



Rotary Club of Orkney

1967 - 2017

Rotary International, an association of business and professional men, with the purpose to bring together people to provide humanitarian services, to encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and to advance peace and goodwill throughout the world, was founded in 1905, in Chicago, by Paul Harris. In succeeding years, clubs were formed in major cities in USA, and the first club outwith America, was established in London in 1911. Rotary, originally composed of business and professional men, is now open to all people, regardless of race, colour, creed, religion, gender or political preference. There are now worldwide, over 34,000 clubs, with a total membership of over 1.22 million.

Several months of preparation by local businessmen led to the inaugural meeting of the Interim Rotary Club of Kirkwall at the Ayre Hotel, Kirkwall, on 7th September, 1966. The meeting was chaired by Rotarian Alexander M Mackie, Governor of District 101 Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland (RIBI), assisted by 101 District Extension Officer, Alf Hyland.

The founder members of the Interim Club were as follows:

President	Andrew Buchan, Town Clerk, Kirkwall
Vice-President	John C Sclater, Woollen Goods Manufacturer
Secretary	John H McDonald, Fertiliser Distributor
Treasurer	J Basil T Greer, Manager, Royal Bank of Scotland

Members of Council: William J Jolly, Coal Retail;
George R Marwick, Meat and Dairy Products;
William L Marwick, Accountant;
Evan MacGillivray, Librarian;
G Edward Peacock, Manager, Hydro-Electric;
Douglas M Wood, County Clerk, Orkney.

Founder Members: Alan Bullen, Transportation
Hugh Clyde, Pharmacist
D Bruce B Dunnet, Dentist
W Michael Edwards, Solicitor
Charles R S Flett, Vikingways Agent
James B Gordon, General Practitioner
David H Gorn, Draper Retail
Alistair Groundwater, Postmaster
Alexander Heddle, Animal Husbandry
Archibald T Jamieson, County Architect
Robert Mack, Director of Education
Robert F Miller, Hardware Retail
John D M Robertson, Oil Industry Director
John G Scott, Jeweller
Patrick A Sutherland, General Contractor
Robert T Tullock, Automobile Retail
Sutherland Watson, Fish Products

After 6 months probation, The Charter Dinner of the Club was held in the Ayre Hotel, on 24th February 1967. The event was again chaired by Alex Mackie, DG 101, who presented the Club Charter, the President's jewel and ribbon of office to our Founder President, Andrew R Buchan, who now found himself President of the most northerly club in RIBI. Represented at the function were 13 clubs, including our foster club, Wick, and a past DG from Norway.

Following addresses by District Governor Mackie, District Extension Officer Alf Hyland, and Club President Andrew Buchan, presentations were made to the new Club, still prominent features at every Club meeting, the lectern, made in Wick and presented by the Rotary Club of Wick, and the block and gavel, gift of District 101. Past DG, Berger Damm, District 131, then addressed the Club, and presented a silver candlestick, designed and crafted in Norway, and gifted by the 3 Districts in his country. Rotarian Damm proceeded to light the candle, quoting an old Norwegian saying: 'It is better to kindle a light, even a small one, rather than to curse the dark'. Thanking him and all Rotarians in Norway for this wonderful gift, President Buchan said that the light that had been lit that night would be a lasting inspiration to the Kirkwall Club, and he vowed that the candle would be lit at every meeting of the Club. And so it has been to this day.

Over the next 4 years the Club progressed under the guidance of Presidents:

Andrew R Buchan	1967/68
John C Sclater	1968/69
G Edward Peacock	1969/70
J D M Robertson	1971/72

These years saw the Club pass through its infancy and growing maturity, identifying and attempting to resolve needs in the community. One of its first projects was the supply of flashing lights in the windows of frail and elderly people, living alone, which could be activated when assistance was required. In early 1968, a fire in the Ayre Hotel forced a change to the Kirkwall Hotel, where the Club was taken under the wing of Mrs Maisie George. The Rotary Club wall plaque, intimating the date of meetings at 1pm on Thursdays, was installed beside the front door of the Kirkwall Hotel, and the plaque remained there until 1994.

In 1969 a direction indicator was installed at the top of Wideford Hill, and at the same time 'Old Folks' Runs' were inaugurated on Sundays, when a rota of Members picked up 3 residents from Eastbank Hospital for runs through the countryside. These gave much pleasure to older people and continued as a regular Club activity for a goodly number of years.

1969 saw the first Rotary Ball, which became an annual institution lasting until formal dances fell out of fashion, in the early 1990s. This year, too, saw the Longhope Lifeboat Disaster. The Club suggested, through the columns of the 'Rotary Magazine', that every Club in RIBI should consider donating £1 per member to the Disaster Fund. This led to over £2,000 being raised, a not inconsiderable sum for the time.

1969 saw also the beginnings of an idea looking at the possibility of establishing a Youth Hostel in the county. The search for a site eventually decided on a surplus GPO building off Old Scapa Road. This would require extensive fund-raising, and to this end the first of several marathon walks was organised, raising £300, to be followed by £700 raised at a repeat the following year. In May 1976, 7 years in the making, and after much hard work by Rotarians, updating and redecorating the building in their spare time, the hostel was handed over to the SYHA, and remains in being to the present time.

Rotary Year 1971/72 started with disaster. President Alistair Groundwater died suddenly on 12/08/71, in the evening of the day he had attended the Dounby Show with his customary enthusiasm. A Founder Member, and President for only 6 weeks, his loss came as a severe blow. VP Wm (Billy) Marwick stepped up to the Presidency. In his year he led a county-wide collection of books for the Ranfurly Library. Upwards of 20,000 books were collected, sorted and dispatched, the biggest single collection from any club in RIBI. 1972 also saw the institution of the Shetland Club, sponsored by our Club, which thereby lost the claim of being the most northerly club in RIBI. 12 members travelled to Lerwick to attend the Charter Dinner, and the Club presented a lectern to the Shetland Club.

Robert T Tullock was President in 1972/73. An Xmas Concert in the Arts Theatre proved highly popular, and the year saw also the origin of two events to be regular annual occasions in the Rotary Year - The Coffee Morning and The Ladies' Night. The Coffee Morning was organised by the members' wives, and the Ladies' Night was a thank-you from the members, providing food, wine and entertainment. These activities raised considerable funds given to a Bus for the Disabled Fund. Another initiative this year was a suggestion made to Kirkwall Town Council that Kirkwall take steps to reform a Town Band, which had lapsed some years previously.

1973/74 was presided over by James D Walker, who instigated The Amateur Swimming Club⁴ and who was appointed President of the Swimming Club. The year was also marked by the formation of the local Round Table, and by the visit of a party of 5 Rotarians from District

524, California, USA.

The party spent 3 days in Orkney, and were entertained by Club members during their stay. Another Marathon Walk, along with further funds raised at the Coffee Morning and the Ladies' Night, helped to result in the handing over of 2 Buses for the Disabled.

John H McDonald took over the Presidency for the year 1974/75. He played a leading role in the establishment of the Town Band, and arranged a Grand Variety Concert, led by the Band. A Rotary Song Contest organised by the Club attracted 27 entries, the winner being Allie Windwick, with his 'Weary o' the Darning'. Contributions were made by the Club to Overseas Aid and to Christian Aid, to help fund education for 4 years for a boy in Nairobi, and a girl in Bombay.

President Alan Bullen, 1975/76, led the way with the Kirkwall Club being the biggest contributor to the provision of a Mobile Eye Camp Unit to the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, a joint project with all Clubs in Scotland. In May 1976, Alan had great pleasure in handing over to the SYHA the Hostel off Old Scapa Road, in the making by the Club since 1968.

