



The Rotary Club of Belfast

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

114th Annual Report

For the year ended 31st March 2025



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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The Rotary Club of Belfast



@belfastrotary

Website Members' Area Log in

User name:	your christian & surnames - all lowercase <i>no spaces or capitals</i>
Password:	member1911 - all lowercase no spaces

CLUB EXECUTIVE

President
Immediate Past President
President Elect
Honorary Secretary
Honorary Treasurer
Asst. Hon. Treasurer

Ken Nixon
Steven Costello
Heather Shiell
David Boyd
Tim Browne
John Williamson

CLUB COUNCIL

Derek Baxter
Letitia Fitzpatrick

Brian Clements
Ronnie McLean (to Dec 24)

Malcolm Griffiths
Rosemary Simpson

John Rea

Heather Shiell

CLUB SERVICE CHAIRS

Membership
Community & Vocational
International
Foundation
Environment
Youth Service
Communications

Alan Rundle
Mark Davidson
Adrian Kerr
Steven Costello
Karen Blair
Heather Shiell
David Boyd

CLUB OFFICERS

Attendance
Archivist
Badges
Children in Hospital / Montgomery Bowl
Directory
Website/Club News Editor
Fellowship
Health & Safety
Information
Pastoral Care
Programme
Protection Officer
Sports
TABU
Youth Leadership

David Boyd
Gordon Millington
David Boyd
John Rea
David Boyd
David Boyd
Brian Clements
Denis Wilson
Gordon Millington
Rosemary Simpson
Ken Nixon
Eric Rainey
Tim Browne
David Boyd
Heather Shiell

CLUB LIAISON OFFICERS

Inner Wheel
Rotaract

Alan Rundle



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One Hundred and Fourteen Years - 1911-2025

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 Fourteen Years - 1911-2025

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 Fourteen Years - 1911-2025

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
2023-24	Steven Costello	David Boyd
2024-25	Ken Nixon	David Boyd



President's Letter

My fellow Rotarians

It has been an excellent year for the Club with good support for meetings and the overall activities of the Club, with service above self remaining our key focus.

Many thanks to one and all with particular appreciation to David and Jenny Boyd for their smooth delivery of our meetings and to Jenny for her excellent weekly bulletins helping us to stay connected and informed.



My thanks also to immediate past President Steven, the Club's Executive members, Council members and Service Chairs, with the volunteer work of the Club helping so many, as well as raising significant funds for a range of Charities.

Before the end of my 'Rotary Year' I hope to see a successful outcome to our application for a Global Grant from Rotary Foundation to support Seeds of Hope, our project based at Corrymeela, continuing the Club's long history of work in Peace and Reconciliation.

My thanks also go to Assistant Governor Roland Bailie for all his support.

There is always plenty of work to be done and challenges to be met, but the contents of this Annual Report reflect a real commitment to Rotary and a solid and enthusiastic base as we go into our 115th year with President Elect Heather taking over the leadership role in July.

Yours in Rotary

Ken Nixon
President



Secretary's Report

The Officers and Council are pleased to present the Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2025.

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.

2024

April

- * The new Club year commenced with a very successful public collection at Bloomfields shopping centre 05-07 April raising an excellent £1,740; which although less than last year's figure was an excellent result, as it sadly coincided with a weekend storm which greatly reduced footfall
- * the first Club meeting was a joint meeting with the Rotary Club of Dublin, led by President Steven 13 members travelled to Dublin and 10 followed the meeting on zoom
- * PP Ken and Hon Secretary David met up with Rtn. Gordon Graham and 7 members of The Hague Metropolitan RC for lunch in the City Hall's Bobbin Café; they were in Belfast prior to their handing over €10,000 from the Hague District for the Seeds of Hope Project in Corrymeela
- * President Steven and IPP Ken were generously hosted by President Nora Wessendorf and members of the RC Dusseldorf party for dinner in the Hilton Hotel.
- * Eric Rainey handed over the Club's £500 donation to YouthAction NI for a 2024/5 Intern for which they are very grateful; the previous year's Intern, who had difficulties getting a job, now has a full-time post with them
- * Lisburn Club Past President Trevor Stewart revealed the details of Generation Chef, a new Rotary Team competition based on MasterChef for Chefs of the Future which the Club is supporting



May

- * new members Alan Duncan and Kris Messagee were inducted
- * Club members and partners were delighted to gather for a second time for dinner at the Marine Hotel Ballycastle prior to the presentation of the John Savage Award to Corrymeela; members and partners from the Rotary Club of Dublin also joined the group
- * the AGM was held 20 May
 - the Annual Report was adopted
 - the election of a President and President Elect for the year 2024/25 was deferred to the Club Assembly 03 June
 - Council members were re-elected to serve for the year 2024/25



Secretary's Report *cont...*

- Honorary Members for the year 2024/25 were re-elected
- Subscriptions were agreed as unchanged for the year 2024/25
- * led by Eric Rainey, several members met with YouthAction NI in their 'open to all' coffee shop Beans and Dreams to review the Club's involvement with them particularly to consider what the Club can do better, differently and additionally (from l-r) Derek Baxter, Heather Shiell, Eric Rainey Sean Madden, Olivia Davidson Millar, Grace O'Neil, Claire Conlon, Dr Martin McMullan and Alan Rundle



June

- * the Club welcomed AG Roland Bailie to the Club Assembly at which IPP Ken Nixon was elected as President 2024/25 and Heather Shiell President Elect 2024/25; AG Roland presented IPP Ken with Certificates for achieving in 2022/23 donations to Foundation of \$100 per capita and \$50 per capita to Polio Plus
- * a successful "KidsOut" morning was held at Mitchell House
- * 36 members and guests attended the President's Day evening meal following which a photograph was taken for "Rotary on the Moon"
- * in recognition of kindness shown to him during the troubles, Rtn. Chris Smiley, Cambridge Rotary Club (the New Zealand one!!) emailed to advise he had given a Toast to the Belfast Club in a short talk to his Club in the "world links section"

July/August

- * the handover to President Ken took place Monday 01 July; handing over the Chain of Office President Steven noted it had been a privilege to serve the Club for the last 2 years, he thanked the Club for the trust given to him, the members for their support and those who had worked tirelessly over the 2 years who been such a help to him
- * President Ken, thanking the Club for entrusting him with the Chain of Office, revealed that it was the 1st time he had actually physically received the Chain in the Europa as the last time was in a garden during Covid
- * IPP Steven was presented with 2 compendia of the Club News published during his years of Office
- * the Club took a summer break and no formal Club meetings were held in July or August however several events were held:
 - 2 coffee mornings were held - in July at Malone Golf Club and at The Royal Belfast Golf Club in August at which President Ken formally presented President Elect Heather with her Ribbon of Office



Secretary's Report *cont...*

- 4 Club members (*PPs Marnette Lyons and Ronnie McLean, John Rea and PE Heather Shiell*) and 3 JCI members (*Ian Campbell, Sarah Cushenan and Michael Lynch*) volunteered at the Hillsborough Running Festival their payment of £20 each was donated to the JCI project for Ten Foundations
- President Ken and several Club members met San Antonio Club Rotarian Joan Kearl and Mary McCarthy a student from San Antonio Trinity University in YouthAction
- President Ken, President Elect Heather and Christopher Shiell had a most entertaining evening at YouthAction's Gala Evening for their latest production

September

- * President Ken received congratulations from the Rotary Club of Dhulikhel, Nepal wishing him "*wonderful leadership*"
- * IPP Steven Costello was confirmed as Foundation Chair
- * the Club was recognised as a ShelterBox Silver Partner and awarded a Silver Certificate
- * 8 Club members, 3 JCI members and 6 invitees of PE Heather Shiell attended the East Belfast Charity Breakfast held at the Stormont Hotel,
- * President Ken, PE Heather, IPP Steven and PP Maurice attended the District Conference held in Dun Laoghaire
- * the Club was again recognised as being in the Top Ten contributors in District 1160, with donations to The Rotary Foundation of more than \$100 per member and more than \$55 per member to Polio Plus
- * Rotary Ireland confirmed the approval of a \$4,000 District Grant to the Club for Harmony Community Trust



October

- * Rotary Ireland District Governor addressed the Club meeting
- * 7 members and partners had a most enjoyable social evening over drinks and dinner in Belfast
- * another coffee morning was held in The Royal Belfast Golf Club
- * with thanks to PP Craig McClelland, new inserts have been made for members whose badges have been lost over Covid and for the new members
- * John Rea, currently in the Philippines with JCI Chairman Michael Lynch reviewing the Ten Foundations project there, advised they experienced a devastating typhoon
- * President Ken, IPP Steven and PP Ronnie Porter attended the Bangor Rotary Club Charity Breakfast



November

- * Council unanimously agreed that this year's recipient of the John Savage Award is the Harmony Community Trust.



