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<https://www.greenockburnsclub.com/statue>



Greenock Burns Club (The Mother Club)

A Registered Scottish Charity SC050627



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E-mail: secretary@greenockburnsclub.com



The National Statue of Robert Burns for the 21st Century



presented by

**Greenock Burns Club
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Our Project

For thousands of years, statues have been one of mankind's greatest tools of memorialisation. They have helped us make sense of our world and to define our beliefs, our politics and our humanity. It is for this reason that Robert Burns is claimed to have more statues in his name than most non-religious figures other than Queen Victoria and Columbus.



During the 19th and 20th centuries there was a race to memorialise Burns in statuary but Greenock, the home of the world's oldest Burns club, erected no such statue, making a conscious decision instead, to focus on the study of Burns through education and the funding of schools' competitions which commenced in 1809 and continue to this day.

In the 21st century, Greenock, the birthplace of the Burns movement, will finally have her Burns statue, with the endorsement of The Robert Burns World Federation.



Why Greenock and Inverclyde?

Inverclyde's connections to Burns are considerable and several of his close friends moved to the area seeking employment. His beloved Highland Mary is buried in the local cemetery and her grave is marked by a handsome monument erected by the club 150 years ago.

The main instigator of the Burns movement and co-founder of the Robert Burns World Federation, Colin Rae Brown, was born in the town and became President of Greenock Burns Club which was established in 1801 and is one of the oldest literary societies in the world.

It is proposed that the new National Statue of Robert Burns will be located on the Greenock waterfront, near to the Ocean Terminal where thousands of cruise-ship visitors disembark: the same quayside from which emigrants boarded ships for the New World and indeed, from where Robert Burns commenced his West Highland tour in 1787.

The statue will be the focal point of a wider heritage trail, taking visitors to Greenock's historic quarter and various locations which have strong connections to the poet.

We invite you to consider donating to our fundraising appeal and have your name associated with this significant, national project. Please email us for details at:

secretary@greenockburnsclub.com



The Sculptor Alexander Stoddart FRSE

Professor Stoddart is Sculptor in Ordinary to Her Majesty The Queen in Scotland.



His sculptures are in strict neo-classical style and he is best known for his civic monuments, including bronzes of David Hume and Adam Smith on the Royal Mile in Edinburgh and others of James Clerk Maxwell, Playfair and John Witherspoon in both Scotland and the USA.

The choice of the Queen's Sculptor in Ordinary and the endorsement by the Robert Burns World Federation emphasises the Club's ambition for a truly world-class statue of Scotland's beloved national bard.

The design for the statue has the poet perched on a rocky outcrop; an outdoor, pastoral depiction. He is seen, not as a radical or an activist nor as a socialist, but simply as a working man and poet.

The figure is clad in the garb of summer, so beloved of Burns. We tend to associate Burns with harsh weather, but this design emphasises his 'floral' profile and thus we arrive at the suggestion of the elements of his poetry focused on love.

