



# ROTARY CLUB OF BANGOR

CLUB ASSEMBLY  
11 MAY 2016





**John F. Germ**  
**Rotary Club of Chattanooga**  
**Tennessee, USA**  
**President Rotary International**  
**2016 - 2017**

## **Rotary Serving Humanity**

Rotary has been many things, to many people, in the last 111 years. Through Rotary, our members have found friends, community, and a sense of purpose; we've forged connections, advanced our careers, and had incredible experiences we couldn't have had anywhere else. Every week, in more than 34,000 clubs around the world, Rotarians come together to talk, laugh, and share ideas. But above all, we come together for one, overriding goal: service.

Service to humanity has been the cornerstone of Rotary since its earliest days, and has been its main purpose ever since. I believe that there is no better path to meaningful service today than Rotary membership; and no organization better placed to make a real and positive difference in our world. No other organization so effectively brings together committed, capable professionals in a wide variety of fields, and enables them to achieve ambitious goals. Through Rotary, we have the capacity, the network, and the knowledge to change the world: the only limits are the ones we place on ourselves. Today, our organization is at a critical point: a historic juncture that will determine, in so many ways, what comes next. Together, we have provided extraordinary service to our world; tomorrow, our world will depend on us to do even more. Now is the time to capitalize on our success: as we complete the eradication of polio, and catapult Rotary forward, with determination and enthusiasm, to be an even greater force for good in the world.

Of the many lessons polio eradication has taught us, one of the most important is also one of the simplest: that if we want to bring all of Rotary forward, we've all got to be moving in the same direction. Continuity of leadership, at the club, district, and RI level, is the only way we will flourish, and achieve our full potential. It is not enough simply to bring in new members and form new clubs: our goal is not more Rotarians, but more Rotarians who can achieve more good Rotary work, and will become the Rotary leaders of tomorrow.

Near the end of his life, reflecting on the path that brought him to Rotary, Paul Harris wrote: "Individual effort may be turned to individual needs, but combined effort should be dedicated to the service of mankind. The power of combined effort knows no limitation." He could hardly have imagined then that one day, more than 1.2 million Rotarians would be combining their efforts, and, through our Rotary Foundation, their resources, to serve humanity together. And we can only imagine what great deeds Paul Harris would have expected of such a Rotary! It is our responsibility to achieve those deeds; as it is our privilege to carry forth the tradition of

***Rotary Serving Humanity.***

Sincerely,

John Germ

President, Rotary International, 2016-17



## Agenda

Grace

Toast

Welcome and introductory remarks

Apologies, correspondence and announcements

Bangor Rotary: the heart of Bangor Business

Club Service

Club Fundraising

Club Administration

Club Service Projects

Club Fun, Functions and Fellowship

Summing-up from DG's Representative

Thanks and Final Toast

Past President Ian Wilson

Hon Sec Stephen Connolly

President-elect Gavin Walker

Vice-President James O'Fee

Brian Wilson

David Sloan

Robin Mussen

Paul Hatty

Roland Bailie

Past President Ian Wilson



## Rotary Club of Bangor: the heart of Bangor Business

The Rotary Club of Bangor has been a feature of our town since 1935. We have a proud history of service and raising funds to help local and international charities and many of our present and past members have been active in promoting the values of Rotary throughout Ireland.

However, for some time we have recognised that the changing demands of business and wider society has meant that people are less inclined to join organisations of all kinds unless they can identify a specific meaning or relevance.

With the permission and involvement of Council and Members I would like to use my year as President to undertake a strategic repositioning of our Club which will increase awareness of Rotary and encourage local business and professional people to become involved at a level of their choosing.

This will require us to find new and interesting ways in which we can engage with our community and will have as its goal an increase both in an understanding of what the Rotary Club of Bangor has to offer, and a relevance to the business and professional community that will encourage them to become involved at different levels with our work. Where their day to day operation is the 'head' of their business, we can fulfil the Corporate Social Responsibility aspect of their business making us the 'heart' of Bangor business.

I believe that your Council has already agreed a programme that will start us down that road and this evening we will lay out much of what is planned. My job is to explain what we are trying to achieve.

During the two Working Lunches we held this year we have identified three key areas in which we as a Club are agreed we need to focus:

1. Raise our profile as a Club to increase an understanding in what a Rotary Club is and what value we bring to Bangor by (a) identifying community-based projects in which we can be involved and (b) being innovative in our press coverage and online engagement.
2. Identify ways in which local business and professional people can 'touch' Rotary as a first step to being involved with Rotary.
3. Provide additional opportunities for us to enjoy each other's company.