The Club reached its 10th anniversary, 1976/77, under the Presidency of Marcus Wood. To mark this important date, the Club decided to raise funds for the provision of a new operating table for the Balfour Hospital. This was thought to require around £5,000, a huge undertaking for the Club. An immediate response to the Appeal brought in a donation of £1,500 from Occidental Inc., and from that point funds began to accumulate. The biggest sum came from the raffle of a new Ford Fiesta, won by Mrs Learmonth, of Stenness. In the event, over £8,000 was raised, and in addition to the table, other valuable equipment was obtained for the hospital. This year also saw the first visit of a President of RIBI to the Club, in the shape of Hunter Scott, a member of the Rotary Club of St Andrews, and his wife. The Club reached its 10th anniversary, with 36 members, 10 of whom were Founder Members.

Mike Edwards assumed the Presidential chair for the year 1977/78. His first duty was to hand over to St Rognvald's House, Kirkwall, over 20 paintings, done by the School Art Department and mounted and framed by the Club, to decorate the walls of the eventide home. In September, the Club entertained Nevil Tweedie, President of RIBI, accompanied by District 101 Governor Geddes, who congratulated the Club on the success of the Youth Hostel project. At the District 101 Conference, held at Gleneagles, President Mike was the surprised recipient of the 'Rotary Significant Achievement Award'.

This award is made by RI to a club which is considered to have made some significant contribution toward achieving the object of Rotary as a basis of worthy enterprise. This award is not made lightly, and was given to mark the success of 'Project 77' ('Operating Table'). Very few clubs aspire to this honour, and it is probably unique in the history of the movement for so young a club as ours, but what a fitting climax to our 10th anniversary year. Proceeds of the Coffee Morning and the Dinner Dance were given to the Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal. In the Spring of the year, a photographic competition was held, open to the secondary schools.

1978/79 saw as President Hugh Clyde. The Club's contribution to the St Magnus Fair saw our initial establishment of a miniature railway along Castle Street, at the end of which was bran tub with presents for the youngsters. Despite wet weather, the railway proved very popular with the children, and was a repeat attraction at many Fairs to come. In October, Rotarian Ed. Detering of St Louis, USA, the personal representative of the President of RI, visited Orkney with his wife, and were entertained at a buffet supper in the Lynnfield Hotel. The major project for the year was 'Window on the World', in recognition of the value of television sets in hospital wards. However, it was realised that one set cannot be viewed easily by a number of patients at the same time; those in beds far from the set having to contend with a small picture and poor sound, while those close to the set having to put up with loud sound, and some patients not wanting to hear or see TV at all. The Club felt the solution would be to provide a number of small sets, with the sound being available through headsets already used for radio programmes. The estimate was that about 8 sets would be required for the hospital, at an approximate cost of £2,500-£3,000. The principal fund raiser for this project was a Charity Auction which raised over £3,000. Items for auction came from all over the county, with free shipping from the North Isles being provided by the ferry company, and all services from the Auction Mart being freely given by staff. In the event, 7 colour TV sets were purchased for the Balfour Hospital, one for St Rognvalds House, Kirkwall, and one for St Peter's House, Stromness. Two inscribed teak benches were handed over for the comfort of residents in Spence's Square, a recently completed housing development for elderly Kirkwallians. A further book collection for the Ranfurly Library completed the year, though with a smaller number of books, 2,000, than the monumental figure collected in 1972, of 20,000. Perhaps not many books were left in Orkney!

John D Macdonald took over as President for the year 1979/80. Soon after his installation he welcomed to the club, Douglas Imrie-Brown, President RIBI, and John A C Clark, Governor, District 101. The principal fund-raiser this year was a variety concert, featuring the widespread talents of many Rotarians. The concert, held in the Arts Theatre, played to a packed house and raised over £400 for the Club Charity account. Towards the end of the year, the club was addressed by a tree pathologist who gave as his opinion that the days of Kirkwall's Big Tree were severely numbered, that there was, in his view, no practicable way of prolonging its life. The Club proposed requesting that, should the tree be felled, that it be given to the Rotary Club, to be used for charitable purposes in Kirkwall.

1980/81 was presided over by Roy Thomson. The first highlight was the Orkney Air Show, arranged jointly by the Club and by Orkney Flying Club. Over 40 aircraft were on flypast or on show, and a display by the Royal Marines free fall Parachute team thrilled the large crowd. Then came the climax The RAF Red Arrows with their magnificent display. A raffle raised substantial funds, the first prize being 2 return flights to Copenhagen - won by Mrs Helen Muir, Kirkwall. Also in August came a visit of the President of RIBI, Eric Firby, with the 101DG Peter Swankie. The Club's main activity over the year lay in the raising of funds to support the Royal Society for the Blind, and their Eye Camps in India. Over £1,300 was raised at the Coffee Morning, the Cheese and Wine and at a Jumble Sale, and these funds were used at 4 Eye Camps, with over 4,700 people being treated for severe disorders of visual ability.

In addition, 1147 pairs of spectacles were collected, packed and sent to the 'Give Sight' campaign. This year ended with the donation of £1,000 to the Girl Guides to assist with their efforts to build a new Guide Hut in Kirkwall.

Jim Lochhead took over the Presidency for the year 1981/82. Much of the Club's efforts in the 'Give Sight' project came to fruition during this year. The Club developed the idea that a purpose built running track would be a great asset to Orkney, and in February 1982 the idea was put to OIC. Initial estimate costs were put at £250,000, and although the Club pledged £3,000, the costs were beyond OIC's capacity at the time. However, the idea was agreed in principle, and would eventually take shape several years later, when the Pickaquooy Sports Centre came into being. Over 40 entries were received for a Short Story Competition for senior pupils. In June 1982, a Garden Fete was organised in Tankerness House Gardens, the proceeds going to the Club's Charity Account.

Eoin Leslie, President 1982/83, unveiled a new plaque, made out of sandstone by Mr J Dowell, which was installed on the wall of the Kirkwall Hotel, adjacent to the main doorway. The plaque replaced the enamel plate which had been outside the hotel for several years. Mr Dowell accompanied Club members to lunch after the installation.

The Club welcomed Rotarian Charles Simpson, 101 DG to a lunch meeting in August 1982, and again in May 1983, when he accompanied Arthur Newcombe, the President of RIBI.

1983/84 started, under the Presidency of Ian Sloan, with the retirement of Mrs Maisie George as manageress of the Kirkwall Hotel. Mrs George had kept the Kirkwall Rotarians in order since 1968, and the Club bade her farewell with the gift of a carriage clock. In November, a Community Alarm System was installed throughout the county, with the Club presenting 1 unit at a cost of £1.000. In early 1984, after a series of fund-raisers, the Club presented an electric piano to the Salvation Army. In March, a 2 day Computer Seminar was held in Kirkwall Community Centre and in Stromness Academy Hall, the event being well attended by adults and by senior pupils of both schools.

Jack Ridgway presided over year 1984/85, which proved to be a busy year. In August, the Rotary Flyer, refurbished by Reynold Johnstone, appeared at the St Magnus Fair, and proved as popular as ever with the youngsters. In the same month, a year's Rotary Youth Exchange commenced. Barbara Black, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Partner, of Orphir, exchanged with Hillary Grace, Ohio, USA. Hillary was hosted initially with the Partners, and subsequently with 3 Rotary families, and participated in Club activities throughout the year. Bashir Hasham, Convener of International Service Committee, obtained the approval of the Club for an ambitious project to assist a number of 3rd world objectives - Voluntary Service Overseas, RCSB (relief of child blindness), Operation Self Help Society and SOS Sahel International. Extensive funds had to be raised to do justice to this project, and Bashir started with a new venture for the Club - a Travelling Dinner, held in November 1984. In March 1985, followed a Grand Charity Auction, with donations of goods and items from the whole island group, and supported by free use of the Auction Mart, with complimentary assistance from the entire staff of the Mart. This raised the sum of £2,394.95, and was subsequently augmented by £643, raised by 2 local men who cycled from Lands End to John o' Groats, accompanied by a number of Rotarians. The elapsed time for the distance was 8 days, 10 hours, 21 minutes and 30 seconds. Brenda Robertson, from Flotta, estimated this time to within 10 seconds, and won 2 return flights to Bergen.

