

## LOCKERBIE ANNANDALE SPEAKERS--18 October 2018

ANNANDALE Speakers held their second meeting of the season at Lockerbie Bowling Club on 18th October. President **John Kerr**, “suited and booted” welcomed the gathering and handed control of the meeting to **Joe Glass** who introduced each of the evening’s speakers with his characteristic blend of witty banter.

Our first speaker was **Robert Jardine** with the title of “A blast from the past”. Robert used the title to take us into the family tree research that he had recently taken up. We learnt that a major source of his family’s background came as a result of his being given the Jardine Family Bible in which part of the family tree was set out. Robert had then supplemented this with his own research via web based sources, showing the audience a family tree diagram taking the family back to around 1788, though Robert was seemingly always seeking some double barrelled ancestors to link him to imagined elevated roots, but being part of the vast Jardine family would be enough for most folk. Robert’s enthusiastic style and his gentle use of humour all contributed to an excellent delivery.

Next to the rostrum we had **David Logan** with the challenging title of “Face the music”. David drew on his technology background to explain how he had recently had to replace a large hard disc drive in a local office, whilst being watched by a large number of employees, and, when booting up the system again, felt that he was very much “facing the music” as he waited for the system to function again, which thankfully it did.

Unfortunately the next speaker failed to turn up but **George Gilhooly** bravely stood in and gave us a fascinating and informative talk on his early days in hospital technical services in Dumfries, following his being initially transferred to Dumfries from Glasgow on a limited period secondment, and here he stayed until retirement. This was a most enjoyable piece of entertainment as George shared his various escapades, especially those centring around his experiences in the operating theatres.

The evening resumed after the tea break as **Sandy Grant** took charge as Topics Master with a series of diverse and thought provoking questions which all required each victim to give a full response. To their credit, the recipients of the questions, **Ronnie Callender, John Cannon, Allan Collins, Jack Forrest and Michael Dickie** answered the various challenges with thoughtful and humorous responses, and Allan deserves special credit in dealing with his topic as this was only his second visit to Speakers.

Once this section was over it was the turn of **Ken Morland** at the rostrum with the title of “The grass is always greener”. Ken began by acknowledging that in the past he has been guilty of some harsh words about those members who have retired (how true!), but now that he has joined this esteemed section of society he has looked at matters differently. Ken cheekily picked out a number of members to whom he claimed he had approached for guidance in how to manage his new status. Ken’s

humour and originality shone through. Here is a man who should have been a comedy script writer instead of digging up all the local roads. A very humorous presentation.

Our next speaker was **Sandy Scott** making his very welcome return to the rostrum. After making a little gentle fun of own his initials Sandy introduced us, via his title of “In for a penny”, to the scandal of how councils are closing vast numbers of public toilets throughout the country, 673 closed in England, 163 lost in Scotland with another 29 threatened with closure in the Highlands Region. Sandy highlighted the impact on tourism and the human dignity suffered by folks being “caught short” in embarrassing situations, no laughing matter.

Most of the audience were unaware of the action of “The British Toilet Association” which, Sandy explained, is fighting to redress this situation. Sandy told his story with a mixture of seriousness and some humour, though this national disgrace should be of concern to us all.

Our final speaker was **John Reid** asking “How high can you go”. John used this title to enter the world of auctioneering, remarking how often bidders get carried away in the hunt to win at auction, often without considering the real value of their target. John went on to talk of the finding of the Middleham Jewel, its history and the fantastic figure it realised at auction. The story was told with John’s usual blend of seriousness, touches of humour, coupled with clear evidence of some depth of research, creating a very interesting talk. As an aside we also learnt something of Treasure Trove regulations.

Timekeeper for the evening was **David Hudson**, who proposed his vote of thanks to the three other performers of the evening, **Mr Speaker (Joe Glass), Mr Topics Master (Sandy Grant) and Mr Critic (Bruce Edensor)**.

Before bringing the evening to its end our President sadly advised us of the recent death of a former member, Clifford Corton.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November at Lockerbie Bowling Club at 7.30 p.m.