

Annandale Speakers Press Report Meeting 29th February 2020

President **Sandy Grant** introduced **David Logan** as Mr Speaker for last Thursday's meeting and he was soon into his stride. First to the rostrum was **Kenny Morland** fresh from his rumbustious talk at the Smoker the previous week. His title "The Edge of Reality" started on a sombre note, at a funeral, and mentioned some of the problems of modern day living but soon introduced humour to raise our spirits and urged us to live life on the edge as we face reality.

Kerr Little arrived to a hero's welcome as he made a rare appearance this season. He regaled members with "Dreamer" as he pointed out the myriad social gatherings which he attended in the course of last summer. Such as the Skiffie Racing on Loch Ryan; the Viking Festival at Largs; a Hot Air Balloon festival at Strathaven; a wood festival in Peebles; various Burns gatherings in Ayrshire and Dumfries. He had indeed been busy and drew together a wonderful tale of the social cohesion at these events which have displaced the buzz of the High Streets.

Alan Collins had the title "Revolution". He began describing events in Iran in 1978 when the Shah was deposed. The Middle East interests of Cochrane's the boiler makers were lost, and Alan had to review his future. Staying with Cochrane he moved to Annan and continued his career there. In a rapid-fire presentation Alan outlined several Industrial Revolutions, incorporating James Watt and the steam engines leading to textiles, deep mining, canal building and on to the present day of Business and Banking and the Digital Revolution of the last 70 years. We needed a coffee break after all that.

The Topics session was under the beady eye of **George Gilhooly**. **Phil Kenyon** was quizzed on the use of mobile phones. Should they be switched off in schools? Definitely said Phil. George told **Robert Jardine** that the average adult has nine things on their mind at any one time. How many did he have? Robert Jardine felt he had not been included in that particular survey. **Bruce Edensor** was asked to comment on the move to a cashless society? An excellent, reasoned response. It's all about the money! It is expensive to move heavy loads of cash about! Next **Godfrey Newham** was asked his views on exposure of prominent or even not so prominent people in the press and social media. Citing several examples, he reckoned ability to do their job was the bottom line. **Michael Dickie** was asked about the possibility of the Paddy Line being restored. Nice thought but unlikely.

"My Generation" was the subject for **David Hudson**. David spoke on his life in the 1960's, his aims and ambitions growing up. Wonderfully told, his three aims were to play professional football for Ipswich Town, to join a Rock Band and to explore the opposite sex. He did get a trial for Ipswich Town but unluckily broke a leg soon after and the dream died. After three guitars and a realisation that he was tone deaf, he found his niche as a drummer in a rock band. Sadly, he ran out of time before he could elaborate on his dalliances with the opposite sex.

Sandy Scott next spoke to the subject "Gridlock". This began in a gridlocked street in Paris in 1968 at the time of the student riots there. Sandy had one or two solutions for the problem, including the use of jet-packs, hydrogen or electric cars. He then moved on to the

wonderful use we should be making of all the water above and below our bonnie land. We even have the capacity to export it. A plea for the planet.

Retired teacher, **John Reid** was final speaker on “You Don`t Learn That at School”. In an amusing talk, John mentioned one or two things that you do learn at school, although you may not notice, and pointed out that learning doesn`t end when you leave school. A sobering thought was that many of his former pupils were now grandparents. But being old beats the alternative.

Another fine night at the Speakers with wit and wisdom liberally applied by all participants. At the conclusion, **Kerr Little** was presented with a scroll commemorating his 50 years in the Club.