

ROTARY IN STAFFORDSHIRE, SHROPSHIRE AND THE WEST MIDLANDS

# *the*ROTO

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DISTRICT 1210 [rotary1210.org](http://rotary1210.org)



## ELLESMERE'S JUBILEE BELL BOAT REGATTA





# Rotary's Jubilee Regatta on the Mere

Ellesmere Rotary staged its Jubilee Bell Boat Regatta on *The Mere* on Sunday 3rd July.

The unsettled weather conditions of preceding days abated to allow for an excellent competition that thrilled the local crowd, who were delighted at the return of this annual fixture in the calendar after two events lost to Covid.

Sixteen crews competed in a total of 21 races over five hours. Between races families were able to enjoy a wide variety of attractions in Cremorne Gardens provided by stallholders and charities.

All qualification for semi-finals and finals was based on times posted, so crews could never afford to relax, whilst the margins between them were slight.



Prizes were presented by District Governor Steve Antill, who also acted as Race Starter for both the Adult Open and Ladies' finals.

All crews were drawn from the local area and most needed to hone their technique in the first round after the two-year hiatus, before posting some excellent times in subsequent rounds. Best time of the day came in round 3 of the Adult Open, when eventual winners, a youthful crew called *The Firm*, clocked



**Debs Roberts,**  
**captain of Whittington Warriors**

2 minutes 44 seconds. They continued with sub-3-minute times in both the semi-final and final. Their final opponents, *Ellesmere Hotel*, also beat the 3-minute mark. Winners of the Ladies' Section, *Whittington Warriors*, made it three titles in a row, winning their final against *Charlie's Angels* in a time of 3 minutes 6 seconds.

District Governor Steve said, "This has been my first visit to Ellesmere, and it has been a privilege to be at such a wonderful sporting event in such a splendid location. I'll be back.



**Rotarian Geoff Corfield alongside**  
**Mayor Mrs Anne Wignall**  
**as she draws winning raffle tickets**

I expect that everyone has enjoyed themselves as much as I have at this wonderful family day out. We have witnessed a thrilling set of races and well done to all who took part."

Just before the two finals Ellesmere Town Mayor, Mrs Anne Wignall, carried out the draw for the Raffle. She thanked Ellesmere Rotary and the multitude of other helpers for staging this stellar event in the Town's calendar, adding that "We have all had a wonderful day of family enjoyment watching some thrilling races fought out in an exemplary sporting manner. We are grateful once again to Rotary for enabling the people of Ellesmere to show their readiness to support good causes".



Ellesmere Rotary thanked all those who worked so hard to help stage the event, which included many Rotarians from around the wider area, Carnival members, Scouts and very many other local volunteers. A special mention was given to Mike and Sheila Dawson, who worked tirelessly all afternoon to ensure the safe fitting of buoyancy aids. The Bell Boats were loaned by the Cheshire Scouts. Ellesmere Rotary also thanked the good people of the town for their continuing support and generosity.



In October, Ellesmere Rotary held a Presentation Evening at The Trotting Mare Inn at Overton.

Club President, Derek Clifford, welcomed the District Governor (DG) Steve Antill and members of neighbouring Rotary Clubs – Oswestry & Borderlands, and Oswestry Cambrian – who assisted along with members of Inner Space Diving Club, Ellesmere Carnival, and Ellesmere Scouts. A special mention went to Geoff Corfield, Chair of the Regatta Committee, who picked up the reins again after the two-year Covid gap and launched Ellesmere's summer events calendar so successfully.

DG Steve said, "Coming to the Ellesmere Regatta is the first event of the Rotary year for a new District 1210 Governor, and what a great way to get started. The Town of Ellesmere is an exemplar of community spirit, and the day reminded me of why

I became a Rotarian - to have fun while helping others."

Helping others was very much the theme of the evening as President Derek was able to divide the proceeds of the Regatta between two local charities, with £2,500 going to the Lyneal Trust, collected by Chris Symes (top left below) and the same amount to The Movement Centre, collected by Curtis Langley (top right).

Chris said that the trust has been able to offer holiday breaks to some 2,000 disabled people and their carers in the last year, either on their specially adapted canal boats or in the chalet facilities. The facilities are constantly being added to and enhanced, and the award will be a great help in continuing this work.

Curtis said that the Gobowen Movement Centre, which provides targeted training for children

having difficulty in gaining movement control, is financed entirely by donations. This requires constant fund raising, but as a result of the generosity of communities such as Ellesmere he was delighted to say that in the future no parent will have to part fund the treatment given to their child at The Centre.

Additional donations were made to Ellesmere Scouts, collected by Bob McBride (bottom left), and Inner Space Diving Club, collected by Steve Ferrington (bottom right).

At the event, Ellesmere Rotary announced that their Tree of Light Appeal would be launched at the Ellesmere Winter Festival at the end of November, with the proceeds to be divided between Ellesmere Scouts and The Ellesmere Project for Sharing Food and Warm Clothes, which is to be launched at Our Space.





# Rotarians at Conference 22/23

## District Governor Steve Antill writes:

Back in October 2021 as we came to the close of the combined 20/21, 21/22 Conference held at the Lion Quays Resort in Oswestry we were all very pleased to have been able to deliver a face-to-face event after multiple delays and issues because of COVID. With infection numbers looking like they might rise again over the winter and, at that time, still a great deal of uncertainty around the future, I had not made any plans at all for Conference in 2022. It seems a long time ago now, but events were still being impacted by COVID both in the UK and abroad – indeed my planned visit to the United States for District Governor training in January was cancelled at very short notice and instead held as an online event. It was that uncertainty which led me not to ask someone to run a Conference for me in my DG year – it simply didn't seem fair given all the unknowns.



Several districts in Rotary Great Britain & Ireland had held online conferences over the COVID period, with mixed success, but Helen, Troy and I felt that the conference really should be face to face if at all possible. As we came out of the winter it became clear that whilst COVID itself would remain, the management of risk was being slowly moved back from government to businesses and individuals, so with just over six months to go we picked up our search for venues.

As many will recall the members of District had, some years ago, voted that Conference should be a single day event, but we also

know some attendees do like to extend their stay overnight or to a weekend. Finding a venue was interesting – with numerous weddings delayed over COVID the various hotel type venues were either unavailable, significantly increased in price, or demanding minimum numbers beyond what we could safely predict, so it was something of a relief when Helen spoke with the Yarnfield Conference Centre near Stone and was able to secure a sensible day package for the conference.

The short timelines for promoting and arranging the event were a challenge, and Helen particularly felt a lot of that pressure – some of you will know that in the week leading up to the event we had a





couple of COVID related issues with speakers that caused a mild panic! But, when the day arrived, we were reasonably confident we had a good programme. In the 2-3 weeks leading up to the day bookings had come in, and our final numbers were just over 100 actual delegates, which was perfect for the size of the venue. We were particularly pleased to see a large number of clubs represented. The support and goodwill we received from across the district was heart-warming and it meant that on the day as well as a good breadth of speakers we also had a few stands around the room, a very impressive polio themed car outside, and a lunchtime publicity/fundraiser for polio awareness – the Walk A Mile event.



