



humanity in motion

# The Rotary Club of Comber Bulletin

Autumn 2009

## Club Bulletin



John Beers

Welcome to this years first edition of the Club Bulletin. July and August have passed us by and September's end is fast approaching but already we have had quite a number of visitors. The District Governor Tom Murphy and DG nominee Barney Callaghan joined us at our first meeting as did Paul and Sheila Hillis (old friends from Dublin Viking). We had a short but memorable visit from Gary Marquandt from Minneapolis and Len Cardwell from the Rotary Club of Meriden also visited. We also had an interesting talk by Caroline Willis, a Prosthetics and Orthotics student, about her trip to China and Hong Kong and we have interviewed and processed James McMordie, a potential Ambassadorial scholar through to the next phase of selection. Not forgetting a great night at the Hilden Beer and Music festival on Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> August.

Looking ahead, the District Conference takes place over the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of October followed the next weekend by the visit to Biggar.

Already we have got quite a lot of media coverage, in keeping with the main thrust of Rotary this year to make the general public more aware of us and what we do.

This is quite an uphill task as sadly most people have no knowledge of what we are and those that do think we are a load of old duffers. The need to change the public perception and recruit younger members is a challenge we all need to embrace. **70%** of the membership of RIBI is over sixty and if you reduce the age bracket to fifty this rises to **88%** with only **9%** being female. We are also the only region of Rotary International which has more retired than working members. These are interesting statistics and ones that we will have to work hard to turn around.



At the Hilden Beer & Music Festival

## Membership Services



Ewan Boyle

Our overall plan this year will be to see The Rotary Club of Comber grow by at least one new net member. We anticipate that in reality, this will involve the attraction of three new members.

Our plans to achieve this will be by the implementation of the following:

1. Continued follow up of those who have previously expressed an interest or attended a new member evening.
2. Opening up specific Monday evenings which will allow existing members to bring along guests in order to learn more about Rotary on an informal basis.
3. The production of letters and information pack that existing members can pass to potential new members, with specific information in relation to The Rotary Club of Comber.
4. The exploration of ideas that will accommodate how we attract new members who have problems in fully committing to Rotary on a regular weekly basis.
5. Holding specific events that will attract and inform potential new members on the role and benefits of Rotary membership.

As well as the above, we will be seeking ways of ensuring that our age and gender profile are rebalanced. Key will be to ensure new members feel welcomed, and find a role within the club, even at an early stage. The role of mentoring new members will therefore be of primary importance.

Of course, the issue of ensuring that where possible, our retention rate of existing members is maintained will also be an area that the committee will seek to focus on.

## International Services Proposals 2009-2010



Mike Moore

It would be the intention of my International Service Committee to continue with the introduction of new fund raising projects which involve greater public and community participation. The objective being to improve fund raising capacity and to better promote the work of Rotary in our local community. In doing so we will continue the practice of working closely with our Foundation and Community and Vocational Service Committees combining our resources as necessary.

We will review the success of the 3 new fund raising projects introduced last year : The Fair in the Square and the projects held in association with North Down Cricket Club and Mahee Island Golf Club, with a view to improving, repeating or replacing them. We will also support the two District preferred projects : Rombo in Kenya and the Shelter Box disaster relief projects. Fund raising for Polio Eradication will also continue.

## Youth Activities



Judy Sinclair

The Youth Opportunities programme will run in a similar vein as before. Youth Leadership heats will be kicking us off in October...all volunteers will be much appreciated for these interviews. I will be approaching schools when they reopen regarding the Young Chef heats which we hope to hold again, Amy did so well for us this year. The schools will also be approached about the dictionaries that are available through Rotary. Later in the year we will be running Young Musician again and in the mean time I am hoping to encourage younger youth to get to know us through perhaps 5 a side football matches, or the like. I also have in mind to introduce Interact through the schools but more about that another time!

## Would you like to Win a Bottle of Wine??

Can you suggest a witty Caption which would sum up what is going on in this photo.

Suggestions to the editor by Friday 2nd October to John.Ritchie@aero.bombardier.com

Winning Caption announced at Club Meeting on Monday 5th October.

Competition



Competition

## Foundation Committee



Evelyn Dermott

The Foundation Committee has, in keeping with the overall aims of Rotary Foundation, set the following as its programme for the incoming year.

