

Visit to the Boyne Valley

As part of the Club Fellowship programme a group of Rotarians had an excellent day out at Newgrange and the Boyne Valley. The heavy rain which accompanied



the visit to Newgrange was replaced by sunshine & warmth for the Boyne Valley. The whole experience was greatly enhanced by the presence & knowledge of distinguished historian Philip Orr who accompanied us throughout the visit.

Wine Tasting

Carrickfergus Rotary Club's Wine Tasting organised by Rotarian Kim Lindsay and held at County Antrim Yacht Club in Whitehead on 3rd February attracted a capacity audience.



William and Tedi Cross introduced the enthusiastic gathering to a range of white and red wines from Bulgaria which proved popular with

those present. A superb supper was enjoyed by all and a ballot organised by Rotarian Kim attracted keen interest. The Club Members thank the Commodore and staff of CAYC for facilitating the event.

Condolences

It is with sadness that we record the deaths of two Honorary Members. Jack Darrah, a Founder Member and Past President (1970-71) and Mark Armstrong, Past President (1989-90). Both made valued contributions to the development of the Club and their fellowship and friendship was cherished by the members. We offer our condolences to their families.

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028 9335 5111

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Thanks to Deborah Yea Partnership for their kind assistance in printing this publication

Support for Local Charities

During the year a significant amount of money was donated to local charities thanks to the support of NK Fencing and NK Coatings through their highly successful Golf Competition.



Sarah Quinlivan (Children's Heartbeat Trust); Caitlin McCartney (SOS Bus N I); Trevor Betts (Street Pastors); Tom Robinson (Kids4school); Andrea Donnan & Tom Dinnen (East Belfast Mission's Hosford homeless projects) attended the Club to receive cheques in support of their valuable work in the community.

AND Gateway Taxi service, Literacy Boxes, ShelterBoxes, Crumlin Hospital, H2O International Project, Helping Hands Ministries, and Rotary's 'End Polio Now' campaign all benefitted from generous financial support from the Carrickfergus Club.

Tree of Hope Pays Out

Carrickfergus Rotary Club's 'Tree of Hope' sited at Tesco's store in the two week run-up to Christmas raised £7000 for Action Cancer, Children's Hospice and Diabetes UK.



President Colin McCarthy presented cheques to Diane and Ashley Strain from Carrickfergus Action Cancer support group and Donna Weir from Action Cancer HQ; Linda Marshall Carrickfergus Hospice support group and Catherine O'Hara Hospice Fundraising Coordinator; Anne Ritchie Tesco Carrickfergus Community Champion and Fionnuala Savage Regional Fundraising Manager for Tesco.

In presenting the cheques he thanked Denis Kennedy who supplied the tree, Tesco management, the charity support groups, Downshire and Ulidia Interact Club members, Rotary members and particularly the Tesco shoppers who gave so generously.

Since 2009 the 'Tree of Hope' has raised £78,000 for local charities.



humanity in motion

the link

Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Carrickfergus

District 1160 - Ireland

Chartered 1966

Meeting Day: Monday 12.45 pm (Except 1st & 3rd Mon 6.00 pm)

Loughshore Hotel, Carrickfergus



Service above Self

Rotary International is the world's largest international service organization, with 1.2 million members in 33,000 clubs in 200 countries. It initiates local and global projects to promote world understanding and improve life for all ages and cultures, www.ribi.org. There are 58,000 Rotarians in Great Britain and Ireland in 1,850 clubs. They are business, professional or community leaders who use their skills for the benefit of others.



This edition of the Link covers a sample of Carrickfergus Rotary Club activities in its 50th Anniversary Year. If you would like to be part of the Club's effort to support local and international community projects but have limited time, you can now become an associate member. For more details log on to the Club website or contact the Editor.

Photographs by Rotarian Sam Bell.

Link Editor - 028 9086 4068.

Web Site - <http://www.carrickfergusrotary.co.uk>

New President Launches 50th Anniversary

Rotary Assistant Governor William Cross joined Carrickfergus Club members for a 'Handover' which marked the start of the Club's 50th Anniversary year.



Outgoing President Brenda Houston handed over the chain of office to new President Colin McCarthy who installed Rotarian Mary Sinnamon as Honorary Secretary and Rotarian Brenda Houston as Honorary Treasurer. He congratulated Past President Brenda on an excellent year in office and looked forward to leading the Club through the activities outlined at Club Assembly and the celebrations for the Club's 50th Anniversary.

Long Service Rewarded



Rotary Assistant Governor William Cross joined President Colin McCarthy to recognise five Club members who had completed 25 or more years in the service of Rotary locally and internationally.



