

the **ROTO**

ISSUE 29 SUMMER 2021

DISTRICT 1210 rotary1210.org



Shropshire's
Lord-Lieutenant
opens Rotary
BikeFest - page 3



Blanket support for knitting appeal

A bustling Rotary Club’s appeal for wool for patients has been a massive success – and they’re asking for more.

The Newport Rotary Lite’s appeal for wool to knit blankets for dementia patients has met with a huge response from the community, with many groups and individuals also knitting for the club’s appeal. The spectacular blankets are already making a difference to patients in Telford and Shrewsbury.

Newport Rotary Lite Knitter Liz Chesters said “We have been absolutely blown away by the extraordinary generosity of so many people donating wool and knitting blankets for our appeal – the support we’ve received has been unbelievable. In the two weeks since we launched our appeal we’ve received over 500 balls of wool, and have managed to buy more at a bargain rate thanks to local business support. And to top it all we’ve got an amazing collection of local groups and individuals knitting for the appeal – between us we’ve already knitted or crocheted 30 blankets for the Princess Royal and Royal Shrewsbury Hospitals. People are amazing.”



“We have groups and individual knitters helping us from Newport, but we’ve had offers of support from as far away as Shrewsbury, Wolverhampton and Market Drayton. One lovely West Midlands family who want to remain anonymous gave us £155 to buy more wool with. Julie from Allsorts Wool and Fabric in Madeley sold us lovely bright wool at a bargain price, then donated even more – people have been so helpful.”

Lisa Butler, Dementia Specialist Nurse from Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals said “We can’t thank Newport Rotary Lite and their friends enough – what they are doing really does make a difference to people’s lives. It’s a fantastic effort which is helping some very vulnerable patients. Thank you!”



Liz Chesters added “We’re knitting and crocheting distinctive and very brightly coloured blankets - they help patients with dementia identify their bed in hospital, and then they can take it home with them as its theirs to keep. It helps them settle and gives them something warm and comforting at what could be a frightening time for them.”

“It takes about five or six balls of wool to make a blanket, so we and the friends helping us need a lot of wool! We’re also looking for other knitters to

help us help the hospitals. If anyone can either give us some wool or would like to help knit, please just e-mail info@newportrotarylite.org.uk or message us through the Newport Shrops Rotary Lite Facebook page.”

“It’s a great way to get rid of any wool that’s been hanging around for a while, or spending a little while knitting a six inch square or even a whole blanket. Together we’re really helping these patients.”

Earth Day litter pick

Earth Day is an annual event aimed at tackling the likes of climate change and pollution. To demonstrate our support for environmental protection, as part of 2021 Earth Day, a number of Wednesfield Rotary members got involved in litter picking and all had a great day in the sun. Every day should be an Earth day !!



Event held to increase awareness of Rotary and boost footfall in a town centre

Wellington Rotary Club has received many congratulations from across the community as members spent a very enjoyable day raising in the region of £1,500 for Shropshire, Staffordshire & Cheshire Blood Bikes. The story of the day started nearly a year ago when one of the club's members suggested having an event in Wellington to raise the profile of Rotary in the town. An idea surfaced that it would be good to have a Motorbike festival especially if we could involve Harley Davidsons. Initially the organisers worried about finding a date amongst other Wellington events, little realising that COVID-19 would still be an issue, and that the other events – Wellington's Summer Fayre and Carnival – would be cancelled. The club found great support from the Wolfruna Harley Davidson Chapter as well as from Wellington Town Council - all helped by the suggestion of making 'Blood Bikes' the charity that would benefit.

A lot of work went into getting it all together; form filling for Telford and Wrekin Council; Risk Assessments; getting posters and publicity organised; invitations and protocol; and working out how it would all fit together. Then concern about cancellation, would everyone involved want to stay with the project. No-one wanted to cancel or pull out – what a relief!

As part of the event the Club sponsored the showing of 'Wild Hogs' an amusing feel-good film at Wellington Orbit (a Community Benefit Society operating a small cinema in the town), ' . There were two showings on the Saturday and one on the Friday night. Coming out from the film on the Friday it was raining - that augured badly for Saturday.



Saturday 26th June was an historic day for both Rotary Wellington and Wellington Town with the occasion of the club's first ever Wellington Bikefest. The event was organised to increase footfall for local businesses and to raise funds for Shropshire, Staffordshire & Cheshire Blood Bikes. Patron of Blood Bikes, the Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire opened the day after a Harley bike ride twice around the town from Tan Bank Police Station. Tom Taylor, the incoming President of Rotary Wellington said, "I was desperate for a coffee, and thought I could get one before the Lord-Lieutenant arrived – but there was a queue in the Orbit, and suddenly a great roaring noise – and I only managed one sip before the Lord-Lieutenant, riding on a Harley Davidson with her escort, roared into the Square. I had the honour of welcoming her, and then introducing her to our President Peter, The Mayor of Telford &

Wrekin, the Mayor of Wellington, District Governor Ken, District Governor Elect Robyn and Assistant Governor Graham. She was a pleasure to host, chatting with great interest to everyone she met while clutching a posy presented to her by Grace Delahay, and leaving them with smiles on their faces. She then toured the Gazebos – the Police, the Blood Bikes, Harley Davidsons, and Rotary, before walking round all the other bikes in the Square and New Street."

The Town Council were thrilled and social media has been "alive" with compliments and positive feedback ever since. The club is hugely grateful to the Wolfruna Chapter (Chapel Ash, Wolverhampton) of the Harley Owners Group (HOGs) who brought along around 30 beautiful Harley-Davidsons, including some beautifully customised machines notably a Sir Captain Tom Moore tribute and a Harley Davidson UK 2021 competition winner. Crowds numbered into the hundreds with almost as many bikes heard riding into town, including a few impressive, customised trikes. The Blood Bikes on display, included "Spirit of Rotary" which was donated a few years ago to Blood Bikes by the Rotary Telford Tree of Light. The Police joined us with a display of their 1400 Kawasaki Police Bikes and a "Ride Safe" bike. The Orbit were brilliant with discounted drinks throughout the day and allowed visitors to use their toilets, while the local cafes seemed to do really good business.



Lord-Lieutenant Anna Turner told the Shropshire Star, "Wellington Town Council, the Rotary Club, the police, Harley Davidson Chapter from Wolverhampton and organisers had thrown their hearts into attracting public to the town centre and raising funds and awareness of Blood Bikes in the most innovative way and there were so many happy faces.

The organising Committee will be meeting soon to discuss "Can we, do we want to, do it again; if so what can we improve?" In the meantime, they've got to work out how to get better at putting the Rotary District Gazebo back into its travel bag. You wouldn't believe how many Rotarians it takes to pack a gazebo bag!

Some photographs courtesy Wellington Orbit

Rotarians support vaccine roll-out

A number of Rotarians and their spouses have been volunteering at the Pirelli Stadium and Uttoxeter Racecourse since vaccinations began at the end of December. They are carrying out support roles including greeting patients, registration, marshalling and assisting the vaccinators. Rotary's Vice President, Roy Smith, said "The organisation is excellent and the team has developed strongly under the leadership of Kate and Howard Nash. It is rewarding to be able to play a small part in such an important venture and to see the relief and gratitude shown by all the recipients."

Together the Rotary team have completed over 100 shifts of four or more hours and remain committed to see the process completed. Rotarian Anita Thomas-Epple, (pictured helping in a vaccine bay at Pirelli) who initiated the Club's involvement through her role as secretary of the Balance Street Practice patient participation group, added;



"It has been a privilege and an honour to be part of such a wonderful volunteer group supporting the medics with the vaccine roll-out at both Pirelli and the Racecourse. My husband, Dave and I, started our Covid volunteering journey in mid-December by hand-delivering the letters from Balance Street Practice to those patients over 90 years who were vaccinated first. It was fabulous to see their excitement and the hope of getting back to normal."

Local practices are working together with Dr David Atherton from Balance Street Practice. Uttoxeter Rotary responded to a request for volunteers to help.

Although Rotarians have been unable to meet as usual, weekly Zoom meetings continue, as does the Club's work to support local charities. Uttoxeter Rotary has distributed nine cheques for £650 each to good causes including local food banks and Hospices. President David Chapman concluded; "In these difficult times we continue, with the support of the community, to raise funds and to take practical action whenever possible to help with activities like this. We are busy planning and hope that it will not be too long before we can resume a full programme of projects aimed at further strengthening our community links."

Honorary Rotarian plays Gertrude

Richard Green of The City of Wolverhampton club travelled to the Theatre Royal, Windsor to see Jenny Seagrove, the club's new Honorary Member performing as Gertrude in 'Hamlet', with Sir Ian McKellen in the lead role.

The show was a most unusual production of this famous play but he found it enthralling and, if you like your Shakespeare, well worth seeing.

Afterwards, it was great for Richard to have a chat with Jenny and present her with the certificate recognising her now being an Honorary Rotarian. Jenny said she considers it a great honour to become a member of the club and of the worldwide Rotary movement; and said she stands in awe of the incredible 'Service Above Self' that Rotarians provide, sending her best wishes to all the members of The City of Wolverhampton club.

Rotarians in action

Several members of Wolstanton Rotary Club took to the streets of Wolstanton and May Bank recently as part of its commitment to support the local community.

On a beautiful sunny June day seven club members met at the cenotaph by St. Margaret's church in the High Street.

Setting out in small groups, they spent two hours around the local streets and collected ten bags of assorted rubbish.

It was arranged that Newcastle Borough Council, without whose help the club couldn't carry out this task, would collect the filled bags.

There were many appreciative comments from local residents.

Chernobyl children's minibus arrives

A fundraising drive led by Newport Rotary Lite has meant disabled children in Chernobyl have a new minibus.

The minibus, which is already in action, will mean the children can access a range of critical support that they couldn't previously get to.

Newport Rotary Lite Chernobyl Children Lead Margie Haslop said "This minibus will make an enormous difference to children whose tough lives have been made even worse by the pandemic in Belarus. It will mean they will be able to get to a Day Centre to give them and their parents a break, the foster care centre, leaving care project and – sadly – their much needed palliative care services. The children have a whole range of disabilities resulting from the Chernobyl reactor explosion, and unfortunately many of these are life limiting. Accessing services is extremely difficult for them and we've been told the minibus is already making a real difference to them."

Linda Walker, Executive Director of the Chernobyl Children's Project charity said "What Newport Rotary Lite has done for the children and young people we support is just fantastic! They have helped them for several years, but to get the children a new minibus will make a huge difference to their quality of life which is even tougher at the moment. Thank you Lite and the Rotary movement"

Lite's Margie Haslop added "Newport Rotary Lite have supported the children for quite a while now, but when we heard that access was difficult for them we thought a bigger effort was needed. We led a campaign that got fantastic support from the lovely people of Newport, and the Rotary Clubs of Leek, Stafford Knot and Cannock helped us too. St Edwards Academy fundraised as well, and Gareth Richards at Furrows Telford was brilliant. Once we'd put all this money together our wider Rotary District doubled it, and then they helped us apply for a big grant from Rotary International. There are real advantages to Lite being part of the wider Rotary movement, even when we operate in a much less formal



way than some traditional clubs. It was a fantastic team effort - thank you everyone who helped!"

"The political situation in Belarus is tricky at the moment and this makes life even more challenging for the children. We sent all the money raised through to the Rotary Club of Minsk who support these children, Rotary always guarantees every penny raised is spent on the cause it's raised for – so these children have now got their much needed minibus! As well as it meaning they can get to the services they need, it will be used to take them on holiday in the summer. Children in institutions in Belarus aren't allowed to leave the country, but the minibus will give them a lovely break within the country. The Chernobyl Children's Project charity send a group of "Red Coats" over every summer to help give them a really good holiday."

"This pandemic has been so hard for so many people, but once again the people of Newport have demonstrated that they will still help those less fortunate than themselves. As well as the serious risk of Covid these children have multiple cancers from an explosion before they were even born, and the support given to the minibus from Newport, other Rotary clubs, schools and Furrows Telford means their lives will be better however long the are. Thank you everybody!"

Tea in the park

In the last week of May, the Rotary Club of the Wrekin held its first 'face to face' meeting since February 2020 at the Bowring Park in Wellington where members enjoyed afternoon tea at the café. The 25 members and guests enjoyed a first-class spread and raised £165 for the Rotary Foundation. The club was fortunate with the weather and all agreed that it should consider repeating the event later in the year. Pictured on the right are 2020-21 District Governor Ken Wagstaffe, Club President 2020-21 Trevor Davies and District Governor 2021-22 Robyn Davis.



For the love of books

Rotary magazine published by Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland featured the following article in the latest edition

Beverley Ricketts, co-chair of Rotary Alumni 1210, describes how the Rotary Books4Home project has now supplied 70,000 books to children, many of whom previously had no books to read at home.

Back in 2013, I was lying in hospital in Stoke-on-Trent recovering from spinal surgery when a visiting Rotarian friend left a copy of Rotary Today for me to read.

I read about the Dines Green Literacy Project which Worcester South Rotary had developed from the Literacy Reading Project that many Rotary clubs are involved with. This is where Rotarians go into schools to listen to children read.

Worcester South Rotary had discovered that children in the schools where they were working had very little access to books at home.

One of the teachers in the school asked her year 5 class "how many of you have bookshelves at home?" There were a lot of blank looks. Two out of 30 children put their hands up. So the Rotarians got some secondhand books, put them on a stand in the corner of the classroom and, within a few days, all the books had gone as the children had taken them home.

So yes, there was a definite need to supply books – and the need is huge. Further research showed that this rather depressing fact was not uncommon. International Literacy Day 2020 focused on this issue and highlighted the fact that one in eight disadvantaged children don't own a single book.

The article was in the June 2013 edition of Rotary Today. I thought it was inspiring and something which I hoped we could develop locally in the Midlands.

As a former Group Study Exchange

scholar to the Philippines in 2007, I am part of Rotary Alumni 1210, which draws together people who have previously experienced Rotary, perhaps through an exchange or scholarship programme.

Alumni 1210 is a great way of staying connected with Rotary – there are more than 100 Rotary Alumni associations around the world – and this was the driver for the Rotary Books4Home project.

