

DISTRICT

1210

ROTO

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www.d1210.org



ROTARY IN SHROPSHIRE, STAFFORDSHIRE & WEST MIDLANDS


VIVA
ROTARY!
LONG LIVE ROTARY

Lynne & Ron invite you to join them at Venue Cymru, Llandudno for the District 1210 Conference to have a weekend of fun and fellowship, with excellent speakers and entertainment.

By popular request Friday evening will be a themed optional fancy dress night and on Saturday evening there will be the traditional District Governors Ball.

So get your glad rags on and please come and join us.

2014 CONFERENCE
LLANDUDNO
FRI 26TH - SUN 28TH SEPT



District Governor Letter



Hello Everyone,

It was 109 years ago this month that Paul Harris and three of his friends founded the first Rotary club. His goal was simple: to create a body of friendship in the midst of a city of strangers - a body of friendship with those who shared his values.

Over time, the philosophy of Rotary developed and matured, and Rotarian ideals expanded to include service, vocational ethics and international understanding. Paul Harris was fortunate in his lifetime to see the Rotary idea take hold and establish itself in dozens of countries around the world. Every week, in 34,000 communities, his vision lives on in every Rotary club meeting.

We often talk about Rotary as an extended family, with all its branches and generations. We should value our youth service participants and alumni as important members of the Rotary family, particularly as we place a special emphasis on service to children and families. We know that it is essential for us to bring in a new generation of younger Rotary members. We've spent a lot of time talking about how to attract younger members to Rotary - but perhaps we haven't talked enough about why they don't stay.

There are young people who do join Rotary. When they begin families, however, they often leave. It is not hard to see why.

These are busy people who are already spending more time than they want to away from their families. No matter how much they enjoy Rotary, they are not going to prioritise their Rotary service over their families.

Nor should we ever expect them to. This is why it is so important for us to find ways to welcome families into Rotary, so that Rotary and the family are never in competition for a Rotarian's time. Whether it's by planning service projects that involve the whole family, or being more flexible about meeting places and times, we need to make Rotary service a viable option for those with young children.

The family of Rotary is real. Those children are going to grow up seeing their parents involved in community service, and being involved in service themselves. Not only is that a great thing for the family - it's a great thing for the Rotary club, which will be helping to nurture a new generation of active, service-minded young members.

At every stage of our lives and our careers, Rotary has something for all of us - a way to let us do more, give more, and be more. Rotary is big enough for us all.

Barry Picken
District Governor
Rotary Club of Wednesfield

Celebrating 200 Years of Service

Five members of the Rotary Club of Wellington have been presented with certificates to celebrate 40 years of service as members of Rotary. When asked to stand by President Peter Martin there was a moment of expectant

silence from the chosen few, for they had no idea why they were being singled out. Each has been a Club President in his time and all continue to be very active members of the Rotary Club of Wellington.



back left: Norman Quin (Joined in December 1973), Tom Farmer (October 1973), Rod Kirby (November 1970), Graham Reedman (1971 at RC Darlington) and Arthur Thomas (1971 at RC Ironbridge).

Rotary Young Chef Competition

Seventeen students from Lakelands Academy recently took part in the Rotary Young Chef competition organised by the Rotary Club of Ellesmere. Each competitor was set the task of preparing a two course meal with a healthy option within one hour. The successful Young Chef was Adam Price who will now go forward to represent his school at

the Rotary District competition to be held in February at the Hadley Learning Centre, Telford. Runner-up was Katie Edge, whilst Molly Mackenzie and Johnathan Sanchi were joint third.

All four judges were highly impressed with the quality of each menu and the level of skills on display.



Competitors in the Young Chef Competition, L-R: Molly Mackenzie, Katie Edge, Adam Price, Jonathan Sanchi.



Inner Wheel

by Robyn, District Chairman



Happy New Year to everyone.

2014 is a very significant year for Inner Wheel as we celebrate our 90th Birthday. From a small beginning of 27 ladies who met in Manchester, England to start their own Club to be run on Rotary lines we have grown to 100,000 members across 103 countries.

January 10th is Inner Wheel Day when we remember the founding of the organisation and Clubs hold special events in the community. I have attended several "Soup and Lean Lunches" where the soup was all homemade - we did wonder what was in some soups but they were all very tasty. Some events were open to the community and also raised money others were just for members to raise funds for the community.

This year Inner Wheel is supporting a "Wheels Project".

All Clubs are giving an item with one or more wheels...for example the team of volunteers who maintain the gardens at the Severn hospice in Telford wanted a wheel barrow, a local Day Centre need a new tea trolley, a visitors centre need a new wheel chair. If you see an item with a label saying that it was presented by Inner Wheel then you will know it was

part of this Project.

From 7th - 9th April the National Association Conference is being held in Telford. We hope that the new development in Southwater is a little more complete than at present! To date there are 2000 delegates attending. On the Monday morning prior to registration there is a Golf Competition at Lilleshall and a Walk around the Telford Town Park. I'm sure some delegates will be visiting Ironbridge and the Museums. Tuesday morning will open with the Service of Friendship when St Patrick's junior School Choir from Wellington and the Salvation Army Band from Oakengates will take part. The Conference will finish with a Black Tie Gala Dinner to celebrate the 90th Birthday.

Inner Wheel is working hard to survive and survive it will. We have 28 clubs in this District doing wonderful things.

Please support them.

In friendship
Robyn Davies
Chairman, Inner Wheel District 21

Working 'Hand in Hand' with Rotary

SMALL TOWN - HUGE HEART

The Rotary Club of Ellesmere responded to Typhoon Haiyan by immediately sending £1,500 from its charity account to the Rotary Club of Metro Lipa in the Philippines so that food, water and shelter could be provided by Rotarians on the spot. Past District Governor Bill Hitchen contacted his friend PDG Teotimo Reyes in Manila and arranged for the money transfer. President Geoff Corfield meanwhile contacted the local Tesco Superstore and received permission to collect in its foyer from Thursday to Saturday. The people of the small market town of Ellesmere showed their generosity by donating £2,877 and still found the heart to support Children in Need on Friday

evening and Red Cross on both Saturday and Sunday. With a separate collection at the Ellesmere Market Hall, Rotary Club members managed to raise the total for the Philippines to £3,080, resulting in the town sending over £4,500 very rapidly to where it was needed.

President Geoff wishes to thank everyone for their magnificent benevolence, the management and staff of Tesco for their unfailing support and his fellow Rotarians for their Service Above Self. If this inspires you to wish to learn more about Rotary please call Bill Hitchen (01691 624974) or come along to The Black Lion, Scotland Street, Ellesmere on Wednesday evening at 7.00pm for 7.30pm.



Left to Right: Bob, Geoff and Peter collecting for the Philippines Disaster Fund

Tettenhall Rotary Fund Raising Dinner

Tettenhall Rotary Club held an informal fund raising dinner this week and were entertained by a fascinating talk given by Simon Keeling, the well known TV and

radio weather presenter.

The event raised £378 for Compton Hospice which the Club has supported for many years on a regular basis.



