



The Rotary Club of Belfast

Club No.67 in RI & No.3 in RIBI

112th Annual Report

For the year ended 31st March 2023



**CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD**

Organised 24th July 1911

First formal meeting 14th August 1911

Founder member of Rotary International in Great Britain & Ireland

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Belfast



The Club meets normally at the Europa Hotel, Belfast on Mondays (except Bank Holidays) at 12.45pm for 1.00pm.

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Online Presence

www.belfastrotaryclub.com

 **The Rotary Club of Belfast**

Website Members' Area Log in

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| User name: | your christian & surname - all lowercase no spaces or capitals |
| Password: | Member1911 - all lowercase no spaces |

CLUB EXECUTIVE

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| President | Steven Costello |
| President Elect | |
| Vice President | |
| Immediate Past President | Ken Nixon |
| Honorary Secretary | David Boyd |
| Honorary Treasurer | Tim Browne |
| Asst. Hon. Treasurer | John Williamson |

CLUB COUNCIL

| | | |
|---------------|------------------|----------------|
| Derek Baxter | David Boyd | Brian Clements |
| Doris Houston | Ronnie McLean | John Rea |
| | Rosemary Simpson | |

CLUB SERVICE CHAIRS

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Membership | Alan Rundle |
| Community & Vocational | Mark Davidson |
| International | Adrian Kerr |
| Foundation | Karen Blair |
| Environment | Steven Costello |
| Youth Service | Eric Rainey |
| Communications | David Boyd |

CLUB OFFICERS

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Attendance | Billy McCoubrey |
| Archivist | Gordon Millington |
| Badges | David Boyd |
| Children in Hospital / Montgomery Bowl | John Rea |
| Directory | David Boyd |
| Website/Club News Editor | David Boyd |
| Fellowship | Doris Houston |
| Health & Safety | Denis Wilson |
| Information | Gordon Millington |
| Pastoral Care | Rosemary Simpson |
| Photographer | Billy McCoubrey |
| Programme | Ken Nixon |
| Protection Officer | Walter Rader |
| Sports | Tim Browne |
| TABU | David Boyd |
| Youth Leadership | |

CLUB LIAISON OFFICERS

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| Inner Wheel | |
| Rotaract | Alan Rundle |



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One Hundred and Eleven Years - 1911-2023

| Year | President | Honorary Secretary |
|---------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1911-12 | William Wallace* | John P Corry |
| 1912-13 | H H Montgomery* | Edwin Dempster |
| 1913-14 | W H Alexander* | Hugh Boyd |
| 1914-15 | W C Gabbey* | ~ |
| 1915-16 | John M Colton* | ~ |
| 1916-17 | Arthur S Davidson* | William C Gabbey |
| 1917-18 | George W Clarke* | ~ |
| 1918-19 | Hugh Boyd* | James Dalzell |
| 1919-20 | James F Newell* | ~ |
| 1920-21 | Charles E White* | Walter Malcolm |
| 1921-22 | James Dalzell* | John S Garrett |
| 1922-24 | Frederick McKibbin* | Wilfred W Weston |
| 1924-25 | Robert G Todd* | ~ |
| 1925-26 | Walter Malcolm* | ~ |
| 1926-27 | Arthur S Atkinson* | ~ |
| 1927-28 | William Sweeney* | ~ |
| 1928-29 | George G Little* | ~ |
| 1929-30 | James E McCue* | ~ |
| 1930-31 | Harris Rundle* | ~ |
| 1931-32 | A Thomas Robinson * | ~ |
| 1932-33 | John W T Watters* | ~ |
| 1933-34 | R P C Gotto* | ~ |
| 1934-35 | David J Thompson* | ~ |
| 1935-36 | Gordon J Stephenson* | ~ |
| 1936-37 | W D Geddis* | ~ |
| 1937-38 | John W Lindsay* | ~ |
| 1938-39 | Fred R Unwin* | ~ |
| 1939-40 | Edwin Dempster* | Ernest R Ingram |
| 1940-41 | Sir James Norritt* | ~ |
| 1941-42 | Walter K Alexander* | ~ |
| 1942-43 | Ernest Rea* | ~ |
| 1943-44 | Walter H Cooper* | ~ |
| 1944-45 | Fred H Purdy* | ~ |
| 1945-46 | Walter C Tate* | Arthur D Simpson |
| 1946-47 | S Robert Bell* | ~ |
| 1947-48 | Arnold White* | ~ |
| 1948-49 | Robert Mulholland* | ~ |
| 1949-50 | Aubrey A Harding* | ~ |
| 1950-51 | John Petrie* | John Little |
| 1951-52 | F Malcolm McKibbin* | Robert A Patterson |
| 1952-53 | Arthur D Simpson* | ~ |
| 1953-54 | Fred L Gribbon* | ~ |
| 1954-55 | John Morrow* | ~ |
| 1955-56 | W Frank Black* | ~ |



One Hundred and Eleven Years - 1911-2023

| Year | President | Honorary Secretary |
|-------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1956-57 | John Little* | Robert A Patterson |
| 1957-58 | David Andrews* | Horace W Gooding |
| 1958-59 | J Allison Corkey* | Terence W Duncan |
| 1959-60 | Norman Agnew* | ~ |
| 1960-61 | Thomas W McConnell* | ~ |
| 1961-62 | A Stanley Boyd* | Terence W Duncan |
| 1962-63 | H Cecil Rundle* | R G McCadden |
| 1963-64 | John McC Rea* | ~ |
| 1964-65 | H Chesley Boyd* | P H S Newel |
| 1965-66 | Frederick C Rogan* | ~ |
| 1966-67 | Robert J Frizzell* | S O Morton |
| 1967-68 | Henry J Porter* | ~ |
| 1968-69 | Reginald G McCadden* | J Campbell Bailie |
| 1969-70 | Stanley Rainey * | ~ |
| 1970-71 | Lister Dawson* | ~ |
| 1971-72 | Terence S Duncan* | ~ |
| 1972-73 | Ernest Gleghorn* | Alan Brown |
| 1973-74 | Harry S Corscadden* | ~ |
| 1974-75 | William J Doran* | ~ |
| 1975-76 | James T Kernohan* | Gordon S Millington |
| 1976-77 | Harold E Smith* | ~ |
| 1977-78 | William H Donaldson* | ~ |
| 1978-79 | John H A Swinson* | K K Fleischer |
| 1979-80 | Raymond H A Boyd* | ~ |
| 1980-81 | Gordon S Millington | ~ |
| 1981-82 | Trevor C Dickey* | Gordon S Richardson |
| 1982-83 | Jack McGarry | F Michael Donaghy |
| 1983-84 | Robert J Ayling* | ~ |
| 1984-85 | Robert W Kimlin * | Brian Mooney |
| 1985-86 | K Craig McClelland | ~ |
| 1986-87 | Kenneth J Dunbar* | ~ |
| 1987-88 | B R Johnston | David S Boyd |
| 1988-89 | Douglas M Simpson* | ~ |
| 1989-90 | Derek E McIlwaine* | ~ |
| 1990-91 | F Michael Donaghy* | ~ |
| 1991-92 | Roy N MacDougall* | ~ |
| 1992-93 | T Victor M McKirgan* | J Trevor Hinds |
| 1993-94 | Albert S Baird* | ~ |
| 1994-95 | J Brian Byers* | ~ |
| 1995-96 | Alan E White | ~ |
| 1996-97 | Ken E Reid* | ~ |
| 1997-98 | J Campbell Morton | R H Barrie Houston |
| 1998-99 | David S Boyd | ~ |
| 1999-00 | John C Lowry* | ~ |



