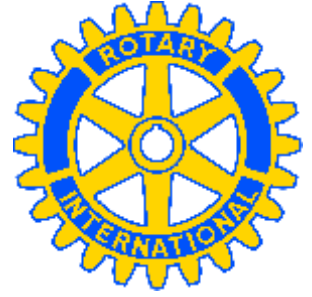




# The Oakleaf



Rotary Club of Londonderry - January 2010  
 District 1160 - Club No 76 - Incorporated 17th July 1922  
[www.londonderryrotary.org](http://www.londonderryrotary.org)  
**President 2009/2010: Jim Foster**

## A Happy & Prosperous New Year to All

from President Jim and council



### Children's Christmas Party:

This annual event took place on Thursday - 10 December 2009 at the Guildhall, with 16 schools participating, represented by 374 children and 49 teachers and helpers in attendance.

The much anticipated magician, followed by his Punch & Judy Show, provided the best part of the entertainment on-stage, whilst the face-painters and balloon modellers played an important role on the floor.

At lunchtime the outside caterers distributed chicken nuggets, chips and drinks to the children, whilst adults had sandwiches and tea and coffee.

A number of Rotarians were lending their hands to the event, which culminated in the arrival of Santa after lunch and the presentation of Christmas gifts to all children.

As always, this Party was a great success, much appreciated by the schools, as confirmed by several thank-you letters.

Report by Past President Werner Scheel

### This Year's Upcoming Projects & Events

President's Night - Date to be confirmed

Young Chef Competition - Date to be confirmed

Kids Out Day - June 2010

### DIARY

**Monday 4th January 2010:** Lunch meeting commencing 1pm at the City Hotel.

**Thursday 7th January 2010:** Council meeting in Jim Foster's home at 8 pm.

**Monday 11th January 2010:** Evening meeting commencing 6pm at the City Hotel. - Club Business Meeting.

**Monday 18th January 2010:** Lunch meeting commencing 1pm at City Hotel.

**Monday 25th January 2010:** Lunch meeting commencing 1pm at City Hotel.

**Monday 1st February 2010:** Lunch meeting commencing 1pm at City Hotel.

**Thursday 4th February 2010:** Council meeting in Peter Sidebottom's home at 8 pm.

**Monday 8th February 2010:** Evening meeting commencing 6pm at the City Hotel. - Club Business Meeting.

**Monday 15th February 2010:** Lunch meeting commencing 1pm at City Hotel.

**Monday 22nd February 2010:** Lunch meeting commencing 1pm at City Hotel.

### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS -

Happy birthday this month on:

**3rd** to Past President Desmond Sidebottom

**5th** to President Jim Foster

**7th** to Rotarian David Hunter

**15th** to Past President Pat Kelly

**19th** to Rotarian Andy Bredin

**23rd** to Past President Pat Moore

**Christmas Hampers** - This year 60 hampers at a value of £50 each were distributed to need homes in the local area.

38 were distributed between Great James's Street Health Centre, Shantallow Health Centre and the Waterside Family Centre. The following Rotarians also distributed Hampers PP Graham Hunter-7. PP Frank Lawrance-6, VP Alan Rodden-5 and Secretary Jeremy Arthur-2.

PP Graham pointed out that we should include a Christmas card and message from the President and Members to each recipient. This could also include some details and history of Rotary but we will review this for next year.

Report by Rotarian Gavin Killeen



rotary club of londonderry meets: monday, 1.00 p.m.  
 at the city hotel, queens quay, londonderry, BT48 7AS



## Rotary Tree of Remembrance 2009



Inspired by the success story of previous years by the Rotary Clubs of Waterford and Cork, our Club took on this demanding project, in order to raise substantial amounts of money for the benefit of local charities. A small organising committee under the leadership of Pat Moore started to hold weekly meetings from September 2009 onwards, determining the requirements of both hardware (shed, counter, tree, ribbons, strapping etc.) and manpower. Most of the hardware was in place by end November, with the tree to follow a couple of days before the scheduled opening on Friday - 11 December 2009. John McMonagle took it upon himself to provide the logistic support to the project in a most amazing way, commencing with the setting up of the site outside Foyleside's Orchard Street entrance, which took from 10 pm to 2.15 am on 9 December, in freezing conditions.

The stand was at most times adequately covered by Rotarians, supplemented also by members of Inner Wheel and Probus, as well as friends and family members of Rotarians, something we are most grateful for. Special thanks go to Jeremy Arthur and Alan Rodden, who made the stand their second home, literally, so it seemed, as they covered around 100 hours each in often freezing, wet and windy weather. James Buchanan was always available to fill gaps on our rota, in an effort to keep things moving smoothly.

The response from the passing public was tremendous: a total of about 5,500 ribbons were enscribed with messages of remembrance and affixed to the strapping, turning the Tree into a sea of heart-shaped yellow ribbons all around its circumference. Monetary donations exceeded most people's expectations, with close to £15,500 received, including EUR 750. There will be a special note published in local papers, to thank the thousands of contributors for their generosity.

Arrangements are currently being made to have a Blessing of Remembrance of all ribbons, within ordinary church services. Also, the presentation of cheques to the chosen local charities, NSPCC (Foyle Branch), Alzheimer's Society, Foyle

## Rotary Tree of Remembrance Photos



Haven and Rotary Foundation / PolioPlus - Thanks for Life, will take place at an evening Club Meeting in February.

No sooner had the Tree of Remembrance project closed on Christmas Eve, when Rotarians asked "Will we do it again in 2010?". Despite all the hardship suffered due to the inclement weather, the pure joy and satisfaction of interaction with the public enticed virtually all participants to vote for a repeat of this event next Christmas, when we will be even better prepared than a month ago.

Again, many heartfelt thanks to all Rotarians and friends, who gave of their time to carry the project over a two week period. Without your input it could not have been done.

Report by Past President Werner Scheel

**Tree of Remembrance** - A few came on the first day wondering what this tree was all about. They saw the yellow ribbons and came to investigate.

More came and by the end of 2 weeks there were hundreds of yellow ribbons all marked with names of loved ones. Many of the notes were simply 'Mummy and Daddy thinking of you at Christmas' or remembering 'Nana and Grandad'

Some I recall were 'Remembering our troops in Afghanistan' and 'my wee boy missing his first Christmas'

One lady filled out 4 ribbons with names of her family and another came with £35 and wrote a name on the ribbon. When I said that it was too much to donate I was told that it was a collection from work.

Many gave £5 or £10 and would not accept change. Most were not concerned as to what charities were benefiting

This was quite an experience for me. It was as if the visitors wanted to give something to their loved ones similar to visiting the graves and laying flowers.

So sad but rewarding both for the donors and recipients.

A Londonderry Rotarian