We had tried within the programme to have a variety of content, themed across the four sessions, but with a focus where possible on way Rotary could help outside of simply raising funds. I think we were broadly successful in delivering what we intended. The cabaret style seating and longer breaks were hoping to encourage some mixing within the room and between clubs and Rotarians. The Walk A Mile helped in this regard too.

Our key speakers in the afternoon were from Midlands Air Ambulance and Staffordshire Search and Rescue, two organisations which had a local connection, and some overlap in the areas they work. I know a number of clubs have continued a dialog with these charities for future work, which is great to

hear too. It was also great to find out more about Rotary's International and Foundation projects, from the charity work of Global Sight Solutions to the use of Foundation Grants to support big projects such as the impressive eye hospital project presented by the Rotary Club of Dudley. It was good to hear from the recently returned Vocation Study Exchange team, and from individual Rotarians about projects they have worked on, such as Sylvia Keris's work in Zambia.

We've taken the feedback on board from those who attended – it was largely positive (thankfully), but we're always happy to hear views positive or negative to help us when we plan future events. It is the nature of Conference that the style and content varies each year, but hopefully it always remains entertaining, informative and relevant.

Next year's event under District Governor Dr Mukunda Chidrawar will be held in Telford on 30th September. I hope those who attended my Conference were sufficiently enthused to be keen to go along to this one too!

Finally a very big thank you to everyone who supported Helen, Troy and me in delivering the Conference – it was genuinely appreciated.





# Rotary project lands significant investment



Walsall Saddlers Rotary were delighted when one of its projects landed a major investment of £25,000. Green Rivers Community Association is situated in a deprived area of north Walsall has been running for many years providing a safe haven for local children after school and in the holidays. Several years ago, Walsall Saddlers adopted the project which is run entirely by volunteer effort with no council support. Rotarians volunteered their time to help with the ground maintenance and funded the purchase of a 'sit on' lawnmower to keep the large expanses of grass in order.

Rotarian Ian Johnstone, a keen environmentalist, proposed the creation of an allotment to teach the youngsters and their families the value of growing their own produce and the enjoyment to be derived from this outdoor activity. With the help of a Rotary Foundation District Grant, equipment, plants, seeds and tubers were purchased and the task of constructing raised beds and compost bins began.

All waste vegetation is put into three large compost bins and to this is added large quantities of shredded cardboard sourced from local retail outlets and donations. Cardboard is added because as it breaks down into carbon to improve the carbon to nitrogen nutrient balance in the compost and it helps maintain a proper moisture level. Once the compost is ready it is added to the soil in the raised beds. The compost represents around three to four tonnes a year of materials saved from landfill.

In addition to the vegetable crops a variety of



flowers are planted alongside to attract insects and increase pollination. As well as attracting bees during the daytime hours there are also flowers which attract night time pollinators.

Vegetables grown include carrots, leeks, lettuce, potatoes (two crops), green beans, pak choi, beef tomatoes and spring onions. The produce is given to local families through a food bank run by one of the volunteers.





The project has already caused a stir both inside and outside Rotary with a visit from 'Mr Compost' himself, Past District Governor Trevor Davies. In addition, a group of keen horticulturalists from Shropshire have visited the site to learn about the methods of cardboard composting. Already links are being forged with a national delivery company who are interested in using this project as part of their community service for their managers. Discussions are ongoing with two organisations whose aims are to attract more young people into a farming career and to use spare land in urban areas to grow food.



The £25,000 investment will secure the project for a generation of young children and their families for their local community.

The project and the investment are in no small way due to the hard work and diligence of members of Walsall Saddlers Rotary, in particular, Rotarians Ian Johnstone, Martin Whitehouse and Paul Daniels. Without their efforts this project and the funding would never have got off the ground.

## Rotary supports Ukrainian families

Newcastle under Lyme Rotary applied for funding from Rotary Foundation to support displaced Ukrainian families and obtained a total grant of £690 to assist families in North Staffordshire.

Rotarians from the club made contact with the Newcastle (Staffs) Branch of the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain and discussions took place with its chairman Karl Stubbs to ascertain how Rotary could help with local needs and the Club agreed to buy a laptop for two families.

The purchase laptops was considered to be the best way of assisting these families to enable them to access facilities in this country, to learn English and to make contact with their families back home.

The laptops were given to Elena Nikishina staying in Bentilee with her two children and Oksana Demkiv living in Middleport with her three children.

Presentation of the laptops took place at Middleport Pottery by kind permission of the Trustees.

**President Marion Reddish and Rotarian David Price, Foundation Chairman presenting the laptops to Daniel Nikishina and Oksana Demikiv.**







**ROTARY CLUB OF  
STAFFORD KNOT**

# FROG RACE



ON

**FRIDAY 3rd February 2023**

**at the Rangers Ground, Stafford**



**ST16 3UR  
from 7pm**



**£12 per person (to include supper)  
in aid of**

**Rotary International Funds**

**Tickets available via email -  
janecooper2612@gmail.com  
or phone 07772 440521**





# Charity fundraising could be boosted this Christmas - with the support of students.

Laura Kiiza, a teacher at Shrewsbury Colleges Group, told members of Shrewsbury Severn Rotary that the students, mostly 16 and 17 year olds, could support the Santa sleigh as elves at supermarkets and on village visits.

"It would be really valuable for them to be involved in community projects and work with Rotary," she told members. "We have approximately 120 students in the Preparation Routes department, with different strengths and interests, and the next step would be pinpointing a project to see how that goes.

"Realistically, we start small to see if it works and take it from there and if successful we could look at further projects as well as growing the numbers of students becoming involved."

Shrewsbury Severn Rotarians expressed an interest in students visiting to find out more about Rotary and suggested there could be other opportunities, such as planting bulbs around the town and working with Harlescott Grange Community Hub.

Laura, who has been a teacher at Shrewsbury Colleges Group for ten years, said her students were being prepared with life skills and employability skills as well as gaining qualifications. Her focus was on developing opportunities for students with special educational needs and the less engaged and felt that working with the local community on different projects would bring several prospects.

"It would be really valuable for them to be involved in community projects and to work with Rotary – the students themselves ask for something more, including practical activities.

"I feel they could gain many new skills and build on their knowledge to take into further studies and eventually employment."

Rotarian Colin Sharp said the club is also looking at opportunities to work with the town council and parish councils on projects they wished to pursue.