One Hundred and Eleven Years - 1911-2023

| Year | President | Honorary Secretary |
|-------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 2000-01 | Brian T Ferguson | R H Barrie Houston |
| 2001-02 | J Trevor Hinds | ~ |
| 2002-03 | J Derek Baxter | Stephen Smith |
| 2003-04 | Alastair Corscadden | ~ |
| 2004-05 | Marnette Lyons | ~ |
| 2005-06 | Michael F Smyth | Robert Hood/Mark Davidson |
| 2006-07 | Maurice Brooks | Mark Davidson |
| 2007-08 | Bryan Johnston | ~ |
| 2008-09 | JL Courtenay Thompson | ~ |
| 2009-10 | Arthur J Boyd* | ~ |
| 2010-11 | Brian Clements | Rosemary Simpson |
| 2011-12 | Adrian Kerr | ~ |
| 2012-13 | Alan Rundle | ~ |
| 2013-14 | Ken Morrison | ~ |
| 2014-15 | Ronnie McLean | Alvin McKinley |
| 2015-16 | Ronnie Porter | ~ |
| 2016-17 | Ivan McMinn | Crawford McIlveen |
| 2017-18 | Rosemary Simpson | ~ |
| 2018-19 | Mark Davidson | Lorna Magill |
| 2019-20 | Karen Blair | ~ |
| 2020-21 | Ken Nixon | ~ |
| 2021-22 | Ken Nixon | ~ |
| 2022-23 | Steven Costello | Lorna Magill/David Boyd |



President's Letter

My fellow Rotarians

As my year enters its final weeks, my first task is to offer congratulations to my immediate predecessor IPP Ken Nixon, who gave of his time and energy to ensure that his exceptional 2 years in office were a considerable success. It was with some trepidation that I stepped into his and those of former Presidents' shoes! I am deeply indebted to you, the members, for honouring me by installing me as President for 2022-23, it has been an honour to have served this year and I have enjoyed it thoroughly.



“Service Above Self” is the long-standing motto of Rotary and I believe the Club exemplifies this. The Rotary International President's theme this year has been Create Hope in the World and I believe that our activities this year have supported and enhanced these objectives. We have supported a range of charities and been actively involved with Mitchell House, YouthAction NI, San Antonio Peace Awards, ShelterBox, Lendwithcare and our Global Scholars to name but a few.

Despite the rigours of Covid the Club continues in good heart with members returning to face to face meetings at the Europa as well as joining on zoom with IPP Ken Nixon putting together a great line-up of varied speakers. My thanks to all members for donating so generously not least with the very significant response to the ShelterBox Turkey/Syria earthquake Appeal.

I would like to thank you all for your support and patience during the year especially the support I have received from IPP Ken, the Office Bearers and Council members who have steered me through this year. Particularly thanks are extended to Lorna Magill for all her work and time as Hon. Secretary over the last 4½ years and to PP David Boyd who has kindly agreed to be Hon. Secretary.

Sadly during the year we bade farewell to John Lowry and Walter Rader who served the Club with distinction for 35 and 20 years respectively and accepted resignations from Brian Ferguson and Norman Apsley who moved away from Belfast. I am however delighted to have welcomed Malcolm Griffiths and Letitia Fitzpatrick as members.

This Annual Report sets out all those activities that we have undertaken and they are very impressive. What it does not cover is the many hours of work, thought and concern that so many individual Rotarians have given to the work of this Club. I would like to thank, and pay tribute, to all of you who have contributed so much. I commend the detailed reports from individual Service Chairs which appear in this Report and reflect the very varied activity of the Club during the year.

Yours in Rotary

Steven Costello
President



Secretary's Report

The Officers and Council are pleased to present the Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Some of the main events during the year are listed below. Full details of these and many other activities undertaken can be found in the relevant sections of this report.

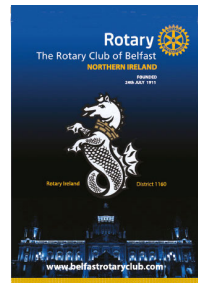
2022

April

- * President Ken was joined at the Rotary Ireland District Conference held in Malahide 08-09 April by President Elect Steven Costello and Global Scholars Annie Linzing and Rania Lewis. Rotary Ireland District Governor Dave Murray presented them with several recognitions for members' donations to the Rotary Foundation and the End Polio Now campaign during 2020-21 - *see page 19*

May

- * the Club's new eco banner was introduced
- * President Ken advised AG Kevin O'Hara had come to the end of his 3 year Term of Office as Assistant Governor and congratulated PE Steven Costello on being appointed his successor
- * Several members joined President Ken at a very enjoyable JCI Belfast Wine Tasting Event Thursday 12 May
- * the AGM was held on zoom Monday 17 May
 - the Annual Report was adopted
 - Council members were elected to serve for the year 2022/23
 - Honorary Members for the year 2022/23 were re-elected
 - subscriptions were agreed as unchanged for the year 2022/23
- * 22 members and partners gathered together, for the first time since the start of the Coronavirus pandemic, for 3 days at the Marine Hotel Ballycastle



June

- * Miriam Donnan, Principal, Mitchell House School advised that the Kids Out Day visit was best left until September as the school was still restricting the number of external trips, however it sadly did not take place then either
- * the Club submitted District Foundation Grant applications for the Grosvenor Project and for garden and community facilities for Alpha Housing
- * Doris Houston attended the Rotary International Conference in Houston 04-08 June
- * President Ken welcomed AG Kevin O'Hara, on his last visit to the Club, to the Club Assembly held on zoom 13 June and thanked him for his always positive and constructive support
- * President Ken was delighted to welcome 40 members and guests to President's Day at the Royal Belfast Golf Club,



Secretary's Report *cont...*

Monday 27 June - a unique occasion as not only was it the first to be held since 2019 but it was also for 2 Presidents! - PP Karen who, with the lockdown, had been unable to hold one at the end of her year and President Ken after his 2 years in office!

- * several members attended the celebration of Mitchell House's 60th birthday 23 June
- * on the death of Rotary Club of Kingston Past President Michael Kingham condolences were extended to his wife Lilian and the family circle and to the President and members of the Kingston Rotary Club. He was fondly remembered by those members involved over the years with inter-club visits to and from the Rotary Club of Kingston

July

- * the handover to President Steven took place Monday 04 July made all the more special with the presence of his family (see page 36) - his mother in the Europa and his brothers Julien and Darren and family (currently in Puerto Banus!) on zoom
- * the Club welcomed transferring member Malcolm Griffiths
- * the Club reached out to Hon. Member Martha Gray, President Eric Ephraim, Club members and all the Highland Park community and expressed heartfelt sympathy to those effected by the horrific and tragic mass shooting during an Independence Day parade in Highland Park
- * having completed her Masters in Special Needs at QUB, 2021-22 Global Scholar Allie Linzing made her last visit to the Club before returning to Chicago
- * Rotarians from San Antonio Rotary Club presented their Inaugural International Peace Awards to 4 charities - *see page 26*
- * the Club took a summer break with no further meetings until September



September

- * with great sadness the Club recorded the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
- * Council accepted, with regret, the resignation of Norman Apsley who, having retired is now living in Larne

October

- * the Club welcomed this year's Global Scholars Marisa Terry and Odalis Alvarado

November

- * following discussions with RC Highland Park/Highwood, recognising the common concern of the increasing burden of cost with reducing Club members, it was decided to cancel the proposed TABU trip to them next year - a revised format going forward is under discussion
- * members were asked to offer to house the Club's historical memorabilia



Secretary's Report *cont...*

December

- * 10 Toy Boxes costing £250 were donated to Kids Out UK for a local Women's Refuge
- * members donated £600 to the joint Salvation Army/St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal
- * the Club's Christmas Lunch was held in the Europa
- * the Club was delighted to be again able to end activities for the year by providing the traditional Christmas party for 40 Junior School children from Mitchell House

2023

January

- * the New Year Address was made 09 January by Rev. Willie Nixon reflecting on his life and work in the ministry
- * the John Savage Award and Bursary 2023 was presented 16 January to the East Belfast Suicide Support Group SOS

February

- * the Club was delighted to welcome new member Letitia Fitzpatrick
- * following the disastrous earthquake in Turkey and Syria the Club launched early the Tent For Lent Appeal to collect donations to support ShelterBox's Emergency Earthquake Appeal
- * IPP Ken attended the Rotary Club of San Antonio's International Virtual Social meeting with the Rotary Club of Warsaw International on 28 February
- * disbursements from the Children in Hospital Fund were made to support the: Mitchell House Sensory Garden; the Spinal Injury Garden at Musgrave Park Hospital; the Children's Heartbeat Trust and SENSE NI for deaf/blind children
- * the Club submitted an entry to District for the RGB&I Young Writer competition
- * friendship greetings were received from the Rotary Club of Dhulikhel, Nepal

March

- * it was agreed that the Club's collection of presented banners should be disposed of
- * in a new meeting format the Club had a Spring Away Day Visit on March 20 to Coca Cola, Lisburn
- * the Club was delighted to welcome to Belfast a party of 12 Rotarians from the Rotary Clubs of Grangemouth and Falkirk (NW Edinburgh)
- * further support for the ShelterBox Earthquake Appeal was undertaken with a 3 day joint collection at Bloomfield Shopping Centre in collaboration with the Rotary Clubs of Donaghadee, Bangor and Belfast East who helped fill the slots; the Club is indebted to RI District co-ordinator Kerr Fulton-Peebles for his help and supply of a ShelterBox; an exceptional £3,500 was collected



Secretary's Report *cont...*

Membership

Club Membership at 31 March 2022 is 44 - one less than last year.

