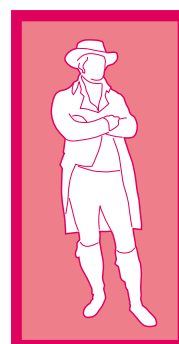
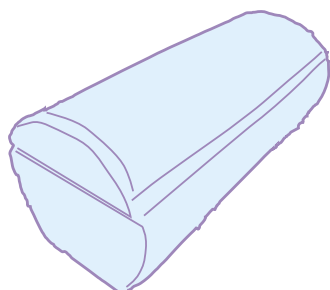


## The Bachelors Club, Tarbolton: Virtual Visit Lessons

<b>Overview</b>	In this lesson pupils explore entertainment of Burns' day. They are encouraged to debate issues, as Burns would have, mirroring the activities of Burns and his friends in the Bachelors' Club.
<b>Background Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Whilst farming on nearby Lochlea Farm, Burns first came with his sisters to the dancing club held in this building.</li> <li>&gt; It was the biggest room in the village</li> <li>&gt; Burns decided to start a debating society with friends in the upstairs room of this building</li> <li>&gt; They called the society The Bachelors' Club, because members initially had to be bachelors to join</li> <li>&gt; The club's members had to adhere to strict rules</li> </ul>
<b>Curricular Links</b>	<p>5-14 Environmental Studies (Levels C / D):</p> <p>People in the Past – People events and societies of significance from the past Change, continuity, cause and effect Time and historical sequence Nature of historical evidence People in Society / Citizenship – Rules, Rights and Responsibilities in Society</p>
<b>Learning outcomes</b>	<p>Pupils will recognise that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; In Burns' time, entertainment was simple in nature</li> <li>&gt; The Bachelors' Club rules were devised to be adhered to by members just as rules are made in institutions and the wider community today</li> <li>&gt; Debating is a way of airing views on a chosen subject. One such use of debating used today to discuss topical issues, is in the Scottish Parliament / House of Commons / House of Lords / etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Plan a sequence of activities for tackling an enquiry</li> <li>&gt; Suggest sources of information to assist in enquiry tasks</li> <li>&gt; Select known enquiry methods / equipment to access, select and record information</li> <li>&gt; Select and record specific information from a variety of sources</li> <li>&gt; Make judgements about usefulness / reliability of information / evidence</li> <li>&gt; Present findings communicating key points clearly</li> <li>&gt; Present conclusions giving reasons</li> <li>&gt; Present conclusions and justify with reference to evidence</li> </ul>
<b>Resources Required</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Bachelors' Club, Tarbolton Virtual Tour</li> <li>&gt; Rules of the Bachelors' Club Sheet</li> <li>&gt; Scottish Country Dance Music of your choice</li> <li>&gt; Map of Scotland Sheet</li> </ul>



## The Bachelors Club, Tarbolton: Pre Visit Activity Details

### Discussion Compare And Contrast Entertainment Then and Now

In Burns' time, entertainment was simple in nature for the poor. Discuss reasons why – lack of money, transport, communication etc.

Discuss with pupils the types of entertainment people would have taken part in at home – storytelling, singing, making their own music, playing games, simple toys for children, reading the bible (books were only for the very rich)

Discuss with pupils the types of entertainment people would have taken part in outwith the home – dances with live music, going to taverns, going to a local festival / fair once a year, going for walks etc.

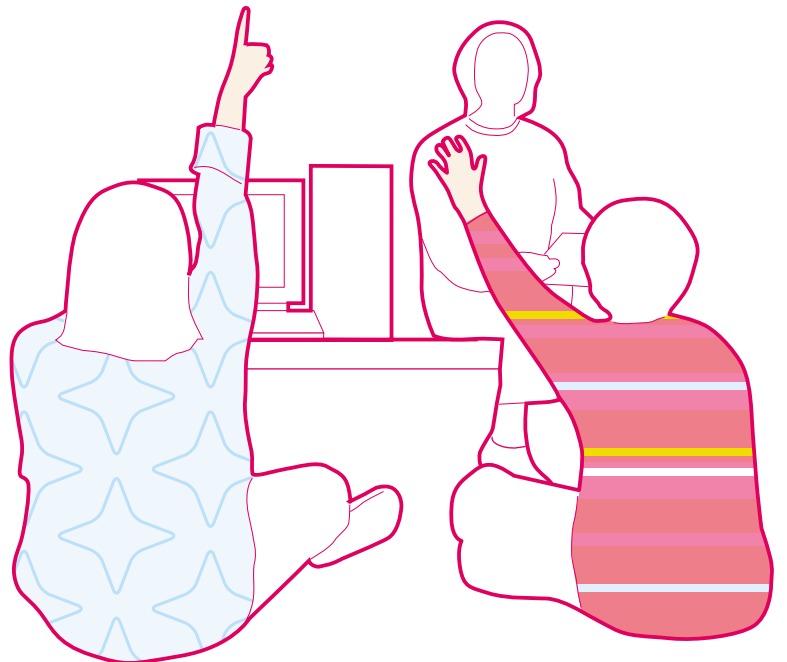
Compare and contrast this with the entertainment pupils are engaged in today a) in the home b) outwith the home and discuss possible reasons why we are now able to take part in such a wide range of activities – more money (or credit!), both men and women in paid work, better transport networks, introduction of car, bus, plane etc, new inventions – TV, video, DVDs, computers, cinemas etc