Finally, May saw a get-together of the 4 Northern Clubs for a weekend in Orkney, with a BBQ at Dingshowe on the Sunday. The 4 Clubs agreed to jointly support a project to relieve 3rd world poverty at this weekend, and so ended an active year for the Club.

1985/86 saw Bill Groundwater as President. At the first lunch meeting of the year, the Club was addressed by two ladies who told members of the current appeal for funds for a new unit at Aberdeen Maternity Hospital, a Special Nursery for premature and newborn infants requiring highly sophisticated treatment. Between 15 to 20 infants are transferred annually from Orkney to the special nursery existing at that time, but this nursery was very small and cramped. The Orkney branch of the Friends of the Special Nursery had already raised £3,000, and Grampian Health Board had stated they were ready to start work on a new, expanded nursery, should £500,000 of a total estimated cost of £900,000 be raised by the end of the year. The Club decided their special project for the year would be to support this objective. In September a Charity Dinner at the Foveran Restaurant raised £606, and a letter of appeal was delivered free of charge by the Post Office to every postal address in the islands, the stationery and printing of the letter being done, again free of charge, by OIC. Altogether £8,039 was handed over to the local Friends of the Special Nursery.

Other activities during the year included a Race Night, assistance with the installation of 2 Raised Gardens, one at Lambaness and the other at St Rognvald's Home. Further funds accrued through the year for the ongoing Third World project, and at the District Conference, the President was honoured to receive the Connestoga Waggon, which had been awarded to our Club for the best International project for the year 84/85. The Club unanimously congratulated Bashir Hasham for his leading role in this project. The year was also distinguished by the visit of the President of RI, Ed Cadman, from the Wersatchee Club, Washington, USA, who was accompanied by DG 101, Bert Donald. This event may well be the only occasion such a visit is made to our Club - indeed, the RI President visits only a very few of the 22,000 Clubs in the organisation.

Robin Hancock took over as President for the year 1986/87, the year which included the 20th birthday of the Club. In early October, the Club presented, to the Chairman of Kirkwall and St Ola's Community Council, a new banner to be flown when the refurbished Town Hall opened in mid October. Early in the new year, 1987, the Club intimated its intention to set up⁹ collection points over the county, to collect spectacles, books and tools for use in the 3rd

world.

In a matter of a month or so, hundreds of spectacles and old tools were collected, and no less than the extraordinary amount of **24 tons** of books, were later sent on to the Ranfurly Library. In February, the Club celebrated the 20th anniversary of its Charter Dinner. The occasion was made all the more memorable by the presence of Bill Huntley, President of RIBI, accompanied by Ian Geekie, Governor of District 101. At 20 years, the Club had 35 members, with 8 Founder Members. In May, the Convener of the Club's Polio Plus Committee, told the members that the Kirkwall Club had been allocated the sum of £3,800 it was expected to raise in the following year. This year featured a second Rotary Youth Exchange Scholarship, when Miss Kristen Larsen, from California, exchanged with Miss Helen Kemp, who travelled to California. On her return, Miss Kemp spoke to the Club, and showed she had clearly gained from the experience.

Bryan Clark's year, 1987/88, saw the first discussions on the possible admission of Lady Members to Rotary. Since its formation in 1906, the organisation had been male only, but RI was beginning to favour extending the membership to dual gender. This would, of course, be a radical change for Rotary, and it would be fair to say that some time would pass ere such a change would be generally accepted. The annual Coffee Morning raised £923, allocated to the Club's commitment to Polio Plus.

The second half of the year was occupied mainly with the organisation of the Club's first Motor Show. With the active assistance, and participation of the local motor trade, the event was staged in the 'Tattie Shed' at Hatston, a venue which required much hard work by Rotarians, to eliminate the remnants, and dust, deposited by the year's crop of tatties. The show itself went well, featuring a wide range of new vehicles, plus novelties such as Roll the Dice, offering a new Ford car for rolling seven sixes. This prize was not won, but the show attracted over 1,000 visitors, and raised over £1,500, to the Club's General Charity Account.

1988/89 saw as President Eric Green, who, early in his year, was able to announce that the Club had exceeded its Polio Plus target, set a year previously, by transferring, to Rotary Foundation, over £4,000, raised at the Coffee Morning, the Cheese and Wine Evening and the Motor Show. Ladies' Night, in December, featured a lighthearted tribute to our long-serving Secretary - 'This is Your Life, Reuben Appleyard'. Reuben became Secretary within the first couple of years of the Club's existence, and has gained recognition across¹⁰ District 101, as Secretary par excellence. In February 1988, the Club was represented at the

Charter Dinner of the East Sutherland Club.

Henceforth, the annual weekend gathering, initiated as the Northern Four in 1985, would become the Northern Five. In April 1989, the Cheese and Wine was attended by RIBI President Roy Whitby and DG 101 Robert G Clarkson, and raised £1,000 for play equipment for the newly opened Aurrida House at Glaitness. The 2nd Motor Show took place in June 1989, raising £1,800, sufficient to fund a Guide Dog for the Blind.

Tommy Drever followed as President for the year 1989/90. District Vice Chairman Colin Risk, visited in July 1988. Spring 1990 saw another Grand Charity Auction, again assisted by the free input of the staff of the Mart, and by free transport of goods from the isles by Orkney Shipping Company. The sale realised £4,100, which was passed to Dr J Cromarty, Orkney Health Board, for the purchase of a Spirometry Vitalograph, for the assessment of patients with respiratory disease. President Tommy presented to the Club a trophy for competition annually in the Club Golf Competition. The year ended with the raffle of a Bride's Cog, made by Stuart Wylie, Deerness, from wood taken from the Big Tree. The tree had been pollarded some 3 years previously, and the wood seasoned in a store at Highland Park. The raffle was drawn at the County Show, and raised £1,500. The winner was Mr W Mitchell, North Berwick.

Bobby Corsie took over as President for the year 1990/91. Soon after his installation, he presented a cheque for £1,500 to Glaitness Aurrida School, to help towards the purchase of a minibus to be provided by Variety Artists of Great Britain. The latter part of the year was spent in preparing for the major project of mounting a relief mission to alleviating the plight of sick children and orphans in Romania. Collapse of the Ceausescu regime in late 1989 had brought to light the desperate situation of children in institutions in that country, and the Club resolved to try and help to some degree. Letters of invitation were sent to local groups, such as SWRI branches, Women's Guilds, Youth Organisations, Sports Clubs, schools etc., asking that they consider raising funds in whatever way they chose, to help fund medical supplies, clothing, food, household goods etc., to load a convoy of vehicles which would be driven to Romania by a party of Rotarians. The response from the public was incredibly generous. Approximately £36,000 was raised in cash, and several tons of supplies, including home-knits, medical instruments, medicines and food gathered together, amounting to an estimated total value of \$60,000. 3 minibuses, seats removed, were offered, free of charge, by J D Peace, and J Croy gave use of his furniture van, likewise free of charge. In April, 1991, these vehicles, loaded with supplies, and with a party of 9 Rotarians, set off in

convoy to travel to the city of Iasi, in Eastern Romania. P&O Ferries donated free return passage, Kirkwall to Aberdeen, and Felixstowe to Zeebrugge, in Belgium.

In Iasi, supplies were given to a children's hospital, and to a nearby institution for orphans and mentally disabled adults. The Rotarians found this experience harrowing, and the realisation that this dreadful situation existed in a European country took time to sink in. On return to Orkney, 2 weeks after departure, a Welcome Home reception, in the Town Hall, arranged by OIC, and widely attended by the public, was an entirely unexpected surprise. At the District Conference the next autumn, the Club was again awarded the Connestoga Waggon, marking the outstanding International Achievement for the Rotary Year. President Bobby ended his year with the third Motor Show at Hatston, which raised £2,436 for the Club charity account.

