

Atholl HighlanderS Pipes & Drums



Annual Burn's Night Supper



◆ Gathering ◆

A point to greet friends, relax, chat and check out the whisky and beer selection.

◆ Call To Dinner ◆

Tune(s) by Piper & Drummer

◆ Welcome ◆

The chairperson gives a short speech to welcome all and set the evenings tone. He/she will recognize any guests and introduce the high-table and explain who will do what as far as speeches and toasts go.

◆ Selkirk Grace ◆

“Some hae meat and cannot eat.
Some cannot eat
that want it:
But we hae meat
and we can eat,
Sae let the Lord be thankit”

Note: This was not composed by Burns. Rabbie changed it slightly when he was asked to say grace at the end of dinner at the Earl of Selkirks home in 1794. It was common during that time to have both a grace at the beginning and end of a meal. The grace had been known originally as the ‘Galloway Grace’ and also called the ‘Covenanters Grace’. Burns would have recited it in English, changing only the last line to Scottish dialect. From that time on, it was known as the ‘Selkirk Grace’.

◆ Starters: ◆

Cock O' Leekie Soup
Rolls

◆ Parade of the Haggis ◆

The most important event of the evening. The chef, carries in the haggis, following the piper(s) whilst they play an appropriate Burn's or Band tune like “Atholl Highlander's March.” They are followed by a waiter or guest and carrying a bottle of Scotch to the high-table. Sometimes, two bottles are used, held in an “X” like crossed swords or the St. Andrews cross.

They process through the hall and the chef lays the haggis, on it's trencher (platter), before the chairman at the high table. The bottle(s) of Scotch is given to the chairperson.

Burn's Pipe Tunes:

A Man's A Man
Auld Lang Syne
Brose and Butter
Corn Rigs Are Bonny
I Ha'e a Wife O My Ain
Lea Rig
Maggie's Fancy

◆ Address to a Haggis ◆

The Chairman offers the Piper, Chef and Scotch porter a dram of Scotch from a quaich. They may take their seats again.

Note: The Quaich (pronounced "quake", from the Gaelic word "cuach" or "cup") has a rich Scottish heritage. They are a uniquely Scottish invention. The Quaich is a traditional Scottish drinking vessel to offer a guest a dram of whisky as a cup of welcome, as a farewell drink, and in wedding ceremonies as well as a final toast at funerals. Travelers usually carried a quaich with them.



A designated reader recites this poem over the haggis. When cut, the haggis is sliced open with a dirk in an "X" pattern, like the St. Andrews cross of Scotland.

Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,
Great chieftain o' the pudding-race!
Aboon them a' ye tak your place,
Painch, tripe, or thairm :
Weel are ye wordy o'a grace
As lang's my arm.

The groaning trencher there ye fill,
Your hurdies like a distant hill,
Your pin wad help to mend a mill
In time o'need,
While thro' your pores the dews distil
Like amber bead.

His knife see rustic Labour dight,
An' cut you up wi' ready sleight, *
Trenching your gushing entrails bright,
Like ony ditch;
And then, O what a glorious sight,
Warm-reekin', rich!

Then, horn for horn , they stretch an' strive:
Deil tak the hindmost! on they drive,
Till a' their weel-swallow'd kytes belyve
Are bent like drums;
Then auld Guidman, maist like to rive ,
Bethankit! hums.

Is there that owre his French ragout
Or olio that wad staw a sow,
Or fricassee wad make her spew
Wi' perfect sconner ,
Looks down wi' sneering, scornfu' view
On sic a dinner?

Poor devil! see him owre his trash,
As feckless as wither'd rash ,
His spindle shank , a guid whip-lash;
His nieve a nit ;
Thro' bloody flood or field to dash,
O how unfit!

But mark the Rustic, haggis-fed ,
The trembling earth resounds his tread.
Clap in his walie nieve a blade,
He'll mak it whistle ;
An' legs an' arms, an' heads will sned ,
Like taps o' thrissle .

Ye Pow'rs, wha mak mankind your care,
And dish them out their bill o' fare,
Auld Scotland wants nae skinking ware
That jaups in luggies ;
But , if ye wish her gratefu' prayer
Gie her a haggis !"