### Discussion Compare And Contrast Rules

The Bachelors' Club rules were devised to be adhered to by members just as rules are made in institutions/ the wider community today.

Discuss the rules in your school / classroom with pupils. Why are they needed? What would happen if there were no rules? Are there any that pupils feel are unfair or unreasonable?

Look at the rules of the Bachelors' Club Sheet and discuss why they were needed? What would have happened if there were no rules for the club? Are there any of its rules that pupils feel are unfair or unreasonable in today's society? Are there any extra rules they believe should be added?



## The Bachelors Club, Tarbolton: The Virtual Visit

### Virtual Tour

Now use the Virtual Tour to explore the variety of historical objects situated in this venue by clicking on Learning and then the Virtual Tours Button on the website ([www.burnsscotland.com](http://www.burnsscotland.com)) and selecting this venue.

Each object relates specifically to the learning outcomes above.

(This could be carried out with small groups at computers or as a class using an interactive whiteboard.)

### Object list and texts

#### View of large open room upstairs

*Description:* This room is known as The Bachelors' Club. It was the biggest room in the village and the space was often used for village dances. Robert Burns came to these dances with his sisters.

#### Violin

*Description:* Entertainment in the 1700s was simple and dancing was a popular pastime. Music for the dances held here would be played by a fiddler. He would play on a fiddle (violin) just like this one.

#### View of large table and chairs

*Description:* In 1780 Robert Burns and a group of his friends decided to open a debating society in this room. The friends met once a month to discuss a chosen subject and sat around a large table like the one seen here.

#### Bible chair

*Description:* This chair has a small flap on one arm. The flap can be raised and lowered. When the flap is raised, a book or writing paper can rest on it.

The members of the Bachelors' Club used this type of chair for their books and notes during their debates.

#### Pipes

*Description:* Those members of the Bachelors' Club who smoked, smoked tobacco in pipes like these.

#### Snuff box

*Description:* Taking snuff was a popular thing for men to do long ago. Snuff is powdered tobacco that is sniffed up the nostrils.

Members of the Bachelors' Club who took snuff would store it in little boxes like this one.

#### Rule Book

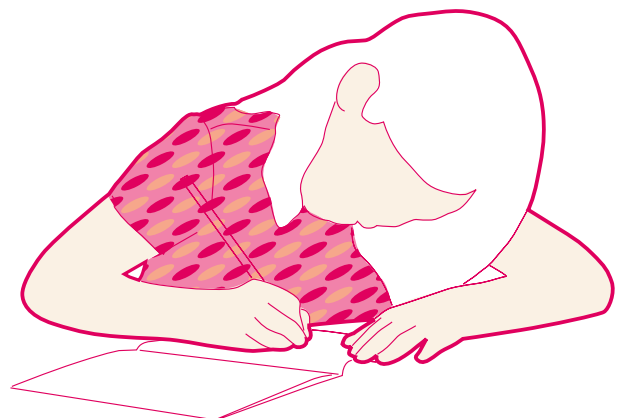
*Description:* The members of the Bachelors' Club had strict rules to stick to. Here are some examples from the rule book that they wrote:

- > members had to be bachelors (unmarried men) to join,
- > members had to be cheerful and honest
- > everything that was discussed had to be kept secret
- > no swearing was allowed



