

Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Sligo

Some thoughts at the end of my Presidency

By Past President Des Foley

Last year, as July edged closer, I was wondering at the wisdom of my succumbing to the persuasive powers of former President Brendan. A number of former Club Presidents told me how much I would enjoy my year, Jimmy Harney so often that I began to believe it! I was filled with certain worries though and now amazingly that year has just flown by and they were all correct—I enjoyed it very much and have found it a great honour to lead a club that has been such a positive contributor to the Sligo community for now 50 years bar a few months.

As the Rotary Year begins on July 1st it can appear that in the first couple of months nothing is happening and by September I was anxious. But off course I was forgetting some of the mainstays of our Club that are constant throughout the year: Meals on Wheels, ongoing new member recruitment and guest speakers. In those regards I am grateful for the good work undertaken by Gerry Cannon, Roe Finnegan

and Sean Doyle respectively

In September Pat McNulty took up the Youth Leadership Competition baton once more and ably assisted by Donal O'Shea, Pat Carter and Mark Boland set about her annual interviews of transition year students.

In early December we were planning two annual events: The Pantomime trip for some residents of and day visitors to Cregg House. This has become Pat Leigh Doyles' project, almost by accident!, and it goes off very smoothly.

I am grateful to all fellow Sligo Rotarians for their input to the Remembrance Tree Charity Collection and particularly to Ray Mullen and Joseph Martin for their work on the Rota and the management of actually procuring and erecting the tree. The weather was foul and a number of our members were ill but it was a considerable success for both charities to whom we presented cheques at a well attended church service in January, organised as usual with military preci-

sion by Sean Doyle. I look forward to the continued assistance of Transition Year pupils from Ursuline College to this event in the future and the excellent cooperation of Sister Mairead from that College.

In February our Presidents Night became a Charity Lunch in association with The Inner Wheel Club, we raised €2500 for The Sligo Cancer Support Centre and I am indebted to Inner Wheel President Catherine and her Aide de Camp, Rotarian Jim Flood for their time and hard work.

Our final event of the year was once again an Awareness Day in The Quayside Shopping Centre for the Cardiology Unit at Sligo Regional Hospital and I am grateful to Brendan Healy for his role in organising this along with Anthony Ryan from the hospital.

Thank you all, Fellow Rotarians, for your friendship and support ---it has been a privilege. Now go easy on Young Sean Doyle in the forthcoming year----- Des.

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Our Annual Fund Raiser this year will be a Film Night at the Model Theatre.

This will be in place of the Theatre Night and will as usual be run in conjunction with the Inner wheel Club during the first week in April



The Hand over ceremony
Secretary John, President
Sean and Past Pres Des

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All in all the daily delivery can offer a fascinating insight into the world of those availing of the service - and a realisation of the great work being undertaken by Sligo Social Services.



Getting the chain untangled

The Telephone call you just don't want to get

By Past President Des Kennedy

- it's Martina from Social Services! Asking if you are on meals on wheels duty that day - you are - and you are late - or worse have even forgotten that indeed you are on Martina's list. You arrive somewhat breathless and proceed with the belated delivery. As John waves you out of the parking area you hope that if you have a new client on your list, they won't be living at an address too difficult to locate. However, thankfully the list does not change too much each time one is called on. There is a certain sadness when your delivery routine takes you past a house no longer on the list, making you wonder if the occupant has died or been confined to a nursing home, or if there is some other story.

Each Rotarian has their

own routine of delivery, hoping to get meals to the recipients before the dinner goes cool. What you particularly don't want is to be standing at a doorway where there is no answer to your ringing or knocking. Should one stay there? hoping the door will eventually open, or leave the dinner outside the door and report the non answer. Some of course helpfully leave specific instructions by means of a printed note and empty biscuit tin, which neatly resolves the dilemma. The reactions of the dinner recipients can be varied and interesting. Some are very welcoming and desirous of a chat, others just to taking the proffered dishes with a brief word of thanks. The former can present a challenge, as while one might be very conscious of the need to be communicative

and of the loneliness being experienced by some, one is also very aware of the onward ticking clock and dinners cooling. The last thing you need is a complaining phone call to Social Services wondering as to the current location of today's dinner.

All in all the daily delivery can offer a fascinating insight into the world of those availing of the service - and a realisation of the great work being undertaken by Sligo Social Services. It is also a tribute to all the many members of Sligo Rotary who have played their part in bringing meals to those in need over many years. It is to be hoped that this great enterprise will continue for many decades to come, reminding all of us that service to others is a duty that can be very fulfilling.'

