

Greenloaning Burns Club 1999

The Annual Supper of the Greenloaning Burns Club was held in the Brae Village Hall on Friday ~~Club~~ ~~was~~ 5th Feb 1999. The Chairman Jim Dawson welcomed the members & guests.

The Haggis was piped in by Neil Bremner & addressed by Forbes ~~head~~. The Chairman said grace & there followed an excellent meal of traditional fare prepared & served expeditiously by Geaves 'et al'.

Following the loyal toast the minutes of the 1998 supper were read &, following a not so gentle reminder from a past secretary, were duly signed by the Chairman who then proposed the toast to 'absent friends'. He paid particular tribute to Sandy McEwen, commenting that his contribution to the singing of the Star would be long remembered in the Club. The company stood & remembered Sandy in silence for a few moments. Other old friends unable to be present, Archie Dickson & Gordie McAlldowie were remembered also.

The Chairman then invited Peter Scott, a member of the club needing no formal introduction to propose the toast to the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns.

In his address Peter made mention of the current difficulties being experienced by the farming community but pointed out that Burns had experienced similar problems & more but without the benefit of today's technology. He recalled Burns' sympathy for the mouse disturbed & put to flight by his plough & wondered ~~if~~ ~~present~~ if present day ploughmen would ever see the mouse

let alone ponder it. He recounted a recent visit to Messiel & compared the relatively comfortable lot of the present occupier, one Jamie Kennedy with that of Robert Burns. He paid tribute to his late father Tom & reflected how much he had been influenced by his memory of conversations & discussions with Tom when preparing his address. He described Robert Burns as a man of his time (rather than the year 2000) ^{however} over the passing generations he had become a living legend not only in Scotland but world wide. He would be all things to all people, a commentator and a universalist but above all - a Scot of outstanding talent.

Willie Morrison was given the now usual late call to lead the club in song. Throughout the evening Willie & David Auld continued to entertain the company with Burns & other Scots songs ably accompanied by Bob Mc Geachie. Similarly Neil Bremner on the pipes.

Andrew Chubuckle was called upon to toast de Lassie: a task performed most ably, describing the Bard as an incredible romantic who had great difficulty coping with the constraints of matrimony but who was blessed with a tolerant forgiving & ever loving spouse in Jane Morrison.

The company applauded Andrew's humorous toast.

Alton Telfer recited a couple of short Burns poems each with a message for the cronies. In particular he advised that it was always prudent to ~~always~~ keep something back. Alton, however kept his "tour de force" to later in the evening when to the great enjoyment of all present he delivered a most outstanding Tom O' Hanter: - word perfect & with great theatre. The company was kept enthralled & raptured with an

ovation the like of which has seldom been seen & heard at our supper.

Jim Chidd, on behalf of the lassies, gave a humorous reply making reference to what he delicately referred to as Burns sexual problems & wondered how he, (Burns) & Virginia would have teamed up. The Bard's enjoyment of life, his fondness of strong drink & his love of the lassies making him a man for all that & all that.

Burns clubs the world over was proposed by Henry M. B. Leland in his usual manner but in the end reminding the club that come 1st January 2000 the first song to be sung throughout the world would be from Robert Burns.

Jack Maxwell proposed the toast to the greenbooming Burns Club with great aplomb referring to his late fall to the task & after giving various members of the committee a gentle pat, he reminded the members that the strength of the club was that all were ~~men~~ ^{Burns} free, & equal in

Jan Taylor replied on behalf of the country members in his usual erudite manner making ^{reference to that} ~~reference to that~~ ~~to that~~ which had changed farming for ever is the "wee gray Fergie" something he had always thought was a tractor.

Finally Willie Morrison & David Chidd led the company in the singing of the "Star of Robbie Burns" John M. Pichie (yet another ulster voice) thanked all the speakers, artists caterers & the bar men & women for making it such a memorable evening.

The supper ended at 1:00 PM with all Ben Sayer with good humour & another memorable event.

aff. M. B. Leland. See

J. Morrison.