***At This point, the haggis is sliced in an "X" pattern for the St. Andrews Cross**

The Crowd Toasts "A Haggis", "A Haggis", "A Haggis."
The Reader is offered a dram from the quaich and takes his/her seat. The main meal may now begin. The chairperson can direct everyone to be served.

◆ Main Meal: "Bill O' Fare" ◆

- Rolls (Already Started)
- Cock O' Leekie Soup (Already Started)
- Salad
- Haggis
- Neeps
- Tatties
- Salmon
- Roast Beef
- Desserts
- Bread & More Rolls

Other Options:

Shepherd Pies, Fofar Bridies, Scotch Broth, etc

◆ Songs, music & Toasts ◆



This Photo by Unknown Author

This is the warmup for the "Immortal Memory". The chairperson must orchestrate this portion. Poems, toasts, songs and addresses of the evening follow the meal as glasses are recharged. The Band Burn's Night Tune books are passed about.

Participants should have arrived with selections to read, songs, or tunes to play and take their turn entertaining the other guests. (*Note: The chairman should have some readings prepared for guests who have arrived and want to read or toast or simply need a little encouragement. Don't drag anyone up who does not wish to participate.*)

Readings at our Burn's Night Supper are not restricted to the writings of Burns only. Anything honoring the memory, style and spirit of the Bard is welcome. These can include stories and anecdotes about Burns and his time, poems and songs by other Scottish poets, and original works composed by the celebrants for the occasion.

◆ Immortal Memory OF Robert Burns ◆

The speaker should be familiar with the works and life of Burns and be able to speak of him as an inspiration.

The speaker can develop his/her speech by selecting a theme such as the wit, life, love, respect for the lasses or hopes for humankind that Burns had. It can also be a combination of themes.

The speech should inspire guests to acquaint with his poems and songs and with a better understanding of who he was and what he stood for. The myth of Burns being a drunk and a lecher is still around and if this myth can be sunk then so much the better.

◆ A Toast to the Bard of Ayr ◆

Once the speaker has finished he will ask the company to join him in the toast with the words:

"Ladies and Gentlemen I give you 'The Immortal memory of Robert Burns, the Bard of Ayr!'"

◆ Door Prize ◆

A drawing for a door prize will happen at his point. First prize is a Single malt Scotch of at least a 12 year age. Second Prize will be a Book of Burns Poetry (*Note: This is useful if the first winner is below drinking age!*).

◆ McGonagall Tribute ◆

by Messrs. Jim Thompson & Drum Corp

As a peculiarity of our Band, our Drum Corps prefers to honour William Topaz McGonagall. Thus, we celebrate both the best and worst Poets.

Born in Edinburgh in 1825, of Irish parents, he worked as a weaver in Dundee, Scotland. His life changed when, as he was later to write:

The most startling incident in my life was the time I discovered myself to be a poet, which was in the year 1877.

It was with this that he wrote his first poem An Address to the Rev. George Gilfillan, which showed all the hallmarks that would characterise his later work. Rev. Gilfillan commented "Shakespeare never wrote anything like this".

McGonagall has been widely acclaimed as the worst poet in British history. Only a true master could come up with lines like:

And the cry rang out all round the town,
Good heavens! The Tay Bridge has blown down."
Excerpt from "The Tay Bridge Disaster"

Examples:

What ho! sickly people of high and low degree
I pray ye all be warned by me;
No matter what may be your bodily ills
The safest and quickest cure is Beecham's Pills.

They are admitted to be worth a guinea a box
For bilious and nervous disorders, also smallpox,
And dizziness and drowsiness, also cold chills,
And for such diseases nothing else can equal Beecham's Pills

They have been proved by thousands that have tried them
So that the people cannot them condemn.
Be advised by me one and all
Is the advice of Poet McGonagall

"Beecham's Pills"

Beautiful Railway Bridge of the Silv'ry Tay!
Alas! I am very sorry to say
That ninety lives have been taken away
On the last Sabbath day of 1879,
Which will be remember'd for a very long time

Excerpt from "The Tay Bridge Disaster"

◆ Toast To The Lassies ◆

This is a ritual performed at all Burn's Night assemblies across the world. This toast should be a tactful, light-hearted parody of the Lassies faults, Examples from Burns poetry may be used or you may use examples based on our band's fairer sex. This is not to be either mean-spirited, vicious nor a personal attack.

