

An app's an app an a' that

✘ The complete works of Robert Burns, Scotland's National Bard, have been made available free of charge on the iPhone for the first time.

The new iPhone app allowing enthusiasts around the world to download and instantly access Burns' poetry has been developed by The Scottish Government. The app includes a searchable database of every poem written by Burns, a summary of facts about the poet's life and a guide to hosting a Burns Supper.

Culture Minister Fiona Hyslop said:-“Robert Burns is Scotland's greatest cultural icon, recognised and celebrated all around the world. His legacy is of incalculable value to Scotland and the country's image abroad. This app uses the very latest technology to bring Burns firmly into the 21st century, with his enduring messages of human equality and international brotherhood now available to iPhone users the world over. It will appeal to existing admirers of Burns and make his poetry available to a whole new audience. It is a great platform to promote his work on the international stage.”

Burns Night on January 25 marks the end of Scotland's Winter Festivals.

The launch of the app, compatible with iPhone and iPad, comes ahead of the opening of the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum this week in Ayrshire. Perhaps this means that this year Tam O'Shanter will no longer be performed by heart – but by someone brandishing an iPhone in his hand...?

You can download it from [Itunes here](#).