The Club was greatly saddened to record the deaths of 2 long standing members PP John Lowry (1988) who has resigned earlier in the year for health reasons and Walter Rader (2003) both of whom gave exceptional service to the Club and are greatly missed by their many friends in the Club.



Council were delighted during the year to welcome on transfer from RC Sandys, Bermuda, Malcolm Griffiths and accept membership applications from Letitia Fitzpatrick and, with regret, resignations from Brian Ferguson (moved to Thane, England) and Norman Apsley (retired and moved to Larne).

Several members experienced ill-health, some have had treatments, medical operations or procedures in hospital and some have recently contracted Covid again.

Condolences were expressed to John Williamson, on the death of his wife, and Doris Houston, her brother-in-law, on their personal bereavements.

The Club thank PP Rosemary Simpson and Doris Houston for their continual pastoral care not only to members but also to the widows of former members.

Attendance

At the start of the year April - July meetings alternated between meeting in Hybrid format (in person the Europa with zoom alternative) and zoom only. No meetings were held during the month of August. Since September meetings have, in the main, been Hybrid with occasional zoom only and there was one external visit meeting.

Attendance remained high with 14 members recording attendance of 70% or more of the 36 meetings and 5 members over 90%.

Montgomery Bowl

Contributions were mostly donated to the Club's "Children in Hospital" Appeal Fund though flowers were sent on a number of occasions to those who are\have been unwell or suffered a bereavement. 3 disbursements were made from the Fund - *see page 15*

Speaker Programme

Thanks are extended to IPP Ken Nixon for organising such excellent weekly speakers on very interesting topics all of which were greatly enjoyed and appreciated and ranged (to name but a few!) from *an 'across the pond' evening social zoom with the RC San Antonio*



Secretary's Report *cont...*

to hearing about the Cyber Challenge, Corrymeela, Commonwealth Games, the Law Society, SOS Bus NI, the Hans Sloan Centre, several charities and culminating with an away day meeting hearing about Coca Cola.

Communications

The public face of the Club continues to be the website and Facebook page which draw attention from around the world, prompting visitors and prospective members. The weekly Club News is the main channel for communication to members.

As always the following pages set out in more detail the life and contributions of the Club and its members over the year. The Officers and Council acknowledge the Commitment of members to the ideal of service as recorded by the Chairs of Committees and other members.

David Boyd

Honorary Secretary



Membership Report

Our current membership is 44, with 9 honorary members. Unfortunately during Covid we have reduced in numbers, caused by a number of factors. We were sad to see the passing of Walter Rader and John Lowry, both of whom had contributed so much to our Club.

On a more positive note, we welcomed Malcolm Griffiths and Letitia Fitzpatrick to our numbers and Clement Tahiru is in the process of transferring membership from his previous club the Rotary Club of Accra-Dansoman. There have been a number of referrals via the internet, which have, in some cases added to our numbers, most notably Heather Shiell who is in the process of joining.



Council has devoted time, over the past few months, to exploring ways of making our Club more accessible to our members, by involving via Zoom where appropriate, and different meeting times and venues. It is hoped that these should come into fruition in the next few months and should hopefully attract new members.

Alan Rundle

Membership Chair

Club Membership at 31 March 2022 is 44

There are 9 Honorary Members:

PP Alan White

Lady Mary Peters

Martha Gray

Ilene Shaw

June Trimble

Jenny Boyd

The Lord Mayor of Belfast

US Consul General in Belfast

Inner Wheel Club of Belfast President



Community & Vocational Report

Rotary Christmas Toy Box initiative

As a Club, we made a donation of ten toy boxes @ £25.00 each to the KidsOut 'Toy Box' Christmas Appeal, supplying a Refuge nearest to the Club's location.

The Rotary KidsOut Christmas Toy Box is an initiative which supports Mothers fleeing domestic abuse with their children. Being cut off they have no way of accessing gifts and the KidsOut charity provides a box filled with brand new toys packed by them and distributed straight to refuges for the mothers to give to their children from Santa in time for Christmas.



Mitchell House School

The Club were delighted to end activities for the year by again providing the traditional Christmas party for the Junior School children from Mitchell House on 12 December. This was the first year it has been possible to do it since Covid and it was wonderful to be back with the pupils and staff after the long hiatus.



Following its very familiar format 30 pupils were hugely entertained by Magic George in the main hall this year rather than nursery and judging by the reaction of the children and the look on their faces, it was another resounding success. Magic George as usual entertained with his juggling, wayward monkey puppet, whose various tricks were met with huge acclaim from the children, staff and 'Rotarian elves'!

Crisps, chocolate buttons and cartons of juice were distributed before Santa's arrival and PP Brian Clements very kindly filled the famous boots, distributing presents to the appreciative audience.

Thanks are extended to him for sourcing the 'goody bags' and to all who attended or contributed in any way.



Mitchell House School Sensory Room

The Club made a donation towards the sensory room in Mitchell House's nursery. It was completed for the start of the new school year and they were absolutely delighted with it.



Community & Vocational Report *cont...*

Writing to thank the Club, Principal Miriam Donnan indicated the school's "massive thanks to everyone for the donation noting "it highlights the difference very kind donations like yours, along with some additional funding from education can make to our pupils."



Christmas Family Appeal

This year's Club Christmas Family Appeal was again in support of the Salvation Army and St Vincent de Paul. With thanks to the generosity of members it raised £600.

Carers UK/Rotary Partnership

At the last Carers UK Meeting it was agreed, as it comes to the end of Rotary's 3 Year Partnership it would be good to fix a Review. The idea is to reflect on what has been achieved and explore possibilities for working together in the Future as we move into another Rotary Year on July 1st

Mark Davidson

Community and Vocational Chair



Montgomery Bowl - *Children in Hospital Appeal*

The Club continued to support this Fund during the year with direct payments to Hon. Treasurer Tim Browne.

With Covid nothing has been paid out for a few years and the Montgomery Bowl Fund stood at £4,787. Council decided to make 3 disbursements:

- * £500 towards the Mitchell House Sensory Garden
- * £250 towards the Spinal Injury Garden at Musgrave Park Hospital - this is being matched by Ulster Rugby
- * £500 to the Children's Heartbeat trust and
- * £500 to SENSE NI for deaf/blind children

The Fund has proven to really “make a difference” providing money or equipment that would not otherwise have been provided.

In 2020 a 'Rolling Road' was presented to the Physio Dept. at Fleming Fulton School who were delighted with it as it folded up and, in particular, could be used by previously wheelchair-bound patients so that they could 'walk' and exercise their muscles.

Eric Rainey advised the Club that it was used during an exciting afternoon before Christmas 2022 to facilitate young people in wheelchairs to help Santa “deliver” all his presents around Belfast”.



Youth Service Report

In preparing this year's Youth Report, I am aware not only of the passing of time but of the efforts made by so many to return to normality (as we still meet in a mixture of face to face and in hybrid form).