## Diary Dates

**Tuesday 10 January**  
Combined District Executive and Team meeting 7pm via Zoom

**Thursday 16 February**  
District Quiz – Round 2

**Tuesday 21 February**  
District Council, 7pm via Zoom

**Thurs 23 February**  
Rotary Day

**Monday 13 March**  
Rotaract Day

**Saturday 18 March – Saturday 01 April**  
Incoming VSE Team from Denmark

**Wednesday 22 March**  
World Water Day

**Saturday 25 March**  
Multi-District  
Presidents Elect Training Seminar

**Sunday 26 March**  
Young Musician Final Wolverhampton

**Wednesday 19 April**  
Paul Harris's Birthday (1868)  
District Executive 7pm via Zoom

**Saturday 22 April**  
District Assembly Zoom Sessions  
(daytime)

**Monday 24 – Thursday 28 April**  
District Assembly Zoom Sessions  
(evenings)

**Tuesday 2 – Thursday 4 May**  
District Assembly Zoom Sessions  
(evenings)

**Wednesday 17 District Council**  
7pm, Roman Way Hotel Cannock (TBC)

**Wednesday 24 May**  
District Quiz Final

**Friday 30 June**  
District Handover  
Walsall College, Littleton Street,  
Walsall WS2 8ES

**Sunday 13 – Friday 18 August**  
RYLA 2023  
Kibblestone Scout Camp, near. Stone  
(Presentation evening Thurs 17 6pm)

**Friday 29 September**  
District Golf Competition  
The Telford Hotel, Spa & Golf Resort

**Saturday 30 September**  
District Conference  
The Telford Hotel, Spa & Golf Resort,  
Sutton Heights TF7 4DT



## Convicts planting crocuses?

There was a great turnout by President Sylvia Morgan, club members, the Bantock Users Group and children from Uplands Junior and Merridale Primary schools as the Rotary Club of The City of Wolverhampton planted another 4,000 crocus corms in Bantock Park in support of the Rotary End Polio campaign.

The cheerful, enthusiastic support of the Mayor of Wolverhampton, Councillor Sandra Samuels OBE made the children - and the Rotarians - very happy.

Over the years, the club now planted a cumulative 50,000 purple crocuses and the club is committed to continue every autumn until the scourge of polio is eliminated from the world.

The club's Foundation Committee chair Richard Green was highly amused when two passers by, seeing all the yellow tabards, asked "what are those convicts doing with the Mayor and those children?"

At least it gave him an easy opportunity to tell them all about this world changing campaign of Rotary International!



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Conference 2023**  
**Telford Hotel, Golf & Spa**  
**Saturday 30 September**  
**Optional Add-ons Friday 29 and Sunday 1**



# Rotary receives free connectivity from Vodafone to help tackle digital exclusion

Cannock Rotary is using free connectivity, with the help of Vodafone's "charities.connected" initiative, to tackle digital exclusion in the Cannock Chase area. The club will initially use the connectivity to help the Ukrainian families currently living in the area improve connectivity and enable them to access vital services needed as part of their normal daily lives. Up to a hundred people will benefit from the programme.

Vodafone's "charities.connected" initiative is open to any registered charity that would benefit from free connectivity, either to improve its digital capability, extend its services or help the individuals and families it supports get online. Registered charities across the UK can apply for six months of free connectivity, in the form of SIM cards with 40GB data a month, plus free calls and texts.

Cannock Rotary's President Maurice Cryer said 'We are assisting the Ukrainian families who are now sheltering in our area, and we realised the huge benefits that digital technology and connectivity can bring, enabling them to reach more people and provide them with much-needed support. It also helps them to stay in touch with their families back in the Ukraine'.

Emma Reynolds, Head of Communications, Sustainability and Regulatory Affairs at Vodafone UK said: "We are committed to tackling digital exclusion. We hope that by providing free connectivity to Cannock Rotary and other amazing charities across the UK who have such an enormous impact on their local communities, we can help create a more inclusive digital society. We urge any organisation who thinks they can benefit to apply online and look forward to hearing how this connectivity has helped."

Cannock Rotary is working with the local council and other service clubs such as the Soroptimists to support the Ukraine families in the area. A monthly meet and greet session is held at the town's Civic Centre, with the aim of providing help and support to families and exploring employment opportunities.



Cannock Rotary President Maurice Cryer and Rotarian David Marklew handing over free SIM cards

## Rotary's third donation to village Community Hub

A Shropshire village community hub is to receive its third Rotary donation to support their food bank.

At the same time, Shrewsbury Severn Rotary's latest gift of £300 to Pontesbury Community Hub will also help finance a luncheon club where people can obtain a cooked meal for a small charge. The request for a donation came to Shrewsbury Severn Rotary via a past member who recently retired from the club on health grounds.

Rotarians also considered a further request to help two Brownies pay their subs for the year. The request came from the District Commissioner for Girlguiding, because the families of the two local girls are unable to meet the cost.

Club members heard that the two girls are enthusiastic Brownies and said to be 'desperate' to retain their membership.

The subs are £25 per girl per term and the club has been asked to provide support for the year – which is three terms. Members agreed to the request for £150.



## Coming together to work on a joint project

The huge beaming smile from a four year old child as she clutched a backpack covered in magical fairies was worth her weight in gold. Grants from the Rotary Foundation bring people together in a myriad of ways. Rotarians from the Stone, Stafford Castle and Stafford Knot clubs worked together using a Disaster Response Grant to support Ukrainians in Stafford Borough, which includes Stone.

School uniform and backpacks have been purchased in various colours and sizes as part of the project. The two Stafford clubs often support CARE (Chase Aqua Rural Enterprise) in various ways so supporting the work they were about to do with Ukrainian families was the initial use of the grant funding.

In July, ten families went to Lower Drayton Farm for a fun day and a visit to the CARE project. This encouraged two families to participate in an "Aiming High" session to develop their skills and two women joining a wellbeing online Christmas craft course. In October, 27 Ukrainian families came together for a pumpkin decorating bonanza in Stafford again organised by CARE. So the initial day out resulted in guests getting considerable support.

