



# The Grapevine

Issue No 138

SEPTEMBER 2017

**President Gordon Turner 2017-2018**



## Message from our President



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**W**e have recently returned from the annual Furness Rotary International trip. In a very short period of four days we certainly covered some ground.

A few fact about Dublin. Its name derives from “Dubh Linn” is an Old Irish Gaelic phrase that translates to “Black Pool”. The river Liffey runs through the city dividing into North and South districts.

The population has increased by tenfold in recent times to 1.8 million although from reading the local newspapers it would appear that the people are not doing to well as rents have been increased by 500% which is causing a housing crisis.

The country is also known for the very generous tax incentives it gives to large businesses like Google and Amazon. It is the home of Guinness, the Book of Kells.

Temple Bar is a busy riverside neighbourhood, spread over cobbled pedestrian lanes.

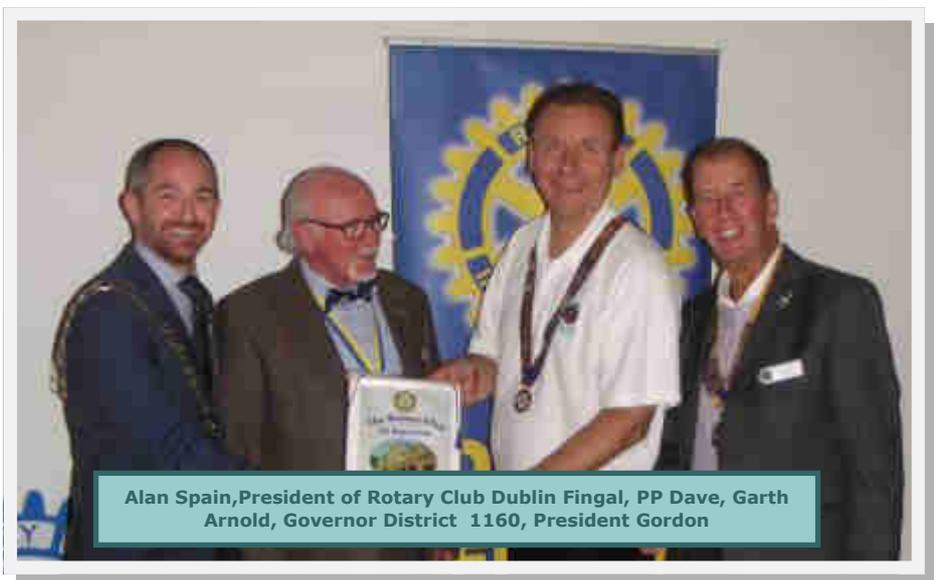
Crowded pubs host live folk music.

The Irish flag which it a tricolour the green colour on the flag represents southern Ireland, the north and the white in the middle for peace.

The first of our visits was to Dublin University College to witness the inauguration of the Dublin University College Rotoract Club. I presented the Furness banner to Neil Kelly the President of the Rotary Club of Dublin Fingal.

There were a number of distinguished guests present, the Rotary clubs of Dublin Central and Fingal and the President of Dublin Rotoract, a young guy from Germany who spoke with great enthusiasm—that Rotaract was FUN .

*(Cont page 7)*



Alan Spain, President of Rotary Club Dublin Fingal, PP Dave, Garth Arnold, Governor District 1160, President Gordon

## Ulverston Beer festival 2017



**A** Visit to Ulverston Beer Festival by a few intrepid members of the Rotary Club of Furness on Thursday 31/08/17

A motley crew of Rotarians gathered at the Coronation Hall in Ulverston to imbibe fermented malt liquor of various flavours, colours and strengths. It was interesting to see the methods of transport used in getting to the venue.

One group got a lift from a sympathetic car driver friend, others used taxi, bus and train or combination of such transport.

All got stuck in to tasting their favourites choices of pale, golden, brown or dark beers with cider also available.

I



amazed at the taste of a dark beer with blue berry and vanilla flavours that tasted like chocolate!

