

What is Burns Night?

Burns Night is a Scottish tradition to celebrate the life and poetry of Robert Burns. The celebrations take place on the 25 January.

Robert Burns was born on 25 January 1759. Burns spent his life writing poetry and most famously 'Auld Lang Syne' which is sung at New Year celebration in Scotland and around the world. He is one of the most famous and important cultural figures of Scotland and is known around the world.

Did you know that Robert Burns is also known as Rabbie Burns, the Bard of Ayrshire, Scotland's favourite son, and in Scotland The Bard.

Burns night first was held in July on the anniversary of his death, by close acquaintances. The date was then later changed to his birthday, the 25 January. Burns night is now celebrated around the world.

What will you find at a Burns Night?

Scottish flags will be displayed around the room, men will tend to wear kilts and woman may wear a shawl or dress in their family's tartan.

Did you know that tartan was originally a woollen cloth weaved with different colours and patterns. Different areas and families have different coloured tartans. Tartans today are printed on many different materials.

Traditional food tends to be served at Burns Night, most famously Haggis Neaps and Tatties! You might also find a cock-a-leekie-soup, cranachan and bannocks. Whisky is the traditional drink.

What is a Ceilidh? A Ceilidh is a social gathering which involves dancing and music. Today you will find Ceilidhs at Burns night celebrations or Scottish weddings.