The recipients included Rotarians John Turner with 43 years service, Trevor Monteith with 31 years service, Sydney Johnston with 30 years service, Des Wilson with 27 years service and Stanley McAloney with 26 years service.



Assist. Governor William praised each on their service to the community, their commitment to Rotary and to the Rotary Club of Carrickfergus.

Attendance Trophy Presentation

President Colin McCarthy presented the trophy to Rotarian Mary Sinnamon for the highest attendance at Rotary meetings during the 2015-16 Rotary Year. The trophy was presented to the Club by the late James Adams who was President of the Club in 1985-86.



50th Anniversary Celebration

On Saturday 22nd October 2016 the members of the Rotary Club of Carrickfergus & guests celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Club's charter.



Charter Dinner – October 1966



25th Anniversary Dinner - 1991



50th Anniversary Dinner – October 2016



President and Guests

President Colin McCarthy welcomed special guests the Mayor of Mid and East Antrim Borough; Rotary District Governor; our Assistant Governor; the Presidents of Rotary Club of Coleraine; Carrickfergus Inner Wheel; Carrickfergus & District Men's Probus Club; Carrickfergus Ladies Probus Club; Carrickfergus Rotary Club Founder Member Watson Kernohan and

Joyce; Honorary Members; current Members and their guests.



President Colin traced the establishing of Carrickfergus Rotary club from early planning to the appointment of its first President William Milner and the granting of its charter, a process guided by Rotary District 1160 Assistant Extension Officer Cecil White a member of Newtownabbey Rotary Club, the sponsoring Club.

In describing the Club's development over the past 50 years President Colin highlighted the contribution of its members to the betterment of communities locally and internationally. At international level he cited the Club's support for the work of Rotary Foundation, for polio eradication and for providing ShelterBoxes for disaster relief in locations throughout the world.



At local level he cited the Club's collaboration with Dr Barnardo's to provide a holiday for a bereaved young family; S E Antrim Life Education programme, a three year joint project with Larne & Newtownabbey Clubs which attracted £360,000 in funding and impacted the lives of thousands of Primary school pupils; the Club's annual Tree of Hope in support of local charities and the club's most enduring contribution, the provision of a weekly taxi service for the local Senior Gateway club for the past 40 years.

President Colin highlighted the Club's reputation in District 1160 for being innovative and prepared to embrace new ideas. In 2001 it had the first Lady President of a Rotary Club in N Ireland. It is currently piloting an Associate Membership Scheme for District and, looking to the future, it has established two Interact Clubs in the town.

President Colin and DG Gerry Kierans joined the longest serving Club member PP John Turner to cut the Anniversary cake.



DG Gerry congratulated the Club on its achievements over the past 50 years and presented a certificate from the Rotary International President and a banner from the RIBI President to mark the occasion.

Anniversary Crocuses



To mark this Anniversary and Rotary Foundation's centenary, Carrickfergus Club members have planted almost 15,000 purple crocus bulbs in the town, most of them close to Governor's Place. The purple crocus is a symbol for Rotary Foundation's worldwide 'End Polio Now' campaign which is also supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Rotary's 50th Anniversary Tree



President Colin McCarthy and the members of the Rotary Club of Carrickfergus were joined by Councillor Audrey Wales MBE, the Mayor of Mid and East Antrim Council and Gerry Kierans District Governor of Rotary in Ireland to plant a tree in the Borough to mark the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Club.



Following the ceremony, the Mayor entertained the party in the Mayor's Parlour and thanked the Rotarians for their contribution to the local community.

Club Development Award



increased membership.

Immediate Past President Brenda Houston was recognised for her work on Club Development during her year as President. She was instrumental in introducing Associate Membership to the Carrickfergus Club, the first Rotary Club in Ireland to do so. Her foresight attracted interest in Club activities from a wider section of the public and led to

New Blood for the Club

On an evening of ceremony and celebration President Colin McCarthy expressed his delight at installing

Rotarian Jim Dunlop as the President Elect of the Club and welcoming two new Rotarians and one new Associate member to the Club. Hilary McGavock, sponsored by PP Jim Dunlop joined the Club originally under the Associate Membership scheme and has transformed to full membership. Margaret Kerr, sponsored by Rotarian Doreen Dobbs has been inducted as a full member and Denis Hession sponsored by Rotarian Derek Coles has joined as an Associate Member and a further two Associate members are about to be inducted.

In welcoming them to the Club, President Colin wished them many years of fellowship in the Club and many opportunities to participate in Carrickfergus Rotary Club's collective effort to contribute to the local and international community.