President of Tettenhall Rotary Club, Sammy Chung, welcoming Simon Keeling to the meeting supported by Peter Maddox who organised the event

Spectacular Christmas for Bilston Rotary Club



DG Barry Picken, new Rotarians Lynne Brooks, Sandra Stolz, Ray Walters, President Jon Crockett

The Rotary Club of Bilston and Wolverhampton West made it a very special Christmas, with a series of events culminating with an Evening of Carols at the Mount Hotel. During which the club inducted three new members, awarded a Paul Harris Sapphire pin and made it a very enjoyable occasion for District Governor Barry Picken.

In the run up to Christmas the club made it a special time for almost 40 elderly and disabled folks from Bilston with lunch, Bingo and Christmas food parcels for all who came. In its traditional Christmas gifts to charities home and abroad, the club this year handed out £7,000 of cheques.

To celebrate as a club the traditional Christmas meal and carol's evening were held in the

Great Hall at The Mount Hotel but this year with a few special additions.

The club inducted three new Rotarians on the evening, so a big welcome to the family of Rotary to Lynne Brooks, Sandra and Ray. At the same time, in the presence of our District Governor, club secretary and Past President Ken Dolman, a stalwart was awarded a Paul Harris sapphire pin for services over many years to the club, to Rotary and the Youth Orchestra in Wolverhampton; a much deserved accolade.

A special presentation was also made to DG Barry Picken during the evening, with the presentation of a cheque for £2,000 towards 'End Polio Now' which Barry has worked so hard in his year to promote.

Market Drayton Emergency Philippine Appeal

Our Rotary Club joined forces with The Lions Club to raise £3,400.00 over 3 days for The Philippine Appeal.

It was a great opportunity to meet new people and share the rota for collection at Morrisons.

We were able to display the contents of an Emergency Relief Box in a tent. Life straws, cooking

stove, sleeping blankets etc were laid out on tables for people to view. A shipment of tents from the August V Fest Collection at Weston Park has also been sent to The Philippines. This ability to react immediately to a disaster is key to our humanitarian aid policy.

Everyone can be proud of the effort made!



GENEROUS FOLK HELP BOOST DISASTER FUND

The fantastic total of £2,319.46 was raised in aid of the Philippines disaster in Whitchurch, as Rotarians and Inner Wheelers set about supporting the relief appeal.

A street collection was held in the White Lion Meadow and raised £1,219.46 in seven and a half hours. This prompted Rotarian Chris Smith to say 'Whitchurch is a most generous community. We worried that our collection would clash with Pudsey Bear, but it appears not'.

Quote of the day came from a lady who donated £10 and said 'I've been waiting till you came out collecting because I know that what I give to Rotary, all the money goes to the victims'.

Our grateful thanks to those who gave.

Whitchurch Inner Wheel President Terrie Hewitt proposed diverting the proceeds of a previously arranged coffee morning at her home, to the appeal. The event raised £600 and included several generous donations.

At Rotary's lunch meeting, president David Hewitt, supported by international committee chairman Chris Smith, immediately authorised a £500 donation to the Shelterbox fund.

These Rotary initiated boxes provide instant shelter for 10 people plus drinkable water and basic food and medical supplies.



Whitchurch Rotarians Peter Williams, Chris Smith and Walter Schafer collecting for the Philippines

WHITCHURCH TREE OF LIGHT

Started in 1998 and now situated in Sainsbury's Supermarket, Whitchurch has to date, realised over £1,720.00. Whitchurch Rotarian John Mitchell is again the organiser, assisted for the first time this Christmas time by the ladies of

the Whitchurch Inner Wheel club headed by their president Mrs Terrie Hewitt. Names of those supporting the 'Tree of Light' appear in a Book of Remembrance in the Heritage Centre and the Whitchurch Herald, in the New Year.



Ladies of the Inner Wheel collecting by the Tree of Light
Pauline Brown, Terrie Hewitt and Anne Newman

Telford Tree of Light

The four Clubs, Wellington, Telford Centre, Ironbridge and also The Wrekin in the Telford conurbation have beaten last year's figures again. In 2012 we collected £36000 and had just under 5000 names around our Trees in Telford. As of the 10th January, 2014 we have £37250 in our kitty, once we receive the 2nd application of Gift Aid and just over 5200 names around the Tree in Telford Town Centre and the local area.

We sincerely believe that it is also a wonderful way of our community being able to remember their loved ones around Christmas; there are also a number of pet dogs and cats names, around the Trees.

Preparation starts in July and we finish early March the following year. We start again after only 3 months.

Over the years we have been fortunate in helping 11 other Clubs, not only in our District 1210, but in other Districts further afield. This has been our 19th year, and we must compliment not only our Club members, but also two who were there in the beginning.

Rtn. Bill Hitchin was a member of Telford Centre Club, now of Ellesmere and of course on District. and it was he who had the

courage and idea from a Rev. Paul Firmin (The idea was from South Africa), and he started it off 19 years ago and raised just over £1000 in his first year for The Telford Club. Rev Firmin is an Honorary member of The Shawbury & Mid Shropshire Club. I am sure they are both proud to see that there are so many Trees in our District now, and of course throughout the UK.

The four Clubs then joined together, as it was too much for one Club, and the rest is history as they say!!!

As 95% of the money is collected from our local community we do try and give the money back to Telford Charities, and this year 1/2 will go as usual to our Severn Hospice here in Telford(Wellington) and remainder will be shared between the 4 Clubs, who have nominated their charities as Headway, Alzheimer's Society Telford, and two sections of The Telford and Wrekin Young Carers.

Over the years we have collected in excess of £450000 for local charities.

On the 27th February we will present the Cheques at our Annual Tree of Light dinner and then have a well deserved rest for three months.



Trustees of the Telford Tree of light.

Quiz teams head for second round

The 3 quiz teams from Whitchurch Rotary Club made a great start in the District Quiz.

The A team, which has won several times in the last decade, travelled to the Lord Hill in Shrewsbury and scored a resounding 157, although they finished second to the host club. The team comprised the familiar line-up of Mike Arnold, Wynford Collins, Bill Carmichael and Nick Williams.

The B team scored 143 at Bridgnorth and came third. The team was Mike Nimmo, Peter Williams, bob Thompson and David Hewitt.

The C team made the long journey to Wednesbury and came fifth, with a high score of 134. Team members were Richard Persson, Tom Kelly, Phil Churms and Dave simcock.

WHITCHURCH ROTARIANS CELEBRATE THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Whitchurch Rotary Club celebrated its 75th Charter with a dinner at the Tern Hill Hall Hotel on 1st November. 90 guests, including many visiting Rotarians and ladies of the Whitchurch Inner Wheel, were welcomed by Whitchurch President David Hewitt, who briefly outlined some highlights of the club's history and its service in the community. He then introduced Barry Picken, Rotary 1210 District Governor who proposed the toast to the club.

In the course of his speech, the District Governor praised the outstanding humanitarian efforts of Whitchurch Past President Tom Kelly (2003/4) in raising over £50,000 in 15 expeditions, mostly for deprived communities abroad.