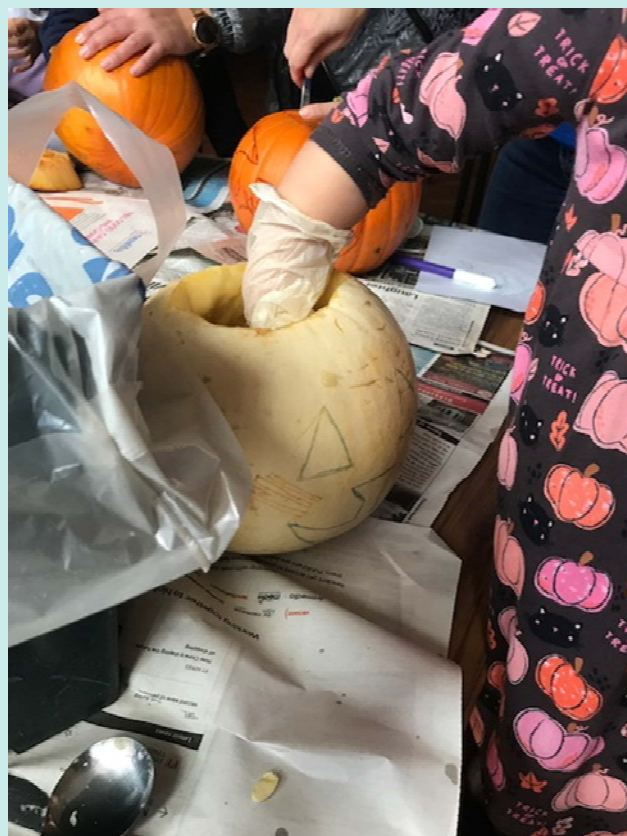
Stone Rotarians used grant funding to buy workbooks for to be used in English classes run by a volunteer in Stone and these have greatly supported the learning.

The English classes are designed to help both with basic interactions (such as shopping and travelling) and to develop skills to help the students at work or to enter higher education. In addition to the daytime courses, there are now classes in the evening for people who are working.

Two of the students commented

"I would like to inform you that the English lessons are very useful for me, as they will give me the opportunity to find a job and integrate into society. They're so important for me right now. Thank you very much!"

"Thank you so much for the lessons, my English is much better now. They have helped me adapt quickly in the country and I hope for further help with learning English. This will help me confirm my diplomas and open my business. Thanks!!!"



It's hard to envisage the pain these families are going through. It is truly amazing the way they smile and determinedly get on with life here in the UK.

Rotarians are honoured to have been able to join some of the events as they add to the wealth of their local community.



# Charter Evening celebrates 30 years

Telford Centre Rotary entertained 63 guests at their 30th Charter evening at the Hundred House at Norton, near Telford, on 15th November. A Wonderful time was had by All.

The club entertained a number of presidents and in particular District Governor Steve Antill was able to attend, along with many other Rotarians from local clubs.

During the evening Telford Centre's President Chris Moore presented PHF awards to Rotarians Nick Burn, David Price (a founder member) and Geoff Avis. A special award was presented by Rotarian John Morris-Roberts PHF, to Rotarian Chris Mackrell PHF. He was given a single Sapphire for the contribution he has made to Rotary Foundation. The club then awarded him a second Sapphire, for the work he has undertaken during Covid and since to hold the club together.

Founder President Gordon Howdle, presented a short history of the club through the years. The evening included a raffle and a little horse race.



**President Chris handing the cheque to Anna of Lingen Davies Cancer Fund, with District Governor Steve.**

At the end of the evening a cheque for £1,750 was presented to Anna Williams, the representative from Lingen Davies Cancer Fund. Anna gave a talk about the work of the cancer charity, which supports patients going through treatment at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital's Lingen Davies Cancer Centre and works to raise awareness about the signs and symptoms of cancer throughout the community.

Honorary Rotarian Don Woolford of Wellington Club, now residing near Bristol, who was the main person involved in setting up Telford Centre Rotary had sent a letter which was read by Past President John Davies of Wellington (in office 1992-93). The letter congratulated the club on reaching its 30th Charter anniversary.

40th Charter next!!!!



**John Morris-Roberts awarding a double sapphire to Chris Mackrell, the first in the Telford Centre Club.**

## Tesco community tokens

Rotary Kidsgrove was recently selected by the club's local population who shop at Tesco to receive a community grant from the supermarket chain.

Before customers get a chance to choose, Tesco colleagues choose which of the eligible applications they would like to see go through to in-store voting.

Customers then choose which project they'd like to see funded, by voting with a blue token each time they shop.

Kidsgrove Rotary President Roy Barber said "The overwhelming response in votes for Kidsgrove Rotary is a testament to the community support that Rotary receives and we are truly grateful for this".





# Website editor receives award for his contribution to the community

Stone and District Rotary, at a meeting in July, were delighted to award the prestigious Paul Harris Fellowship to Jon Cook, a stalwart of the community who runs the very popular 'A Little Bit of Stone' website and Facebook page. The Fellowship was established in 1957 in memory of Paul Harris who founded Rotary in 1905. It is the highest award that can be given by Rotary anywhere in the world so it is appropriate that it has been awarded to Jon for his outstanding contribution to the community.

The Fellowship was awarded to Jon by Rotarian John Lockley who expressed the gratitude of the Club and the community for the excellent work that Jon does through his online presence.

"A Little Bit of Stone" provides news, updates, job news and more. Few other communities have a similar local information service that is as comprehensive and up-to-date, so Stone is very fortunate to have Jon in our midst.

Club President, Sandie McQueen said "I cannot think of a better recipient for the Fellowship. Jon epitomises all that is good in Stone and it highlights the difference that one individual can make to a community. Stone is a brilliant place to live and Jon's contribution makes it even better."

On the website Paul responded "I'm incredibly humbled to have been awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship in recognition for the work that I've done through A Little Bit of Stone. I'd like to extend my thanks to Sandie and Stone and District Rotary for their work in our community and for thinking of me when it came to awarding a fellowship.

A Little Bit of Stone celebrates 12 years this month "and despite juggling it with a full-time day job and family life, it's still something that I'm massively passionate about and proud of.

"We've lived in Stone for 17 years now and we love the community that we call home. It's always lovely to report on what a great town we have, what fabulous people move among us and to share news and information for the benefit of locals and visitors."



*In Remembrance*

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

*Sandie Frew (Shrewsbury)  
Maurice Galliers (Shrewsbury)  
Alan Jacques (City of Wolverhampton)  
Kenneth Parkes (Sedgley & Wombourne)  
George Roby (Church Stretton)*

A white dove is shown in flight, facing right, against a clear blue sky. The dove's wings are spread wide, and its tail feathers are visible. The image is part of a memorial notice.



# Rotarians work together to fund a school water and sanitation project in Nepal

A Gurkha Meal to raise funds for a project in Nepal was held on Sunday 26th June at Stafford Grammar school and proved very successful.

The event was attended by 200 Rotarians and friends, including the Mayor and Mayoress of Stafford Rotarian/Councillor Philip Leason and Mrs Edith Leason, together with District Governor Robyn Davies and Past District Governor Trevor Davies. The food was prepared and served by the catering department of 248 Squadron Gurkha Signals Squadron and those present were entertained by a Gurkha piper, and the famous Gurkha Kuri Dance.

The water and sanitation project is at Shree Jayanti Secondary School in the village of Kharigaira, Dailekh District in the east of Nepal. The school provides education for 447 students who are taught by 23 teachers.

The condition of the toilet rooms is poor and there is no regular or consistent supply of water. In addition, the school staff are sharing the toilet facilities with the students. The school only has one source of water for drinking purposes; however water is only provided two times a day, early in the morning and again late at night.