Bashir Hasham took over as President for the year 1991/92. Early in the year, the Club was addressed by a representative of Macmillan Cancer Relief, who told of the intention of this organisation to establish a branch in Orkney. Considerable funds would be required to realise this, but the advantages to Orkney were clearly apparent. The Club determined to give this objective favourable consideration. In the approach to the year's end, President Bashir presented to Mr Ken Thomson, of the Red Cross, a cheque for £1,000 to assist in the provision of a Red Cross Hostel, aimed primarily at offering accommodation to relatives, from the isles, of patients admitted to the Balfour Hospital. In February 1992, The Club celebrated its 25th anniversary with a Dinner in the Kirkwall Hotel. Principal speakers were Rotarian J D M Robertson, Founder Member, 101 DG Gordon McFatrige, Jim Wallace M.P., and Mr Jacky Tait, Convenor, OIC. A party of Rotarians from the Westhill Club, Aberdeenshire, added to the joie de vivre. At the conclusion of the evening, President Bashir conferred Honorary Membership on Reuben Appleyard, for so long our faithful Secretary. At the Cheese and Wine Evening, a cheque for £2,000 was presented to Mr John Muir, being the Club's first instalment towards the Macmillan unit.

1992/93 had Peter Scott as President. DG 101 Norman Cooper visited the Club in September, and in the same month, members were introduced to the mysteries of whisky distilling by Rotarian Jim Robertson, Manager of Highland Park Distillery.

At the beginning of 1993, the Club announced the main project for the year. This was collecting material for the filling of Emergency Boxes, stocked with equipment to enable an average family to survive, in the short term, after a major disaster, such as earthquake,¹² flooding, or other natural disaster. Items placed in each box ranged from warm clothing,

cooking utensils, to water purification tablets.

Assistance was requested from the public to help gather the supplies necessary to fill these boxes - schools, sports clubs, and other organisations were invited to volunteer to fill a box, in which case the Club would supply an empty box, and a list of the contents recommended to fill the box. Again, the Orkney public responded with remarkable generosity to this appeal, and a total of 18 boxes were transported to a depot in the South of England, ready for despatch to whatever part of the world the need should arise. The year end was saddened by the death of Reuben Appleyard, for over 20 years the outstanding secretary of the Club.

Hamish Cross became President for 1993/94. In the run up to Xmas, the Club entertained children from Glaitness Aurrída to a meal in the Queen's Hotel, followed by a visit to the pantomime in the Arts Theatre. In the Spring of 1994, Rotarians took turns to chop firewood to sell in aid of Orkney Age Concern.

1994/95 saw Phil White take over as President. The autumn of 1994 saw the Club reach breaking point with the Kirkwall Hotel. Following Mrs George's retiral, the hotel had been taken over by a London consortium, who seemed to have the sole aim of selling on the business for as large a profit as possible. The quality of the food declined steadily, becoming eventually all but uneatable. Arrangements were made for the Club to take its custom to the Lynnfield Hotel, which has catered very well for our needs since. OIC asked the Club whether we would be willing to take over the organisation of the annual bonfire and fireworks display, and the Club agreed readily to do this, with the proviso that we be permitted to raise funds by selling novelties for the local charity account.

This was agreed, and the event started with a torchlight parade, from Broad Street to the bonfire site beside the Peedie Sea. Over £500 was raised and used for the benefit of Aurrída House, and the Papdale Play Scheme. An afternoon tea and Fashion Show in the Town Hall also swelled charity funds. Meanwhile, work progressed on the construction of a conservatory at Glaitness Aurrída, at an overall cost of £12,600, raised partly by Rotary donation, and by the efforts of the Club to solicit funds from other sources - Children in Need, Orkney Enterprise, OIC, Voluntary Action Orkney etc. The conservatory was installed and opened in Spring 1995.

President for the year 1995/96 was Bill Cant. The Bonfire Night was again a success, raising £800, given to the new equestrian centre, in process of being constructed at the Market¹³ Stance on Glaitness Road. In February the Club suffered a grievous blow, with the sudden

death of Robin Hancock, a recent Past President, and one of the most active Rotarians. In the early Summer, a car boot sale, in conjunction with St. Colm's, raised over £300.

Eric Green took over for a second time as President for the year 1996/97. He started his year with a donation of decorations, toys and equipment for the new children's room at the Balfour Hospital. Raffle tickets were sold at the County Show, and the following day the Club helped to marshal parking at the Vintage Club Show at Glaitness Farm. The Bonfire Night proved again to be successful, with over £1,000 made for local charities. December saw the first appearance of Rotary's Santa's Sleigh, which traversed the streets of Kirkwall, and Stromness, several times. Pre-Xmas gifts were distributed to the residents of St Rognvald's and St Peter's Homes, something which has continued, with the addition of Eventide homes in St Margaret's Hope, and in Westray, and to residents in Sheltered Houses at Pickaquoy. The 30th birthday of the Club was marked at an anniversary Ball on 31st January in the Lynnfield Hotel. The President was assisted to cut the cake by 2 Founder members, Alan Bullen and Bruce Dunnet. In June a Cheque for £1,166, being the proceeds of a charity auction held in March, was presented to the local branch of The Samaritans. Year-end donations were made to Glaitness Aurrida, DEBRA and the British Diabetic Association. A fitting end to this year occurred in June 1998, with the award to Eric Green, by the DG 101, of a Four Avenues of Service Citation, one of the highest honours given to Rotarians, and marking outstanding service to the organisation.

1997/98 saw John Holmes as President. The first project kicked off in September, when schools were invited to assist in the filling of shoe boxes with small toys, crayons, colouring books etc. for transmission to countries of Eastern Europe in time for Xmas. 550 boxes were sent to a collection point in Lancashire, and haulage firm McAdie & Reeve kindly offered to deliver the boxes free of charge. In November, a start to a project of bulb planting in the run up to the millenium, was made by the planting of some 13,000 bulbs, in selected sites, mainly around Kirkwall, with sites also in Stromness, Finstown, Dounby and St Margaret's Hope. The intention was to continue bulb planting each autumn with the aim of beds of colour to welcome the year 2000. The usual seasonal activities - Bonfire Night, Xmas gifts to the elderly, etc., continued. The second half of the year was fully occupied with preparations for Orkney's first Ideal Homes Exhibition, held in the Auction Mart in June 1998. Over 60 local firms participated, and the Lord Lieutenant opened the show, which ran for 2 days, and attracted more than 5,000 visitors. Over £11,000 was raised and donated to the Anchor Unit at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, a new unit for the treatment of malignant¹⁴ disease. Various other local organisations benefited from donations at year end, of £500 to

£1,000 each, amounting to over £18,000 in charitable donations for the year.

The Club was also the recipient of a Presidential Citation, presented by the District Governor in recognition of achieving a number of goals, which strengthen Rotary, as well as our own club.

Alistair Bruce became President for the year 1998/99. After the exertions of 1997/98, this was a quieter year, but all the usual annual activities took place with customary enthusiasm. In July Rotarians and wives visited the Kirkwall Lifeboat. The Annual Dinner Dance featured a Champagne Tower, placed in the entrance hall to the Hotel, and expertly filled by the President, without spilling a drop. In April a successful Cheese and Wine took place in the Town Hall, and the opportunity was taken to donate £700 to LEPRA, and £500 to Aurrida House to enable 2 youngsters to visit London to meet David Bellamy. Spring time saw bulbs flowering, notably at Pickaquoy, at the Royal Oak Memorial at Scapa, and beside the lower part of the Holm Branch Road. The latter part of the year was taken up with preliminary arrangements for 'It's A Knockout', but unfortunately this project failed to materialise.

1999/2000 saw Ronnie Johnson take the chair. Spring time had an even bigger display of colour, when over 50,000 bulbs, planted in the preceding 3 years, came into bloom. Sites in Stromness, Finstown, Dounby, St Margaret's Hope, and further sites in and around Kirkwall, such as Hatston Brae, Willowburn Road, and New Scapa Road, brought colour to the scene, which should return year after year. In early summer, the Club staged the second Ideal Homes Exhibition.