Secretary's Report *cont...*

- * IPP Steven attended the Ten Foundations wine and Cheese event which was held in their shop on Lisburn Road.

December

- * with sadness the Club recorded the peaceful death of long-standing member Past President Ronnie McLean with a period of reflection
- * 5 members attended the YouthAction NI Big Skills Day
- * 10 Toy Boxes costing £250 were donated to Kids Out UK for a local Women's Refuge
- * £500 was donated to the Salvation Army, St Vincent de Paul and for the first time to Belfast Homeless Services
- * the Club was delighted to be again provide the traditional Christmas party the Junior School children from Mitchell House, this was the 20th Mitchell House party!
- * congratulations were extended to Hon Member Lady Mary Peters on being awarded the Freedom of the City of London in recognition of her outstanding sporting achievements and charitable work
- * 29 Club members and guests enjoyed an excellent Christmas Lunch at the Europa
- * Rotary Club of Belfas/Kaiapoi wished Club members a Merry Xmas and best wishes for 2025, the Club sent similar seasonal greetings



2025

January

- * at the first meeting of the year AG Roland Bailie brought wishes for a Happy New Year from District
- * the New Year Address was given by Salvation Army's Captain Ben Ellis who gave an uplifting message stressing that hope for a new year comes from God who is always with you
- * 12 members attended the social coffee morning held in The Ulster Reform Club
- * special 90th birthday congratulations were extended to Hon Member Alan White who was visited by PP Brian Clements
- * District Foundation Team Leader, PDG Howard Caskie in a very detailed and illuminating presentation, gave a complete review of the workings of The Rotary Foundation and highlighted that the Club is a major supporter of Foundation both of the Annual Fund and PolioPlus



February

- * the Club meeting 03 February was dedicated to a discussion on membership considering how to attract younger Rotarians who are still in work and ways to make the Rotary Club more available to more people.



Secretary's Report *cont...*

- * the Club again received from The Rotary Foundation recognition during 2023-24 for members' donations to the Foundation and to the End Polio Now; the Certificates were presented to PE Heather by Rotary Ireland District Governor Seamus Parle at the District meeting held in Limerick
- * the Club congratulated San Antonio Rotary Club's JC Clapsaddle on receiving the 2024 San Antonio International Leadership Award.
- * President Ken, PE Heather, IPP Steven, PP Bryan and daughter Barbara and Denis Wilson participated in the Quiz Night, held in Newforge Lane, in aid of the Mary Peters Trust

March

- * PE Heather Shieff's family donation of £5,000 to be paid to ShelterBox was noted with thanks
- * Welcomed Rotary Direct member Janette Pierbon
- * the practice heats for the Generation Chef competition began
- * the Global Grant application for Seeds of Hope has been submitted to RI
- * another most enjoyable evening was had by the party of 47 at the Linen Lounge, Belfast Metropolitan College
- * the annual Tent for Lent Appeal was launched
- * President Ken attended Bangor RC's 90th Anniversary of their Formation Dinner on in Bangor Golf Club at which the input of the Club in Bangor's formation in 1935 was acknowledged
- * a select group of 6 had a very convivial coffee session at Malone Golf Club
- * President Ken handed over the Club's £500 donation to YouthAction NI for a 2025/6 Intern for which they are very grateful; the previous year's Intern has a post with them



Membership



Club Membership at 31 March 2024 is 40 - 5 less than in 2024. There are 9 Honorary Members. Council were delighted to accept a membership application at the end of the Club year 2024 from Alan Duncan and he was inducted in May 2024. With regret, resignations were accepted from John McCleery (who is now in a nursing home) and Kris Messagee (who having joined in May 24 was transferred to England), San Wong and Andreas Huber became inactive.

The Club was greatly saddened to record several deaths this year and extended condolences to family members. Greatly missed is PP Ronnie McLean who died peacefully in December in the RVH followed by his wife Doreen within a very short time in February. Ronnie was a member for 17 years, having joined in 2008; he was President in 2014/15 and served for many years on Council.



Secretary's Report *cont...*

Condolences on their personal bereavements were extended to Trevor Hinds (on the death of his niece aged 50 with a young family in February) and Mark Davidson (on the death of his father-in-law in March).



The Club was also saddened to hear of the deaths of former members PP Courtenay Thompson in June (a long-standing member of 40 years, he joined in 1977 and was President 2008-09) and John Toner in November as well as the passing of those well known to the Club: Inner Wheel Club of Belfast Hon. Secretary and Past President Beryl Crawford, a doyen of their Club in May; Derek Wilson (Corrymeela) in November (a remarkable man of vision and peace with exceptional work on reconciliation in Corrymeela; he introduced the Club to Seeds of Hope and the San Antonio Club and Dame Joan Harbinson in April (NI Equality Commissioner).

Several members and family members experienced ill-health, some have had treatments, medical operations or procedures and the Club wish them all well.

On a happier note the Club is aware of the birth of a granddaughter for Letitia Fitzpatrick, Hon. Sec. David & Jenny Boyd and PE Heather & Christopher Shiell and a grandson for Hon. Treasurer Tim & Janice Browne.

The Club thanks PP Rosemary Simpson for her continual pastoral care reaching out not only to members but also to the widows of former members.

Attendance

From the start of the year meetings have been held in the Europa with a zoom link. No meetings were held during July and August.

38 Meetings were held with an average attendance in the Europa and on zoom of 20, 18 members recorded attendance of 70% and over, 7 members recorded attendance of over 90%.

Montgomery Bowl

Contributions were mostly donated to the Club's "Children in Hospital" Appeal Fund flowers were sent to Doris Houston and Helen Johnston's Nursing Home. No disbursements were made from the Fund though plans are in progress.

Speaker Programme

Thanks are extended to IPP Ken Nixon for organising such excellent weekly speakers on very varied and interesting topics all of which were greatly enjoyed and appreciated and ranged (to name but a few!) from *CS Lewis*, *Defibrillators in Sport*, *the Lyric Theatre and UNESCO* to a "conversation" with *Jim Gracey on his life in Sports Journalism*.



Secretary's Report *cont...*

Communications

The weekly Club News is the main channel for communication to members. 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 Club has recently introduced an Instagram page.

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.

Charity Draw

The winners of each monthly draw were:

	<i>1st</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>3rd</i>
April	<i>Letitia Fitzpatrick</i>	<i>John Williamson</i>	<i>Jenny Boyd</i>
May	<i>John O'Carroll</i>	<i>Carol McCleery</i>	<i>Teddy Elliott</i>
June	<i>Gaile Morton</i>	<i>Marnette Lyons</i>	<i>Judy McMinn</i>
September	<i>Jean Horstman</i>	<i>Craig McCelland</i>	<i>Eric Rainey</i>
October	<i>Rosemary Simpson</i>	<i>Gaile Morton</i>	<i>Judy McMinn</i>
November	<i>Brian Clements</i>	<i>Susan Nixon</i>	<i>Ivan McMinn</i>
December	<i>John Williamson</i>	<i>Rosemary Simpson</i>	<i>John Rea</i>
January	<i>John Williamson</i>	<i>Alan Rundle</i>	<i>Gordon Millington</i>
February	<i>Ivan McMinn</i>	<i>Alan Rundle</i>	<i>Gaile Morton</i>
March	<i>Trevor Hinds</i>	<i>Ivan McMinn</i>	<i>Rosemary Simpson</i>

Hon Treasurer Tim asks all members to inform him of their bank details so the payments can be made online.

