# ROTARY DISTRICT 1160
# EIGHTY-THIRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE ~ ATHLONE

The second week-end in October was the District Conference in Athlone. A party of twelve Rotarians and their partners attended from Belfast together with our new Rotaract chair Donna and our outgoing Irish Ambassadorial Scholar Laura.

The programme included updates from the service chairs; presentations from Pat Cox former President of the European Parliament and Kingsley Aikins, President and CEO of the Worldwide Ireland Funds.

The most interesting and topical event was an interactive panel discussion on Ethics in Business and Professions. The panel was Senator Shane Ross (Sunday Independent business editor), Kingsley Aikins, Mary O'Rourke TD and Mary Keating, senior lecturer TCD.

We joined the Dublin Club for a very enjoyable meal and fellowship which continued in a nearby hostelry into the small hours.

At the plenary session The Rotary Club of Belfast was awarded the Chris Croft Trophy - **A District Award to the Club for making the best effort in Foundation Service!**

President Arthur received the trophy from past DG Paul Hutchison and presented it to PP Courtenay at the Club Luncheon meeting on behalf of all the members who made the award possible:

*PP Marnette Lyons and her team for the Harvard Glee Club Concert,*

*PP Derek Baxter and his team for the Ambassadorial Scholars visits,*

*PP David Boyd and his team for the TABU Programme,*

*PP Gordon Millington and his team for the Car Ballot,*

*Eileen Kennedy and her team for the Charity Musical Evening in Hillsborough and*

*The team selecting the 2 participants from Belfast on this year's outgoing GSE team to South Colorado.*

At conference we toasted absent friends remembering in particular Barrie Houston, a regular attendee and organizer up until last year.

The entire conference was a most enjoyable experience and newer members should consider participating in future years. They would be made very welcome.