YouthAction NI

I will start with our relationship and partnership with YouthAction by recording our sadness at the passing of Walter Rader. Walter, more than anyone else was responsible for establishing this relationship which has been of mutual benefit to both with the real beneficiaries being the countless young people now in employment or better equipped to play a full part in today's world.

This year we have taken part in two major Skills events (in June and October) and I am particularly grateful to all who have been involved in both planning and delivery with the other "Business Partners".



We have also attended a number of other YA events including the retirement of our Honorary Member, Chief Executive of Youth Action June Trimble MBE and the subsequent visit in January to the Club by the new CEO Dr Martin Mc Mullan, Clare Conlon and two exceptional young people - Jamie McAdoo, who had experienced many setbacks in his life and had just started his 6 month internship in Admin and

Finance and Cori Conlon, a young woman from west Belfast who has found success following her Internship. We continue to support the YouthAction Rotary Intern which over many years has given a young person a real job and training leading to full time employment or further/higher education.



In addition, it was good to attend and support the opening of the YouthAction café, accredited by OCN, and training young people in level 1 Barista skills in preparation for employment in the hospitality industry whilst also providing a useful, friendly and welcoming environment for formal and informal meetings).

John Savage Award and Bursary

The John Savage bursary was awarded to East Belfast Survivors of Suicide SOS. Walter Rader while between Hospital and home prepared all of the information prior to meeting and assessment, illustrating perfectly just how far his service and influence extended.



Youth Service Report *cont...*

The John Savage Award and Bursary was presented to SOS's Claire Curran by President Steven 09 January. SOS was formed in September 2006 as a response to the rise in suicides in the East Belfast Area by some of the family and friends of those who lost their lives to suicide. Its aim being to provide help and comfort to those left behind by providing a shoulder to lean on, an ear to listen and a safe place for families to talk about their loss. Having grown they now also provide support to those who have attempted suicide or had serious suicidal thoughts.



Their success was a real tribute to both Walter and PP John Savage in whose memory the Award was established so many years ago. It remains a tremendous recognition of a former Rotarian driven by his real passion for the welfare of young people

In conclusion, my appreciation of all Rotarian colleagues for their support and for those, while not involved, are fully supportive of all our efforts. We continue to fully support National competitions as appropriate and value our ongoing support with local schools.

TABU

Sadly TABU (Towards A Better Understanding) has become a victim of life after Covid. Hopefully a new way can be found to deliver this outstanding exchange project which has benefitted so many young people who have travelled and the Rotarians involved – members always enjoyed the selection, interviews and preparations involving our schools and parents in addition to the programme itself. PP David Boyd continues an active discussion with Highland Park in Chicago and hopefully will continue to develop the wonderful relationship - we look forward optimistically.

Rotaract

Our involvement with Rotaract and student hosting continues as a huge benefit to the Club. Here, my personal appreciation of PP 's Alan Rundle and Bryan Johnston who will, I am sure, comment further in the Club Report.

Eric Rainey

Youth Service Chair



Other Youth Programmes

RGB&I Young Writer Competition

The National Young Writer Competition is a well-established and successful competition promoted by Rotary International in Britain and Ireland. It is a three-stage competition (Club, District and National) designed to support and encourage development of writing skills and aims to encourage young people to use their writing skills and write with imagination and creativity.

This year, for the first time, the Club received an application for this competition. A request was also made from a school for entry forms. As no others were received the application from Ruby Gwynne (aged 12) was submitted to District as the Club's entry for the Intermediate Stage. The District winner will be submitted to RGB&I for the final - as yet no results are available.

Rotary Youth Exchange

Rotary Youth Exchange Programmes include:

- * *school holiday exchanges* where young people can experience a different culture in a family to family exchange programme for around six weeks in the summer and
- * *overseas camps and tours* where Rotary members run camps, some with tours, mainly during the summer holiday, catering for age groups from 15 to 25-year-olds attracted by the theme of the camp, which could be outdoor and sporty or cultural, historical, artistic, or musical. Most camps last about two weeks, with students mostly living with host families or in hostels. Very few involve living under canvas.

This year the Club has submitted applications to District for 2 students to attend Rotary Youth Camps.

TABU - Towards a Better Understanding

The Club, together with the Rotary Club of Highland Park/Highwood, sadly decided that the TABU Exchange would not take place in March 2023.

This decision was made following discussions with RC Highland Park/Highwood recognising the common concern of the increasing burden of cost with reducing Club members.

I am investigating a revised format going forward which will be suitable for both Clubs and the schools.

David Boyd

TABU Convenor



Rotary Foundation Report

In April 2022 the Club received Award Banners from Past DG Dave Murray at the District Conference recognising the following achievements that the Club:

- * was one of only 4,000 clubs worldwide to attain status as an Every Rotarian, Every Year Club with a minimum Annual Fund contribution of \$100 per member
- * was one of only 4,600 clubs worldwide to become a 100% Foundation Giving Club

The Club was also again presented with a certificate in appreciation for the Club's support of the 'End Polio Now' campaign.



The citation reads:

Rotary Club of Belfast

is presented a certificate of appreciation for its financial support of End Polio Now: Make History Today Campaign. Together, we will fulfil our promise to the children of the world and eradicate polio.

Sustaining Membership

As at 31st March, the Club has 26 members contributing. Members are reminded that Council encourages all members to sign up. The annual cost of \$100 translates to circa £7 per month. However Club Membership is then reduced by £30 resulting in a monthly cost of approx. £4 per month.

District Grants

In addition to the key role that Rotary Foundation plays internationally, it also enables an active District Grant programme. We have received funding under this programme to progress an environmental improvement scheme with Alpha Housing and the provision of an outdoor gym to Grosvenor Lifehouse Homeless Centre. This helps us see how Sustaining Membership makes a real difference at a local level too.

Rotary Global Scholars



Having completed her Masters in Special Needs at QUB, 2021-22 Global Scholar Allie Linzing on 04 July paid her last visit to the Club before returning to Chicago. She had been interested in Mitchell House and was a big help with Rotaract. Allie, thanking the Club for the support, noted it had provided amazing opportunities and that it had been great to be involved with Rotaract.



Rotary Foundation Report *cont...*

2021-22 Global Scholar Rania Lewis has remained in Belfast continuing her studies in Conflict Transformation & Social Justice. Both Scholars were regular attendees at the Club, active participants with the Rotaract Club and also attended the District Conference.

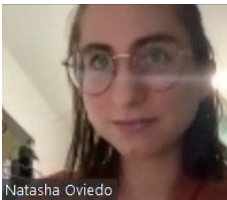
The Club wish them well in their future careers.

The Club is delighted to again host 2 global scholars while they are studying at Queens University during 2022/23.

Odalís Alvarado, sponsored by District 5790, is from the Grapevine Rotary Club in Texas and Marisa Terry (*far right*) from Lakewood, Washington State is sponsored by Lakewood Rotary Club, District 5020. Odalís and Marisa addressed Club meetings with interesting and detailed expositions of their background, studies, interests and future plans and both addresses, peppered with infectious enthusiasm, were greatly appreciated.



Odalís has been greatly involved with Rotaract and instrumental in setting up their project to help, in conjunction with HIPANI, single mother refugees from Eritrea living in a Belfast hotel close to the Europa. She has obtained a grant from her home Club in Texas to provide basic personal requisites and toys for the children and help them learn English.



Particular congratulations are extended to 2020/21 Global Scholar Natasha Oviedo who, intent to be involved with the community, was actively involved during her time here not only with the Rotaract Club and the Horn of Africa People's Aid NI providing refurbished laptops to refugees but also founded LASI (*Language and Solidarity Initiative*) - a student-led programme designed to help refugees, asylum seekers and migrants which, under her management, has expanded rapidly and helped people from around the world improve their spoken and written English and access key healthcare services. She was awarded the Allstate NI Queen's Student of the Year in July. Having graduated, she is now working in Geneva with the Red Cross

Karen Blair
Foundation Chair



International Report

Lendwithcare

Throughout the year we have continued to invest in the Lendwithcare scheme. Additional loans were funded from scheduled repayments from existing loans, all of whom, even during this post covid period, managed to make their payments as planned with no defaulters. When selecting projects to fund, as well as individuals, we have continued to put emphasis on cooperative groups who have come together in an attempt to improve living standards for their wider family or local community. The projects ranged from co-operative farming and manufacturing to individuals selling and working to expand their cottage type businesses.