All these liquids of delight were sourced from far and wide and to slow down the process of inebriation, all present only drank half pints!



was

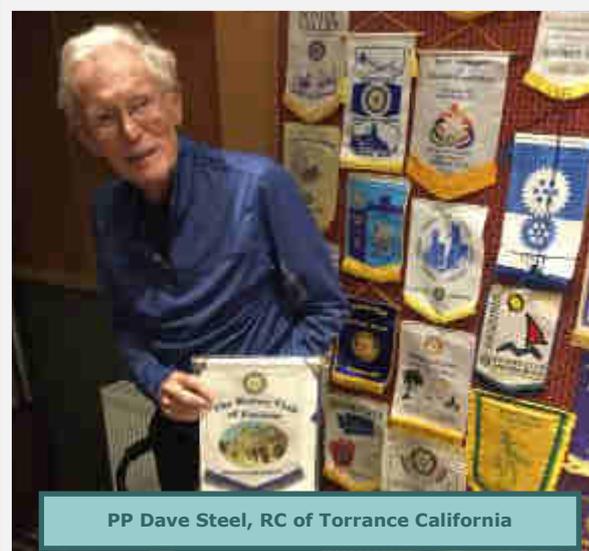
However as the night went on, the noise in the hall got louder and there were some accidents, with an embarrassing one for our Vice President oops!

By the time of our departure for a meal at the Stan Laurel Pub, we were a merry band of Rotarians and guests.

The meal was tasty and served promptly, and we all tucked in to our choices with relish (malt liquor has the effect of increasing the appetite!)

Finally we all dispersed to our home destinations by the preferred mode of transport, after a very enjoyable evening of fellowship and I must admit, a lot of fun.

*Reported by Rotarian Frank Randall PHF*



PP Dave Steel, RC of Torrance California

# Tour de Furness 2017



**W**ell what a turn up for the books, during our Tour de Furness 2017 we had the worst weather we have experienced in the 22 years we have been running it. Yes occasionally we have had rain and wind, but not the vicious showers we had on Sunday and the gale force winds. Even the top notch cyclist were reduced to 5 mph crawls along the coast road as they returned to base. But despite the atrocious conditions 400 turned up to tackle our rides, one father rode the 50 mile ride, then the 23 mile ride with one of his children then the 5 mile with his youngest. We riders from far and wide, one lady had come from Hereford to take part ! But the winds

did play havoc with matters. Two gazebos were demolished, their frames buckled and broken, one had to be retrieved from Urswick Tarn have set sail across it !

I have every admiration for our stoic team of helpers who stuck to their posts throughout often arctic conditions.

The BAE 1st Aiders again fielded a full team of mobile paramedics, one on a motorcycle but fortunately had only one casualty to deal with, a rider unfortunate to collide with a bee which promptly stung him ! Fortunately he was able to continue with the ride and completed the course.

*Continued on page 7*

You can now order your own clothing direct from our "Club Shop" at Coniston Corporate the supplier of our jumpers and polo shirts. The range is currently limited to items we have previously ordered but can be extended at any time, just let me know if there is anything else in the Coniston Corporate catalogue you would like to purchase. You order your items, pay for them by card and they are delivered to your door and the Treasurer will no longer go hairless keeping track of purchases !!

Delivery is per item and starts at £4.00 for a tracked Royal Mail Parcel delivery, 3 items and more are delivered by Courier and charge is capped at £10.20 -if 2 items are ordered Coniston Corporate are willing to part re-fund the delivery charge if contacted separately.

Graham

## Kinamba Project—update 2017

**A** Talk by Meg Fletcher on the Kinamba Community Project in Kigali, Rwanda, to the Rotary Club of Furness on the 13th September 2017.

Meg explained that the Kinamba Community Project is a schools project in Kigali, the capital of Rwanda with nursery, primary and now secondary school pupils.

This not only involves teaching, but in many ways importantly, giving the children a nutritious meal before and during school.

Families in Kigali are very poor and food prices are high. Some children

come to school having not had anything to eat since their last school meal the previous day!

The infant school children get a nutritious porridge at breakfast every school day and a bread roll is added when available. There are signs of malnutrition in all these children.

The primary school children get a vegetable meal with soya and sometimes dried fish at lunchtime. The Project also gives meals to the teachers ( who also have problems buying food for themselves and their families).

As a treat, the children were given apples, which they had never seen before!

Meg also explained that, as the Project is now been in action for ten years, some of the children have reached secondary school eligibility. Due to the meals provided by the project, these children have done a lot better at school than otherwise, and are thus able to apply to go on with their education.

