

theROTO

ISSUE 27 SUMMER - 2020

DISTRICT 1210

www.rotary1210.org

Foundation Disaster Response Grant

FOOD BANK HEROES - PAGE 12



Spiderman the Kidsgrove hero



Spiderman and his gang of helpers were seen out and about in Kidsgrove, handing out sweets and treats to children all over the town.

Kidsgrove Rotary, together with Clough Hall junior parkrun, Denise Coffey and Spiderman himself, spent several afternoons walking around the town, handing out to the children. All at a safe distance of course.



A virtual guest

Wellington's virtual special guest becomes a real Rotarian. John Armstrong was introduced as a special guest to Wellington Rotary at the first zoom meeting of the whole club on 22 June. John was recommended to the Telford Tree of Light committee as a web site expert when an upgrade to the Wellington Rotary and Tree of Light websites was recommended by the current maintainer when support for website software DRUPAL 7 was withdrawn.

it was also recommended that the web sites should be hosted in a commercial environment. John has spent a lot of time converting the web sites to WordPress and has also put the club in touch with a local hosting company.

'As a result of reading ALL of our website (possible the only one who has) he became keen to join Wellington Rotary so we must have been doing something right!' says Peter Seaward.



A fond farewell from outgoing...

District Governor

Brian Reilly



I hope you are all staying safe, well and coping with these changing times. As Paul Harris said in 1935:



How true that rings today. Who would have imagined at the beginning of January 2020 that by the end of March we would all be socially isolating and our collective meetings would be banned? But they are and we have and are changing. Online meetings have become the norm and fellowship via these virtual meetings has replaced contact meetings for the time being for many of us. Despite these differences I have enjoyed my year as District Governor and have made many new friends as well as renewing old friendships. Thank you for making me so welcome at the events you held.

We have found that with social isolation the volunteering aspects of people in our society has increased and many more are seeking ways to support and participate in community and larger projects - just look at the response to Captain Tom's walk for the NHS - fantastic. Online meetings give us as Rotarians an ideal way to engage with these community volunteers via Rotary at "No cost", providing new ways for helping and creating a source of opportunity for our work "Service above Self", particularly to connect to the many and varied organisations that are being supported throughout the Staffordshire, Shropshire and Black Country area of the West Midlands.

Many in the community have commented on how pleased and happy they have been to engage with Rotary in all sorts of activities, Rotary Books4Home, PPE equipment for local hospitals and hospices and now social distancing kits, support for food banks and providing resources to help with reopening charity shops.

Earlier this year, we were delighted that Rotarian Dr Viquar Qurashi of the Rotary Club of Sedgley & Wombourne, received a Rotary "Champion of Change" Award.

We hosted two District, then very successful Regional Finals for the "Young

Musician" and "Youth Speaks (The Debate), as well as the District "Young Chef" and other youth competitions.

Sadly, the National Finals were not able to go ahead for these competitions due to the national Volunteer Expo event at the NEC in May being delayed for a year.

We are however delighted that Luke Millington (a volunteer for Hope House Childrens Hospice) sponsored by Telford Centre Rotary Club was selected for a "Rotary Young Citizen Award 2020" and was presented with his award on the BBC News TV channel in May.

If you are a non-Rotarian reading this magazine, you will see Rotary provides Fun, Fellowship and that opportunity "With a purpose" to all, so no matter what your interest or desire to get involved is focused around, talk to your local Rotary club or contact via www.rotary1210.org or www.facebook.com/RotaryD1210/

I look forward to working with current members and those who join during this coming year and wish new DG Ken the very best for his year.

Best Wishes

Brian Reilly
Immediate Past District Governor D1210

Rotarians support Mayfair by going without their dinner

No - this was not an attempt to lose weight, but to give pounds that otherwise would have been spent on Church Stretton club dinners twice a month. But with the arrival of Coronavirus, face to face meetings have been banned to comply with the government instructions to stay at home, be safe and save lives.

Club members are fully aware that the demand for the delivery of meals to homes is increasing week by week and thankfully Mayfair are managing the situation by attracting additional volunteer deliverers.

Rotary is recognized as an organisation that exists to help struggling communities locally and internationally, and its motto is "Service above Self". Due to the impact of Coronavirus the club was not able to organise fundraising events or undertake street collections, so it was agreed that it would look for donations from members.

Yes members did go without their dinner but more importantly they were able to send £1,085 to Mayfair as a contribution to help them to help people who are struggling within their local community.

Thank You

St Mary's Catholic Primary School thank Rotary Club of Stoke on Trent for their donation towards its hygiene facilities!! We really appreciate your help towards keeping us safe and clean in school.



Lend with Care Project

Walsall Saddlers Rotary's Lend with Care Project which provides small low cost loans to entrepreneurs in

developing countries, has provided loans to Anita Ballena Tandaypan and Rosa Villegas Martinez both from Peru. Anita needed the loan for her retail shop and Rosa needed funding for her poultry and animal farming business. The club wishes them well with their businesses.



Rotary Keeps the Distance for Hospices

Who would have thought that entering a shop could be a bit of a puzzling experience? Where to stand? How to be friendly at the till but not risk the health of the operator?

Hospice shops have started to reopen for business but will need all the social distancing equipment required in other shops. Graphics to stand on, hand sanitising stations to squirt, sneeze screens to protect – all are needed by every store and hospices need every penny they have for their invaluable services.

Hospice shops are a lifeline for many people and a tremendous source of much needed income for hospices. Through a grant and generous donations the Rotary clubs in the district 1210 (Most of Staffordshire, Shropshire and part of the West Midlands) are managing to donate social distancing equipment for about 70% of the over 100 hospice shops in their district so far.

Wellington's Bursary scheme

Since 2006 the Rotary Club of Wellington has supported students who move on to Higher Education or into work with an award to help them in their studies. Students are interviewed by a panel of Wellington Rotarians who then recommend a recipient, subject to examination results.

The 2020 recipient of the award writes: "Hello everyone! I'd like to start by saying thank you for your generous assistance in my education. You chose me for the Rotary Club bursary last year and I was able to get an iPad for university. It's brilliant. I use it for everything. Writing up notes, using the apps available for my anatomy classes and even getting creative for future businesses I'd like to start! I hope you are all well and safe! I can't believe it has been a year since I met you all at lunch. Time flies when you are having fun. I have nearly completed my first year at Brighton University and it has been great! I have enjoyed it very much. I've been taking advantage of the different societies and clubs. I've met people from different parts of the world and it's been great."

"I am glad I made the decision to go to university as it's such a fantastic experience. I am definitely looking forward to going into my second year in September once this Coronavirus peak has passed. The current situation has made me more determined to help make a difference in healthcare. Stay safe and well!"

NEXT ISSUE

The **NEXT** issue of **ROTO** will be published in **JANUARY 2021**.

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Getting to know you...

Ken Wagstaffe

District Governor



How long have you been a Rotarian?

Since 1985 so 35 years.

How were you introduced to Rotary?

I was asked by Scott Webster, former President of The Wrekin Rotary Club.

What was your vocation before retirement?

Chartered Public Finance Accountant. My working environment for the last 25 years of my professional life was spent as an adviser in the developing world on a wide range of urban and rural development projects for organisations like the World Bank, United Nations and the British Department for International Development. The last few years were spent predominantly advising the Russian Government on Public Finance and Accounting. My international interest within Rotary has come from my career.

How many countries have you worked in?

More than 40 so that's most parts of the world apart from South America.

What is your favourite country?

After the UK it is difficult to decide because I have enjoyed them all but if pushed I would choose Tanzania. It was the first country I visited so it has an emotional link.

What encouraged you to go for District Governor?

Twisted arms and legs! But I have a desire to develop a more collegiate form of governance which encourages and supports a high degree of club autonomy, and reducing waste and, therefore, cost. Creating a committed team of people I can trust and can work with is essential.

What are your leisure interests?

Mountaineering, travel, photography.

What is your favourite food?

A real Indian curry.

What was your first car?

Standard Vanguard Mk 2 costing £250 second hand and successor to my Triumph Tiger 110 motor bike.

What has been your greatest inspiration in Rotary?

The work of Rotary Foundation in the developing world, especially water, sanitation and healthcare.

What is your favourite type of holiday?

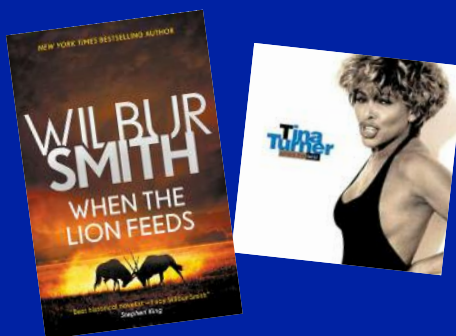
An outdoor adventure.

What do you do to relax?

Please define 'relax'!

Name a book and a record you would take to a desert island?

Wilbur Smith 'When the Lion Feeds' and Tina Turner's 'Simply the Best'



Reveal something about yourself that might surprise us?

I watch Coronation Street, which I suppose might qualify as an answer to how I relax.

Name your favourite TV programme?

Question Time with Fiona Bruce, and just about any documentary on the great outdoors.

If you could meet an historical figure, whom would it be?

Dinner with Winston Churchill, Nelson Mandela and Admiral Lord Nelson. All great leaders of their time.

If you had an unlimited supply of one thing what would it be?

Stamina. The cup of tasks is always brim full.

Is there something in life that you have never understood?

The female thought process (ask the wife!).

Who would you hate to be stuck in a lift with?

An elephant. I have an unexplained phobia of confined spaces.

If you had to be stuck in a lift with someone, who would you prefer it to be?

Michelle Obama.

What is it about this lady you admire?

Her style and approach to humanity.

How would you like to be remembered?

I want to be seen as 'Firm but fair' and that I lived by the Four Way Test.

Can you say something more about yourself.

I am very logical and a team player. I hope people will talk to me during my year. My door is always open to discuss issues and to just simply chat. I have a very supportive wife in Doreen.

How do you see Rotary and has it changed?

I don't think Rotary has changed significantly, its aims and objectives are the same, but the delivery of services has altered somewhat. I aim to recognise the best in Rotary in the coming year, and support that. We have an opportunity for new beginnings and while clubs continue on, they can embrace and adapt to their new situation. For example the Wrekin club has changed and moved from being very formal. There is no club council and all members are involved. There is one business meeting a month. Wearing t-shirts is more comfortable too. They show a more relaxed approach to the historic public impression and perception of Rotary.

District Assembly and Beyond

From incoming District Governor Ken Wagstaffe

This year's District Assembly was very different from anything previously undertaken and I hope that those who attended found it interesting and stimulating.

The current pandemic and subsequent lockdown has forced us to radically rethink how we do things.

It is clear that the world has been changing for some time and it has become increasingly digital.

The younger members of society now pretty much conduct the whole of their lives using electronic communications and this has meant that we of the older generations have had to adapt to this new world. Some have found that change easier to manage than others.

For the District Assembly the District Training Officer Barry Picken and I had to take some decisive action at short notice and with the help of our whole leadership team we put together the series of breakout groups using the Zoom video conferencing tool.

I was extremely pleased with the way the sessions were received and the contributions that attendees made to the sessions. Each session was well attended and many cases it was felt that there were more attendees than we would normally expect at a traditional District Assembly. There is no doubt that there is a great deal of positivity in the district and a genuine desire to make Rotary work through the crisis

and beyond. The feedback that we have received is extremely encouraging and we feel that we have a good base from which we can develop for the future.

Rotary is a global brand which has rightly achieved a highly respected and trusted status around the world and now, as much as at any time in the past, there is a need for Rotary's commitment to support communities at home and internationally. The District Assembly is an event where club leaders collectively join together to consider our activities for the coming Rotary year and where we get to understand the global message that Rotary is promoting.

The district Leadership team is here to provide support and assistance to members and to clubs but we need to know what help and support you need. This means that we need a good dialogue between clubs and the district team and that is where the Assistant Governors have a big role to play. In the current situation the use of video conferencing is a practical way to keep in touch with one another and we all need to engage with this new way of communicating.