We have identified a number of ways by which we hope to begin to address these issues and here I will outline some of the most outstanding ideas for your consideration and approval.

### **1. Raising our Club profile**

During the coming year everything we undertake as a Club will have raising our profile as our primary goal. By involving ourselves in projects such as the Remembrance Tree, the Schools Concert and dedicating all of our fundraising to supporting Bangor-based charities we will raise awareness of the value of the Club within our community. In addition, we will work with David Sloan to create innovative and interesting PR opportunities and imagery.

### **2. Engaging with the Bangor Business & Professional Community**

We are aware of the need to build our membership to ensure our long-term viability. To achieve that, we need to peak the interest of our target market – Bangor business and professional people. And to achieve that, we need to prove our relevance by finding ways to engage directly with them.

With that in mind, we are introducing the **Business Speakers Series**. This will be a selection of speakers who will address specific business related topics at our monthly evening meetings. This series will be marketed directly to the local business and professional community in a bespoke brochure which will be mailed to them with an invitation to join with us on these evenings. By inviting them to ‘touch’ Rotary we have an opportunity to introduce them to our work and hopefully encourage them to become involved and, in time, consider membership.

We are also looking at the possibility of organizing an event to help celebrate **International Women’s Day** which is on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

### **3. Developing additional Fellowship opportunities**

Alongside many of the successful events such as our theatre, bus and cinema outings we are introducing the **Fifth Thursday Dinner**. There are three months during the upcoming year in which there are five Thursdays (November, March and May) and Paul Megarity will be identifying three interesting dinner locations for us to enjoy.

We are also considering a Burns Night Event as the celebration on January 25<sup>th</sup> 2017 falls on a Wednesday.

### **Conclusion**

And so the new Rotary year begins to take shape. We know we have work to do and we have the beginnings of a calendar that will help us achieve our goals. I am more than pleased to report that every request I have made to Rotarians to undertake particular roles this year has been agreed to enthusiastically.

If we each play our role in the development of our Club I believe we can position ourselves as one of Bangor’s leading service organisations which will attract the attention and support

of local business and professional people who will then consider membership as something relevant, meaningful and worthwhile.

I look forward to playing an active part in our revival.

**Gavin Walker**

**President Elect**



## Club Service

I am pleased, though challenged, to take up the demanding role of President Elect of the Rotary Club of Bangor from July 2016.

Since joining Rotary I have served in various capacities. During that time each President has brought his own personality and skills in leading the Club in its different aspects.

Our incoming President, Gavin Walker, will add his own stamp. As President Elect, I look forward fully to supporting him and the Council in what promises to be a challenging, ambitious and rewarding year.

Beside the normal duties of Club Service, I would hope to take every opportunity to increase and broaden our membership so as to add to our pool of talent and help ensure the Club's continued success.

**James O'Fee**  
**Vice-President**



## Fund Raising

### **1. The Big Breakfast**

We will be returning to the Clandeboye Lodge on 25 October, for what is not only a source of substantial funds, but also an opportunity to showcase the Bangor club to the business community. I would appeal to all club members to support this venture, and bring as many guests as possible – I am assured that despite very good numbers, we have not yet tested the upper limit of what the hotel can seat!

### **2. Car Ballot**

Our neighbours at Donaghadee Rotary are organizing the car ballot this year and we will be supporting them by taking a number of tickets. With the good advices of Past President Stanley we will ensure a good return for our charities while not stretching the goodwill of all involved.

### **3. Remembrance Tree**

A new initiative we hope to explore is a remembrance tree at Christmas. This would probably be in conjunction with the council and would utilise the large Christmas tree outside Danske Bank. It would raise money by allowing people to buy yellow ribbons upon which they can write memorials for loved ones which are hoisted up to decorate the tree. This has been a very successful operation for many rotary clubs around Ireland already and is worth exploring.

### **4. Lenten Appeal**

It is also intended to repeat the very useful Lenten 'Smartie Tube' appeal, and continue with the monthly draw, though there is a concern we may lose a few members if they decide to move to the Bahamas with their winnings.

### **5. Schools' Concert**

Finally on 4<sup>th</sup> April we propose to organise a joint schools concert at Bangor Academy involving the Academy, Bangor Grammar, St Columbanus's College and Glenlola.

**Brian Wilson**

**Club Fund Raising Co-ordinator**



## Club Administration

Many important aspects of any club come under the heading of Club Administration and in Bangor Rotary Club we are no different. Our members have come to expect the smooth and efficient running of the Club's affairs and in the coming year everything possible will be done to ensure their expectations are not unfounded.