Most of the 52 clubs in our district are involved. Worcester South Rotary gave me some good advice. After recovering from surgery and joined by a team from Alumni 1210, we set up Rotary Books4Home. Over the past few years we have sourced a large supply of sustainable donated pre-read children's books.

Rotarians throughout District 1210 have donated storage space for the books, transport assistance and book sorting time. We have contacted schools and liaised to get Rotary Books4Home projects working in many different areas.

Rotary Books4Home aims to give the gift of a book for youngsters to read, take home and keep. Most people I talk to tell me about their favourite book they had as a child. They read it over and over again and, in many cases, still have that old, faded falling apart copy. Do you?

Rotary Books4Home aims to empower children to develop their love of reading and experience the chance to own books of their own. It also allows them to share that love of reading with their family.

It is a very easy project. It doesn't cost a penny, it only takes time. And everybody involved loves books, so it is a joy to do.

For the project to happen books are donated by Rotary. We also have a lot

of books donated by our local soroptimists branch, which would otherwise be pulped – thereby reducing waste, at the same time as enabling children to own books and improve their levels of literacy.

With guidance from the school and overseeing of the Rotary club, the books are made available for the children.

We are very flexible with arrangements; each school has different needs. The books given are chosen by the teachers and children to fit the school's profile.

To date, 32 Rotary clubs and 102 schools have been involved in the project. Some Rotary clubs have engaged one, two or even three schools in the project which works with pre-school children, primary and secondary schools.

We have given 70,000 books to some of the poorest and most disadvantaged children throughout Staffordshire, Shropshire and parts of the West Midlands.

All of the books are checked and quality-assured. The most popular books are Harry Potter and Roald Dahl.

This year, more than ever, because of COVID-19, literacy needs to be a priority. The project has continued through the pandemic, although we have conducted a strict risk assessment for those delivering the books.

During the first lockdown, we distributed 5,000 books. Teachers used this as a catalyst to get children to come into school. The youngsters chose a book in the playground at a pre-arranged time and teachers were able to catch up with the children who they had not seen during the pandemic.

For World Book Day this year, teachers asked us for small sized books which they posted through the letterboxes of children's homes, ensuring everyone had a book to read.

The teachers' feedback has been amazing, and you only have to see the children's faces too. To give them a book is like giving them a million pounds. The statistics speak for themselves.

Children who own books are six times more likely to read above the level expected for their age and nearly three times more likely to enjoy reading.

Many children, for the first time, now have a book of their own to read and to keep forever. And if you're a book person, you love this project!



Fraser Dukes PHF remembered

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 Service 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.

An appeal was launched to fund the placing of a commemorative plaque on Rotary Ridge at the National Memorial Arboretum. Such was the respect in which Fraser was held that the appeal reached its target in just 5 days; a substantial excess of money subsequently received has been donated to the Rotary Polio Elimination campaign.

The plaque now stands in the beautiful and peaceful surroundings of Rotary Ridge.

Shropshire GP revealed 'COVID-19 scared him'

A Shropshire GP has admitted to 'being scared' at the start of the Covid pandemic in March last year.

Dr Jamie Malcolm, a partner at Market Drayton GP Practice, told members of Shrewsbury Severn Rotary Club in a Zoom call how worried he was at the start of the pandemic about catching Coronavirus. Primary care Personal Protective Equipment is not as stringent as many hospital clinicians' equivalent. He wears a thin plastic apron, rather than a gown, with gloves, standard mask and visor.



He told Rotarians he developed a persistent fever early last year, but no cough. He recalled measuring his oxygen levels with a pulse oximeter whilst testing his breathing by repeatedly climbing stairs at work. Later, a blood test confirmed Covid antibodies.

He described how NHS England had, on 19th March 2020, instructed GP practices to implement a Total Triage System that would allow clinical staff to work remotely to protect patients and staff from risk of infection. Such was a dramatic and sudden change from traditional, predominantly face-to-face consulting.

"We all had to learn very quickly how to consult remotely," he told Rotarians.

Before the March 20 lockdown, about 70-80% of GP appointments were face-to-face. During the first lockdown, about 65% of GP appointments were by telephone or video. However, by mid March 2021 the proportion had adjusted to 54% telephone/video and 46% face-to-face.

Dr Malcolm described that in March and April of 2020 there was a reduction in the number of patient consultations. But his surgery is now busier than ever.

"In April 2021 we had 2,000 incoming calls per day to our surgery with a list size of about 18,000 patients. Access to appointments is compounded by our doctors and nurses being deployed to deliver covid vaccinations," he told Shrewsbury Severn Rotary Club.

He told Rotarians of the pressures of being given a week's notice to complete second Covid vaccinations for cohorts 1-9 by 24th May.

"We reorganised physical space for patients to be seen in person - our building was never closed - and stagger appointment times to minimise patient interaction/contact. We ask patients to wait in their cars until we phone them to enter for a blood test."

Dr Malcolm closed his talk with some thoughts on the future of General Practice including the development of Integrated Care Systems, and the role of Allied Health Professionals being attached to GP surgeries – believing them to be a welcome addition to the community workforce, rather than a substitute for GPs.

Rotarians pick litter to say Thank You

Church Stretton Rotary members picked up litter in Carding Mill Valley on National Thank You Day, Sunday 4th July.

This was to help the National Trust and to thank them for managing access to the valley when it has been inundated with visitors. Many have travelled there from all over the West Midlands to enjoy the beauty and facilities of the valley when it's been difficult to travel elsewhere due to the Coronavirus restrictions.



Rotary Community Team Leader Julian Hargreaves said: "We're delighted to support National Thank You Day and send many thanks to The National Trust. Rotary is very happy to support them with environmental action in addition to our usual community activities".

Julian Hargreaves is pictured with members of the Church Stretton Rotary Community Team in Carding Mill Valley, celebrating Thank You Day on 4th July.

Rotary helps two special young people

The Rotary Club of Cannock is providing support to a local couple setting off on a two year trip to Malawi in Africa, one of the poorest countries in the world.

The aim of the trip is to visit and work with local charities whose focus is on education, food scarcity and health care.

Hanna Bodley and her partner Martyn King leave at the end of July and plan to live in a van which is being shipped over from the UK to give them the flexibility to visit any new opportunities while carrying out their charity work. While staying in Malawi they will not be paid for their works and the couple will be living off their savings.

The Cannock club have been supporting Hanna since 2013 when she first volunteered to work in Malawi after leaving school. The club then went on to provide funding to support four young people through a four year education programme. The club has also helped raise funds to provide famine relief and more recently supported a Covid 19 project to provide much needed PPE to health care workers in Malawi.

The couple's aim is to gain as much knowledge as possible across the whole charitable sector in Malawi to ultimately open up their own skills centre to help provide younger people in Malawi with the opportunity to find work.

The Cannock club have awarded Hanna and Martin Honorary membership of Rotary, which will give them access to Rotary Clubs in Malawi who in turn will provide much needed support to their charitable works.

The awards were presented to Hanna and Martyn by the club's President Elect Harold Bould (above), who assured the couple that the Rotary Club of Cannock will do whatever it can to support their good works. Hanna said "along the way we will most definitely face challenges but being part of the Rotary worldwide network will I'm sure come in useful"

The couple plan to get married in Malawi in 2022 and have agreed to keep in touch with the club throughout their two year trip.



A chocolate surprise for COVID-19 frontline team

Rotary has recognised the dedication and hard work of the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital's frontline COVID team – with a surprise gift of 1,000 packets of Mars M&Ms.

The 'chocolate feast' was distributed by Nicola Brockley, Charity and Engagement Facilitator, following its delivery to the hospital by Shrewsbury Severn Rotary Club.

The handover was performed by club president John Law accompanied by fellow member Peter Love.

Said Peter: "This is Rotary's way of saying thank you for the hard work and dedication of local Covid frontline staff during the challenging and difficult last 12 months."

Julia Clarke, Director of Corporate Services at the Trust, said: "We are delighted to receive the packets of M&Ms for our teams, it is such a morale booster to receive support from our communities.

"I know everyone at the Trust would like to thank Rotary for this most generous and thoughtful gift."



Lendwithcare update

The Rotary District 1210 Lendwithcare Lending Team have loaned approx. £300,000 (as at the end of June 2021) to approx. 6,500 small businesses. A big thank you from Lendwithcare and the entrepreneurs it helps for Rotary's continued support. The Lendwithcare organisation has now loaned over £30m, of which Rotary has contributed £1m, to 136,000 entrepreneurs since it was established ten years ago.

An increasing number of small businesses are now being listed on the Lendwithcare website following the drop as a result of the pandemic restrictions in 2020. Lendwithcare continues to expand and it is hoped that two new countries will join the Lendwithcare portfolio later this year.

Many businesses have suffered due to Covid related problems such as loss of markets, transport restrictions and various lockdowns. A number of loan repayments have been rescheduled and unfortunately there have been some defaults although the overall rate of default is still less than 1%.

Lendwithcare is very supportive of its entrepreneurs in times of crisis and so set up The Small Business Solidarity Fund in 2020 which was funded by separate donations to provide additional support for entrepreneurs and their businesses suffering from the restrictions caused by the pandemic. A total of £350,000 was raised, including £60,000 via the Big Give Christmas Challenge leading to 18 initiatives in ten countries supporting 22,000 entrepreneurs. Examples of the support given include Emergency food parcels; Hygiene equipment and training in its use; PPE for market traders; Funding and training in use of digital services to support business activity such as marketing, internet banking, mobile phones etc.; Household financial management; Cash grants; Psychosocial support to mainly female farmers; and additional operational costs incurred by the microfinance institutions/partners to implement the above including additional loan administration and rescheduling of repayments.

You can find additional updates at lendwithcare.org/news/latest

Can you name Rotary's areas of focus?

....and do you know how they fit in with the United nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals? "Pretty well, but with a gap" is the answer to the last question - until now. At the start of July, Rotary's seventh area of focus came into being – The Environment.

How do District 1210's 13 global grants using District Designated Funds (DDF) cover these areas of focus?

- *Water, sanitation and hygiene* – five – mostly building toilets and handwashing in Africa and India. Much needed at all times but particularly now.
- *Basic education and literacy* – two – providing equipment and spaces for education in India and Tanzania.
- *Disease prevention and treatment* – seven – from PPE for doctors and paramedical staff in India (a covid GG) to training for health workers, eye clinics and a sustainable power supply in Malawi to training for occupational therapists and so much more in Moldova
- *Community economic development* – one – the construction of a check dam to hold water from the monsoon and develop farming in India.

(nb. Some projects cover more than one area.)

A pretty good coverage particularly as this does not include global grant projects clubs are involved with that does not have DDF funding. (In case you were wondering the two other areas of focus are – Peacebuilding and conflict resolution, & Maternal and child health.)



"Find the Rotary Bears" competition

A competition is being organised by Church Stretton Rotary Club, for children under the age of 12 that will take place during August in the town.

Families are being encouraged to "Look for the posters and get searching".

Polio eradication

There are now only two countries with cases of the wild type one polio virus - Afghanistan and Pakistan. Both countries are continuing to operate a vaccination programme.

In Pakistan in the periods 29th March to 2nd April and 11th to 15th April more than 40 million children under five received vaccinations. So far this year there has been one case of type 1 polio (compared to 84 in 2020) and 6 cases of type 2 polio (compared to 135 in the previous year)

Afghanistan continues a vaccination programme but this has been disrupted due to the covid pandemic. So

far this year, there has been one case of type 1 polio (compared to 56 in 2020) and 23 cases of type 2 polio (compared to 308 in 2020). This demonstrates the project is very close to winning the battle and it is important that Rotarians continue to support polio eradication to enable global eradication to be achieved.

Rotarians and others have been disappointed to learn that the UK government is proposing to cut the grant which given to polio eradication by 95%. Clubs and individual members may consider writing to their local MP to stress how important it is to maintain the grant at its current level.

Clubs from towns with the same name on different continents seek to work together

The possibility of a joint project is being investigated by two Rotary clubs with the name Shrewsbury – one of them in Shropshire, UK and the other in Worcester County, Massachusetts, USA.

The Rotary Club of Shrewsbury Severn has just experienced its first link-up with the members of the Rotary Club of Shrewsbury Massachusetts in a ground breaking Zoom meeting.

The US Rotary club wrote to Shrewsbury Severn Rotary's immediate past president John Law expressing how 'so happy' they are that the two clubs were connected.

"I would like to explore opportunities for our two clubs to work together," said Shrewsbury Rotary Massachusetts membership chair Judy Merriman.

"I would like to connect with you to gauge ideas and interest of a joint project. For me, Rotary makes the world a much smaller place. I find that the Rotarians I meet share the same values. Perhaps between the two of us we can come up with some possibilities to suggest to our members – I loved your presentation and the pictures."

She went on to give president John Law an insight into the American Rotary club.

"Art Dobson, who was on the call today, is our oldest member. He serves on every committee we have as well as being our sergeant at arms. He is 88 going on to be 89 on July 3. Our youngest member is Jason Palitsch who is on our local school board and is in his early thirties. Our club is about evenly divided between men and women. About half of us are either fully retired or semi-retired."

The club's membership chair also wished to touch on membership. "This has been a difficult year for the world," said Judy. "We try to stay grounded but safe with our Zoom meetings. Although it is definitely not as good as meeting in person, these weekly meetings have been important to all of us in our club. My fear is that we will lose members because of the long separation. We are working hard at keeping people connected and involved. I hope the pandemic will soon subside and that everyone continues to observe safe practices."

The photograph (left) is of Jason, Art and Judy at a social evening held by the Massachusetts club. The photo above shows members of the Shrewsbury Rotary Club, Massachusetts attending a District Awards Ceremony honouring Art as a Rotary Hero.



Rotary club's small grants scheme

In December, evidence of the increasing difficulties of small charities and other community groups to raise funds for their work, prompted the Rotary Club of The City of Wolverhampton and the Trustees of The James Beattie Charitable Trust to come together to address the problem. Not only had Covid 19 restrictions severely inhibited fund-raising, but the impact of the pandemic on employment and social contact had created even greater needs to be addressed.