Since our initial involvement in December 17, we have made a total of 89 loans (worth £4,295). This has enabled us to:

- * help 288 entrepreneurs – 1,007 family members
- * create 131 jobs and
- * help a total of 1426 people

This excludes the contributions made by Club members who have joined the scheme on an individual basis and continue to invest/reinvest on an ongoing basis.

ShelterBox

ShelterBox continues to be a priority for the Club's international support and during the year a number of individual members purchased a ShelterBox in lieu of buying presents for family or friends at Christmas, or to mark a special occasion in their personal life.

In response to the recent terrible earthquake in Turkey and Syria, in conjunction with the Rotary clubs of Bangor, Donaghadee, Belfast East, Inner Wheel and Rotaract, we arranged a public fundraising event in Bloomfield Shopping Centre in Bangor over the weekend period 24-26 March. Thanks to the combined efforts of all involved, and with the assistance of Kerr Fulton-Peebles, (Rotary ShelterBox District Coordinator for Ireland) we raised £3,500.



International Report *cont...*

With thanks to Kerr Fulton Peebles the ShelterBox was erected but had to be delicately moved to a different location!



GIVE A TENT FOR LENT

Generous donations to ShelterBox were also made by our own members and to our annual Tent for Lent Appeal which, together with Gift Aid, enabled our Treasurer to forward in total £9,500 to the District Treasurer on behalf of the Club this year.

International Visitors

The Club continues to welcome international Rotarian visitors to the club meetings and events and during this year we were delighted to be joined by Rotarians from other clubs and individual international guests.

End Polio Now

The Club continues to support the End Polio Now campaign both through individual members contributions and our annual payment to District via the member annual subscription.

Adrian Kerr

International Chair

Environment Report

The Treekly walking App which turns footsteps into forests, by supporting native mangrove tree planting by Eden Reforestation Projects in North Madagascar, is no longer officially supported by RGB&I but members are encouraged to support this on an individual basis.



The Alpha Housing project for an environmental improvement scheme is nearing commencement with the help of a Rotary Foundation District Grant

Stephen Costello

Environment Chair

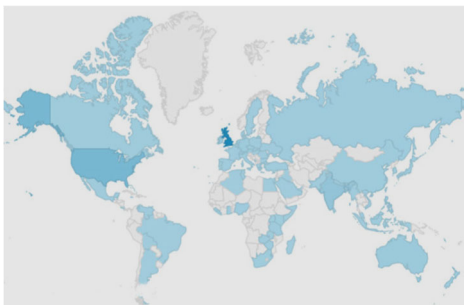


Communications Report

The new eco Club Banner has been delivered and is now being presented to visiting Rotarians and guests.

The main channels of the Communications team continue to be the Club News, Website and Facebook page. Issued weekly 2 days after a meeting the Club News highlights what happened during the last week, future events and information pertinent to members. Currently around 85% of members open it within 24 hours, all members are encouraged to open the email asap and have a quick look at it, even if they have been at a meeting, as it often contain additional information not available at the time of the meeting.

The website continues to build up its visitor figures and statistics to date showing that in the year to end March 2023 it continued to reach worldwide audiences. Most visitors were from the UK & the US but the next numerous countries were: India, Ireland, Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, China and Malaysia! The website is updated constantly particularly the 'blog' articles which are then posted to the Club's Facebook page.



The Club receives many communications through the contact the Club section on the website; these range from membership enquiries, requests to visit, greetings from other Clubs and funding requests. In particular this year the Rotary Club of Sharon Hezliya, Israel messaged on the death of the Queen "*Please accept our deep sorrow for the death of Queen Elizabeth*" and in March the Past President of the Rotary Club of Dhulikhel, Nepal Ranjeev Shrestha extended friendship greetings to the Club and included a link to their Club video.

This year the pocket-sized Club List with details for members' use again only was produced both as a hard copy and as a pdf.

A story is nothing without photographs and we are continually indebted to Club photographer Billy McCoubrey for his wonderful selection of photographs. We also thank all members who have supplied information and photographs for the Weekly Club News.

David Boyd

Communications Chair



Pastoral Care

Thankfully Rotary Club meetings have more or less returned to our usual lunchtime meetings in the Europa Hotel for those who felt brave enough to take the chance of meeting in a hotel rather than the safety of Zoom meetings, though that option is available for those who can't make it into Belfast.

The Pastoral Care team was formed to support the President during his/her year of office by keeping in touch with any member who is unable to attend meetings in person. This may be due to illness, bereavement or other personal reason thus missing the benefit of meeting Rotary friends, keeping in touch with all the activities taking place or being planned. Rotary supports people worldwide whilst caring for our own members and that is often equally important. Personal contact by phone call, a hospital visit, a bunch of flowers, a get-well card is often enough to lift the spirits of any of us in need. Often the President has time to make a phone call but not to meet for a coffee or a visit and this is where those who help with Pastoral Care are appreciated.

As usual we depend on the information given by members' friends if a member is in any way incapacitated and often Doris Houston and I would meet up with a bereaved widow for a chat over lunch or coffee or suggest help from another member when a call from a male Rotarian would be more suitable. All of these meetings are really appreciated and a support at a time of grief. A word from a member about someone in need of a call or chat is a help to those of us who make time to visit or phone. In these circumstances the President is always kept informed.

The hand of friendship, a text, a smile or even a hug can be all that is needed to lift someone's spirit so to all fellow members please keep us up to date with any fellow Rotarian who enjoys a bit of craic!

Thank you to those who have helped, your help and information is greatly appreciated.

Rosemary EC Simpson



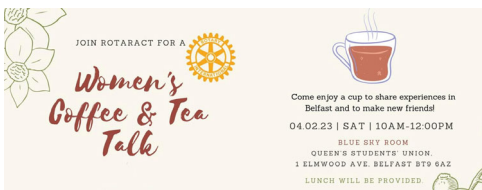
Rotaract

During the year we have introduced some new members, however, with more and more students studying from home and not being around at weekends, it again has been restricted mainly to foreign visitors.

At the end of August we lost a very active member in Allie Linzing, who has returned home to further her career as a special needs teacher. While with us she had a particular involvement with our own Mitchell House.

Natasha Oviedo departed in the Autumn to work in the Red Cross headquarters in Geneva. During her time here she made a very strong impact, becoming QUB student of the year for work in setting up the English language school LASI, which to this day continues to expand.

We would like to thank Barbara Boyle from Bangor Rotary Club, who has taken a great interest in Rotaract and indeed provided support in many of our ventures, most notably with our YMCA project during the summer holidays.



Our own Rotarians, John Rea and Clement Tahiru, have continued their support throughout the year.

As I write our project involving support for Eritrean refugees currently housed in hotels in Belfast is under way. This project is in collaboration with HAPANI, the Horn of Africa Charity, it was the brain-child of our peace scholar, Odalis Alvarado, and has the support of her local Rotary Club of Grapevine, Texas.

The academic year will essentially be coming to a close next month, and we look forward to recruiting new members in the coming semester.

Alan Rundle
Rotaract Officer



Club Hosts International Peace Awards

The Club was delighted to host during the Club meeting Monday 18 July the presentation of the inaugural San Antonio International Peace Awards bestowed by the Rotary Club of San Antonio, Texas to 4 local charities selected by the Club for their outstanding work for peace and reconciliation and young people. Over the last 50 years the Club has a fine record of programmes working for peace and reconciliation and were delighted to connect with the San Antonio Club, who also have a massive commitment to International peace and reconciliation.

Attending were the Rotarians from San Antonio (*shown from left*) Jack Maguire, PP Joan Kerol, Deborah Martin Alamo Heights Club, San Antonio and JC Clapsaddle, as well as representatives of the 4 charities and Bishop Trevor Williams, representing Corrymeela.