David Boyd

Honorary Secretary



Membership Report

Our current Club Membership at 31 March 2024 is 49 :

40 active members and 9 honorary members.

During the past year we have had various enquiries regarding membership, equally divided between online, direct referrals and club visits. Overall our membership has remained static during this Rotary year.

We have prioritised ensuring that our new members are encouraged to get involved with our projects, and also to take the opportunity to join in with our social events, in order to meet up with other members of the Club. The introduction of a number of hands-on projects has been a great help in this regard.

An in-depth analysis of the Club in its current state has been carried out by way of a small committee, culminating in a Club meeting. Topics included: *average age of existing members, nature and time of meetings, including venues and membership categories, and membership retention.*

To this end a number of trial formats will be introduced over the coming months which will hopefully be supported by all our members and at the same time accommodate our younger members who are still working.

I look forward with optimism to the months ahead, and as I write I am able to announce two new members will be introduced shortly who we welcome with open arms!

Alan Rundle

Membership Chair

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

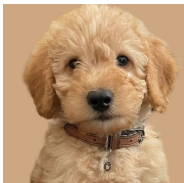
As a Club, we once again made a donation of ten toy boxes to the KidsOut 'Toy Box' Christmas Appeal, supplying a Refuge nearest to the Club's location. This supports Mothers fleeing domestic abuse with their children. Cut off, they have no way of accessing gifts, which are packaged and delivered through the KidsOut charity.

Mitchell House School

Christmas Party - was held on Wednesday 11 December. 30 pupils were hugely entertained by Magic George in the nursery. Dependable as always, the show was a riot of laughter. Crisps, chocolate buttons and cartons of juice were distributed before Santa's arrival. PP Brian Clements very kindly filled the famous boots, distributing presents to the appreciative audience. Brian and Rosie once again put together the goodie bags, so a special note of thanks to them for all their input.



New therapy dog Raia - leased from Assistance Dogs NI at an initial outlay of £8,000 she now resides with Miriam Donnan, School Principal and spends her days providing comfort to the children at Mitchell House. The teachers and assistants all enthuse about Raia's ability to reduce anxiety levels, not only for the children but staff also. Some examples below and on her own Instagram page - [@raia_mitchellhouse](#)



The Club has agreed to donate £500.00 to go some way towards the yearly outlay of £300 insurance, circa £700 on food and £300 on grooming.



Christmas Family Appeal

This year's Club Christmas Family Appeal again supported the Salvation Army and St Vincent de Paul with the addition of the Belfast Homeless Services with £500 donated to each charity.

Mark Davidson

Community and Vocational Chair



Montgomery Bowl - *Children in Hospital Appeal*

The Club continued to support this Fund during the year through online payments or a cheque to Hon. Treasurer Tim Browne.

Most donations were directed to the Children in Hospital Appeal; flowers were sent to Doris Houston and Helen Johnston's Care Home Staff.

This year no recipients were identified and Convenor John Rea has been researching new areas for the distribution of these funds.



Youth Service Report

As I take on the Youth Service Chair this year, I wish to thank Eric Rainey for the tremendous amount of work and dedication he has done in this role. As the year has progressed, I have become aware of his strengths in community building and his care and encouragement in the empowerment of young people through Youth Organisations to reach their full potential. His support to me, taking on this role, has also been invaluable.

YouthAction NI (YANI)

The Club has continued to focus on continuing the support for YouthAction both practically, by members imparting their business knowledge and personal skills in order to help these young people build their futures and financially, by again providing support for an Internship at the Youth Action Headquarters which in the year 2024/25 supported Rachael Hasson for her PR and Comms Internship and for 2025/2026 will be supporting a Marketing intern working across fundraising, marketing and PR as well as various Youth Work Programme activities. President Ken handed over the cheque at the Club meeting, 31 March to Senior Leader Clare Conlon, Fundraising and Development Manager Grace O'Neill and Rachael who, having finished her internship, is now working as their Impact and Communications Admin.



On Monday 22 July over coffee at Youth Action's Beans and Dreams Cafe, President Ken, along with IPP Steven Costello, PPs David Boyd, Brian Clements and Alan Rundle and Rtns. Malcolm Griffiths and John O'Carroll had an interesting discussion with YouthAction's Senior YouthStart Youth Worker Sean Madden, Olivia who is responsible for the Beans and Dreams Cafe and Senior Youth Worker for Peace-building Mark Clegg. Topics covered included the Club's relationship with Youth Action, plans for future Rotaract activity and ongoing links with Corrymeela and Seeds of Hope.

A gala performance of YANI's latest production *"Everybody's talking about Jamie"* was held on 09 August at which President Ken, Christopher and I attended. We had a most entertaining evening, enjoyed talking to Clare Conlon, Mark Clegg and Grace O'Neill during the reception about YANI's work and were greatly impressed at the talent of the young people! The show's message was one of inclusivity - a great topic, considering during the week there were conflicting protests of anti-immigrant and anti-racist protests. Belfast town centre was blocked off to cars, so there was a worry people might stay away, but there was still a full house! It was a most heart-warming night when everyone had fun!

5 Rotarians (unfortunately 2 could not attend due to illness) and a potential member had the privilege of assisting at YouthAction's Big Skills Day Wednesday 13 November. The



Youth Service Report *cont...*

format again consisted of a Dragon's Den session for the 50 young people with tables of 10. Each table decided on a potential business and one member stood up and explained their plan which was challenged by the Dragons. The second half comprised helping to write CVs as well as other workshops.



Also that day, YouthAction held their AGM at which Pamela Ballentine was elected as their Chair. It was noted that their income was £2.8m but their expenditure had been £3.2m; they are working towards breaking even for 2024 and have been fundraising over the winter.

Generation Chef



Rtn. Trevor Stewart, Lisburn Rotary Club, is responsible for creating the culinary skills competition Generation Chef, in which, this first year, he has coordinated 7 Northern Ireland Rotary clubs to come together to support their local Training Colleges and visited the Club several times to provide updates. The competition is dedicated to organizing nationwide competitions for aspiring young chefs, providing them with valuable opportunities to showcase their skills and talent. Through Generation Chef, Rotary helps to coordinate catering college and industry sponsors to foster growth in the culinary field. Sponsors for placements and prizes have been

offered from business contacts around the country for the participants, demonstrating how important this competition is being seen within the industry.

Over 12 weeks, 54 aspiring student chefs have been enhancing their cooking and service expertise to deliver a premium culinary experience. 6 Regional heats are currently underway and a team from each region will compete in the inter-college final in May which will test their cooking and hospitality and hone their ability to work together as a team in a professional environment - a winning team of 3 chefs will be selected.

The Club, represented by PP Brian, John O'Carroll and myself are supporting the Belfast Metropolitan College, Titanic Quarter and we are honoured to play our part in the inauguration of this enterprising competition. We have had the extra pleasure of sampling and critiquing the three course meals during the trial runs which have already proved to be of an exceptionally high standard!



Youth Service Report *cont...*

The Belfast Met final was held Thursday 27 March, it was heartening to see how the 3 young teams comprising 2 chefs and one front of house server, took on the advice of the experts and improved their dishes over the 2 previous trial runs.