Funds for this project have been raised jointly by four Rotary Clubs (Eccleshall, Stafford, Stafford Castle and Stafford Knot) with assistance from the Stafford based 248 Gurkha Signal Squadron and is the third such project jointly funded in the last six years. The project has also been supported by a substantial grant from the Rotary Foundation. The total cost of the project is just over £7,000.

The Gurkha Welfare Trust who are commissioning the work will construct a new toilet block close to the main school building. This will consist of an additional four rooms which will provide gender-separate and disabled access toilets. Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) toilet blocks are also to be constructed.

The Gurkha Welfare Trust also propose to install two new water tanks which will provide a more reliable water supply. New pipework will improve the availability of drinkable water and handwashing facilities in the new toilet block.

A hygiene awareness programme will also be delivered in the school to advocate for handwashing and proper use of the toilets. Following completion of the project, the school will be monitored to ensure the school is being properly maintained.





# Transatlantic rowers talk of their experience

In March 2021, Wellington Rotary hosted four locals to one of its, then online, meetings, Aged between 52 and 60, they were in training to take on the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge - a 3,000 mile unsupported rowing race across the Atlantic Ocean from La Gomera to Antigua. They were aiming to raise a total of £100,000 to benefit Severn Hospice and the Royal National Institute for the Blind.



Wrekin Rowers Stuart Richards alongside Stuart Shepherd (left) and Martin Skeehan (right) with Club President Richard Studd (centre) and host Maurice Lamb.

In October this year, three of the crew returned to the club, this time at a face to face meeting, and told of their success in meeting the challenge. They spoke of the good parts and the tough parts of the experience.

A long tie before the event, the crew managed to write-off their intended boat whilst training - but fortunately and unusually, a replacement was available - the cost of which was covered by their insurance.

They told of the time when the boat had been taken to a publicity event and when towing the boat back to base the driver looked in his mirror to see the trailer and boat were no longer behind - all was well as it had travelled in a straight line and had come to rest safely on its trailer a little way back on the road.

During the challenge, the group manned the oars in two hour shifts - two hours of rowing followed by a break of two hours where they had to eat, do odd jobs of maintenance, go to the toilet and get some sleep. They spoke of the food - how one found it a struggle to eat it and felt sick even from the smell of it and the problem they encountered soon into the journey when they discovered the replacement gas canisters on board had the wrong fitting. It was cold food for the rest of the journey - and no hot coffee!

They also recounted the time when a 190 metre cargo ship was coming up close behind them. Luckily after a few attempts, they made contact with the ship and it changed its course!

The challenge started on 12 December and the rowers spent Christmas and New Year at sea. They paused for a break covering the 15 minutes before and after midnight as 2021 moved into 2022. They had a few festive treats on board but their Christmas Puddings were minimal.



Around 750 miles from home, they were sitting in tenth place in the fleet (ahead of full armed forces crews with people half their age) when they were struck by a Marlin fish, which made a hole in the bottom of the boat with its spike (similar to that of a swordfish) about the size of an orange. It broke the seam to a second compartment in the boat which meant the boat was taking on a lot of water. "The hit from the Marlin literally stopped the boat in its tracks with the force of the impact". The boat was not in any danger of sinking due to its great design but with two lockers filled with water, the boat was listing to

starboard significantly and the rowers needed to do what they could to repair the damage.

Due to the size and location of the hole, the best repair was to fabricate a cover over the hole from the inside of the compartment (a sandwich box lid was used!). It didn't give a complete seal but with water pumped out and a mixture of accumulated rubbish, food that wasn't liked (in the packets still) and blown up fenders placed in the lockers it left room for only a minimum quantity of water. The consequence was an extra 100 litres of extra water being carried for the remainder of the journey (the equivalent to another crew member) and the balance of the boat had to be managed in innovative ways.

The crew arrived in Antigua on 21st January 2022, taking a total time of 40 days, 12 hours and 33 minutes. They passed their fundraising target by raising over £122,000.





# Twenty years of networking for peace

“The systems that create conflicts around the world are multiple and entangled. Every component in this intertwined web makes it harder to untangle and harder to solve. But our networks as peace builders, the connections we make, the ideas we share – these weave the networks for peace.” Thus started the 2022 Bradford University Rotary Peace Fellows seminar.

For twenty years Rotary Peace Fellows have been challenging our thinking about peace. Class XX were no exception.

Liliana Demartini highlighted the interconnection between Peace, Climate and a country's fragility. Climate change is not a risk in itself, but is a risk multiplier for conflict. With dwindling water supplies in Lake Turkana, in Kenya there was potential conflict caused by climate change. Peace builders helped local communities to share their water peacefully.



The increased militarisation in Kashmir made Indians feel safe (pacification). The local Kashmiris viewed the same militarisation as a threat. How you view militarisation depends on where you are in the system of privilege. Sahar Vardi pointed out keeping things quiet is not enough to achieve peace.

Rotary District 1210 was distant host to Musa Camara (pictured left with a colleague) who was actively involved in the peace keeping operations in Darfur and he, like the other eight Peace Fellows, strongly emphasised the need for all to keep talking; for the stories to be told; and for us all to keep listening.

The annual Peace Seminar is an amazing stimulating day. All Rotarians are welcome to attend. The date of the event in 2023 is Saturday 28th October.



## District 1210 clubs doing good across the world

An amazing number of projects are being carried out across the world by clubs in District 1210. Throughout most of 2021/22 thirteen global grant projects were supporting children and adults in Africa, India, Moldova and Belarus with the help of funding from Rotary Foundation's District Designated Fund. Two were completed in that year and two more approved.

Most projects were in the Foundation's "Disease Prevention and Treatment" area of focus. One of the projects completed recently involved 67 babies from economically disadvantaged families in Mumbai having their poorly functioning hearts repaired. This project – like so many others also involved the training of staff in appropriate eye surgeries. Well done to the Walsall Rotary for this project.

Walsall Saddlers Rotary mostly specialises in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene. The host club in West Bengal had identified that in a rural area women were collecting water from a pond for drinking washing etc. and the schools had no running water. To make matters worse even the pond dried up in the summer months.

Working with the host club they provided bore holes and proper plumbing and handwashing stations in eight schools. All this is brought about by generous donations to the Annual Programmes Fund



## 'Songs for Dougie Mac'

Wolstanton Rotary held its hugely popular "Songs for Dougie Mac" concert at Stoke Minster on Saturday 8th October.

The evening featured songs by The City of Stoke-on-Trent Male Voice Choir and the Dougie Mac Choir, as well as special performances by Ellie Moran, recent Soloist and chorister from André Rieu and the Johann Strauss Orchestra's World Tour. It was a fantastic night of live entertainment, with 100% of the ticket sales being donated to Dougie Mac.

