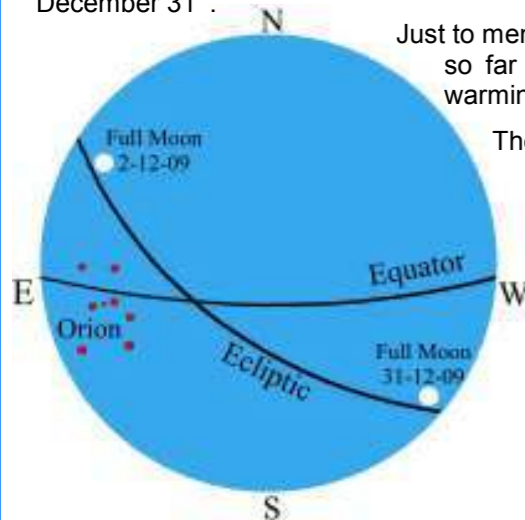


## THE CHRISTMAS NIGHT SKY 2009

Our nearest star is the sun and it reaches its most southerly position on December 21<sup>st</sup> at seventeen hours, forty seven minutes – that will be the Winter Solstice. It then begins to move slowly northward. The earliest sunset is on December 13<sup>th</sup> and the latest sunrise is on December 31<sup>st</sup>.



Just to mention that sunspots were due to start forming this year but so far have not appeared. This might be the cause of some global warming.

There will be a very small eclipse of the moon on December 31<sup>st</sup> at eighteen hours forty four minutes – only 8% of the moon's surface will be obscured.

The Geminids (Meteor Shower) will happen on December 14<sup>th</sup> at midnight.

The Ursids may produce some meteor showers on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. While Christmas is not predicted to be white – just wait until the end of January or February 2010!!!

All very best wishes for a Peaceful and Happy Christmas and a Healthy 2010.

*Rtn. Henry Maude*

**WARNING : Do not scan the sky during daylight hours for fear of retinal eye damage caused by the sun.**

## A LITTLE SPORTING SNIPPET

These days we are quite used to hearing and singing National Anthems at international sporting events of all kinds, from the Olympic Games flag ceremonies to Rugby and Soccer Internationals – and one might be forgiven for thinking that this has always been in existence. Not so I am informed. The first recorded occasion of a National Anthem being sung was at a Rugby International in 1905 when the home team sang it and it was taken up by the crowd. The fact that the crowd sang it should give you a clue as to where it originated!!



Yes, you guessed right. It was in the old Cardiff Arms Park, at the International between Wales and New Zealand in 1905. The All Blacks had been conquering on what I believe was their first ever tour of the British Isles, and the only game they lost was to Wales in Cardiff that day. It all arose because before the game, the All Blacks did the Haka, and the Welsh team had never seen this before. Their response at the end of it was to sing the Welsh National Anthem – the crowd took it up, the All Blacks were beaten three nil, and a sporting tradition was born.

*Rtn. Garvin Evans*



# The Raven



## Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Dublin North

December 2009

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### PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Its hard to believe that five months have passed since I took over the chain from President Simon. We started off with a bang when we travelled down to Henry's Wexford home for a wonderful barbeque and overnight. All who attended said it was one of their best steaks in a long while. Best wishes to Henry, Eileen, Peter and all the crew for their assistance and great help in the storm.

We also travelled by train to Cork Bishopstown and were well looked after by their members. There was a walking tour of Kinsale included. It is hoped to travel to other clubs over the next six months.

Thanks to Garvin our Club hopes to twin with the Rotary Club of Ferndown in Dorset.

In October we had the Lord Mayor of Dublin and our own District Governor launch our Public Speaking/Debating Competition for Transition Year pupils in local schools. Thanks to Mary Carroll and Una Kane for all their ongoing assistance.

Vincent and his team have been very busy collecting for Shelterbox; my thanks to them.

At District Conference we won the "Largest Group" Trophy again and we all had a wonderful night in the Officers' Mess in Costume Barracks. We looked after the incoming Japanese Team and gave them a good time. We also gave them a great send off with our own team headed up by Verity.

Rotarians, keep up the good work.

*President Jack*

### NEW MEMBER – Dr James McCarthy

I live in Booterstown with my wife Carmel and we have one son. On 25<sup>th</sup> October 2009 I celebrated my seventieth birthday and the realisation dawned that I have lived my allotted three score and ten. Following that sombre moment I expect to live to the magical hundred and beyond. You can't beat a bit of ambition! I have worked in teaching, in the psychological area and latterly in statistics. I have a PhD from Trinity College in Psychology. I am a member of Dalkey Island Probus and my hobbies are hill walking, cycling and reading.



### OBITUARY : Rotarian Gerry O'Neill

The members of Dublin North Rotary Club were saddened by the news of the death of Rotarian Gerry O'Neill. Gerry was a founder member of our club in 1969 and he was very active on club projects and on committee where he was never short of ideas. Gerry was a most popular member and his gregarious friendly manner made fellowship come naturally to him.

With the onset of the Second World War he joined the British Merchant Navy and he told us of his adventures in trying to avoid capture by the Japanese. After the war he came to work with BP and latterly was employed by Irish Distillers.

Gerry was never President of Dublin North but on one occasion while president-elect had to resign to look after June, his wife, who became ill. He left the club for some years but rejoined when she recovered. He resigned again when he lost his eyesight and was made a honorary member of the club.

