

Host Your Own Burns Supper for Waverley Care

How does the evening look?

There are many traditional parts to a Burns Supper and you can use as many or as few as you like. The most important one is to “Toast The Haggis” before digging in.

1. Welcome Your Guests!

Allocate a chairperson for the evening (usually the host) and thank your guests for coming. This is the perfect opportunity to also talk about Waverley Care and the impact that it has on those living with, or at risk of, HIV and hepatitis in Scotland. We have lots of content on our website and some great videos on our [YouTube channel](#).

2. The Selkirk Grace – not written by Burns, but a staple at any Burns Supper!

"Some hae meat and canna eat,
And some wad eat that want it;
But we hae meat and we can eat,
And sae the Lord be thankit".

3. Piping In The Haggis –

Unless you have a piper in your circle of friends, then we recommend that you play ‘A Man’s A Man For A’ That’ to welcome in the signature dish.

4. Address To The Haggis and Toast –

It's time for a performance – ask one of your guests to recite (and act out if they are partial to some dramatic flair) Burn's famous Address To The Haggis and ensure that you toast the Chieftain o' the Puddin-race before serving up!

Address To The Haggis

Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,
Great Chieftain o' the Puddin-race!
Aboon them a' ye tak your place,
Painch, tripe, or thairm:
Weel are ye wordy of a grace
As lang 's my arm.

The groaning trencher there ye fill,
Your hurdies like a distant hill,
Your pin wad help to mend a mill
In time o' need,
While thro' your pores the dews distil
Like amber bead.
His knife see Rustic-labour dight,
An' cut ye up wi' ready slight,
Trenching your gushing entrails bright,
Like onie ditch;
And then, O what a glorious sight,
Warm-reekin, rich!
Then, horn for horn, they stretch an' strive:
Deil tak the hindmost, on they drive,
Till a' their weel-swallow'd kytes belyve
Are bent like drums;
Then auld Guidman, maist like to rive,
Bethankit hums.

Is there that owre his French ragout,
Or olio that wad staw a sow,
Or fricassee wad mak her spew
Wi' perfect sconner,
Looks down wi' sneering, scornfu' view
On sic a dinner?
Poor devil! see him owre his trash,
As feckless as a wither'd rash,
His spindle shank a guid whip-lash,
His nieve a nit;
Thro' bluidy flood or field to dash,
O how unfit!
But mark the Rustic, haggis-fed,
The trembling earth resounds his tread,
Clap in his wallee nieve a blade,
He'll make it whistle;
An' legs, an' arms, an' heads will sned,
Like taps o' thrissle.
Ye Pow'rs wha mak mankind your care,
And dish them out their bill o' fare,
Auld Scotland wants nae skinking ware
That jaups in luggies;
But, if ye wish her gratefu' prayer,
Gie her a Haggis!

5. The Immortal Memory –

Now that you've had yer fill, it's time to focus on the main man himself. Invite one of your guests to give a short history of Rabbie's life and works and remember to raise your glasses for a toast!

6. Toast to the Lassies –

Now the fun really begins. Invite one of your guests (usually a man) to pay tribute to all of the ladies gathered. This can be funny, witty but never insulting...gie the lassies the respect they deserve!

7. Reply on behalf of the Lassies –

It's now the lassies' turn to reply and this can be as funny as you like – in contrast to the Toast To The Lassies, this reply is encouraged to poke fun at your male counterparts. Go nuts!

8. Vote of thanks –

The host gives thanks to everyone for attending and making it such a belter of an evening!



9. Auld Lang Syne –

Burns wrote this world-renowned song of friendship, so it's only right to sign it through to celebrate those present and those who are missed as you make your way home.

Scots Translation

Words

Bairn
Child

Braw
Good, or brilliant

Bide
Wait or stay

Bowfing
Smelly, Horrible.

Clyping
Tell story/tales

Coo
Cow

Crabbit
Grumpy or ill-tempered.

Dinnae
Don't

Feart
Afraid

Ken
I Know

Tattie
Potato

Wheesht
Quiet

Phrases

Am Pure done in
I'm feeling very tired.

Haud yer wheesht!
Be quiet.

Ah dinnae ken
I don't know.

Haste Ye Back!
Farewell saying meaning "return soon"

Gie it lald.
Do something with gusto.

Lang may yer lum reek!
May you live long and stay well.

Whit's fur ye'll no go by ye!
What is for you will not go by you,
meaning, what will be, will be.

Gonnae no' dae that
Don't do that!

