

Coleraine Probus Club

Annual General Meeting, Tuesday 31st January 2012

Secretary's Report

Mr. President, Members and Guests, I have pleasure in presenting my report for the 2011 - 2012 Probus year.

At present we have an active membership of 55 and three additional honorary members. I am very sorry to record that members Noel Bigger, Alfie Clark and Tom McAlister all passed away during year. However, I am pleased to report that Joss Lapsley, Billy Platt and Graham McDonald joined the club in the last 12 months, and hopefully we will gain further members in the new Probus year.

During 2011 - 2012 we have held 26 members meetings and five lunches. The highest meeting attendance was 44, and the lowest 36, average attendance was 38 members.

John McHenry together with John White, Robert Campbell, John Dobson, Tony Smyth, Ross Torrens and members of the club committee have provided a full programme of extraordinary good of speakers on a wide range of topics. Twenty talks were by visitors to the club, two by club members and another was a general club discussion. The remaining two meetings were an Inter-Club quiz, thanks to Mervyn Patterson, and a training session for indoor bowls, thanks to Ross Torrens and Leslie Brennan - and good fun they were too!

Sincere thanks are due to the speakers sub committee, and the other regular committee members lead by our President, John Ludlow for their work on this vital aspect of club affairs.

The 2011 Probus Rally in May was held in Mallow, Co Cork. Although I was booked to attend, and dully arrived in Mallow for the reception before the conference started, I was called back to Altnagalvin where my mother had been rushed into hospital. Sorry, there is no Rally Report this year.

Our Charity collection for 2011 -2012 raised £120.50p for the two charities, 'Diabetes UK' and 'Habitat for Humanity'. I believe that congratulations to all club members are called for here!

There were four lunches held during the year, plus our Christmas event. Very special thanks must go Jim Gordon 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 60 members and guests enjoying musical talents of Ian Hanna, as well as Leslie Brennan's Christmas Carol Sing-Along (which in turn was thanks to the splendid 'Probus Carol Booklet' put together by Ivan Gough) and the show was all organised, once again, by Reggie Patterson. The entertainment was followed by an excellent Christmas lunch.

Once more 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 should also go to Brish from the Catering side of things, for his particular help setting out the room, organising the coffee and enabling us to feel 'at home'.

In addition to the members already mentioned, 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, 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 all those little tasks that are so important to keep things running.

Finally, I would like to express my particular thanks to our outgoing president, John, for all his help and support throughout the year - especially the great innovation of regular committee meeting in the comfort of his front room AND coffee and fresh baked scones provided by Edith (I would have been happy with a weekly committee meeting!) Thank you John and Edith, and thank you members all for listening to my minutes each week.

Mike Turner
Hon Secretary

SIGNED: _____

DATE: _____