)
22. Burns Garden, Douglas Park, Largs

Burns Cairns

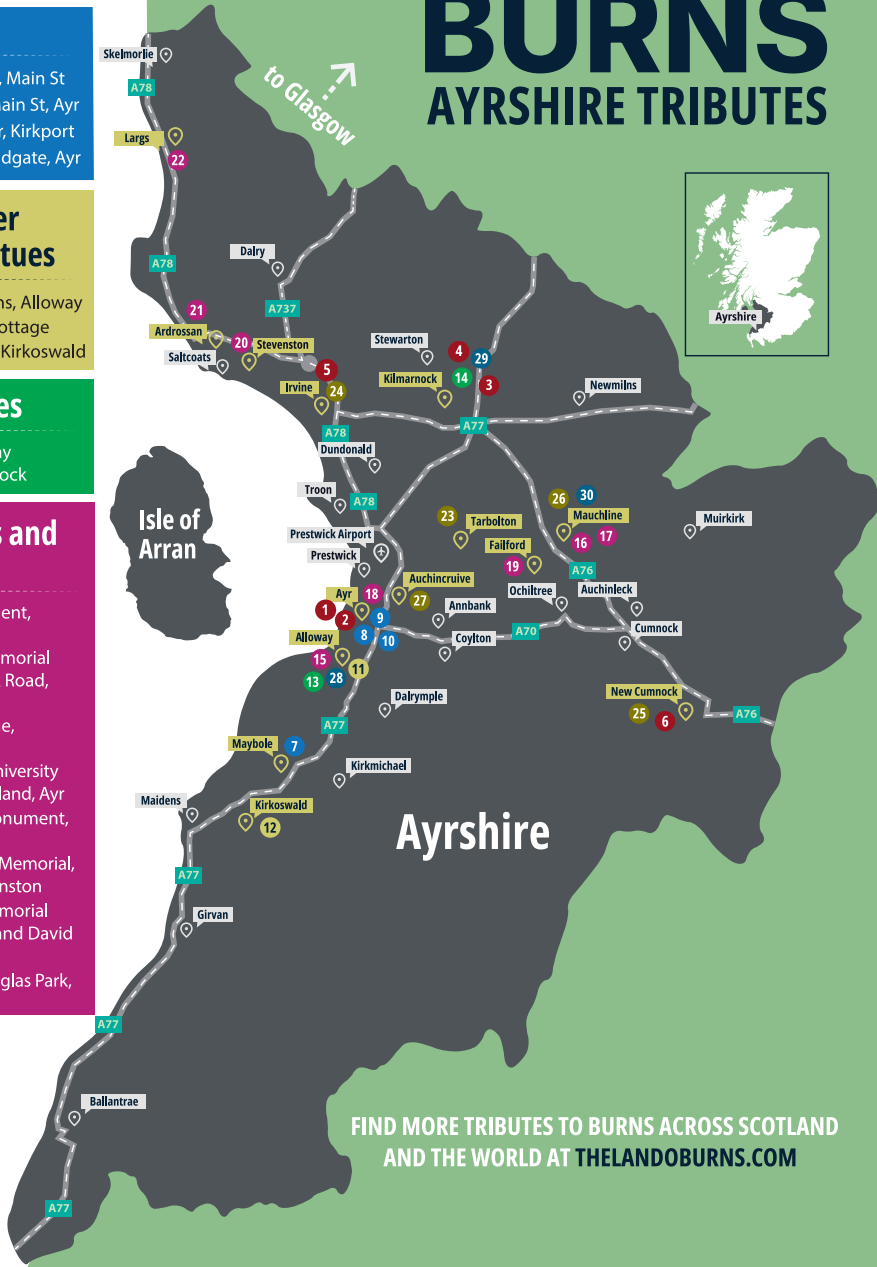
23. Tarbolton
24. Irvine
25. New Cumnock
26. Mauchline (Mossgiel)
27. Auchincruive Estate (with Wallace)