Each team challenged themselves more and more to win this competition. The judges, visiting professional culinary chefs Conor Johnston and Brian McCann from Deanes and front of house judge Jorge Mineguez from the Galgorm Group gave one-on-one feedback after the event, encouraging all those who entered.



The worthy winning team they picked were chefs *Rowan Graham and Aaron Agnew and Front of House Jayne Bracken* who will now represent Belfast Met at the competition final between the 6 regional college winners on 01 May. We wish them success.

Youth Leadership Competition

The Club's participation in the Youth Leadership Competition has been dormant since Covid, but it is hoped to begin it again this year in preparation for the 2025/26 competition.

Heather Shiell

Youth Service Chair



John Savage Award

The Club were delighted to award the 2023-24 John Savage Award and Bursary to **Corrymeela for the Seeds of Hope project**.

The project is being supported by the Club as well as by the Rotary Clubs of Dublin, San Antonio Texas and The Hague Metropolitan. The Project aims to bring cross community groups of young people together and foster relationships.



The Trophy was presented to Sylvia Gordon, Head of Programmes by Past President Brian Clements during a joint Belfast and Dublin Rotary Clubs visit to Corrymeela, Tuesday 14 May 2024.



Council unanimously agreed that 2024-25 John Savage Award would be awarded to the **Harmony Community Trust**.

It was deemed fitting given its tremendous effort to survive after the severe cuts in Governmental voluntary sector funding. The Club wished them all the best going forward to their 50th anniversary.

It will be presented to Chairman Seamus Camplisson in the coming months during a planned Club visit to Glebe House

The John A Savage Memorial Trophy and Bursary is awarded by the Club annually to the individual or group selected as giving great service to the Community.

Inaugurated in 2009 the Cup has been specially refurbished and created in memory of former member the late John Savage - a Club member who was man of action with great ability, high ethical and moral standards - his Scouting career was unique! - Scout Master; Group Scout Leader and latterly President of his own Group.



Rotary Foundation Report

District Grants

The Club has again been recognised as being in the Top Ten contributors in District 1160, with donations to The Rotary Foundation of more than \$100 per member and more than \$55 per member to Polio Plus.

The Club submitted 2 District Foundation Grant applications of \$5,000 each:

- * a District Grant of \$4,000 was progressed to RI for Harmony Community Trust for the refurbishment of their kitchen facility in the Harry Corscadden Building
- * the request for Seeds of Hope was declined as the project has not yet been accepted for a Global Grant

An application from the RC San Antonio and RC Belfast for a Global Grant for the Seeds of Hope programme has been finally submitted to RI and a decision is awaited.

The Club wishes to maximise Foundation Grant applications and Service Chairs are urged to keep projects in mind to for which Grants could be applied for.

Seeds of Hope

The Club continues to support Seeds of Hope, the high-profile Peace and Reconciliation Programme operated by Corrymeela in Ballycastle.

In her address to the Club On 23 October Jean Horstmann highlighted that the first 1 year "learning journey" finished in July. 70 participants from 17 countries came together to explore the dynamics of hope and a conflict affected society through each other's stories and experience. The participants included 20 from San Antonio and the graduates from the 1st pilot programme, who she revealed had been great 'hosts' being very solicitous that all felt comfortable and organised an increasingly popular early morning swims in Ballycastle. This, she pointed out, was all about trust as some had never seen an ocean, some had never seen a cold ocean and some had never been in a cold ocean but all felt comfortable with the experience and enjoyed it! From the levy of a small fee the pilot programme raised £5,000 to fund any project of their choice in practicing leadership in their communities in NI. The 2nd phase of the pilot has commenced.

At the District Conference Gala Dinner an auction for Seeds of Hope raised €6,100. Around €4,000 for the holiday donated by the RC San Antonio of a 4-night/5-day stay in San Antonio and the surrounding "Texas Hill Country" and the rest in other prizes. 2 books signed by Lady Mary Peters and a bottle of her gin (Golden Girl gin from the Titanic Distillery) was won by a member of Dublin RC.



The Club were saddened to learn of the sad passing of Derek Wilson, a man of vision and peace who did remarkable work on reconciliation in Corrymeela and Jean Horstman



Rotary Foundation Report *cont...*

worked with him from the late 70's. He introduced the Club to Seeds of Hope and the San Antonio Club.

Sustaining Membership

As at 31st March, the Club still has 26 members contributing directly. 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 pm - ***joining details are available from me.***

Rotary Global Scholars

No Global Scholars were hosted this year.

Stephen Costello

Foundation Chair

What is The Rotary Foundation?

In his address to the Club 20 January PDG Howard in a very detailed, comprehensive and illuminating presentation gave a complete review of the workings of The Rotary Foundation.



The Funds - the Rotary Foundation comprises 3 separate Funds:

Annual Fund - provides the District and Global Grants both of which can be applied for by a Club or District. Disaster Relief Grants and Programme of Scale grants can only be applied for by a District.

- * **District Grants** - help fund small-scale, short-term activities in the local community & in communities abroad that address humanitarian needs. Projects must adhere (loosely) to the 7 Areas of Focus. The amount available in any year is always based on an earlier year's donations - a District can request up to 23.75% of Annual Fund donations made 3 years previously.

*As Rotarians and Clubs contributed \$126,391.93 in 2022-23
the amount available for District Grants in 2024-25 will be \$30,017*

- * **Global Grants** - support large international activities with a minimum budget of \$30,000 with sustainable, measurable outcomes in Rotary's areas of focus. A Project must adhere (very closely) to the 7 Areas of Focus, it must address a need identified by the recipient community & must be sustainable. Many worthy projects are way beyond the scope of even the biggest Clubs but when all Clubs contribute to a central fund, grants made from that fund can support projects that no single Club could envisage and at least 66% of Annual Fund donations in a year come back to the District for Club projects 3 years later.

*In 2023-24 total expenditure of the Rotary Foundation was \$347.2m
80.4% of which was allocated to programmes*



Rotary Foundation Report *cont...*

PolioPlus Fund - co-funds the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. The Foundation has been involved with Polio eradication since 1985 and to date Rotary on its own has allocated \$2.3billion and last year £146m. The current number of cases recorded since Covid is very disappointing but Rotary is not giving up as we are now in the end game.

Endowment Fund - provides a permanent and sustainable source of funding through investment. The aim is to create a fund of \$2.025 billion by 2025.

Donations Required

RI request donations to the

- * Annual Fund of \$100 per capita (approx. £82)
- * PolioPlus Fund of \$1,500 per Club (approx. £1,230) or \$55 per capita (approx. £45)
- * Endowment Fund: none

Howard acknowledged that the Club exceeds these figures.

- * last year the Club contributed: \$137.86 per capita to the Annual Fund and was one of the 29 District clubs (out of 67) to meet the \$100 requirement
- * Rotary Ireland District were the top District contributor in RGBI with a level of \$131.31 pc (even without 1 very large contribution) whereas the average was \$59.75.
- * Last year the Club contributed \$2,192 in total to the Polio Plus Fund
- * the District per capita figure was \$38 which again favourably compared with RIBI's \$32pc

Howard stressed the benefit of being a Sustaining Member - that as 25% Gift Aid can be claimed on Sustaining Fund payments, the Government contributes £18!

Rotary's 7 Areas of Focus

Howard highlighted that the 7 areas of Focus reflect Rotary's Mission Statement which was rewritten when Environment was added several years ago. He demonstrated this by showing both - colour coded appropriately.

The Rotary Foundation is ...

Rotary's own & Rotary's only charity whose mission is to help members to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace by improving health, providing quality education, improving the environment, and alleviating poverty.

The 7 Areas of Focus

1. Promoting Peace
2. Fighting Disease
3. Providing Clean Water & Sanitation
4. Supporting Education
5. Saving Mothers & Children
6. Growing Local Economies
7. Protecting the Environment



International Report

lendwithcare.org
Microloans from CARE International



Make a loan, change a life



As with previous years, we have continued to invest in the Lendwithcare scheme. All new loans were funded by scheduled repayments from existing loans, all of whom managed to make their payments as planned, despite facing difficult trading conditions and the negative effects of climate change.