He also presented Past President Sam Eccleston (1969/70, 1999/2000) with

presidential citations from Rotary International and Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland; plus a Sapphire Pin to mark his 60 years membership of the local club. In addition, Sam received an inscribed clock from his fellow Rotarians and his wife, Margaret a bouquet.

A feature of the evening was a display screen bearing digital photographs of every president of Whitchurch club since its inception in 1938 - produced by President David Hewitt, who headed the evening's organising sub committee.

Guests were entertained by Speaker Peter Slack, a Derbyshire Hill Farmer, and the 47 La's. Master of ceremonies, Past President Greg Watson, drew Rotarians Don Pearse and David Simcock, who had baked a celebratory birthday cake.



FOUR ROUTES FOR LATE SPRING CHARITY WALK

A Shropshire Rotary club is holding its first late spring charity walk which will give organisations the opportunity to raise money for themselves and charities.

Shawbury and Mid Shropshire Rotary club has announced the date of Saturday May 17 for the charity walk which will offer a choice of four routes all starting and finishing in Shrewsbury Quarry.

The Rotary club has booked The Quarry for the day with varying start times between 10.00 am and 3.00 pm. Routes vary from 700 metres to 7.5 km.

Walkers can choose in advance which of the four routes - and start time - they prefer. Walkers will be asked to pay a £1 admin fee to Rotary to whom they will also donate 25% of all monies collected - retaining the balance for their organisation or charity.

Said Rotarian Colin Sharp, who is organising the charity walk on behalf of the Rotary club of Shawbury and Mid Shropshire: "The idea is to give Scouts, Guides and as many organisations as possible the

chance to participate.

"At the same time, charities, organisations and Rotary will benefit and we will have stewards at manned crossing points to collect contributions from non-participants. "We are providing four different routes for various age groups and abilities. For example, small children could just walk round the 700 metre Quarry route. "Start times will be staggered all through the morning so that there isn't a mass movement around the town - hopefully just a continual stream."

Route 1 is 700 metres within The Quarry; Route 2 is 2.5km Castle Street, Dogpole, Bridge Street, St. Chad's, Quarry (final); Route 3 is 4.5km Abbots Mead (out) and Quarry (final); Route 4 is 7.5km Longden Coleham, Kingsland Road (out), Kennedy Road (out), Ashton Road (out), Butler Road (out), Ashton Road (back), Kennedy Road (back), Kingsland Road (back), Abbots Mead (back), Quarry (final).

Enquiries and requests for application forms can be made to rotarycharitywalk@gmail.com



Organiser Colin Sharp with boots and map ready for the charity walk.

NEW MEMBERS

The Rotary Club of Wellington has inducted three new members since the last edition of ROTO. Here seen with President Peter Martin are John Banks (Financial management), Maurice Lamb (Facilities management) and John Bradley (Education). This brings Wellington's total membership up to 62 - a net increase of 5 so far in this Rotary Year.



LAST NIGHT OF PROMS

Rotary Club of Sedgley and Wombourne and friends enjoyed a great evening of entertainment on 19th October at Ounsdale School theatre Wombourne.

Picture Shows President Roy Cleaver introducing the Jackfield Elcock Reison Brass Band who played music relating to Last Night of the Proms. Some £576 was raised for Rotary Charities.



Ellesmere Winter Festival

The past two months have proved to be a very busy time for Ellesmere Rotary Club.

The collection on behalf of the Philippines disaster appeal was highly successful and thanks must go to the local community for its generosity in achieving a total of £3,100 which, when added to the Club donation, enabled £4,600 to be sent direct to the Philippines - where it was put to immediate use.

The Tree of Light this year raised £1372 and this will be matched funded by Tesco, with all proceeds donated to Diabetes UK. Club is indebted to the store for its support in achieving this total.

A cheque presentation was held early in December 2013, and in total £2,500 was donated from the proceeds of July 2013's Regatta. The main recipient was the Stroke Association; however cheques were also presented to Ellesmere Army Cadets, Inner

Space Diving Club, First Responders and Ellesmere Scouts (Cubs).

January of the new year brought the 28th occasion for the annual Charter Dinner, where the club celebrates the anniversary of the award of its Charter from Rotary International. This was held at the Boathouse in Ellesmere, where guests included the High Sheriff Diana Flint, Rotary District Governor Barry Picken and representatives from ten neighbouring clubs. An excellent meal was provided for just short of 100 guests, who were entertained by Brian Price, President of the Rotary Club of Chester, speaking of his experiences as a Cruise Director for the Cunard Line.

Speakers over the coming months will cover topics ranging from the Kenyan Schools Project, Shropshire Schools Crucial Crew initiative, Gretna Secret War and Around Wales by Water.



L-R: PP Bob McBride, PP and current President Geoff Corfield, High Sheriff of Shropshire Diana Flint and Rotarian The Rev. John Vernon.

Kemble Special School Appeal Fund

10 Rotary Clubs in North Staffordshire have helped to raise the funds since July 2013.

The original request was to help the school to purchase a special wheelchair cycle costing £4200. The school had raised £1500 over the previous 18 months so required a further £2700.

The following Rotary Clubs donated to the fund: Audley, Blythe Bridge, Burslem, Cheadle, Etruria, Newcastle, Stoke on Trent, Stoke on Trent South, Uttoxeter and Wolstanton. This is a tremendous achievement by the northern clubs and once again I applaud you all for taking part.

Other donations were received from the following companies and individuals: Brocksford Motors Ltd., Wilkinsons of Longton, Impress Shop Fitters, Motor Clinic

Ltd Longton, S & L Engine Services Ltd., Brookfields of Longton, The Smithfield Lodge, Mrs Joan Brown and The Strasser Foundation. Along with the school's fund raising the total money raised for this project is a whopping £6134. Absolutely brilliant.

The reason for the sudden jump of £1000 since my last report is that Past President (2012/2013) Olive Tudor of Burslem Rotary Club has given £1000 of her charity fund to purchase another special cycle costing £1000 so that will leave £934 for the purchase of some ordinary cycles for the less disabled children. Once again many, thanks to all who have participated in this project.



ST GEORGES DISCOVERS THAT LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED!

The Rotary Club of Wolverhampton St Georges once again celebrated a very successful film night at the Lighthouse, with a showing of 'Love is all You Need' starring Pierce Brosnan and Trine Dyrholm: a story about two people estranged in their lives which in turn centres on the happiness of others. A member of the audience was heard to comment that it is a "charming and quirky film with a very absorbing and interesting story line", something with which the rest of the audience seemed to agree. The fact that the film is also partially subtitled did not appear to detract from its enjoyment either.

One of the charities for the evening is the St Georges Hub, a small local charity organisation which since 1950 has been providing a range of services for vulnerable and socially excluded people, with a special focus on homelessness.

At the time of the event, Typhoon Tacloban had only just made its presence felt in the Philippines and it was appropriate to include relief in the form of donating two Disaster Aid boxes in the list of supported charities from the evening's fundraising, which totalled £1919 and included a magnificent £145 collected at the exit specifically for the Typhoon appeal.