Against this back drop, the Club and the Trustees announced in January the establishment of a £10,000 fund from which grants of up to £750 would be made in order to provide financial help for local groups to help sustain the work which has assumed such a vital place in community life in the city.

Details of the scheme were distributed to voluntary, community and social enterprise groups, working across the city bring help to people of all ages and with diverse needs. Applications were lodged over a period of six weeks ending on 10th March, from a total twenty eight organisations.

Club President Brian Bailey takes up the story *“When we launched the Scheme we had no idea what the response might be. In the event the range of applications covered Food Banks and meal services, schemes to engage and occupy young people, projects providing support to combat disability, groups targeted at the special needs of women, and others supporting the community at large.*

“We certainly did not anticipate so many applications, totalling almost twice the sum which was available. In consequence we found ourselves faced with an evaluation process far greater than we were prepared for. This was not only daunting, but also humbling in its exposure of the extent of the need to be addressed, and heartening to be given an insight in to what is being done, every day, by so many people, to fill those needs.

“Inevitably, the response to the scheme has meant that some applications have been unsuccessful, while others have had to be scaled back. In all grants totalling £11,261 have been made to 18 organisations”

One award-winning scheme is the Goldthorn Hill Pumping Station Allotment Society, a Community Group which has been given two years by the City Council to reclaim land for use as a community allotment. If the group achieve their goal, then the Council has given a commitment to grant a 25-year lease. After being closed for more than 20 years, the land had become overgrown and a site for fly tipping.

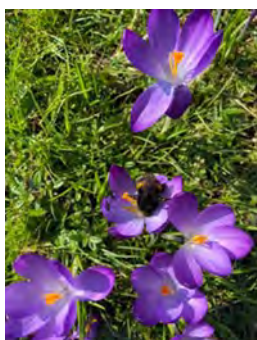


The project is helping rehabilitate some members who have some form of illness or disability, while also benefiting families and the wider community. The Society has been awarded a grant of £500 to be used to hire equipment to help clear the site.



Another award-winning scheme is Friends of Di's Kitchen, a Community Group which prepares and delivers a nutritious three course meal every Thursday to those in need, within the City. Emergency food parcels are also provided and fresh produce received from a major supermarket is shared out. Currently just over 400 people benefit each week from the service, including 63 families with 155 children. With careful choice of food and shopping and the donated produce, each meal can be prepared at a cost of 75-90 pence. A grant of £750 will help sustain this important community service.

Polio crocuses



Spring each year sees a beautiful purple carpet of crocus blooming in many communities across Great Britain and Ireland thanks to the Purple Crocus Corm planting to raise awareness of the Rotary fight for a polio free world.

In Wednesfield, there was an array of spring flowers with the bees loving the crocuses!

Many of the purple crocuses by the library and the amphitheatre were planted by Wednesfield Rotary as part of the campaign to eradicate polio #Purple4Polio



Rotarians touched by Gareth's courage

Members of a Rotary club were so touched by the courage of a 28 year old man with incurable cancer that they had no hesitation in approving a proposal to donate £250 to his underfunded charity.

For Gareth Emmerson, 28, of Ford, near Shrewsbury, who has Ewing's Sarcoma, a rare form of bone and tissue cancer which primarily affects teenagers and young adults, cycled 1,000 miles from Land's End to John O'Groats over 12 days starting at Land's End on June 8.

He made the gruelling ride with his fiancé Zoe, to whom he is getting married in July, dad Andy and best pals to raise cash to research his illness. He already has raised over £53,000.

Over the past seven years he's beaten cancer three times, but on each occasion it has returned more aggressively and spread to different parts of his body. Last November he found out it was back for a fourth time, now in his lungs, lymph nodes and brain, and his diagnosis became terminal.

But rather than dwell on the news, warehouse manager Gareth wrote a bucket list and set himself the mammoth endurance challenge.

The plan is to complete the cycling fundraiser before marrying his childhood sweetheart Zoe.

In response to a proposal by Rotarian Garth Joscelyne who knows the family, Shrewsbury Severn Rotary Club didn't hesitate to agree to the donation.

Said Garth: "I have known Gareth's brother Sam for some time and of course got to hear of Gareth's situation which was obviously very concerning.

"Under the circumstances, I think this is a wonderful effort on his behalf to raise money for Sarcoma UK."

Gareth hopes that part of his legacy will be increased awareness around the condition as well as vital funds to



go towards research will help save young lives.

"Sarcoma UK is the only national charity that funds vital research and campaigns for better treatments for all types of Sarcoma," he said. "This is currently a hugely underfunded area.

"The charity gets no government funding whatsoever and because of that treatments and survival rates are not moving forward quickly enough. The first line drugs used to treat Sarcomas were developed 40 years ago. Any donations to help the charity will be hugely welcome."

Gareth's challenge is made all the more extraordinary by the fact he trained while having chemotherapy. He is currently in London where he is having regular chemo sessions at hospital.

To get behind Gareth's fundraising mission visit justgiving.com/fundraising/teamgazemerson

There is a video on his JustGiving page where he explains a bit more about his illness and why he's doing the ride.

Fraser Dukes Memorial Trophy

At last the Fraser Dukes Memorial Trophy has been physically presented to the Rotary Club of the Wrekin. It was a long time after the 'Big Purple Sing' but something called Covid has stopped all meetings so the presentation took place in the Spring, outside and suitably 'spaced-out' with The Wrekin in the background.

District Governor, Ken Wagstaffe is seen presenting the cup to Club President Trevor Davies and Chairman of the Hadley Orpheus Male Voice Choir, Chris Mansell.

The Choir organised and gave their time to perform a seven hour sing, the proceeds of which were sent to the End Polio Now campaign. This money was then boosted 2:1 by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation giving a total of over £13,450 (c\$17,500). More than 40 members of the choir took part and Rotary members supported by coming along to listen, sponsoring their favourite songs, gathering in sponsorship and of course supplying the refreshments.



Happy Birthday to Rotary in Bilston

When a group of nine Bilston business men met in the back room of the Villiers Arms in March 1931 to receive the charter that started Rotary in Bilston they could have had no idea what the next 90 years would look like or what a difference the club they were starting would make. What they did know was they wanted to make a difference, a difference to the community they lived in and in the lives of the people who lived and worked in Bilston. They probably didn't really know what it was they were going to do or how they were going to do it but they knew they wanted to be part of a movement that had and still has the motto 'service above self' something that they and the hundreds of Rotarians that have followed in their footsteps have continued to do.

It was a bleak world outside that room in 1931 as the world was gripped by a global crisis affecting every country. The Great Depression was destroying economies across the world, factories closing, businesses going under, jobs lost, lives ruined and communities destroyed. Bilston, at the heart of the industrial midlands with its steel and heavy industry, was particularly badly hit; so never was there a better time for a group of like minded people to embark on a journey to help communities, support people and help create a better world.

It's been a roller coaster 90 years as generation after generation of Rotarians have continued in the footsteps of those founding members of Rotary in Bilston. The movement has changed, adapted, reinvented itself to meet the many different challenges but always stayed loyal to that commitment to put service to our community above self. The original aims of Rotary in Bilston 'to provide vocational and personal services and to raise money for disasters and good causes' have remained in many different and varied ways and what has happened throughout the 90 years a combination of doing things with and for the community and raising money for good causes. It was Rotary that in World War Two provided a mobile canteen for workers and servicemen and in more recent times have provided thousands of hampers to Bilston pensioners each Christmas. Rotarians have continued to organise events from raffles to car shows from bingo to under 11 football tournaments, from street collections and 'Bikeathons' to arranging the annual Wolverhampton Music School concert. Some of these are entertainment and others raise money so we can support local causes from Green Park Special school to the refurbishment of the War Memorial in Bilston for the 100th anniversary of World War One.



While the focus has been on Bilston and local causes', Rotary is an international organisation with 1.2 million members worldwide and the club in Bilston has played it's part in helping support disaster relief by providing shelter boxes, providing support for World International Eye Camps and with Rotary friends in Calcutta helping establish a local school in in Duttakapour India. Bilston continues to actively support young entrepreneurs with loans and support Rotary's international pledge to eradicate polio throughout the world. Over the 90 years since Bilston Rotary Club was formed it has raised nearly £1 million to benefit those in need, both locally and internationally and members continue to work hard today.

The members have always been local and remain close to business, professional and community leaders in the town. When Bilston first became a borough in 1935 the first four mayors were all members of the club and that tradition remains strong with more recent Wolverhampton City mayors in Bert Turner and Phil Page being part of our club and for the future Sandra Samuels, mayor in 2022/23, will carry on that tradition as an active member of the club in Bilston.



Ninety years on the club finds itself, as the founders were, in a global crisis caused this time caused by coronavirus. But true to the spirit of the aims of Rotary and the commitment of those who started the club Rotarians have adapted and continued to provide help and support in these difficult times. Moving to online video instead of meetings Rotarians have provided services or financial support to a range of organisations across Bilston from 'Di's Kitchen' to Parent and Carer Support from Bilston Resource Centre to Ettingshall and Bilston Outreach as well as 'The Melting Pot' and Excel Church Food Bank. Rotarians continue to work for, and in, our communities and are there continuing to fulfil the rotary aim of "Doing Good in the World".



One lasting memory for most people of Rotary in Bilston over the years is our Santa Sleigh which each year brings joy to children as it journeys through local estates or proudly leads the procession down Bilston High Street, supported by local scouts and guides, to the switch on of the Christmas lights. Sadly this could not happen in 2020 but normal service will be resumed !

Ambassador invitation

Dear Rotarians,

Firstly, thank you so much for being part of Rotary GB&I District 1210. We invite you to consider becoming an Ambassador for our area to promote Rotary membership and public image. If you join the team you will be central to the development of the District and its aims

As you well know, Rotarians are embedded within the fabric of their communities so you are ideally placed to be able to talk to your local community groups, businesses, other Rotarians and potential new members. This partnership completely reflects our shared values and desire to make a difference.

This is a completely new venture for the district and is constantly evolving.

The role of an Ambassador includes delivering “district provided” PowerPoint presentations to clubs, community groups and businesses telling the story of Rotary, and the benefits of joining and remaining in Rotary. You would have to volunteer for an hour a month, receive full training and would be provided with resources and tools to support your role.

The purpose is to work together to raise the profile of Rotary as we climb out of the Covid virus lockdowns, and highlight the important humanitarian work Rotarians achieve across the globe and locally. We encourage the shared values of supporting others, using the incredible voluntary work of Rotarians to support those in need. To enable us to do more work and increase our reach, we need more Rotarians to join us. This is an exciting opportunity that will make a big difference. As we interact and explore opportunities we will engage with people who will learn about Rotary and seek out membership opportunities.

This volunteering role is for you to be a focus on raising awareness and providing information. So the role of a Rotary GB&I Ambassador is:

- to increase awareness of what we do,
- to connect people with information,
- to increase membership.

There is no limit on the number of Ambassadors per District or even per club, We need as many Ambassadors to reach out as possible. So, if you know someone who would also like to volunteer as an Ambassador please put them in contact with Les Goodchild at les.goodchild@gmail.com or Cressida at crezdickens1210@gmail.com.

Thank you.

Rotary funds water coolers for academy

Chase Terrace Academy, previously known as Chase Terrace Technology College, has been awarded £2,938.50 from Burntwood Rotary. The funds have been used to purchase four water cooling stations, which have been installed at key locations around the school site.

As well as water coolers, the school has provided every student with their own eco-friendly, reusable water bottle which forms part of the school's commitment to the environment, health and well-being.

Head of School, Ms Mason said, “We have a strong partnership with Burntwood Rotary and I'm thrilled that our student leadership team have worked so successfully with them to make this project happen. The funding is particularly welcome, as many of our fundraising events have been put on hold due to Covid-19. The money has enabled us to provide our students with fresh chilled drinking water, which has been difficult during the pandemic due to sinks becoming exclusively for hand washing. We are very much looking forward to supporting Burntwood Rotary in more projects in the future”.

President of Burntwood Rotary Club, Tony Spencer commented, “I am delighted that we have been able to support Chase Terrace Academy with this initiative. And it's pleasing to know that we have played a small part in reducing the carbon footprint of the school.”



Rotary's continued support for food bank and food hub

To assist with the growth in use of the Food Bank and Food Hub, Shrewsbury Severn Rotary Club continued to make a monthly donation of £1,000. The club's support of both will continue to at least the end of June, members decided.

The monthly amount continues to include members' donations which would otherwise have paid for meals if the club was meeting in person.

Rotarian John Yeomans, chair of the club's community and vocational committee, said he had been in touch with Karen Williams, Shrewsbury Foodbank PLUS Project Lead. She confirmed they are experiencing growing use of their services and expect further growth as the furlough scheme is phased out.

Karen Williams foodbank PLUS Project Lead said "This funding is vital for us to offer the holistic service to our clients. Not only do we offer non-perishable food, but also fresh fruit and vegetables, household items along with cleaning products and hygiene products.

"We're currently providing food for in excess of 120 individuals every week and have been supporting those living in temporary accommodation such as the Travelodge during the pandemic."

She added: "The support from organisations such as Rotary allow us to plan and serve our clients well, offering a sense of dignity and hope."



Shrewsbury Severn Rotary Club also continues to support the Food Hub who collect excess supermarket food for redistribution.

The Shrewsbury Food Hub was established in April 2016 when a small group of environmentally minded volunteers began working out of the boot of cars in a local car park.

In a letter of thanks to Rotary, board trustee Kate Hudson said: "Your kindness and generosity is enormously appreciated at this very critical time in our growth and allows the food hub to continue having a positive impact on the community."

She said the food hub was 'born' out of a decision to stop good food going to waste and adding to landfill as well as increasing CO₂ levels. Volunteers knew there were people in the community who could use this 'good surplus food.'

In the first year, the food hub saved 14 tonnes of food. "Fast forward five years to 2021 and the food hub now has its own van to support the collection and redistribution of food as well as a fully equipped depot to support surplus chilled and frozen food," Kate has told Rotarians.