Opened by Jim Wallace, M.P., over 3,000 visitors attended the Show, and proceeds amounting to £11,500, accrued to the charity account. At year's end, beneficiaries from the Club's charity account including Blide Trust, the Sea Cadets, Crossroads Orkney, Friends of Glaitness Aurrida and Shout Orkney. Bill Groundwater joined Eric Green as a recipient of the Four Avenues of Service award and the Club was again awarded a Presidential Citation.

Ken Grant became President for the year 2000/01. In Autumn, a travelling lunch was hosted by Bashir and Megan Hasham at their home in Holm. Preliminary thoughts turned to two projects - the provision of a Quiet Room in the Balfour Hospital, and a Sensory Garden in Tankerness House Gardens. It was also decided to focus the Club on whether weekly

meetings should be changed to Thursday evenings in an attempt to make the Club more attractive to new, younger members. In the event, this was debated and voted on by the membership, and for various reasons, it was decided to remain with Thursday lunchtime.

Bulb planting took place at MacMillan House, which produced colourful blooms the following year. In Spring 2001, a Race Night, in conjunction with the Rugby Club, was held in the Rugby Club. The venture resulted in profits of £730 to each Club. A suggestion was made that the Club change its name to The Rotary Club of Orkney, in an attempt to increase the attraction of recruiting new members to districts outwith Kirkwall, and also to reflect the fact that Club activities had been increasingly spreading to other areas in the islands. This matter would be discussed over the next few months.

Angus Campbell was welcomed to the Presidency for the year 2001/02. His first duty was to formally open the Quiet Room at the Hospital. £1,020 was donated by the Club for the furnishings of this room. The Bonfire Night this year was badly affected by foul weather severely reducing the attendance. The event was further threatened by a huge increase in the cost of insuring the event against accident, a factor which would require careful consideration as to whether the event could continue in future years. In January, the Club organised a new venture, a Burns Supper, held in the Lynnfield Hotel. The Immortal Memory was delivered by Bill Hamilton, the Toast to the Lasses by Chris Matthews, and the Reply by Hazel Matheson. Spring saw Rotarians assisting in the construction and preparation of the Sensory Garden at Tankerness House, another brainchild of Bashir Hasham. The year ended with the third Ideal Homes and Trade Fair, this time staged at the Pickaquoy Centre. Again the Show proved successful, raising over £10,000. The Club decided, by a large majority, to change its name, and from 1st July 2002, became the Rotary Club of Orkney, duly receiving from RIBI, its new Charter.

Bill Hamilton became the first President of the new Club, which continued along the well-established lines. In October, he handed over proceeds from the previous year's Ideal Homes Show to various charities - £4,000 to the Archie Foundation, fund-raising for the building of a new Children's Hospital in Aberdeen, and £500 each to a number of local charities - Dial-a-Bus, Orkney Rugby Club, Crossroads, the Thord Trust and the Orkney Skatepark Group. The Bonfire Night was again sorely affected by bad weather, steadily increasing insurance costs (now up to almost £800), and for the second year in succession, resulted in a loss to the Club. The feeling grew in the membership that Rotary should¹⁶, perhaps, end its participation in this event. November saw the visit of DG Ron McKail, who

was presented with a cheque for £600 as a further Club donation to Polio Plus Eradication Campaign. The Burns Supper was again held in the Lynnfield, the principal speaker being Alistair Carmichael, M.P.

Around 85 attended this event, straining the capacity of the hotel! In June, after a lapse of nearly a decade, the Club staged another Motor Show, this time in the Pickaquoy Centre. Around 40 vehicles were displayed in the main arena, along with a number of vintage cars. A raffle, run during the run up to the Show, had as its first prize, a new Renault Clio, won by Mr Colin Ross, who subsequently made a donation of £500 to the Club. Overall, the Show made a profit of about £6,500. At year end, presentations were as follows: £1,000 to Polio Plus, £3,000 to MacMillan Cancer Fund Orkney, £2,000 to Crossroads Orkney, and £750 each to Orkney Pony Club, Orkney Athletic Club and Dial-a-Bus. President Bill's final occasion in a very busy year was to welcome the Club's first lady member, Sheila Faichney. This momentous event came after a good number of years' consideration before the Club agreed the desirability of becoming 'dual gender'.

2003/04 again saw as President Bill Groundwater, this being necessitated by the departure South of VP Iain Matheson. Founder member, and Past President, Alan Bullen, decided to retire as a Rotarian, due to ill-health. He resisted attempts to dissuade him from this course, and was therefore made an Honorary Member of the Club, and presented with a tankard as a mark of appreciation for his long and active career as a Rotarian. In November the First Annual Dinner, succeeding the Ladies' Night now that the Club was dual-gender, was held in the Orkney Hotel. Bonfire Night, led by the Kirkwall Pipe Band, was again organised by the Club, assurances having been received from the Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council that their insurance policy would cover this event. In January 2004, the Burns Supper took place in the Kirkwall Hotel. The Immortal Memory was given by Rev Fraser McNaughton. Mr Harvey Johnston toasted the Lasses in his inimitable way, and was replied to by Rotarian Sheila Faichney.

Through the Spring months, attention began to be paid to the centenary year of RI's formation in the year 2006, and ideas began to take shape over the next few months, the front runner initially being a bus tour of Norway, visiting a number of Rotary Clubs in that country. This proposal gained some momentum from a communication from the Rotary Club of Leiksmarka, adjacent to Oslo. 23 Rotarians and their wives would visit Orkney for a period of a few days and would wish to attend a meeting of our Club. It was decided that our weekly meeting would be changed from Thursday lunch-time to Friday evening, and on May

7th, the get-together took place in the Lynnfield. The evening proved extremely sociable and each Orkney Rotarian was gifted a bottle of Aquavit, a Norwegian attempt to rival Highland Park.

The day following, the party was accompanied on a bus tour of Orkney by a few local Rotarians acting as guides. All in all, a memorable experience. The Club lost several members over the Spring months, and by April was down to 22 active members. Vigorous efforts to recruit bore some fruit, and 3 or 4 new members appeared before the year end. Toward the year end, the Club was addressed by a surgeon who spent his spare time working on a Mercy Ship, One of a few vessels which visit 3rd world countries, bringing modern medicine and surgery to the innumerable people in need. The Club decided that the international beneficiary of the proceeds of the Food and Wine Evening in April, and the Ideal Homes Expedition, to take place in the Pickaquoy Centre in June, should be given to this very worthy cause. At year's end, £3,000 was donated to Mercy Ships, and substantial amounts to local charities, including the MS Therapy Centre, Crossroads, Dial-a-Bus and MacMillan Cancer Orkney.

2004/05 welcomed Neil Price to the Presidency. A Rotary website was set up within the Orkney Communities site. In November, bulbs were planted at the Kirkwall Marina, along Cromwell Road, at St Rognvald's Home and at the Smiddybrae Centre in Dounby. Plans were also finalised to plant shrubs and to install benches at the Marina in Spring. £500, accrued from Famine Lunches when a sandwich lunch once monthly, with the usual lunch charge minus the reduced cost of the sandwich lunch, was donated to the Rotary Sudan Appeal, set up to afford some relief to the starvation in that country. Towards the end of 2004, The President came up with final costs for the proposed Norway trip. Hiring a bus from Shetland, and travelling by ferry from Lerwick to Norway was estimated to cost approx £250 per head, with subsistence costs in Norway on top. This was put to the Club, but unfortunately had to be abandoned because of lack of interest, rather a shame because the President had put considerable work into making the arrangements. In January 2005, street collections were mounted in Kirkwall and in Stromness, raising £4,067 to afford some relief to the victims of the Tsunami in Indonesia. A Centenary Dinner, marking the formation of RI in 2005, was held in the Ayre Hotel, with Previous Club Presidents and past members being invited.

The toast to Rotary was proposed by Jim Wallace, with Alan Bullen, Founder and now¹⁸ Honorary Member, replying. Chris Matthews organised a sponsored 24-hour fast, which

raised a creditable £1,150, which was donated to Water Aid. At year end, the Club made a day trip to Westray, and finally, made donations to: Women's Aid, £1,000, Home Start Orkney £500 and the Toy Library £500. Once more, the Club was the beneficiary of a Presidential Citation.