### Polio fund raising:

The aim is to be part of the co-ordinated campaign by RIBI to raise £1 million by encouraging local primary schools to become involved in the Rotary "Thanks for Life" programme. Primary Schools in the area will be invited to make the Rotary Polio Fund their designated charity for fundraising. Committee members would, if schools agreed, illustrate the effects of polio and the work of polio eradication to the pupils. This would bring raise awareness of the Rotary Polio campaign in the local community and raise funds for the Polio eradication drive.

### Ambassadorial Scholarship and Group Study Exchange:

Members of the Committee will continue to look for future Ambassadorial Scholars and also seek to find recruits for the RIBI Group Study Exchange programme.

### Use of Green Box to raise Rotary awareness and fundraising:

This enterprise will be undertaken in conjunction with the International Committee.

At selected venues of well attended public events, club members will use the Green Box and other Rotary publicity materials to promote the work of Rotary in disaster relief and other projects. The objectives will be to increase the awareness of the work of Rotary International and Rotary Foundation's mission, to raise funds by collection and inviting donations and to encourage interest in and recruitment into the local Rotary Club.

## Community and Vocational Services



Karen McKeown

Plans are taking shape for the year ahead. We begin with a street collection in aid of the Meningitis Research Foundation, on Saturday 24th October. If any Rotarian could spare a couple of hours on that date, please let me know nearer the time.

Also, as a new venture this year, I would like to support a worthwhile project called Vision Aid Overseas. This simply involves Comber Rotarians and their families hunting out any old and redundant spectacles (possibly lying at the back of a cupboard somewhere) and bringing them to me on a Monday night. I will pass them on to the relevant people leading this initiative. I am currently inquiring about a guest speaker on this topic. So watch this space!

## Financial



George Pigott

The club has paid its bills so far on top of supporting good causes to the value of £11,000 last year. This support included nearly £4000 for NICFC, £3000 for Music Therapy Trust and £2000 to Rotary charities and projects. The rest of the money went to local and international causes.

The polio plus appeal and the \$100 per member will give us high birds to hit this year but are achievable as demonstrated last year. The financial position of the club is satisfactory.

## Rotary

President John Beers  
Treasurer George Pigott  
Secretary Jim Torney

### Club Chairs and Committees

Membership Service Ewan Boyle  
Club Service Philip Beggs  
Community and Vocational Karen McKeown  
Rotary Foundation Evelyn Dermott  
Youth Activities Judy Sinclair  
Communications John Ritchie



Service above Self

## Communications



John Ritchie

Our aim this year was to continue to increase publicity for the Club through media coverage and we are indebted to the Chronicle and Down Recorder who have both carried all the excellent articles we have sent them.

Using our contacts with local Radio we plan to promote our larger events and appeal to all to ensure Howard and myself are made aware well in advance of your plans enabling the team to fully promote and cover the story.

So please enjoy the Autumn issue of the Club Bulletin, with constructive feedback always welcome. Further issues will follow in February and May.

## Strangford Tall Ships

Back in August Comber Rotarians Ronnie Lyttle, Paul Molyneux and Howard Beattie set out on Ronnie's 34' Moody "Ocean Sweeper" to recce Strangford for possible activities when the Rotary Club of Yate pays its return visit to us next year.



Cap'n Ron at the helm

They came to no firm conclusions on entertaining our guests, but a most enjoyable day was topped by a close encounter with Dutch Tall Ship "Atlantis" which had stopped off in Strangford on its way to rendezvous with the remainder of the fleet in Belfast.



*Clever manoeuvring brought "Ocean Sweeper" astern of tall ship at speed to allow Ronnie and crew to capture this dramatic angle on "Atlantis".*

## Programme of Activities

5 October	Club Meeting. Followed by Council.
12 October	Club Meeting at Georgian House, The Square Comber for 19.00. Partners welcome.
16-18 October	BIGGAR Visit.
19 October	Speaker TBA + Youth Leadership Heats.
26 October	Club Meeting.
2 November	Club Meeting. Followed by Council + Youth Leadership Finals.
16 November	Special General Meeting. To receive the Club's Financial Report for 2008-2009 and elect the Club Executive for 2010-2011. + Young Chefs Heats.
23 November	Club Meeting: Speaker—David Kirk—Speaking on Tullymore Forest Park.
26 November	"Fair in the Square"
30 November	Club Meeting.
7 December	Club Meeting. Followed by Council.
14 December	Club Meeting.
17-19 December	Remembrance Tree
21 December	Christmas Dinner
28 December	Holiday. No Meeting



*A great night at the Hilden Beer and Music festival on Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> August*