Burns Murals

28. Alloway Railway Tunnel
29. Robert Burns, Kilmarnock
30. The Jolly Beggars, Mauchline

BURNS

AYRSHIRE TRIBUTES



FIND MORE TRIBUTES TO BURNS ACROSS SCOTLAND AND THE WORLD AT THELANDOBBURNS.COM

ALLOWAY

The Bard's Birthplace



Alloway is the birthplace of Robert Burns. He was born on 25 January 1759 in a cottage with a thatched roof built by his father. Burns lived there until he was seven years old and went to school at Alloway Mill. The family then moved to the nearby Mount Oliphant Farm where they stayed until Burns was sixteen.

Today ...

Alloway boasts **The Robert Burns Birthplace Museum** holding the largest collection in the world of Burns artefacts including manuscripts, rare books, family friendly interactive exhibits and art. It is the centrepiece of The National Burns Collection.

A walk around the museum site takes you to world famous landmarks including **Burns Cottage, Burns Monument and Gardens, Alloway Auld Kirk Graveyard, Poet's Path** and the infamous **Brig o' Doon** from 'Tam o' Shanter'.

The River Doon also flows through Alloway, an inspiration for 'The Banks O' Doon'. Enjoy walks alongside the river, around the village, through the tunnel or to nearby parks and golf courses. Walk a little further to reach Ayr beach.

The **Alloway Railway Tunnel** is home to one of Scotland's longest murals including a Tam o' Shanter scene. Close by is **Rozelle House** and a permanent collection of **Alexander Goudie's Tam o' Shanter paintings**.

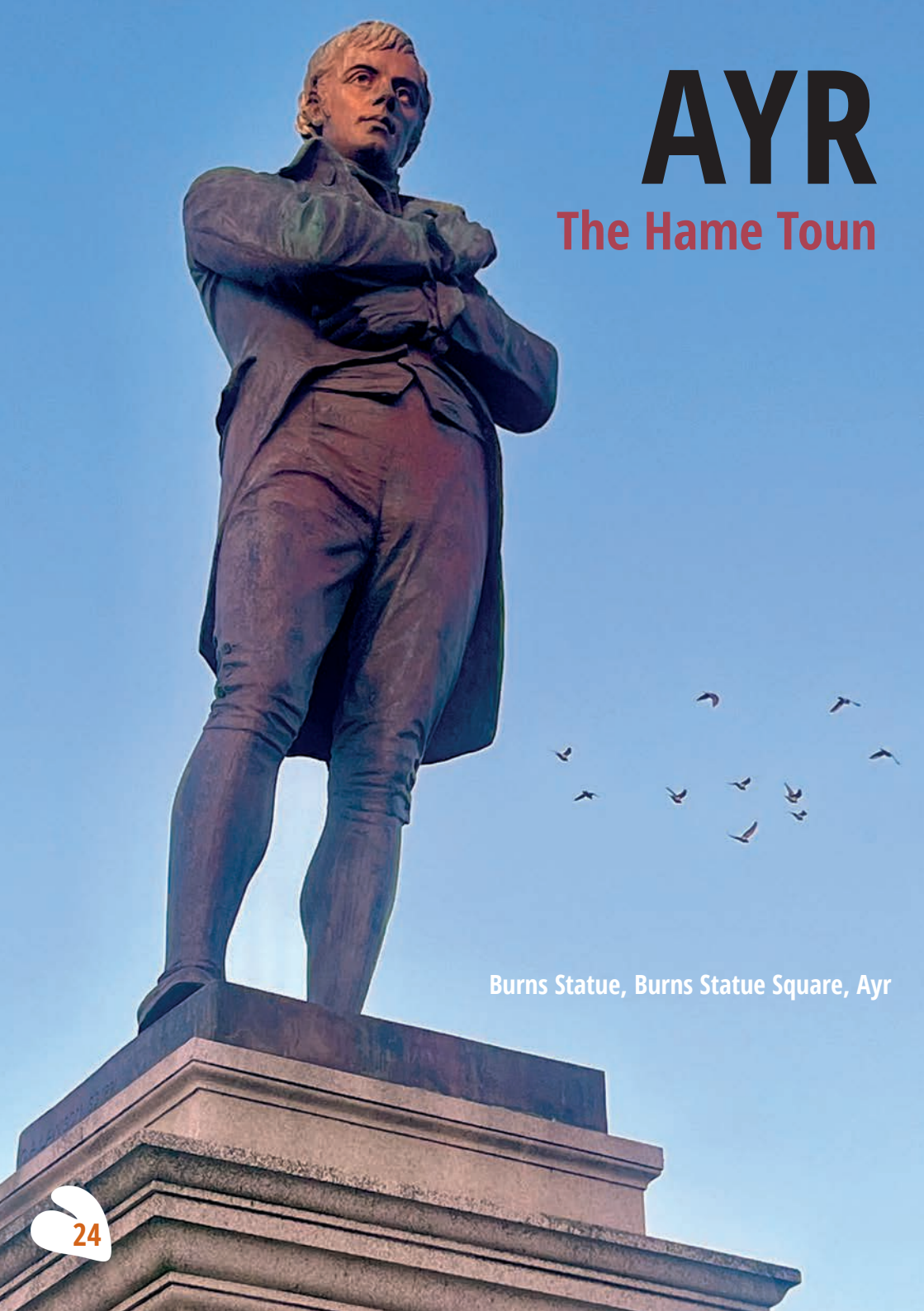
Nearby food and drink venues include **Robert Burns Birthplace Museum Cafe, Brig o' Doon Hotel, Poet's Corner Coffee Shop** and **Rozelle House Tearoom**.