Willie Stewart took the Chair for the year 2005/06. The usual annual events were planned to take place through the year, with the exception of the Burns Supper, which was thought better to be an in-house event, with speakers from within the Club, in view of the fact that financial losses had been incurred in the last couple of years. Looking ahead, the President of RIBI had intimated his intention to visit the Club at the end of May 2007, and it was thought that this would be an appropriate time to resuscitate a meeting of the Northern Five. In October, a further donation of £500 was made to Women's Aid. £1,000 was paid to UNICEF for relief of the Pakistan Disaster. 8 Aquaboxes had been ordered and had arrived. Sponsors had been arranged to help with the filling of these. The Burns Supper took place in the Lynnfield, the principal speaker being Alistair Skene. Shrub planting at Kirkwall Marina got under way in April, and arrangements were put in hand for the construction of three wooden benches to be situated in the same area. 33 visitors were expected for the RIBI Presidential visit at the end of May, A civic reception was agreed by OIC, for the Friday afternoon, and the formal dinner to be held in St Magnus Centre, with catering by Clinton Rendall. A bus tour would take place on the Saturday. A Coffee Morning was held on 6th June, and the proceeds split between Malawi and the Red Cross hostel in Aberdeen, towards refurbishment costs.

Chris Matthews became President for the year 2006/07. This promised to be an important year in the history of the Club, with the 40th anniversary of the Club's Charter. Because of building works at the Lynnfield Hotel, part of the year required the Club to find an alternative venue for weekly meetings, and fortunately the Orkney Hotel was able to supply our needs. On October 21, 9 Rotarians took the boat to Westray, and planted bulbs at Kalisgarth Eventide Home. After the usual year-end activities, the 40th Anniversary Charter Dinner was held in the Ayre Hotel, the same venue as the original Dinner in 1967. Present were the District Governor, the President of the Wick Club, our original sponsors and Bruce Dunnet, a Founder Member, and now Honorary Member. The DG proposed the toast to the Club, and President Chris replied. After a senior Club member delivered a short history of the Club, the Kirkwall City Pipe Band was awarded the Community Service Award for the year 2007, plus a donation of £500 towards their funds.

A small contingent from the band entertained the company with selections from their repertoire. On March 26, a Buffet Dance and Charity Auction was held in the Legion, and raised £3,329, distributed to OKPA, for an electrically powered chair (£1,411), Red Cross House (£750), and Minga School, Malawi (£500).

In May, the Ideal Homes Exhibition, in planning for several months, had to be cancelled, partly because of inadequate uptake of space, and partly because of the withdrawal of 3 major exhibitors in the latter stages. A raffle, due to be drawn at this event, was instead drawn at a Rotary Fun Day, staged on June 10 on the Kirk Green. In April, the Club joined in the Bag the Bruck campaign, and toward the year-end, 8 Aquaboxes, several months in the filling, were eventually dispatched to await disaster, wherever it may occur. An Artwork and Fashion Show, mounted by, and staged at the Orkney College, raised £1,041 for Malawi. Finally, a party of Rotarians, joined the Hoy Half-Marathon, pushing a wheelchair the length of the course. The proceeds from sponsors of this event were given to the Wheelchairs for Africa organisation.

David McLaughlin was welcomed to the Chair for the year 2007/08. Early in the year, completion of accounts for the Raffle and the Rotary Fun Day, allowed donations to be made - £1,000 to Age Concern, and £500 to Advocacy Orkney. £750 raised from sponsorship of the Wheelchair push were forwarded to District 1010, who had gathered £11,400 from a number of District Clubs, and were sending the money to Sierra Leone. The Rotary Flyer, which had given much pleasure to children over the years at St Magnus Fairs, gave the Club a shock when enquiries as to insurance were made. It appeared that this modest vehicle had been seriously underinsured since its inception, and the Club was adjudged to have been very fortunate that no liabilities had arisen. Current insurance quotes were so high that continued use of the Flyer was impossible, and no alternative could be envisaged to discontinuing its further use. 100 Shoeboxes were filled and dispatched in time for Xmas. 10 Aquaboxes were ordered with intention of having them filled and sent South by the end of May 2008. In April, members joined in Bag the Bruck at the Kirkwall Marina. Plans for a Coffee Morning in the Spring had to be abandoned, for want of premises available for such an event. The latter part of the year saw a project to help Glaitness School provide a grassed area for children with support needs to play outside. £1,000 was donated for this purpose.

4 Rotarians from New Zealand, touring round various Clubs in Scotland. The Club arranged an itinerary for them, with visits to the Cathedral and St Magnus Centre, the Orkney Library and Archive, plus an evening meal with Club members.

The following day, Saturday, a bus tour was arranged, accompanied by some local Rotarians, with an evening meal at Willie and Anne Stewart's, and on Sunday a visit to Balfour Castle. Specific requests would be catered for on the Monday, and in the evening a visit to Stromness and a buffet and music in the Pier Arts Centre. This visit was immensely enjoyed by the visitors. In November, a Coffee Morning realised £200, earmarked for Polio Plus Eradication, as part of the Club's requirement of £500 for the year. 52 Shoeboxes were filled and transferred to Inverness. A Race Night in May raised £1,200 to be donated to relief activity in Sierra Leone, organised by Miss Wood, granddaughter of Marcus Wood, a past member and PP of the Club. 18 members, partners and children enjoyed a visit to Papa Westray in May and at the end of the month, members assisted visitors from the Blood Transfusion Service, Aberdeen, to collect blood from volunteers, a maximum of 600 donors being 'bled'.

Keith Foubister became President for the year 2009/10. Donations for the year end previously were £1,900 to We Love Africa, £500 to Polio Eradication, and £300 each to local Girl Guides, Scouts and the Boys' Brigade. Bag Packing at Tesco, on August 22, raised £1,190, donated to CLAN. On 2nd October, the Viking Dinner, Raffle and Auction was held in the Legion, catering by Clinton Rendall, and realised a profit of £3,513. Proceeds were donated to RNLI, and MS Therapy Centre, £1,400 each. The Club raised £2,388 during a week at the Blue Door, 12/17 October, donating proceeds to Young Carers Orkney, Relationships Scotland (Orkney branch), and RYLA. A visit to Swannay Brewery took place on September 26, and was somewhat(?) enjoyed by a number of Rotarians. After the usual Xmas activities, the Club helped with parking at the CLIC Sargent Boxing Day Dip, when our courageous President stripped off and immersed himself in the bracing waters of Scapa Bay. On February, the Club paid a fascinating visit to the Orkney Archive, proceeding to supper at Helgi's. On 16th May, a trip to Hoy was arranged with visits to the Lyness Museum, and lunch at Stromabank Hotel. The latter part of the year was taken up mainly with arranging an Ideal Homes and Energy Efficiency Exhibition at Picky, which yielded a surplus of £6,800. On 12th June, the Club hosted a Fellowship Weekend for the Northern²¹ Clubs. A Bus Tour of the island was arranged, with lunch in Dounby. At year end, the

Charity Account was disbursed as follows: £1,500 to Polio Eradication, £1,000 each to Orkney Rugby Club, Sea Cadets, CAB Orkney, Blide Trust, Age Concern, and £500 each to Erskine Hospital and We Love Africa.

John White followed as President for the year 2010/11. Bag Packing at Tesco, on a smaller than usual scale because of a smaller store pending the construction of the large store, yielded £382, increased to £500 and donated to the Sea Cadets to help with their purchase of a boat. On July 15, the Club was visited by Chris Cooper, of the 'Spirit Dancer' canoe, who donated to the Club, a paddle, which is on display in the Lynnfield. Rotarian Norma Campbell participated in a Scotland-wide project to collect home knitted jackets for infants in Sierra Leone. 20th January saw an evening meeting, a pseudo Burns Supper, with songs by the Mayfield Singers, and an appropriate recitation. In April, members visited EMEC, Stromness, with supper in the Stenness Hotel. On 5th May, the Club hosted a visit by 18 Rotarians from the Inverness Riverside Club. A week in the Blue Door, June 13/18, yielded £2,393. Age Concern and Crossroads received £1,000 each.

