

ULSTER-SCOTS EDUCATION

January

aye lairnin • always learning



2026

**Wishing youse aa a guid yeir*
as 2026 begins!**

New things often start in the New Year, and we'll be introducing new STEAM and WAU resources in the next few months, so watch this space!

**you all a good year*

Ulster-Scots Innovators

There are a wealth of Ulster-Scots innovators and inventors who can easily slot into topics you're already covering in class. We're creating brand new **STEAM** resources for you to use, with activities and science experiments related to the field of study of each innovator.

The first three innovators are **Annie Maunder, Thomas Andrews** and **John Clarke**.

Their work in astronomy, mechanical engineering and the development of new plant varieties respectively, still play an important role in their fields today.

Each **Innovator Pack** has a teacher & a pupil booklet containing guidance, biographies, research activities and science experiments, as well as slides.



01/02



Focus Group

Would you be interested in helping us shape future educational resources? Or perhaps you could help us by allowing us to deliver pilot workshops in your classroom, or by trying out new resources before they go live?

Click this [link](#) to sign up, selecting the areas you would be interested in, and we'll get in contact with you shortly.



Young Kelvin Prize

Our AS/A Level and Leaving Certificate physics competition, **The Young Kelvin Prize 2026**, has just been launched. We're asking students to showcase the work of Lord Kelvin, either as a team or on their own.

This year there are four categories, with **prizes** ranging from **£250 to £1000**. **Further details** can be found [here](#).





Robert Burns

Robert Burns was born in Alloway, Scotland on 25 January 1759. He grew up in a poor family. They lived on a farm and Robert had to work hard on the farm, from early morning to late evening. His parents insisted that he was educated and encouraged him to read from an early age. This helped to develop his love of poetry.

Robert wrote his first poem, **O Once I Lov'd A Bonnie Lass**, when he was only fifteen, to win favour with another of his great interests - women! He published his first book of poems in 1786, mainly in Scots. He wrote many famous poems like **Tam O'Shanter**, **To A Mouse** and **A Red, Red Rose**. **Auld Lang Syne** is sung all over the world on New Year's Eve to celebrate friendship as the new year begins.

During the late 1700s, he was as famous in Belfast as he was in Scotland. His poems were sought after, read, memorised and recited by many in the Ulster-Scots community. Find out more about Belfast's Bonnie Burns [here](#).

Burns Night

The first Burns Night was held in 1801, five years after he died to commemorate his life and writings. Those who gathered celebrated Burns through speeches, and of course, the haggis! This tradition still continues today, and we celebrate his poems on his birthday every year, 25th January.

The Selkirk Grace and the **'Address to a Haggis'** are always read at Burns Night.

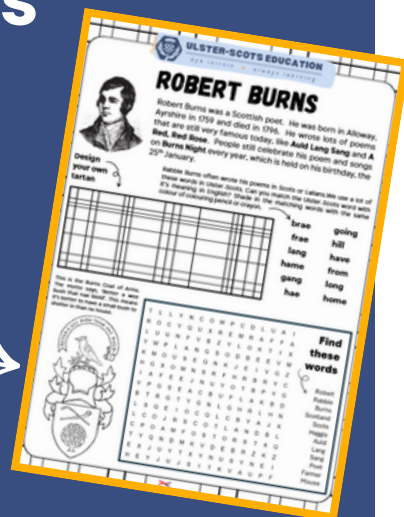
Why not create your own Burns Celebration in class and [listen](#) to Matthew read the grace? You can find Address to a Haggis [here](#).



Robert Burns Resources

Check out page 18 in our **Dreich Days*** workbook for an activity sheet on Robert Burns.

[Twinkl](#) have some great resources, packs and individual activities.



[BBC Bitesize](#) have a range of videos, assembly plans and activities.

In **Stories Frae The Loanen**, they talk about Robert Burns and some of his poems, perfect for the **coul wunter days ahead***. You can find some resources for [Up in the Morning Early](#) at [BBC Bitesize](#).

Find out more for yourself about Robert Burns from from the [Gibson Collection](#) at the [Linenhall Library](#).

**dull days, cold winter days ahead*