Club President David Cross said "I would like to thank the team for once again putting on such a great show - from the choice of film to the organisation of the whole evening, and it would not have been possible to raise nearly £2000 without the support of our audience, so a big thank you to them also. The Charity Film Night is always a popular event in our calendar, and we have decided to produce a 'Sequel' on the 20th March, with an Oscar-winning film or performance, so watch this space for future announcements!"

ROTARY'S FUNDRAISING FOR CHARITIES APPROACHES £200,000

Charities across the North Midlands covering Staffordshire and Shropshire are set to benefit from Rotary club fundraising approaching £200,000.

Many of the clubs in the Rotary district covering the two counties have organised a wide variety of Christmas fundraising activities for a host of different charities.

Some clubs report a record fundraising achievement whilst others still hope to boost their total amounts.

Most popular of the fundraising activities has been the traditional Rotary Tree of Light which has been successful throughout Staffordshire and Shropshire.

In particular, the Telford Tree of Light which collected £37,000. This is an annual joint effort from the Rotary clubs of Ironbridge, Telford Centre, Wellington and The Wrekin.

Said Dave Silcock, president of the Rotary club of Ironbridge: "Fifty percent of the proceeds will be donated to the Severn Hospice, the remainder being divided between the four clubs for each president's chosen charity."

For the 10th year the Rotary club of Wolverhampton raised a 20ft Christmas Tree of Remembrance in the Mander Centre. Over 800 names were recorded generating a fund of £7,500 for Compton Hospice, Wolverhampton MS Centre, The Brothers of the Church of the Good Shepherd and the Lindsay Clift Memorial Fund.

The Rotary club of Tettenhall's Christmas collections raised £5,643 which will support Compton Hospice and other Rotary charities.

The Rotary club of Shrewsbury, supported by Rotary members from Shawbury and Mid Shropshire and Shrewsbury Darwin, ran a very successful - and spectacular - Santa's grotto in

the Pride Hill Shopping Centre in Shrewsbury.

Members put in a total of 338 hours work and raised more than £3,000 for the club's charities.

It has been one of the most successful-ever fundraising campaigns for Shawbury and Mid Shropshire whilst Market Drayton say their Tree of Light added to the festive elements of the town as well as serving as a focus for their collection.

From Newport to Stafford, Uttoxeter to Rugeley and Wednesbury to Etruria, the fundraising for charity has gone on, as a result of which many charities will benefit.

The Rotary club of Uttoxeter provided transport and entertained about 70 elderly folk to a full scale Christmas dinner with entertainment from their own musically and comically talented Rev Kesh Govan.

Aldridge Rotary raised £4,574 with main donations to Birmingham Children's Hospital and Walsall Heartcare while Burntwood and District.

While Ellesmere Rotary's Tree of Light was in support of the Tesco Diabetes UK appeal collection at their local branch to whom they made a £1,100 donation, saying it was 'very heartening to see the great generosity of the people of a small market town'.

Similar small towns, Wem and Church Stretton had fundraising events, with Santa's sleigh ever-popular for the Rotary clubs of Rugeley, Stone and District, Bloxwich Phoenix, Burntwood and District, Shawbury and Mid Shropshire and Whitchurch.

The Rotary club of Whitchurch said they continue to be surprised that each year they manage to beat their previous best figures - despite the economic climate.



Shawbury and Mid Shropshire's Santa and sleigh in Shrewsbury Square for the switch on of the town's Christmas lights.

Taking football to Africa appeal

Members of the Rotary Club of Wellington, their guests and potential members were treated to an excellent and inspiring talk about the work of the Taking Football to Africa and Beyond Appeal.

The RAF FA football shirt charitable appeal based in Shropshire has completed an incredibly successful 2013, it's most successful yet. The Taking Football to Africa and Beyond Appeal has been running since

2006 with its base at RAF Shawbury. The Appeal organiser Wing Commander Neil Hope MBE set up the Appeal with the aim of collecting unwanted football shirts and sending them to the less privileged in Africa in the run up to the 2006 World Cup Finals. The Appeal became a huge success resulting in 79132 items, including over 27456 shirts being delivered to 43 countries worldwide since its inception.' (Royal Air Force FA News).



The project at work at the Stella Maris School in Mathare Slum, Nairobi



Project leader Wing Commander Neil Hope with the Rotary Club of Wellington International chairman Brian Richards.

Ellesmere Ten Pin Bowling Team

The Ten Pin Bowling team from The Rotary Club of Ellesmere continued with its run of success in the present round of District 1210's knockout competition. The current District Champions visited

the Rotary Club of Telford on Tuesday 17th November, where Skipper and Past President Peter Broadbent steered them to a convincing victory by 203 points.

WHITCHURCH ROTARIANS BRING FESTIVE CHEER FOR 49TH YEAR

Christmas Day Lunches were prepared, cooked and delivered by Whitchurch Rotarians to the homes of elderly and needy people in and around Whitchurch, for the 49th consecutive year. Nearly 100 meals were produced in the kitchens of Sir John Talbot's Technical College. The cooking and vegetable preparation, on

Christmas Eve, was again supervised by Peter Lowe, a retired college lecturer, supported by a team which included Rotary President David Hewitt, Paul Coddington (delivery lists), Howard Jones and over 50 voluntary helpers, including visiting Rotarians from the District.



Members and friends on Christmas morning ready to deliver nearly 100 meals to those on their own at Christmas time.

Youth Services - A Shining Light

Rotarians have been encouraged to devote some of their skills to the benefit of young people.

Philip Gillings, Chairman of Youth Services for the Rotary District of the North Midlands, covering Shropshire and Staffordshire, urged the Rotary club of Shawbury and Mid Shropshire to assist youngsters at secondary school looking forward to work.

"Rotarians have experience in a number of fields, not least in interviews and cv writing, and I would encourage you to talk about your own career to students of mainly secondary school age.

"Members of Rotary have a wealth of knowledge, experience and working relationships to pass on – we can all be doing something to assist youth," said Philip who also spoke about the benefits of the Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA).

He explained that RYLA, for young people wishing to be leaders of the future, split 32 young people into four groups of eight who were given duties to do each day.

"Each member of the group



Philip Gillings says Rotarians can help young people.

has the chance to be a team leader and they think it is marvellous. There is a great choice of activities and the staff consists of ex-army trainers."

Speaking at a recent meeting of the club, he said the cost was £480 per candidate. "We have to pay the trainers who are professionals and this club regularly sponsors two candidates a year.

"We shall also be running the young photographer competition," and added: "Youth Services is a shining light throughout Rotary."

Wolstanton Primary Schools Shoebox Scheme

The pupils of two Wolstanton primary schools - St Wulstan's Catholic Primary and Ellison Primary - have participated in the Rotary International appeal to send Christmas gifts to poor children and needy families in Eastern Europe.

The shoebox gift scheme is organised through the Rotary Club of Wolstanton, who supply boxes and deliver them to the Rotary Shoebox Scheme national distribution depot in Preston. From there, Rotarians organise the transportation to Eastern Europe and the distribution of the

boxes at their destination.

This year 200 boxes were collected from the two schools. They will now be loaded on a truck bound for the Ukraine that will arrive in time for Christmas.

