

KELLS AND CONNOR LUNCHEON CLUB

36TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 21ST SEPTEMBER 2024

Secretary's Report for the period September 2023 – August 2024

It gives me great pleasure to present this Secretary's report for the period September 2023 to August 2024.

In total the Club met on 32 occasions throughout the year. On average 50 members were in attendance each week which reflects a decrease in previous years. Based on these figures over 1,600 lunches were prepared during the session.

Thankfully we were able to meet for lunch each week without any restrictions and this was made possible by the grants, donations and member's contributions obtained by our Treasurer. The Committee took great interest in agreeing how the finances could be best used for the members throughout the year. Also, the membership and lunch costs are to be kept the same for this year.

Christmas lunch was held on 14th December 2023 and was another great success with 85 members and guests present. Iris Edgar again provided a marvellous Christmas dinner. All the members went home well-fed clutching presents.

The next big event was the retirement lunch of the Reverend Brian Boyd held on February 22nd. A picture of Kells church painted by a local artist was given to Brian from the members of the club.

The Annual Church Service was held on 21st April 2024 in Kells Presbyterian Church conducted by the Reverend Noel McClean with some members taking part. The offering that evening raised £583.00. This plus a donation of £117 from the clubs' funds totalling £700 was presented to The Children's Hospice.

On Friday the 1st of March, Alan Forster, Robin and Margaret Fowler and I attended the AGEWELL AWARDS event in in Tullyglass Hotel. The luncheon Club had been shortlisted in three categories. Unfortunately, we didn't get the three awards but won the trophy for the best luncheon club in all the Mid and East Antrim area. We also enjoyed a delightful lunch and entertainment.

The annual outing took place on Thursday 18th June and we travelled to Ballycastle and around the Antrim coast stopping at Portballintrae Golf Club where we had a great carvery lunch. Then travelled on via Portstewart to Limavady where we had tea, scones and tray bakes in the Roe Valley Hotel. Unfortunately, the weather was not kind to us but all who went had an enjoyable time.

This event ended our Luncheon Club year.

The committee met 5 times and different issues were discussed. At the last meeting our Constitution, Equal Opportunity Policy, General Risk Assessment and Adult's Safeguarding Policy were reviewed. No changes were deemed necessary.

This year we had some new members join, taking our total to 66 members. New members are always very welcome and can I encourage you to invite others to come along I'm sure they would enjoy it.

The years pass quickly and our aches and pains don't heal so fast. Some members have been ill and we all wish them well for the coming year and look forward to them joining us again soon.

We had a varied programme of entertainment throughout the year and we are thankful to those who came along to educate, sing and exercise us.

Lastly, we all would like to thank those ladies who give up their time to prepare the meals for us. It has become more difficult for us all with the rising cost of living (and Robin will be referring to this later) great credit goes to those ladies who enable the cost of our meals to remain the same. Also, I would like to thank Margaret who welcomes us each week and Paula who sets the tables and provides the serviettes and table decorations each week.

This ladies and gentlemen concludes my report.

Signed Robert Bramley

Dated 21st September 2024

Robert Bramley