



Avril and David Millar from Newtownstewart, with Sandy and Lowry Smyth from Strabane.

MC 27



Gemma McGarrigle, Patrick and Mary Quigg, with Mary Doherty.

MC 29



Charles Kinney, Donor Services General Manager, presents Gold Awards to Bernadette Breen and Ann Campbell from Castlederg.

MC 28



Irene Coulter, Albert Buchannan, Andrew and Doris Hobson - blood donors from Tyrone - who attended the event.

MC 25

Local blood donors help save 5,000 lives

NEARLY 200 local blood donors were honoured at a special Gold Awards night at Kelly's Inn last week.

This event was organised to congratulate these donors on having achieved their Gold Badge and to celebrate an incredible, almost 5,000 lives they have helped save. These are very special people, each having donated at least 50 units of blood but with many actually donating many more than this.

Paul McElkerney, a spokesman for the Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service (NIBTS) said, "On behalf of all those patients who receive this life saving gift we are truly delighted to have this opportunity to thank these blood donors. Their achievement in saving so many lives is amazing and many people are alive today because donors give blood regularly. The people who receive and continue to receive their blood, are cancer patients, mothers during childbirth, people undergoing routine surgery and people involved in accidents etc".

Many of the blood donors who attended continue to donate blood on a regular basis, but some have had to retire from giving blood.

Charles Kinney, donor services general manager (NIBTS) added, "There is a constant need for blood. We need almost 1,500 people to come forward each and every week. Many people do not re-

Rodney and Janis Watt, who attended the blood donors special Gold Awards night in Kelly's Inn. MC 31



Special guest speaker Nóirín O'Neill, a leukaemia survivor, who spoke of how blood donations helped save her life.

MC 2



alise just how quickly their donation will be transfused into one of the 500 patients who receive blood each and every week."

On the night the guest speakers included Nóirín O'Neill from Enniskillen, a leukaemia survivor.

Nóirín told those blood donors present just how vital their donations were in saving her life.

If you need any further information on how you can become a blood donor, you can contact the Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service by calling 0500 534 666, Text BLOOD to 60081, or log on to the website www.nibts.org

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