"We are powered by over 100 volunteers and in the last 12 months have saved over 140 tonnes of good food from waste – enough for 330,000 meals.

"We could never have grown and survived without the local support and funding from groups like Rotary. We are now reaching over 3,000 people a week via our community groups and ten foodshares.

"We are also raising the awareness of food waste and its drastic effect on the environment."

She added: "As lockdown eases we would love to welcome Shrewsbury Severn Rotary Club members to visit us in the new depot and meet some of the team as well as seeing the hub in action."

Said Rotarian John Yeomans, chair of Shrewsbury Severn Rotary Club's community and vocational committee: "Members of the Rotary Club of Shrewsbury Severn are delighted to offer our continued support to the Shrewsbury Food Hub and fully recognise the positive contribution they are making in reducing food waste and helping to feed those most in need in our town."

Rotary delivers Easter afternoon tea hampers to local seniors

Each year Uttoxeter Rotary organises a lunch for seniors in the area, who live alone. However because of Covid-19 restrictions, Rotary had to think about reaching everyone in a safe manner. Rotarian Sue Brown felt it would be lovely to deliver an Afternoon Tea hamper and it was decided that an Easter Hamper would be fitting since the lockdown had been eased prior to Easter. The community committee set to work organising the event and on Thursday, 1st April a small army of Uttoxeter Rotarians, some of whom had been shielding themselves during the last year, delivered over a hundred Easter hampers to very grateful and excited recipients.

The delicious hampers were prepared by Dawnie's Delights Catering and consisted of a traditional cream tea with scone, jam and cream, a selection of delicate sandwiches and a delicious muffin which was topped with a Rotary logo. To add an Easter twist chocolate coins we added, especially as the hamper was delivered on Maundy Thursday, a hot cross bun for Good Friday breakfast and also a Lindt chocolate bunny for Easter Day.



Pictured are some of the lucky recipients of the treats. One, Mr Coleman, who was soon to be celebrating his 100th birthday, was delighted with his hamper and insisted, "Do send my sincere thanks to the President and the Rotary Club of Uttoxeter for all you do for us."

Rotarian Anita, who delivered a number of hampers, reported "It was fun and very rewarding to be able to do this as I know many of the people from them being our guests at previous lunches we've organised. It took a number of hours as it was the perfect opportunity to have a good natter with everyone, socially distanced, of course! After the year we've all

had it was terrific to spread a little spring cheer."

Rotarian John Gregory concluded, "In Rotary we have a commitment to helping our community whenever and wherever we can. We raise money to help with local causes because we believe it will add to the life of our town, but we also give of our time to try to make a difference. In these difficult times when normal activity is severely restricted, we are doing what we can."



Books4Home

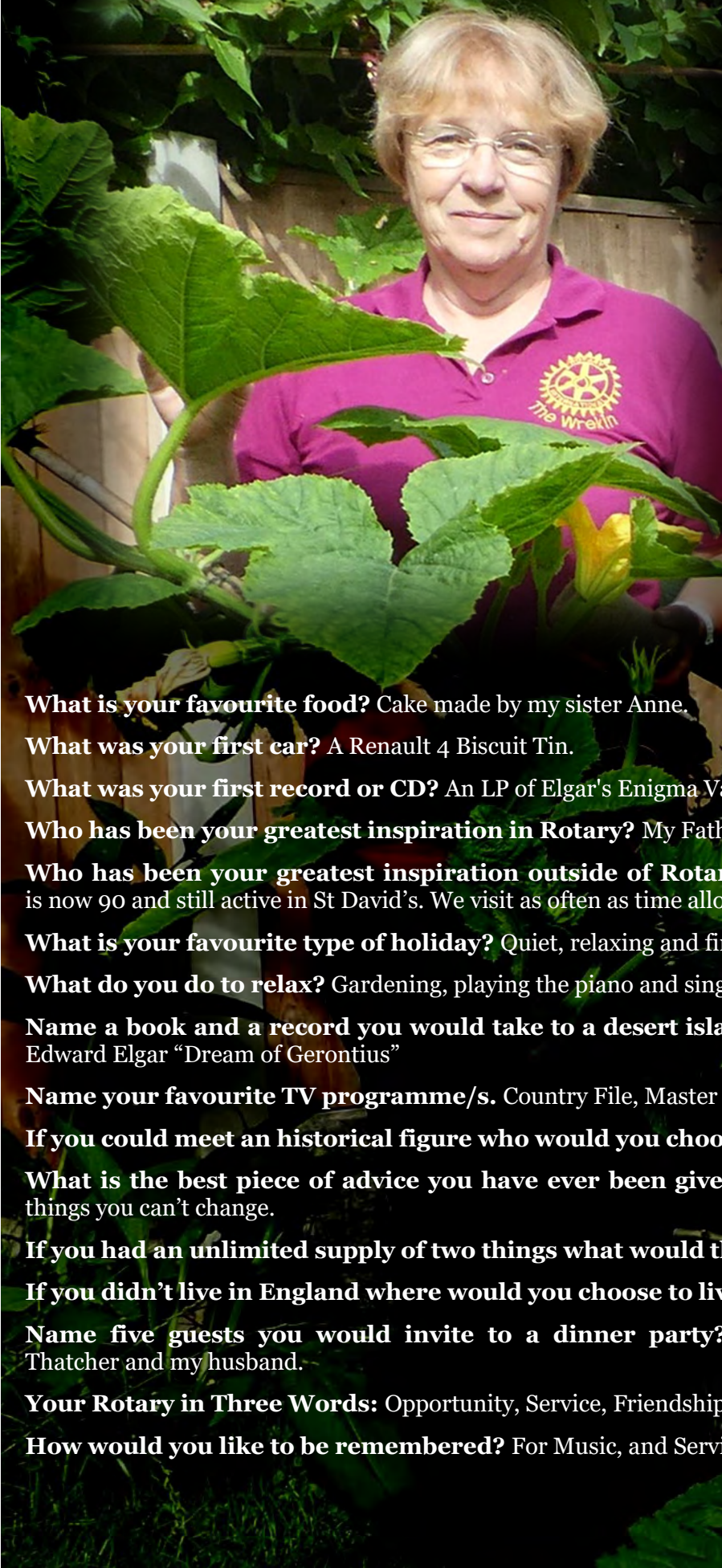
Rotary Books4Home once again delivered a wonderful selection of books to John Wheeldon Primary Academy, Stafford including non-fiction and fiction by children's favourite authors, including David Walliams, Julia Donaldson and Jacqueline Wilson.

Some of the books will be given to the children to keep at home and the remainder will improve the school library. The books are donated to Rotary by various organisations, including the recently closed down Schools Library Service of West Bromwich.

Beverley Ricketts of Alumni 1210 liaised with the school to select the 450 books. Beverley is pictured with Rotarian Mike Winkle



Getting to know District Governor Robyn Davies



How long have you been a Rotarian?

Born into the Rotary Family! My Father was a Founder Member of Ironbridge Club and my mother a Founder Member of Ironbridge Inner Wheel. I was in Rotaract for six years but couldn't progress to Rotary for a further twenty years. I joined The Rotary Club of The Wrekin in 2013.

What was your vocation before retirement?

It still is! Music, followed closely by Company Director. We had our own business until retirement in 2006.

What encouraged you to offer yourself as District Governor?

A twisted arm and motivation to serve to make a difference.

What have you so far found the most rewarding aspect of DG Elect?

The fellowship and being inspired by club members who make a difference.

And the most frustrating?

People only half reading information.

What are your leisure interests?

Music, Garden, reading, crosswords and travel to interesting places.

What is your favourite food? Cake made by my sister Anne.

What was your first car? A Renault 4 Biscuit Tin.

What was your first record or CD? An LP of Elgar's Enigma Variations.

Who has been your greatest inspiration in Rotary? My Father.

Who has been your greatest inspiration outside of Rotary? Llywela Harris (my first music teacher). She is now 90 and still active in St David's. We visit as often as time allows.

What is your favourite type of holiday? Quiet, relaxing and finding interesting places to visit.

What do you do to relax? Gardening, playing the piano and singing.

Name a book and a record you would take to a desert island. John Betjeman "Complete Book of Poems", Edward Elgar "Dream of Gerontius"

Name your favourite TV programme/s. Country File, Master Chef and The Repair Shop.

If you could meet an historical figure who would you choose? Beethoven.

What is the best piece of advice you have ever been given? Improve what you can but don't worry about things you can't change.

If you had an unlimited supply of two things what would they be? Patience and Gin & Tonic

If you didn't live in England where would you choose to live? Norway, Sweden or Tasmania.

Name five guests you would invite to a dinner party? Elizabeth I, Victoria, Lenny Henry, Margaret Thatcher and my husband.

Your Rotary in Three Words: Opportunity, Service, Friendship.

How would you like to be remembered? For Music, and Service to others.

“Building a welcoming community for people with disabilities”

Fee Stevenson of the Rotary Club of The Wrekin reports.

I attended this online Webinar on May 27th hosted by Rotary in the US. There were three main speakers and a fabulous host. One of the speakers has been deaf from birth and ran his own restaurant chain. He made a point only to employ anyone with a disability.

The next speaker was blind, how he performed on screen was amazing. Technology was assisting him with his presentation.

The following speaker was a lady who has all the organisational skills to incorporate people with disabilities into any organisation. Hidden disabilities are just as important to be considered as well as physical disabilities. The summary of the webinar was how clubs could become more inclusive and the use of the Four Way Test was applied. Is it the TRUTH? Is it FAIR to all concerned? Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS? Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Many people with disabilities have numerous talents and skills. I have difficulty writing but can type fast as I trained as a secretary many years ago. That is how I overcome a physical disability with my hands. Tom Kane has taught me a lot about deafness and what he needs to be able to communicate. Harley, his hearing assistant dog is an amazing member of the club and has raised awareness of how vital a hearing dog is to

someone who is deaf.

I have proved to myself at various events that I can be helpful even though I am a manual wheelchair user. I can carry heavy objects on my knee or behind me while sitting in my chair Zippy and can self-propel along happily helping out at disabled sports days. I also get the sympathy vote when attending bag packing events sat holding a charity bucket on my knee and obtain cash donations from passers-by who willing donate to the various causes Rotary help support.

By having numerous skills I overcome the challenges that life throws at me. I raise awareness of issues that affect others and can speak from personal experience in the hope that things will change for the better. Accessibility to rail stations just being one of the examples. Don't get Tom and me started about taxi services!!

The Rotary Club of the Wrekin is an inclusive club and has several members with physical and invisible disabilities. By being an inclusive club the benefit to the members is understanding and being aware of the needs of others it is a club that respects and accepts everyone. It is vital that other Rotary clubs learn that inclusion is better than exclusion and they may be surprised by what talented members they can recruit.

I love being part of such a lovely and wide ranging talented Rotary Club.

Buddy Bag challenge

In May, a small group assembled in the garden of the home of Stuart Perren, President of the Rotary Club of Stafford to pack the club's first 30 bags for its Buddy Bag Challenge.

Leslie and Angela Lee, Val Westerman and Helen Perren have been the core members of the purchasing team with the first 30 bags funded from a donation received via Rtn Rev John Davis.

Karen Milligan, Brian Westerman and Gwyn Williams were the support members with the President providing constant cups of tea and coffee.



The process for preparing the items, and packing the bags was eventually streamlined.

Leslie arranged for tags to be printed and these are tied to the neck of the Teddy Bear with the hand written words “The Rotary Club of Stafford” donated by and the name of the person or family donating the bag contents or funds for the items to be purchased is added.

Leslie and Angela delivered the first 30 bags to a refuge in Wolverhampton.

The remaining 60 rucksacks have now been delivered and the club has planned further packing days later in the year.

Tom's Three Peaks Challenge for Hearing Dogs for Deaf People

The photograph on the right was taken the last time Tom Kane, a member of the Rotary Club of The Wrekin, was on Ben Nevis with his hearing dog Nevis. When Tom lost his hearing in 2000, he had to wait four years until Nevis came into his life.

Nevis has changed Tom's life completely, he gave Tom confidence to go out into the community and be more assertive about his deafness and not to be afraid.

Nevis would make sure Tom was safe at home by letting him know when the doorbell rang, when the alarm clock went off, when the cooker alarm sounded, when the telephone was ringing, or should the fire alarm go off. Nevis did this by padding Tom on his leg.



Tom is now lucky to have Harley (photographed left) as his second hearing dog since Nevis passed away in 2015. It costs Hearing Dogs for Deaf People in the region of £5,000 to train one dog and a further £40,000 to look after that dog during its life. Every dog bred by the charity will have an active part in assisting deaf people of all ages.

In the early hours of Saturday 21st August Tom will, once again, be on Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in the UK.

Once the group has completed about seven hours there, they will be taken by their support team to Wasdale Head in the Lake District so that they can climb Scafell, the highest mountain in England before it gets dark.

On Sunday morning 22nd August the group will be on Pyg Track climbing Snowden, the highest mountain in Wales. After completing Snowden, the group will have a well deserved breakfast at Llanberis before setting off home.

If you would like to support Tom, the rest of the group and the Hearing Dogs for Deaf People charity, visit his fundraising page at [justgiving.com/fundraising/tom-kane3peaks](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/tom-kane3peaks). You can find more information about Tom and his hearing dog Harley at Tom's website [deafnable.uk](https://www.deafnable.uk)

Focusing on young people

Three years ago, the support given by the Rotary Club of Church Stretton to young people in the local community was organised through the club's Community and Vocation Service Team. It was recognised that there was a greater need to support the development of the young, so a new service team was formed to fulfil this role.

Since its formation, the team have continued with the club's longstanding projects such as Mock Interviews for school leavers, and providing dictionaries or calculators to primary school pupils moving up to secondary school. The range of activities has been extended and the club now provides financial support to those attending camps, work experience or voluntary work away from home.

During May the club completed a youth project that has been carried out by using the skills, experience and time of our members and friends of Rotary to provide a bench

for the skate park that was being constructed in the local Town Park. Knowing that to purchase a vandal proof bench would be expensive, Rotarians with experience in metal fabrication decided that a bench could be made by members and friends of the Club.