The majority of secondary education in Rwanda is private and residential, and so costs about £450 per year on average per pupil. In addition, pupils have to

provide for themselves, a box with relevant books, blankets, mattresses, pillows, toilet rolls, soap (personal and clothes washing), cup, plate, a jerry can for water and sometimes a hoe to help in the garden! All this has to be piled onto the bus that takes the children to



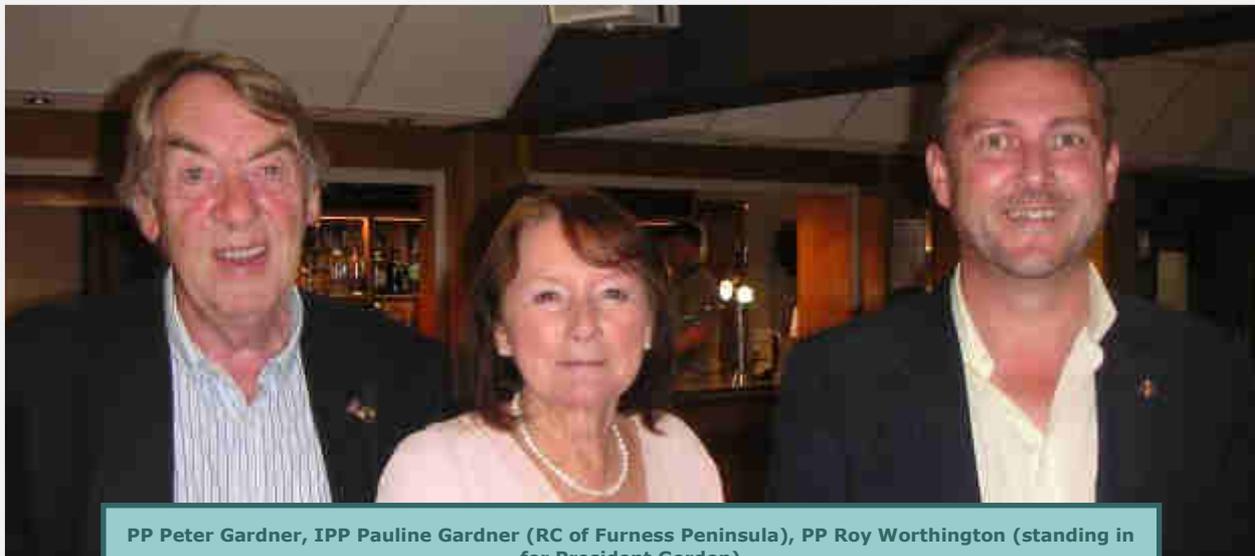
school!

The ability of the individual students is the factor which is looked at by the different schools and some pupils of exceptional ability will be accepted at the elite schools.

Six girls (good at playing cricket) have been accepted at a school specialising in sports and has grants from the charity “Cricket without Boundaries”. One of them is an ace bowler!

A Boy has been accepted at an elite school, where the President’s children are pupils ( he wants to be a Doctor!)

## Barrow's CREDIT UNION



PP Peter Gardner, IPP Pauline Gardner (RC of Furness Peninsula), PP Roy Worthington (standing in for President Gordon)

On Wednesday 20th September our speaker was the IPP of Furness Peninsula Club, Rotarian Pauline Gardner who is also a director on the board of our local Credit Union. She came to speak to us about the Credit Union, what it does, some of the problems they have and to make a plea for members to volunteer their assistance to the Union, or if any had cash to spare which they would like to invest in a good cause, that would also be very welcome.

Pauline told us that the BCU was based in the Mall beneath the former Furness House. They share their premises with another organisation in a mutual cost saving exercise. It was clear from Pauline's talk that the Credit Union, as a not for profit organisation also focusses on ongoing costs, keeping it as lean and cost effective as possible.

She told us that Barrow has a huge debt problem, lots of people living well beyond their means tempted by low daily payments for often exotic appliances and not realising the interest rates which often are close to 100%. Not only that but if they default on even just a single payment swingeing penalty payments come into play. She quoted one example of a client they had who had loaned £700 (this time on line) which with

interest payments had grown to £5000 and was still rising !!!

One great service they offered to their clients was loan consolidation, to enable folk to break out of such a nightmare, they ask their clients to be honest and to disclose bank statements and to estimate their outgoings which they can then use to tailor a loan to suit. Their low interest rates offer a safe pathway out of some incredibly chaotic situations.