President of the Wolstanton Rotary Club, David Morgan, commented "we wish to thank the pupils and staff at the schools for their outstanding generosity. These shoeboxes filled with gifts will bring tremendous joy and happiness to children who have probably never previously received a present".



Pupils at Ellison Primary School with the Rotary shoeboxes ready to be transported to Ukraine.



Pupils and staff at St. Wulstan's Primary School with Rotary shoeboxes.

Mikoroshoni Feeding Programme

What Clubs can "DO" working together.

The Rotary Clubs of Blythe Bridge and District, Stone & District, Wednesbury and Willenhall clubbed together with their District Grants to provide 33 Primary School Children with 1 substantial meal in the

Mikoroshoni School, Kenya.

This is often the only meal they may have in a day. The cost of the meals is £575 a month and they now will be fed for the next four months.



WELCOME TO NEW ROTARIANS

Rotary Club of Ellesmere

Stacy Thornton - Management

Rotary Club of Tettenhall

Param Toor - Domiciliary Care

Rotary Club of Wellington

Maurice Lamb - Facilities Management
John Michael Bradley - Mathematics Teacher
John Austin Banks - Financial Management

Rotary Club of Ironbridge

Kerin Jones - Education, School Inspector
Ian Warburton - I.T. Consultant, Retired

Rotary Club of Market Drayton

Mark Smith - Information Technologist
Jonathan Butler - Retired Solicitor

Rotary Club of Newcastle

Simon Tagg - Local Government (Elected)
Rene Carlisle - Retail Fashion

Rotary Club of Stafford Knot

Clare Holden - Banking project management
Geoff Cooper - Education - headmaster

ROTARIANS APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEER DRIVERS FOR DIAL-A-RIDE

Two long-serving members of Rotary – whose motto is 'Service above Self' – are appealing to other colleagues and members of the public to give up a small amount of their time each week to support Shrewsbury Dial-a-Ride.

Bob Scaiff, a past president of the Rotary club of Shawbury and Mid Shropshire, volunteered as a driver for Shrewsbury Community Transport Initiative six years' ago.

He drives one of the fleet of six wheelchair friendly mini buses an average of once a week and fellow Rotarian Tony Cook, a founder member of Shawbury and Mid Shropshire Rotary, joined him just under a year ago.

"I am really enjoying the experience and giving pleasure to people who might not otherwise be able to get out and about," said Tony who believes Rotarians make ideal Dial-a-Ride drivers.

"They are people who have a sense of responsibility, a community spirit and a caring nature – otherwise they wouldn't be Rotarians who are used to volunteering."

Bob said the scheme was in need of more volunteer drivers and it wasn't difficult to become one. Each applicant with a current driving licence was given training, which included using a wheelchair lift, followed by a short driving assessment to demonstrate an ability to manage the bus.

"The scheme benefits those people who find it difficult to use public transport and taxis or aren't on bus routes," said Bob. "It's a door-to-door service for which every user pays a £15 annual membership fee and if they have a concessionary travel pass can travel for just £1 per trip."

"Over 500 people are currently registered to use the Dial-a-Ride service and about 200 of these use it on a regular basis for shopping trips, visiting friends and meeting medical appointments whether the hospital, doctor or dentist. They only need to give

the service 48 hours notice to travel."

Tony said Dial-a-Ride had an experienced office staff who knew the territory – covering a 10 mile radius of the centre of Shrewsbury – like the back of their hand.

"Each bus has a two-way radio which is connected to the office. It means that drivers can keep abreast of road works, traffic problems and changes to passenger's needs. We are also given a mobile phone in case there is a radio 'blind' spot."

Both Bob and Tony are encouraging fellow members of the Rotary club of Shawbury and Mid Shropshire to consider volunteering as drivers.

"This also applies to members of the two other Rotary clubs which meet in Shrewsbury," said Bob. "They can contact Dial-a-Ride on 01743 450350 if they are interested in offering their services."

"Tony and I certainly hope more volunteers will come forward. We really enjoy the job and meeting so many interesting characters along the way" he added.

Linda Cox, Shrewsbury Dial-a-Ride Development Manager, said 35 volunteers currently gave their time, but 50 volunteers would be needed to cater for the current and expected number of passengers next year.

She said Dial-a-Ride made 15,000 passenger journeys a year and covered over 100,000 miles per year.

She said: Our passengers really appreciate the service we give. Some of the things they say about us include 'I think Dial-a-Ride is the best thing since sliced bread – all the drivers are friendly, patient, humorous, helpful and considerate.'

"In addition, 'Dial-a-Ride is my lifeline and enables me to carry on' and 'we are very happy with the service, especially the volunteers'."

In Remembrance

November 10th 2013, Rotarian Ronald Ernest Blandford,
Past President and Paul Harris Fellow,
Rotary Club of Market Drayton.

†

PP PHF Michael J Bailey
Rotary Club of Burslem.

†

29th December 2013, Paul Wilson,
Rotary Club of Whitchurch.

†

1st December 2013, PP Barry Clarke,
Rotary Club of Dudley.

†

15th December 2013, Alan Fisher,
Rotary Club of Wellington.

†

*Passed to higher service.
Our thoughts are with their families.*



Dial-a-Ride passengers

Tettenhall Rotary Makes Amazing Donation To The Philippines Disaster Fund

Tettenhall Rotary Club has made a very generous donation of £31,270 to help people affected by the recent typhoon in the Philippines.

President Sammy Chung is seen here handing the cheque to Shelter Box Representative Gerry Walsh.

This heartwarming contribution has been made possible by the generosity of a single donation from an anonymous individual, who recently gave Tettenhall Rotary Club a cheque for £30,000. Combined with a donation from the Club's own

funds, the total donation of £31,270 will be spent on 53 'shelter boxes' to help people left homeless and destitute by the devastating effects of Typhoon Haiyan last week.

Each shelter box contains a family-sized tent, a multi fuel stove, cooking equipment, tools, ground sheets, blankets and other equipment.

The contents of a shelter box was on display at the Tettenhall Christmas lights switch on event on Saturday, 23rd November at Tettenhall Green and was viewed with interest by those attending.



Tettenhall Rotary President Sammy Chung International Officer Roger Webb presenting Shelter Box Representative Gerry Walsh with the cheque for £31,270

AN OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE AN ENJOYABLE DAY OUT AND HELP OTHERS

On Sunday 29th June the Rotary Club of Stone & District is organising a sponsored walk to the summit of Snowdon. The plan is to raise funds for a water supply to a village in Nepal as well as helping other groups to raise money for their own good causes.

The Club's project leader, Les Mason, said that the walk had been planned following recent talks to the Club by members of the Gurkha Regiment, based in Stafford, and the Gurkha Welfare Trust. It had become very clear that many villages in Nepal, which provide the Gurkha Regiment with their recruits, lacked proper water supplies – with long walks to sources of clean water. By providing suitable supplies we would be helping to improve the

health of the local villagers and would be 'putting something back' into the Nepalese community.

The walk will take reasonably fit adults some six or seven hours, including a break when the summit is reached, and walkers can set off from 8.00 am from the car park in Llanberis. The Army Cadet Force will be helping the Club with marshalling on the route as well as taking part and raising funds for the Nepal water project.

