

Annandale Speakers--Meeting 1--27 September 2018

President **John Kerr** got the **2018/19 session** underway in a new venue at Lockerbie Bowling Club. He briefly outlined details of parking, tea break costs etc. and reminded members on behalf of the Treasurer **G. Gilhooly** that subs. were now due.

Sergeant of Arms, **Phillip Kenyon** introduced a guest for the evening, **Mr Alan Collins**.

The President then hand the gavel over to Mr Speaker for the evening, **Mr Alistair Stevenson** who took control of the meeting and introduced each speaker and invited them to the lectern.

First on the programme was **Mr Jack Forrest** with "Oceans to Talk About" . Jack took us down memory lane, telling the audience it was 80 years since the Forrest Family took the tenancy of Supplebank Farm. He outlined the staff numbers, crops grown, how labour intensive the work was, and compared it to to-days methods. This was Jack in his comfort zone, he had notes but seldom used them.

Next speaker was **Mr David Bell** with "It's a long way to-----". David gave us 8 minutes on rock band AC-DC. He is either a dedicated fan or he had done a lot of research on his subject, covering not only the band's successes world wide but also a lot of personal information on the band members. He seemed to have enough information for another speech on the same subject.

After the Tea break, Alistair introduced the member feared by all, Topics Master for the evening, **Mr Ronnie Callander**!. Everyone tries to avoid catching his eye, or tries to hide behind his neighbour. Ronnie delivered his headlines in a seemingly benign manner, but usually with a sting in tail.

Mr **Robert Jardine** was asked about ironing his own shirts and expanded the subject by explaining how he regularly does the washing and manages to cut down the ironing via the tumble dryer.

Mr **Bruce Edensor** was asked what his menu for two would be. He threw several "play Safe" dishes into the pot, before admitting he would probably take a guest to one of the many good restaurants in the area.

Mr **Ken Morland** struggled with his topic "How would he improve Lockerbie High Street?" He thought the shopkeepers did their best and the area round the Town Hall looked bright and clean with the new lay-out and the sheep.

Mr **Donald Martin** was asked "If Art was going out of fashion". He emphatically put forward a positive attitude, citing locally the new Kirkcudbright Art Gallery and as a native of Dundee the recently opened V&A which attracted 27000 visitors in its first week.

Mr **Sandy Grant** thought a large organised cycling event like a "Tour de Scotland" would be more bother than it was worth. He favoured getting local groups involved in social cycling to improve health and fitness.

Mr **Joe Glass** was of the opinion that while communication mediums like google and twitter were useful, caution was required as in the wrong hands, sensitive personal information could be abused.

Back to the programme , Mr **Michael Dickie** told us "It's Only a Game" which was a quote from the late Bill Shankly. He then spoke about golf, in particular the Ryder Cup. It was first played in June 1920 at Gleneagles, two weeks before the open at St. Andrews. this later became a bi-annual competition , in the UK and the USA. In 1979 the UK team was expanded to include European players.

Mr **Kerr Little's** subject was "10 Minutes of Fame " He told us of two events when he was a retained fireman. Speaking as usual without notes, he told us a little about his role in the aftermath of the Lockerbie Disaster which is approaching its 30th anniversary. He then talked about a house fire in Dumfries, in this case a turntable ladder was used with Kerr up at the sharp end.

Once the fire was out he reported that the chimney stack was in a dangerous condition and the street would have to be cordoned off. The Officer in charge radioed back, "Just Hang on," swung the ladder sideways and rammed it against the chimney, knocking it over.

Last up was Mr **David Hudson** with "Rub of the Green". Again speaking without notes he gave a short history of the Battle of Waterloo. David's style is more of a fireside chat where the audience feel he is speaking to each one individually.

He told how a few lucky breaks allowed Wellington to re-group despite being heavily defeated the previous day. Instead of pushing home their advantage the French dithered, allowing the English and Prussian forces to counter-attack. After his defeat at Waterloo Napoleon surrendered and was Exiled to St. Helena .

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

After the business Mr President closed the meeting.