Regrettably, some of their clients are not honest with them and some do default on even their low interest loans. Defaulters will be gently reminded of their obligations and sometimes that works. Occasionally they will have to visit their clients and sometimes the face to face meeting works, when it does not they then resort to law and seek for an attachment of earnings or benefits and when that does not work they apply to the courts for the sheriffs to visit and retrieve goods to the value of the debt.

There followed a Q & A session which explored the organisation and some of its problems and solutions in greater detail, following which PP Rotarian Peter Gardner as host for the evening was invited to propose the Vote of Thanks.



### Kinaba Project—continued

A big challenge for the project is changing the attitudes of the children. They are given every opportunity to excel and to achieve what is possible. The culture is to give them hope for the future and both girls and boys can succeed.

The Project has 114 children in the nursery/infant class and 134 children in the primary class. There are up to 39 children in secondary education with another 18 in January. None of the teenage secondary school age children would have that opportunity without the Project providing finance and equipment.

The personal lives of these children are for the most part

Food Programme		
	2015/2016	2016/2017
Cups of porridge	41,272	32,232
Children's lunches	14,820	18,725
Staff lunches	2,116	2,057
Total cost	£5,999.00	£8,700

Supported students	
Level	Number of students
Senior 4	4
Senior 3	12
Senior 2	9
Senior 1	14
Vocational	2
Vocational completed	2
New transfers January	18
Primary	134
Nursery	114
Total students supported 2017	289

very tragic and poignant with loss of both parents and/or carers, exclusion from the family home and homelessness, all overcome with stoicism and bravery.

After answering a few questions, Meg was thanked by Rotarian Peter Gardner and all responded warmly. Meg was then presented with a cheque from the Club to help with the Project.

And we look forward to her next visit and up date when we expect to see more step changes at Kinamba !



**Membership—GROW or DIE**

Realize there is no finish-line. Even if you are at the size that your club wants to be, there are always reasons people leave. And new insights always benefit a club. You're either growing or you're dying.

The evening was completed with nibbles and drinks but unfortunately there was not much for us to feast on as the venue was packed with hungry students who went through the buffet as if they had not eaten for sometime.

To complete the evening we called into the

Woolshed, an Aussie pub which has a comedy club. I don't think we were the demographic they would normally have in the audience but had a really good laugh at the expense of Bill Pennick who ended up the butt of some of the jokes.

Day two started off with the obligatory trip on the 'hop on hop off' city bus tour and the group visiting the Guinness factory and having a cold pint in the 360 degree lounge at the top of the factory. The evening was rounded off by a tour of the city by night and a couple of drinks on the way back at O'Sullivan's and some splendid guitar playing.

Day three was a rainy day so we were back on the tour bus. The driver said 'we do get our fair share of rain, last week it only rained twice, once for 3 days and the second time for four days'. A brilliant quote



First pint in Temple bar

that also reminded me of Scotland. We scheduled a visit to the Trinity College to see the 'Book of Kells 800 AD. Back on the bus to hear the singing bus driver who kept us entertained reciting several Elvis songs. Then off to Dublin jail

where the Easter uprising leaders of 1916 were executed, we finished the tour with the obligatory coffee and cakes. Then onto the Jameson's whisky distillery which was a delight which included whiskey sampling. The evening was rounded off visiting the Arlington Hotel for dinner and Irish dancing. Thanks to Colin Scraggs who did a splendid job arranged the trip.