Any individual or organisation that would like to take part and raise some funds for good causes should contact the club on the dedicated e-mail address: snowdon.walk@stonerotary.org or call the project hotline on 01785 819807 for more details.

PRIDE, PLEASURE AND A PIN

On Thursday 16th January the Rotary Club of Newcastle-under-Lyme welcomed the GSE D1210 Team that went to Bangalore in 2012-13. The presentation was much praised and the club members all congratulated the team on the success of their exchange. President Brian Lewis said that the club took pride in its sponsorship of team member Karen Manley and expressed regret that this would be the last GSE. Members were reminded that there was a long history of club support for GSE. AG John Sayer, the Chair of GSE Committee in 2012-13, also gave thanks to the team for its excellent representation of the district in India and its subsequent presentations within D1210. Though this was almost certainly the last presentation by the team there was no sadness but rather a general air of excited appreciation as the team joined club members and partners for a meal.

As the conclusion of a very convivial evening President Brian rose to present a sapphire pin award to a Paul Harris Fellow. The very surprised recipient was Mary Rose Broome, wife of Newcastle Rotarian PDG Derek



Mary Rose Broome with President Brian Lewis

Broome. President Brian praised her support of those in the community who because of illness and infirmity were unable to take part in outside activities. Within the club her care had given respite to Rotarians who were able to attend and support the club. He said that the award was truly deserved for her service above self. One member remarked it had been an evening of pride, pleasure and a pin!

Brendon Batson MBE Kicks Off 2014

The Rotary Club of Wellington's 2014 programme was kicked off when the club was addressed by Brendon Batson MBE.

Brendon is a special adviser to the Football Association and Trustee of the Professional Footballers' Association. Born in Grenada, he moved to England with his family aged nine. After an unlikely start (having never kicked a ball before his move from the Caribbean), Brendon went on to become a pioneer for black footballers in England playing for Arsenal, Cambridge United and West Bromwich Albion.

An excellent and informative

speaker he outlined his career in football while relating this to the changes in attitude to black players during this time. His current project is managing the COACH bursary programme for The FA which addresses under-representation at higher levels of the coaching profession and promotes coaching as a career for the Black, Asian and the Minority Ethnic community. He received the MBE in 2001 for services to football.

Potential Rotarians were invited to join us for this event as were members of other local Rotary Clubs.



Host Rtn Peter Llewellyn, Brendon Batson and Wellington President Peter Martin.

THE CHALLENGE FOR UNIVERSITIES

One of the Rotary Club of Newcastle-under-Lyme's honorary members Professor Nick Foscett, the Vice-Chancellor of Keele University, spoke to the club at its meeting on 14th January. Members gave him a warm welcome and raised many questions about the work of the university which all agreed needed much wider publicity in the area given its significant economic and cultural impact in the county and region. Keele is the third largest private employer in Staffordshire and has the largest campus of any university in the UK. A member subsequently remarked that rather like Rotary locally it hid its light under the proverbial bushel. It is hoped that the coming year will see stronger links developed not only with Newcastle Rotary Club but with Rotary generally in North Staffordshire and District 1210.

His talk focussed on the challenges faced by higher education and how universities in general and Keele in particular have adapted their role to adjust to the changing world. He began

by emphasising that universities were not just a continuation of education for slightly older pupils; they must produce men and women who will have the brains and skills on which a successful UK economy depends. Keele has an enviable reputation with its Medical School ranked the second best in the country. It has a high rate of graduate success being a world leader in many aspects of research, especially in medical areas such as the study of arthritis and aspects of malaria. Apart from catering for a wide range of disciplines it has satellite activities in India, China, East Africa and Brunei. Professor Foscett concluded by mentioning a number of Alumni who have gone on to become famous in many fields.

As first guest speaker of 2014, Nick Foscett set a high standard and sent members home with a pride in the achievements in the "place on the hill" and a fuller understanding of the significance of the entry signs on main roads into Newcastle Borough that say, "Home of Keele University".



Keele Hall, Keele University



Prof Foscett at Keele Gate

SARAH ENJOYS HER EXPERIENCE OF SANTA'S SLEIGH

Sarah Williams, Assistant Governor Zone 1, enjoyed the experience of linking up with Shawbury and Mid Shropshire Rotary club's Santa sleigh on its traditional ride round the village of Bomere Heath.

AG Sarah was joined by three of her work colleagues as they helped to entertain residents both young and not so young.

Many children left the warmth of their homes and braved the cold on the pavements in the village to greet Rudolph the reindeer and the sleigh.

The AG said she was 'delighted' to take part in the annual Rotary Santa sleigh visit to one of the villages in Mid Shropshire.



MARK'S MAKING HIS MARK - IN KAZAKHSTAN

In a four and a half minute talk to the Rotary club of Shawbury and Mid Shropshire, Rotarian Mark Beddow gave a fascinating insight into his new life in Kazakhstan.

He has only been there for 15 months but in that time has dug a hole 20m deep and prepared a virtual tour of a gigantic structure, which is to be built in the new Kazakh capital Astana.

He told fellows Rotarians that the basement foundations are now underway and the building complex will include shops, offices, a hotel, enormous atrium, pedestrian walkways and relaxation areas.

The main tower will be 330m tall and is expected to give amazing views which could stretch for 150km across the flat Kazakh Steppe. On a clear day it would be possible to see the top of the London Shard – if the earth was flat!

He said one major obstacle to completing the work on time – and in budget – is the fact that the average winter temperature is 35 degrees C.

"That's ok," said Mark, "because there is very low humidity during winter. Unfortunately, the minimum temperature can be down to 50 degrees C and when you step outside it is like walking into a block of ice."

He returns to Shrewsbury on leave from time to time in order to get 'warmed up.'

An interesting observation he made related to the huge variety of Vodka available in the supermarkets in Kazakhstan.

"Here at home we may see four or five makes, but out there are literally hundreds of varieties," said Mark who confessed he hasn't yet sampled them all – but he's working on it!



Mark Beddow who says warm headgear is essential in Kazakhstan

ELLESMERE NEWS

A November meeting of the Rotary Club of Ellesmere was addressed by both young and old. Firstly Alex Davies, a former pupil of Lakelands School, told club members about the challenges that he has faced as the 2013 holder of the Ellesmere Rotary Youth Leadership Award. A recent week-long course as a part of the RYLA experience has inspired him to embark on a fund-raising campaign in support of the "Life Straws for Africa" scheme, an objective that was uniformly endorsed by Club members. The Club invites applications from Y11 pupils for the 2014 RYLA. Details are available from Rotarian Fred Williams on 01691 690795.

Representing a more senior generation, District 1210 Foundation Chair, Ashley Gray, updated Club members on Rotary International's continuing

campaign to, in conjunction with other international organisations, eradicate polio globally. Over the next five years an additional \$5.5 billion will need to be committed, a sum that Rotary International sees as achievable, given the same sort of energy that it has shown in the past. The importance of the campaign to the UK is highlighted by the fact that it appears on a list of Red Zone countries compiled by the World Health Organisation, who are highly likely to be affected should the disease break out of the enclaves where it presently persists; areas of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia and Northern Nigeria. The number of cases worldwide is small, but many in the UK still remember how quickly this can grow. Small donations by the many will achieve the target sum.

