

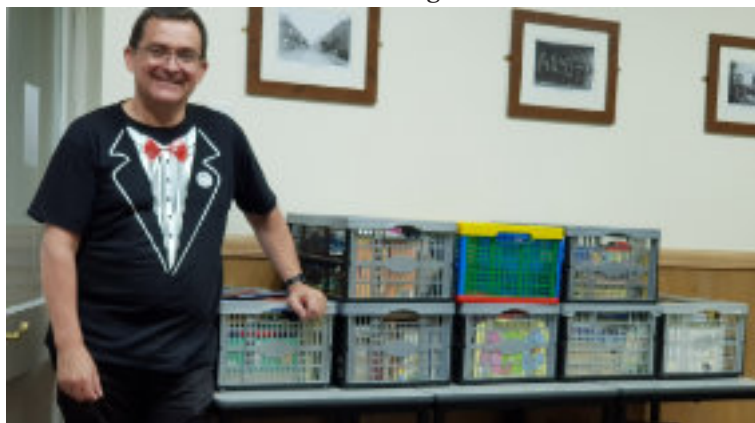
## Thank You for the Handover Support Visiting Ellesmere Regatta



A big thank you from me to everyone who came along to the District Handover on July 2<sup>nd</sup> to meet many of the District Team and to pass on our thanks to DG Robyn who led us through the year 2021-22. The event was relatively informal, and allowed those present to move around and meet other Rotarians. Special thanks to my family, Helen & Chloe, and the Jenny Picken who took on most of the food and drink duties, and Troy who handled the book sales.

It was the first full handover event since 2019, and it was great to be able to meet everyone face to face, and to get this picture of four years worth of District Governor's. I'm sure there must be a collective noun for such a group!

We collected donations of books on the day, and 600 books were passed onto Bev for the magnificent Books 4 Home project. With 95,000 books given out by the project so far, these were warmly received. From other book sales and donations received on the day we also raised just over £200 which was split between District 1210 Literacy projects and the Cheslyn Hay Library (which is managed by members of my club, Bloxwich Phoenix). Cheslyn Hay Parish Council kindly donated the use of the village hall and facilities to us without charge.



My first visit as District Governor was to the excellent Ellesmere Regatta event. This had been in my diary for a long time, and it was the first time I'd been to the event, and indeed the first time I'd been to the mere, where it was hosted. My prior visits to the town had all been on a canal boat.

The event hadn't been held since 2019, so it was a very welcome return for the event. When we arrived the local scouts were helping man the entrances where donations were being collected and I had met several old friends before we got to the main control tent to meet the team. We were made extremely welcome, and had an excellent day, doing the odd small duties here and there, and having time to wander around and chat with many of the stall holders and people present.



There were sixteen teams competing across the mens and ladies races, and the competition was tight! I had the privilege of sounding the klaxon to start the final races, and of presenting the prizes and trophies at the end.

Proceeds from the day will be split between, The Lyneal Trust and the Movement Centre at Gobowen, with residual money to be placed in the Ellesmere Rotary's Charity Trust Fund.

My thanks to Geoff and everyone involved for the very warm welcome and the superb event. I'm sure we'll be back in the future.

An article about the event was published in the [local press](#).

## Don't forget to order crocus bulbs



Many clubs in our District have taken part in crocus planting, bringing a sea of colour to our communities in the Spring and raising awareness for our Polio Eradication efforts.

Planting the purple crocus corms by Rotary and many community groups is a great way of getting active, having fun and talking to lots of different people about the need to eradicate the life threatening and disabling polio virus.

The deadline for ordering crocuses this year is 31<sup>st</sup> August, and there are online forms available. It's £195 for 4,000 bulbs.

# Wednesfield Rotary's Sailing Day Imagine Rotary My Club Visits

I was invited to go along to the Sailing Day organised by [Wednesfield Rotary Club](#) on 16<sup>th</sup> July. The event is organised with the [Greensforge Sailing Club](#) at Calf Heath, and it gives young adults from [Next Step West Midlands](#) the chance to have a go out on the water - it was a brilliant event and seemed to be enjoyed by everyone.



We were lucky enough to be invited out onto the water too - it was a great chance to chat about some of the challenges faced by the small sailing club with the proposed developments taking place in the area.

