

Instituted 1921



Federated 1921

WHAT GOES ON A BURNS CLUB EVENING?

Poosie-Nansie Burns Club meets on the first Friday of each month, from October to April. A typical members' night might be along the lines of our recent AGM, held on April 2, 2010, which went as follows:

Members gather at 7.30pm at our venue, a room kindly loaned to us by Niddrie Bowling Club in Newcraighall, Edinburgh, the village where our Burns Club was founded in 1921. After exchanging pleasantries, and ordering the requisite refreshments, the meeting commences.

The club song, Rantin' Rovin' Robin, is sung by members, after which the club president calls the meeting to order and, it being the AGM, there is much business to get through. This includes the acceptance of the minutes of the previous AGM, the annual reports given by the club President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, a discussion on annual subscription rates and, importantly, the election of office bearers.

Having duly appointed a new club President, who has the role for two years, a new vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and croupiers (they act like club stewards at meetings), a report was given on the moves to create a new club website, which will give Poosie-Nansie's a window on the world and explain our activities.

Members discussed details of the club's annual Burns Supper on January 28, 2011, and then set a date for the club's annual outing, (this year most likely to the Mauchline area of Ayrshire which has historic connections to Robert Burns - he farmed outside the town at Mossgiel, he met his wife Jean Armour in the town, he set up home there with her, he frequented the local taverns, including Poosie Nansie's near the church where he was oftentimes berated by the minister Daddie Auld for his alleged fornications and fleshly lusts!, and he helped set up the Bachelors Club debating society in the nearby village of Tarbolton.) After a break for more refreshments, club members took part in the Harmony, the part of the evening usually lasting between an hour and a half to two hours, during which members recite Burns poems, sing his songs, discuss the Bard's life and generally exchange banter and have a good time.

This really is what Burns club meetings are all about, the camaraderie, although the formal, business-section in the early part of the evening is important too. Among the songs and recitations that evening were the rousing Ye Jacobites By Name, Dainty Davie, The Bonnie Lass O' Ballochmyle, Green Grow the Rushes O, My Nannie's Awa, Ae Fond Kiss, and Ode to the Toothache.

There are different levels of ability, of course, and varying degrees of singing standards, but members all have a go, unabashed, and nobody cares a whit. It's the taking part that counts, whether the Burns recitation is done from memory, or read out from a book.

As 11pm draws close, the members conclude the meeting with a rendition of Auld Lang Syne, after which they eventually head home, not quite in the manner of Tam O'Shanter (or rarely!), but always suitably sustained, mentally and physically.