Paul Harris Fellowships Awarded

Traditionally the Rotary Club of Wellington's awards Paul Harris Fellowships to those who give outstanding service to Rotary and to the wider community. When these awards are made the club tries to ensure that they are made individually and separately. This year the unusual occasion arose when Fellowships were presented to a couple. Past president Ken Whitcombe is blind but has always been determined that his disability would never get in the way of what he feels needs to be

done both in the club and in the wider community. Ken and his wife Paula, who is a member of Wellington Inner Wheel, have been the perfect team working for many years outside Rotary for the Telford VIP group, RNIB and particularly for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. They are a team that displays the essence of Service Above Self and with that in mind the club decided to recognise Paula's part by awarding her a PHF at the same time as Ken.



Life After Stroke Awards 2013

Professional Excellence Award:

Each year Stroke Association hosts the Life After Stroke Awards. Carol is honoured to be nominated by Terry Osborn of the Stroke Association in the category of Professional Excellence Award. She is privileged to receive a Highly Commended on behalf of District 1210 in recognition of our achievement.



SIX OF THE BEST

Young musicians from around the Walsall area competed on Thursday 16th January at the Whitman Hall, Aldridge School for the Walsall Young Musician 2014. The expertise and contrasts of the performers were exceptional.



President (Mike Cann) is seen handing the certificate and prize to the winner:- Classical Guitarist Andrew Taysum.

Joined up Rotary

The Rotary Club of Blythe Bridge and District were delighted that their application for a Global Grant to fund a literacy project in Durban South Africa had been approved. This joint venture between the Rotary Club of Blythe Bridge & District, Rotary Club Pinetown South Africa District 9270 and the Rotary Club of Salem Massachusetts USA District 7930 has via the Global Grant process secured a total of \$40,000US.

The Literacy project will deliver a phonics training programme to better the speaking and writing in English of both educators and children. It will consist of termly workshops to train and mentor Grade 2 educators from six schools in 2014 and in 2015 to train and mentor Grade 3

educators from 6 schools this will benefit 1200 children in year 1 and 48 educators benefitting 2400 children in a two year period.

These Training sessions for teachers will model and facilitate phonics activities. A DVD will enable teachers to watch and re-watch specific methods of delivering the phonics programme reinforcing the training already given.

This two year pilot project will benefit 2400 children giving them a better educational start in life for children in economically poor communities in the Province of KwaZulu-Natal. After the success of the two year programme the scheme will be rolled out to other schools, teacher and children in the wider community.

WHITCHURCH ROTARY'S CHRISTMAS FLOAT

Father Christmas has been out and about for the 39th year with the Rotary Club of Whitchurch, for most of the month. On the 30th November, the Float attended the switching on of the town's lights, before embarking on 14 nights touring the town and surrounding district, plus 6 days at local supermarkets. This represents well over 600 man hours for the club- over 60% of Rotary club members assisted in various roles- plus help from ladies of the Inner Wheel and the Lions Club.

Over 1000 children visited Father Christmas and the people of Whitchurch and district with their unflinching goodwill, have

again given generously to help raise a record breaking £8,031.83 this year, and reach a total of £131,539.00 for the 39 years of this activity. All the monies raised over this festive period go to Rotary assisted charities and enables Whitchurch Rotarians to maintain their unceasing work for the elderly and the young, locally, nationally and internationally.

'Float Organisation' was by Senior vice president Richard Persson and President David Hewitt, who, with Rotarian Walter Schafer drove most evenings. Other leading contributions came from Rotarians Peter Williams (collection count), Greg Watson and Howard Jones



36 Years as Father Christmas

On every Christmas morning - for as long as club members can remember - Father Christmas, alias Rtn. Tom Farmer of the Rotary Club of Wellington, together with Mrs Christmas and a group of elves have called at Farcroft Nursing Home in Wellington. In the residents' lounge areas presents are given out and opened while Christmas

greetings are shared with all. Tom, whose birthday is on Christmas Day, first took on the role of Santa Claus in 1977.

He says that the visit to Farcroft where he is doing something for those less fortunate makes his Christmas Day more special. He added that he is not yet ready to retire!



Rtn Tom Farmer with one of the Farcroft residents.

WE CAN'T DO ANOTHER FALKLANDS' CLUB TOLD

A man with 33 years experience as an engineering officer in the RAF told the club that due to government cutbacks Britain could 'never again' mount a campaign like the Falklands.

"The aircraft today are fewer than we had in my time," said Air Commodore John Burke who retired at the age of 55.

He outlined his personal experience of the TSR-2, Nimrod and F-111 at a recent meeting of the club.

Air Commodore Burke, the next door neighbour of Rotarian Chris Allsop, described the TSR-2 technical fighter bomber as a 'unique aircraft.'

"It was the fastest landing aircraft to get height that anyone had ever achieved at that time. It could fire missiles and deal with

an enemy threat. The engines were a test bed for Concorde," he told Rotarians.

He described other features of the TSR-2 which could fire missiles and deal with an enemy threat. Nimrod, he said, 'never had a fair chance' though its problems were not insurmountable.

He also spoke of British nuclear tests - in Maralinga, Australia, and Christmas Island - as well as atomic weapons.

By sheer coincidence, John and Chris had previously worked in the same towns, Southampton and Chester, before they both came to Shrewsbury.

The club's president Gareth Watkins welcomed Air Commodore John Burke to the club.



A NIGHT OF GIVING

At an extraordinary meeting of Ellesmere Rotary Club on Wednesday 4th December 2013, President Geoff Corfield handed out Club donations totalling over £600 to representatives of various local organisations that all did sterling work during The Ellesmere Rotary Regatta in July. The Club is very grateful for their

efforts, and wishes to support them in the other good works that they do in the locality. Recipients included Steve Farrington of Inner Space Diving Club, 2Lt Morgan Collinge of Ellesmere Platoon of Shropshire Army Cadet Force, Louise Schaffer of Ellesmere Scout Group, and Ian Williams of Ellesmere First Responders.



L-R: Steve Farrington, 2Lt Morgan Collinge, Ellesmere Rotary President Geoff Corfield, Louise Schaffer and Ian Williams.

Wolstanton Rotary Shop Opens

A new shop that supports local charities has been opened in Newcastle-Under-Lyme by the Rotary Club of Wolstanton.

The shop, situated at No 1 High Street - previously the site of a Douglas Macmillan Home shop - opened its doors on Friday 15th November, and will be manned from 10am to 4pm every day, except Sundays.

This venture is the brainchild of Rotarian Brian Bentley, who feels that there is a desire by people to support charities which are active in the local community. All monies raised at the shop will be used to help good causes in North Staffordshire.

Already this year the club have supported Arch (North Staffordshire), Fresh Hair and Beauty Salon at the North Staffs University Hospital, The Douglas Macmillan Home, North Staffs Parkinson's Society, North Staffs Samaritans and Midland Air Ambulance.

Members of the club, together with their family and friends, will operate the shop for two months over the Christmas and New Year period.