The bench was designed and constructed by members of Rotary in Church Stretton and is now installed at the skatepark. It will be well used and appreciated by the young and enthusiastic skateboarders.

The club's growing commitment to the local community means it needs more volunteers to help it identify and expand services to meet local needs. Derek Smith, the club's Membership Officer said "New volunteers bring new ideas and are encouraged to introduce new ways of working as we are in an exciting period of change".

Rotary's £1,000 towards rebuild of children's hospice therapy pool

Shrewsbury Severn Rotary Club made a donation of £1,000 towards the rebuilding of the therapy pool at Hope House Children's Hospice. Following a plea for funding to rebuild what the hospice describes as a 'key facility,' members of the club had no hesitation in approving the donation.

Said Rotarian John Yeomans, chair of Shrewsbury Severn Rotary Club's community and vocational committee: "The members of the Rotary Club of Shrewsbury Severn are very aware of the vital support given by Hope House Children's Hospice and the funding challenges faced during the ongoing pandemic. We are delighted to be able to offer our support towards the cost of the refurbishment of the hospices therapy pool."

Cat Dowdeswell, Hope House and Tŷ Gobaith Children's Hospices fundraiser said: "Rotary donations and relationships are very important to us. Around 80% of the cost of providing essential care to our children and families is met by fundraising."



"Shrewsbury Severn Rotary Club has very kindly supported Hope House in the past and we are grateful for their latest donation of £1,000 towards the rebuild of the therapy pool. The therapy pool is now 25 years old and has not had any significant investment since it was installed. "We are working hard to raise the significant funds to rebuild this key facility. It is no longer an aspiration – we must deliver this for our children."

She added: "When you see a child free from muscle spasms and pain, smile and look so relaxed in the water, you know just how much of a difference is being made."

Hope House and Tŷ Gobaith Children's Hospices provide specialist nursing care and support to more than 750 children and young adults aged up to 25 years, and their families, who live in Shropshire, Cheshire, North and Mid Wales.



Rotary supports Little Lending Library

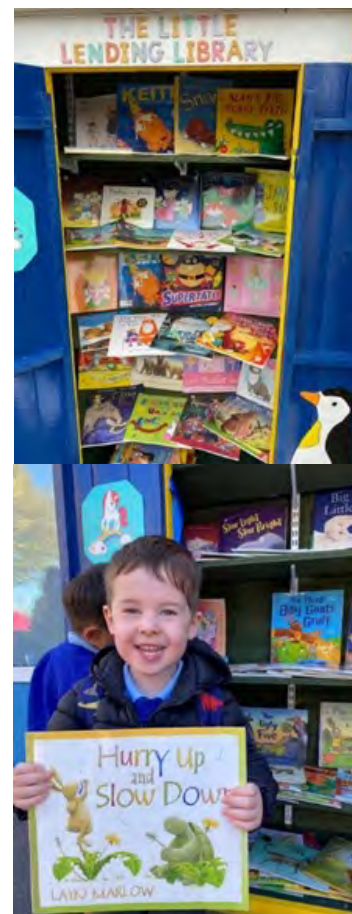
Wednesfield Rotary Club supports St John's Primary Academy's 'Little Lending Library' at Essington which is now open for business !!!

The library was donated by Abbey Spun Cast Limited, and books are supplied by the club in conjunction with Rotary's "Books4home" project.

The library allows children to enjoy choosing a book, take it home to keep or exchange it for another book of their choice once read.

Children's author Natalie Pritchard together with Deputy Head Mrs Jenny Cotterill officially opened the library during World Book week.

Wednesfield Rotary Club are looking to expand this type of project to other schools in the Wednesfield area as club members firmly believe all children should have access to books and own a book of their own.



Alumni 1210 are taking an “Antiques Rotary Trip”

Rotarians across District 1210 are invited to join in Rotary fellowship and fun whilst raising funds for literacy projects in the district.

Four Alumni members will be “virtually travelling” to the District’s Rotary Clubs on an “Antiques Rotary Trip”. Based loosely on the TV program with a similar name, they are asking every Rotary Club in District 1210 to donate antiques, vintage and collectables. These will be taken to an auction sale on Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th August at Bishton Hall, near Rugeley in Staffordshire.

As with the television programme, Alumni 1210 has challenged four groupings of clubs to raise the most money when we take the donated lots to auction sale at Bishton Hall, near Rugeley in Staffordshire, the home of Hanson Auctioneers on Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th August.

Lockdown restrictions have isolated people; even Rotary meetings have often been confined to those with the technology to access them. Social chinwags and catch-ups have all but stopped.

The aim of the challenge is to serve our community by alleviating isolation and promoting fellowship, rekindle Rotary competitive spirit and raise money to support and promote literacy in our area. Rotarians are invited to contact another Rotarian they haven’t spoken to in the last months and chat about how they can help your club’s Antiques Rotary Trip grouping in trying to win Alumni 1210’s Antiques Rotary Trip. Pick up the phone or write a note. Snail mail, high tech, low tech – how it’s done doesn’t matter. The important thing is contact with a person they haven’t spoken to for a while. Alleviate isolation by reconnecting with Rotarians, networking, meeting new friends, contacting acquaintances and having some fun!



Remember the thrill of throwing the winning dart, bowling the winning bowl, potting the winning snooker shot? For obvious reasons district competitions have been limited over the last sixteen months but people can compete in the Antiques Rotary Trip! This is a competition that can involve everyone in a club so that all members are on the winning team. Enjoy some friendly Rotary Competition

Alumni 1210 have split the Rotary clubs in the district into four colour groupings:

Red and Blue: Bridgnorth, Church Stretton, Ellesmere, Ironbridge, Ludlow, Newport, Newport Lite, Shrewsbury, Shrewsbury Darwin, Shrewsbury Severn, Telford Centre, Wellington, Wem, Whitchurch, and The Wrekin

Yellow: Audley, Blythe Bridge and District, Burslem, Cheadle, Etruria, Kidsgrove, Leek, Newcastle-u-Lyme, Six Towns, Stoke on Trent, Tunstall, and Wolstanton

Green: Bloxwich Phoenix, Brewood & District, Brownhills, Burntwood & District, Cannock, Eccleshall Mercia, Rugeley, Stafford, Stafford Castle, Stafford Knot, Stone & District, Uttoxeter

Pink: Aldridge, Bilston and Wolverhampton West, Darlaston, Dudley, Sedgley and Wombourne, Tettenhall, Walsall, Walsall Saddlers, Wednesbury, Wednesfield, Willenhall, and The City of Wolverhampton



Alumni 1210 are encouraging Rotarians to have fun as we move away from lockdown. Explore your house and find something to donate! Delve into the back of your cupboards & see what you can find! Dust off that antique in the shed, collectible in the attic or bit of retro on the shelf.

Remember, one man’s rubbish is another man’s gold
OR one woman’s trash is another woman’s treasure

Which grouping will raise the most money when the donations are sold at auction?

Visit rotaryalumni1210.co.uk/antiques-rotary-trip to find out more, or telephone 07738 173028.

WALSALL ROTARY VIRTUALLY TO CHICAGO

(OUR 4000 MILE CENTENARY CHALLENGE)
Over 100 days 18th June - 24th September 2021

Celebrating 100 years in Walsall we are walking virtually as a team to Chicago, birthplace of Rotary.

Family, friends, supporters are invited to walk, run, cycle, swim or exercise bike as few or as many miles as you are able to help reach our global target.

Record your miles each Wednesday to:

centenarychallenge@walsallrotary.org

View and share our weekly Facebook update, send us your pictures.

Help raise £4000 for Heart Care Walsall and End Polio Now. Create & obtain sponsorship to your own JustGiving fundraising site.

Donate to Rotary Club Of Walsall JustGiving

www.justgiving.com/campaign/centchallenge-rotarywalsall

Request a paper sponsor form - just email us

**HELP US ACHIEVE OUR TARGETS £4000 & 4000 MILES
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

email: centenarychallenge@walsallrotary.org

www.walsallrotary.org



WALSALL
1921 - 2021



giftaid it



Club celebrates the 96th birthday of fellow Rotarian George Roby.

Members of Church Stretton Rotary helped George Roby celebrate his 96th Birthday on 1 May with a cake made by the wife of one of the club members.

The presentation carried out by Club President Don Lovejoy, Peter Burt and Julian Hargreaves was a complete surprise for George, who was overwhelmed by the Club's gift.

George who will have been a member of Rotary for 50 years in September and has been, and still is, an active member of Church Stretton for over 30 years. He has been club President twice, the last time 5 years ago when he was 90, as well as leading various service teams. He was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship in 2013 for his service to Rotary.



The Club believes that George is currently, the oldest active Rotary member of District 1210.

Our congratulations and best wishes go to George and his wife Maureen!



Rotarian's £1,500 Santa beard shave for charity

A Rotary Santa's beard which grew to nearly nine inches in length has raised more than £1,500 for charity. With hairdressers closed during the lockdown, Rotarian Peter Love, a member of Shrewsbury Severn Rotary Club, couldn't get his Santa beard shaved until restrictions were lifted in April.

So whilst the beard grew a lot longer than normal, the time was put to good use by Peter to canvas Shrewsbury Severn Rotary Club members and associate members, family, friends and neighbours, in his fundraising project for Midlands Air Ambulance Charity.

"They have all done me proud," said Peter today. "I am absolutely thrilled with the result which I am hoping might be a record amount raised in the shave off of a beard over eight and a half inches long. "The figure of £1,500 isn't final as I am still awaiting some pledges to be honoured." He once again thanked Risdons the Barbers of Shrewsbury Market Hall who performed the beard shave for free as their contribution to the fundraising.



A large donation to Peter's chosen charity was made by Shrewsbury Severn Rotary Club whose secretary Gareth Watkins said: "A great fundraising effort, but it's also nice to have our old friend back now we can recognise him again."

Jo Bailey, events and area fundraising manager, said: "Peter's beard shave raised an amazing amount of money for our lifesaving service, £1500 equates to 7 critical care car missions.

"Thank you so much to Peter and everyone who has donated to the challenge, it means so much to us all at Midlands Air Ambulance Charity."



Rotary network used to give desperately needed aid to India.

The Covid-19 crisis in India became a major catastrophe. By May 28th, there have been 27.7 million recorded cases with 323,000 deaths. In the State of Kerala alone, the figures are 2.7 million cases with 8,257 deaths. The true figures are probably even higher as many cases go unrecorded.

The City of Wolverhampton Rotary Club decided it would prefer to take direct, rapid action rather than simply make a donation to one of the many commendable relief funds that had been set up.

The club tapped into a network of well known, directly contactable Rotarians includes Past District Governor Scaria Jose of the Rotary club of Changanacherry, Kerala, who serves as the Rotary Jaipur Limb (RJL) Ambassador to India and is well known to club member, Richard Green, the RJL Trustee and Director for India. Scaria advised that there was a desperate need for oxygen concentrators – machines designed to provide relief to patients with severe breathing difficulties associated with Covid. By contacting fellow Rotarian Binoop Paul, Scaria established that a concentrator, manufactured in China, could be purchased for £728. The funds were rapidly despatched to the supplier, Binoop's employers, N2 Healthcare in Cochin.

The unit arrived in Mumbai on May the 26th., was transported across country to Cochin and delivered to Scaria Jose's house on May 27th.

It was handed over to the government public hospital in Changanacherry on May the 28th, where it was accepted by the hospital superintendent, Doctor Ajith, in the presence of the local member of the State Legislative Assembly, Mr. Job Michael and other Rotarians from the Changanacherry club including President Saju.

Job Michael expressed his heartfelt thanks to all the Rotarians involved in extending help to the needy patients during what he described as the current calamity.



Binoop was able to source 5 BiPap (Bilevel positive airway pressure) machines and a number of other clubs sent funds to purchase them.

Rotary President gets his hands dirty in a good cause

Uttoxeter Rotary Club President, David Chapman had a very busy and productive final week in office. On Wednesday 30th June he 'supervised' the erection of the new notice board at the Heath Centre. The sign, created entirely by Rotarian Martin Andrew, is magnificent, and with the help of Norman Tweddle, it, and a very large planter donated by him, were put in place.

David completed the installation by planting blue and yellow flowers, the Rotary colours. President David added; " This is part of our ongoing support of the Heath Centre. We helped purchase the polytunnel in the Community Garden and have donated to the food bank during the last year. We have enjoyed this 'hands on project'."

"It has been an exceptionally challenging year for the whole Community and we are pleased that we have been able to offer practical help when it has been most needed" David concluded.

The photograph shows President David Chapman with Rotarians John Gregory (left), Norman Tweddle and Martin Andrew (right), and the Club's "cheque", recording the £10,500 donated in the last Rotary year to local good causes.



Odd competition helped Newport get shopping again

Over fifty businesses signed up to an innovative Newport Rotary Lite competition designed to get people back into Newport's shops – and have fun at the same time.

The Spot The Oddity competition ran throughout May and in early June.

Newport Rotary Lite's Phil Knight said "We wanted to do something that helped Newport and its businesses, the lockdowns have been tough for many people and local retail businesses, and Newport's shops have always helped us so much when we've asked for support. So we were keen to do something that helped local shops and businesses and was fun for families at the same time."

"The Spot The Oddity competition was a really simple idea. Every participating business in Newport had a Spot The Oddity sticker in the window along with an oddity – something that really didn't belong in that business' window. It could have been something out of place like sports equipment in a furniture store, or car parts in an estate agents. All people needed to do was have a really good look in the windows of the participating shops then put as many correct answers as they could on the entry form."

Paul Blackburn from Newport Beds said "It was an ideal way to get people interested in our town – we love people shopping local. We supported the competition because we believe local businesses with good service bring value to the town. We believe in the High St and wanted to support it."

"I think Newport Rotary Lite once again highlighted an issue in the town then did something about it, they do valuable work."

"I'm sure people loved the competition – it gave a bit of excitement for families, was free to enter, and there was a prize at the end of it. Who doesn't like window shopping?!"

Phil Knight added "The four winners each received a £25 voucher to spend in one of the participating shops, so that helped local businesses too."