I have asked Assistant Governors to maintain regular contact with the clubs in their zones and to speak to Club Presidents regularly not just through the formal zone meetings. Club Presidents in 2020-21 have all agreed



that they will seek speakers from the district team several times during the year so that club members can find out first-hand about what services and support district can provide.

The momentum built up at the District Assembly needs to be maintained and encouraged and we have agreed that there will be a series of similar sessions throughout the year where club officers and district leaders can continue the dialogue that was established over the last few days.

These new ways of working should improve the relationships between clubs and the district leadership team and they will have a significant effect on the cost of running the district.

Club nominated for Our Heroes award

The Rotary Club of Stoke-on-Trent has stepped up to help wherever it can during the pandemic.

Monthly cash donations have been made to The Hubb Foundation and Stoke-on-Trent Food Banks, and Rotary members have been shopping to buy items for other good causes. Club Secretary David Woolrich has been out using club funds to buy long life food and hygiene products then delivering them where they're needed.

The Nappy Project and Holy Trinity Church in Harthill have each received a monthly delivery from David, which he says will continue for as long as needed and club funds allow.

David said: "We quickly realised that we should be focusing on helping those who are in turn helping people in a very poor state. The Nappy Project gives us a shopping list and we go out and buy items

that they need.

"Similarly the Holy Trinity Church tells us what they need, be that soap, shampoo or tinned food and we go out and get it for them. The Hubb Foundation is also doing such a fantastic job for people in a poor state and also some key workers who are on low incomes." The club bought 400 visors and shared them out between care facilities including West Croft Nursing in Hanley, Stadium Court in Cobridge, New Lodge in Lightwood Road, Wilbraham House in Audley, Holly Lodge in Werrington, The Douglas Macmillan Hospice and The Hollies in Hanley. David added: "We were trying to help the people who had been missed, the little places that might not have any PPE at all. People know about the two large hospices in the area but there are so many little places doing similar things that don't necessarily have people fundraising for them." Now

the Rotary Club of Stoke-on-Trent has been nominated for an Our Heroes Award, in the Community Group of the Year category, for its ongoing support of the people of North Staffordshire during the pandemic.

The club, which was formed in 1927, has a long history of supporting good causes across the city and the wider area.

Recent projects have included paying for sanitary products and spare clothing for high schools so that girls don't miss out on schooling due to having a period.

David added: "A lot of education is missed by these youngsters. Having spare clothing in schools works really well. Schools hand out what we provide for them and then when it's all gone we top it up. We've been doing it for a couple of years now."

Rotary Club of Stoke on Trent

Rev Chris from Holy Trinity Church at Hartshill received a donation of goodies for their Food bank from Rotary Club of Stoke on Trent for June.



Rotary Club of Walsall Saddlers

Walsall Saddlers member Ashley Gray is shown having collected supplies from Costco, Erdington and delivering them to the Black Country Food Bank at the Ablewell Advice Centre, Walsall. This is part of a \$3 million worldwide disaster response grant from the Rotary Foundation to provide PPE and food for vulnerable people in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.



In Remembrance

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

Austin Cashmore
Brian Bass
Dave Reeves
Dr. Fraser Dukes
Malcolm Cooper
Mike Ferns
Malcolm High

Facing the pandemic safely

The Rotary Club of Audley has bought 300 full face visors in the Rotary Club of Cannock campaign, made by Kazoo Print Solutions. These were taken to very grateful local Care Homes and local First

Responders. This was an excellent initiative by the Rotary Club of Cannock resulting in many people on the front line being able to access these as part of their PPE, and kept safe.

Teddy bear bonanza

An urgent call for knitted teddies was answered recently. The Buddy Bag Foundation found themselves out of the small chaps. So Rotarian Sylvia Kerris of Eccleshall Mercia co-ordinated the appeal in the Stafford and Eccleshall area and the result was tremendous. Over 250 Teddy bears have been donated from Eccleshall, Stafford Castle, Stafford Knot, Stafford

Castle Inner wheel, The Izaak Walton Masonic Lodge and members of the public. Stafford Castle Rotarian Chris Johnson, the teddies' friend and chauffeur collected them from various locations and transported them with Sylvia to the Buddy Bags Foundation at Sutton Coldfield for packing. After unloading the teddies Sylvia and Chris helped with packing of the bags.



ADVERTISING

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Rotary helping our NHS heroes

The Rotary club of Cannock is coordinating a district wide project to provide much needed Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for our NHS frontline heroes

The project which is being run in conjunction with Kazoo PSG a local printing company who prior to Rotary coming on board had already manufactured and donated some 5,000 visors direct to frontline NHS staff at a number of local hospitals.

Kazoo has turned its entire production facility over to making full face visors made to NHS demanding standards.



Dr Tom Sheeran Rheumatology department Cannock Chase Hospital receiving first batch of Visors from Rotarian Harold Boulton

across the District.

Rotary are aware of the need to also help local care homes and medical centres and visors made specify to meet their needs were produced and delivered by Rotarians as fast as they were produced.

The project will continue as long as the need is there and donations can still be made via Rotary Club of Cannock

If any frontline services, care facilities, medical centres and pharmacies etc are in need of face masks at this very demanding time please contact your local Rotary club for more details.

For more information about The Rotary Club of Cannock visit www.cannockrotary.co.uk or email secretary@cannockrotary.co.uk



Rotary clubs from across Staffordshire, Shropshire, the Potteries and West Midlands plus individual Rotarians, friends and local companies have responded with fantastic generosity and donations to date have reached £15,000 which has enabled some 12,000 full face visors to be manufactured

The visors needed to fight the COVID 19 virus were delivered to frontline hospital staff, care facilities and medical centres across the district.

Visors were also provided to New Cross Hospital Heart and Lung Department, Walsall Manor Hospital and Cannock Chase Hospital plus many other hospitals



Toiletries for the Princess

Rotarian Anne De Vere, of The Wrekin Rotary Club, delivered a second batch of toiletries to the Princess Royal Hospital, Telford. Staff from Ward 11 received the donations from Anne.



....and I will walk 100 miles

On March 21st my husband, Joe, and I should have been celebrating our Golden Wedding anniversary with friends and family.



Of course, that didn't happen but instead of getting upset, being a member of Rotary, I decided to raise some funds for charity by walking 100 miles round and round our garden. I have been a customer of our NHS since birth (being born in Ebbw Vale makes me especially proud) and owe it a huge debt. Just before Christmas I had treatment that now necessitates me staying in "lockdown" which is very frustrating, so the walk was a way out.

During the weeks I walked and the sunshine has been a huge bonus. I haven't lost an ounce of weight but feel much fitter. I have discovered Podcasts and enjoyed the Great Lives set hugely. Music has been my companion most of the walk but there are only so many times you can listen to Sloop John B. I know every weed and stone in our garden intimately. Our local blackbird, Pavarotti, was singing as I achieved my goal. Hurrah. The hardest part was the last 10 miles.

However, it has all been worth it. Our local hospice put out a plea that they were worried about funds as all their functions and shops etc were closed and cancelled so their regular income had stopped. At the time I started, PPE was in short supply so some of the money that has been raised went to buying visors. The rest will go towards the hospice, who knows, we may need them one day.

Thank you to everyone who supported me, especially the members of the Rotary Club of Stafford Knot, it looks as if, with gift aid, the final total will be around £2,000. It has been an experience I shall never forget but I will not be putting in for the walk in the next Olympics.

Barbara Wetton
Rotary Club of Stafford Knot

Goodbye to a Beloved Rotarian

With the passing of Alexander Fraser Dukes at his home on May 6th 2020, one day after his 93rd birthday, a man who was widely respected and honoured has been lost to the City of Wolverhampton and to the Rotary International movement.

Born in Willenhall, West Midlands in 1927, Fraser attended Queen Mary Grammar School in Walsall. He played in the school's rugby 1st 15 and was also an accomplished musician with his own jazz band.

Fraser graduated in medicine from Birmingham University in 1950. National Service then followed and he was due to be deployed to Korea. However, an error in military records resulted in him instead, at the very last minute, serving as the Medical Officer at the Copthorne Barracks in Shrewsbury, where his medical training was put to good use.

Although he declined the offer of 'becoming a regular' in the Royal Army Medical Corps, he subsequently served for twelve years in the Herefordshire Light Infantry Regiment of the Territorial Army, rising to the rank of Major.

In 1953, Fraser married Beryl Jean, a childhood sweetheart who he had first met at a school dance. This rock-solid relationship lasted for over sixty years, until Jean's death in 2015, and provided the unfailing support that underpinned Fraser's life. At a personal level, their first child William Frazer was born in 1956, followed by Ian Timothy in 1958 and Catherine Sarah in 1960. Cornish holidays and canal boating were regular features of family life, as were Fraser's considerable skills at both cooking and gardening.

He became a General Practitioner with surgeries in Penn and Wombourne in 1955. His ability to listen and communicate made him a grand master of the art of family medicine and he continued in this professional role, as a much loved and well respected family doctor, until his retirement from medical practice in 1992.

Alongside his clinical work, Fraser became well known in medical circles across Wolverhampton. In the early 1960s, he chaired the steering committee that successfully raised funds for the Medical Institute at Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital, which now houses the postgraduate centre. He was the Medical Director of the Wolverhampton out of hours GP service from the late 1960s until 1988.

In 1966 as a result of having building

alteration work done at the surgery in Wombourne, Fraser became friendly with the Wolverhampton architect, the late Guy Wones. Guy asked him if he would like to 'have lunch with him'. This turned out to be a meeting of the Rotary Club of Wolverhampton with the result that Fraser became a Rotarian later that year.

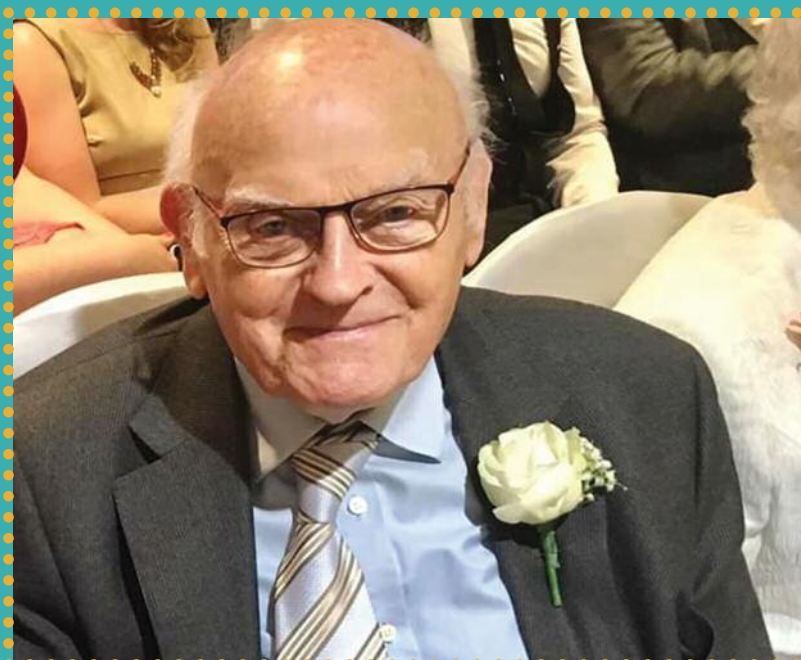
He played a significant role on the Rotary committee established in 1979 for the formation of Compton Hospice, a sanctuary for patients with incurable conditions. Fraser was able to bring first-hand knowledge of the physical, emotional and psychological needs of these patients and their families. Considerable funding was needed and Fraser's gentle but passionate and informed approach was a big factor in the success of the drive to acquire the buildings and open the hospice, particularly in bringing all the local Rotary clubs together in support.

The first patient was admitted in February 1982, and the Hospice was officially opened by the Duchess of Kent in December of that year. It now has 260 staff and over 600 volunteers. In November 1984, Fraser was involved in a public meeting that led to the establishment of the Wolverhampton Multiple Sclerosis Centre. Fraser told the meeting that Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) represented a breakthrough in the relief of suffering associated with MS. The centre, which opened in 1986, continues to provide therapy and oxygen tank treatment for an average of 150 patients every week.

Within Rotary, Fraser was the President of the Rotary Club of Wolverhampton in 1983/84, District Governor in 1996/97 and a member of the Rotary in Great Britain National Foundation Committee in 1997/98.

