

## Annandale Speakers--4 April 2019

The final meeting of the winter session took place in Lockerbie Bowling Club on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April. President **John Kerr** welcomed the members and after updating us on an absent member, introduced Mr. Speaker for the evening, **Sandy Grant**, who quickly and smoothly introduced the first speaker.

**George Gilhooly's** title, "Practice and Passion" allowed him to introduce his audience to Jakob Trachtenberg, a Jewish mathematician, who developed the mental calculation techniques called the Trachtenberg system. Much of the development was completed while Trachtenberg was held in various concentration camps. George's well prepared, eloquent and informative speech was up to his usual high standard. **Alistair Stevenson** followed on with, "Once Upon A Time". Which turned out to be a traveller's tale involving, skiing, lots of apres skiing and an explanation of why he was using crutches to help him to the rostrum. This was well delivered and enjoyed by all. **Sandy Scott** finished the first half with, "Heilen Hame" which suited him admirably due to his love of the Highlands. He entertained his rapt audience with tales of corporate entertainment involving fishing holidays based at a Highland hotel and the supernatural abilities of his ghillie. A wonderful offering delivered effortlessly.

**Bruce Edinsor** was in charge of the Topics session and he had some very testing topics on offer. **Joe Glass, David Logan, Allan Collins, Ronnie Callander, Robert Jardine and Kenneth Morland** were all tested and passed with merit.

**David Bell** with "Woolly Jumpers", kicked off the second half reminiscing about improvised goal posts used during school days' football games. David is a relaxed and capable speaker who always entertains. **Brian Shaw** had "A Real Pigsty" to cope with, but instead told a tale about Lem Putt, an American sanitary engineer. This amusing yarn acquainted those present with the practicalities of outside toilet siting, construction and refinements available to customers. Brian is an accomplished teller of tales and this one was very well received.

The final speaker of the night, and the year, was President, **John Kerr**. "Never Again" gave John the opportunity to detail all that was involved in selling his farm and buying a house. This personal account was amusing, enlightening, and emotional in equal measures. A well delivered, well enjoyed final speech.

Timekeeper, **Phil Kenyon** proposed the vote of thanks to Mr. Speaker, Mr. Topics Master and Mr. Critic.