*President Gordon*

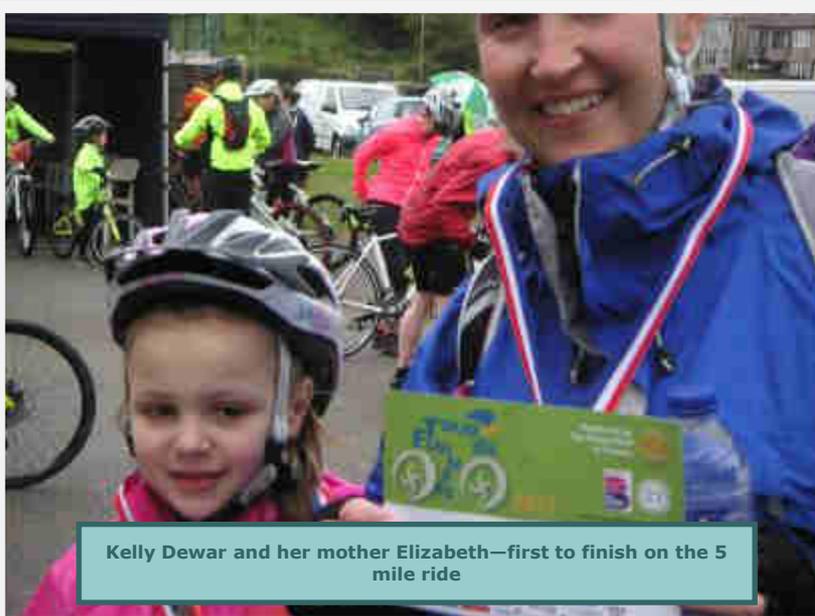
Number ONE of a series of publicity pictures we have been asked to post on our FACEBOOK Page, please like and share to get the message out that we ARE an organisation of ACTION both at home and abroad.





# Tour de Furness—continued

We heard that some riders had suffered punctures, one lady several during the 50 mile ride to Coniston and back. Also we understand a few were from tacks which some idiot had again spread on the course, but this time it appeared to be on the east of Coniston Lake road, although one rider also had a tack in her tyre at Baycliffe !



Kelly Dewar and her mother Elizabeth—first to finish on the 5 mile ride

latter club also had a team of riders taking part. One was wise enough to also utilise a state of the art electric assistance on his mount ! Good thing too, thinking about one myself !!

After a long long day, starting at 5:30 am and finishing at

Tyres were not the only think to be deflated, our Start Finish arch flopped over twice but it was only because the plug for the extension lead had fallen out.

Communications were handled by our friends from the local ham Radio Club (FARS), again they had a caravan at Roose with two huge aerials networking with stations at Gleaston Water Mill (their HQ), a station on Walna Scarr Road, one by our Coniston Control and a mobile unit in a van touring around all of the routes.

Assisting us were several members from the Rotary Club of Furness Peninsula and the Rotary Club of Barrow in Furness. The



4:30 pm we have to go and dry out all of the gazebos and see if we can cram a stack of chairs and flags into the store room we have at Roose which is currently bursting at the seams with bottles of water—strange, no one wanted any yesterday ! We then collect all of our sponsor



Sandside School Team about to set off on the 5 mile ride

money in, apply for Gift Aid, have our prize giving ceremony . Pay out all of the charities our riders support and then modify our website for Tour de Furness 2018 and set the clock ticking again for next years event !!! Such FUN



**President Gordon Turner 2017-2018**



Our new HQ—from 6th August 2014

Barrow Golf Club  
 Rakesmoor Lane  
 Hawcoat  
 Barrow in Furness  
 LA14 4QB  
 Phone: 01229 825444  
 www.barrowgolfclub.co.uk



**An Alternative Grace**

Blessed Lord whose love divine,  
 Did turn the water into wine. Now bless and  
 keep these foolish men, Who  
 bid to turn it back again.  
 Amen



... of the things we think, say or do.

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

DON'T FORGET WE'RE ON THE  
 WEB :  
 WWW.FURNESSROTARY.ORG.UK

**Club Program— September-October—November**

**September 2017**

- 6th Sept—TdF Briefing
- 10th Sept—Tour de Furness
- 13th Sept—Speaker Host Peter Gardner
- 20th Sept—Speaker Host Rachael Ward
- 27th Sept—Business Meeting



**October 2017**

- 4th Oct—1st Open Meeting
- 11th Oct— Speaker Host Frank Rrandall
- 18th Oct—Speaker Host Mike Hoad
- 24th Oct—WORLD POLIO DAY
- 25th Oct—Business Meeting

**November 2017**

- 1st Nov— Speaker Host Peter Garwood
- 8th Nov—SGM
- 15th Nov— Speaker Host Colin Scraggs
- 22nd Nov—Business
- 29th Nov- Out Meeting

**Stewards :** September Frank Randall & Paul Silver :

October Brian Boyd & Dave Cooksey : Martin McLeavy & Colin Scraggs

**There is NO Phone Service now for apologies, you MUST use the ONLINE form it is VERY simple to use !**