

# **Coleraine Probus Club**

## **Annual General Meeting, Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

### **Secretary's Report**

Mr. President, Members and Guests, I have pleasure in presenting my report for the 2010 - 2011 Probus year.

At present we have an active membership of 55 and four additional honorary members - Alfie Clark, Jack Donaldson, Dan McLaughlin and Arthur Nicholl. Sadly, member John Torrens passed away in April last year. I am also sorry to report that no new members joined the club in the last 12 months, perhaps this should be a reminder to members to be on the lookout for prospective candidates in the new Probus year.

During 2010 - 2011 we have held 25 meetings, uniquely one further meeting was cancelled due to the snow and ice, and we now find ourselves at the AGM again. The highest meeting attendance was 45, and the lowest 31, average attendance was 38 members.

John White, as chair of the speakers sub-committee provided an extraordinary range of speakers on a wide range of topics. Twenty talks were by visitors to the club, four by club members and the other was in the form of a quiz (or for me, more like a trial, being poor at mental arithmetic).

Sincere thanks are due to John White and other members of the sub committee - Reggie Patterson, John Ludlow and Joe Alcorn, for this essential work on that aspect of club affairs.

The 2010 Probus Rally was held in Ballymena on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> May. Seven Coleraine members joined the 430+ delegates and guests for an enjoyable and enlightening glimpse at Probus life for all parts of Ireland.

Our Charity collection had raised £190.00p for the RNLI in January and £162.00p for Kidney Research in May. Club members also helped yours truly raise £150.00p with a charity walk for the Foyle Hospice - I believe that congratulations to all club members is called for here!

There were five lunches held during the year, as well as our Christmas event. Special thanks must go to Ross Torrens and Sam Barr for their work on the Social and Catering sub-committee and doing their utmost to achieve the impossible task of trying to please everybody all of the time!

The Christmas event was another great success, with over 70 members and guests enjoying the reminiscences of James Wiley and the fine piano skills of Reggie Patterson, followed by an excellent Christmas lunch.

Once again we have been fortunate to be accommodated by Portstewart Golf Club throughout the year at a relatively low cost. Thanks are due for not only allowing us the use of the room, but also in doing everything possible to

look after our needs - I think a special mention and thanks should also go to Baros (Brish?) from the Catering side of things, for his particular help and input to enabling us to feel 'at home'.

In my report I must also express thanks to Nigel Semple and Graham Kane for keeping, and checking, that our finances in good order; to Ian Murray and Tony Smyth for seeing to the welfare of our members; to John Dobson for keeping our meetings in the eye of the local newspapers; to Jim Hillis for the help with members records and producing the greatly valued membership cards; to Ivan Gough for the Christmas lunch programmes, and also Peter Fitzgerald, our Rotary Club Liaison Officer, for his continued interest in the affairs of the club.

Further thanks are also due to all the members who were willing to step in and help with the little tasks which are so important to keep things running.

Finally, I would like to express my particular thanks to our outgoing president, Jim, for all his help, encouragement and support throughout the year - without which my minutes would have been even longer! Thank you Jim and thank you all.

Mike Turner  
Hon Secretary

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_