

## Greenbannig Burns Club Annual Supper 2008

Alex McCou

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2008 ~~the~~ President warmly welcomed ninety five members and guests to the Club's Annual Supper in Braco Village Hall. The haggis was carried by Bob Robertson, piped by Neil Bremner and addressed in style by David Liggat. Grace preceded an excellent supper of traditional fare.

Following the loyal toast the minutes of the 2007 Supper were read, approved and signed. In his report Chairman Alec commented on the Club's involvement with Burns recital competitions in the local primary schools. He expressed the Club's gratitude to Alec Phillips for videoing the supper and to Peter Hill for producing the programme and song sheets. Chairman Alec paid tribute to past-member Roy Gauld, father of current club stalwarts Kirk and Forbes, who had <sup>sadly</sup> passed away during the year. A minutes silence preceded the toast to absent friends.

Alec called on Willie Morrison - attending his 50<sup>th</sup> Greenbannig Burns Supper - to start proceedings in song. To great acclaim and in fine voice, Willie gave us 'A Man's A Man'.

The Chairman invited Stewart McBain to propose the toast to the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns. Displaying a combination of humour, warmth, knowledge and above all a genuine passion for

Burns, Stewart delivered an ~~of~~ enthralling and deeply personal Immortal Memory. Who could forget Stewart's description of holding an original manuscript of 'Auld Lang Syne' in Burns' own handwriting or one of the 612 original copies of the Kilmarnock Edition. Stirring stuff which was warmly received by a genuinely appreciative company. In Club tradition the Immortal Memory was rounded off by the singing of 'There Was A Lad'

Patrick O'hare in his 'Toast to the Lasses' posed the <sup>unanswerable</sup> questions: "What is woman? Who is woman?" In a humorous toast Patrick tried - and by his own admission failed - to answer these questions but suggested Robert Burns did have all the answers when it came to understanding the fairer sex. In his hilarious reply on behalf of the Lasses, Forbes Gould said that the club committee go skinny dipping at their summer meeting in the duck pond at Braes Castle. This is a scurrilous untruth - it's the Allan Water we go to!

Pete Bramley, making his first toast at Greenloaming give a very funny and interesting toast to 'Burns Clubs the World O'er', whilst Ian Gallacher spoke from the heart about sense of community in his 'Toast to Greenloaming Burns Club'.

Throughout the evening the hall resonated to

the music and verse of the Bard. Ian Ramsay recited old favourites 'To a Mouse' and 'To a Louse' and Ian Taylor maintained the Club's tradition for excellence with an evocative portrayal of 'Tam O' Shanter'.

Scott Christie, Neil Bremner, Willie Morrison, Alec Anderson, Stewart McDonald and Kevin Orr gave an appreciative company music and song of the highest order.

Chairman Alec reported a collection of £287.42 had been raised for the Jean Armour homes. Peter Scott proposed a vote of thanks on behalf of the club to all the artistes who had made it such a memorable evening, before the rousing finale as the company sang 'The Star o' Rabbie Burns' and 'Auld Lang Syne'.

Signed 6<sup>th</sup> February 2009:

Alex McGill (President): Alex McGill

Peter Scott (Secretary): Peter Scott