It was in 1986 that the Chairman of the District Rotary Foundation committee, later District Governor, Ron Lucas tapped him on the shoulder and said

'I've got a little job for you.' This turned out to be the Chairmanship of



the District 1210 Polio Plus committee, a post he held for the rest of his life. He continued to deliver talks and seminars on the Rotary campaign to eliminate the scourge of Polio from the world, with the result that District 1210 has donated over \$700,000 to that cause. His drive, energy and enthusiasm for the cause of Polio elimination earned him universal respect.

He was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship in 1988, followed by a PHF Sapphire in 2000 and a PHF Ruby in 2010.

In April 2014, he received the Rotary International Service Above Self Award – the highest honour in Rotary, in recognition of his tireless devotion to the cause of Polio elimination.

A maximum of only 150 such awards are made every year across the whole Rotary world. This was followed in 2016 by the Rotary Foundation's Distinguished Service Award.

The sadness of countless numbers of people – his family including surviving son Tim and daughter Cathey, former patients, friends and his many Rotarian colleagues across the world – at the loss of this kind, knowledgeable and truly gentle man is keenly felt and will last for many years.

Luke Millington wins Rotary Young Citizen Award 2020

Inspirational Luke Millington wins Rotary Young Citizen Award after raising tens of thousands of pounds for children's hospices.

Luke Millington 21 years old, from Telford, decided to lead a fundraising appeal for Hope House and Ty Gobaith Children's Hospices and is celebrating after smashing his £50,000 goal - raising £60,000.

Luke made a video to show how the charity has helped him since he was diagnosed with the incurable muscle-wasting condition Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. It tells how his nurse Rachel has supported him and made him see that anything is possible, such as learning to drive.

Luke said: "I'm in a wheelchair but it's not the be all and end all – I just carry on. There is stuff I can't do but what's the point of thinking about what you can't do?"

He added: "I've been playing wheelchair football now for five or six years because football is something I like that I didn't think I'd be able to do. We tackle and crash and it's pretty cool! My dream is to play for England. I need to play a lot better before that, but I can get there I think!"

His story and incredible positivity captured everyone's hearts and the hospices were bombarded with messages for Luke, along with donations.

Luke is thrilled, because the money raised will fund support for five more children at Hope House or Ty Gobaith in 2020.

He says: "I feel really lucky to have Hope House in my life but sad too that they can only afford to help one in every three children who need them."

Telford Centre Rotary were so impressed with Luke that they nominated him for a Rotary Young Citizen Award. Luke has also helped the Club with their Tree of Light – which commemorates loved ones at Christmas.

Luke said: "I would like to say a big massive thank you to the Telford Centre Rotary Club for nominating me for this fantastic award. When Hope House approached me to become their Ambassador, I was thrilled with the opportunity to help raise funds for the charity that has helped my family and me so much."

He added: "Attending fundraising events has given me important life skills such as the confidence to take part in public speaking. It has also given me the opportunity to get involved with Rotary.



When the world has come out of these unprecedented times, I hope to continue with helping Hope House and Telford Centre Rotary with other fundraising projects." Luke will receive a trophy, certificate and £300 to go towards his chosen project or charity from Rotary in Britain and Ireland.

The Rotary Young Citizen Awards Presentation had been due to take place at the UK's first-ever Volunteer Expo, organised by Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland at the NEC in Birmingham this month but the event has been postponed until May 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Rotary in Britain and Ireland President Donna Wallbank said: "Luke shows how one person can make a difference to many others and highlights the need that is still there to help those who are not currently receiving the help that Luke is able to receive. Luke is obviously a passionate fundraiser and so very deserving of this award which in turn allows his voice to be heard for those he wishes to support too."

Vanessa Thomas, Head of Communications at Hope House and Ty Gobaith Children's Hospices said: "Luke is

an amazing young Ambassador for Hope House Children's Hospices and a complete inspiration to everyone who meets him. He was the first of our young service users to share his story. His bravery in speaking so honestly and frankly about his life with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and the challenges that he and his family face touched everyone's hearts and helped people to see the importance of children's hospices."

She added: "We are eternally grateful to Luke for helping to raise an incredible £60,000 through his Luke's Story appeal which will fund vital care and support for other young people, and for being such an inspirational and positive role model for other children and young people who are diagnosed with life-threatening conditions."

The Rotary Young Citizen Awards were started in 2007 to celebrate the amazing achievements of inspirational young people across Great Britain and Ireland, many of whom have assumed important responsibilities at a very young age.

Find out about the other inspirational Rotary Young Citizen Award 2020 winners at www.rotarygbi.org.

Results of the Youth Competitions 2020

Young Artist

Junior – 15 participants

Winner	Maisie Wilkins	Clee Hill Community Academy	RC Ludlow
Runner Up	James Lewis	Clee Hill Community Academy	RC Ludlow

Intermediate - 7 participants

Winner	Sean Jalving	Ercall Wood Academy	RC The Wrekin
Runner Up	Fiona Bibin	Bishop Milner Catholic College	RC Dudley
Highly Comm	Lauren Cooper	Ercall Wood Academy	RC The Wrekin

Senior - 2 Participants

Winner	Rebecca Morris	Ercall Wood Academy	RC The Wrekin
Runner Up	Isabel Shaw	Ercall Wood Academy	RC The Wrekin

Young Environmentalist

Senior – 1 participant

Winner	Sian Mercer	Thomas Adams School	RC Wem
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Young Photographer

Junior - 6 participants

Winner	Bryn Roberts	c/o Haberdashers Abraham Darby	RC Ironbridge
Runner Up	Teyana Hayman	Adcote School	RC The Wrekin

Intermediate - 8 participants

Winner	Chloe Wojda	Haberdashers Abraham Darby	RC Ironbridge
Runner Up	Eamon Thorley	Thomas Adams	RC Wem
Highly Comm	Kyan Atkinson	Chase Grammar School	RC Cannock

Senior - 7 participants

Winner	Chloe Simms	Haberdashers Abraham Darby	RC Ironbridge
Runner Up	Jacob Ryder	Ercall Wood Academy	RC The Wrekin

Young Writer

16 participants

Junior	Charlie Griffiths	St. Margaret's CofE School, Wolstanton	RC Stoke-on-Trent
Intermediate	Annie Llewellyn	Abbotsholme School	RC Uttoxeter
Senior	Maddie Andrews	Thomas Alleyes High School	RC Uttoxeter

Participation and Winner's Certificates have been produced and will be sent on to the sponsoring clubs in due course. All the winning entries have been sent to Rotary Great Britain and Ireland. The original artwork for Young Artist is being held as the RIBI offices in Alcester are closed. However scans have been taken of the artwork and sent alongside the entry forms. digital files of the Young Photographer winning entries have been sent. I have received acknowledgement of all the entries.

Robyn Davies, Youth Services Lead

Eye protection visors for NHS personnel

by Providing Eye Protection Visors

Members of Church Stretton Rotary Club and others in local communities are reminded daily of the sacrifices that NHS personnel make due to the lack of or poor quality of Personal Protective Equipment.

The frontline staff including consultants, doctors and nurses risk their lives every day to save others. But they are not alone. Don't forget porters, ambulance drivers and all other personnel working with

hospital staff.

Without the supply of Personal Protective Equipment, specified and agreed with the NHS, patients were at greater risk.

A Royal College of Nursing survey found staff have been asked to reuse single-use Personal Protective Equipment. They are clear that this is unsafe and does not provide adequate protection for both the user and patients. BBC News reported that Dr Chaand Nagpaul, the BMA's Council Chairman, said "Doctors are facing

heartbreaking decisions over whether to carry on without proper protection".

Rotary members decided that the club needed to help and donated £400 to buy approximately 320 eye visors that were delivered to Shrewsbury Hospital.

Clubs within our geographical area have currently placed orders for 15,500 eye protection visors.

Rotary Clubs across the country support their local hospitals, health centres and care homes.

Wolverhampton Clubs' membership success

A **Let's Talk Rotary and You** campaign has attracted a whole host of new members to the club.

They are:

Susan Husband

MS Therapy Centre Manager
August 2019

Lisa Stallard

Co-founder Wolves Play Cafe & Care Home Facilitator
October 2019

Julie Hickman

Programme/Project Manager
February 2020

Dr Sudhir Sharma

General Practitioner (Retired)
February 2020

David Hill

British Steel Distribution & TA Officer (Retired) / SSAFA
February 2020

Katie Guest

Royal Air Force Museum Development
March 2020

Sally Woods

Compton Care Wolverhampton
March 2020

Katie and Sally are 'administratively ready' members but their official welcome into the club on March 31st has been delayed because of the pandemic.

Rotarian Dr Alan Walters

Former General Practitioner in Wolverhampton

Rotarian Helena Walters

Alan and Helena join us from their Southern Cape Club in South Africa. Alan is a Past President of The Rotary Club of The City of Wolverhampton and he is returning to the city with Helena after a period of 20 years practicing medicine and developing support services in South Africa.

Stone and District news

Even during lockdown members have been busy members Rotarians of Stone and District. Despite suspending their twice a month meetings, they have started meeting weekly on Zoom and most members have attended. This lets folk maintain touch and to keep up contact through a difficult time. They have also set up a WhatsApp group to share news, information, jokes and video clips.

Members still support the community hub, whose food bank has seen increasing demand.

An order for Children in Need merchandise has been submitted, including items requested by other clubs. A few extra pieces have been ordered so if any local club would like them ask a Stone and District club member. Children in Need Day is still scheduled for Friday November 13th this year.

An initial quantity of 400 protective face visors were ordered through Cannock club. A Community Nurse, whose husband is a Rotarian, and who works from Rugeley received the visors for the team she works with and others. Sourced surgical masks and gloves were also given to them.

Food bank heroes

Rotary clubs across our District covering the West Midlands, Staffordshire and Shropshire, have been pulling out all the stops to deliver items to local food banks and women's refuges accessing a Rotary Foundation grant that allowed each participating club £150 each.

Food banks have said they expected an increase of 30 percent use during the coronavirus pandemic period. From stories heard around the region, where many more items of food have been requested, this seems to be true.

Emergency food is needed as thousands of people lose their jobs or families face

reduced incomes. The current situation demands that Rotarians show we can give Service Above Self, in our own backyard. There has also been a raised level of domestic violence incidents reported to Police as couples spend more time together at home, creating tension in some families.

Here is just a selection of clubs who have distributed food:

Blythe Bridge and District Rotary have sent food items to Blurton Food Bank. In addition they send cash and food on a very regular basis.

Stone and District have sent food to the Stone Community Hub who have reported a massive increase in requests.

Etruria Club have donated food to the Trussell Trust warehouse at Burton. The Trust operates a network of food banks across the region.

Sedgley and Wombourne have sent food hampers for their local women's refuge. This has eight self catering rooms and each received a hamper and a basket of fruit for the children.

Kidsgrove Rotary has sent food to their local food bank and promised an ongoing commitment to them.

Cheadle Club has sent to both their food bank and women's refuge.

Foundation Disaster Response Grant by Jayne Cooper Food for Foodbanks and Refuges across the District Social Distancing Packs for the Hospices across the District

This pandemic has led us in many uncharted directions. When The Rotary Foundation introduced the Disaster Response Grant, I never thought District 1210 would apply for one.

But here I was in early April 2020 filling in an application form. After asking clubs for their ideas it was decided to apply to buy 10,000 visors for health workers and for food banks and refuges.

A week or so later we were informed we had not made the cut to get the grant in the first allocation of money. The Rotary Foundation put more money in – still we did not make it and then more money in and we made it in early May - only the second district in England to do so. By this time clubs had magnificently funded and picked up the visors which were playing an important role within the hospitals and the community. However hospices nationwide were struggling to maintain services. So it was decided to support the hospices in our district by providing social distancing equipment to keep all safe in their shops as they reopened.

Meanwhile the money for the food banks and refuges went out to the zones to work with the clubs to decide the best way to distribute the funds. Zone 6 were first out of the blocks with the Black Country Food bank benefitting from about £150 worth of food from the grant, with Tesco, a corporate member of the RC of Dudley, adding a further £50. Some of the other clubs in zone 6 decided to fund food for the Good Shepherd Ministry (a homeless charity) and The Haven (a refuge for victims of domestic violence).