Glyn Mycock, Public Image Chair from Wolstanton Rotary Club commented; "The Rotary Club of Wolstanton has supported the local community for over 35 years and during that time Dougie Mac Hospice has never been far from our thoughts. Like lots of people in North Staffs, many of our members' families and friends have needed the amazing support that the hospice offers. Our involvement in Songs for Dougie Mac offers another opportunity to raise invaluable funds for Dougie Mac."

Ian Cameron from the City of Stoke-on-Trent Male Voice Choir added; "The City of Stoke-on-Trent Male Voice Choir was delighted to again perform at the concert in The Minster. Under the adroit musical direction of Robert Slinn, and outstanding accompanist Pat Mair, some forty choristers, ranging in age from 17 to 93 sang a selection of well-known choral pieces from across the years."

Ashley Mellor, musical director of Dougie Mac Choir, added, "I'm delighted the choir was able to come together with City of Stoke-on-Trent Male Voice Choir and Ellie Moran to once again raise invaluable funds for Dougie Mac."

Douglas Macmillan Hospice ("Dougie Mac") relies on 75% of its annual income coming from voluntary donations which includes fundraising events like Songs for Dougie Mac. Without support from clubs like Wolstanton Rotary and members of the local community the specialist care provided for children, young adults, adults and their families across North Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent who face cancer and other life-shortening illnesses, including advanced heart failure and dementia, simply would not be possible.





**We welcome into Rotary membership, those who have joined a club in our district since the last edition:**

**Bilston and Wolverhampton West**  
Ann Reaney

**Blythe Bridge & District**  
Julie Downie

**Burntwood & District**  
Gemma Dodd

**Cannock**  
Bajiv Rai

**Church Stretton**  
Thomas Conlon  
Brian Heeley  
Graham Porter  
Mark Redhead

**Dudley**  
Charman Balu  
Amanda Bowen  
Ruth Longville  
Claire Towns

**Ellesmere**  
Mary Goulbourne  
Julia Reid

**Ironbridge**  
Jennifer Hunter  
Mark Hunter  
Dr Antony Moore  
Vivienne Moore

**Leek**  
Clare Edwards  
Afruz Miah  
Jean Price

**Ludlow**  
Barry Jewitt

**Market Drayton**  
Denise McGowan  
Rick McGowan  
Linda Sear

**Newport (Shropshire) Lite**  
Christine Salmon  
Glyn Thomas  
Janet Thomas

**Shrewsbury Darwin**  
Imogen Howells  
Michael Roberts

**Stafford**  
Gareth Jones  
Brenda O'Leary  
George Steele

**Tettenhall**  
Adrian Kitchen

**The City of Wolverhampton**  
Sasha Hollingsworth  
Subhash Kumar  
Sanjiv Sinha

**Uttoxeter**  
Katherine Nash

**Walsall**  
Barbara Cattell  
Moirra Law  
Mollie Prichards

**Walsall Saddlers**  
Deepal Mandaliya

**Wednesbury**  
Luke Giles  
Nicola Maycock

**Wednesfield**  
Patricia Adeogun

**Wellington**  
Terry Ridgway

**Wem & District**  
Paul Thornhill

**The Wrekin**  
Lynne Kay  
Marjorie Booth



## The Macari Foundation supported by Rotary

Audley Rotary President Helen Chatfield has chosen The Macari Foundation as her charity for 2022

The Foundation provides year-round shelter for homeless people in Stoke-on-Trent and the club is working closely with it to complete a project to set-up an outside area for residents to use in summer.

Additionally, the club has collected over 300 items of warm clothing to help the residents and people on the streets to stay warm over winter.

Rotarians delivered the clothing to the Macari Centre in Hanley at the end of October. To complete the project for an outside area, the club secured a matching grant from Rotary Foundation

Lou Macari and Angela Smith, from the Foundation, came to talk to club members about their work and at the end of the night President Helen presented Lou with a cheque.





# Getting to know you: District Governor Steve Antill

**How long have you been a Rotarian?** Officially 19 years since my club, Bloxwich Phoenix, chartered. However, I have been involved with Rotary since joining Rotaract in 1985

**How were you introduced to Rotary?** I was invited to join Rugeley Rotaract by a friend of a neighbour. He offered to let me drive his car to meetings which was an attractive proposition as I was learning to drive at the time

**What is your vocation?** Most of my career has been implementing and configuring business software. I have specialised in integrations and wider design and have worked with well-known companies in manufacturing, retail and financial services. To friends and family I am just someone who you can ask about any IT issues.

**What encouraged you to offer yourself as District Governor?** Several fellow Rotarians mooted the idea, but it was PDG Ken Wagstaffe who finally prompted my application. The timing means that I will have completed my Year before my daughter Chloe begins her GCSE studies.

**What have you so far found the most rewarding aspect of DG?** It is a genuine privilege to be able to visit clubs and learn what they do. It is endlessly fascinating how each club is unique yet shares so much of a common purpose. I love being able to share these great projects and successes across the district.

**...and the most frustrating** As DG I'm frustrated by the volume of meetings with unclear objectives, also the inherent and increasing cost of Rotary subscriptions. There is much talk of flexibility but little evidence of this in the underlying rules and systems.

**What are your leisure interests?** I enjoy walking – hills especially, though I don't get to do this too often. Indoors I enjoy reading, listening to music and playing video games. And I enjoy the occasional beer or whisky.

**What is your favourite food?** As long as my 'desert island' has cheese and vanilla ice-cream I'll be happy.

**What was your first car?** A pale yellow Mini SOA 121 Y. Temperamental but lots of fun. One of the few cars I've owned which I've cared about!

**What was your first record or CD?** First singles bought with my own money were "Up the Junction" (Squeeze), "Who Were you with in the Moonlight?" (Dollar) and "The Lone Ranger" (Quantum Jump). My first album, bought in 1978, was "Parallel Lines" (Blondie) which started a music collection habit that continues to this day

**Who has been your greatest inspiration in Rotary?** There have been many. Possibly the greatest, to me and others in my club, was PDG Dr Fraser Dukes with his never-ending passion and enthusiasm for Rotary's Polio Eradication programme

**What is your favourite type of holiday?** City Breaks or remote cottages. Not hot places

**If you could invent a gadget, what would it be?** I have no idea, but I'd like to think it would be wholly pointless but somehow fun.

**If you could pass a law, what would it be?** Ideally we need them all – I think we have enough, but I question their consistent application.

**Name a book and a record you would take to a desert island** Being told I could only have one of each does seem like a serious case of mental torture. When I listen to Desert Island Discs, I do think which tracks I'd choose and what my book and luxury item would be. I'm never quite sure whether you should choose items that you know and love or something more challenging you would like to find time to appreciate. I suspect I would go for the former and right now my book would be Rotters Club (Jonathan Cole) and music Blue (Joni Mitchell) but on another day my answers might be different.