"There was a lot of interest in the competition, I think people were ready for a bit of fun which helped the town too. People from the Newport area do support the town when they can and this gave them a bit of encouragement – its they had to look hard at many of our fabulous local shops and businesses."



Does this gnome belong here?

It is official! Heroes do not always wear capes..... but wear masks!

Primary Schools responded to a challenge set by the Walsall Rotary Club: "Can your seven to eleven year old young writers, create stories or poems about their Hero of 2020? Can they enchant the judges? Can they make them laugh and cry?"

Yes they can, and they did - during the lockdown, in an unprecedented term of little more than three weeks before the Easter break, more than one hundred children from eight schools across the Borough of Walsall responded with a very unique outpouring of positive energy and heart-warming verse and prose. Walsall's Young Writers created a pyramid of hope with Captain Sir Tom Moore, the NHS and Marcus Rashford at the base. Front liners were next and shared their honours with "zany aunts", "gorgeous grandads" "fantastic dads" "sassy sisters" and "bril brothers".

But at the very top sharing the accolade of "Everyone's Heroes of 2020" we find Mums and Teachers !!! and that, dear readers, is the verdict of Walsall's Young Writers. Walsall Rotary Club was delighted to engage in a truly rewarding community project.

Changes come to Rotary club

2020 was a difficult year for everyone at Leek Rotary Club. Its usual ways of dealing with things vanished and it had to make changes never seen before. Club members had to adapt to take the changes on board and many found it hard to understand the club will never return completely to “old ways”. The pandemic provided the club with opportunities and its members are embracing the new ideas.

For a while, as its usual hotel was closed, and members met at the cattle market in a large room so that we could socially distance. Although this was seen as a solution, it was barely satisfactory for the long term. At the end of one evening a police officer came to do a patrol around the site and while he was there the last member left, locking the gates. Needless to say, it was a while before the officer was freed.

With Christmas in the member’s sights and knowing that they would not be able to have Santa working hard, seeing 200+ children on the day of the lights “switch on” as it wasn’t taking place in 2020, plans were changed. A shop was offered to the club at no charge for December in an excellent position in the town and members decorated it. Gifts and toys were sold from a really wonderful display. At the back of the shop was a separate room fitted out as Santa’s grotto. Santa was fully booked up to Christmas and people came by appointment. Facebook became a huge publicity machine for the club making contact with many, many people over the whole of December about their visit to Santa, Santa’s tours around town, the raffles for Christmas and the shop that had been opened. People really connected with Leek Rotary Club and were so grateful for all it was doing. The members realised it is a new way forward for connecting with the town for all its events, large or small.



Club members decided to put their own skills into action and made hundreds of Christmas cards for sale and also face masks with the club’s Rotary logo on. In late August, members decided to make a Rotary Cook Book for sale and it was completed in mid November. This was a real team effort. It was sold in the shop at £10 per copy. Sponsorship earned the club £1,000 and with lots of copies sold, the project made a surplus. The proceeds went towards helping mentally affected children in local schools who found isolation almost too much to cope with. The club has a wonderful Santa Sleigh, made by Club members and it was still able to be used. Members were delighted to help with requests made by the public. For example, one person wanted the sleigh to stop outside a house to give a little cheer to a dying person inside. That was worth more than any money raised. The club’s increased publicity via social media made members realise how much Santa means to so many people, young and old.

Details of the club’s activities were well publicised on Moorlands Radio, Facebook etc. and the contact with the public has been amazing, helping to put the Rotary efforts right in their minds. Members converse and spread happiness and humour on What’s App, where they can give details of what is occurring at any moment in time. Truly up to date communication!

This, surely, is part of the way forward, working together as a Club to have much more direct contact with the local public. They have said they really appreciate what the club is doing and some want to help.

Meetings will still be needed to develop ideas, perhaps even the occasional Zoom meeting, but being more in the community has been a change that will improve the standing of Leek Rotary for years to come. The pandemic has helped the club learn, develop and change its routines.

Club President Geoff Hodgkinson has been an inspiration with his positive and cheerful outlook to the situation. The photograph shows the club meeting in Leek Market Place as Geoff became President for 2020/21.



Advice to Rotarians on presentation

Rotarians have been given some expert advice on how to present themselves – particularly in the need to fundraise.

Sam Warner, a professional speaker and autistic interpreter, gave a Zoom meeting talk to Shrewsbury Severn Rotary Club on the content for presentations, including framework and structure.

In how to nail the three p's, preparation, practice and performance, she also advised Rotarians on how to introduce a 'fun part' to a Zoom meeting to connect more engagingly with one another.

"A Zoom attention span is really short, shorter than you'd think or like," she said. "Deliver things in ten minute chunks to keep people engaged."

She covered a wide range of topics from 60 second pitches to using no more than five words on a slide together with images to back up what is being said.

Sam, who concluded her talk by taking a string of questions from Rotarians, came to the club to present as part of a global collaboration with Toastmasters International.

She comes from Shropshire Speakers Club in Telford - to find out more go to shropshirespeakers.org.uk



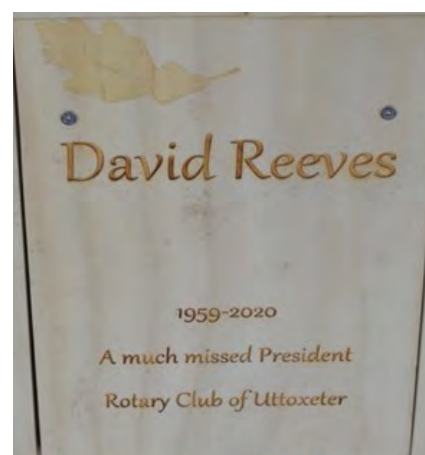
Rotary club remembers Past President

11th May 2020 was a very sad day for members of the Rotary Club of Uttoxeter when their President, David Reeves, passed away very suddenly and their heartfelt sympathy went out to David's wife, Clare, and family.

Club members decided that a fitting memorial to David was to purchase a Tribute Tile at the National Memorial Arboretum which earlier this year was placed on the Millennium Shelter. Due to coronavirus restrictions a visit to the NMA was delayed but this took place on 3rd July when over thirty members of Uttoxeter Club and guests met up at the Millennium Shelter. Members were especially pleased that the guests included Clare and her family and also President Stuart Perren of Uttoxeter's mother club, Stafford, and other members of his club.

President of the Uttoxeter club, David Chapman, spoke movingly of the contribution David had made to the club and that he owed him so much for all the support he had given him. As it seemed unlikely that members would be able to meet up together for several weeks it was decided that the club handover should be held. President David then handed over to Senior Vice President, Roy Smith who in turn handed over his role to Junior Vice, John Gregory.

Following the formalities members and guests were split into three groups, each had an excellent guide and they were all given an insight into the memorials both to the armed forces and also voluntary organisations including Rotary and Inner Wheel. Following the tour the group concluded with an excellent lunch at the NMA restaurant where careful fellowship continued and were thankful that after fifteen months they had been able to meet up in person.



President David said, "This was a very special occasion for the Club and David's family. We all remember David with fondness and gratitude for all that he contributed to the Club." Incoming President Roy Smith added "It is important for the Club that we continue to build on David's legacy and I am proud to be following him into office. We have a busy year ahead so today was a great starting point." Photographs show David Chapman, right, handing over the President's chain of office to Roy Smith and the memorial tile now installed on the Millennium Shelter.

President Roy concluded, "We are hoping that we will be able to hold our first face-to-face meeting later this month and plan our programme for the year. We hope that the people of Uttoxeter will support our fund raising events so that we can continue to serve the needs of the community"

Eccleshall hero recognised for innovative volunteering in national awards

Sylvia Keris has been honoured by Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland with a prestigious Champions of Change award. Held annually, Champions of Change are part of Rotary's Champions Awards, which recognises unsung heroes whose volunteering efforts have had a huge impact on people's lives both at home and internationally.

Sylvia, who is a member of the Rotary Club of Eccleshall Mercia, received her award during a virtual ceremony on Wednesday 30th June alongside eleven other recipients as well as last year's winners whose ceremony was postponed due to COVID-19.

For the past two years Sylvia has made herself known as a champion for the Buddy Bags Foundation, which supplies essential items for the immediate wellbeing of children who find themselves in emergency care following a traumatic incident. In 2019 she embarked on a Birmingham to London canal walk, and through publicity for the Rotary Clubs she met along the way inspired support for the charity's appeal for knitted teddy bears, a message spread nationally via social media. So far more than 2,600 knitted teddies have been collected and delivered to the Foundation, with the figure increasing daily. Her walk also raised £1,500, split between the Foundation and Rotary's End Polio campaign, while a novel costumed activity in December 2020 achieved a further £552 in donations.



Tom Griffin, President of Rotary International in Great Britain & Ireland, commented: "Thanks to Sylvia and those who were inspired by her, this very worthwhile charity has received fantastic support in providing comfort for children at a time when they really need it. "She is a true champion who selfless actions rightly deserve to be celebrate with this well-deserved award. The Champions Awards is about giving those who pioneer, lead and support some amazing volunteering projects the recognition they deserve. The selfless and truly life-changing impact of our champions really demonstrates how we can make a difference and touch people's lives. "Rotary is certainly a place where people can turn their passion and ideas into lasting change. There are so many heroes out there and to them I say 'thank you and keep doing what you're doing'."

Nebulisers for use in the community

Support for those in our community suffering the after effects of the COVID epidemic was one of 2020/21 President Peter Murray's priorities in considering the end of year charitable donations by Wellington Rotary Club. Sister Jill Wilson from the Princess Royal Hospital (PRH) Respiratory Team wrote, "We anticipate that in the coming months there will be a surge in demand for nebulised drugs for patients who have been affected by COVID in the longer term. This would apply particularly to patients with previous underlying respiratory conditions such as COPD and Asthma."

President Peter said, "I have been aware for some time that the COVID pandemic would unfortunately leave a legacy of poor health for some of the those who contracted the virus. My aim and that of the Club is to help the local community to deal with some of these issues. The Respiratory Department is known to many of our members and they have great respect for the outstanding work it does."

Club Council noted that the nebulisers would come in extremely useful for the anticipated surge in post COVID syndrome patients attending Princess Royal Hospital at Telford. The nebulisers would be policed by the PRH Respiratory Specialist Nurses who will issue them to out patients on a named patient basis under the direction of the Respiratory Consultants. After due consideration

Club Council agreed to fund 40 such machines at a cost of £1,880. The nebulisers will be labelled with the Rotary Wellington logo.

Dr. Srinivasan Koottalai of the Respiratory Team wrote to President Peter saying, 'A big thanks to Wellington Rotary Club, Tom and yourself for this generous and kind donation to the Respiratory department at PRH. Sister Wilson has been instrumental in working out the details on this and will certainly be liaising with yourselves in the near future.'



The photograph shows Doctor Dr Harmesh Moudgil, 2021/22 President Tom Taylor and Sister Jill Watson, as the nebulisers were donated to the Respiratory Team.

Rotary supports a rising young star.

18 year old Alice Bennett is a member of the Rotary district 1210 Alumni Association following her participation in the Rotary Young Musician Competition. Before lockdown, she served as a volunteer in the Rotary Books4Home project, which involved collecting donated books from homes, taking them to the project storage facility then, after they had been sorted, delivering them to schools to boost children's reading experience.

On leaving school, Alice had planned to take a gap year working as a volunteer with a charity called Project Trust, teaching English to young students in China. On returning home, she would have been going to university to study English Literature and Music.

The International committee at the City of Wolverhampton club agreed to make a donation to help facilitate her trip to China in recognition of Alice's commendable support for Rotary's aims. Obviously, in the current circumstances, the planned trip to China has had to be postponed but it will take place after she graduates from University.



Alice secured 'A' levels in Physics, Maths, Art and English Literature at Wolverhampton Girls' High School. She has always had a passion for music and enjoys all aspects of playing several instruments both as a soloist and in various ensembles such as the Wolverhampton Youth Orchestra and the Wolverhampton Youth Wind Orchestra. She plays the alto saxophone and piano and has achieved Grade 8 with distinction on both instruments. Alice is also highly accomplished on the flute and violin.

In 2020 she was selected as the Wolverhampton Youth Orchestra Young Musician of the Year and was awarded a cash prize and trophy by the 5 Rotary clubs in the City.

Richard Green, the organiser of the Young Musician Competition says 'in Rotary, we do all we can to support our wonderful young people and it is a source of pride to be able to help Alice to achieve her ambitions.'

Rotary club supports college awards

The outgoing president of Shrewsbury Severn Rotary Club, John Law, described one of his final duties as 'inspirational.' He presented the Shrewsbury Colleges Group Star Awards which recognise students who have overcome adversity and personal challenges. He described the awards as a 'truly splendid event' which he said were 'incredibly well organised' by Tracy Cottee, Clerk to the Board.

Presenting the awards at the London Road Campus, John praised students: "Congratulations to all who have received a nomination and those receiving their awards. "It is a privilege and a pleasure to continue to support the Star Awards for students at Shrewsbury Colleges Group. Long may we be able to support the Star Awards recipients who were inspirational."



Students Adelaide Durnell (left) and Paul Bright (right) with Rotarian John Law

The scheme has been supported by Shrewsbury Severn Rotary Club since the awards began in 2017. This year the club bought silver salvers, certificates, vouchers and goody bags for the certificates and salvers as they had to be quarantined, at a total cost of just under £500.

Supervet fundraiser rescheduled for September

Good news for supporters of Supervet Noel Fitzpatrick. The visit to Shrewsbury's Theatre Severn of Noel, who is well known to the public as Supervet on Channel 4, is to take place to a full audience on the evening of September 13. The theatre has confirmed that nearly 300 previously booked tickets for the performance are still valid.

Organiser Rotarian Julian Wells of Shrewsbury Severn Rotary Club said "The details remain on the Theatre Severn website and all the previous information we published is current. We have been very fortunate to secure Noel's visit to Shrewsbury and his agreement to change his schedule as a result of Covid-19 at a time when keeping a veterinary practice going through a pandemic has been a huge challenge."

