

**The 87<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Trinity College, Dublin Association of Northern Ireland was held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2011 in St John the Evangelist Church Hall, Malone Road, Belfast.**

The President of the Association, Mr. John Maxwell, was in the Chair. There were 54 members present.

Apologies were recorded from: Alan Elliott, Peter Brand, Kate Quinn, Edwin 'Buster' Holland, Osborne Morton, Albert Baird, Alva Brangam, Lady Brenda Sheil and Olivia Moore.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, adopted and signed.

The President welcomed those present.

Honorary Treasurer's Report: Hazel Scott reported that the both the last Annual General Meeting and Annual Dinner made a modest loss of £1.00 and £89.00 respectively. She stressed the importance of the Dinner to the financial health of the Association. She added that it is also provides a great opportunity for members to meet socially and renew old friendships. Whilst the Accounts show a loss of £196.00, it was explained that this was because the expenses for the 2009 Dinner were only submitted this year for inclusion. The Hon. Treasurer encouraged those present to come along to this year's dinner on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> November at Malone Golf Club.

Regarding membership subscriptions, she highlighted a difficulty that arose with one member whose bank was debiting £10.00 per month from his account rather than debiting the amount annually under his standing order. Whilst this was a not due to any fault on the part of the Association, she confirmed that the member in question was refunded £110.00. Upon further investigation by the Hon. Treasurer, it was discovered that the problem had arisen with two other members who have since been refunded. She urged members to check their bank statements carefully to ensure that their standing order/direct debit arrangements are in order.

Regarding expenses, it was reported that they were considerably higher than in 2010 which was partly due to extra secretarial items and the purchase of a retirement gift for Norah Kelso and a gift for the designer of the Association's website, Mr. Pat Devlin. Hazel Scott noted that the Association has 5 new members this year and received £950.00 in automated credits and memberships. This shows as £650.00 in the accounts in light of the £350.00 deducted to refund those members whose banks had overpaid their subscriptions. The Association's bank balance at the end of February 2011 was £5,308.00, which is marginally up on last year.

The Hon. Treasurer reminded members that the Association receives its Public Liability Insurance through its membership of the Federation of Ulster Local Studies. The premium is very competitive at £200.00 per annum. She stressed to members the importance of signing the attendance sheet to ensure that the Association complies with the terms of the policy.

Finally, Hazel Scott thanked Dr. Kathleen Rankin for her efforts in arranging the Annual Dinner and performing the additional role of Treasurer in her absence. In addition, she thanked the Association's Honorary Accountant, Mr. David Boyd, for auditing our books and preparing the accounts for the Annual General Meeting.

The Hon. Treasurer's Report was proposed by S. N. M. Bayley and seconded by Sir John Sheil.

Honorary Secretary's Report: The Hon. Secretary referred to the list of new members of the Association. They are as follows: Rebecca Robinson, Katie Quinn and Rebecca Isobel Waterson.

He reported that the following members are now deceased: George Bomfforde Wheeler and Dolly Scott. Regarding our contact in the College's Alumni Office, he noted that Jennifer Taaffe has succeeded Norah Kelso on her retirement. Regarding the Annual Dinner, William Devlin confirmed the date of this year's Dinner on 11<sup>th</sup> November. He added that invitations would be sent out in hard copy and by e-mail. He encouraged members to ensure that any changes to e-mail addresses are brought to his attention. In relation to the Association's website, he highlighted the Deceased Members section and urged members to provide information to ensure that it is kept up to date. Pen pictures of deceased members would be welcome.

The Honorary Secretary's Report was adopted on the proposal of Derek Gordon and seconded by Elbha Walmsley.

President's Remarks: The President referred to the death of George Bomfforde Wheeler, a former President of this Association (2003-2005), in January 2011. He spoke briefly about his life and career. He referred to the two occasions when he opened his house and gardens for an Association function in the 1970s and during the course of his Presidency. The second event raised £750.00 with £500.00 going to the Trinity Foundation and £250.00 for the purchase of a book for the College library. The President invited those present to stand for a short time in memory of George Bomfforde Wheeler.

The President referred to his attendance at the Trinity Association's Annual Dinner in College at which the speaker was Senator Shane Ross. He reported that he also represented the Association at the Antrim and Derry branches Annual Dinner in the Beechill Hotel, Londonderry and responded to the Toast to the guests. He spoke briefly about the Association's Annual Dinner. He noted that the guests were Senator Professor Ivana Bacik, the Vice President / Vice President elect of the Queen's Graduates' Association, the Joint Secretaries of the Antrim and Derry Association and Ian Bailey who represented the Fermanagh Association. He mentioned that Nora Kelso was welcomed at the dinner and presented her with a gift in thanks for all the work she has done for the Association over the years.

Regarding a donation to College, the President confirmed that the Committee authorised a donation of £500.00 to be made to the Trinity Foundation for the benefit of one or more students from Northern Ireland.

Finally, the President thanked the Committee for its support during his term in Office. He noted that his time as President was now at an end. He stated that Derek Gordon would be the Association's new President from 2011 to 2013 following his election at a committee meeting held in February 2011.

Remarks by Derek Gordon: He thanked John Maxwell for his work on the Association's behalf during his term in office. He stated that he was looking forward to his Presidency. He noted that Trinity is currently in a state of flux on several fronts. He referred specifically to the issue of admissions and pointed out that the Association's role must be to communicate our concerns to the College authorities. He added that the Committee would welcome the views of members.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8.10pm.

Following the Annual General Meeting, Alf McCreary, MBE, Head of Information Services at Queen's University, Belfast and Journalist gave a hugely informative and interesting talk on the history of Belfast Harbour.