



humanity in motion

# the link

## Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Carrickfergus



Rotary International is the world's largest service organization for business and professional people, with about 1.2 million members in 200 countries. There are some 58,000 Rotarians in Great Britain and Ireland in 1,850 clubs. The main objectives of Rotary are service, goodwill and peace — in the local community and throughout the world.



Service above Self

### From the Editor

This edition of the Link features some of the Club events from January to April 2009. The Editor thanks all those who have contributed photographs and information for inclusion in this publication.

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

### Death of Long Serving Member



It is with sadness that the members of the Rotary Club of Carrickfergus record the death of Rotarian Bert O'Neill. Bert was a long standing and valued member joining the Club in 1972. During his working life he played an active part in the organisation of Club activities and he and Hazel were regular participants at Rotary events. He was a loyal supporter of Rotary

and continued to attend when he retired from business. Bert enjoyed the fellowship that Rotary provided and we enjoyed his company.

We send Hazel and his family our condolences.

### Night at the Races



The Coast Road Hotel was the venue for a Night at the Races organised by Rotarian David Craig and his team. It attracted a crowd of eager punters, provided a great evening of fellowship and netted the bookies £800 for

Rotary charities with Alzheimer's research the main beneficiary.

### District Governor Paul Visits Mayor's Parlour

President Colin de Fleury used the occasion of Rotary District Governor Paul Hutchinson and his wife Marney's visit to the Rotary Club of Carrickfergus to fit in a visit to the Mayor's Parlour where they were graciously entertained by the Mayor Patricia McKinney. Paul is the first citizen of



the Borough of Carrickfergus to hold office as Governor of Rotary District 1160 which covers the whole of the island of Ireland so he was particularly thrilled to be honoured by a visit to the Mayor's Parlour.

Later DG Paul met with the Club Council and addressed the Club members promoting this year's Rotary projects and updating members on developments in District. He congratulated President Colin and the members on their achievements and thanked them for their support of local and international projects.

### DG Paul's Talk Impacts on India Within a Week

When Rotary District Governor Paul Hutchinson visited the Rotary Club of Carrickfergus on 5th January he could not have imagined that his words would have an impact on the other side of the world within a week, but that is precisely what happened.

Rotarian Sydney Johnston was struck by DG Paul's reference to his dislike of the use of the word 'handicapped' in relation to a person's physical or mental ability, preferring to use the term 'disabled' with the emphasis on the 'able'.

Rotarian Sydney who is also Treasurer of the United Grace Mission's outreach programme in India, and travels there each January to review the Mission's work, determined to

eliminate the use of the word 'handicapped' from signs, notices and all communications.



Arriving in India on 10<sup>th</sup> January, Sydney had the first sign made up and explained the story behind it to those involved and the results can be seen in the photograph.

### Paul Harris Fellowship

President's Night was the occasion to honour Rotarian Sam Crowe, Past-President of the Rotary Club of Carrickfergus.



Rotary District Governor Paul Hutchinson presented Rotarian Sam with a Paul Harris Fellowship, the highest honour a Rotarian can receive, for his services to the community and to Rotary projects.

As well as being Club President in 2004-05 and chairing most of the major Rotary committees, he cited in particular the personal contribution he made to the Life Education Programme, a joint project with the Rotary Clubs of Carrickfergus, Larne and Newtownabbey which was initiated and spearheaded by Rotarian Sam. It delivered a Healthy Life Style programme in 64 schools and impacted on the lives of 22,460 Primary School pupils in the south east Antrim area. He also paid tribute to Sam's work at District level in the promotion and administration of the Youth Leadership development programme.

DG Paul congratulated Sam on his commitment to the work of Rotary and his selfless work at District level, Club level and to the community of Carrickfergus.

### Support for Action Cancer

President Colin de Fleury recently presented a cheque to Diane Strain in support of the work of the Carrickfergus branch of Action Cancer. The Rotary Club has a long association with the Carrickfergus branch through their founder member Terry Murtagh who, with others, was instrumental in its establishment and was its Chairman for a number of years.



### Present from India



Rotarian Grace McNeill organised a collection of football shirts for despatch to Indian orphans in 2007/08. In return she was presented with the gift of a beautiful Indian shawl as a 'thank you' present from Rotarian Sydney on behalf of the recipients.

### GRASP Project opens new facility in Greenisland

GRASP (Greenisland Railway Adopt a Station Project) at Greenisland Station has opened a fully equipped portacabin which will serve as a drop-in centre where young people from the area can meet with project leader Alan Wright.



The project is funded by Children in Need and backed by Translink, the Greenisland churches, PSNI and the Rotary Club of Carrickfergus.

Project worker, Alan Wright, is delighted with the new facility which is currently open on Wednesday and Saturday evenings. Already one young person has benefitted from engagement with GRASP by securing a place on a Rotary Youth Leadership Activities (RYLA) 5 day outward bound course in Donegal. Her application was sponsored jointly by GRASP and the Rotary Club of Carrickfergus.

### Thanks to Deborah Yea Partnership for their kind assistance in the production of this publication