The year 2011/12 was presided over by the Club's first Lady President, Mairhi Trickett. On 20th August, Tesco Bag packing yielded £987. 2 days later, a party of visitors from Nova Scotia, visited Orkney, and was taken on a bus tour by John White. In September, Penny Aberdein spoke to the Club on Maher, a charity in India which she supports. Members found this of great interest, and a donation of £600 to Maher was subsequently given. A Fashion Show, arranged by Kirsteen Stewart and Alison McPhail, was held in the King Street Halls on October 14, and raised, with the aid of a raffle, £1,841. £300 was donated to the new Design Department at KGS, Polio Eradication received £600, and Yorkhill Children's Foundation £500. In late January, the Club held a 'Not A Burns Supper', attended by RIBI President Ray Burnam. The evening was enjoyed by all, and music was provided by Gemma and David Linklater. The Bonfire Night gave £1,000, which was donated to the Stromness Play Group. On March 27th, the Club visited Kirkwall Airport, and went on to supper at Quoyburray. A Club visit to Ness Battery followed on April 26th, with supper at the Standing Stones Hotel. On 7th June, 8 members of the Inverness Riverside Club visited Orkney. At year-end, £500 cheques were handed over to: Orkney Talking Newspaper, Relationship Scotland (Orkney), Stroke Support Group Orkney and Combat Stress.

Ronnie Johnson took on a second Presidency for the year 2012/13. A repeat visit to

Quoyloo Brewery took place on 21st September, and attracted 39 attendees. Kirsteen Stewart and Alison McPhail helped to mount a Fashion Show in the King Street Halls on November 9th. This was again very successful, and the proceeds, added to the income from the Bonfire Night, given to Polio Eradication £600, Papdale Play Area £1,000, and the Orkney College £200.

The Rotary Flyer, no longer usable, was offered to Stromness Shopping Week, but they declined this offer because of the problems with insurance. With regret, therefore, it was decided to scrap the vehicle - an end to an old friend. On 23rd February, representatives of the Club attended the 50th anniversary of the Wick Club. A Trolley Dash in Tesco on 24th March, raised £1,132. Billy Harcus, Kirkwall, managed to collect £367 worth of goods in his trolley in the allotted 3 minutes, and £75 given to 2nd and 3rd prizewinners, left a profit of £702. On 23rd May, Inverness Riverside made a further visit to the Club, and at the end of the month, club members and partners enjoyed a day trip to Eday, visiting EMEC and Carrick House, where the party was shown round by Mrs Joy. Rotary runners raised £600 participating in the Hoy Half-Marathon, and this was donated to Malawi via the Sanday School. Finally, in early June an Ideal Homes Exhibition, supplemented with a raffle, attracted 16 businesses and yielded £4,000 approx. At year end charity account funds were disbursed as follows: Polio Eradication £500, £1,000 each to Kirkwall Swimming Club, Dounby Bowling Club, North Walls Youth Club, and Friends of Kalisgarth and £500 from the Famine Lunch Fund was split between New Destiny, a charity aiding children in Brazil, and Send a Cow, to a needy village in Africa. Bashir Hasham deservedly received the 5 Avenues (increased from the hitherto 4) of Citation Award and the Club was also presented with a Presidential Citation in recognition of its efforts to promote Rotary, both within the local community and worldwide.

George Eunson became President for the year 2013/14. On 3rd August, a successful BBQ was held at Ken Campbell's house. On 16th August, Bag packing at Tesco raised £673. Of this £500 was donated to Water Aid. On 31st August members were shown around the new Swimming Pool at Pickaquoy Centre, including the 'State-of-the-art' Heating system. The party proceeded to Lucano's for supper. On 5th October, Wild Flower Planting took place at selected sites at Pickaquoy. A week in September at the Blue Door yielded £3,200. A street collection for the disaster in the Phillipines yielded £2,237, which was forwarded to a Rotary collection point. On 15 November, Rosie Wallace entertained the company at the Annual Dinner, and on the 8th December, another Young Musician Competition was held. February 23rd saw The Rotary Swimarathon, when 31 swimmers raised £400, sent away to the District

Treasury. A Fashion Show, at King Street Halls, was held on 14th March, and at the request of Kirsteen Stewart and Alison MacPhail, £500 each was donated to Macmillan Orkney and the Meider Jomo Asha Foundation in Bangladesh. A Day Trip to Copinsay was arranged for May 6th, and attracted a sizeable number of members and partners.

A Safari Lunch took place at Bashir's house on 1st June, which ended the programme for the year. Year's end donations were as follows: £500 each to KGS and Stromness Academy, Crohn's and Colitis Group, Orkney, MS Research Orkney and Shetland, Marie Curie Nurses, Orkney, and Polio Eradication - £600. Peter Scott, another stalwart of the Club over many years, was rewarded with the 5 Avenues Of Citation Award.

Jeremy Richardson became President for the year 2014/15. Bag Packing at Tesco brought in £853, which was donated to Young Carers Respite. The Annual Dinner was held on 21st November, with Angus Konstam the guest speaker. President Jeremy was keen to investigate the possibilities of establishing a satellite Club in Stromness, partly to widen the activities of Rotary, and partly to increase recruitment to the Orkney Club. He was also enthusiastic that the prospects of establishing a Rotaract and/or an Interact Club be investigated. Jeremy, and VP Sandy, met with Stromness Councillor Stockan, who stated he would be unable to participate, but he did offer to draw up a list of potential members of a satellite club. Further meetings, with suggested names, took place, but unfortunately the conclusion was reached that the proposal could not be realised. Bob Mackenzie and Jean Hargreaves approached KGS and Stromness Academy, but were unable to stimulate enthusiasm for an Interact or a Rotaract Club. A pity, but it seems to reflect the richness of Orkney's organisations. A book sale and Coffee Morning in Kirkwall Town Hall on 11th October, brought in £267. In May, 8 young carers, ages ranging from 9-16, were treated to a week in the Hoy Hostel, with Rotarians supervising activities, and supplying catering. The week was adjudged a great success. Street collections for the Nepal Disaster Relief yielded £3,942, made up from Famine Relief funds to a sum required to purchase 7 Shelter Boxes. Year end disbursements were: £500 each to Junior Uniformed Services, Orkney Down's Syndrome, OACAS, and £400 each to Westray Play Park Bench and Red Cross Bags (jointly with Shetland Club, and £700 to New Destiny. Bill Wright deservedly became the first member of the Club to be awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship, the ultimate award that can be given to a Rotarian and Bryan Clark joined the list of deserving members in receiving the 5th Avenues of Citation Award.

Sandy Cowie took the Presidency for 2015/16. The year started with another hugely successful BBQ at Brodgar. A new suggestion for enhancing fellowship within the Club was made by Bill Wallace. This was to form a Supper Club, whereby groups of 3 or 4 Rotarians, plus partners, should share supper in rotation at their homes, after which the composition of each group should change.