At a recent meeting of the club, members stood in silence for one minute in his honour.

We extend our deepest sympathy to June and their son, Barry, on their sad loss.

*Rtn. Vincent Browne*



*A recent photograph of the Leinster Branch rugby referees meeting showing trophies won by Ireland last season.*

*Rotarian Noel Manahan is seated second from the left.*

## GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE 2009/2010

### DISTRICT 1160 /DISTRICT 2690 (JAPAN)

GSE, a programme of Rotary Foundation, is 'a unique cultural and vocational exchange opportunity for business people and professionals between the ages of 25 and 40 who are in the early stages of their careers. The programme provides travel grants for teams to exchange visits in paired areas of different countries. For four to six weeks, team members experience the host country's culture and institutions, observe how their vocations are practiced abroad, develop personal and professional relationships, and exchange ideas'.

This year (2009/2010) the two teams selected by District 1160 and District 2690 met and worked together both in Ireland and Japan, an opportunity very much appreciated by both teams. The Irish team (Verity, Anne, Cathy, Darren and Justine) left Ireland on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2009 for what was to be a truly memorable month in Shimane Prefecture, Japan.



Visit to private hospital in Kasaoka, Okayama, on Pacific Coast

District 2690, which stretches from the Sea of Japan to the Pacific Ocean, includes the ancient town of Izumo, the recently designated geophysical park

near Totori (a coastal area of natural beauty) as well as the inland sea area near Okayama where the Seto Ohashi Bridge (linking the islands) stretches over six kilometers. The team visited these areas and many more.

Highlights of the visit included attendance at the District Conference at Matsue where the team gave their presentation in Japanese to more than fifteen hundred delegates (the language classes and pre departure preparation proved invaluable); the vocation days which brought the whole team to school, hospitals, care centres, city offices, restaurants and hotels (relevant to the vocational experience of each member of the team); the farewell dinner arranged by DG Kuzuo San and District 2690 (there were many farewell functions).

What we will remember most is the fantastic welcome and kindness of our Japanese hosts, the Rotarians of District 2690 and their families who opened their homes to us so willingly and made every effort to ensure that we would learn about their way of life.

And for all of us – one further memory – our visit to Hiroshima, once again a thriving city, where each one of us was privileged to ring the Bell of Peace.



Rtn. Verity Swan  
Member of GSE Committee  
Team Leader 2009/2010

For further information please refer to [rotary.ie](http://rotary.ie) (GSE blog)



## DISTRICT CONFERENCE, ATHLONE 2009



## OCTOBER 2009 – LAUNCH OF DUBLIN NORTH PUBLIC SPEAKING/DEBATING COMPETITION



## GOLF WITH WJC!



In October, I was fortunate enough to get two invitations, one from 'Edge' – we often call him that now rather than David – to go off to the west coast of the U.S.A. to follow U2 for their last three concerts of the current leg of their world tour. The other was an invitation from former President Bill Clinton to play golf with Edge and himself in Las Vegas on the morning of the concert there, which the former President intended to attend.

At the appointed time – or at least an hour later than that – WJC arrived with his entourage, and we played the Bali Hai course in Las Vegas.

I got to ride with President Bill in a golf buggy, so I had plenty of time to chat – mostly about golf. I found him to be relaxed, charming, very keen on his golf – as most golfers are – and a great communicator. He hits the ball a fair distance – he is after all six feet two inches tall and well built, but was prone to leave his drives out to the right, due in part to a faulty wrist position at the top of the backswing – which I advised him about, for which he was appreciative. Indeed we got on famously, and it was an experience I shall never forget.

Rtn. Garvin Evans

## OBITUARY : Rotarian Michael Brown, Rotary Club of Wrexham



Michael Brown, a popular and well respected member of the Rotary Club of Wrexham died suddenly in tragic circumstances in April 2009 whilst on holiday with his wife Cheryl and two friends in Quito, Ecuador, having just returned from the Galapagos Islands. During his comparatively short time in Rotary, Mike became President of the Wrexham Club in 2005 and took it upon himself to organise the rotas for the Rotary Stroke Club transport, Kids' Out Day and assisting the visually impaired. Whenever volunteers were called for Mike was in the forefront. His wife, Cheryl, became equally taken with Wrexham Inner Wheel. Michael and Cheryl were always very welcome visitors to Dublin North to the point where they were almost considered to be actual members of our Club. We offer our deepest sympathy to Cheryl.

## MEMBERSHIP

The Membership Committee (Pat Larragy and self) met twice since the last council meeting. Priority was given to discussion on ways to increase club membership. As membership to Rotary is primarily by invitation it is obvious that the main responsibility for introducing new candidates lies with the members themselves. In recent times we have not put forward sufficient candidates due, I think, to failure to give the matter much consideration. Rotary unfortunately, keeps a low profile on its activities and so, as candidates do not come to us, we must seek them out. Well now the matter has become urgent and we are asking every club member to submit three names to the Membership Committee. We will contact those named and invite them to a special explanatory meeting. The theme of the meeting will be "Would you like to give something back?" Members, surely there are worthy candidates in your golf club, tennis club etc. THINK HARD. Rtn. Vincent Browne