YE BANKS AND BRAES O' BONIE DOON,
HOW CAN YE BLOOM SAE FRESH AND FAIR?

The Banks O' Doon

Can you find the mouse, haggis, fox, Souter Johnnie and Nance Tinnock statues?



AYR

The Hame Toun

Burns Statue, Burns Statue Square, Ayr

Robert Burns spent much of his life in **Ayr**, a bustling and thriving sociable market town. He was baptised and went to church in **Ayr's Auld Kirk** where his father's seat remains. Follow the cobbled alley there. He was educated by John Murdoch, a master of **Ayr Academy** and mingled with 'superior people' such as doctors' sons.

Today ...

Burns Statue Square presents Burns facing proudly towards Alloway. Built by local sculptor George Anderson Lawson it boasts worldwide replicas and reductions. A statue of his muse Coila is located in the **University of the West of Scotland** grounds.

The social life that Burns developed in Ayr lives on with some of the town's oldest pubs being crucial to him gathering his thoughts. Simpsons (built 1754 now the **Black Bull Inn**) was where he imagined a dialogue between the **auld and new brigs**, while the **Tam o' Shanter Inn** (1749) is a pub again today. Located on Ayr's High Street, it marks the spot of the beginning of Tam's journey!

Ayr's **Carnegie Library** has a Burns collection of over 900 items including some of the older editions, editions in other languages and a Burns bust upon entry. Should you visit **Corney & Barrow wine merchants**, you will follow in the footsteps of Burns who visited the cellars here as an exciseman.

You can start some Burns walking tours in Ayr including **The Blue Bonnet Trail** and **Burns Hame Town Trail** or choose to walk a stretch of **The River Ayr Way** taking you to the **Burns and Wallace Cairn** at Auchincruive.

AULD AYR WHAM NE'ER A TOUN SURPASSES
FOR HONEST MEN AND BONIE LASSES

Tam o' Shanter

Burns was inspired by the social life in Ayr and many pubs pay tribute to him in name today.

IRVINE

The Changing Man



Burns went to live in **Irvine** to become a flax dresser. He was met at times with misfortune and composed 'Winter A Dirge' while there. However Irvine did become transformational for Burns when he met a great friend and fellow spirit in sailor Richard Brown who also loved the ladies. It was Brown who suggested Burns publish his work.

Today ...