He said Noel's second book 'How Animals Saved My Life' was published in the autumn of 2020 and quickly reached the top of the best-seller charts.

"Hopefully," said Julian, himself a veterinary consultant, "we will be arranging a signing session for anyone wishing to purchase a copy of this revealing story of Noel's efforts to push forward the frontiers of veterinary orthopaedic practice."

"In the veterinary profession he is a controversial figure because he boldly raises issues around the ethics and morals of cutting edge veterinary surgical intervention and its role in the concept of 'One Medicine.' As he explains in his book, this has sometimes found him in conflict with the profession's regulator. His approach has though also encouraged a generation of applicants to veterinary school.

"These are youngsters who have been inspired by his attitude, devotion to animal welfare and compassion. Shrewsbury Severn Rotary Club have been very fortunate to secure Noel's visit to Shrewsbury." His appearance will be Shrewsbury Severn Rotary Club's principle fundraising event of the year.



Interact club being formed.

Interact is a club based on Rotary ethics for young people aged 12 to 18 that empowers them to take action in the community, become leaders and gain a global perspective.

The City of Wolverhampton Rotary Club was approached 'out of the blue' by Diane Pitt, a teacher at Heath Park school in the city who contacted the club through its website.

It transpired that Diane had recently transferred to Heath Park from the Stuart Bathurst Academy, Wednesbury where she ran a highly successful Interact club in partnership with Wednesbury Rotary. With her knowledge and experience of Interact, and with the enthusiastic support of the Deputy Head at Heath Park, she is keen to start a similar venture there.

The Wednesfield Rotary Club has many ties with Heath



Park and its member Terry Close has worked with the school on finding candidates for RYLA, youth competitions and other Rotary ventures for young people.

It is therefore proposed that the Wednesfield club will be the principal Rotary sponsor club with the City of Wolverhampton acting as co-sponsor. Terry will be the Interact advisor, with a representative from the City of Wolverhampton club serving as his backup.

An Interact club belongs to the youngsters – they elect a President, Secretary and Treasurer. The role of the advisor and the 'backup' is to stay very much in the background giving gentle guidance and advice by ensuring there is always one Rotary representative at the Interact club meetings.

Club's higher education award

In the Rotary Year 2006-07 the then President of Wellington Rotary Club together with the Youth Activities Chair decided that it would be a good idea to establish an award for local students who were moving into higher education. The success of this award has been tremendous as it has now helped many individuals take an enhanced first step towards their chosen careers.

The Club has recently received an email from last year's recipient of the award, Faye Oliver, who has just completed her first year at university. Faye wrote:

"I just thought I would email you to let you know that I have officially finished my first year of university. This year, I have earned 4x First Class grades and 6x 2:1 grades, which I am very pleased with, especially as the majority of my studies this year have been online. I would really like to say a huge thank you again to the Rotary Club for my bursary to get my laptop - I knew a laptop would be extremely useful to my degree, but with the current circumstances, I simply couldn't have completed my first year without such a high quality laptop.

"At the start of the year, I was able to attend two seminars per week, while all of my lectures were pre-recorded and uploaded online, and my other two seminars were held via Zoom. Until last week, I hadn't been on campus since the second lockdown began in October, and I have therefore been completely online since then. I have also been using my laptop to lead weekly tutoring sessions for a group of A Level students from Telford College, which was really useful as my role involved the planning, delivery and following up with students, so I feel I have gained a true insight into teaching.

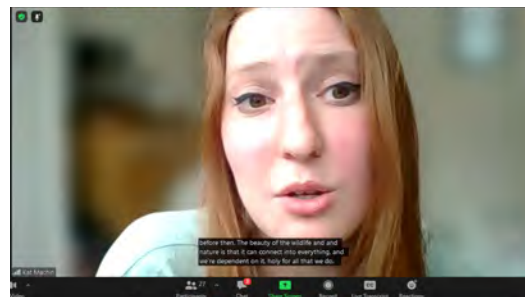
"Since I completed my assignments, Jungleland has reopened and I am now working a few days a week on the cafe and on reception. I have also been researching and planning my historical fiction book, which is going to be my project before returning to university for my second year.

"I am really looking forward to starting my second year, and hopefully, I will be able to spend more time on campus too!

"I would be very grateful if you could pass on my thanks to the rest of the team - I am very grateful for the opportunities the bursary has given me. Take Care, Faye."

The value of our Higher Education Award was made clear to members in May by Kat Machin who received her Bursary eleven years ago - a camera and lenses to support her Zoology studies at University. The camera opened up amazing opportunities for her that in all probability would not have been there without our award.

Kat now works with the World Wildlife Fund and is currently engaging with the community involved in the reforestation of the area around Ingleton in Yorkshire. She found time in a busy schedule to talk to members on Zoom.



Peter Seaward who was Youth Services chair in 2010 when the award was made said in writing to Kat, "Thank you so much for your precious time on Friday and for your inspirational message. To have such feedback about the bursary scheme gives us so much encouragement. There can be nothing better than investing in the future."

New award scheme

Whitchurch Rotary Club has launched a new award scheme to thank young people who have helped make lives better for people during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The 'Extra Mile Awards' are honouring youngsters who have reflected Rotary's own 'Service Above Self' ethic and gone that extra mile to improve life for an individual in need, a family or the community in which they live.

The club invited nominations from schools, organisations and individual members of the public in its locality. There were two age categories, with separate awards and additional commendations, for youngsters of six to 11 years-old and from 12 to 18.

"We feel it's time to rise above the negativity that the

Covid pandemic has generated and pay tribute to the young, unsung heroes who have done something positive to reduce the stresses that the lockdowns and restrictions have created," said club president Ian Fawcett.

"The club was looking for young people, from any area of local life, who have shown they care at a time of so much national and local hardship, social, health and financial pressures.

"The aim of the 'Extra Mile Awards' is to show our appreciation and recognise the achievements in helping to turn our communities into better places to live."

The award presentations were sponsored by The Grocott Family Charitable Trust and SBC Training Ltd.

Rotarians walking 85 miles to build schools in Malawi

Church Stretton and Welshpool Rotary Clubs have got together to raise funds for the Mlambe Project Charity to fund the building of schools in Malawi by walking the full length of Hadrian's Wall from July 18th -24th. The photograph shows some of the team who will be making the walk (including the Presidents of both Clubs, Don Lovejoy and Phil Owen).



The mission of the Mlambe Project is to provide sustainable livelihoods and quality education for Malawian people using innovative low cost and high impact methods. This country is one of the poorest countries in the world with a basic literacy rate of 62%. The project makes use of green innovative earth bag building techniques to construct much needed classrooms and sanitary units in remote villages in Malawi. The techniques and equipment are provided for local villagers, so that they can develop the skills to use local materials in order to provide classrooms and toilet facilities. The project provides realistic opportunities for employment and education.

The team are aiming to raise at least £5,000 and have so far raised over £2,000. If you wish to help and support our intrepid walkers, please donate at JustGiving ([justgiving.com/team/churchstrettonrotary](https://www.justgiving.com/team/churchstrettonrotary) or search Don Lovejoy Hadrian's Wall), alternatively use PayPal (rotary.church.stretton@gmail.com using ref. CSR.HWW)

Dates for your diary

Monday 6 September	District Council
Friday 22 October	District Conference social
Saturday 23 October	District Conference
Sunday 24 October	World Polio Day
Monday 8 November	District Foundation Seminar
Thursday 18 November	District Council
Tuesday 15 February	District Council
Wednesday 23 February	Rotary Day
Sunday 13 March	World Rotaract Day
Tuesday 22 March	World Water Day
Tuesday 19 April	Paul Harris's Birthday (1868)
Wednesday 18 May	District Council

In Remembrance

Passed to higher service.

Our thoughts are with their families and friends.

Bert Beddow (Stafford)
Stan Coe (Wednesfield)
Clive Crane (Shrewsbury)
Les Etherington (Stafford)
Roger Fellows (City of Wolverhampton)
Samuel Jackson (Rugeley)
Charlie MacIntyre, (Church Stretton)
David Reeves (Uttoxeter)
Clive Rudd (Willenhall)
Chris Seed (The Wrekin)
John Williams (Ellesmere)
Geoffrey Wilson (Ludlow)



Sam Jackson remembered

Earlier this year, Rugeley Rotary Club had the very sad news that its longest standing member, Sam Jackson, passed away after the deterioration of an existing condition. Sam moved to Rugeley when he became Headteacher at Pear Tree school in the town and he joined Rugeley Rotary Club in 1971. He was always a very keen Rotarian and ready to volunteer whenever needed for the club's wide variety of projects, campaigns and events. He was also very active on the club's sports teams for the various competitions with the other clubs in District 1210. Latterly he was a strong member of Rugeley's bowls team which has been District champions many times. Sam's service to the club earned him a Paul Harris Fellowship. He regularly organised members group visits to other clubs, not only locally but as far afield as Dublin, winning the club the District Fellowship award on many occasions. In 2018, Sam was surprised and very delighted when Father Christmas stopped outside his house one dark December evening to present him with his 45th year Rotary long service award. (2 years late!). Sadly, he did not get chance to receive his 50th year award.

John Wilson, Membership Officer for the club said "We will all miss his smile, his laugh, his Gaelic humour and his positivity. Our deepest condolences are extended to his wife Val and their two daughters, Helen and Deborah."



Wednesday 11th August 2021

KidsOut Golf Day

The Golf Course Worcestershire
The Abbey Hotel
Redditch

Enjoy a day of golf at one of the best prepared and well conditioned golf courses in the Midlands whilst helping to raise money to bring fun and happiness into the lives of disadvantaged children.

Built in the late 1970's the Abbey Golf Course in Redditch has matured into a fine championship standard par 72, 18 hole parkland course.

Features on the day include Bacon/Egg rolls on arrival. Shotgun start. Various competitions including a team and individual Stableford will take place over 18 holes. After dinner, a charity auction and raffle will take place.

For further enquiries please contact events@kidsout.org.uk

Kids Out, 14 Church Square, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, LU7 1AE
Tel: 01525 E-mail: info@kidsout.org.uk www.kidsout.org.uk

Registered Charity Number: 1075789 Charity Registered in Scotland: SC039477
KidsOut Trading Ltd Company Number: 4366968 VAT Registration Number: 793 481 795

Hotelier tells Rotarians of a “unique experience”

A Shrewsbury hotelier has spoken of a ‘unique experience’ which would be great for the town in years to come. The hotel’s response to coronavirus and its effect on homeless people would in time become ‘world famous’ – and mark a happy ending for everyone, said Mike Matthews. The proprietor of the 15th century Prince Rupert Hotel told members of Shrewsbury Severn Rotary Club in a Zoom talk that they responded to the plight of as many as 90 homeless people at one stage.

He spoke of how the outbreak of coronavirus had raised doubts as to how he could keep working as an hotelier. But to have closed down the Prince Rupert would have been a ‘nightmare’ due to security and engineering issues. “I thought how can I keep it alive and how can I keep working as an hotelier? I was worried about paying the staff, the bank and wine suppliers while following government guidelines. But the furlough scheme came in and solved one of the problems. My bank and good old fashioned bankers have also come to the rescue.”

He told Rotarians how he had received a phone call from the local authority who were looking to find a safe and secure home for homeless people in Shrewsbury. Those who were homeless were getting very poorly and were vulnerable to spreading the virus. Something just appealed to me. It has been extremely challenging and these are not easy people. I had never before engaged with someone who is homeless, but if my team is willing to help I will have a crack at this and let’s do it.

The following day I looked at the mechanics and the nuts and bolts. I said let’s do it. The programme was incredibly challenging and exciting. I didn’t know where it was going to lead us, but I am willing to do that. Within 24 hours nine individuals, who were extremely unclean, bedraggled and undernourished, had come through the door, and he, his manageress Charlie and accountant Jacki decided they had to move into the hotel to be with ‘extremely vulnerable individuals.’

“It was extremely difficult for everybody in those early stages. After 35 years of sleeping rough, to walk into a 4 star hotel was an incredible feat and full marks to Shrewsbury Ark and the council. The homeless needed an extreme amount of understanding. Now there were 34 individuals staying at the hotel. We swept up all the homeless people in Shrewsbury and brought them through our doors. It is a project we will never have again. Let’s just see how we can move it forward. It was great consideration and respect which guided our efforts.

“We called them guests and referred to them by their names. We created a family unit. It was the first time many – and for some the first time ever – had had a family. I realised I had met individuals who had nothing, but had become heroes and warriors. They had lived a primitive, scary and precarious lifestyle, a tough existence and you become institutionalised. We realised we had a one-off opportunity to get them out of that spiral and we rehabilitated them as best we could. We provided a transitional process.”

In 11 months 90 individuals had gone through the Prince Rupert doors and 60 had been found homes which Mike described to Rotarians as a ‘positive statement’ and ‘great news for the town.’ When they were down to nine they would sit in the bar. “They were superb with our regular guests. The improvement we saw was really quite outstanding. The experience has affected us incredibly. It was a very humbling experience for us all, but incredibly rewarding. It was mentally challenging at times because of drugs and alcohol. There were others with severe mental illness. But it is the most rewarding part of my career to date. I also discovered how kind Shrewsbury is – the kindest town in the UK is how I would describe Shrewsbury from now on. We are looking to open our doors in April and hopefully all our homeless guests will have found homes and a happy ending for them all. This doesn’t mean that next year there won’t be more. This is with us in modern society for years to come and I suspect this will increase. But we have created a template for hopefully the government to follow. I hope people in government have been listening to what we have done. It has been an incredible experience for us all – an incredible experience that I will never have again. When it is time to hang up my boots and career that 11 month period will have been phenomenal.”



Charlie, Mike, Jacki and Shrewsbury Severn Rotary Club President John Law on the occasion of the Prince Rupert trio becoming associate members in 2020.

He told members that contributions had been received from Shropshire Council who were determined to keep the scheme going as long as possible. “It doesn’t cover everything, but it stops us from closing the doors altogether,” he added. Most pleasing, Mike said, is the nomination of Charlie for the UK Woman of the Year which he described as an ‘incredible achievement.’ At the same time, the hotel has been congratulated by Dame Louise Casey, government social welfare expert. “It is an incredible story none of which we understand because we run an hotel,” He added that one individual was an ‘incredible character.’ He had spent 45 years living on the streets. He was now 62 and had been sleeping rough for 45 years. “But he was a wonderful man, very educated.”