Meanwhile back at Kazoo (the company that made the visors) they were designing

window vinyls, sneeze screens to protect those at the tills, floor markings etc. So when you enter a hospice charity shop you must squeeze Rotary to get the hand sanitiser and stand on Rotary District 1210! Katharine House Hospice were kind enough to advise and visited the unit to see that the brilliant job done by Kazoo and David Marklew fitted their needs.

The grant will supply nearly 70 bundles and once again many clubs have chipped in to support their local hospice shop so as things stand we will be supplying over 90 of the over 100 shops in our district.

Well done and thanks to all who have made this possible.



Rotary helping foodbank

A massive thank you to everyone who has given to Blythe Bridge and District Rotary's Foodbank collection. This food was given by Rotarians, family, friends and neighbours and been taken to the Foodbank in Blurton by Martin & Chris Kettrick.

In one week four items that filled four car boots were delivered to the food bank including a £153 donation from the Rotary

International Disaster Fund. The Blythe Bridge and District Club voted to increase this donation to £200 and also had a £20 voucher from Tesco.

Local Foodbank has experienced a 400% increase in demand, so it has been collecting and delivering food every fortnight since the Coronavirus epidemic started.

Record giving for the Foodbank

Once again Telford members have come up trumps with their Telford Crisis Support donations this month.

Our Treasurer Geoff was able to deliver a cheque to the foodbank this morning for the sum of £645, a fantastic response. Since the lockdown began our donations have been £463 in March, £544 in April and now £645 in May, a total of £1652. This is in addition to our pre lockdown giving of over £900 together with some three tonnes of food and toiletries. Well done everyone!

Community Hub food packs

Stone and District Rotary used more of its

grant from The Rotary Foundation's Covid-19 Worldwide Disaster Fund to provide additional fresh meat to be distributed by the Stone Community Hub in its food packs. The club thanks Lee Walker Butchers for their support as the club helps its local community to get through these difficult times.



WV11 COVID19 Mutual Aid Group

The WV11 COVID19 Mutual Aid Group thanked Wednesfield Rotary for its kind donation of £300, this donation is going

towards food parcels for local people & will help tackle food poverty as we recover from the current pandemic.



Thank You



A big thank you to the Rotary of Uttoxeter who have helped restock the Helping Hands Community Cupboard during the lockdown.

Rotary Wellington raises funds for Severn Hospice on VE Day 75

How do we raise money for charity during lockdown/social distancing? That was the question Wellington Rotary Club President Vic Young posed to his members in late April wanting members to focus on the 75 Anniversary VE celebrations.

The club had heard that Severn Hospice was desperately in need of PPE for its staff and visitors, so they became the nominated charity to fundraise for. Then ideas were needed... Suggestions included: pushing a wheelbarrow around a garden 75 times; climbing 75 steps etc.

Rotarian Dan Scollard Kerr suggested he set up equipment in his garage to play his guitar and sing 75 songs, looking to be sponsored for each by friends and neighbours in Donnerville Gardens, Admaston.

During the 5 hour marathon he raised over £750 and, in case you were wondering, Apache by the Shadows was the most requested song.

Altogether, Wellington Rotary Club members raised over £3,500 for Severn Hospice and thank everyone who donated and helped in any way.

Severn Hospice response

Severn Hospice has made no secret of how much the pandemic has affected it, but have been proud to say its staff have not stopped caring for families in Telford and across the region.

Its core clinical services (community and ward based) have been protected but it has

had to make major adjustments to how they're provided. Now telephone calls and home visits where appropriate, are replacing the day service sessions where patients came to the hospice and clinics are being carried out via remote consultations. The pandemic has also meant the hospice suffered a significant blow to its ability to raise funds as its shops closed, events were cancelled and supporters were confined to their homes. Overall, the hospice estimates it is losing an estimated £100,000 a week in fundraising. This is why the community's ongoing support has been so vital and heartwarming says the hospice's Director of Care Becky Richardson: "We rely on the community so much all year round; its support is unwavering in normal circumstance and COVID19 has not changed that."

"We can't stop caring and our supporters know this; it is these individuals, businesses and groups like the Rotary Clubs, who are finding creative ways to support us, who make such a difference to the families in our care."

"The Rotary Club of Wellington's sponsorship donations will help us comply with new PPE requirements on the wards, which are that it must be worn at all times whenever we're caring for patients. Most importantly, it means families can still visit their relatives if they're staying with us. Now more than ever, we know how important family is to everyone."

90th Charter year

Newcastle under Lyme Rotary Club are in our 90th Charter year, Ninety years of serving the Community in Newcastle under Lyme, but still we keep going and I hope we shall do for many years to come! Rotary Foundation have given us a grant to help out where we can during this very sad time of Corona Virus, we chose to spend it on PPE for hospices, Food Banks and Womens Refuge's in our region. (Rotary is made up of zones and Newcastle under Lyme is in zone 3) and each zone had a share of the 20,000 dollars given to us, to spend. This week it was for Food for Food Banks and Womens refuge. We chose to spend our money on the Food Banks and I chose, St Lukes Church Clayton, The Bethel Temple at Silverdale, The Elime Church at Chesterton and the Congregational Church in Newcastle.

Moving farewell to D&G's Dave

A charismatic Rotarian who died following a sudden illness was honoured with a cavalcade of buses as he was laid to rest. The convoy was in honour of D&G Bus founder, David Backhouse Reeves, who passed away on Monday, May 11. He was just 61.

Although only 11 people were able to attend his funeral due to Covid-19 restrictions, scores of people lined the streets as the funeral cortege passed through Uttoxeter on Wednesday, May 27. Buses painted in the original blue and cream D&G livery in memory of Dave – and co-founder the late Gerald Henderson – were joined by buses from firms across the industry, which were decked out with black flags and paused to sound their horns on arrival at Stafford Crematorium.

Dave grew up in the farming community, going to school at Marchington Woodlands where he earned a stellar reputation on the football pitch before moving to Ludlow with his family as a teenager.

He returned to the Uttoxeter area after leaving college, taking a job at Lymer's bus company in Tean, which was owned by his aunt and uncle, Florence and Aubrey. A spell working at Stevenson's Buses followed and Dave also played for local football teams, including Rocester FC.

During his first marriage to Joanne, Dave became a father to Alice, took a job with the ambulance service and completed a Masters degree in business. When their marriage ended, Dave decided to combine his experience working in the bus industry with his business knowledge and in 1998, joined forces with Gerald Henderson to form

D&G Bus Company. Dave tackled the business side of the operation alongside his regular job until joining D&G full time in 2002.

In that same year, Dave married Clare-Anne just 12 months after they first met via a dating website which they had both subscribed to while juggling demanding careers. The couple settled in Kingstone where they brought up their two sons Taylor, 17, and James, 15. Clare-Anne said: "Dave and Gerald started out with three buses. In the early days it was a struggle, but when I met him they had expanded to eight buses and it was quite a lot to deal with. Dave was incredibly charismatic and a great negotiator, so he dealt with things like tenders and contracts while Gerald managed the day-to-day operation of the buses.

"We had a lot going on with getting married and having children all around the same time as Dave was building up the business. Dave was a fantastic father – at the weekends he loved playing with the kids. Joanne and her partner Tim were also supportive whenever Alice came to stay with us and later, when Dave became ill. Dave and I always supported each other. The teamwork was there from day one and it was vital in overcoming whatever life threw at us."

Dave was devastated when Gerald – the G of D&G – passed away in 2006. He took some time out, including a trip to Australia before, with the support of Julian Peddle, eventually returning to the company and expanding even further.

A keen football supporter, Dave launched Uttoxeter Walking Football Club at the town's leisure centre, being an active member and player until an injured knee and cracked rib prevented his returning to the sport.

A diagnosis of throat cancer in 2016 prompted Dave to retire from D&G, although he retained a role as non-executive director until he passed away. Clare-Anne, said: "Dave was a confident and up-front person. Once he made a decision he would stick to it. He was great with people – you always knew if he was in a room – and in his younger years he was very vocal on the football pitch. His work with the Rotary Club and the charities he supported



were also very important to him.

"The diagnosis prompted us to undergo a major lifestyle change. We both basically retired and moved to Grindley. Dave found a new interest in keeping hens, ducks, geese and goats. He started making pens for the animals, which surprised me as he'd never shown any interest in DIY before, but he'd look it up on the internet, find the right materials and make everything from scratch. He took up golf and became really good at it.

We travelled as well, including trips to Barbados and Portugal.

"We did a lot in the last four years. He took so much pleasure from looking after his animals and being out in the garden. He beat the cancer and he was fitter than he'd ever been."

Dave was also a supporter of a number of charities and joined the town's Rotary Club, serving as its President for 2019/20 and hosting a fund-raising night for a project providing clean water and sanitation for communities in Africa.

A respected figure in the bus industry and a popular man in the Uttoxeter area, Dave is mourned by his wife Clare-Anne and children Alice, Taylor and James; his mother, Iris Reeves and sister Carole Nixon, brother-in-law Paul and their children Lisa, Josh, his partner Paula, and Joseph.

Clare Anne added: "Because we have interests in other bus companies who had tremendous respect for Dave, they drove in procession to his funeral to pay their respects, which was very moving. It was also really emotional to see so many people standing and clapping along the route."



A great example of a **busy club**

Newcastle under Lyme's 2019/20 President Rene Carlisle looks back through the club's busy time around lockdown.

She writes: 'We had three entrants in the Music Festival in Wolverhampton and one of them won the instrumental heat. It was Oliver Jones on the saxophone, who went on to win the District final. He didn't win the regional finals at The Wrekin College in Telford but delivered an outstanding performance.'

'Along with most other clubs, we closed down our conventional meetings and set up a WhatsApp group and a Zoom group for meetings. We ran a small quiz, donated £650 to the Peter Pan charity and £500 to Action for Children. Also £2,225 to Newcastle's Our Space.'



We held a successful bucket collection too. I took over from Past President Paul Bradshaw and had an excellent team of officers throughout the year.

'We have delivered 2,400 face masks bought through the Cannock Rotary Club visor campaign, and gowns for an ex colleague and his medical staff. I have been making scrub bags for the Royal Stoke Hospital too.'

'Also Rotarian John Wilson from the Buddy Bag Foundation and Rugeley Rotary, received 101 bears from us. They were hand knitted by wives of our members, myself and some friends. A

special thank you must go to Mrs Anne Lewis (Rotarian Brian's wife) who knitted an amazing 50 bears.'

'We held a great Indian evening featuring the Indian Dancers, in aid of the End Polio Now and Greenfields Africa, and several excellent speakers over time. For example, The President of the Lady Soroptimist group, Kate Moore, spoke about Cluster Bombs.'

'Finally Rotarians Frank Hayes and John Sutton celebrated their 90th birthdays. Treasurer Rob Wilcox and Bulletin Editor Past President Jurek Biegus received the Paul Harris Fellowship for services to Rotary. Jurek's pin was the coveted Sapphire pin.' She said.



Queen's award update

Veronica Lillis a Deputy Lieutenant of Shropshire wrote to Wellington Rotarians for a catchup and she asked their Tree of Light organisers how they were coping during the lockdown.

She said:

'I am writing from the Queens Award for Voluntary Service panel to all our award winners to see how you are faring in this time of lockdown.

'Hopefully your wonderful work has not been too affected at this stage of gathering names for this year's Tree, but we send our best wishes to you and all your volunteers.'

Preparation for the 2020 campaign has rather slowed despite the committee members having more time on their hands because there are so many imponderables to consider.

This will be 25th year and hoping for something special to mark the occasion but until the situation resolves itself we believe they are continuing with normal procedures and adapt them to the circumstances later in the year."

The incoming Presidents of the Telford clubs have decided on the charities they wish to support in general terms.

Half is to be donated to Severn Hospice as in previous years but they are delaying a decision on the charity to receive a quarter share so that the donation can be put where there is a greater need. We are hoping to make the decisions public shortly.