Example:

"Auld nature swears, the lovely dears
her noblest work she classes, O :
Her prentice hand she try'd on man,
An' then she made the lasses, O."

from "Green grow the Rashes" by Robert Burns

Note: The toast originally was to thank the lasses for preparing the food but nowadays women equally participate in the celebration. I think 'Rabbie' would approve.

◆ Reply From The Lassies ◆

The reply should be in the same vein. It can be a jovial look at the faults, crudity and follies of men in general or the men of the Band, few though they may be. It can be a speech or a poem or both. Burns loved the many women in his life.

Examples:

"And at his elbow, Souter Johnie,
His ancient, trusty, drouthy, crony;
Tam lo'ed him like a very brither;
They had been fou (*drunk*) for weeks thegither"

From "Tam O'Shanter" by Robert Burns

Here's to the men of all classes,
Who through lasses and glasses
Will make themselves asses!

Unknown

"A woman can make an average man great, and a great man
average."

Unknown

◆ Further Songs, music & Toasts ◆

Additional toasts, dancing, group songs, pipes, drums, guitar, harp or fiddle music may happen here. Toasts can be to Scotland, the Band, the Band Toast, or anything else appropriate or that tickles your fancy.

The chairperson must play it by ear and orchestrate the group. Try to keep the music, toasts, singing and readings going as long as everyone is willing and attentive.

◆ Closing Remarks From The Chairman ◆

The chairperson calls on someone to offer a few words of farewell to members and guests. They then thank the chair and organizers for putting the evening together. This is followed by the company joining together and singing “Auld Lang Syne.”.

To start off the singing, everyone forms a circle. As they get to the fifth verse 'And here's a hand my trusty fiere (friend)... ' the guests take their hand grasp the hand of their neighbour on their right. At the phrase “And gie's a hand o' thine”, grab the hand of the neighbour on your left. This draws the circle closer together. Everyone continues singing but moves, still holding hands, towards the centre of the circle then backout.

◆ Auld Lang Syne ◆

Should auld acquaintance be forgot, And never brought to mind
Should auld acquaintance be forgot, And auld lang syne.

chorus:

For auld lang syne, my dear, For auld lang syne,
We'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet, For auld lang syne.

And surely you'll be your pint stowp, And surely I'll be mine,
And we'll drink a richt guid willy waught, For auld lang syne.

[chorus]

We twa hae run about the braes, And pu'd the gowans fine,
But we've wandered monie a wearie fit', Since auld lang syne.

[chorus]

We twa hae paidled in the burn, Frae morning sun till dine
But seas a'tween us braid hae roared, Since auld lang syne

[chorus]

And here's a hand my trusty fiere, (Grab your right neighbors hand)
And gie's a hand o' thine, (grab your left neighbors hand)
And we'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet, For auld lang syne.

[chorus]



Brief History of Robert Burns

Little did tutor John Murdoch know that the young pupil who "made rapid progress in reading and was just tolerable at writing" would grow up to become Scotland's national Bard.

Born in Alloway, Ayrshire, in 1759 to William Burness, a poor tenant farmer, and Agnes Broun, Robert Burns was the eldest of seven. He spent his youth working his father's farm, but in spite of his poverty he was extremely well read - at the insistence of his father, who employed a tutor for Robert and younger brother Gilbert. At 15 Robert was the principal worker on the farm and this prompted him to start writing in an attempt to find "some kind of counterpoise for his circumstances." It was at this tender age that Burns penned his first verse, "My Handsome Nell", which was an ode to the other subjects that dominated his life, namely scotch and women.

When his father died in 1784, Robert and his brother became partners in the farm. However, Robert was more interested in the romantic nature of poetry than the arduous graft of ploughing and, having had some misadventures with the ladies (resulting in several illegitimate children, including twins to the woman who would become his wife, Jean Armour), he planned to escape to the safer, sunnier climes of the West Indies.

However, at the point of abandoning farming, his first collection "Poems- Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect - Kilmarnock Edition" (a set of poems essentially based on a broken love affair), was published and received much critical acclaim. This, together with pride of parenthood, made him stay in Scotland. He moved around the country, eventually arriving in Edinburgh, where he mingled in the illustrious circles of the artists and writers who were agog at the "Ploughman Poet."

