

ANNANDALE SPEAKERS 10th January, 2019.

On 10th January, 2019, President **John Kerr** welcomed members and guests of the Annandale Speakers to their 7th meeting of the season, at the Lockerbie Bowling Club. After wishing all those present a happy new year John handed control of the meeting over to “Mr. Speaker” for the evening, **Robert Jardine**.

Robert, who had recently completed research into his family tree, based his introduction of the speakers on their surname, the geographical concentration of the name and their most common occupation. His research also included average life expectancy and showed the huge difference between 1900 and 2010 figures. This novel, interesting and amusing approach to the introductions was well received by the members and contributed greatly to the enjoyment of the evening.

First to the rostrum was **Alan Collins**, who had been given the title “Seeing Red”. Alan is a fairly recent member and was giving his “maiden speech”. There followed a well presented, carefully crafted and diverse interpretation of the subject. Alan started by dispelling some of the myths surrounding the waving of a red flag in front of cars and the London to Brighton rally. He then described the joy of acquiring his first car, a red 1937 MG, and later buying a new red tartan Austin mini in 1965. He continued by giving a vivid description of what he described as a red-letter day when he drove V8 and V12 red Ferraris round a circuit in Leicestershire. Alan’s talk progressed to describing the red flags which had adorned his flat whilst living in China.

At one stage Alan noticed the red light which indicated that he had exceeded his allocated time but was encouraged by the members to continue. A man who has obviously much to offer the club.

Frank Farrell, who had been allocated the title “Blue Sky Thinking” was the next speaker to address the meeting. Frank, a former physics teacher stated that this subject was right up his street and proceeded to describe in a humorous manner how he had taught pupils about photons. This had been achieved with the assistance of burning a cigarette in an ashtray then shining a projector at the smoke to demonstrate the light spectrum, and why particles of red light pass through the tiny smoke particles, whereas the larger blue particles are scattered. Frank expanded his educational talk to explain why the sky above is perceived as blue and sunsets are seen as red. As usual, Frank’s talk was both educational and amusing.

Following Frank was **David Hudson**, whose title was “White Shark”. David always fascinates the other members by being the only one who delivers his speech without the aid of notes. He began by recounting his one and only encounter with a shark in rowing boat in Donegal Bay when a basking shark, which was 3’ longer at each end, surfaced beside the boat. Although aware that basking sharks only eat plankton David was not convinced that the shark knew this until he had safely returned to shore.

David’s recollection of seeing a white shark painted on the front of a fighter plane led him to reminisce about his days as a photographer in the RAF and his involvement with the Vulcan bomber during the cold war, and the (MAD) period of mutually assured destruction. Whilst most of the talk contained a good deal of humour David also reflected on the terrible cost to five-man Vulcan crews operating a plane designed for two. To further prove the association between his subject and Vulcan bombers David pointed out that whilst in the air the Vulcan resembled a large manta ray.

Topic’s Master for the evening was **David Logan** who posed a number of light-hearted questions to **Ronnie Callendar, Brian Shaw, Sandy Scott, John Cannon and John Reid**. The topics which were

unusual and amusing were answered in a similar vein by the recipients who all spoke for the required two minutes, during which a considerable amount of laughter was generated.

Phil Kenyon, whose given subject was “Black Sheep” was next to entertain the gathering. After explaining the origins of what constituted a black sheep he quickly moved on to some hilarious examples of black sheep within well-known families, both past and present. His description of how Vince Capone who was a law enforcement officer and must have been regarded by his gangster brother, Al Capone, as a black sheep of the family, was particularly funny.

Phil then turned his attention to his favourite tippie “Black Sheep” beer which he had first acquired a taste for in 2006. He then gave a detailed and interesting description of the creation of this beer by Paul Theakson, and how it is brewed by means of the Yorkshire square fermenting process. He ended his speech with a hilarious sheep type joke.

The final speaker for the evening was **Sandy Grant** who had been given the subject “Green Light”. Sandy commenced by describing the emotions and feelings which are generated by green making you feel at ease as it clears and invigorates the mind. Sandy eloquently described the joy he gets from seeing the grass growing indicating that all is well, and attributing this to his agricultural background. After mentioning the part played by chlorophyll Sandy then took us in a different direction.

This direction took us through the industrial revolution and the first use of green as a safety colour on the railway, and the regulation of traffic through steel works. This informative talk continued with how the first traffic light system had been developed by a Detroit policeman to cope with the increasing traffic problem. A very enjoyable contribution to an excellent evening.

A vote of thanks was proposed by the Timekeeper **Jack Forrest** to Mr Speaker, Mr Topics Master and the **Critic**, Joe Glass.

The Annandale Speakers are always looking for new members so were particularly pleased to welcome **Mr Brian Halliday** who was brought to the meeting by Ross Cunningham, who recently became a father. Another most welcome visitor was **Mr Godfrey Newham** from Annan, who having read about the Annandale Speakers came along to see for himself. It is hoped that they both enjoyed the evening and will come again. There is always an invitation to any gentleman who is interested in attending the fortnightly meetings. **Details are available from the Secretary on 01387 264325.**

In welcoming the guests, and much to the merriment of those gathered, the Secretary/Treasurer, **George Gilhooly** gave a not so subtle hint about an outstanding membership fee which was due.

Prior to **the President closing the meeting John Reid told of a visit he had made to another member, Donald Martin**, in Moffat Hospital. Sadly, Donald, who was a much liked and respected speaker, has since died. His passing is a great loss to Annandale Speakers.