Rotarian Peter Seaward said: 'We are of course dependant on the goodwill of a number of businesses whose future may have changed, both in terms of help with printing, mailing, and the display of the names of loved ones to be remembered and sponsorship, but we remain confident that there will be a Telford Tree of Light this Christmas season.

'We expect to issue application forms as usual in the last week of October and start displaying the names in mid November.' he added.



An MBE for Barry Picken

Barry Picken, former District Governor and a member of the Wednesfield club was presented with an MBE at Buckingham Palace on Thursday, 5 March by Prince Charles.

He was accompanied to the Palace by his wife Jenny, and son and daughter, James and Hannah. Barry received the award for services to the community of Wolverhampton and the West Midlands.

A former chairman of the health service in Wolverhampton, Barry joined the Board of the former Primary Care Trust in 2002, became chairman in 2006 before becoming chairman of The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals Trust in 2010, a position he stood down from in 2012 as he prepared to become District Governor.

He is a former chairman of the City of Wolverhampton College joining the Board in 2014 following a critical OFSTED report and was a member of the Board that saw substantial improvements in the quality of teaching and stabilising of the college finances. He was also involved in the planning of the relocation of the college from its current site to a new city centre location.

Barry is also a Trustee of the Breast Cancer Action Group and is actively involved in the restoration of the war memorial in Tettenhall.



He joined the Wednesfield club in 1976 but had to leave because of business relocation a few years later. He rejoined the club going on to become President in 2005. He has been chairman of the District Foundation committee and became District Governor 2013/14.

He currently holds the roles of District Training and Compliance Officers. Barry also holds a Ruby Paul Harris Fellowship.

"It was an enormous honour to receive an MBE and I am very proud of the work that I have been able to do with Rotary and what has been achieved in Wolverhampton and throughout the West Midlands."

'Touching Little Hearts' Global Grant project

A International Zoom meeting about a Rotary project has been hailed a great success. Walsall Rotarian Dr Mukunda Chidrawar organised the meeting on the topic of a global grant 'Touching Little Hearts'.

The project lead from Mumbai, India's PDG Dr Bal Inamdar, Rotary Club of Bombay West Coast, R.I. District 3141 gave a talk on this ongoing project on funding to carry out heart operations on babies & children born with congenital heart defects. This has given a new lease of life to

children whose parents could never have afforded to get this corrective surgery performed. The families of these children are extremely grateful to Rotary for changing their life for ever.

This ongoing project is a huge success story in the Rotary world of India.

This Zoom meeting was attended by 67 Rotarians & guests from 4 continents and 4 countries (England, USA, Zambia & India). Possibly a new record in our District. An excellent example of 'Rotary Connects the World' and 'Rotary at its Best'

Lockdown news from Kidsgrove

At this time of year Kidsgrove Club is usually busy organising the annual Community Day, the pensioners Blackpool holiday and the Party in the Park. However all these events are now suspended until next year.

However it has still been very busy. Rotary has been supporting the local community. A donation of £500 was given

to the volunteer group Kidsgrove Coronavirus Support. They are taking cooked portions to the most vulnerable in the community and have so far delivered over 5,500 meals.

Rotary has also donated funds to buy face shields for local residential homes, and received money to provide food for the Kidsgrove food bank.

Project in Nepali Village

The project to provide Drinking Water and Sanitation at the Nepali village of Dood Pokhari, Lamjung District is now complete, but due to the Covid 19 lockdown in Nepal the formal handover to the villagers by Rotarians from the Rotary Club of the Himalayan Gurkhas has had to be postponed.



The project was sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Eccleshall, Stafford, Stafford Knot and Stafford Castle bringing significant health benefits to a very isolated community 8,449 ft above sea level in West Nepal.

The project provided the building of water and sanitation facilities in Dood Pokhari village, water and sanitation facilities for the benefit of a local youth club and for the local village community, including an uninterrupted drinking water supply to the youth club facility and 27 Households. The water is also used to feed domestic cattle.

All labour was carried out by the villagers without cost to the project. Handover ceremonies for such projects are very important events in Nepal, where villagers attend in numbers and express their appreciation. Guests are decorated with Tikka on the forehead, flower garlands presented and music provided by local musicians.

The total cost of this project (£5,800) was raised from contributions from the four Rotary Clubs, a grant from the Rotary Foundation charity and a Gurkha meal in June 2019 provided by the locally based Gurkha Squadron.

Stafford Castle helps House of Bread

House of Bread is an organisation that supports vulnerable and homeless people in Stafford. In normal times the charity has an open door policy and provides food, friendship, support and advice to those in need. Unfortunately because of Coronavirus they have had to refocus their activity. They no longer have an open door for folks who can just turn up for a meal. However they are now delivering between 80 to 100 meals a day 7 days a week to the needy and vulnerable.

Many of these people have not engaged

with the various agencies for help.

The meals are prepared by their volunteer chefs. Although the charity receives donations of food their policy is to provide good nutritious meals for people and to enable them to do this they also need to purchase food. The charity anticipates that as furlough ends the demand for meals will increase significantly to probably in the region of 150 a day.

As with many charities financial donations have dropped significantly. Stafford Castle Rotary donated £500 to House of Bread to help them.

Breakfast for Malawi



Earlier this year Stafford Castle Rotarians with their Inner Wheel wives enjoyed breakfast hosted by Stafford Castle Inner Wheel Past President Joy Bristow. The food was excellent, well received and a brilliant way to start the day. Joy hosted two breakfasts to raise funds for the non profit making Medic Malawi run by an ex Headteacher from Wolverhampton.

It supports a clinic, school and an orphanage plus other aspects of life a village in Malawi. Joy's breakfasts raised £150.

Ten Pin Bowling Challenge



Rotarians from Stafford Castle and Dudley contested a closely fought first round in the District Ten Pin Bowling tournament earlier this year. Stafford Castle came out on top as the winners after a good

contest. Rotarian Mike Evans from Stafford Castle was the top scorer and the bowling alley staff were so impressed they presented Mike with a trophy. It was a splendid evening of fun and fellowship.



Les Goodchild lays membership on the table

How wonderful it is to see so many clubs across our District supporting their communities so effectively in a time of crisis as we progress through the Covid pandemic. The number of activities being undertaken by Rotarians is huge. It ranges from stocking food banks, donating supermarket gift cards, making and distributing vital PPE, providing free school meals, transporting books to care homes for residents confined to their rooms, collecting much needed prescriptions and shopping for the vulnerable and so much more. This is a prime example of why so many of us joined Rotary – providing service to others.

It has been necessary to adapt how we operate and with good British stoicism, we have met the challenge. More than 95% of clubs in our district are meeting online.

Many are using Zoom as a means of communication and whilst the platform does not suit all, I have been pleasantly surprised at how effective it has been in helping us to maintain contact with club members and beyond.

So, what of the future? There is concern at Rotary Great Britain & Ireland (RGBI) that the enforced absence of physical meetings and engagement in Rotary activities might adversely affect our membership numbers. Without action at club level to maintain appropriate engagement that may prove to be true. For those of you that attended the recent online District Council meeting, you will be aware that we have seen a higher than usual number of Rotarians pass to higher service (not Covid related). Some really good people who have dedicated a huge number of years of dedicated service to others are sadly no longer with us.

Against this backdrop, it is critical that we don't lose focus on what the organisation is about. It would be a tragedy if we were responsible for allowing the tremendous work of those who preceded us, go to waste. We only have to consider the huge success our organisation has had in its resolve to end the most awful of diseases with the 'End Polio' campaign. Collectively, we have supported numerous projects aimed at improving education in areas where opportunities were scarce, particularly amongst women....and so it goes on.

Whilst there is a nervousness surrounding the impact that Covid may have on membership, there can be little doubt that the call on our services will increase. There is opportunity in

adversity and we have witnessed unprecedented levels of kindness at all levels as our communities have galvanised together in providing numerous volunteering roles - we need to reach out to those people.

Understanding how we might achieve that is a challenge. I read with interest an article submitted by Karl Wilding, the Chief Executive of the National Council for Volunteering Organisations in a recent edition of Rotary. Karl examines the changing face of volunteering and urged us all to consider making volunteering relevant to the next generation. The inference being that volunteering in a Rotary capacity might not be as relevant as it could be. Karl argues that our younger generation are keen to volunteer, albeit that they are likely to support the cause and not the organisation.

My personal experience suggests that people are now less patient with process and are more focused on action and therefore we need to consider how we might accommodate that change in emphasis. Technology and access to information is key to a more dynamic environment that allows our younger age groups to achieve the rapid results they crave.

Rotary has to adapt to our changing environment and develop an approach to membership that is more flexible. If we remain focussed on what we do as an organisation rather than some of the more peripheral activities, I suspect that we are more likely to be successful in attracting new members. It is difficult not to be enthused by our achievements!

There is no simple formula to provide a 'one size fits all' solution when it comes to operating a Rotary Club – how a club operates has to be determined by its membership. If your club is thriving, congratulations and well done. However, if you have struggled to attract new members, perhaps now is a good time to examine why.

Looking at our own club from a new member perspective is important. Is the environment we are introducing prospective members to one that will both attract and retain them? I'm absolutely convinced that there are people within our society that we simply don't cater for and therefore, growth opportunities still exist.

A superficial survey of our District conducted last year revealed the following:

- 75% of our clubs meet on Tues, Weds or Thurs

- 38 of our 52 clubs meet in the evening
- Only one club meets at the weekend
- There is a population of approximately 2M in our District with a ratio of 1 Rotarian per 500 people, we could achieve a membership of 4,000 (that's the ratio that exists in D1010). Their worst ratio is 1 in 8000. This figure would almost double our membership in 1210 to around 2,500
- The age profile in D1210 shows that over 54% of the population are prime age for new Rotarians (18 – 59)
- 51% of the population is female. Data from RGBI tells us that only 17% of the Rotarians in D1210 are female
- Membership is missing altogether in key areas
- There are opportunities for developing diversity beyond those already identified in the age profile example
- Wider membership opportunities exist through offering a different style of Rotary – the suggestion is that a more informal style is likely to attract younger members
- Population centres (density) could support new clubs
- Retention of members is equally as important as recruiting new members and therefore we should seek to engage our current membership effectively – particularly those new to our clubs

The Membership Extension and Retention team at D1210 is here to support you in growing your membership. We have a raft of resources and if you need help, please don't be afraid to contact us (details in the District directory). I am keen to welcome new members to the District MER team and also seek input from 'Membership Champions' – those in our clubs who are passionate about driving membership forward.

We are a great organisation that is changing and saving people's lives every day, long may it continue!

Les Goodchild
D1210 Membership Lead

Youth competitions in the Cannock area

Teams from Kingsmead School and Cannock Chase High School took part in two of the Rotary youth competitions at the start of this year. Each team in the new style "Youth Speaks" debating competition consisted of three students, one who acted as chairman, a proposer on a selected topic and a third with an opposing view on the topic. The pupils aged 11-17 debated diverse topics such as the death penalty, abortion, success and school uniforms. The teams then answered questions from the audience made up of fellow pupils, staff, parents and members of Cannock Rotary. The teams were judged by a panel chaired by Martin Thornley, Chief Executive of the Stafford & Cannock League of Hospital Friends, a local charity who works closely with the Cannock Club. Martin thanked all who had taken part, and stated that quality of preparation, research and delivery on some very difficult topics impressed the judges.

The intermediate team winners who debated the topic of the death penalty were from Cannock Chase High school were Mollie Stevenson, Vipua Mbai and Kayley Cannon. The senior team also from Cannock Chase High School who debated different perspectives of success were Jason Lowe, Daniel Edwards and Paige Hodgkiss. Also year 10 pupils from Cannock Chase High School took part in the local heat of Cannock Young Chef Competition held at Stafford Collage.

The Young Chef competition is much more than a cooking competition. It involves cooking a healthy meal in just two hours at a cost of no more than £15 and contestants are marked on food hygiene, food and table presentation. The competition also develops life skills in dealing with a demanding situation as they are preparing and cooking food in front of an audience of family and friends.