In a matter of weeks he was transformed from local hero to a national celebrity, fussed over by the Edinburgh literati of the day, and Jean Armour's father allowed her to marry him, now that he was no longer a lowly wordsmith. Alas, the trappings of fame did not bring fortune and he took up a job as an exciseman to supplement the meagre income. Whilst collecting taxes he continued to write, contributing songs to the likes of James Johnston's "Scot's Musical Museum" and George Thomson's "Select Collection of Original Scottish Airs." In all, more than 400 of Burns' songs are still in existence.

The last years of Burns' life were devoted to penning great poetic masterpieces such as The Lea Rig, Tam O'Shanter and a Red, Red Rose. He died aged 37 of heart disease exacerbated by the hard manual work he undertook when he was young. His death occurred on the same day as his wife Jean gave birth to his last son, Maxwell.

On the day of his burial more than 10,000 people came to watch and pay their respects. However, his popularity then was nothing compared to the heights it has reached since.

On the anniversary of his birth, Scots both at home and abroad celebrate Robert Burns with a supper, where they address the haggis, the ladies and whisky. A celebration which would undoubtedly make him proud.

<http://www.rabbie-burns.com/theman/index.htm>

Graces & Toasts

Assorted Graces

Bless, oh Lord, these delectable vittles;
May they add to your glory,
not to our middles.

Cora Sue Howe, Rome, N.Y. (Our Family's Favorite Grace)

Pray God bless us all," said jolly Robin,
"And our meat within this place;
A cup of sack good, to nourish our blood,
And so I do end my grace."

From Robin Hood and the Butcher, The Oxford Book of Ballads

The Poet's Graces

A pair of graces by Burns, one said before a meal and one afterwards.

O Thou who kindly dost provide
For every creature's want!
We bless Thee, God of Nature wide,
For all thy goodness lent.
And, if it please Thee, heavenly Guide,
May never worse be sent;
But, whether granted or denied,
Lord bless us with content.

(After the meal)

O Thou, in whom we live and move,
Who made the sea and shore;
Thy goodness constantly we prove,
And grateful would adore;
And if it please Thee, Power above!
Still grant us with such store
The friend we trust, the fair we love,
And we desire no more.

Assorted Toasts:

Here's tae us (The Band Toast)

Here's tae us
Wha's like us
Damn few,
And they're a' deid
Mair's the pity!

There's Nae Luck About the Hoose

May the best you've ever seen
Be the worst you'll ever see;
May a moose ne'er leave yer girnal (*girnal- meal chest; moose- mouse*)
Wi' a teardrop in his e'e.
May ye aye keep hale and hearty
Till ye're auld enough tae dee,
May ye aye be just as happy
As I wish ye aye tae be.
Popular toast by Allan Ramsay of Ayr

May those who live truly be always believed,
And those who deceive us be always deceived.

Here's to the men of all classes,
Who through lasses and glasses
Will make themselves asses!

I drink to the health of another,
And the other I drink to is he
In the hope that he drinks to another,
And the other he drinks to is me.

Then let us toast John Barleycorn,
Each man a glass in hand
Andy may his great prosperity
Ne'er fail in old Scotland!

Here's A Bottle

Here's a bottle and an honest man!
What wad ye wish for mair, man?
Wha kens, before his life may end,
What his share may be o' care, man?

Then catch the moments as they fly,
And use them as ye ought, man.
Believe me happiness is shy,
And comes not aye when sought, man!

Robert Burns

Here's Looking at You

Here's to me and here's to you,
And if in the world
There was just us two
And I could promise that nobody knew
Would you?

Weel may we a' be
Ill may we never see;
Here's to the King
And the gude companie.
Here's a health to them that's away,
Here's a health to them that's away,
Here's a health to them that were here shortsyne,
An, canna be here today.

Popular Jacobite toast

Here's to all those that I love.
Here's to all those that love me.
And here's to all those that love those that I love,
And all those that love those that love me.

“Freedom from mobs as well as kings.

An American Revolution Era Toast

“Here’s to the four cardinal sins of man
--stealing, lying, swearing and drinking.
When you steal, steal away from dull companions;
when you lie, lie to protect a lovely lady;
when you swear, swear by your country;
and when you drink, drink with me.”

Jack London, New York, 1903.

“May you live all of the days of your life.”

