



As we celebrate Ayrshire's Son and Scotland's National Bard, it's amazing to think of how he influenced the world.

“Hope Springs Exulting on Triumphant Wing”.

- **Robert Burns** was the first person to ever feature on a commemorative bottle of Coca Cola
- **Bob Dylan** revealed that ‘My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose’ was his source of greatest creative inspiration
- **It is claimed** that Michael Jackson’s smash hit Thriller was inspired by the Tam O’Shanter epic
- **Auld Lang Syne** has appeared in over 170 Hollywood films
- **At pedestrian crossings** in Japan, the sound indicating that a walker can cross is a rendition of ‘Coming Through The Rye’
- **Abraham Lincoln** could recite Burns’ works by heart
- **Burns fathered** at least 13 children by four different women. His wife, Jean Armour, gave birth to nine of his children, but only three survived infancy. Burns’ oldest child, Elizabeth was born after he had an affair with his mother’s servant and his youngest son Maxwell, was born on the day of his funeral
- **John Steinbeck** took the title of his 1937 novel ‘Of Mice and Men’ from ‘To a Mouse’ - ‘the best laid schemes o’ men an’ men gang aft agley’
- **American designer** Tommy Hilfiger claims to be a great, great, great nephew of Robert Burns
- **Astronaut Nick Patrick** carried a miniature book of Burns poetry on a two week long space mission with him in 2010. It completed a 5.7 million mile trip and 217 orbits of the earth
- **There are more statues,** monuments and memorials dedicated to Robert Burns than any other non-religious figure, after Queen Victoria and Christopher Columbus including one in New York’s Central Park

Warmest Kindred Greetings from Ayr Burns Club, January 2020