And did I mention we were fed too! Wednesfield served up a great barbecue too. A big thank you for letting us join in.

## Aldridge's Commonwealth Beacon



After my visit to Aldridge on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> the members invited me along to see their commonwealth beacon.

It is lit for a few hours each evening and will be active until after to Games finish in a couple of weeks time. It sits in the town, at the end of the shopping area alongside one of the roads through the town, and in the short time we were there several people popped along to see the beacon and read what it was about.

The beacon will be used in the future for other events, like Remembrance Day, and was built by the Aldridge Shed, a project which was supported by the Rotary Club. It's definitely raising awareness in the town, which was great to see.

## District Conference 2022: Yarnfield

Our District's Annual Conference for 2022 will be taking place on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October at Yarnfield Park in Staffordshire.

The conference will be a one day conference covering a number of Rotary subjects - we're putting the programme together and we think it will have a good mix of topics, with a lot of ideas and projects which clubs may wish to take away, emulate and adapt to their own communities.

At just £40 for the day, which includes a hot meal and refreshments it is excellent value, but it does really need the support of Rotary members from across the district to be a success.

I would very much appreciate the support of you and your families at the event - there are options to make a weekend of it if you prefer, but with a location close to Stone and the M6 it is a viable location for a day trip. There are more details and booking forms on the [district website](#) and on [Facebook](#).



I'm sure most of you will know the Rotary theme for this year, under RI President Jennifer Jones, is Imagine Rotary.

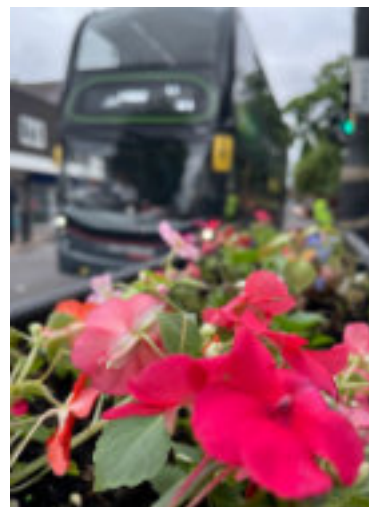
I had the honour of meeting Jennifer at the Rotary Action Summit held alongside Volunteer Expo in May this year, and I think our organisation is in good hands under her leadership.

Jennifer issues a monthly message which you can [read online](#).

## Club Activities

With my own club being quite small we're trying to make sure we don't neglect the club and its activities during my year as District Governor.

We've managed to continue to do our session at the library we manage, and we've also been out tidying the town centre planters we look after.



We've managed to attend a few social events too, and to visit a couple of clubs for fellowship.

I'm very much looking forward to my year and to meeting a many of you as possible. Here's to a successful 2022-23!

Fitting in club visits alongside full time work can be a challenge, so this year I am spreading the visits somewhat, and have asked clubs to try to tell me when suits them.

It means I've had a lighter July visit load than might be expected, and I have a lot to look forward to in September and October once the holiday season is behind us.

My first visit was to Brewood, a very pleasant evening chatting about tent collections at the V Festival, the difficulties of organising a major car show, and the challenge of getting members into Rotary.

Covid numbers caused the cancellation of my planned trip to Wolverhampton, so my next visit was to Wednesfield, where Helen and Chloe were able to accompany me. As always we were made very welcome.

I made my visit to Dudley on a warm Thursday evening, where the salad was excellent. Pauline and the club made me very welcome. My last visit to their venue had been as part of my club's quiz team (we lost, as usual).

This week I have been to Tettenhall, Aldridge and Walsall clubs. The visit to Aldridge coincided with a fly past from the Red Arrows - a first for me for sure, though of course they were on their way to the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games, an event where many Rotarians are volunteering.

Alongside my visits I've been able to welcome a few new members, and to present a couple of awards too.

The range of events and activities undertaken by clubs is massive and fascinating, and it is my hope that this year we can all collectively do more to share ideas and successes so we can spread the awareness and work of our fantastic organisation. Thank you to all the clubs who have hosted me.

If I've not yet agreed a date to visit your club, and you have dates you'd prefer please let me know and I'll do my best to accommodate them.