

Greenbanning Burns Club Annual Supper 2006

On Friday 3rd February 2006 President Alec McColl warmly welcomed one hundred members and guests to the Club's annual supper in Braes Village Hall. The haggis was borne in by Jamie McQuat, piped by Neil Bremner and ably addressed by Richard McCasham. Grace preceded an excellent meal of traditional fayre.

Following the loyal toast the minutes of the 2005 supper were read, approved and signed. In his report the Chairman highlighted the Club's involvement with Burns competitions in the local schools. He intimated apologies on behalf of club stalwarts Bobby Muir and David Auld, both of whom were in hospital. The company was asked to remember Glin Walker of Auchterarder and any others in their thoughts in a minutes silence.

The Chairman thanked Peter Hill for setting up the Club's website and producing the songsheets and also Billy Philips for again filming proceedings. Special thanks were conveyed to Harry McClelland who was stepping down as Hon. Secretary after nine years service. Alec McColl proposed Peter Scott as the new secretary and invited him to present Harry with a quich as a token of the Club's appreciation. Harry thanked the Club and said how much he had enjoyed being secretary. He had taken on the job when his ^{late} friend Tom Scott had passed away and felt it appropriate to hand on the role to Tom's son, Peter.

Willie Morrison sang a stirring rendition of 'A Man's a Man'. The Chairman then invited Stuart Picken, Minister of Ardoch and Blackford, to propose the toast to the 'Immortal Memory of Robert Burns'. Stuart outlined how the Church and the government had tried - and thankfully failed - to discredit Burns, so concerned were they by both his satire and his increasing popular appeal, particularly so after the publication of the Kilmarnock Edition in 1786. Demonstrating an extensive knowledge of Burns and conveying it with a unique perspective, Stuart's 'Immortal Memory' was warmly received by an appreciative company, after which everyone joined to sing 'There Was a Lad'.

Harry McClelland's excellent 'Toast to the Lasses' struck an appropriate balance between Burns and bawdy humour, all delivered in his familiar Irish brogue. Harry talked of women being an inspiration to Burns, none more so than Jean Armour, his constant love. Alan Telfer captivated the company with his typically excellent and exciting recitation of 'Tam o' Shanter'. Hugh McLennan, as nominated spokesman for the fairer sex, gave a highly amusing reply on behalf of the Lasses.

Bill Carmen who, like Hugh, was making his maiden toast at Greenbank, took us on a tour of Burns Clubs the World O'er courtesy of the world wide web. He landed in ~~Madison~~ Milwaukee

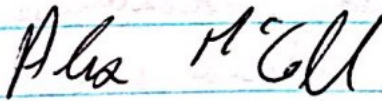
and gave an interesting insight into the local Burns Club's featured poem, 'The Vision'.


Bob Robertson spoke warmly of: 'a cracking evening'; 'community spirit'; and 'people pulling together to make it happen' in proposing the Toast to Greenloaning Burns Club. Fellow committee member Forbes Gauld ~~also~~ concurred with Bob's sentiments in his brief and witty reply, his "after 12.30 speech!"

Throughout the evening music and song of the highest standard was played and sung by Willie Morrison, Alec Anderson, Stewart McDonald, Kevin Carr and Scott Christie.

The Chairman reported a collection of ~~£1~~ ^{£217} ~~20~~ had been raised for Jean Armour Homes before the evening was brought to its traditional, rousing finale with the 'Star o' Rabbie Burns' and 'Auld Lang Syne'.

Signed: 2nd February 2007

Alec Mc Gill : 
(President)

Peter Scott : 
(Secretary)