

Greenloaning Burns Club Annual Supper 2010

Friday 5th February 2010 saw the Greenloaning Burns Club faithful congregate in Bravo Village Hall for the Annual Supper, under the guidance of Chairman Alec McColl. The haggis was borne in by Bob Robertson led by piper Neil Bremner and addressed with style and verve by Tommy Ricketton. Grace preceded an excellent supper of traditional fayre.

Following the loyal Toast the minutes of the 2009 supper were read, approved and signed. In his Chairman's remarks, Club President Alec McColl reported on the Club's involvement in supporting and judging Burns Competitions at Greenloaning and Connois Primary Schools. He congratulated Harry McClelland, Alan Gardner, Ted Gardner and Bin Campbell in retaining the Stirling and District Federation of Burns Clubs Boasting Cup. It was noted for the record that the cup was duly filled with whisky. Al expressed the Club's gratitude to Billy Philips for filming the supper onto DVD and to Peter Hill for producing the programme and song-sheet and his work in maintaining the Club's website. The company ~~or~~ was upstanding in silence for absent friends.

The Chairman called upon his father's cousin Jim McColl to propose the Toast to the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns. Jim spoke with a deep understanding and empathy of Robert Burns, befitting of a fellow Ayrshire man. He highlighted that Burns legacy is

as relevant today as it was during his lifetime and pointed to the countless number of people around the entire world who are inspired and uplifted by his legacy, the poems and the songs. It is his works that those who truly enjoy and celebrate Burns hold most dear, not the myths, legends and rumours surrounding his life. The company showed their appreciation of an excellent Immortal Memory delivered with panache and passion and interspersed with gentle humour. The Immortal Memory was followed by 'There Was a Lad'.

Peter Hill proposed a hilarious 'Toast to the Lasses'. His unique humour - which gave us an insight into Cornish women through the eyes of Jethro - was well balanced with an interesting and informative take on the women of Do it Burns life. In what seemed to be a break with tradition a woman - not any woman but Madouca doing a passable impersonation of Donald Aitken - gave a very funny reply on behalf of the Lasses.

Special mention must be made of Alan Telfer who earlier in the evening had performed at a Burns Supper in Dunhead before hot footing it to Braco to give a truly unforgettable recital of 'Tam o' Shanter'. Ian Taylor conveyed the satire and irony of 'Holy Willie's Prayer' in an expressive recital.

Peter Scott proposed a toast to 'Greenbanning Burns

Club' in which he recalled his personal highlights of the suppers he had attended since 1984, and expressed his hopes that future generations would keep the Club in good health and spirit. Forbes Gauld highlighted what Burns means to people around the world in an amusing and thought provoking toast to 'Burns Clubs the World Over'.

The evening was interspersed with the music and songs of the Bard from the excellent Neil Bremner, Hugh Paterson, Scott Christie, Stewart Mac Donald and Kevin Corr. An unexpected interloper fulfilled his life-long dream and finally made it on to the song sheet to be one of the braw lads, in 'Willie Brewed a Peck o' Malt'. Some might say he's the new Harry Lauder, all we know is he's called ... Peter Hill!

The Chairman announced that £321 had been collected which would be split: £100 to Jean Armour Homes and £221 to our charity of the year, Action for Children Scotland. Bob Robertson proposed a well deserved vote of thanks to the Chairman and artistes before proceedings drew to a close with rousing and emotional renditions of traditional song. The lights were switched off and the doors closed on another memorable chapter in the proud history of Greenloaming Burns Club.

Signed 4th February 2011:

Alec McColl (President): *Alec McColl*

Peter Scott (Secretary): *Peter Scott*

Now, wha these minutes shall hear,
16k cronies fu on whisky an' beer;
Whene'er to drink you are inclin'd,
An' Burns Suppers ^{run} in your mind;
If you cannae ~~remember~~ ^{recall} what happened last year,
Remember, Billy's DVD has it all here!!"