

The **Mothers' Union** outing this year was to Ellisland, the farm just outside Dumfries where Robert Burns lived. This was the first house he lived in as a married man, and he designed his own farmhouse with an unusual feature. He arranged for the study/ sitting room to have windows on two walls, one overlooking the River Nith and the other the farmyard. Here he wrote many poems including "Tae a mouse" and "Auld Lang syne".

He loved to walk along the river bank and is said to have composed "Tam o' Shanter" in one day after such a walk. We were shown round by two knowledgeable guides and after a short film on Burns' life at Ellisland and a study of the artefacts in the museum, we were shown round the farmhouse, which has been enlarged since Burns lived there.

Following in his footsteps, though not literally, we made our way to Friars Carse for a superb afternoon tea. Kim entertained us first with some architectural connections between, Burns, Friars Carse and St. John's church and after that we tucked in, drinking gallons of tea and eating a great many cakes. We even managed to take home some 'doggie bags' to enjoy later. Thanks were given to Kim for arranging such an interesting afternoon and to the hotel for the lovely spread.

We now look forward to our two strawberry teas, both fully booked, our involvement in the Bear Fest and then to our celebrations for our centenary year. The programme is prepared and we would love to see some more members to swell our numbers. Please contact any of the Office Bearers if you would like to know more.

