## Combined Probus Club of Belrose Inc.



## January 2024 Newsletter Magazine Section

# FRIENDSHIP, FELLOWSHIP AND FUN

### 2024 HAPPY NEW YEAR































































#### "Auld Lang Syne"

The song is Scottish, which is fitting when you consider that in Scotland the New Year's celebration known as Hogmanay is of outsize importance (in Edinburgh, the festivities last days!). This cultural standard can be traced to the Scottish Reformation era. when early Puritans and **Presbyterians** restricted Christmas festivities. deemed extravagant and superstitious, to a bare minimum, making way for Hogmanay to take centre stage as the main winter event.

#### What does "Auld Lang Syne" mean?

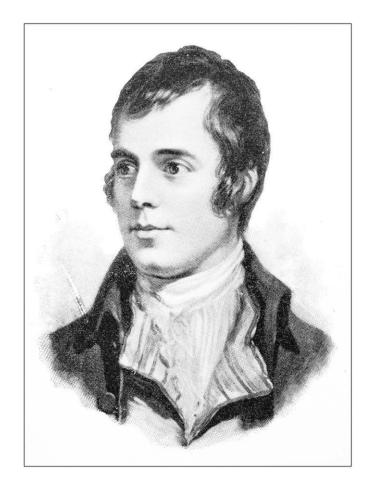
"Auld Lang Syne" is a Scots phrase that literally translates to "old long since," but has taken on a more fluid definition along the lines of "for old time's sake" or "the olden days." Often misclassified as an **English** West dialect. Scots is Germanic а language unique to Scotland, with a literary tradition that dates back to the early Middle Ages.

### Where does "Auld Lang Syne" come from?

The "Auld Lang Syne" song lyrics we know today are derived from a late-18th century poem by Scottish bard Robert Burns (1759-1796). The song reflects upon old friendships that have stood the test of time, and begins with a rhetorical question, "Should auld acquaintance be forgot?" (No. course not, we can assume as the sentimental song continues.) Traces of the original Scots language are still today's lyrics there. but are comparatively easy to decipher:

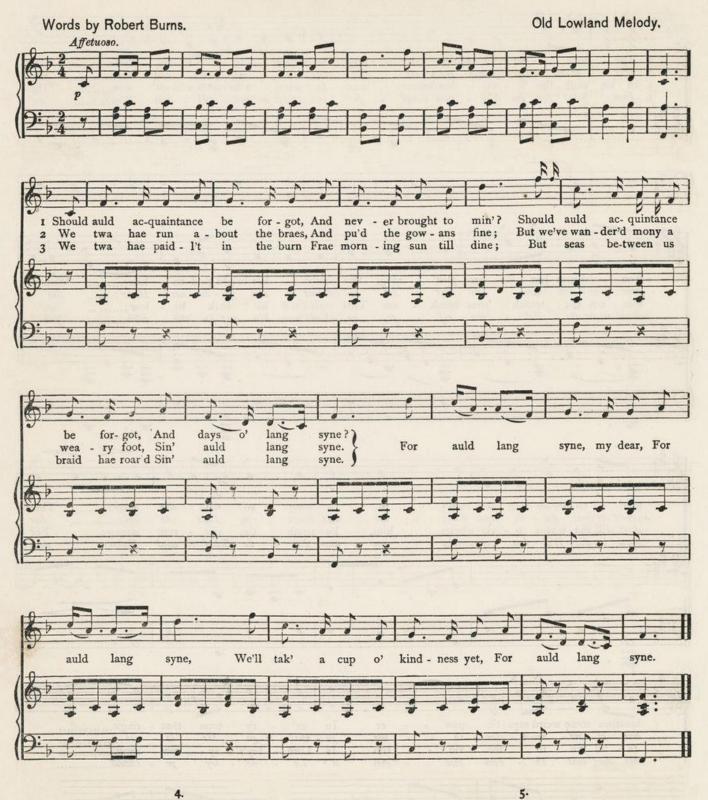
In his letters, Burns indicated that he simply put to paper an old Scottish song. In 1788, he wrote to a friend about the "exceedingly expressive" Scotch phrase "Auld lang syne," adding that he was enclosing the verses to "an old song and tune which has often thrilled through my soul." The verses he sent are the earliest written version of the song we sing today.

Later, Burns wrote to publisher George Thomson that the poem was an "old Song of the olden times, and which has never been in print, nor even in manuscript, until I took it down from an old man's singing."



Robert Burns

#### AULD LANG SYNE.



And there's a hand, my trusty frien,'
And gie's a hand o' thine;
And we'll tak' a right gude willy-waught
For auld lang syne.
For auld lang syne, etc.

And surely ye'll be your pint stoup
As surely I'll be mine!
And we'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.
For auld lang syne, etc.