



Allan Dorans

MP for Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock

February 2024 Newsletter



Foreword

The undoubted **highlight** of the last month in Westminster was the visit and performances by a group from **Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra**, in honour of **Burns' 265th birthday**.

It was a moment of great pride for me to welcome the group and witness the terrific reception their performances received. With the permission of Mr Speaker, they entertained MPs and guests by playing to highly appreciative audiences in the Strangers' Bar and Strangers' Dining Room. (A privilege not usually granted). Together with Dr Philippa Whitford MP, we were able to organise a tour for them of the Houses of Parliament including the House of Commons Chamber, Library, Terrace, and their attendance at Prime Ministers' Questions.

It is testament to the youngsters' hard work, the dedication of the AFO leaders and the generosity of its patrons that this wonderful organisation continues to go from strength to strength while promoting Ayrshire and our musical heritage. These extremely talented young people are outstanding ambassadors for Ayrshire, Scotland and their parents and AFO should rightly, be very proud of them.

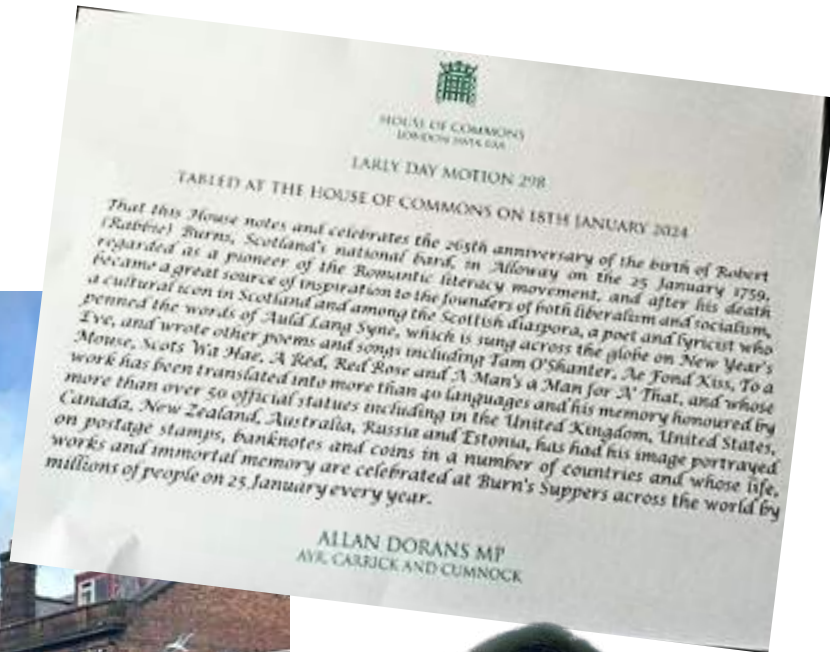


Early Day Motion Tribute to Robert Burns

Early Day Motions (EDMs) are used to put on record the views of individual MPs or to highlight specific events or campaigns worthy of note.



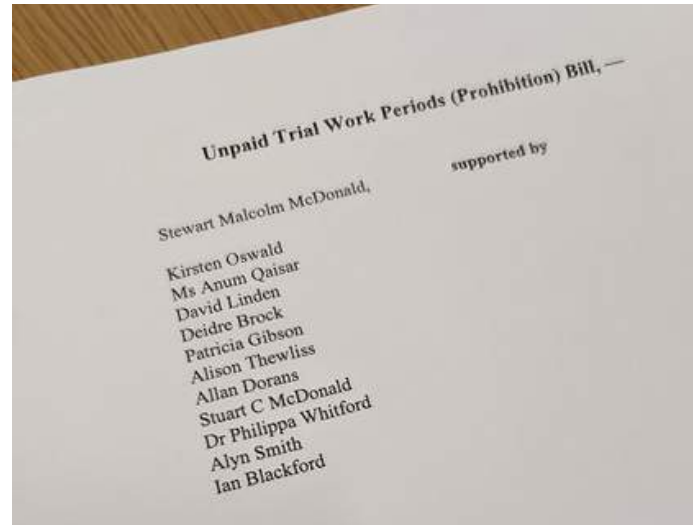
On **January 25th** I was privileged to join **Ayr Burns Club** and a group of Burns enthusiasts to lay a floral tribute to Robert (Rabbie) Burns, Scotland's national Bard, on the 265th anniversary of his birth in Alloway, and to present an Early Day Motion which I had tabled at Westminster, noting his birth and **highlighting his legacy**, to **Mac McCrostie**, President of Ayr Burns Club.



Support for a Bill to prohibit unpaid work trials

My colleague, **Stewart McDonald MP** presented a Bill to Parliament aimed at **banning unpaid trial shifts**, which exploit the time and skills of job seekers.

I am happy to add my support to the Bill. A fair day's work deserves a fair day's pay. The Bill is due to be read for the second time on March 15th.



Wellington School Visit



I was pleased to be invited to speak with the students of **S3 Modern Studies Class** at **Wellington School, Ayr** about my role as a Member of Parliament.

I met a clearly motivated, enthusiastic group of students with a great interest in, and understanding of politics and current issues.

They posed many searching, pertinent questions and their depth of understanding was impressive.



Time to Talk Day/ Children's Mental Health Week

As you may be aware the importance of **looking after our mental health** is an issue I am concerned about and therefore I was happy to be able to show my support for the annual time to talk initiative, run in Scotland by www.semescotland.org.

It's important that we all do our bit to reduce the stigma all too often attached to speaking openly about mental health.

It is a quite astounding fact that **50% of those with lifetime mental health problems first experience symptoms by the age of 14.**

From **5 – 11 th February** [#ChildrensMentalHealthWeek](https://twitter.com/ChildrensMentalHealthWeek), @ Place2Be shone a spotlight on the importance of children and young people's mental health.

Learn more at childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk



Police Scotland – Domestic Abuse



In my role as the Scottish National Party's spokesperson on policing at Westminster I wrote an article for Policing Insight, the international Police publication which is read by senior Police Officers throughout the world, after it reported significant differences in the response to domestic violence disclosure

applications in England and Wales and highlighting my belief that a similar disclosure scheme in Scotland has been much more successful, as have wider efforts to reduce violent crime north of the border.

Banning Trophy Hunters

I joined **animal rights activist Peter Egan** in Parliament to demonstrate my continuing **support for a ban on Trophy Hunting**

www.bantrophyhunting.org



New Cumnock Development Trust

As Parliament is currently in recess, I was pleased to be able to visit New Cumnock and meet with **Sheena Boyd**, Development Manager and **Trustees of the New Cumnock Development Trust**, which has received funding from the Scottish Government, UK Government and East Ayrshire Council to purchase the currently derelict, former **Trotters Building**.

The building will be redeveloped by the Trust as a **multi purpose community facility** which will include a community cafe, event space, pop up shop, flexible offices space and a community workshop. Photo shows the Trustees along with John Lamont MP, Brian Whittle MSP and Sharon Dowe MSP and I.



Whilst there took a moment to pay tribute to the Bard, Robert Burns who had many connections with the town.

Robert Burns World Federation Ltd.