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.

This investment strategy means that, while individual entrepreneurs with large family and wider responsibilities are supported, cooperative groups who can have a major impact on the prosperity of their local communities are given priority. This results in the spread of our investments across as wide a range of entrepreneurs as possible.

The projects we supported this year ranged from co-operative farming, retail and manufacturing to individuals selling and working to expand their family micro businesses.



Namisu 1 Group
Farming / Malawi



Chileleko Group
Trade / Zambia



Evelin Johanna
Farming / Equador

Since our initial involvement in December 2017, we have made a total of 123 loans (worth £6,005). This has enabled us to:

- * help 526 entrepreneurs – 1,691 family members
- * create 242 Jobs and
- * help a total of 2,459 people.

This is a remarkable achievement and 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
Disaster relief



**GIVE A TENT
FOR LENT**

As with previous years, ShelterBox continues to be the priority project for the Club's international support. During the year our Hon. Treasurer passed on a total of £9,242 (inclusive of Gift Aid) to the District Treasurer on behalf of the Club for the ShelterBox appeal.



International Report *cont...*

This was made up as follows:

- * Joint Clubs public fundraising event £1,867 - *held on 05-07 April 2024 in Bloomfield Shopping Centre, Bangor, in conjunction with the Rotary Clubs of Bangor, Donaghadee and Belfast East*
- * Tent for Lent appeal £1,252 - *this appeal was held during the Lenten period when members made donations to the appeal in an effort to boost support at Club level for ShelterBox*
- * Individual Donations 6,213 - *throughout 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.*

John Cleverly, ShelterBox's Rotary Marketing Officer, congratulated and thanked the Club for "the amazing fundraising that the Club carried out with your community and as a Club. In recognition the Club has been recognised as a Silver Partner and awarded a Silver Certificate".



As with last year, in response to the continuing homeless plight throughout the world, due to natural disasters and widespread conflicts, we plan, in conjunction with the Rotary clubs of Bangor, Donaghadee, North Down and Inner Wheel, to repeat our public fundraising event in Bloomfield Shopping Centre in Bangor over the weekend period 10-12 April. We are hopeful that, with the combined

efforts of our partner clubs, we will be able to make a further large donation to ShelterBox in the coming months.

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. (*see page 34*)

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.

Club International Committee

A small international committee has been formed within the Club and the enthusiastic members are keen to expand the Club's commitment to international service and to examine increased links with international cultural groups at home and abroad.

Adrian Kerr

International Chair



Environment Report

I am joined on the Environment Committee by PP Marnette Lyons, Tim Browne and Malcolm Griffiths. I am most grateful for their input, enthusiasm and support.

We have been continuing discussions with Alpha Housing Association and hope to repeat the successful 2024 outreach project at Carr's Court, its sheltered housing project off Sandy Row.

The Club also continues its walking and off shore tree planting via Treekly. The Club has planted in the past 12 months approximately 2000 trees and walked over 34 million steps.

We have also tried to make a small difference by sharing practical environmental 'tips' at Club meetings and in the Bulletin to improve Members' knowledge of what they can do to decrease their environmental impact.



Karen Blair

Environment Chair

Pastoral Care

The Rotary Club of Belfast started the Pastoral Care scheme a few years ago and is planned to keep members who have been ill or incapacitated in any way in touch with other members and know that they are missed and being cared for by their Rotarian friends.

It enhances the caring nature of Rotary and encourages members to keep an interest in club activities and events at home whilst still taking an interest in the worldwide aid Rotary offers.

It is also planned to keep the President informed if anyone would like a friendly chat, a kind word or even news about the coffee mornings Brian Clements organises which is a good way to keep in touch if unable to get to the Monday lunches.

I am always glad to be kept up to date with anyone who is ill and appreciate notification from any member about such members. So please do keep in touch, obviously this is in true Rotary fashion and a really valuable service to us all. Pastoral Care is an integral part of the Rotary organisation -- to help others wherever possible. I remember how much I appreciated a call when I was ill so others will as well. All I ask for is your help in knowing who needs that friendly call or visit. Please keep in touch, even if you are the one reading this who would like a friendly chat, call me, we can be good at that!

Together in Rotary -- my pastoral care motto!

Rosemary EC Simpson



Communications Report

The main channels of the Communications team continue to be the Club News, Website and Facebook page and these have been added to with an Instagram page which is in its infancy. Members are urged to visit these pages (details on inside front cover) 'like' the posts and 'follow' the pages—it is stressed you do NOT need to be a Facebook or Instagram user.

Issued weekly 2 days after a meeting the Club News is the main communication channel to members and highlights not only what happened then but also details of future events and information for all members. Currently around 85% of members open it (around 70% within 24 hours) but all members are encouraged to open the email asap and have a quick look at it, even if they have been at the meeting, as it often contains additional information not available at the time of the meeting.

The website continues to build up its visitor figures and statistics to date are pleasing showing that in year to end March 2025 visitors to the site were up over the previous year and it continues to reach worldwide audiences. Most visitors were from the UK & the US but the next numerous countries were: Ireland, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, India and France. The website is updated constantly particularly the 'blog' articles which are then posted to the Club's Facebook as well as Instagram pages.



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. A more unusual one this year was a request from RI Magazine for a piece for their Rotary in Action section - one on the Alpha Housing project was submitted.

The purchased dedicated wifi hub has enabled the meeting and zoom experience, to run smoothly without freezing!) and the Jabra Conference speaker enhances the sound volume both in the Europa and on zoom.

The pocket-sized Club List with details for members' use only was produced both as a hard copy and as a pdf and issued in October 2024.

I thank all members who have supplied information and photographs of events and ask that members are even more vigilant in this regard going forward.

Finally grateful thanks are extended to those who send in 'smiles' for the Club News!

David Boyd
Communications Chair



Glebe House (*Harmony Community Trust*)

The Club continues to be involved with and support Harmony Community Trust (HCT) which will celebrate its 50th Anniversary on 08 April.

The resilience of staff and volunteers has got Glebe House through many difficulties in recent years from the fallout from Covid which laid bare the social inequalities of society for children and young people, isolation of older people and onset of mental health issues to the continuing funding cutbacks of the current public expenditure environment which leaves the existence of Harmony Community Trust seriously under threat.

Following the cutbacks in April 2023 the facility did temporally close but with HCT and RCB Councils' support and exceptional volunteer involvement adult activities have continued apace, comprising *Chi Me; Knitwits, a Singing Circle,*



Men's Shed, and a thriving popular Community Garden - a poly tunnel put up 18 months ago is attracting volunteers from around the local community tending the market garden and selling the flowers and vegetables produced. In addition, volunteers actively fundraised with *quizzes, flower sales, craft fairs and very popular yoga/wild*

swimming days with a mobile hot sauna on the beach! A toddler group '*Tots & Teenies*' has also been run by a former staff member. A manager and bookkeeper were engaged in November but tragically were made redundant at the end of March.

HCT Council are hugely grateful to the Club for:

- * applying for and obtaining a District Grant of \$4,000 which enabled the refurbishment of and electrical safety in the small kitchen in the Harry Corscadden Building and
- * the awarding of the John Savage Trophy for 2023-24 which Council are very proud to receive in this 50th Anniversary year



However, the challenge is still there and, although the planned sale of the Rectory will help over the next months, the big test is how to move funding away from grants for specific purposes to unrestricted monies to fund salaries, upkeep, heating and insurance etc. The underlying aim is to keep going with the huge amount of local goodwill.

David Boyd

www.glebehouseni.com



Inner Wheel



The Inner Wheel Club of Belfast has enjoyed another successful year. We meet at Malone Golf Club for lunch followed by our meeting on the second Wednesday each month. We also meet once a month on a Monday for morning coffee and a chat.

