

Annandale Speakers--19 December 2019

Annandale Speakers held their pre-festive meeting recently in Lockerbie Bowling Club. President, **Sandy Grant**, welcomed everybody and introduced **Sandy Scott** as Mr Speaker for the evening. After a selection of cracker jokes, Sandy introduced each speaker in turn to take their place at the lectern.

First up was **Phil Kenyon** with “Your Goose is Cooked”. As manager of one of the large supermarkets, he gave us an insight into what different types of fowl are eaten at Christmas and how trends have changed over the years. This was a very informative speech which left us all hungry for more.

Next to the rostrum was **John Kerr** on “Christmas Spirit”. He explained what type of Christmas he usually has and all the different ways we can now keep in touch with friends & family. Eventually the real spirit came out in the guise of white wine, champagne & mulled wine. Excellent job. Cheers!

Closing the first half was **David Logan** with “What Goes Around, Comes Around”. A talk about different subjects that tend to go round in cycles ranging from Parkinson’s disease to weather and the onset of another Ice Age. This talk was full of facts and very well delivered.

Following the interval, President **Sandy Grant** conducted an innovative Topics Session where club members had to give a topic of their choice to a member of their choice. Up for the challenge was **Michael Dickie** on Santa Claus, **Ken Morland** with what can only be described as total confusion, but the best answer of the night easily went to **Godfrey Newham** on putting a menu for 6 together for a meal after Christmas. Excellent

The 2nd half got underway with **John Reid** on “Comfort and Joy”. Always immaculately turned out, John was extremely comforting & joyful to listen to with a talk on the first line origins of many popular carols. He may be a retired teacher but perhaps he could have been a minister as well. Splendid talk enjoyed by all.

Brian Shaw’s task was “A Christmas Gift” which was a fascinating talk about the origins of a very popular Christmas gift, a bicycle. From the original prototype built by Kirkpatrick MacMillan (or Pate as he was better known) at a smithy near Thornhill, his bike or velocipede to give it its proper name was the start of a transport revolution. Brian is a great story teller and you could have heard a pin drop.

To round off the night, **Ian Sloan** stepped forward with “And It Came to Pass”. He could have been a minister as well as this statement appropriately is in the bible 452 times! Ian discussed how various things on planet earth have come to pass not least that 2019 is now almost over and we will all have to change if the planet is to survive.

Critic for the evening, **Robert Jardine**, had very little to criticise as nobody put a foot wrong. Another excellent night at Annandale Speakers was brought to a close with the vote of thank from timekeeper, **Alan Collins**.

We look forward to 2020 and wish everyone a Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year.