

## REPORT FROM MEETING OF ANNANDALE SPEAKERS FROM 9 JANUARY 2020

President, **Sandy Grant** welcomed members to the first meeting of 2020 and handed over to **David Hudson**, Mr. Speaker for the evening who in turn introduced **Alistair Stevenson** to talk on “Three sheets to the wind”. A topical subject for this time of year and having related his personal experiences over the festive period stressed the poor relationship that Scotland has with alcohol leading to many problems to which there is no easy solution. The next speaker, **John Cannon**, with the topic of “Close to the wind” chose to discuss a recent TV programme promoting the slaughter of nearly all cattle and sheep to be replaced with growing vegetables resulting in the demise of most farming businesses, a view with which he disagreed. He indicated he was looking forward to his next steak! “All at sea” was the topic tackled by **David Bell**. He cleverly converted this subject into an admission of his fad for Star War films, his first seen at Lockerbie Cinema aged 11, informing the members of his favourite characters and places they came from in other galaxies culminating in the film “Rise of Skywalker”.

After the break, the topics master, **Alan Collins**, challenged **Brian Shaw, Michael Dickie, Ronnie Callander, George Gilhooly, Joe Glass and Phil Kenyon** with some festive topics all of which were answered well with an element of humour.

The next speaker, **Bruce Edensor**, chose to discuss the future demand for electricity with the development of technology throughout the world and at the same time meet the commitment to reduce the use of fossil fuels and stem global warming. This is a problem to which there currently appears to be no answer. **Bobby Smith** on the subject of “The Dawn Chorus” educated the members on the breeding season of birds and the serenading of the females by the males, his long established passion for bird watching being evident. The final speaker for the evening, **Kenneth Morland**, took the opportunity with his subject of “A wish come true” to tell a story about all the participants on the evening’s programme, some stories embarrassing but all entertaining.

The critic had an easy task as all speakers had performed well and **David Logan** concluded the evening with a vote of thanks. The next meeting of the Speakers Club is on 30 January 2020 at 7.30pm.