

## Annandale Speakers 15 November 2018

Annandale Speakers held their fourth meeting of the season at Lockerbie Bowling Club on 15 November. There was a good turn-out of members.

President **John Kerr** introduced Mr Speaker for the evening, **Frank Farrell**, who entertained throughout the evening, not just with his natty waistcoat, but also with his well prepared and witty introductions to the speakers

**David Hudson** opened the speeches, talking on “Man’s efforts to improve his lot.” David spoke without any notes, finishing exactly on time. His very funny story of bureaucracy from when he worked with the local council was delivered with expertise, building to an expertly timed conclusion.

Next in the firing line was **David Logan**, whose subject was “dot dot dot dash dash dash dot dot dot.” He explained about Morse code before describing the key work of code breakers at Bletchley Park, helped by sloppy work from the German operators. He explained the significant effect of the work on the outcome of the Second World War,.

**Sandy Grant**’s task was “Root and branch.” He started with a historical review of Annandale Speakers, explaining how this now solely local club was formed initially from an international club then a national organisation, before becoming happily and successfully independent. He went on to describe the success of children of Wanlockhead miners, before moving on to explain how a small university in North Wales evolved into a large organisation. His talk was clear, logical and well presented.

After the break **Phil Kenyon** was the Topics Master for the evening, providing short and pithy subjects for short off-the cuff replies – in theory at least. **Ken Morland, John Reid and Brian Shaw** followed the rules with brief replies. **John Cannon** however talked for a little over time doing a good impression of Scrooge – on a bad day.

**Bruce Edensor** opened the second half of longer talks, on “The pick of the bunch.” His focus was his pick of the British Royal family, namely Prince Philip. He quickly ran through a mass of information well organised by him into an interesting, but entertaining talk. He left the members much better informed about the many genuine achievements of a remarkable gentleman.

**Joe Glass** was next with the subject “Five a day.” He explained the origin of this recommendation and reviewed its potential benefit against the chances of the advice actually being followed by most people. He observed ironically that the healthiest time for diet in the UK had been during periods of rationing – although the prime minister had not had to follow the strict rules.

The final speech was from **George Gilhooly** on “Bumper harvest.” He explained how a bumper harvest can have negative implications for farmers. He moved on to the topical subject of data harvesting, leaving all present paranoid and depressed as a result of his description of data miners. Cheery stuff from George: well-presented and thought provoking.

Mr Speaker **Frank Farrell** handed back control of the meeting to **President John**, having completed a masterful job. **Robert Jardine** then closed the meeting with a vote of thanks, to finish what had been an excellent, varied, and interesting meeting due to the well timed, well presented, and varied talks from the speakers.