The competition was judged by three adjudicators Emma Taylor and Amanda Rafferty from Brocton Hall Golf Club and Janette Arrowsmith, a friend of Rotary, who stated "the standard and range of skills demonstrated by all the pupils was excellent" and "it was rewarding to see the pupils producing such high quality meals when cooking from scratch"

The menus prepared included homemade pizza and pasta dishes, curries and a wide selection of desserts. The winner was Aimee Keeling who served a Kerelan fish curry with basmati rice, followed by a dessert of peach upside down cake.

The judges from Brocton Hall both said that Aimee's curry was good enough to serve in the restaurant at the golf club.

All competitors were awarded certificates to mark their achievements and the winning teams went forward to the finals of the District competitions.



Martin Thornley from Stafford & Cannock League of Hospital Friends with the winners of the Intermediate competition representing Cannock Chase High School.



Martin Thornley from Stafford & Cannock League of Hospital Friends with the winners of the Senior competition representing Cannock Chase High School.



Young Chef L-R Amanda Rafferty, Aimee Keeling, Emma Taylor, Janette Arrowsmith and event organiser.

Whitchurch fights covid

Whitchurch Rotary Club hit the BBC Radio 2 airwaves in May when members were congratulated on their community work during the Covid-19 lockdown.

The tribute was paid by presenter Ken Bruce in his weekday morning show when, by early May, Whitchurch Rotarians had distributed 1,116 items of 'personal protective equipment' to front-line workers at 12 local care homes and related organisations.

Most of the stock of 1,283 face masks, plastic visors and laundry 'scrubs' bags had been made locally and provided at no cost. Some more expensive visors had been paid for at a heavily discounted rate.

Club president Peggy Mullock commented: "The project was co-ordinated in dynamic style by last year's president, Maggie Allen, with Chris Smith and Tony Burch. But it wouldn't have been possible

without the wonderful community response that we have received from local voluntary groups and individuals.

"We are prioritising the people we consider to be the most vulnerable potential victims of this virus at local care homes. Protective equipment for frontline carers has rightly become an essential defence throughout the country."

Whitchurch is also pressing ahead with this year's annual variety concert for elderly and disabled people...with one big difference.

The usual two-night free concert at the Civic Centre can't happen because of social distancing restrictions.

So, instead, the club is distributing a 'virtual concert' on safe DVD discs – for care homes and individuals to watch on their own TV sets or computers.

"The concert has become a popular event for more than 40 years" says organiser Maggie Allen, "and we refuse to be beaten

by this virus lockdown. So we decided to go ahead anyway."

Performers, who had already agreed to take part, recorded their pieces and sent them in. And video files - including a specially composed song by a Zoom 'choir' of Whitchurch Rotarians - were then edited onto DVD discs and are being provided to care homes and individuals as well as online through the club's website and social media. Some discs may be available for sale with profits going to the Air Ambulance service.

Nearly 1,000 people normally attend the two Civic Hall performances, each year, and many of the less-able are 'chauffeured' from their homes, and taken back again, by Rotarians.

"It's one of the highlights of our year," says Maggie, "and we were saddened by the thought of abandoning it to Covid-19. But where there's a will there's always a way."

Cannock's new First Responders Ambulance

The crew of the new vehicle visited Mrs Blossom Isreal at The Grange Care Home to show her and members of the Rotary Club the new fast response vehicle which has gone into full service in the area. The Rotary Club of Cannock donated over £5,100 towards the cost of purchasing the new vehicle in 2019. The money was raised from the Rotary Club's Christmas collection in Cannock and a substantial legacy left to the Cannock Club Trust Fund by the late Dr David Israel who had been an active Rotarian for over 30 years until he passed away in July 2018.

A spokesman from the Rotary Club of Cannock stated 'by donating David's legacy to this local medical emergency charity was very fitting seeing how Dr David Israel had himself served the local community of Cannock for so many years as a family doctor from his practice in Hednesford'.

Burntwood & Cannock Chase Community First Responders – covering Burntwood,



Cannock Rotary Club members, Mrs Blossom Isreal and volunteer crew from Burntwood & Cannock Chase Community First Responders

Cannock, Hednesford, and Heath Hayes was formed 9 years ago when the West Midlands Ambulance Service identified the need for a community-based Emergency Response Service. The service is run by volunteers many working full time and responding in their spare time and on top of this, they regularly organise and support fundraising activities and provide free CPR and Defibrillator awareness sessions in

their local communities including schools.

The new emergency vehicle has Dr David Israel name as part of the cars livery.

Mrs Blossom Israel's was presented with a bouquet of flowers by the crew of the vehicle. Blossom thanked the crew for taking time out of their busy schedule to show her the car named in memory of her late husband.

Rotary Club of Wednesfield

Communication

As is the case with many organisations, both business and charitable, the Rotary Club of Wednesfield has been adapting to ensure to operate productively during COVID 19 lockdown.

The club members are now considering how they use these experiences for the future to strengthen the Club's communications and social media presence?. The club conducted its first Club meeting via group video and despite first indications achieved a very healthy attendance. Weekly meetings will be going ahead using this format for the foreseeable future. Who said Rotarians can't move with the times?!

Safety Visors for Care Home staff

In keeping with the theme, and as part of the club's work in the Community, Rotarians delivered 320 safety visors that were donated to care homes in Wednesfield. All of them were very gratefully received, as the homes had been struggling to obtain protective kit.

The visors in Wednesfield were delivered to Affinity Trust, Bentley Court, Harper House, Newcross Care Home and MHA Waterside House.

Rotarian Barry Picken said that "The visors were a gift from the Rotary Club to organisations that are caring for some of the most vulnerable. It is our way of saying thank you for all that staff are doing in these difficult times."

Activities Coordinator Michelle Jones, MHA Waterside House said that "All of the staff at Waterside can not thank you enough for your generosity and send our sincere appreciation and gratitude for the visors you have provided to ensure our protection. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts...it means the world to us all."

Ellesmere Rotary Inducts

Leslie Aspey

In March Ellesmere Rotary inducted its third new member in as many weeks when Leslie Aspey of Dudleston became its newest recruit. Leslie became better acquainted with the work of Rotary International when her daughter sought its help in funding a placement with Floating Doctors. Last October Leslie gave a presentation to Ellesmere Rotary on Karen's experiences, which prompted her to learn more about the service to community that Rotary provides on an ongoing basis, leading to her subsequent decision to join.

Changing priorities and projects being supported

The club reviewed its plans so as to provide immediate support in the Community to assist individuals and local organisations. It was a balancing act between using available Club funds and keeping a useful sum for when things get back towards 'normal'.

Some of the good causes supported locally are The Haven (safe refuge for Women and Children), Good Shepherd Ministry (assistance to the homeless and others in need), The Harvest Food Bank and the WV11 Mutual Aid Group (support local community during the COVID-19 crisis).

The club also donated food to the Ashmore Park Inn Food Bank, which was the idea of the landlord of The Ashmore Inn, Ashmore Park, Kevin Ward who said on receiving the gift of food: "We would like to thank the Rotary Club for the amazing donation to the Ashmore Inn Food Bank, this donation will go towards helping anyone that covid-19 has affected financially and who are struggling to put food on their tables. Once again thank you so much and stay safe." The club contributed £750 to food banks.

As is the case in previous years we will support Wolverhampton Youth Orchestra, despite their tour being cancelled and it is also looking at ways in which it can host some Rotary events but in a different way. This includes the Youth Photographer competition.

Although the Sponsored Walk organised with Friends of Wednesfield Park had to be cancelled the club hopes that this can be arranged for a date, in the not too distant future. Onwards and upwards !!



Blurton Food Bank

The Rotary Club of Blythe Bridge and District have been supporting the Blurton Food Bank. Rotarian Martin and his wife Chris have been collecting the donations from friends, neighbours and Rotarians before delivering them to the food bank.



Ellesmere Rotary Regatta 2020 Cancelled

On the evening of Tuesday 23rd March it was announced that the Ellesmere Rotary Regatta 2020 had been cancelled.

The Regatta was to have taken place on The Mere on Sunday 5th July. The then President Elect, Peter Broadbent said, "Sadly this has come about due to the restrictions on the work of Rotarians at this difficult time for us all".

Chairman of the Regatta Committee, Geoff Corfield explained, "What needs to be done by Ellesmere Rotary and the people and organisations that help us cannot be achieved in the current situation".

The two main beneficiaries of the 2020 Regatta were to have been The Movement Centre at Gobowen and The Lyneal Trust. Geoff went on to say that his committee would be contacting those who had already paid over money for sponsorship, advertising, as a donation towards this year's event or as a crew entry fee, in order to arrange reimbursement. Any residual money will be split between the two named charities, whom Geoff indicated as the likely good causes for the 2021 event.

Lockdown gave a chance to do those long outstanding tasks

It would seem that Stafford Rotary Club Members seized the opportunity to get on with those jobs that have been waiting a while to be done. The Rev. John has been working on his allotment and at last painted his fence before he unfortunately hurt himself, whilst following Sue's instructions to decorate!

Senior Vice Stuart has been working on the restoration of his trials car when he hasn't been helping to clean the green house and the house gutters and washing the roof of the conservatory and windows and his next job to clear the loft!

Helen reported - I can still exercise my pony so I have been getting out at "silly o'clock in the

morning" and then to keep me awake in the evening, I have been knitting blankets and hats for premature babies at our local hospitals. Last week I saw that Eccleshall Mercia had donated money to "Scrubs for Stoke" a project to provide 3,000 sets of scrubs, plus thousands of laundry bags, theatre hats and head bands. So, the challenge commenced.

Karen working hard in her garden, it's looking magnificent and she even gave her trees a hair cut which is what everyone could do with!



Chernobyl Children's Charity Project to provide a Minibus

For several years, The Rotary Club of Stafford has generously supported the recuperative holidays organised by the Chernobyl Children's Project (CCP) that provide a holiday for children aged 10-12 years, each one in remission from their cancers. Our support has usually been to provide a "Pony Day" where the children attend a Riding Stables and learn how to look after a pony and then take part in riding and games.

In 2020, the recuperative holiday will not take place, however the Rotary Club had already been looking at supporting the CCP in a different, but very much needed way.

In 2013, with the financial support of the Rotary Club of Stafford Knot a Rotary Foundation Global Grant was obtained which purchased a minibus that was driven all the way to Belarus to support the CCP's projects out there.

Seven years on, and although the bus is still going strong, an old original second bus is dying and the project needs two road worthy buses that can:-

- take disabled and special needs children to school
- support their foster home which cares for 4 disabled children
- support the palliative care team to take out the children being nursed and move equipment
- move physiotherapists and their equipment to do home visits
- bring in children for day care and respite care
- take the stronger children to sanatoria for sponsored holidays and more



The club's International and Foundation Committee sent a cheque for £500 for the project which is being led by the Rotary Lite Club in Newport.

Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA)

Oliver Hall



I was approached by my head of sixth to participate in the Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA), having very little understanding of Rotary at the time it sounded like an exciting opportunity and a chance to develop myself. A few weeks later I was visited by a member of my local Rotary club to give me some details and explain the aims of the course and some of the things to expect during the week.

In August I arrived at Kibblestone scout camp where I was greeted by the Rotarians who were running the course alongside the Awesome Adventures team. There were also 28 complete strangers to meet, the fellow RYLarians I would be completing the course with. After introductions and a little getting to know each other we moved our bags to our accommodation for the week, for the boys it was 4 to a room and for me it was my room mates that I first got to know the best. It was then straight into group activities; the very simple aim was to push us all out of our comfort zone and give us the chance to get to know each other. The ice breaker activities included simple tasks in pairs and small groups before moving into activities with all 29 of us climbing and rolling over each other while the course leaders enjoyed soaking us all with water guns.

After a large group exercise, which we didn't complete, we were split into three groups of 7 and my group which was an 8.

I spent the majority of the week with my group and the group mentor. During the week we had time with our mentor to reflect on what we had learnt in the activities and fill in Johari sheets. Johari sheets are all about what you see about yourself and what others see in you. During the time outside of activities we were treated to inspirational talks by David Hyner as well as learning about Rotary and what it is doing in local communities.

We were woken every morning by music that made me feel proud to British, this was followed swiftly by PT and a hearty breakfast. It was then on to the main activity of the day which was completed in the groups of 7/8. These activities offered a range of different challenges but all had the same aim of improving the leadership skills of all involved, alongside this the entire week also helped with communication and team-work skills.