This was started and proved reasonably successful. Bag Packing at Tesco took place on 29th August and raised £725. A Coffee Morning in the Stromness Town Hall on 3rd October realised £600 and this was donated to the Hamnavoe Carers. A Curry Night was held in the Orkney Club on 10th October, Bashir being the chef, and the proceeds going to 50th anniversary fund. A successful Bonfire Night produced £1,400 for the Charities Account. A further Fashion Show, on 18th March, again with the essential assistance of Kirsteen Stewart and Alison MacPhail, brought in £1,500, which was given to Age Concern. In the Spring, Bag the Bruck cleaned the beaches at Inganess and below Craigiefield, filling up to 15 black bags, plus sundry other items. An Italian Night in the Orkney Club, on 7th May, again demonstrating Bashir's worldwide culinary skills, was followed by a Club visit to Nairn and Inverness Riverside, on 10th and 11th May. The party hired a minibus from Thurso, and drove South on the A9, returning by the North West route. A visit to Scapa Distillery took place on 4th June, and on the 21st June, members joined a visiting group from the Rotary Club of Stavanger, Norway, for dinner in the Ayre Hotel. Much work was done by the Membership Committee, under the chairmanship of Keith Foubister. Recommendations, accepted by Club Council, included producing an updated Club Prospectus for the information of new members, allocating a mentor to each new member, modifying attendance requirements to ease problems arising for some members in attending, particularly, lunch meetings, promoting Rotary Foundation, and promoting the Club website. Further work was still to be done in producing guidance on the principles to be applied in the allocation of donations from the Charities Fund. At year end, donations were made, in addition to those noted above: £1,000 each to Water Aid, Marie Curie Orkney, Orkney Kidney Patients Association; £500 each to Mary's Meals, District 1010 Flood Appeal, Playlist for Life, Friends of the Neuro Ward ARI, MS Research, Malawi Music Fund, Samaritans, Girl Guiding Orkney, Nepal Kirriemuir Club Appeal, a grand total for the year of £13,882. During this year, three senior Rotarians were accorded the great honour of being given Paul Harris Fellowships. These members were; Eric Green, Bill Groundwater and Peter Scott. John Holmes became the latest recipient of the 5 Avenues of Citation Award.

And so to the year 2016/17, and our current President, Bob Mackenzie. A Coffee Morning was held in the school at St Margaret's Hope, on July 23rd, raising £600 net, to be divided between the South Ronaldsay and Burray Playgroup, and the Rotary Foundation (Polio Eradication). Arrangements were made to have a Shelter Box on display at the County Show. The usual Club activities up to, and including Xmas, followed. District 1010 Visioning Team held a seminar with Club members, in Pickaquoy Centre, on 17th September, helping to develop policies in the formulation of Club aims and objectives etc.

This was found very worthwhile, and will be followed up by the preparation of a formal document. The Membership Committee produced preliminary proposals for guidance on charitable donations, and this was subsequently discussed by the Club, and accepted, with some amendments, mainly to the effect that the proposals were for guidance only, and that all proposed donations required the approval of the Council, and the entire membership. Polio Day took place on October 24th. The Polio Eradication project has purple as its favoured colour, representing the dye applied to each child's finger to mark his or her vaccination. The Club therefore arranged with OIC that the Cathedral be floodlit purple on the evening of that day. Purple crocus bulbs were also planted, beside Pickaquoy Road in Kirkwall, in the shape of the Rotary Wheel, and in clumps beside the entrance to Stromness and the entrance to Burray Village. On 22nd October, Bashir demonstrated yet further expression of his culinary talents with a Spanish Night in the Orkney Club, raising £680 for Polio Eradication. Through September to December, Raffle tickets were sold in aid of the Charities Account, for disbursement over the course of the year. The Annual Dinner was held on 20th November, in the Lynnfield, with Tom Muir as the speaker. A week in the Blue Door will take place in February, and a possible Coffee Morning in Dounby, in March or April, is being considered. Various other Club outings are under consideration for the summer months; a Papay weekend in early June, and possible visits to Stroma, Flotta, and, perhaps, a 2 day excursion to the Sutherland Clearances in Strathnaver, including a visit to the East Sutherland Rotary Club. Otherwise, the main attentions of members has been turned to the 50th anniversary of the Club, including the Charter Anniversary Dinner to be held on the 20th May, in the British Legion, Kirkwall. This big occasion in the Club's calendar will, hopefully, be accompanied by a suitable public entertainment, the precise form of which is under active planning.

Membership of the Rotary Club of Orkney, as it approaches its 50th anniversary, stands at 38, 9 of whom are Lady Members.

The account of the 50 years of the Club given are summaries only, trying to point out the

principal events and activities for each year. The total activity of the Club is, of course, much wider. There are annual events which take place automatically year on year, for so long as they are thought worthwhile. A number of social events fall into this category; The Annual Dinner Dance was a fixture in the calendar for 25 or 30 years, until the appetite for this event paled; Ladies' Night took place from the foundation of the Club until 2003, when the Club became dual-gender, and an Annual Dinner was considered more appropriate; and The Cheese and Wine Evening has featured through most of the Club's history though its form has tended to change, and its frequency has become rather less regular in recent years.

Other activities, whether of a fund-raising nature, or for community value, may also repeat for many years. Such include; The Coffee Morning, a stalwart fundraiser for many years; a stall at the County Show; the Rotary Flyer at St Magnus Fair (until its demise); The Bonfire Night (organised to assist the Community Council, Kirkwall and St. Ola); Santa's Sleigh at Xmas, coupled with distribution of gifts to residents in Care Homes throughout the County. For many years, the Club mounted an Xmas Party for children at Glaitness Aurrida, taking them to the pantomime thereafter. The Good Companions were taken, on a suitable summer's day, for a bus tour round the countryside, followed by a High Tea at a rural restaurant, and in earlier years, Club members took it, in rotation, on Sunday mornings, to pick up residents from Eastbank Hospital and the Care Homes in Kirkwall and Stromness, taking them for a drive through the country areas. Most of these commitments took, or take, place in the first half of each year, leaving the remaining time to devise and produce major projects, which are, usually, the main producers of funds to the Charities Account, and which have tended to attract more attention in the early paragraphs. Organisation of Motor Shows, and Ideal Homes Exhibitions, are huge undertakings, and demand most of the attention of Club members for a number of months. They are, of course, the events which raise most funds, and the Club never ceases to wonder at the generosity of the Orkney public in the way that they support these ventures.

Through most of its history, the Club has sent 2 senior pupils from the secondary schools for a week to RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Award), a week's attendance at an activity centre in the Aviemore/Nethy Bridge area of the Highlands. The week is devoted to stimulating qualities of leadership, and the fostering of fellowship and friendship among the participants. The week encompasses a number of prominent speakers from various walks of life, and engages the young people in activities designed to stretch and develop their abilities. In recent years, 2 Club members, Willie Stewart and Bob Mackenzie, have voluntarily acted as mentors and leaders for the week. The youngsters who have attended this week, are visibly more mature on their return, and they are invited to speak to the Club and give an account

of their week. In addition, each year the Club offers Practice Interviews to senior pupils, before they proceed to further education in the wider world.

In 1994, the Club instituted an annual Community Service Award, in recognition of outstanding contributions to the well-being of the Orkney Community. A handsome bronze trophy, designed and fashioned by Ian Scott, North Ronaldsay, was commissioned by the Club, and named in memory of 2 prominent members in the Club's history - Alex Groundwater, a founder member, who died suddenly in his Presidential year, and Reuben Appleyard, for so many years the outstanding Secretary of our Club.

This Groundwater/Appleyard trophy, has been awarded since;

1994	Mr and Mrs J Maxwell
1995	OHB, Sports and Social Club
1996	Maurice Gray
1997	Dougie Shearer
1998	Glenys Hughes
1999	Elaine Bullard
2000	Magnus S Work
2001	Charles L Millar
2002	Norman Rushbrook
2003	John Muir
2004	Jean Leonard
2005	Kenneth Thomson
2006	Rita Jamieson
2007	Kirkwall City Pipe Band
2008	Ann Edwards
2009	Margaret Thomson
2010	Adrian Askew
2011	Elsbeth Linklater
2012	Yvonne Cook
2013	Gavin Cullen
2014	Freda Burgher
2015	no award
2016	Bob Presland

The Club tries to arrange visits to 3 or 4 places of interest within the county each year, and recently we have tried to organise a day trip to one of the islands, these visits being open to partners and, when suitable, to families of members. The over-riding aim of all such activities

is to foster fellowship, which makes the efforts of Rotarians all the more effective when they come to join together in raising funds, or to take part in matters which engender community, or international, well-being.

Members of the Rotary Club of Orkney feel they have made a modest contribution to their community, and to the wider world. They thank the people of Orkney for the magnificent support their efforts have received, and it is their hope that similar support will continue into the future.