During the year we have had a mixed range of activities. Various speakers have entertained us and we have collected a lot of items to send abroad for charities including Mary's meals, the war in Ukraine and to help with the war in Afghanistan plus many more. We have also supported local charities, £2,000 has been donated to the Alzheimer's Society N.I. and we are currently raising funds for Women's Aid.

Judy and Trevor Hinds hosted a very well attended coffee and friendship morning and Gaile and Campbell Morton hosted our annual 'Pie and Pud' fundraising lunch.

Unfortunately this year we lost two very special members Hon. Secretary Beryl Crawford and Doreen McLean. Beryl, who was within weeks of taking on her role as District Chairman, lived life to the full and she kept us all inspired with her enthusiasm. Doreen was a very much loved long-standing member who held every job in the Cub. They are sadly missed.



On Wednesday 14th May the Club is holding a joint BBQ with the Rotary Club of Belfast at Malone Golf Club. Hope to see you there!

Rosie Clements



Inter Club Visit

Visit to the Rotary Club of Dublin

The Club was delighted to attend the Rotary Club of Dublin meeting in the Grand Hotel on Monday 08 April both in person and by zoom. Led by President Steven 12 members and partners (David & Jenny Boyd, Tim Browne, Brian & Rosie Clements, Bryan Johnston, Marnette Lyons, Ken Nixon, Ronnie Porter, Alan Rundle, Heather Shiell and Chris Warnock) travelled to Dublin and received warm welcomes and fellowship.



Those who travelled by train from Belfast were met at Connolly Station by some Dublin Club members and escorted to Trinity College via a LUAS and bus!



A welcome coffee was offered in the Buttery where the group met up with the others who had travelled by car and Dublin Club President Delma Sweeney before joining our most informative tour guide for the Book of Kells Exhibition and new audio-visual Experience. A quick DART journey was undertaken before meeting for the Club Lunch at the Grand Canal Hotel.

After a delicious 2 course lunch President Delma welcomed all to Dublin and President Steven noted the Club was delighted to attend and hoped the joint relationship, which had started with a visit of 50 Club members to Dublin led by President Albert Baird, with travelling north and south re-kindled by PP Brian Clements in 2010 and followed by 6 more in the last 14 years would continue.



Guest speaker PP Bryan Johnston spoke about the remarkable influence of Ulstermen in US History (see below) which was very well received and garnered several questions.

The sadly inclement weather didn't dampen the enjoyment of the day which culminated in a sojourn in Slattery's Pub.



Socially

The Club's social side is very important and I am delighted at the attendance at the many events, in particular the response to the new initiative of Coffee Mornings. It has been specially pleasing to see many of the members who are not normally available to attend meetings in the Europa at them. A summary of all events is given below.

Brian Clements

Club visit to Ballycastle



Club members and partners were delighted to gather for a second time at the Marine Hotel Ballycastle on Monday 13 May and this year the Club was delighted to welcome members and partners from the Rotary Club of Dublin as well as Thomas Dorg, Director of the Coretta and Martin Luther King Institute for Peace, Oslo and Alaa Alshaham, Director of Special Projects at The Pursuit of Harmony who worked with Thomas at the King Institute.

The group received a very warm welcome from the hotel, and all thoroughly enjoyed each other's company with lots of craic over a very good dinner culminating with a hearty north coast breakfast! This was an excellent event, when even the inclement weather didn't dampen spirits! Very many thanks are extended to Hester O'Carroll (who unfortunately



was in Musgrave Park Hospital and was unable to be there) and PP Brian Clements for their organisational skills. Led by Immediate Past President Ken, the Belfast Club group comprised *Past President (PP) Brian & Rosie Clements, PP David and Jenny Boyd, PP Maurice and Hillary Brooks, PP Craig and Orla McClelland, John O'Carroll, Eric and June Rainey, Heather and Christopher Shiell, John Williamson and Denis and Betty Wilson.* From the Dublin Club were: *President Delma Sweeney and Eamon Allen, David Booth, Alan Davidson, Mary and Conal O'Rafferty, Kevin and Margaret McAnallen.*

President's Day



President Steven was delighted to welcome 36 members and guests to President's Day held at the Royal Belfast Golf Club, Monday 24 June. Always an exceptional event in the Club calendar, this year's was no exception with the relaxed and sociable evening being greatly enjoyed by those attending.



Socially *cont...*

This year the weather was kind but sadly with a chilly wind pre-drinks were enjoyed in the bar rather than on the terrace.

In the main dining room President Steven thanked PE Ken for all his support during his 2 years as well as Hon

Treasurer Tim, Hon. Secretary David and Jenny Boyd. He noted that it had been a busy but very happy year albeit tinged with sadness with the loss of Billy and Eileen and thoughts were with their families. He asked members to support PE Ken as he takes on the Presidency again and noting that it had been a pleasure thanked all members for their help and support.



Hon. Treasurer Tim noted that they had had a very convivial round of golf which concluded in a 2-horse race with PP David finishing with 2 birdies to claim the win. He revealed that he must have had a 6th sense as he hadn't got the Cup engraved from last year's win and pointed out that PP David had been the 1st recipient of the Trophy named after Rtn. Willie McNabb in 1985! Having been presented with the Cup by President Steven PP David highlighted it had been a beautiful afternoon for golf played in temperatures like Portugal but with a cooling wind!

He thanked his playing partners Hon Treasurer Tim and PP Derek for an enjoyable game and urged other members to play in future.

He thanked President Steven for all he had done during the last 2 years, noting he had stepped forward and carried the role (despite the added burden of District appointing him as an AG) with his usual enthusiasm and was an inspiration to us all. He wished him well in his new job.

Coffee Mornings

They have all been very enjoyable events with good conversation had and delicious scones enjoyed, whilst enjoying the views of the various golf courses or the city centre. Thanks are extended to those who hosted the venues.



The first 2 get-togethers over coffee and scones were held over the summer months when the Club wasn't meeting. The 1st was held at Malone Golf Club Tuesday 09 July with 17 members and then 14 August at The Royal Belfast Golf Club with 16 members.



Socially *cont...*

Subsequently 9 members met Tuesday 22 October at The Royal Belfast Golf Club; 12 members on Tuesday 07



January at The Ulster Reform Club and 6 members had a very convivial coffee session Tuesday 18 March at Malone Golf Club.



Social Evening

7 members and partners had a most enjoyable social evening in Belfast Thursday 17 October - IPP Steven, PP Brian and Rosie, PP Adrian Kerr & Margaret and Hon. Sec David & Jenny met in Amelia Hall before moving to Ten Square for a most enjoyable dinner.

Christmas Lunch



29 Club members and guests enjoyed an excellent Christmas Lunch at the Europa Monday 16 December with a delicious meal and excellent fellowship.

President Ken was delighted to welcome members' partners and guests, Inner Wheel Club of Belfast President Jane Adam and widow of former member Olive Byers. The great buzz in the room exemplified the usual relaxed enjoyment and fellowship of the event, enhanced this year by the attractive refurbishment of the top floor room.

President Ken was delighted to welcome members' partners and



Linen Lounge Delight



The final social event of the year was another most enjoyable evening had by the party of 47 at the Linen Lounge, Belfast Metropolitan College Thursday 27 February and the Club was delighted to have members' guests and 2 Junior Chamber members in the party.

A glass of complimentary Prosecco was followed by a delicious 4 course meal, beautifully presented and served with aplomb and a smile. Plenty of fellowship and chat completed this most successful and convivial event. Thanks are extended to the supervisors and the students and to PP Alan Rundle for organising the evening and to PE Heather for taking the images from the evening.