Wellwood Burns Centre and Museum is home to **Irvine Burns Club** so a special welcome awaits at this visitor attraction. The centre has exhibits including a Burns bronze statue, stained glass windows and an 'Independent Minds' sculpture of Wallace and Burns. There is also an authentic and unique AV presentation that tells the story of his life there.

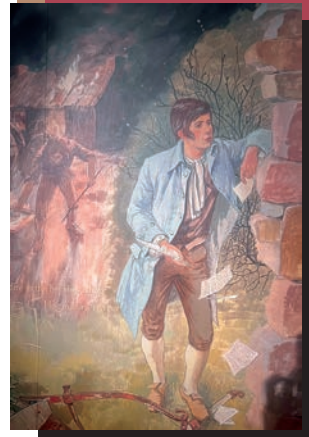
Burns frequented **Templeton's Bookshop** in Irvine and although the shop is no longer there, **the chair in which he used to sit** can be viewed at the centre. Visits to the Wellwood Centre are free and must be pre-booked via www.irvineburnsclub.org

Heading outdoors a special trail has been created which takes in **Burns Lodgings, The Heckling Shop** and more. Look out on the pavement for some artwork around **Dr Fleming's Cures** for Burns' fever.

An impressive **statue of Burns** is situated a short walk from the town centre on Irvine Moor and off Bank Street at Mackinnon Terrace sits **a cairn recording The Drukken Steps** in the Eglinton woods - a favourite walk of Burns and Brown. **The Old Parish Church** in Kirkgate which Burns attended has a commemorative window. Irvine Burns Club was formed in **The Crown Inn** in Main Street in 1826, known then as Milne's Inn.

THE LEAFLESS TREES MY FANCY PLEASE
THEIR FATE RESEMBLES MINE

Winter A Dirge



KILMARNOCK

The First Print



Kilmarnock is of course well known as being the location of Burns' first ever printed works, entitled 'Poems Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect' but more widely known as 'The Kilmarnock Edition'. Due to rising costs, a second Edition was not published in Kilmarnock but without Wilson the printer would we ever have known Burns' work today?

Today ...

The headquarters of **The Robert Burns World Federation (RBWF)** are based in John Dickie Street, Kilmarnock and the side of the building has been adorned by an impressive **Burns mural** by artist Michael Corr. The Federation holds an annual **Robert Burns conference**, continues to produce the **Burns Chronicle** publication and has developed a new **First Edition Festival** with events and initiatives such as a pop up '**tak a cup o' kindness**' cafe. The RBWF also houses a collection of artefacts and curios.

You can pick up a **Kilmarnock Burns Trail** leaflet from RBWF that takes you past many connections to the poet including the site of his friend **Tam Samson's house** and a **statue of James Shaw** who after Burns died raised money for Jean and encouraged the education of Burns' three sons. There is a plaque in the **Burns Shopping Mall** marking the **site of Wilson's printing press** and a **statue of Burns and Wilson** outside the centre at the cross.

The Dick Institute has a whole section devoted to Burns with a **working replica of Wilson's printing press** and the **Burns Monument Centre** in Kay Park holds poetry books and biographies centred around an impressive building with a **Burns statue** showcased.

WEE SLEEKIT, COW' RIN, TIM' ROUS BEASTIE
O WHAT A PANIC'S IN THY BREASTIE

To A Mouse

The Robert Burns World Federation is the oldest national literary association in Scotland (founded 1855) and with over 250 member clubs they promote, educate and celebrate Burns' life and works.

TARBOLTON

The Bachelor Life



Where to start with Tarbolton! Burns found himself in a stimulating environment in this village known for cattle fairs, races and Beltane's Eve fire events! It was in Tarbolton that Burns met Highland Mary at church and where Lizzy Paton got pregnant with his first child. Burns received a welcome reception to his first print in Tarbolton.

Today ...