**Name your favourite TV programme/s** Old (classic) Dr Who programmes. In more modern times when we binge watch streaming services I have particularly enjoyed, on Netflix, "The Good Place" and "Crazy ex Girlfriend" I generally don't turn over if repeats of Friends, Frasier or Faulty Towers pop up on screen. Maybe I have a thing for programmes beginning with F.

**If you could be in a film what would it be and what character would you play?** I would love to be one of those non-speaking (or partially, speaking) bit parts in a movie, something like newspaper seller #2, where I would be able to say I've been in it, find and share the but never be recognised in the street or be of any interest to the tabloid press.

**What is your most treasured possession?** I could make a strong case for my Rotary Clubs mascot, Ash the Bear. He is a bit older, a bit worn, but holds a host of fantastic memories for me and our club.





**What is the best piece of advice you have ever been given?**

It is difficult to better the "Serenity Prayer":

*Grant me the serenity to accept  
the things I cannot change;  
Courage to change  
the things I can;  
and wisdom to  
know the difference.*

**What Olympic sport would you compete in?** In my teens I ran 800 and 1500 metres for the school - not that I was anywhere close to Olympic standard.

**What changes would you like to see on Rotary?**

I'd like to see a much more flexible approach to membership recording and subscriptions. I find it incredibly frustrating that clubs and members are encouraged to try new approaches and ideas to attract and retain members whilst the administration remains archaic and inflexible. Different styles and models of club and individual memberships should be supported, and the individual cost should be coming down, not going up. Rotary's administration costs are – in my opinion - ripe for reduction.

**What is your most valuable possession?** I have no idea. I have a couple of interesting (slightly) valuables, a bottle of single malt from the de-commissioned Rosebank distillery in Falkirk (which pleasingly is now being restored and re-opened). I've had several records which have proven to be worth more than something small, round and plastic should ever be. I sold one 'Pristine Christine' by the virtually unknown Sea Urchins) a few years ago to fund my Digital SLR. My £1 investment in 1987 netted just over £500 on e-bay 25 years later.

**Which living person do you most admire, and why?**

Several years ago I might have put Kenneth Behring (Wheelchair Foundation) who I had the chance to talk to with at a couple of Rotary events. In a similar frame I'm grateful to Bill Gates for his humanitarian support since amassing a large fortune. I find the most inspirational people are often those working with little or no recognition on smaller projects making big impact in their local communities. We have all met such people through Rotary. A couple of examples from causes many of us support would be Karen Williams (Buddy Bag Foundation) and Magnus MacFarlan-Barrow (Mary's Meals).

**If you had an unlimited supply of one thing, what would it be?** Perhaps time, though I'm not sure that limitless time would be as good as it sounds. Maybe A4 copier paper or printer ink. (Both would be very helpful).

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

**Is there something about life that you have never understood?** Why does bad news spread faster and wider than good news? Why do so many people think someone should do something but not take the step to be that someone? I could go on .... (And often do.)

**If you didn't live in England, where would you choose to live?** Scotland, probably in, or close to, my childhood home near Lossiemouth.

**Name the five guests you would invite to a dinner party** There is a song I like about this subject – in it the singer lists famous magicians he'd like to invite to a party, before realising that he would probably enjoy it more with close family and friends. I tend to agree with that, so much as I am intrigued by the idea of having a bunch of Greek philosophers, some pioneers of science, or famous film directors around for dinner. I know I'd enjoy a good night with friends more. that said I could have some fun inviting historical figures I think might not get along, just to see what happens.

**Compose a slogan to sum up your life?** "Must try harder"

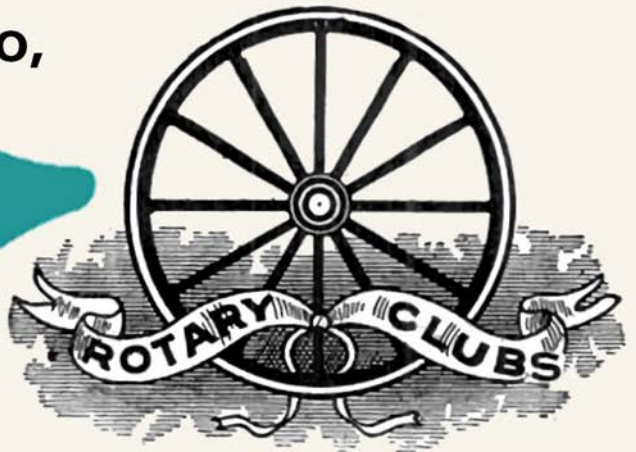
**Reveal something about yourself that might surprise us.** I have a film credit as an investor. The film is a documentary on Frank Sidebottom (Chris Slevey) – a cult comedian/musician from the 1980's through to the early 2000's. My investment was about £30 - but my name is there in lights!

**Your Rotary in Three Words** Developing Better Communities

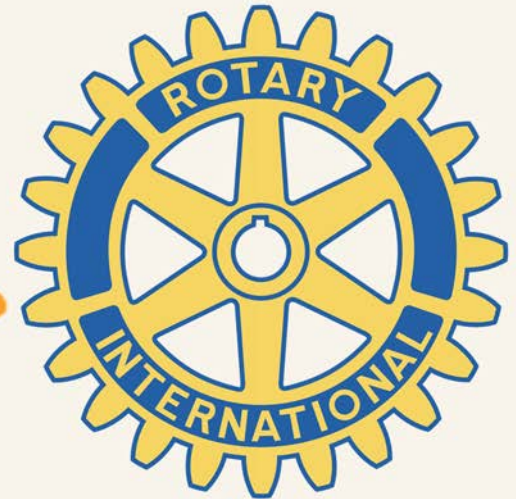
**How would you like to be remembered?** It would be comforting to think that memories of me might raise a smile.



You would never use this logo,



so why do so many Rotarians continue to use this one?



Last year, then Rotary International's President-Elect Shekhar Mehta wrote "...we'll ask Rotary, Rotaract and Interact clubs to update their logos to align with [Rotary International's] brand standards."

If you are confused by what he was talking about, that's not surprising - so are many Rotarians.

Nine years after Rotary's rebranding, many Rotary clubs continue to use a previous version of Rotary's mark of excellence ("the Rotary wheel"). Many Rotarians in District 1210 are still using the mark of excellence that was retired in 2013.

That's when Rotary International modernised its branding, which is something that happens with many organisations. Well-known brands such as Pepsi Cola, VISA and Starbucks have evolved their brands over time.

And this is not the first time that the Rotary brand has changed, as you can see in the graphic at the top of this article.

Clubs should use only the current branding on websites, in print documents and signage, and on social media.

