

Welcome to the first Education UK Scotland update for 2004!! We've got lots for you this month – Scholarships, Robert Burns, our conference, famous alumni, events and quite an impressive list of Scottish inventions!

Our calendar of events also shows some of the key activities planned for the year.

'Rabbie' Burns Night



Robert Burns is Scotland's national poet. World famous as the writer of *Auld Lang Syne*. Burns had an affinity for words, women, wine and the haggis! And is one of the most famous characters in Scottish cultural history.

His importance is immense, not only in terms of his fascinating story and his work... but as a living tradition, carried from generation to generation throughout the World.

Everyone, everywhere, who joins in the celebration of Scotland, Scottish heritage or Scottish culture, will witness references to Robert Burns

The first recorded Burns celebration was held in July 1801 on the anniversary of his death. Later this would change to the evening of the anniversary of his birth - 25th January 1759, and would become "Burns Night" with the focal point being the "Burns Supper"

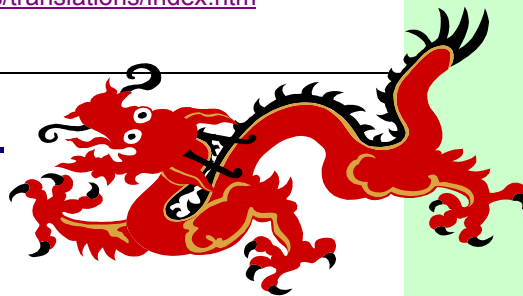
During the celebration, Burns poems are read, and the haggis is addressed by a member of the party, ceremonially, in the form of verses from Burns' poem, 'Address to a Haggis.' A typical meal for Burns Night would include Cock-a-Leekie (chicken and leek soup), Haggis with Tatties-an'-Neeps (potatoes and swede), Roastit Beef (roast beef), Topsy Laird (sponge dessert), and cheese.

If you haven't had the pleasure of eating haggis maybe a description of what it is will entice you... Haggis is a sheep's stomach filled with chopped liver, heart and lungs, oatmeal, suet, onion and spices. There is a huge variety of haggis available including vegetarian options. It really is very tasty!

To read some of Burns work (with English translations) see: <http://www.worldburnsclub.com/poems/translations/index.htm>

Burns with a twist..

The fifth annual Chinese New Year Burns' supper saw 500 Canadians celebrate the bard's 245th birthday with a 12 course meal including chicken feet and haggis won tons. The event, which started out as a student prank at a Vancouver college, featured Chinese men in kilts, the traditional address to a haggis, highland dancers, Mandarin singers, pipers and readings of Chinese and Burns' poetry.



Source: Metro

Key activities for 2004...

February 2004

4th Education UK Scotland Bi-annual conference, Glasgow
22nd- 27th Education fairs in Mexico (Liz Neil)
9th- 15th Education fairs in India (Lyndsey Hayes)
21st- 29th Education Fairs in China (Mark Simmons)

March 2004

13th- 20th Inward mission of agents from China
23rd Team away day – planning and strategy meetings
from 22nd Annual evaluation – sector visits
17th tbc Gulf working group

April 2004

20th- 23rd Gulf Education and Training Exhibition, Dubai
31st Russia working group meeting

May 2004

Launch of new CD ROM
19th Committee meeting
tbc Inward visit of international journalists
23rd- 28th NAFSA conference, USA (Mark Simmons)

June 2004

Annual report available
tbc US Counsellors tour

July 2004

August 2004

25th Committee meeting

September 2004

Education UK fairs, Kenya
Education UK fairs, Russia

October 2004

Eduferia Britainica, Colombia / Venezuela (tbc)
Education UK fairs, Brazil (tbc)

November 2004

Education UK fairs, Vietnam
Education UK fairs, India



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www.friendsofscotland.gov.uk

Scholarships highlight

The University of Edinburgh Undergraduate India Scholarships
Scholarships are worth £3,000 and are tenable for the duration of the course of study. Available for the College of Humanities and Social Science, and College of Science and Engineering. For more information see:
<http://www.scholarships.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/internat/india.htm>

The University of Edinburgh Indian Master's Scholarships
Scholarships are worth £3,000 and are tenable for one academic year in any postgraduate (Taught Course) subject. For more information see: <http://www.scholarships.ed.ac.uk/postgraduate/internat/India.htm>

University of Stirling
A scholarship is offered to overseas students based on academic merit, which covers 50% of tuition fees for the Legal and Political Philosophy (MPhil). For further details contact the International Office, University of Stirling. Email: international@stir.ac.uk

Gordonstoun School - The Kenya Scholarship
This is a special award for candidates who are resident in Kenya and attending an IAPS School there. Candidates for the Kenya Scholarship may be submitted for either an Academic Scholarship or an All Round Scholarship or both. The scholarship value is up to half fees. The Scholarships are for the duration of a School career and are subject to review each year in the light of progress in all aspects of School life. Special attention will be paid to the Head's report and it will not normally be necessary for candidates to travel to Gordonstoun for interview.