Special achievements over the lockdown recognised

The Rotary Club of Audley made presentations of Community Certificates of Achievement to four groups and three individuals who members believed had gone beyond the call of duty during these past 16 months.

Receiving their certificates (right) are Dr Emma Sutton in recognition of her personal contribution, but also the contribution of her medical and administrative teams. Since the beginning of the vaccination programme they have administered over 23,000 vaccinations.

Ernie Green received the certificate on behalf of all the volunteers who have stood in wind, rain and sunshine to ensure that the operation on vaccination has run smoothly. It is testament to their hard work that the whole programme has run so efficiently.



Mandy and Paul received a certificate on behalf of the Audley Helpline. Set up initially by St James Church, the list of volunteers included many who did not attend St James. Mainly collecting and delivering prescriptions, and picking up shopping and delivering, this has been a lifeline to the elderly and those who have had to isolate. Numbers are not exact, but well over 600 people have benefitted from this service.

Nicola and her pharmacy staff (left) have borne a huge brunt of this pandemic. In those early days seeing the queues stretch over 100 yards reaching Hall Street on occasions must have been daunting. However, they still showed kindness and a smiling face despite not receiving the respect they were due. No numbers are available for the people they have helped but must run into many thousands.

Alex Pullen received his award for the help he has given to residents of Woodlane. Despite a physical disability he has shopped for the housebound and on many occasions that has meant walking from Woodlane to Audley, shopping and then walking back.

We presented Linda Norton with her certificate for her effort in providing NHS staff with equipment. Whilst working full time Linda still found time to use her special talent as a seamstress to make over 1000 scrub bags for the nurses. Again, a selfless act which meant so much to the people who benefitted.

Dan Heath our local Postmaster and Newsagent, was recognised for the extra mile he has been going all through this pandemic. Personally delivering goods to those who were isolating, and when the snow meant the car was not available, he delivered on foot. He allowed personal enterprise to use his shop, and when hand made masks were available and some people struggled to afford them, he personally stood the cost.

Congratulations to all the recipients. You have demonstrated in abundance what Rotary strives to be and what it takes pleasure in acknowledging.



Front line packs provided



Wrekin Rotary Club members and friends responded to a request for Food for the Front Line by collecting together boxes of items including easy to hydrate items like Pot Noodles, and Pot Rice (food which could be prepared in the microwave and eaten from the 'Pot') as well as energy and cereal bars. Also included were hand creams but chocolate bars were banned!

The 'Front Line packs' were presented to staff working long shifts on intensive care wards at the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford where time for breaks was extremely limited and instant food and snacks available on the wards was needed.



Pictured (left) are Rotarians Kathy and Anne De Vere, with a small selection of the donations.

Some of the staff at the Princess Royal Hospital are pictured receiving the food and hand creams.

Rotary club has said "Ready, Teddy, Go!" to supporting vulnerable children



Family and friends of Six Towns Rotary Club knitted 115 bears and provided them to the charity "Buddy Bags" at the end of 2020. "Buddy Bags" provides children, removed from their homes for their own safety with a backpack of essential clothing and toiletries, along with a comfort teddy.

Sometimes the children who receive the bags are taken into safety from domestic violence at very short notice, with just the clothes they are wearing. The buddy bags demonstrate that people care about what is happening to them, as well as providing essential supplies. Each bag, with its contents of clothing and other items, costs £25.

Six Town Rotary Club members, Bev Clayton and Sharon Egerton, presented the teddies to Sylvia Keris, "Buddy Bags" Charity Ambassador, in December. The club's donation also included a large quantity of Lego and a cheque from £500.

As well as giving people the chance to knit teddies or donate other buddy bag contents, "Buddy Bags" also, (Covid restrictions permitting), welcomes small groups volunteering their time to pack buddy bags. Anyone interested in the charity can find out more at buddybagfoundation.co.uk/howcanihelp

Six Towns Rotary Club holds a range of activities in support of a variety of charitable causes. The club also stages regular social events. If you'd like to join Six Towns Rotary Club, please leave a message on their Facebook page, and a member of the club will be pleased to provide further details.



PLANNING AN EVENT? STORY TO TELL?

NEWS FROM YOUR CLUB?

Please send your articles (with photographs if available) to rototeam@gmail.com

SEND THEM NOW!

October date for District Conference

The delayed District Conference for 2020/21 will be the first to fully reflect the recommendations of the Conference Working Party agreed by District Council in 2017. The one-day Conference will be held at the Lion Quays Hotel and Spa, Weston Rhyn, near Oswestry, Shropshire SY11 3EN on Saturday 23rd October.

The day will begin with refreshments and breakfast pastries as delegates arrive before formally starting at 9:30 am. There will be four individually themed sessions with two breaks for refreshments and one for a hot buffet lunch, finishing at 5:30 pm.

The £50 charge for conference includes all refreshments, snacks and lunch. With everything on-site the programme allows for plenty of interesting and inspiring Rotary content whilst allowing time for relaxation and fellowship with other delegates.

The Lion Quays Resort is a truly magnificent setting for our District Conference. The hotel is a 4-star venue with a very high standard throughout, and is sited in beautiful countryside alongside the landscaped canal. Weather permitting there is plenty of outside seating for the plenary breaks. Parking at the venue is plentiful and free. For more information on the venue visit the website at www.lionquays.co.uk.

Make more of the weekend

We know many Rotarians do like to make a weekend (or longer) of their conference stay. We have negotiated special rates for bed & breakfast at the hotel for Friday and Saturday, and there will be optional fellowship events on each evening. For those who do stay at the hotel over the weekend the leisure facilities are excellent and included in the room rates. There is a swimming pool and well equipped gym, and a range of additional beauty treatments and services are available at extra cost. The hotel has an excellent bar, with a wide selection of gin and whisky and some local ales, as well as a great choice of tea, coffee and soft drinks.

Friday Night is Social Night add-on

For those joining us on Friday we have a reserved area of the hotel where bar snacks/ meals will be available to suit all diets and budgets. Join us whenever you can for an informal evening of fellowship.

Saturday Night Conference Dinner add-on

District Governor Robyn and Immediate Past District Governor Ken invite you to join them and the Conference team for an evening of good food and fellowship. There will be a three course dinner followed by tea and coffee, and entertainment from a magician throughout the evening which begins at 7 pm. Tickets for this special event are £40. You don't have to be resident at the hotel to join us, and we have timed the evening to allow those who wish to extend the day to join us and still be able to drive home.

Hotel accommodation

Special rates for accommodation at the hotel are £89/£99 for Friday and £129/£139 for Saturday (single/double rooms). There are budget alternatives a short distance from the venue including a Premier Inn, a Travelodge, and local B&Bs. Bookings for the hotel are on a first come, first served basis, and should be directly with the hotel on 01691 684 300 quoting the block reference GA03054.

Things to do and see in the area

The venue is well situated for a number of local attractions including the town of Oswestry, Chirk Castle (National Trust), the British Ironwork Centre & Shropshire Sculpture Park, and the famous Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and its neighbouring visitor centre. There is also a golf course a short distance from the hotel.

The conference team look forward to welcoming Rotarians from across the district to the event - booking form on the next page.



DISTRICT CONFERENCE BOOKING FORM

Name:		
Rotary Club:		
Rotarian?:	Yes / No	Yes / No
Email Address:		
Contact Number:		
Conference Registration: £50 adult, £25 children, N/A		
Saturday Conference Dinner: £40 adult, £30 children, N/A		
Please add any dietary restrictions or mobility/aid requirements here		

Please email completed form to Rtn. David Shelmerdine: djcshelmerdine@yahoo.com
 Payment to Rotary District 1210: Sort Code **40-41-30** Account No.: **21417495**
 Please use ref: **CONF <SURNAME>** to help us recognise the receipt
 Alternatively post to: Rtn. David Shelmerdine, 19 Exeter Drive,
 Old College Fields, Wellington, Telford TF1 3PR
 Cheques should be made payable to Rotary District 1210

TOTAL PAYMENT

£

Please indicate method:
CHEQUE/BANK TRANSFER



Club Contacts

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 to call for club information.

ALDRIDGE*

Thursday (E) 7.00pm
Tel: 0121 3571 856
aldridgerotary.org.uk

AUDLEY

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

BILSTON & W'TON WEST*

Monday (E) 7.00 for 7.15pm
not last Monday of month
Tel: 01902 840043
rbww.org

BLOXWICH PHOENIX

Sunday 2nd & 4th (E)
7.30pm via Zoom
Tel: 07970 652834
bloxwichphoenix.net

BLYTHE BRIDGE & DISTRICT*

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

BREWOD & DISTRICT*

Wednesday (E) 7.00 for 7.30pm
Tel: 01902 850329
brewod-rotary.co.uk

BRIDGNORTH

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

BROWNHILLS*

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

BURNTWOOD & DISTRICT*

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

BURSLEM*

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

CANNOCK*

Wednesday (E) 6.00 for 6.30pm
not 3rd Wednesday
Tel: 01543 275667
cannockrotary.co.uk

CHEADLE*

Thursday (E) 7.15pm
not 1st Thursday of month
Tel: 01538 753192

CHURCH STRETTON

Wed (L) 1st 2.00pm
Wed (E) 2nd 4th 5th
7.00 for 7.30pm
Wed (E) 3rd 7.00pm via Zoom
Tel: 01694 723189
rotaryclubofchurchstretton.co.uk

DARLSTON*

Tuesday (E) 2nd 4th
6.30 for 7.00pm
Tel: 07947 087631
darlstonrotary.org

DUDLEY*

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

ECCLESHALL MERCIA*

Monday (E) 1st & 3rd only,
7.30pm
Tel: 01785 254255
rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=2107

ELLESMERE

Wednesday 1st, 4th, Last (E)
7.00 for 7.30pm
Tel: 07763 945161
ellesmererotary.org.uk

ETRURIA*

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

IRONBRIDGE

Thurs. (E) 2nd & 4th
6.30pm for 7.00pm..
Tel: 01902 851831
ironbridgerotary.org.uk

KIDSGROVE*

Wednesday (E) 7.30pm
Tel: 07541 731149
kidsgroverotary.co.uk

LEEK*

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

LUDLOW

Tues. 2nd, 4th, (E)
7.00 for 7.30pm
Tel: 0158 841723
ludlowrotaryclub.org.uk

MERCIA AND THE MARCHES

Tel: 07761 928111

NEWCASTLE-under-LYME

Tuesday 5.00pm Zoom
Tel: 01630 672714
rotary-newcastle-staffs.co.uk

NEWPORT*

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

NEWPORT (SHROPS) LITE

1st Tuesday (E) 7.00 for 7.30pm
Tel: 07913 289937
newportrotarylite.org.uk

RUGELEY*

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

SEDGLEY & WOMBOURNE

Thursday (E) 7.00 for 7.15pm
Tel: 01746 766473
rotarysedgleyandwombourne.org.uk

SHREWSBURY

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

SHREWSBURY DARWIN

Friday (B) 7.15 for 7.30am
5th Friday, meet Thursday 7.30pm
Tel: 01743 247295
rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=1790

SHREWSBURY SEVERN*

Tuesday 2nd & 4th (E)
7.00 for 7.30pm
Tel: 01743 872677
shrewsburyrotary.co.uk

SIX TOWNS (STOKE-ON-TRENT)

Wednesday (E) 2nd. 7.00pm
Tel: 07787 344123
facebook.com/6TownClub/

STAFFORD

Wednesday (L) 12.00 noon
Tel: 01782 722467
staffordrotaryclub.org.uk

STAFFORD CASTLE*

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

STAFFORD KNOT

Thursday 1st, 3rd & 4th € 7.00 for
7.30pm, 2nd (B) 7.15 for 7.30am
Tel: 07791 222584
rotaryclubofstaffordknot.org.uk

STOKE on TRENT*

Monday (E) 6.15pm
Tel: 07763 133532
stokerotary.co.uk

STONE & DISTRICT*

Mon (E) 1st & 3rd 7.00 for 7.30pm
Tel: 01785 760120
stonerotary.org

TELFORD CENTRE*

Tuesday (E) 6.00 for 6.30pm
Tel: 01952 273069
telfordcentrerotary.org

TETTENHALL*

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

TUNSTALL*

Tues (E) 6.15 for 6.30pm
Tel: 01782 269714
facebook.com/rotarycluboftunSTALL

UTTOXETER*

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

District 1210

WALSALL

Friday (L) 12.45 for 1.00pm
Tel: 07870 851006
walsallrotary.org

WALSALL SADDLERS

Tuesday (E) 6.30 for 7.00pm
Tel: 07860 717706
rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=1829

WEDNESBURY*

Thursday (E) 6.15 for 6.45pm
(not in Aug)
Tel: 0121 556 4998
wednesburyrotary.co.uk

WEDNESFIELD*

Wednesday (E) 6.15 for 6.30pm
(not 1st Wed, or Aug)
Tel: 01902 757997
rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=1275

WELLINGTON

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

WEM & DISTRICT*

Mon 1st (E) 7.30pm,
3rd (L) 1.00pm,
Tel: 01939 234812
rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=1277

WHITCHURCH

Tuesday 1st & 3rd (E) 7.00pm,
2nd & 4th (L) 1.00pm
Tel: 01948 666951
whitchurchrotary.org.uk

WILLENHALL

Thursday (E) 6.00 for 6.30pm
(last Thursday 7.00pm with
partners)
Tel: 01902 607881
willenhallrotary.org.uk

WOLSTANTON*

Thursday (E) 7.00 for 7.30pm
Tel: 01785 811441
rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=1594

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON*

Tuesday (L) 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th
12.45pm, contact for 3rd
Tel: 01764 714075
rotaryclubwolverhampton.co.uk

THE WREKIN

Thursday (E) 7.00pm
Tel: 01952 246782
rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=1268

* indicates club may
not meet in weeks
with a Bank Holiday