The activities included rafting and a rescue mission.



Everyone returned at the end of the activity to get showered and changed after a long day before having a wonderful evening meal. After the evening meal is when we had to reflect and complete other smaller activities. There was then a small supper before everyone headed to bed, for one night bed was the floor under canvas which wasn't as bad as it sounds. Sleep and food kept us all going, with wake ups as early as 4am and nights as late as 11pm it was important we made the most of the little down time we had. Although there was little down time, I think that is one of the best things about the course, being constantly on the go meant you never stopped learning and could make the absolute most of the week there.

The final night we were all presented with our RYLA polos and our Alumni badges before we headed down to the hall for the talent evening. The talent evening was fun and a great way to say thank you to the course leaders and Rotary clubs which had funded the course.

RYLA was one of the best experiences of my life; it was full of surprises that I couldn't possibly mention in case any future RYLarians are reading this. I was promised fun, early mornings and long-lasting friendships by my local Rotary club and RYLA sure did deliver that. The course has made me feel more confident and in control when in a position of leadership.

I also learnt it is just as important to support a leader and pitch in with ideas where appropriate for the good of the team and in order to complete a task. Since completing RYLA I have attended two of the annual Alumni events in Slitting Mill and at the most recent event I gave a small speech alongside one of my good friends who I attended RYLA with about what we had done a year on and our plans for the future.

I have also given a presentation at my local Rotary club about my RYLA experience, I took questions and had chance to thank the people who had funded the great experience.

I have aspired to join the RAF from a young age and with the help of Rotary I got a station visit to RAF Cosford and a 30-minute meeting with the Commanding Officer of the base. This was a valuable insight into the future life I could potentially live and has set me in good stead. I am currently volunteering with the Rotary Alumni of District 1210, helping with designs for book trolleys as well as additions to the website.



Ellesmere Rotary Spring Update 2020

Ellesmere members had a busy start to the year. In addition to its ongoing preparations for the 2020 Rotary Regatta, Ellesmere Rotary was busy with a variety of charitable and social activities in the early weeks of the year. The guest speaker for the 34th Charter Anniversary on Saturday January 25th was Dianne Carrington, the oldest woman to row any ocean, who gave an inspiring talk on her Atlantic experiences. The following Wednesday, Billy Clubbe reported to members on his self-financed trip as an aid worker to Peru last summer, speaking with admirable fluency and clarity for one so young. Ellesmere Rotary had previously donated towards Billy's costs. On the 12th of February an induction ceremony was held to welcome Penny Moorhouse and Evelyn Woolley as new members of Rotary, before members listened to a talk by Francesca Eder about her important role as a Funeral Celebrant.

The following Wednesday there was a Presentation Evening for the distribution of the proceeds from the Tree of Light,

which raised £2,500 this year. Half was donated to Shropshire, Staffordshire and Cheshire Blood Bikes, with the remainder split amongst good causes local to Ellesmere and environs. Those receiving donations included Pam Hillier and Phil Wilkinson of Blood Bikes, John Frost of Ellesmere in Bloom, Edward Bevan of Heron Watch, Dianne Harvey of Ellesmere Youth Project and Caroline Ford of Ellesmere Brownies. Bob McBride thanked all the local businesses and volunteers who helped with this year's Tree of Light effort, including Day and Night and Tesco, where the Book of Names could be viewed. Tesco also allowed name tags to be hung from their Christmas Tree, and they were planning to allow Rotary to hold

raising money for the charity Activity Alliance, which supports disabled people. Additionally, members decided to donate £500 towards the national Rotary fund to help alleviate the distress and damage caused by the recent flooding in the UK.



Left to Right as you look at it: Caroline Ford, Dianne Harvey, Len Graham, John Frost, Edward Bevan, President Graham Hutchinson, Phil Wilkinson, Sharon McMullan and Pam Hillier.



its Health Awareness Day in the foyer on Saturday the 25th of April. Bob said, "We are also very grateful for the great generosity of the people of Ellesmere, who have used Rotary as a conduit to support local good causes". Also, on the 19th of February donations were made from the Club's own Charity Fund to Len Graham of Ellesmere Sculpture Initiative and Sharon McMullan, who runs marathons for charity. She is currently preparing for a run



Rotary Club donate £1,621 to Air Ambulance

On a very cold and windy leap year day, members of the Rotary Club of Cannock visited the Midland Air Ambulance station in Tatenhill. Rotary Club President Geoff Clegg presented a cheque for £1,621 to the Midland Air Ambulance Charity.

The Rotarians were welcomed by Air Ambulance Staffordshire Fundraising Executive Kelly Weatherer and enjoyed inside the helicopter and a very informative talk from an on-duty paramedic. The money donated was raised at the Annual 10K Road Race organised in November each year by the Rotary Club of Cannock.



Left to Right L to R: David Marklew, President Geoff Clegg, Steve King, Ian Hall, Kelly Weatherer, Allan Rotchell, David Gardiner, Alan Matkin.

Kenya Aid Project

Ecceleshall Rotarian Sylvia Keris has been selected to join a team volunteering on a Development Aid project with the Charity 'Mission Direct' in the Narok region of Kenya in summer 2020. The UK registered Charity, whom Sylvia volunteered with in Sierra Leone in 2018, have been taking short and longer term teams to Kenya for several years - working with established local project partners to help build schools, workshops and medical clinics.

This year's teams will be helping local builders who are building a multi-purpose educational & training workshop Centre in one of the most deprived areas of Narok. The training workshops will teach skills for employment to adults and children living on the streets, who would otherwise turn to brothel work to feed themselves and their families. Other projects the team will visit and support are the House of Hope girls' refuge - which rescues girls from FGM and early marriage; Nkapilili school for Disabled children - helping them integrate into mainstream education; and a Maternity Unit in the impoverished village of Nturmeti - which Mission Direct helped build last year.

All volunteers in the team have to raise a minimum of £2000 to pay towards the trip and project material costs - which includes employing local builders and building materials, and full work travel insurance. The team will be staying in very basic, but safe, accommodation during their time on the project, and having to contend with irregular power and water supplies.

Sylvia is hoping to raise her funds in a number of ways, and is looking to see if the general public can please help support her project fundraising. Firstly, provided she can get to the venue, Sylvia is happy to come along and give an illustrated talk to local organizations such as Rotary, Lions, WI's, church groups, etc. for a donation; and will entertain you with a talk either on a previous overseas project or with her Kenya project photos on her return.

And secondly, there will be a Grand Raffle Draw - whereby Sylvia has obtained prizes from local Staffordshire businesses. These include: £30 Voucher at London House Restaurant, £20 voucher for The Old

Smithy, £10 voucher at The Royal Oak, a Bouquet or other arrangement of flowers by florist Joan Lister, Reiki session (or other relaxation therapy of winner's choice) by Anne McConville, Gentleshaw Wildlife Centre family ticket, Tickets for Eccleshall Community cinema film shows, Gallery print of winner's choice from Stone Artist, Family leisure items and A History of Stafford illustrated Reference Book by local authors Butters and Thomas. Sylvia will be selling tickets from now until the

amounts raised by fundraising will be safe - with options to have a refund, postpone the trip to a later departure date (which would be either later in the year or early next year), or to choose an alternative project with similar community development aid work, in a country where it is safe to travel. I would never voluntarily want to cancel what is a very worthwhile project trip, unless FCO advice means the charity have to cancel it themselves, in which case I would choose

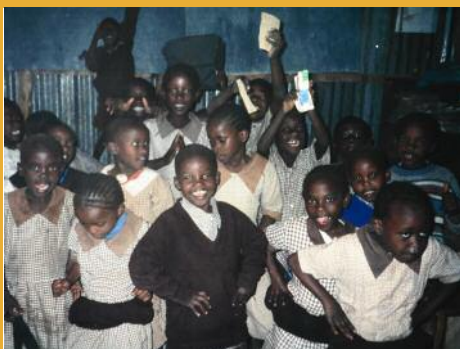


draw, which will take place beginning of July. So if anyone would like to buy any raffle tickets at £1 a strip, or would like to book Sylvia as a speaker, or support her fundraising in any other way please, you can contact her by e-mail on: sylviaakeris@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01785 851005.

I am being kept up to date with regular information on the situation of travel by the charity Mission Direct. They have given me definite assurance that should Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice mean the Kenya trip has to be cancelled (and the situation could change back and forth before our departure date 5 months away in August), Our trip money and

to transfer any funds I have raised for the Kenya project for a later trip date to the country with Mission Direct, when it is again safe to travel there. If advised that it may be a long time before travel is allowed back to Kenya, then I would opt to do an alternative trip with the organisation in another of their partner Countries - with similar needs and development aid project works.

So, I am continuing to raise funds for the charity project - as any monies raised by giving talks, selling raffle tickets, etc. will be going towards the aid project, whether for the planned August trip, or for a rescheduled later date.



James Bond Casino Evening - A Brilliant Success



Stafford Castle's James Bond Casino Evening, held just before 'Lockdown' at Stafford Rangers Football Club, was a fantastic success. Rotarians, their partners, families and friends enjoyed a superb evening with entertainment by a brilliant vocalist accompanied by a saxophonist, an amazing magician and fun at the casino.

On arrival guests were photographed next to an Aston Martin by President Malcolm's son who is a professional photographer. During the evening there was a superb buffet which was enjoyed by all. The number of people attending was down because of Coronavirus and this is likely to have a significant impact on the funds raised. However it was brilliant evening of fun and fellowship, and the last occasion they were able to socialise for a significant time.

A big "thank you" to Senior Vice President Roger Goldman and his wife Karen and Rotarian Brian Seddon and his wife Jenny for all their hard work in organising the event and making it a brilliant evening.

Stafford Castle Donates £550 to Marie Curie

The Marie Curie Charity helps over 50,000 people with terminal illness each year. They provide round the clock nursing care, volunteer befriending to talk and listen to people, volunteer response support to people, bereavement support and information. As with many charities income has plummeted. To help pay for nursing care in Staffordshire Stafford Castle donated £550. Aaron Coleman Community Fund Raiser thanked our Club for the "truly fantastic contribution".

Fun with the Chuckle Children

Stafford Castle President Malcolm Haywood and Community Chairman Keith Rogers spent some time with the young people of Chuckles Productions which is based in Stone.

Chuckles Productions, a small charity, provides supports and services for young people of all ages who have various challenges. Malcolm and Keith joined the younger children and sang with them the children favourite songs - There is a Frog in my toilet, Wonkey Donkey, and Tom and Jerry. This was followed by joining in activities with the older children and

young adults. The session finished with the group singing a song from the Greatest Show on Earth which they performed recently and then their moving song 'The kid with a pocketful of stars' the words of which were their own. Both were brilliant and moving. It is fair to say that Malcolm and Keith enjoyed their experience. The visit concluded with President Malcolm presenting a cheque for £1,000 to Sara Christie and Sharon Hodson who run the charity. They were delighted and Sara expressed the thanks of all at Chuckles to the Club for their generous donation.



Team effort for Technology

A Junior Technology Project event organised jointly by Stafford Castle, Stafford Knot and Stafford was held at Silkmore Academy. The scheme objective was to introduce Year Six Primary School

introduction by Rotarian Graham Cole, Chair of Governors, the young people embarked on their design and bridge building with much enthusiasm. It was a hive of activity and all teams were focused on the task in hand. When all teams had completed the project the Rotarians had the difficult task of choosing a winning team. Stafford Castle Youth Activities Chairman Mike Collins presented the winners with a special prize and all the pupils were presented with a certificate.

The activity was a tremendous success thanks to Rotarians Mike Collins (Stafford Castle), Gwyn Williams (Stafford), Francis Gaffney and Geoff Cooper (Stafford Knot).



students to the world of engineering and to the challenges involved in producing an effective working model.

The emphasis was on team working with seven teams participating. The project chosen was bridge building (civil engineering). Each team was provided with materials such as paper (for design), wood, coving, garden netting, A4 card, string, glue, sellotape, cable ties and pair clips. They were also provided with tools including scissors, junior hacksaw, bench hook and pencils. After a welcome



Ellesmere Rotary: "Lockdown" Update

This coronavirus pandemic has caused cash flow problems for many charities and an early decision was taken to raid the unearmarked Charity Fund to send money to Hope House Children's Hospices (£300), and the same amount to the League of Friends of the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital (RJA), the latter to provide PPE and 'Grab and Go Bags' for NHS staff who are struggling to get their essential shopping done.