The San Antonio Club had formed a relationship with Corrymeela following a visit to San Antonio by former Director Derek Wilson and as the San Antonio Rotary Club is committed to the Rotary philosophy of international peace building and reconciliation they decided to initiate these International Peace Awards.



The Awards and £1,000 Bursary were accepted on behalf of the charities

- * Lady Mary Peters and Board Member Will Doggart – The Mary Peters Trust
- * Senior Manager Alan Waite and Donovan Evit - R-City Belfast
- * Honorary Treasurer David Boyd - Harmony Community Trust
- * CEO Gareth Harper - PeacePlayers NI

From left: IPP Ken Nixon, Jack Maguire-Rotary Club of San Antonio; Will Doggart-Mary Peters Trust; JC Clapsaddle-San Antonio Club; Lady Mary Peters-Mary Peters Trust; Donovan Evit-R-City Belfast; President Steven and David Boyd-Harmony Community Trust.

Each recipient greatly thanked the San Antonio Club for the award and Bursary noting they were very appreciative of the support and the much needed funding will immediately be put to great use.

After the Club meeting the San Antonio Rotarians moved up to the north coast and presented an Award and Bursary to Corrymeela as well as 4 local charities selected by the Rotary Clubs of Ballycastle, Ballymoney, Coleraine and Londonderry.



Glebe House (*Harmony Community Trust*)

The Club continues to be involved with and support Harmony Community Trust (HCT).

The resilience of staff and volunteers got them through the difficulties from Covid as, with residential ruled out, they found new ways of doing day activity programmes. It re-opened following the founders' ethos as they face essentially the same mission. Covid has laid bare the social inequalities of society for children and young people, older people with rural isolation, mental health issues and the social development of children... the need for a safe and welcoming place that HCT provides is greater than ever.

However the impact on funding of the current public expenses environment has yet to be seen as most programmes are currently funded by public bodies and departments and these are seriously under threat.



Our Centre Manager, Diarmaid McGarrigle, retired in May. Unfortunately his retirement was to be short as he suddenly passed away in August.

The new Director, Andrew McCracken has brought a welcome new dynamic and professionalism to the operations.

Glebe House is currently accommodating in the Stables house a Ukrainian family of 5 (Mum, Dad and 3 children); it was heart-warming to see the local community work together to prepare it for them. Despite language difficulties they have integrated into the community extremely well and the children are attending the local school.

A new community project is well underway with the creation of a seedbed with polytunnel (*early participants pictured left above*) enabling local people to engage in some market gardening.

From a Rotary Club point of view particular concerns remain:

- * the need to expand the Council supplementing Council skills particularly in the areas of: fundraising, marketing, property and staffing and
- * HCT needs fundraising

David Boyd

www.glebehouseni.com



Inner Wheel



The Inner Wheel Club of Belfast continues to thrive under this year's President Sheelagh Brown.

The Club meets monthly at Malone Golf Club and most members arrive early to enjoy a catch up over lunch and during the year a variety of speakers are invited, Linda McAuley MBE from BBC's 'On your behalf' (*pictured right*) and Eileen Bell CBE, former speaker N.I. Assembly to mention just two.



The Objects of Inner Wheel are:

- * to promote true friendship
- * to encourage the ideal of personal friendship
- * to foster International understanding

Members achieve these goals by various ways which combine fundraising and personal service - all with fun and friendship.



This year we have supported *Air Ambulance, Sightsavers, Mary's Meals and ShelterBox* amongst others.

The picture left shows the presentation of a cheque for £2,100 to *Guide Dogs*

When the Rotary Club of Belfast were collecting for ShelterBox in Bangor some of our I.W. members helped rattle the buckets!

Rosie Clements

Inner Wheel Club Correspondent



Inter Club 'Visits'

Joint Meeting with San Antonio Rotary Club

The Club was delighted to join, by zoom, in a joint meeting with the Rotary Club of San Antonio, Texas Monday 25 April extending fellowship and good will between the two Clubs.



San Antonio President Brent Fessler gave a brief rundown of the Club particularly noting:

- * San Antonio was very close to the Mexican border
- * San Antonio (known as Alamo City) was 300 years old and has 14 Rotary Clubs with San Antonio being the biggest
- * the Club was formed in 1912 (RI's 56th Club); it has a membership of 350 with an average age of 55 - 37% are under 40 and 30% female - its age profile is dropping as they have an active Under 40 category with its own Board of Directors
- * their programmes mainly focus on children at home and internationally
- * their international virtual socials have been very varied, interesting and successful
- * they were looking forward to partnering with the Club with an International Peace Award at the Corrymeela Peace Conference in July

Club President Ken Nixon gave a short summary of the Belfast Club's history, highlighting programmes such as TABU and Harmony Community Trust as well as the many Global Scholars from the USA hosted by the Club as well as a brief note on the Ulster/Scots role in the USA which President Brent noted they would love to hear more of!



During the meeting members were able to converse in a couple of small groups and as this was part of several international 'reach outs' were able to hear about their fascinating social zoom with the Rotary Club in Warsaw when they

heard about the massive work being done by that Club with the Ukrainian refugees.

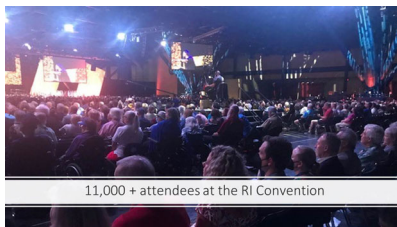
It was a very enjoyable and interesting meeting where time flew and on closing with the toast *"To the Rotarians of Belfast and San Antonio and to the Building of Good Will and Better Friendships"*, it was agreed to hold another.



Inter Club 'Visits' cont...

Houston Goes to Houston

Doris Houston attended and represented the Club at Rotary International's Annual Convention in Houston, Texas 04 - 08 June. She found it hugely impressive and it was huge indeed with over 11,000 attendees. Doris introduced her own sister to Rotary (Sedona Village Club) and in a quirk of fate actually met another pair of sisters one of whom had also



introduced the other Cathy & Jean Webster, one the DG & the other an ADG!



She met many Rotarians in particular JC Clapsaddle from the San Antonio Club, Texas. She came away considering what the future of Rotary looks like in these changing times and that it is Time For Change but the challenge of change is how to cherish our legacy whilst opening minds & doors to new ideas and members.

Visit From Two Scottish Clubs

The Club was delighted to welcome to Belfast a party of Rotarians from the Rotary Clubs of Grangemouth and Falkirk (NW Edinburgh). There were 9 Rotarians and 1 spouse from the Grangemouth Club and 3 members from the Falkirk Club.



They arrived on the 09.30 flight from Edinburgh at Belfast City Airport and were kindly met by President Steven, IPP Ken Nixon and PPs Brian Clements and David Boyd and ferried to the Europa from where they split up to have breakfast, visit the Titanic Exhibition etc. before meeting up again at the Club meeting when President Steven exchanged banners with Grangemouth Club Secretary Eddie Collier and Falkirk Club PE David Wheeler (far right). PE David noted that it is always special to visit another Club and thanked for the hospitality and especially the collection from the airport. Club Secretary Eddie Collier also thanked for the hospitality and airport pick up and extended good wishes to the Club and members "for all you do for Rotary".

After lunch they spent the afternoon on their own finally meeting up in the Crown Bar and taxiing to the Airport.

President Steven has subsequently received an email thanking for everything done to ensure the Belfast trip was a such a success noting "your close involvement resulted in a great day being experienced by all. Hopefully, Grangemouth Rotary will be able to reciprocate should you and some of your Rotarians be able to visit us."



Club Visit to Coca Cola

23 members, partners and family members had a most enjoyable experience at the Coca Cola plant in Knockmore, Lisburn.

The visit was hosted by Customer Sustainability Partnership Manager Gillian Shields. We were also delighted to welcome visitor Heather Shiell and 4 members of the Lisburn Club.