### 1. Membership

The thorny issue of membership or to put it correctly lack of new members will continue to be at the front of everyone's mind. Our in-coming President has already outlined a number of ideas to address the issue and I have no doubt all our Rotarians will give his fresh and innovative suggestions their full support.

Hopefully the year ahead will see the Bangor Club have an influx of new members that will guarantee its survival for the foreseeable future.

### 2. Attendance

Regular attendance by members is important to keep the Club alive and to ensure it flourishes. A good turnout at our meetings will leave guests and potential new members with a lasting impression of a thriving fun Club that would be worth joining.

### 3. Programme

We have always had a reputation for the quality of our speakers and in the coming year it will be mainly Past-President Ian Wilson's role to maintain the high standard already set. One exception will be that on the third Wednesday of each month we will have a speaker from the business community when we can encourage others from the business world to come along as our guests. Past Presidents Brian Balmer and Denis Neill have agreed to provide these speakers. The idea has come from our in-coming President and is part of his overall strategy to identify the Club as "The heart of Bangor Business".

### 4. Club Promotion

Letting the wider community know what the Club is up to is another vital task. By using various media outlets we can inform the public of all our activities and build the Club's reputation. Local press will play a major part in this, as will our attractive website maintained by our in-coming President. It is also our intention to look again at how social media can be used where appropriate. Rotary News will continue to

receive photographs and articles to ensure Rotarians elsewhere are aware that the Bangor Club is still as active as ever.

#### **5. House and reception**

The warm friendly welcome that guests and visitors receive when they turn up at Bangor will continue. It will be thanks again to Past President Stewart Borland that this tradition is maintained. He will have the role of organising the weekly 'meet and greet teams', who, as well as providing a welcoming handshake at the door will be responsible for setting up the room for our meetings and paying the caterer.

**David Sloan**

**Club Administration Co-ordinator**



## Service Projects

Our Service projects will continue to focus on helping our local community through direct involvement with people of all ages and in all circumstances. In doing so, we aim to promote the work and ethos of Rotary, in the hope that more men and women might consider becoming Rotarians.

### **1. Youth Leadership Competition**

Greatly encouraged by the success of last year's competition, our club has offered to host the 2016/17 zone final, as well as participating at Club level with our own nominee. Stephen Connolly's excellent organisation of the Zone final and club competition arrangements last year (supported by Jack Watson) were commended by all participants and Stephen has kindly agreed to take the lead, once again.

### **2. Remembrance Tree**

Continuing on our theme of raising our club's profile in the community, we plan to use the pre-Christmas period to organise a Remembrance Tree event in the centre of our town, to which passers-by will be invited to attach a note remembering a lost relative, friend or acquaintance. The aim would be to familiarise members of the public with our 'service' ethos and encourage their own possible participation in a local club Rotary. Additionally we would invite a voluntary contribution to a charity. This is an ambitious project which will require the full support of all our members.

### **3. Croft Bowling**

A highlight of each year's calendar is the evening spent with our Croft Community friends. This year we hope to organise another night's fun and frolics at the ten pin bowling arena at Dundonald Ice Bowl.

### **4. Kids Out**

The recent change in our approach to this event proved very successful and we will be discussing with the Clifton Principal how we can build on the last event so that the young folk gain maximum fun and fulfilment from another successful outing. Hopefully, as the year progresses, other Service Projects will emerge to add to the above list. As ever, we are grateful for the fantastic support our Rotarians have given to our annual efforts. We look forward to another year of 'Service Above Self'.

**Robin Mussen**

**Club Service Projects Co-ordinator**



## Club Fun, Functions and Fellowship

Firstly can I thank our accomplished outgoing convenor, James O'Fee. James made it his chief purpose to make this past year a most enjoyable one for Club members. If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery then I hope he and the other organisers of last year's programme will be suitably flattered. It is the intention to run some of last year's most successful events again, including the trip to Waldo's cinema, our Christmas Dinner, a theatre outing with or without a Rotarian in the starring role.

We had a very successful Burns night supper a couple of years ago and it is high time we had another. Past President Iain Patterson from the Newtownabbey club is always asking if we are planning another as he enjoyed it so much. Always remembering "There is no such uncertainty as a sure thing."

One of the new initiatives this year concerns those months which have five Wednesdays. On these fifth Wednesdays, we will be organising a fun event for the members. These fall next year in November, March and May.

Last year we didn't get a chance to benefit from the new theatre complex in SERC or the Open House Festival. Perhaps this year we will be able to explore these opportunities.

We already have in place some great and accomplished event organisers, but if anyone has any ideas for fellowship within the club or perhaps to spread the fun further afield, please let me know.

**Paul Hatty**

**Club Fun, Functions and Fellowship Co-ordinator**