Further information is available from : The Director of Student Admissions, Development and Welfare or The Admissions Secretary, Gordonstoun School, Elgin, Moray IV30 5RF.
Tel : (01343) 837829, Email : admissions@gordonstoun.org.uk
Website : www.gordonstoun.org.uk

Look up old friends...

UK alumni can look up their old classmates on the following websites, and most institutions offer their own alumni services.

<http://www.oldschoolmates.co.uk/>
<http://www.friendsreunited.co.uk>

Friends Reunited also includes organisations and clubs – so you can look up all your old **British Council** colleagues too!

Although the Scots comprise less than one-half of 1 percent of the world's population, 11 percent of all Nobel prizes have been awarded to Scotsmen.

Quote from "The Mark of the Scots" by Duncan A Bruce

Famous Scottish Alumni

Contemporary figures that have benefited from a Scottish education include...

Prince Charles, Prince Andrew and Prince Edward who all went to Gordonstoun School, Morayshire

Prince William is currently studying at the University of St Andrews



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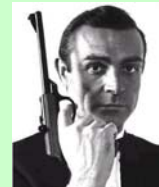
Tony Blair, British Prime Minister went to Fettes College in Edinburgh



Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer graduated from the University of Edinburgh

Lara Croft, fictional character from Tomb Raider supposedly attended Gordonstoun School

Sean Connery, Actor, went to Bruntsfield Primary School in Edinburgh



Euan McGregor, Actor, attended Morrison's Academy, Perthshire & Fife College Kirkcaldy



Helena Kennedy, Chair of the British Council, attended Holyrood Secondary School, Glasgow

James Black, Nobel Prize winner, graduated from University of St Andrews

Fresh Talent...

One of the items on the agenda for discussion at the Education UK Scotland conference was the Fresh Talent Initiative. The First Minister announced the initiative in February 2003. It was established in response to recent demographic projections suggesting Scotland's population is ageing and declining and will continue to do so.

The Initiative has focussed on four key areas:

1. Promoting Scotland as a place to live and work;
2. Promoting Scotland as a destination for people applying for UK work permits;
3. Encouraging Students at Scottish universities to stay in Scotland
4. Improving first impressions of Scotland on arrival, be it business travellers, migrants, students or tourists.

The key objective of this initiative therefore is to put in place the measures to address these priority areas with a view to attracting and retaining 'talented' people to live and work in Scotland.

A few things the Scots gave the world...

- The decimal point
- Logarithms
- The Bank of England
- The overdraft
- Cannabis (the active principle)
- Documentary films
- Colour photographs
- Encyclopaedia Britannica
- Postcards
- The gas mask
- Theory of Combustion
- The advertising film
- The bus
- The steam engine
- The locomotive
- The fax machine
- The photocopier
- Video
- The telephone
- Television
- Radar
- Helium
- Neon
- The telegraph
- Street lighting
- The lawnmower
- Kinetic energy
- Electric light
- The alpha chip
- The thermos flask
- The hypodermic syringe
- Finger-printing
- The kaleidoscope
- Anaesthesia
- Antiseptics
- Golf clubs
- The 18 hole golf course
- Tennis courts
- The bowling green
- Writing paper
- The thermometer
- The gravitating compass
- The threshing machine
- Insulin
- Penicillin
- Interferon
- The pneumatic tyre
- The pedal bicycle
- The modern road surface
- Geology
- Artificial Ice
- Morphine
- Ante-natal clinics
- Bovril
- Marmalade
- The self acting fountain pen
- The mackintosh
- Gardenias
- Dolly, the cloned sheep

Not bad really for a country with less than 5 million people!!

Taken from *Scotland The Best* by Peter Irvine



The Education UK Scotland bi-annual Conference 2004

On the 4th of February over 120 Education professions from all sectors across Scotland came together for the Education UK Scotland bi-annual conference.

A keynote presentation by Suzanne Alexander from ECS looked at the international activity of other countries, and John Alexander of the Promotion of Scotland Division of the Scottish Executive talked about the First Minister's *Fresh Talent* initiative to attract talent to Scotland. Breakout session included marketing on a budget, working with agents, using alumni and promoting FE as well as selling Scotland, and British Council services. The event was very well received and was a great networking opportunity for those who attended.

Scottish Marketing Materials

All British Council offices will shortly receive a pack of all of our marketing materials as well as generic resource information on Scotland and Scottish education. We are currently producing a new interactive CD ROM and Study Scotland brochure on Scotland's universities. Schools and FE materials will also be produced.

Additional copies of all materials are available on request. Simply e-mail us at this address:

educationukscotland@britishcouncil.org



Brochures

Leaflets

CD ROMs

Bookmarks

Bags

Pens