Opening the visit President Steven thanked Coca Cola HBC for their hospitality hosting the visit. Eric Rainey highlighted the Club's close relationship with Coca Cola and, in particular, Gillian with YouthAction NI's GetSet programme and complimented her on Coca Cola's work with YouthAction NI.

In their Robinson Heritage Theatre, having been refreshed with soft drinks in iconic shaped mini bottles, Gillian played a short video introducing their history and how they came to NI. This history is particularly notable as the company was founded and subsequently run by a former member of the Club - Terence Robinson (Terry).

She also gave a very informative and interesting presentation highlighting the company's policies and social investment which was very well received with many interested questions.

Following this presentation the party enjoyed a delicious light lunch of sandwiches, hot bites and traybakes with tea/coffee before walking along the production floor gallery seeing bottles being made then flying along the rails cooling before being filled and the closed environment of the Deep RiverRock water bottling where even the caps were closed in; but perhaps the most intriguing element was the lack of obvious people on the floor!



Socially

The Club was pleased to be able to get together socially again during the year.

North Coast Adventure

Some 22 intrepid Rotarians and partners made their way to the Marine Hotel Ballycastle on Tuesday 17 May to gather together for the first time since the start of the Coronavirus pandemic.



Led by President Ken, PP Maurice & Hilary Brooks, PP Brian & Rosie Clements, PE Steven Costello, Eileen Kennedy, PP Adrian and Margaret Kerr, PP Craig & Orla McClelland, PP Gordon & Norma Millington, John & Hester O'Carroll, Ronnie & Elma Porter, Eric & June Rainey and Denis & Betty Wilson received a very warm welcome from the hotel and having all arrived safely thoroughly enjoyed each other's company with lots of Craic over a very good dinner culminating with a hearty north coast breakfast!



Concluding this excellent get-together, when even the weather didn't dampen spirits, on the Wednesday morning President Ken and a few Rotarians were given a wonderful tour of Corrymeela by a former leader of the community Derek Wilson.

Very many thanks are extended to Hester O'Carroll for her great organisational skills in bringing together the whole trip.

Joint Presidents' Day

President Ken was delighted to welcome 40 members and guests to the celebration held at the Royal Belfast Golf Club, Monday 27 June. This was a unique occasion as not only was it the first to be held since 2019 but it was also a celebration for 2 Presidents! - PP Karen who, with the lockdown, had been unable to hold one at the end of her year and President Ken after his 2 years in office.

Always an exceptional event in the Club calendar, this year's relaxed and convivial evening proved to continue that tradition being greatly enjoyed by the members and guests attending.

President Ken and PP Karen



welcome you to

President's Day

held at

The Royal Belfast Golf Club

Monday 27 June 2022



Socially *cont...*

Luckily the weather held for the 8 members who played golf during the afternoon and PP David Boyd revealed that the MacNab Golf Trophy had been won by Hon. Treasurer Tim Browne.



President Elect Steven paid tribute to both Presidents noting that whilst it had not been a “normal” 3 years it was a great credit to both that the Club had come out of them in a strong place and he thanked them for their dedication and service.



He noted it had been a privilege for him to work with PP Karen on Council. She had maintained a strong International focus through Lendwithcare and ShelterBox with Tent for Lent, triggered the relationship with the Junior Chamber and increased membership particularly with the formation of a new Rotaract Club.

President Ken’s 2 years, he pointed out, had been all through Covid which had been challenging but he had steered a well-run ship and had maintained 30+ members “attending” each week, achieved the quota for Foundation and End Polio Now without a specific fundraiser, maintained commitments to International Service, enabled visits to Mitchell house, Corrymeela and an ‘in person’ meeting with the new Rotaractors (which had dented both their credit cards!) and developed the relationship with San Antonio.

PP Karen thanked the Club for the opportunity revealing that she had enjoyed it! President Ken noted the years had been challenging but had been met with a very positive approach by the Club and thanked all members particularly for “putting their hands in their pockets”.



Socially *cont...*

Christmas Lunch

President Steven was delighted to welcome 34 members and guests back in the Europa for the Club's Christmas Lunch. The delicious meal and being able to enjoy fellowship was greatly enjoyed by all there.



18 members and 1 Hon Member attended and, as well as 9 partners, guests were Pat and Sally Barry from New Zealand (guests of PP Alan Rundle), Jennifer Ford (guest of PP Mark Davidson)

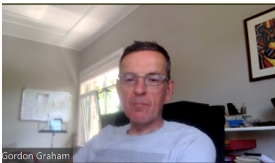
and widows Olive Byers, Mabel Baird and Keri; apologies were received from: Karen Blair, Maurice Brooks, Trevor Hinds, Eileen Kennedy, Marnette Lyons, Lorna Magill, John McCleery, Craig McClelland, Billy McCoubrey, Eric Rainey, John Rea, Rosemary Simpson, Denis Wilson and 5 widows.



Visitors and Guests

We were delighted to be able again to welcome visitors and guests to our meetings in the Europa! Some came to hear a specific speaker and some just to outreach to the Club while in Belfast. We were delighted to have Assistant Governor Kevin O'Hara join on several occasions until he finished his term of office, as well as Hon. Member Lady Mary Peters, Global Scholars Odalis Alvarado and Marisa Terry (2022-23) and Allie Linzing (2020-21) and Natasha Oviedo (2019-20), Rotaract Chairman Theo Burton and members of the Rotaract Club. There were also several guests of members including Pat and Sally Barry from New Zealand, who were guests of PP Alan Rundle, at the Xmas lunch

Paul Schut, President RC West Des Moines, Iowa visited the Club in May 22 with his wife Kathryn while he was here on holiday and was delighted to exchange banners with President Ken. He particularly thanked for the warm welcome and advised that the West Des Moines Club was 96 years old. He is pictured here with his wife and AG Kevin O'Hara who was concluding his 3 year term of Office.



Rtn Gordon Graham from The Hague RC (one of the 4 English speaking clubs in the Netherlands) visited on zoom in May when Rev. Alex Wimberly, Leader of the Corrymeela Community was the guest speaker and in July for the San Antonio Award presentations.

Rotarian visitor Rtn Ben Kayuma, Rotary Club Mosi-Oa-Tunya, Livingston, Zambia visited on 06 July. He had been in the UK on a visit and, currently in Belfast before travelling south, was delighted to visit an historic Club. He advised that the Mosi-Oa-Tuna Club was the 2nd Rotary Club in Livingston.



In September Rotarian Tom Heden, from RC Toronto, Canada visited the Club on Monday 05 and Rotarian Philip Oppenheimer, RC Salisbury, Connecticut, USA, visited 28 September with his

wife Mary. They were in Belfast for a few days accompanied by Jack and Beth Isler.



Other visitors included Rotarian visitor Chimaobi Okorafor, Rotary Club of Ikeja South, Lagos, Nigeria - 22 October; Michael Jackson and Maura Wright from the RC Lisburn- 23 January. Unfortunately due to the Easter holidays the Club was not able to welcome visitors from the Grove RC, Oklahoma and South Bend RC, Indiana.



Miscellaneous

A Family Affair



The Club were delighted that President Steven's inauguration had been made more special with the presence of his family - his mother in the Europa and his brothers Julien and Darren and family (currently in Puerto Banus!) on zoom. Picture right shows his 2 nephews Thomas & Henry and niece Essie watching it there!



New Home Needed

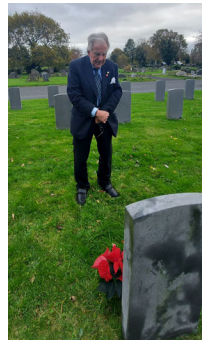


The Club urgently looked before Christmas for a new home for the Club's records and framed photographs of Past Presidents as the previous custodian Craig McClelland, who had stored them for many years was moving and was unable to continue with the storage.



