

**Opening Remarks by Barbara McDermott Business Secretary at the
25th Anniversary Afternoon at City Hall 26th February 2026**

START

Today I am filling much bigger shoes, actually those of our chairperson., Jim Livingstone who cannot be here because of current illness.

He says he was absolutely devastated and I am sure that's true after all the thought and guidance he has given to this event for the last year.

So, I just want to quote from a recent email from Jim 'I send all my best wishes to all our members and guests and ever grateful for their support and encouragement in organising Belfast u3a , and he adds indeed Belfast u3a is the best youth club in Belfast

to date 😄 and 🙌

That leads me nicely into introducing our host her in City Hall, and it is with great pleasure I ask the right honourable, the Lord Mayor of Belfast, that Cllr Tracy Kelly to speak to us now 🙌

END