Tarbolton is still surrounded by the same nature and countryside that inspired Burns. A letter to his friend Mrs Dunlop tells of how he chose a 'fine summer Sunday' to walk 'the half dozen of miles' to pay his respect to The Leglen Wood where William Wallace was known to have a favourite hiding place. Today this is part of **Auchincruive Estate** and a **Wallace and Burns Cairn** sits here reported to be made of Ailsa Craig granite or River Ayr boulders.

In the village is **The Bachelors' Club** now owned by the National Trust for Scotland. You can visit this restored room that was a debating place of Burns and his friends. He learned to dance here and took up the fiddle!

Lochlea Farm was the family's next move after Mount Oliphant. Burns was a ploughman here and planned to grow flax to sell in this weaving village. This is now home to **Lochlea Whisky Distillery** (no public visits at this time).

Tarbolton Lodge also has a museum and online museum with relics and letters. A Burns Cairn is situated in the centre of the village. Although there is a sign to **Willie's Mill** (mentioned in 'Death and Doctor Hornbrook') this is currently a private residence.

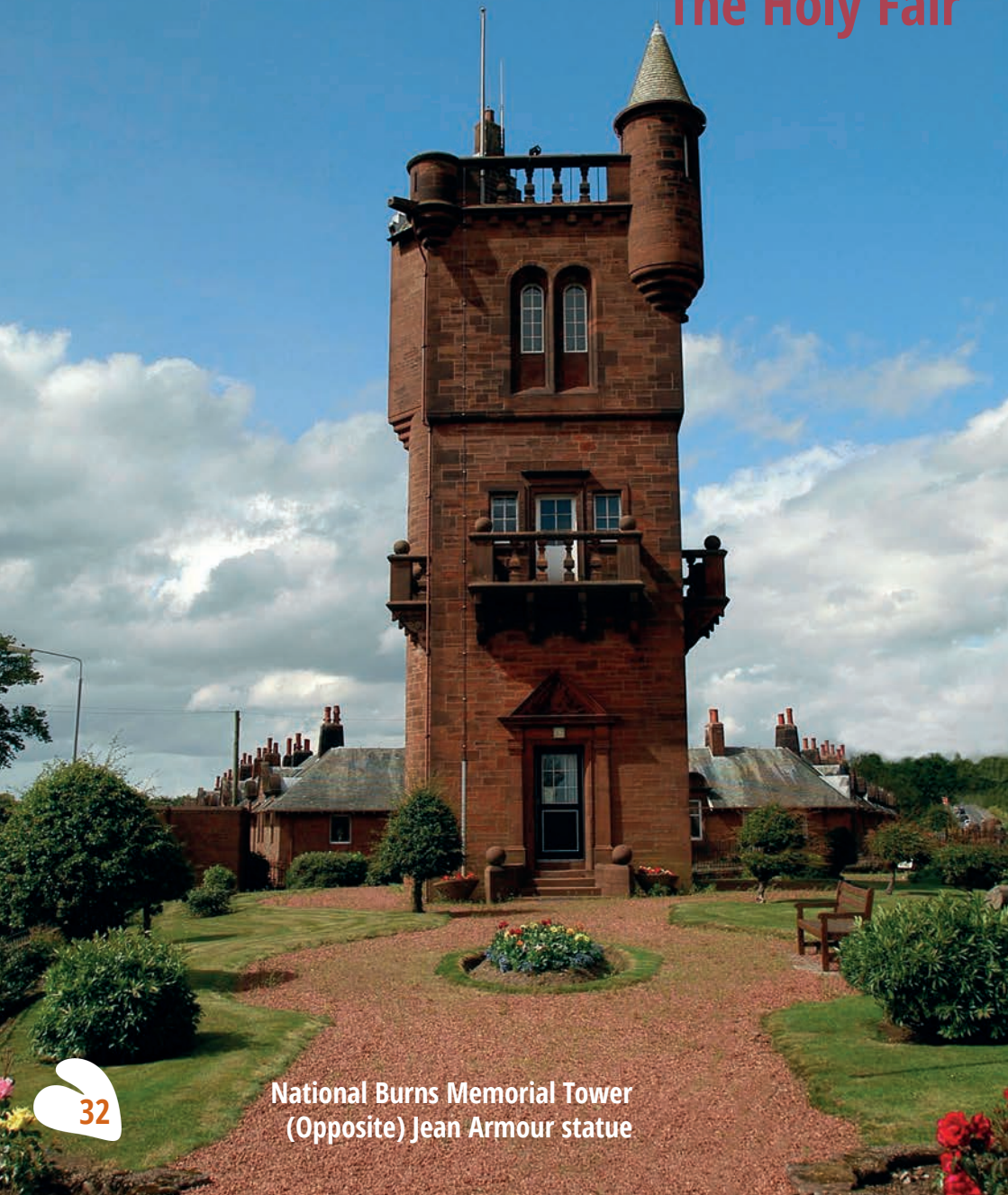
IF THERE'S ANOTHER WORLD HE LIVES IN BLISS
IF THERE IS NONE HE MADE THE BEST OF THIS