Jonathan Swift

Eat thy bread with joy,
and drink thy wine with a merry heart.

Ecclesiastes 9:10

“Another glass, Watson!” said Mr. Sherlock Holmes, as he extended
the bottle of Imperial Tokay.

“It is a good wine, Holmes.”

“A remarkable wine, Watson.”

Sir Conan Doyle

“To those gone but not forgotten. And to those forgotten but not gone.”

Shoe Comic 10/27/00

'Tween wine and women, a man's lot is to smart;
For wine makes his head ache, and women, his heart.

(unknown)

Here's hoping that you live forever, and mine is the last voice you hear.

Willard Scott

Let us have wine and women, mirth and laughter,
Sermons and soda-water the day after.

Lord Byron

To temperance - in moderation.

Lem Motlow

Reply From
The
Lasses
2002

BURNS NIGHT “REPLY FROM THE LASSIES”

Comes now the reply from the lassies
- and a bonnie collection are we!
Our heads we have all put together
And written this tribute to thee.

So on this momentous occasion
While possessed of inspiration and time
We immortalize the Atholl Highlanders
In a celebration of wit and bad rhyme:

To the men who go “regimental”
And wear nothing up under their kilt:
We can only grow more sentimental
When you sit with your knees all a-tilt.

For it’s true what they say
- and a word to the wise –
That no matter your wares,
It pays to advertise!

To Drummie Don and Evan the Piping Bear
Who lead us wherever we go,
To Jimmy and his booming bass drum
Keeping tempo, not too fast or too slow.

To Wayne, our favorite damned Yankee:
His musical talents abound
With a wit and a humor so raunchy
They shock and amaze and astound!

To Vitalie, our friend from Estonia
Of his musical talents we rave.
We love the sound of his Samba drum
Like Santana doing “Scotland the Brave”!

And there’s Jerry, the Long Droned Piper:
Of him, well...what more can be said?
He takes his beer like his women:
Full-bodied and with lots of head.

To John Rose and his “road kill” sporran,
To Konrad and Ron on the sides
To sweet Chris, who we’ll miss when he leaves us:
Well...you’re ALL a tremendous source of pride.

So always remember your bonnie lassies,
Even with the passing of time,
For it’s of you that we boast
and now raise a glass in toast:
To the men of the Atholl Highlanders!!

-G.M. Lumsden
January 25, 2002

Checklist

The Checklist

Deposit:

Location:

Seating:

Fire Safe:

People:		Person(s)
Set-up crew	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Chairman	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Gathering Piper	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Haggis Piper	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Scotch Porter (optional)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Grace	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Reader for Haggis Address	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Clean-up crew	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Taxi Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Food		Chef(s)
Rolls / Bread	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Cock O'Leekie Soup	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Salad	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Haggis	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Neeps	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Tatties	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Salmon	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Roast Beef	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Other Food Options:		
Shepherd Pies	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Fofar Bridies	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Scotch Broth	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Desserts	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Materials:		Person(s)
Tables / Chairs	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Serving Tables	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Sound system	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Napkins / Linens	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Plates / Glasses / Cutlery	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
recipie Book for Sale	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Tickets for drawing	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Book For Drawing	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Single Malt Scotch for Drawing	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Maps	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Programmes	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Return Leased Items	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

Appendix E

Links & Resources

http://www.robertburns.org	Excellent online collection of works
http://www.rabbie-burns.com	Good resource
http://www.auldlangsyne.org/	another guid site
http://www.robertburns.plus.com/	Burns Life and Times and stories behind the songs.
http://www.robertburns.plus.com/Analysis.htm	Analysis of Burns Poems
http://www.bartleby.com/100/315.html	Familiar Burns Quotes From Bartleby.
http://sunsite.unc.edu/gaelic/Scots/burns.html	Recorded readings of a few poems.
http://members.shaw.ca/micheil/burns/burns.htm	This will help you understand the language and vocabulary of Robert Burns.
http://www.robertburns.org/toast.html	A good 'Toast to the Lassies' example.
http://www.smart.net/~tak/burnsnight.html	Tom Kreitberg's quick list and sequence of events, with recipes.
http://www.robertburns.plus.com/Essays.htm	Essays on Robert Burns
http://www.allowaypublishing.co.uk/	Alloway Publishing, Publishers of Burns books published in 'Burns Country'.