## BURNS CELEBRATION – 26<sup>TH</sup> January 2018 Belmont Hotel

2018 was touch and go as to whether we would have a Burns Night. This was due to several causes, one of the primary ones being declining attendance due to members who were not keen to travel after dark. The Council were reluctant to have Burns Birthday to go unmarked. It was suggested at a meeting that we tried a Burns Lunch.

It would mean changes to the usual format, but we decided we would try it.

We managed to find a Local Hotel that was available that lunchtime and would provide the meals we were asking for.

At Twelve Noon on the dot the first of our 24 members arrived to participate in our Burns Lunch.

At twelve thirty on cue Our Hon. Piper marked the entry of the Haggis by leading the procession of Chef with Haggis etc following.

Grace was given by Murdo Ferrier our President. Mr John Smith Addressed the Haggis, which we all toasted. Our two-course meal consisted of Haggis, Neeps and tatties and a delicious Whisky sauce, followed by cranachan finishing with tea or coffee

Dr Hugh Mackay proposed a toast to the Immortal memory which was followed by Mr R Gregory's "toast to the lassies," and Mrs D Niblett "toast to the laddies".

Mr J Sedatis then delighted us all with his reading of "To a mouse".

At approximately 2.30pm we left for home.

It had been a very good lunch and it has gone down very well as we have been asked to do it again, and we have already booked the hotel for the 25th January 2019.

We will keep our fingers crossed that more members will join us for a most enjoyable time. The most important thing was to keep the Immortal Memory alive.

Gina Ferrier Hon. Secretary