Remembering

PP Bryan Johnston was again at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month at the graveside of the NZ pilot killed during the 2nd World War on Slieve Donard. This year he and his daughter also cleaned the headstone - the picture shows it drying. PP Bryan notified Rotary Club of Belfast/Kaiapoi of his visit and his words were published in their weekly newsletter. *"I feel compelled to continue to pay my respects to the one I know of, and to remember with gratitude all those New Zealand Airmen, who came halfway round the world, made the ultimate sacrifice, and now appear almost forgotten. My earliest memory is the bombing of Belfast in 1941. The peril was real and those who came to our aid must never be forgotten."*



Virtual Social



President Ken February 28 attended the Rotary Club of San Antonio's International Virtual Social with the Rotary Club of Warsaw International (Poland) which was joined by 79 Rotarians from 22 clubs in 10 countries.

And Finally....

BB Bryan Johnston decreed he is "In Balance"!

*"At My Age I'm Good At Multitasking.
I can Listen, Ignore and Forget All At Once"*



Programme of Speakers

At the start of the year meetings alternated between

h - denotes Hybrid meeting z - zoom meeting e - evening meeting

April

- 4 Business Meeting z
- 11 Theo Burton - The Cyber Challenge h
- 18 No meeting - Bank Holiday
- 25 Get together with the Rotary Club of San Antonio z/e

May

- 2 No meeting - Bank Holiday
- 9 Business Meeting h
- 16 AGM and Ursula Quinn, Portadown RC - "Just One Life" Road Safety Campaign z
- 23 Alan McBride - Wave Charity Trauma Centre h
- 30 Dr Alex Wimberly - Leader Corrymeela Community z

June

- 6 Business Meeting h
- 13 Club Assembly z
- 20 Robert McVeigh, Chairman NI Commonwealth Games Council h
- 27 President's Day at Royal Belfast Golf Club

July

- 4 Handover Meeting h
- 11 No Meeting
- 18 Presentation of the Rotary Club San Antonio Peace Awards h

From September (unless otherwise noted) all meetings were Hybrid

September

- 5 Business Meeting
- 12 Rotarian Doris Houston, Houston on Houston
- 19 No Meeting
- 26 Brigid Napier, President Law Society of NI

October

- 3 Business Meeting
- 10 Stuart Crawford - Training and Communications Coordinator SOSBus NI
- 17 Rotary Ireland District Governor Sean Fitzgerald
- 24 Karen Kerr - Head of Fundraising, Dementia NI
- 31 Global Scholar Odalis Alvarado



Programme of Speakers *cont...*

November

- 7 Business Meeting / Global Scholar Marisa Terry
- 14 Susan Kee - Chair Northern Ireland Kidney Research Fund
- 21 Gillian Gregg - Head of Regional Engagement, Royal Academy of Engineering
- 28 Elizabeth Crilly - CEO Sir Hans Sloane Centre

December

- 5 Special General Meeting/ Business Meeting
- 12 Christmas Lunch
- 19 No Meeting
- 26 No Meeting

2023

January

- 2 No Meeting
- 9 New Year's Message - Rev Willie Nixon, Rector Drumbeg Parish Church
- 16 Presentation of the John Savage Award to East Belfast Survivors of Suicide
- 23 Dr. Martin McMullan, Chief Executive YouthAction NI
- 30 Hannah McKimm, Trauma Therapist

February

- 6 Business Meeting
- 13 P. Kerr Fulton-Peebles, Shelter Box Rotary District Co-ordinator
- 20 John Rea, IPP and David Stewart, President, JCC Belfast
- 27 Rtms. Malcolm Griffiths and Clem Tahiru's Journeys to Belfast

March

- 6 Business Meeting
- 13 Martin Walls, Head of Operations, SENSE NI
- 20 Spring Away Day - visit to Coca-Cola
- 27 Chris McCracken, MD Linen Quarter BID



Paul Harris Fellowships

| Date Awarded | Additional | Hon. Member | Date Joined |
|--------------|---|-------------|---|
| 1980 | Tom M ^c Connell | 1982 | 1943 |
| 1990 | Gordon Millington - <i>Presented by District for Polio Plus</i> Sapphire Award presented 2011 Ruby Award presented 2017 | | 1968 |
| | Harry Corscadden | 1998 | 1959 |
| 1992 | Tom Crocker | | 1956 |
| | David Dorman | 1993 | 1935 |
| | Willie MacNab | | 1959 |
| | Fred Rogan | | 1952 |
| | Cecil Rundle | 2000 | 1942 |
| 1994 | Brian Clements | | 1990 |
| | Hugh Fergusson | | 1989 |
| 1997 | Bob Johnson | | 1945 |
| | Bryan Johnston | | 1977 |
| | Stanley Rainey | 2005 | 1957 |
| 1998 | Brian Byers | | 1979 |
| | Roy MacDougall | | 1974 |
| 2002 | Dick Thornton | | 1991 |
| | Alan White | | 1958 |
| 2003 | David Boyd | | 1981 |
| | | | <i>Sapphire presented by Highland Park RC 2009</i> Ruby Award presented 2012 |
| | Hilary Gault | 2019 | 1992 |
| 2005 | Bill Donaldson | 2006 | 1960 |
| | John M ^c Cleery | | 1966 |
| 2006 | David Brennan | | 1969 |
| | Barrie Houston | | |
| | Adrian Kerr | | 1996 |
| 2007 | Marnette Lyons | | 1995 |
| | | | <i>Sapphire Award presented 2009</i> Ruby Award presented 2012 |
| 2008 | Albert Baird | | 1975 |
| | Trevor Hinds | | 1988 |
| 2009 | Brian Ferguson | | 1989 |
| 2010 | Derek Baxter | | 1988 |
| | Billy M ^c Coubrey | | 1993 |
| 2011 | Maurice Brooks | | 2002 |
| | Edwin Coppel | | 1988 |
| | Eileen Kennedy | | 1997 |
| | John Williamson | | |



Paul Harris Fellowships *cont...*

| Date Awarded | | Additional | Hon. Member | Date Joined |
|--------------|-------------------------------|--|-------------|-------------|
| 2012 | Alistair Corscadden | | | 1996 |
| | Trevor Dickey | | | 1966 |
| | John Lowry | | | 1988 |
| | Campbell Morton | | | 1981 |
| | Craig M ^c Clelland | | | 1974 |
| | Victor M ^c Kirgan | | | 1983 |
| 2013 | Arthur Boyd | | | 2005 |
| | Courtenay Thompson | | | 1977 |
| 2014 | Dame Mary Peters DBE | <i>Sapphire Award</i> | 2011 | 2011 |
| | Mark Davidson | | | 1999 |
| | Eric Rainey | | | 2000 |
| 2015 | Brian Clements | <i>Sapphire Award</i> | | 1980 |
| | Alan Rundle | | | 1984 |
| | Fred Sweeney | | | 1975 |
| 2017 | Joe Hyland | | | 2010 |
| | CT Hogg | | | 1973 |
| | Gordon Millington | <i>Ruby Award</i> | | 1968 |
| | Robert Skelly | | | 1987 |
| | San Wong | | | 2014 |
| 2018 | Alan White | <i>Ruby Award</i> | | 1958 |
| | Teddy Elliottt | | | 1988 |
| | Ronnie McLean | | | 2008 |
| | Ivan McMinn | <i>2 Sapphire Award presented by 6 Rotary Clubs 2019</i> | | 2009 |

Fellowships awarded to Non Members for service to the Club and the Community

| | | |
|------|--------------------------------|--|
| 1987 | Frank Carson | <i>Polio Plus</i> |
| 1990 | Helen Honeyman | <i>Harmony Community Trust</i> |
| | Pat Smyrl | <i>Boys Camp</i> |
| 1997 | Denise O'Neill | <i>Boys Camp</i> |
| 2005 | HRH The Princess Royal | <i>Sapphire Award (Rotary Centenary)</i> |
| 2014 | June Trimble MBE | } |
| | Councillor Mairtin O'Muilleoir | } <i>Community of Belfast</i> |
| | Baroness May Blood MBE | } |
| 2015 | Maurice Kinkead | <i>East Belfast Partnership</i> |
| | David Boyd | <i>Beat Carnival</i> |
| 2017 | Rev. Dr. Harold Good | <i>Reconciliation</i> |