## The Bachelors Club, Tarbolton: Suggested Post Visit Activities

<b>Entertainment Then and Now</b>	<p>Have a class dancing session, to simulate the simple entertainment of Burns' time and carry out a range of Scottish Country Dances in sets and couples e.g. the Gay Gordons, The Dashing White Sergeant, Military Two Step, St Bernard's Waltz, etc.</p> <p>Burns attended dances with his sisters at what we now know as The Bachelors' Club. Draw your pupils' attention to the picture of the large open room (The Bachelors Club) and of the violin on the Virtual Tour by clicking on Learning then Virtual Tours on <a href="http://www.burnsscotland.com">www.burnsscotland.com</a> and selecting this venue.</p>
<b>Design a Dance</b>	<p>Ask pupils to imagine a dance taking place in the room with fiddle music as an accompaniment. Select a piece of Scottish Country Dance music (preferably fiddle music, but not essential) and decide on an appropriate duration of the piece for pupils to listen to. Get them to feel the beat and to clap to the rhythm.</p> <p>Tell pupils that they are going to make up a Scottish Country Dance for a set of 4 couples to the section of music they have listened to. Next, begin to brainstorm ideas in Scottish dances they already know e.g. setting to each other, turning each other by the hand, going under an archway of arms, casting off.</p> <p>As a class, choose appropriate movements for sections of the dance, put them together and dance, dance, dance! Remember to give your new dance a name.</p>
<b>Rules</b> <b>Debates: The Formula</b>	<p>Debating is a way of airing views on a chosen subject. Discuss with your class where they might see / hear debates nowadays. Discuss the purpose a debate serves. (You may even wish to video a programme such as The Commons Live or BBC Question Time to let your pupils see one at first hand).</p> <p>Discuss the format and terminology of a debate – a chairperson whom everyone must speak through, two opposing sides, a motion (topic), voting at end, motion carried etc</p>
<b>Debates Burns had</b>	<p>Some of the debates held in the Bachelors' Club are still relevant today. Try one or both of the following from the Bachelors' Club with your pupils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt; Is a poor young man likely to be most happy with a good school education or with the simple education his family and friends give him?</li><li>&gt; Which do we get most happiness from – love or friendship?</li></ul>
<b>The Smoking Debate</b>	<p>Draw your pupils' attention to the picture of the pipes in the Virtual Tour of this venue by clicking on Virtual Tours and selecting this venue.</p> <p>Research the topic of smoking from books, leaflets or the internet then have a class debate on the following motion: Smoking should be banned from all pubs, clubs and restaurants in Scotland</p>
<b>The Swearing Debate</b>	<p>Draw your pupils' attention to the picture of the Rule Book in the Virtual Tour of this venue by clicking on Learning and then Virtual Tours and selecting this venue.</p> <p>One of the rules of the Bachelors' Club was 'No Swearing'. Discuss the topic as a class and then have a class debate with the following motion: Swearing in public should carry a fine</p>



## The Bachelors Club, Tarbolton: Suggested Post Visit Activities

### Time Line Date It

Begin a class timeline on a long piece of paper or card. Mount this on the wall. Plot Burns' founding of the Bachelors' Club (1780)

Discuss with pupils any other important world events going on at the time. You may wish to have another long piece of paper or card situated below this one on the wall to enable pupils to compare relevant Burns-related dates with the other important dates you have noted

### Plot It

Ask pupils to plot Tarbolton on the blank Map of Scotland Sheet. You may also wish to plot some other key venues in Burns' life on the map too.

- > Mauchline (first met future wife Jean Armour here)
- > Alloway (birthplace)
- > Edinburgh (went here to promote his Kilmarnock Edition of poetry)
- > Ellisland (farmed here and began his excise career here)
- > Dumfries (spent final years of his life here)

Burns toured Scotland to both research and promote his work. Ask pupils to find out where Burns went on his tours of Scotland. Plot these on the map too.

## The Bachelors' Club, Tarbolton: Rules\*

### Rules of The Bachelors' Club

- > Members must meet in Tarbolton every fourth Monday night to debate a chosen question
- > Religion is not to be debated at meetings
- > Members should take whichever side of the debate they agree with
- > At each meeting, new questions will be proposed by members for the next week's meeting. Members must vote for their favourite question and the most popular one will be chosen
- > At the end of the meeting the bachelors' mistresses are to be toasted
- > No private conversations are to be held during the debate
- > No swearing or bad language is to be used at meetings
- > No-one must tell anyone else about what is discussed at the club. It must remain a secret!
- > If secrets are let out, the member who has spoken out of turn will be dismissed from the club and other club members should not talk to him or treat him as a friend again
- > Members who don't give good excuses for not being able to attend three weeks in a row will be excluded from the club
- > The membership is limited to 16 people
- > All members must be bachelors (unmarried men) to begin with
- > No-one who thinks he is better than the others in any way can be a member
- > All members must be cheerful, honest-hearted lads

\*This set of rules is an abridged version adapted for pupil use