Epitaph On My Own Friend, And My Father's Friend, William Muir In Tarbolton



MAUCHLINE

The Holy Fair



National Burns Memorial Tower
(Opposite) Jean Armour statue

Mauchline has to be one of the most important Burns locations in the world. Burns found a richness of life in Mauchline and Jean Armour was born here. He lived and farmed in this town as well as writing some of his best works including 'The Vision', 'The Jolly Beggars', 'The Address To The Deil', 'The Holy Fair', 'The Twa Dugs' and 'To A Mouse'.

Today ...

Burns House Museum interprets the time he spent here with a preserved room reflecting when he was newly married to Jean Armour. When you visit you also get access to **Nanse Tinnocks** which was at the time a popular alehouse and is now home to Mauchline ware and curling stones made from Ailsa Craig granite.

There are blue plaques situated around the town that show many landmarks including **the site of Jean Armour's home** and **the site of Ronald's Ballroom** where Burns and Jean first met. The plaques continue into **Mauchline Parish Church and Graveyard** where many of his friends and four of his children lie. **Poosie Nansie's Tavern**, made famous by 'The Jolly Beggars' cantata is still open to this day and is rumoured to have a secret historic room!

Burns began to dream of life as a poet in his time at **Mossgiel Farm** (now an organic dairy farm) and would no doubt have appreciated that the **Mauchline Holy Fair** is still a popular event.

The National Burns Memorial Tower is also located in Mauchline, home to an art gallery and open most years for 'Doors Open Day'. A Mauchline interactive town trail app is due to launch soon.

IN MAUCHLINE THERE DWELLS SIX PROPER YOUNG BELLES
THE PRIDE OF THE PLACE AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD A'

The Belles Of Mauchline



KIRKOSWALD

The Enlightened Evenings



Kirkoswald was where Burns furthered his education - in many ways! Sent here at age sixteen to study maths, he found Kirkoswald rife with smuggled contraband and drunken orgies. He had his first visit to a tavern and he became innocently distracted with Peggy Thompson. Kirkoswald was a joyous time of discovery for Burns!

Today ...

Kirkoswald has become a celebration of one of Burns' greatest poems 'Tam o' Shanter'. Nestled on Main Road you will find a thatched cottage owned by the National Trust for Scotland. This is **Souter Johnnie's Cottage**, the home of John Davidson the souter (shoemaker) who lived here in the late 18th century and who Burns based the character Souter Johnnie on. The building now houses some shoemaker artefacts and is a gift shop and art gallery. The garden building provides a lovely home to the character statues.

You will also find the real life characters of Tam o' Shanter in **Kirkoswald Old Kirkyard** as well as Burns' maternal grandparents and his schoolmaster. Across the road from here is **Souter's Inn** a wonderful stop off for food and drink to complete your Kirkoswald Burns pilgrimage, built on the site of the school Burns attended in the summer of 1775. The interior has a plaque denoting this, a portrait of Burns and of course haggis on the menu!