Visitors and Guests

We were delighted to welcome many visitors and guests to our meetings in the Europa. Some came to hear a specific speaker, some to outreach to the Club while visiting or studying in Belfast or they attended as a former or prospective member. The Club was also delighted to welcome many guests of members.



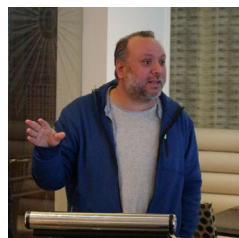
Visitors to the Club within these isles included DG Seamus Parle and his wife Carmel, AG Roland Bailie who attended several times including: the Club Assembly meeting , the visit of DG Seamus Parle and the 1st meeting in 2025 when he brought New Year greetings from District. Rtns. also visited from Dublin, Lisburn, Donaghadee and Portadown Clubs.

Rotarian Tarin Kumar exchanging banners with President Ken advised that the RC Guragon is one of India's oldest Clubs having been chartered in 1972. This was a return visit as he came last year when he was first in Belfast to visit his daughter.



Honorary Secretary Philip Husband from RC Llanishen, Cardiff advised he was delighted to attend being in Belfast with his daughter. He noted that his Club was small with 22-24 members which are currently all male (though they have had female members).

Rtn. Manolo Delgado, RC Gloucester was actually an unplanned visitor! He revealed he had only arrived in N Ireland and walking from the station past the hotel and realised it was a Rotary location and it was almost lunchtime! He advised that he hailed from Peru, had come to the UK 15 months ago and joined Gloucester RC. He greatly thanked for the welcome and invited all to visit and offered his hospitality. If interested Hon Sec David has his contact details.



The Club has also been visited by Rotarians currently in Belfast - Rotarian Habeeb Abiodun from Nigeria who is studying for a Masters in Hospitality at Ulster University Rotary Direct member Jeanette Pierobon from Frankfurt, Germany who is now working in recruitment in Belfast.



Visitors and Guests *cont...*



RC Bethlehem Past President and Foundation Chair Prof. Mazin Qumsiyeh accompanied by Paul Chaffin, Senior Lecturer in Global Change Biology at QUB, visited whilst in Belfast on a speaking tour covering South Wales, the Highlands, Northern Ireland and Dublin. He was speaking later at Queens on environmental issues (especially damage to tree cover in Palestine) arising from wars and conflict and how this can be remedied. He invited all to come to Bethlehem and was hoping to partner with the Club on environmental work.

The Club received requests to visit through the website but due to Bank Holidays, Easter and the summer Break was not able to welcome them in the Europa during their time - *details of other Club meetings were passed on.*

The Club was however able to meet:

IPP Ken (then) and Hon Secretary David met up with PE Gordon Graham (far right) and 7 members of The Hague Metropolitan RC for lunch in the City Hall's Bobbin Café Friday 19 April. They were in Belfast prior to their handing over €10,000 from the Hague District for the Seeds of Hope Project in Corrymeela. It was a very interesting and chatty meeting before they left for a meeting in the University of Ulster eventually returning to the Hague Sunday night.



President Steven and (then) IPP Ken were delighted to meet President Nora Wessendorf and the 10 members of the Rotary Club of Dusseldorf (including a 3-month-old baby) for dinner in the Hilton Hotel restaurant Saturday 20 April. Here for just the weekend, they were having

a whistle-stop tour covering the Causeway, Dark Hedges, the Titanic and other attractions. Their members were very interested to hear about the current situation in NI and were very impressed with the Club Chain (which they don't have) and Club Eco Banner.



Visitors and Guests *cont...*

Having completed a week's attendance at a Corrymeela Peace Conference, San Antonio Club Rotarian Joan Kearl (who was with us 2 years ago) and Mary McCarthy a student from San Antonio Trinity University and a keen member of Rotaract, met with President Ken , IPP Steven Costello, PPs David Boyd, Brian Clements and Alan Rundle and Rtns. Malcolm Griffiths and John O'Carroll over coffee at YouthAction's Beans and Dreams Cafe Monday 22 July.



Miscellaneous

Toast to the Club

Rtn. Chris Smiley, Cambridge Rotary Club (the New Zealand one!!) contacted the Club email to advise he had given a Toast to the RC Belfast in a short talk to his Club in the "world links section".

"The connection I have is that Belfast was my old hometown 52 years ago! I'm very proud of the club because in 1969 when the" troubles "were raging and street violence and clashes were commonplace they showed considerable kindness. There was a virtual Civil war going on and they showed an international and very generous spirit. I was a 4th year medical student and with four others we planned to deliver a utility ambulance, actually a brand new VW Combi van to a Christian Hospital in West Pakistan 5,200 miles away. Rotary ran raffles, collected money from businesses in the city and even Queens University supported the idea and donated money from a scholarship! The driving took five weeks and we handed the vehicle over to Dr Ronnie Holland. In spite of the many needs and challenges in Belfast and Northern Ireland with extremists from both sides they supported our IDEA! At their centenary 2011 it was agreed that: "they must be prepared to change even more in the future and continue to attract like thinking men and women who share the desire to help those less fortunate than ourselves. Let us look back with pride and forward into the next century with confidence and enthusiasm".'



Ladies and GentlemenI give you a toast to Belfast Rotary"

Silver Partner

John Cleverly, ShelterBox's Rotary Marketing Officer, congratulated and thanked the Club for "the amazing fundraising of £5,442 in Rotary year 2023/2024, that the Club has carried out with your community and as a Club... In recognition of all your activities in the past Rotary year the Club has been recognised as a Silver Partner and awarded a Silver Certificate". A Partner Club is a Rotary club that supports their work in disaster relief by donating over £2,000 in a Rotary year. There are four Partner Club levels linked to how much you donate: Bronze - £2,000; Silver - £4,000; Gold - £6,000 and Platinum - £10,000.

District Conference



President Ken, PE Heather, IPP Steven and PP Maurice attended the District Conference held in Dun Laoghaire 28-29 September. Attended by 250 it was a lot of fun with lots of interesting people, ideas and dreams! The 2 days of talks covered a wide range of topics including

sustainability and the environment, how we engage with



Miscellaneous *cont...*

new members, enjoy the Magic of Rotary and the unusual topic of the timing of plants in nature (with some plants opening leaves earlier and others later) in this changing climate! There was also a very eloquent report from 3 of this year's Youth Leadership participants from NI.

Volunteers

4 Club members (PP Marnette Lyons, Ronnie McLean, John Rea and Heather Shiell) and the 3 JCI members (Ian Campbell, Sarah Cushenan and Michael Lynch) volunteered at the Hillsborough Running Festival, Sunday 28 July. Luckily the weather was clement and although kept very busy at the finish line all thoroughly enjoyed it and well-earned their £20pp donation. The Club £80 is being donated to JCI (to augment their £60) for their fundraising for their charity Ten Foundations.



Belfast New Zealand



On his trip with his daughter in July to visit relatives in New Zealand, PP Bryan Johnston attended a meeting of the RC Belfast Kaiapoi, Christchurch. At the meeting, which was attended by the Director General, he talked to the Club about his quest to find out about NZ airmen buried in NI and his quest to ensure that the 26 NZ WWII airmen who made the supreme sacrifice,

died and are buried in NI are not forgotten and now has photos of 25 of them. He is hoping to acquire the last one from 2 sources so he can compile a complete montage which he will present to the Ulster New Zealand Trust with the caption: "they gave their today for our tomorrow". In this context PP Bryan made his annual visit at 11.00am on Remembrance Sunday attend the grave of Harold Eric Hunter the NZ pilot who died on 16th. March 1942.



Happy 90th Birthday



Congratulations to Hon Member Alan White who celebrated his 90th birthday 19 January 2025.

PP Brian Clements visited him in his nursing home on 15 January with Alan's son Berkley and passed on the Clubs best wishes over coffee; although his memory is failing he was in good form and very glad to hear the word Rotary.