Brian will be pleased to welcome shoppers, and will also be grateful to anyone who wishes to donate goods to sell.



Visit of DG Barry Picken to Wolstanton Rotary Club Charity Shop

Into its third week of trading, and who should come to call at the Wolstanton Rotary Club charity shop? only our District Governor, Barry Picken accompanied by his wife, Jenny.

Welcoming them to the shop were club President David Morgan and the inspiration behind the project, Brian Bentley.

Barry informed them that as far as he was aware, this is the first Rotary Charity shop in the Midlands, and he wished to see for himself how it was operating.

A 3 month lease was obtained. Club members were involved in sorting out legal issues, health and safety requirements and security arrangements.

Shop fittings were begged and borrowed. An army of club members and their wives cleaned windows, floors and walls. Signs were made. Everyone "mucked in" to make sure the shop would be a success.

Club members, their families, friends and friends of friends were asked to donate saleable items. Quickly an assortment of clothes, bric-a-brac, books, handbags, toys, curtains, scarves, hats, pictures and all manner of items arrived. Everything needed sorting, pricing and displaying in the shop.

After two weeks trading the revenue generated exceeded the total outgoings expected over the 3 months occupancy and money now generated will go towards supporting local charities.

The project has involved all club members, their wives and partners. It has brought great excitement and a good deal of satisfaction to all concerned, and has reinforced an atmosphere of camaraderie within the club.

The shop will remain open until the end of January, when any unsold goods will be donated to other charity shops in the locality.



The District Governor with key members of the "staff" - Rotarian wives Val Morgan (left) and Doreen Bentley (right).

**VIVA
ROTARY!
LONG LIVE ROTARY**

DGE Lynne and Ron invite you to join them at the Venue Cymru, Llandudno for the District 1210 Conference to have a weekend of fun and fellowship with a variety excellent speakers including Norman Croucher OBE an hilarious and motivational speaker, Gail Stuart daughter of Eric Morecambe, and Edwina Currie to name but three.

Back by popular demand on Friday evening is the themed optional fancy dress "Viva Espana" and you will be entertained by "Rang a Tang". On Saturday there will be the traditional District Governors Ball with entertainment by "Co Stars" again back by popular demand.

Clubs have Registration Forms they are also available on the District 1210 Website from the main menu on www.rotary1210.org.

So fellow Rotarians complete your Registration Form, and join District Governor Elect Lynne and Ron at your District Conference "VIVA ROTARY" in Llandudno on 26th – 28th September 2014.

Thursday 27th March 2014, 7.45pm
Methodist Central Hall, Abbeville Street, Walsall, WS1 9EQ

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SANTA AND HIS HELPFUL ELVES

Over the three weekends of December, prior to Christmas, the Rotary Club of Shrewsbury, supported by Rotary members from the Shawbury & Mid Shropshire and Shrewsbury Darwin clubs, ran a very successful Santa's Grotto in the Pride Hill Shopping Centre.

Organiser Alan Coplestone, a member of the Shrewsbury Club praised the artistic merit of Maggie Love and her team for the magnificent grotto that they built, The Winter Wonderland. It drew many positive comments from those using the facility.

He also thanked the Rotary Club members who gave up their time & dignity, to dress as elves to support Father Christmas in the grotto, their up beat approach brought Christmas early to some 700 children. Finally thanks to the ladies of the Inner Wheel Club who helped wrap the many gifts.

Ideally situated on the top floor of the Pride Hill Centre and supported by positive advertising the event raised £3,034 for Rotary Charities. This Club's share was £1,622 after working for 193 hours.



SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS IN DARLASTON

The Rotary Club of Darlaston is again grateful to all those in our community who supported it's Christmas fund-raising efforts. Santa visited many old friends and made quite a few new ones.

Our five evenings around Darlaston, and our Saturday at the "Spirit of Christmas" event, led to contributions totalling £1490, all of which will be used for needy causes within our local communities; "...volunteers don't have expenses"

We don't have the rich pickings of many other Rotary Clubs; the area we serve is among the most



economically and socially deprived areas in the UK - and geographically very small. Our sleigh, bringing Santa, has become very much part of the local Christmas. We also visit local schools, residential homes and local pubs during the build-up to Christmas.

To see how we use those funds in trying to make life a little better for someone, somewhere, follow our postings on Facebook throughout the forthcoming year, or check our website: www.darlastonrotary.net



JOIN THE CLUB

Karen May-Wilcox has had a dream Thai wedding, gained many new friends and taken up caravanning, thanks to the Rotary Club. No wonder she is proud to be one branch's second female member.

When Karen May-Wilcox married her husband Ray 12, years ago, it was the Rotary Club that ensured their day was special.

The Shropshire couple had been together a decade when they decided to tie the knot in Thailand. With just three weeks to plan the trip and ceremony, long-standing Rotarian Ray Wilcox got in touch with the local club in Phuket. Members there went out of there way to help make their wedding perfect.

"A lady who was a friend of a Rotarian arranged everything. I wanted a Christian wedding which we thought might be a problem in Thailand as the majority are Buddhists. But she managed to find someone to conduct a Christian ceremony," Karen recalls.

"The club arranged our wedding lock, stock and barrel, even so far as returning from one of their main Buddhist holidays to attend our wedding. It was fantastic. What other organization could do that for you?" asks Karen.

Two years ago Karen, who lives in Corvedale, decided that she would like to be a member of the club that had played such a major role in her life.

The IT team leader and trainer is now a member of Bridgnorth Rotary Club. She is one of just three women in the 28 strong club. But, she says, being female hasn't made the slightest difference. "If someone has a genuine interest in doing something worthwhile, fellowship and service within the community, then they will enjoy Rotary." The interaction between members is



fantastic and instantly you have 20-plus friends."

Karen is proud to have been involved in projects that have helped the community both locally and globally, including hospital fetes, litter picking, parties for the disabled, holidays in Blackpool for the elderly and support for students to visit underdeveloped countries. "We provide Christmas trees for Bridgnorth town centre and support Macmillan Cancer Support with fundraising," she adds.

We have raised nearly £2,000 for charities including The League of Friends of Bridgnorth Hospital.

Although Rotary has a keen tradition of charity and community work, Karen emphasises that fun and fellowship plays a big part in the club too. As well as planning their nuptials, the Rotary Club has helped Karen, Ray and Chip, their beloved springer spaniel, to enjoy a new hobby.

"We joined the international Caravanning Fellowship of Rotarians (ICFR) and have just returned from our second rally in Norfolk which was absolutely fantastic. We had such a giggle," she laughs. "We didn't have a clue and were very green as it was our first caravan. We couldn't even put our awning up, but straight away people came to help us. That's what Rotarians are like!"

DISTRICT 1210

EDITOR: Keith Law - Rotary Club of Dudley

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NEXT ISSUE

The **SUMMER** issue of **ROTO** will be published in **May 2014** and will be available at the District Council meeting on Thursday 22nd May, 2014

COPY for the SUMMER Issue is required by TUESDAY 22ND APRIL 2014

The Quarterly Newspaper for Rotary District 1210 (Shropshire, Staffordshire & West Midlands)

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