The Postal Survey

Over many years our members have participated in this project and thereby earned some very valuable contributions to the Rotary Foundation.

In the Rotary year 2013/14 €441 has been contributed to Foundation through the efforts of our members. Participants in

the scheme are either Droppers or Receivers.

Droppers are sent packets or envelopes to be posted on specific dates. They are preaddressed and pre stamped.

Receivers as the word suggests receive the material and having opened the

envelope, record on the enclosed sheet, the time, day, and date of receipt.

These are returned to PWC in prepaid envelopes each week.

Not very onerous! And much needed funds for Foundation with credit to Sligo Rotary.



Speaker 21st July 2014

Our lunchtime guest speaker on 21st July was President of Sligo Probus Club, David McNeill. He spoke briefly on Probus.

Rotary was responsible for establishing The

Sligo Probus Club some 28 years ago and it has continued actively since.

There are currently some 18 members who meet at 11am on Tuesdays at Nazareth House for tea and

biscuits, conversation and craic

. President David said he would welcome visits from any Sligo Rotarians who cared to come along.



President Sean with Omagh President Colin Jardine.

Speaker on 28th July 2014

Probus President David was followed just a week later by Larry Mullen Hon Sec of Sligo Probus.

He spoke about a Cross Border Organisation he has been involved with for many years.

It brings together representatives of six of the Counties south of the border with the representatives of the counties of Northern Ireland.

The objective is to bring together representatives of marginalised communities both North and South to

promote understanding and exchange experiences and views. At the outset there were some European Funds made available to assist with the costs of the exchange. It seems these have dried up and these cross border contacts have diminished.

District Governor Philip Beggs' Official visit will be at 6 p.m. on the 20th October, 2014 at the Sligo Park Hotel.

Youth Leadership

Once again Rtn. Patricia Mc Nulty ably assisted by Rtn Breda Roche is organizing this year's competition.

Preparations are beginning earlier than in past years because the visit to the European Parliament in Strasbourg will also take place at an earlier date.

In previous years the in-

terviewers at Regional level were non Rotarians. This year our club is following this line and our interviewers will also be non Rotarians.

All second level schools have been written to inviting applications from students aged between 16 and 18. Depending on the number of applicants the interviews will be ar-

ranged over a period of a few days.



The Four Way Test

Of the things we say or do

Is it the **Truth**

Will it be **Beneficial** to all concerned

Will it build **Goodwill and better Friendships**

Will it be **Beneficial** to all concerned

We're on the web
sligorotary.com

Meals on Wheels Rota

8 Sept	J. Martin	20 Oct	R.Finnegan
	P.McManus		K.Mcdermott
15 Sept	M.Horan	27 Oct	L.Doherty
	F.Shannon		P Leigh Doyle
22 Sept	P.McNulty	3 Nov	L.Rhatigan
	R.Mullen		J. Fitzgerald
29 Sept	A.Buckley	10 Nov	D. Kennedy
	J.Waters		H.McCafferty
6 Oct	D.O Shea	17 Nov	J.Flood
	J.Harney		D.Foley
13 Oct	P.McAuliffe	24 Nov	B.Rafertry
			B.Healy

From the editor's laptop

My apologies for the delayed appearance of this issue of Keyway!!

A combination of editorial laziness and lap top intransigence conspired to frustrate one's best efforts to get things down on paper. Some typos may be noticed in this issue and some odd arrangement of paragraphs etc. the rectifying of which have baffled the editorial staff.

Our President Sean has hit the ground running. The various convenors

have been appointed and committee members have been allocated; meetings of each committee are currently being held and the programmes as circulated at our club Assembly are under way.

Members at the moment are busy collecting second hand bicycles for the Joel Ryder project.

The Youth Leadership Competition is being organized and several other projects are being planned.

A significant anniversary will occur in the Spring of 2015.!! Our club will celebrate 50 years of Rotary Service. A Dress Dance has been booked to take place at Sligo Park Hotel in February.

We still have three of the Founder members on our book.

President Sean Doyle, Max Kilroy and Vincent Rafertry.

They must have been fresh faced youngsters 50 years ago.



We are delighted they are still with us and wish them many more years to enjoy Rotary Service.

Ray Mullen.

Editor.