Miscellaneous *cont...*

Changing Lives-Creating Hope

Michael Lynch and Club member John Rea, members of JCI Belfast travelled in October with Ian Campbell CEO Ten Foundation to the Philippines to see the house-building project they are supporting there. Unfortunately they were beset by a Typhoon for 2 days! However their welcome, the rain and the impact such typhoons have on the people there illustrated the need for the houses. In their report to the Club in January they revealed that they were humbled by the visit which they found life-changing. The Club's International Committee has taken the project on board as a focus area.



Congratulations Lady Mary

The Club was delighted to congratulate Hon Member Lady Mary Peters who has been awarded the Freedom of the City of London, in recognition of her outstanding sporting achievements and charitable work. It was presented to her at a ceremony in the Guildhall Thursday 13 December. Speaking after the ceremony Lady Mary said: "It is a privilege to receive this ancient and illustrious accolade, and to join such a remarkable group of luminaries from many walks of life. Over 50 years ago, I said that I'd brought back my gold medal for the people of Northern Ireland and now, I'm honoured both personally and on behalf of everyone back home to accept the Freedom of the City of London."



Congratulations JC Clapsaddle

The Club was delighted to congratulate San Antonio Rotary Club's JC Clapsaddle who had received the 2024 San Antonio International Leadership Award. The Award is presented by the San Antonio Council for International Visitors annually to a leader whose work exemplifies the mission of the U.S. State Department and Global Ties U.S., advancing peace, combatting foreign disinformation campaigns, advocating U.S.-style democracy and promoting citizen diplomacy through international engagement. He received the award during SACIV's annual ceremony at the University of the Incarnate Word.



Presenting the Award Board Chair Patricia Stout noted: "JC's accomplishments are truly global: from his humanitarian relief missions in war-torn Ukraine to his helping found the International Peace Leadership Academy in Northern Ireland; supporting refugee aid efforts in Poland and his service as a Rotarian and an Ambassador for the International Institute for Economics and Peace in London—his work is a testament to global peacebuilding. He truly embodies the concept of a 'Citizen Diplomat.'"



Miscellaneous *cont...*

Quizzers

A team of 6 participated in the Quiz Night, held in Newforge Lane, in aid of the Mary Peters Trust on Tuesday 18 February. Although not winners a fun time was had and the evening raised £1,970 for the Trust. Team members were: President Ken, PE Heather, IPP Steven, PP Bryan and daughter Barbara and Denis Wilson.



And Finally....Rotary on the Moon

The Club were specifically invited by the RC of Dr. Phillips, Orlando Florida to be 1 of 1000 randomly selected Rotary Clubs from countries all over the world to participate in a global Rotary Peace message to the moon in early 2025. A chip containing digital photos with the message 'Peace on Earth' sent in by clubs would be carried on board the Griffin Moon Lander to be launched by a SpaceX Falcon Heavy Rocket from Cape Canaveral.

The Club accepted the invitation and the requested captioned photo, which was taken (rather precariously) by Hon. Sec. David on President's Day, was submitted.



Rotary  The Rotary Club of Belfast, Northern Ireland - District 1160



David van de Velde, Program Manager, Rotary Club of Dr. Phillips, has confirmed the Club's inclusion in the mission but it is not clear when it will happen.

**2025 - An exciting year for
Rotary as a whole.
120th Birthday Celebration
and
a "Peace on Earth" Mission
on the Moon.**

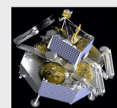
**Thank You for participating
Your picture has been included
on the Space Manifest**



**Happy
Birthday**



**Birthday
Proclamation**



**Griffin
Spacecraft**



Members' Attendance Record

38 Regular meetings in the year to 31st March 2025

Derek Baxter	26	70%	Ronnie McLean°	7 (24)	19%
Karen Blair	21	57%	Ivan McMinn	0	0%
David Boyd	37	100%	Kris Messegee [†]	0 (5)	0%
Maurice Brooks	24	65%	Gordon Millington	15	41%
Tim Browne	27	73%	Campbell Morton	28	76%
Brian Clements	31	84%	Ken Nixon	37	100%
Alastair Corscadden	2	5%	John O'Carroll	28	76%
Steven Costello	17	46%	Ronnie Porter	37	100%
Mark Davidson	17	46%	Eric Rainey	34	92%
Alan Duncan	2	5%	John Rea	9	24%
Teddy Elliott	2	5%	Alan Rundle	19	51%
Letitia Fitzpatrick	0	0%	Heather Shiell	35	95%
Malcolm Griffiths	33	89%	Rosemary Simpson	9	24%
Michael Graham	1	3%	Robert Skelly	0	0%
Trevor Hinds	18	49%	Michael Smith	0	0%
C T Hogg	27	73%	Chris Warnock	26	70%
Jean Horstman	11	30%	John Williamson	30	81%
Doris Houston	3	8%	Denis Wilson	32	86%
Andreas Huber [†]	0 (10)	0%	San Wong [†]	0 (10)	0%
Bryan Johnston	34	92%			
Pat Jordan-Scott	1	3%			
Adrian Kerr	31	84%			
Marnette Lyons	21	57%			
Lorna Magill	0	0%			
John McCleery [†]	0 (10)	0%			
Craig McClelland	35	95%			

Symbols indicate [†] a resignation, [#] transferred Club, °deceased.



Programme of Speakers

*All meetings were held on a Monday and were hybrid unless noted
'e' represents the meeting was held in the evening*

2024

April

- 1 No Meeting
- 8 Visit to Dublin Rotary Club
- 15 Past District Governor Sean Fitzgerald, Mercy Ships
- 22 Business Meeting
- 29 Jean Horstman, Lyric Theatre

May

- 6 No Meeting
- 13 Anna Pimm - *"at the heart of the game"*
- 20 AGM
- 27 No Meeting

June

- 3 Club Assembly
- 10 Sir Ronnie Weatherup - Clifton House, Belfast
- 17 Jim Gracey - A Life in Sports Journalism
- 24 e Presidents Day

July

- 1 Handover Meeting

September

- 2 Business Meeting
- 9 Claire Smyth - Will to Give
- 16 Sue McPherson - RSPB
- 23 Marian Traynor and Teresa Sloan - QUB Medical Biology 'InterSim Centre'
- 30 PP Bryan Johnston - A chance meeting in Belfast, Christchurch

October

- 7 Business Meeting
- 14 Rotary Ireland District Governor Seamus Parle
- 21 Jean Horstman and Hon. Sec. David - Seeds of Hope/Harmony Community Trust
- 28 President Ken - Polio



Programme of Speakers *cont...*

November	4	Business Meeting
	11	Belfast Homeless Services
	18	PE Heather Shiell - UNESCO World Heritage
	25	Colonel Don Bigger - The Ulster Regiments' contribution on D-Day
December	2	SGM & Business Meeting
	9	Mervyn Bates - C.S.Lewis, A Personal View
	16	Christmas Lunch, Europa
	23	No Meeting
	30	No Meeting
2025		
January	6	No Meeting
	13	Business Meeting
	20	Howard Caskie, Rotary Ireland Foundation Lead - The Rotary Foundation District and Global
	27	Rtn. John Rea & Ian Campbell Ten Foundations CEO- Report on visit to project in the Philippines
February	3	Membership Business Meeting
	10	Rosemary O'Mahony, Chair 1001 Fontaines
	17	Stevie Maginn, Communications and Events Manager, Linen Quarter Bid
	24	Chris Morrow, Director of Membership and Services, NI Chamber of Commerce and Industry
March	3	Business Meeting
	10	President Ken - Duty of Care in Sport
	17	No Meeting
	24	Ken Belshaw, the Honorary Consul for Hungary in NI
	31	YouthAction NI



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 Kinhead	<i>East Belfast Partnership</i>
	David Boyd	<i>Beat Carnival</i>
2017	Rev. Dr. Harold Good	<i>Reconciliation</i>