Whilst in Kirkoswald you might want to taste some whisky at **A.D Rattray** or visit the nearby historic **Crossraguel Abbey** where there was a chance Burns used to walk to with his friend William Niven.

THE SKY IS BLUE, THE FIELD'S IN VIEW
ALL FADING - GREEN AND YELLOW

Composed In August



NEW CUMNOCK

The Bide Ower



New Cumnock was often a place where Burns would stop off on his journeys between Mauchline and Ellisland. The picturesque surrounding landscape, an inspiration to some of Burns' work is very much alive. He wrote about the beauty of the Afton Water in a letter and may have composed 'Sweet Afton' here making this river famous worldwide.

Today ...

New Cumnock has created a few lovely tributes in honour of Burns. In the centre of the village in Mary Morrison Memorial Garden is a **Burns statue** with a line from 'Sweet Afton' on it and nearby is a **plough** and some **plaques** with some of his most poignant poetic lines and others marking where he stayed. This is a nice little spot with seating for locals and visitors to catch their breath or catch up with friends.

Nearby is the **Old Mill Inn plaque** marking where he composed 'Ode Sacred to the Memory of Mrs Oswald of Auchincruive' after her funeral displaced him from his planned rest at Whigham's Inn in Sanquhar. He tiredly carried on to The Old Mill Inn where he also wrote a letter describing his welcome 'when a good fire at New Cumnock had so far recovered my frozen sinews.'

Burns wrote of 'charming, wild, romantic scenery' in his letter about the **Afton water** and also wrote two poems about the striking **Corsencon Hill**, a welcome landmark on his travels - 'O Were I On Parnassus Hill' and 'Does Haughty Gaul Invasion Threat'. A **Burns Cairn, Bench and Sweet Afton Plaque** sit on the banks of the Afton water offering a moment to reflect.

FLOW GENTLY SWEET AFTON
AMANG MY GREEN BRAES

Sweet Afton

In New Cumnock Auld Kirk and Kirkyard is the gravestone of Auld Licht Rev James Young from Burns' time.

The nearby town of Cumnock has been innovative in opening The Robert Burns Academy in 2020 celebrating Burns' contribution to education.

AYRSHIRE

The Other Connections



Maybole was where Burns' parents fell in love at a market fair and then had Burns just a year later in Alloway. Burns' mother Agnes lived much of her life in Maybole and his parents married there. The new **Mercat Cross** commemorates this event in Maybole's history. It sits outside Maybole Town Hall where a **Burns Bust** is located upon entry.

North Ayrshire's Three Towns all pay heed to Burns. On the **Ardrossan Memorial** Burns is pictured with Watt and Livingstone. In **Saltcoats, The North Ayrshire Heritage Centre** holds a small collection of books and they are also the custodians of the Council's art collection including Burns works by artists Robert Bryden, George Houston and Graeme McKean. **Stevenston** has a **Bonnie Lesley Memorial**.

Dalrymple has associations with Burns in that he went to school here and also his first real love was Nelly Kilpatrick, the blacksmith's daughter from **Perclewen Mill**. Sadly the school is unmarked and Perclewen Mill is now a housing development.

In **Maidens**, Burns spent time drinking at 'The Cellars' a favourite haunt for smugglers. Douglas Graham, the inspiration for the Tam o' Shanter character, lived in Shanter Farm on the edge of the village.

Ochiltree was home to William Simpson who became a schoolmaster at Ochiltree and Cumnock. He wrote in rhyme to Burns and Burns replied with an epistle to him (within Kilmarnock Edition).

Elsewhere **Muirkirk** has a **John Lapraik Cairn** (friend and fellow poet). Burns' father worked in **Fairlie Estate** (Dundonald) and Burns stayed in **Newmilns** when planning his trip to Jamaica. **Auchincruive** is where the Wallace and Burns Cairn is located.

OR FROSTS ON HILLS OF OCHILTREE ARE HOARY GREY
OR BLINDING DRIFTS WILD FURIOUS FLEE, DARK'NING THE DAY!

To W. Simpson Ochiltree



LAND O' BURNS

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