With so many having to maintain self-isolation at home, relatively few Ellesmere Rotarians have been able to get about. However, a number have become 'volunteers' on the various schemes that have come into being at short notice, such as the excellent one organised by Ellesmere Town Council. Such schemes have been vital in maintaining a supply of food, prescriptions, and other essentials to those unable to get out, plus a dog-walking service for stressed pets. Cockshutt resident, Rotarian Ewan Williamson had started to assist before the lockdown and his village's scheme commenced. He found himself particularly busy shopping twice weekly for all manner of items for an average of 10 households per trip of the more than 20 that he has supported, in addition to his own. He had to call in on superstores, other food outlets, pharmacies, hardware shops, the newsagent, and the post office to keep them all going.

Rotarian Trevor Humphries has appreciated the extra 'Gardening Leave', but he and his business partner managed to reorient some production capacity to make sanitised hand rub to WHO specifications, using existing stocks of raw materials. This was supplied to the local GP surgery and District Nurses. Other recipients include Delivery Drivers, Postmen, Refuse Collectors, Receptionists,

and the local Dentist. Trevor helped direct things whilst at home, but as with many in our area, since mid-May, he either STAYS HOME or STAYS ALERT, depending on which way he might turn out of his drive, should he actually choose to do so!

The most recent recruit to Ellesmere Rotary, Leslie Aspey of Dudleston, joined Sewing for Shropshire NHS, a group of 2,500 sewers that has mounted a concerted campaign to fill gaps in the supply of sets of scrubs, gowns, drawstring bags and masks for the NHS locally. At the time of the AGM, Leslie had completed 11 sets of scrubs, 18 gowns, 20 drawstring bags and 10 masks. The group has been fundraising to acquire material to continue producing scrubs



Support for Greenhall nursery

Greenhall Nursery in Stafford provides nursery care for children with serious disabilities. This care, provided by the dedicated and amazing staff, continued through lockdown. For many years Stafford Castle Rotarians have run the barbecue at the Greenhall Nursery Summer Fete.

The Club always pays for the food etc. Unfortunately because of lockdown the fete was cancelled. The fete is the main fund raising activity and will have a significant impact on what can be funded for the children (e.g. the running of the mini bus). To help with the loss of additional income Stafford Castle donated £500 to the nursery.



Pencils for primary pupils

Lockdown has presented tremendous challenges for primary schools particularly for those where there are children from deprived situations.

Stafford Castle has provided financial support to three local primary schools, Silkmore Academy, Doxey Primary School and Veritas Academy.

Many of the children at Silkmore School do not have access to simple stationery resources which many of us take for granted. At the beginning of Lockdown the children were sent home with work materials (rulers, protractors, pencils etc). Not surprisingly these had to be replaced and the Club funded stationery kits for Key stage 1 and 2 pupils at a cost of £620.

A number of the pupils at the Doxey Primary School are provided with a breakfast. There is no funding provision for breakfasts for the children over the holiday period so the Club donated £500 to provide breakfasts for these children over the Easter holiday.

Children returning to school cannot take work books home because of coronavirus virus safety measures. To help the children Veritas school provided duplicate work books for their pupils to take home. The Club donated £420 to fund the purchase of the purchase books.

All three schools were very grateful for the donations Stafford Castle Rotarians made.



Club Contacts

District 1210

The information listed below gives the name and location of clubs, the days of the week they meet, whether **(E)** evening, **(L)** lunch or **(B)** breakfast, as well as their website and the telephone number of the club's Honorary Secretary to call for club information.

ALDRIDGE*

Thursday (E) 7.00pm
Club Sec. Tel: 01922 685945
www.aldriderotary.org.uk

AUDLEY

Wednesday (E) 6.30 for 7.00pm
Club Sec. Tel: 01782 721483
www.sites.google.com/site/audleyrotaryclub

BILSTON & W'TON WEST*

Monday (E) 7.00 for 7.15pm
Not last Monday of month
Club Sec. Tel: 01902 840043
www.rbww.org

BLOXWICH PHOENIX

Saturday (B) 9.15 for 9.30am
Club Sec. Tel: 07939 584985
www.bloxwichphoenix.net

BLYTHE BRIDGE & DISTRICT*

Monday (E) 6.45 for 7.15pm
Club Sec. Tel: 01782 397765
www.blythebridgerotary.org.uk

BREWOD & DISTRICT*

Wednesday (E) 7.00 for 7.30pm
Club Sec. Tel: 01902 850329
www.brewood-rotary.co.uk

BRIDGNORTH

Wednesday (E) 7.00pm
Club Sec. Tel: 01746 766245
www.bridgnorthrotary.org.uk

BROWNHILLS*

Thurs. (L) 2nd & 4th only,
12.45 for 1.00
Club Sec. Tel: 01543 450233

BURNTWOOD & DISTRICT*

Wednesday (E) 7.30 for 8.00pm
Club Sec. Tel: 01543 677602
www.burntwoodrotary.co.uk

BURSLEM*

Wednesday (E) 6.15 for 6.30pm
2nd, 4th & 5th Weds of month only
Club Sec. Tel: 01782 373933
www.rotaryburslem.co.uk

CANNOCK*

Wednesday (E) 6.00 for 6.30pm
Club Sec. Tel: 01543 876209
www.cannockrotary.co.uk

CHEADLE*

Thursday (E) 7.15pm
Not 1st Thursday of month
Club Sec. Tel: 01538 753192

CHURCH STRETTON

Wed (E) 2nd 4th 5th 7.00 for 7.30pm
Club Sec. Tel: 01694 724579
www.rotaryclubofchurchstretton.co.uk

DARLASTON*

Tuesday (E) 2nd 4th 6.30 for 7.00pm
Club Sec. Tel: 07976 426 228
www.darlastonrotary.org

DUDLEY*

Monday (E) 6.15 for 6.30pm
Club Sec. Tel: 01902 684938
www.dudleyrotary.org.uk

ECCLESHALL MERCIA*

Monday (E) 1st & 3rd only, 7.30pm
Club Sec.: Tel: 01785 818330
www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=2107

ELLESMERE

Wednesday (E) 7.00 for 7.30pm
Club Sec. Tel: 07763 945161
www.ellesmererotary.org.uk

ETRURIA*

Tuesday (B) 7.25am
Club Sec. Tel: 01782 398769
www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?clubID=1775

IRONBRIDGE

Thurs. (E) 6.30pm for 7.00pm.
4th, 5th - venue varies.
Club Sec. Tel: 01952 620052
www.ironbridgerotary.org.uk

KIDSGROVE*

Wednesday (E) 7.00pm
Club Sec. Tel: 07542 640013
www.kidsgroverotary.co.uk

LEEK*

Monday (E) 7.00pm
Club Sec. Tel: 01538 385609
www.rotaryclubleek.org.uk

LUDLOW

Tues. 2nd, 4th, (E) 7.00 for 7.30pm
Club Sec. Tel: 01584 890349
www.ludlowrotaryclub.org.uk

NEWCASTLE-under-LYME

Tuesday (L) 12.45 for 1.00pm
Club Sec. Tel: 01785 748446
www.rotary-newcastle-staffs.co.uk

NEWPORT*

Wednesday (E) 6.30 for 7.00pm
Club Sec. Tel: 01952 810162
www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.asp?ClubID=1258

NEWPORT (SHROPS) LITE

1st Tuesday (E) 7:00 for 7:30pm Club
Sec 01952 608699
www.newportrotarylite.org.uk

RUGELEY*

Monday (E) 1st, 3rd & 5th 7.30pm
Club Sec. Tel: 01889 621603
www.rugeleyrotary.org.uk

SEDGLEY & WOMBOURNE

Thursday (E) 6.45 for 7.15pm
Club Sec. Tel: 01902 845996
www.rotarysedgleyandwombourne.org.uk

SHREWSBURY

Wednesday (L) 1.00pm, 5th 7.30pm
Club Sec. Tel: 01743 231059
www.rotaryclubofshrewsbury.org.uk

SHREWSBURY DARWIN

Friday (B) 7.15 for 7.30am
5th Friday Thursday 7.30pm
Club Sec.: Tel: 01948 667588
www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=1790

SHREWSBURY SEVERN*

Tuesday (E) 7.00 for 7.30pm
Club Sec. Tel: 01743 872677
www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=1605

SIX TOWNS (STOKE-ON-TRENT)

Wednesday (E) 2nd. 7.00pm
Club Sec. Tel: 07787 344123
www.facebook.com/6TownsClub/

STAFFORD

Wednesday (L) 12.00 noon
Club Sec. Tel: 01785 851381
www.staffordrotaryclub.org.uk

STAFFORD CASTLE*

Tuesday (E) 7.00 for 7.30pm
Club Sec. Tel: 01785 253823
www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=1625

STAFFORD KNOT

Thursday (B) 7.15 for 7.30am
Club Sec. Tel: 01785 227372
www.rotaryclubofstaffordknot.org.uk

STOKE on TRENT*

Monday (E) 6.15pm
Club Sec. Tel: 01782 838295
www.stokerotary.co.uk

STONE & DISTRICT*

Mon (E) 1st & 3rd 7.00 for 7.30pm
Club Sec. Tel: 01785 815580
www.stonerotary.org

TELFORD CENTRE*

Tuesday (E) 6.00 for 6.30pm
Club Sec. Tel: 01952 676671
www.telfordcentrerotary.org

TETTENHALL*

Monday (E) not 1st, 7.00 for 7.30pm
Club Sec. Tel: 01902 764122
www.tettenhallrotary.org.uk

TUNSTALL*

Tues (E) 6.15 for 6.30pm
Club Sec. Tel: 01782 658299
www.facebook.com/rotarycluboftunSTALL

UTTOXETER*

Tuesday (E) 7.30pm
Club Sec. Tel: 01283 821408
www.uttoxeter-rotary.org.uk

WALSALL

Friday (L) 12.45 for 1.00pm
Club Sec. Tel: 01922 648434
www.walsallrotary.org

WALSALL SADDLERS

Tuesday (E) 6.30 for 6.45pm
Club Sec. Tel: 07860 717706
www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=1829

WEDNESBURY*

Thursday (E) 6.15 for 6.45pm
Club Sec. Tel: 01922 623517
www.wednesburyrotary.co.uk/

WEDNESFIELD*

Wednesday (E) 6.15 for 6.30pm
(Not 2nd Wed, or Aug)
Club Sec. Tel: 01902 759752
www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=1275

WELLINGTON

Friday (L) 1.00pm
Club Sec. Tel: 01952 541518
www.wellingtonrotary.org.uk

WEM & DISTRICT*

Mon 1st (E) 7.30pm, 3rd (L) 1.00pm,
Club Sec. Tel: 01691 610452
www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/officers.php?ClubID=1277

WHITCHURCH

Tuesday 1st & 3rd (E) 7.00pm,
2nd & 4th (L) 1.00pm
Club Sec. Tel: 01948 665330
www.whitchurchrotary.org.uk

WILLENHALL

Thursday (E) 5.30 for 6.30pm
(last Thursday 7.00pm with partners)
Club Sec. Tel: 01902 607881
www.willenhallrotary.org.uk

WOLSTANTON*

Thursday (E) 7.00 for 7.30pm
Club Sec. Tel: 01270 652837
www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=1594

WOLVERHAMPTON*

Tuesday (L) 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th 12.45pm
Club Sec. Tel: 01902 893527
www.rotaryclubwolverhampton.co.uk

WOLVERHAMPTON ST. GEORGES*

Tuesday (B) 7.15 for 7.30am,
not last of month.
Club Sec. Tel: 01902 700996
www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=1759

THE WREKIN

Thursday (E) 7.15pm
Club Sec. Tel: 01952 255267
www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=1268

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**Please email articles and images to be included
in the next edition of The ROTO to Editor,
Cressida Dickens: - crezdickens1210@gmail.com
or to Linsey Bradley at: quill.design@btconnect.com**



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