

When Robert Burns was visiting Paisley, on the 19th February 1788.

Dr Alexander Taylor, was sitting looking out of his windows and saw a man riding up New Street. Imagine his surprise when he recognised it was Robert Burns from descriptions he had from woodcut portraits he had seen, this man was the celebrated bard of Ayrshire, Robert Burns.

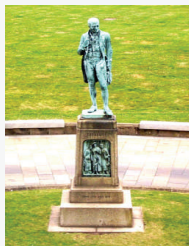
He was invited to the house of Dr Alexander Taylor, 87 High Street at the foot of Churchill (now the site of The Paisley Liberal Club)

He invited the poet into his house to meet his friends Alexander Weir, a cloth merchant at Paisley Cross (came to fame as the merchant that introduced the umbrella to Paisley!) and Alexander Pattison, a Paisley merchant. Pattison was a keen Burns fan. He had been mainly responsible for obtaining ninety-two copies of Burns' Edinburgh edition of poems, published in 1787, for local enthusiasts. Burns wrote to "Clarinda, Mr Pattison did not allow me a moment's respite. I was their for ten hours, during which time I was introduced to nine men worth six thousand; and a young weaver who will have thirty thousand when his father dies." Paisley has always had a fondness, for Robert Burns. We have the worlds Oldest Burns Club, a fine statue of the Poet in the "Fountain Gardens" and Even a line in his masterpiece "Tam O'Shanter" (Her cutty sark o' Paisley harn).

In 2009 Scotland is preparing for the 250th anniversary celebrations of national poet Robert Burns events are taking place throughout Scotland Paisley must take part of the homecoming year. Perhaps another plaque could be added to the town's Heritage Trail commemorating the poet's visit to Paisley.

Robert Tannahill

Born 1774 — Died 1810.



Robert Tannahill founded the Paisley Burns Club 1805. Acting as the first secretary to the Paisley Buns Club. The Club still Survives today and is the oldest Burns Club in the world.

The Tannahill Club was instituted on 25th May, 1858.

"the special object of which shall be to commemorate in all time coming the birthday of Robert Tannahill." In 1866" when a granite tombstone was erected at the poet's grave; in 1872 a memorial tablet was inserted in the wall of the house where he was born in 32 Castle Street (since rebuilt).

Then the centenary anniversary of his birthday was a gala day in Paisley; there was a trades procession and demonstration, arising from which annual open-air concerts were held at "The Glen" from 1876 till 1884, the proceeds of which went to the erection of the monument in the Abbey grounds, designed by W. D. Stevenson, A.R.S.A.

These concerts have since been continued annually; in one instance for the erection of a monument to Robert Burns, and since that in aid of the funds of the Royal Alexandra Infirmary, Paisley.



Portrait of Robert Tannahill
Painted while he was resident in Bolton



Stanely Castle



Robert Burns



The Gleniffer Braes
"The Midgees Dance Aboon The Burn"

2009

January

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