In the email, current Rotary International President Shekhar pointed out that, "Repeated and consistent use of our logos builds global recognition of what we do. Consistently using a unified bond signals to the public—including potential members and donors—that local clubs are supporting the community and those clubs are part of the global Rotary network."

"Studies show that consistent logo use builds organisational trust and awareness," Rotary brand specialist Liz Thiam wrote in an article on the Rotary International blog Rotary Voices. "When a club logo isn't used properly it can create confusion and mistrust."

In another Rotary Voices article, the vice-chair of the Rotary International Communications Committee wrote, "In today's world, individuals are constantly bombarded by thousands of advertising messages. It's vital that we have a consistent, high-quality visual presentation of our brand to cut through all that noise."



McDonald's is an example of a company with a brand recognized worldwide. When people see the golden arches, they know exactly what they will get: an environment that's comfortable for families, affordable prices and food prepared the same way every time.



Rotary International's brand reflects who we are as well as who we want to be.

The current brand consists of the familiar wheel, which is now shown in a single colour, with the word Rotary on the left.

The use of this logo is limited to Rotary International, but forms the basis from which Rotary, Rotaract and Interact clubs can create their own club logo. The Rotary wheel (the mark of excellence) should never be used by itself.

"Rotarians have an important role to play in being custodians of the Rotary brand," Amanda Wendt writes. "The great news is, it's very easy to ensure your club or District is using the correct logo. Through the Rotary Brand Center you can create a free, professional and on-brand logo within minutes!"

The brand centre has templates and tools to help you create club and District logos, programme and event logos, social media posts, websites, business card and event flyers and banners.

At the time when the new logo was introduced, it came with guidelines to help clubs, Districts and other Rotary entities use customised logos to strengthen their ties with Rotary's worldwide brand.

For example, clubs are not permitted to alter the design, which is consistent with branding guidelines of all organizations. For example, you will never visit a certain fast-food restaurant with red or green or blue arches. MacDonald's is recognizable worldwide by its iconic golden arches.

Here are some guidelines to keep in mind:

- Your club should use your Rotary club signature rather than the main official Rotary logo for club communications and promotions.
- Your club can use the name "Rotary" in connection with a club activity if you relate the activity to the club, not to Rotary International.
- If your club wants to promote itself with another organisation or corporation, such as in the name of a building, place, or event, use your club's full name, not just "Rotary." Don't use a name such as The Rotary Library, The Rotary Coffeehouse, or The Third Annual Rotaryfest.
- Rotary brand specialist Liz Thiam wrote "We will continue to talk more and more about branding and how to use Rotary's logos properly. We are working with Rotarians to build a strong Rotary because a strong Rotary—one that is recognisable, trusted, and united—has a much greater chance of attracting members, donors, volunteers and partners.
- "You can help by taking a look at your club logo. Do you see your club name along with the Rotary or Rotaract logo? Are you using the correct Rotary colour palette? Is the Rotary wheel clearly visible, free from other graphics or designed elements? If not, then it might be time to update it. It's really easy—just visit the Brand Center to get started."

If you need are not confident in updating your club logo, the District Public Image team can provide guidance and, if you are really struggling, will also provide a set of computer graphics tailored for your club for you to use with correspondence, advertising, promotion and fund raising. Just ask!

District 7030 is hosting a video in the style of a TV quiz.

Test your understanding by watching at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BE\\_iZBKgU\\_w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BE_iZBKgU_w)



The  
**Rotary**  
Foundation



# The Rotary Foundation. Why you should donate.



Improve Lives



Change Lives



Save Lives

## You can choose where your money goes

Through supporting Rotarian's projects, your donations go to:



Annual Fund



Endowment Fund



Polio Plus Fund

## How can I give?



### Sustaining Member

Become a Sustaining Member.

**\$100 a year**

*Already a Sustaining Member?  
Consider increasing your donation  
to join the Paul Harris Society.*



### Polio Plus Society

Become a member of the  
Polio Plus Society.

**\$100 a year**



### Bequest Society

Do you want a legacy? - Please  
consider making a commitment in  
your will and join the  
Bequest Society.

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The  
**Rotary**  
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Rotary Foundation  
of the United Kingdom

Charity number 1002059



# Rotarians extend their funding with Crisis Support charity

Members of Wellington Rotary recently extended the club's financial donations to Telford Crisis Support, a charity operating a food bank from its base in Halesfield, Telford, to help launch its Energy Voucher Scheme.

Prior to the COVID lockdown in 2020, Wellington Rotarians, each month contributed physical items of food, household goods and toiletries which were then delivered to the food bank.

During lockdown collections were not practical and club members then opted to continue their support by making monetary donations for onward distribution to Telford Crisis Support. Although members now meet each Friday lunchtime at the Pheasant Inn in Admaston, the cash contributions have continued.

Since members started supporting the foodbank this way, over £16,000 has been paid to Telford Crisis Support.

Earlier this year, members became aware that whilst they were helping Telford Crisis Support in its provision of food parcels, the benefit would be limited in circumstances where individuals and families did not have the means to pay for the energy needed to cook the food. Members considered several ideas but when they heard Telford Crisis Support was looking at launching an energy voucher scheme, they agreed to donate £4,000 to help launch the scheme.

Simon Lellow, Operations Manager at Telford Crisis Support, said "Our energy scheme supports the residents of Telford and Wrekin who utilise pre-payment meters, who are suffering hardship as a result of the unprecedented rise in home energy prices". He added "Alongside this targeted support, applicants will be offered energy use advice"

Telford Crisis Support accepts referrals from professionals who are in contact with and supporting residents affected by the cost-of-living crisis, including, the health & care sector, housing associations, and social prescribers. Eligibility is discretionary but follows existing best practice employed by similar wellbeing support services.

Richard Studd, President of Wellington Rotary who first suggested the club supported the food bank many years ago, said "It is clear Rotarians value the work Telford Crisis Support does and I am often pleasantly surprised by the total value members contribute each month. When a group of members visited the Telford Crisis Support site recently, we could see its work goes much further than food parcel provision. Club members are very pleased to make a donation to help the charity launch the energy scheme".

Simon Lellow said "Wellington Rotary has provided, much needed, and appreciated financial support to TCS over an extended period. The additional targeted funding will enable TCS to bolster the holistic support available from its current scope of services and make a positive difference to our local community, providing individuals and families with a helping hand to overcome their crisis."

The funding is expected to be utilised during the winter period from November to February.



**Wellington Rotarians, including Honorary member, Sherwood the Guide Dog, present the club's donation at a visit to Telford Crisis Support**



# Lusaka's Street Children helped by Rotarian Sylvia

Eccleshall Rotarian Sylvia Keris, has recently returned from a volunteering project trip to Zambia with the charity Mission Direct, where she was part of a team working with the charity's established project partners called Footprints - who help street children on the city streets of Lusaka.

The project was originally postponed from its 2020 date, due to Covid restrictions, but having been rearranged for the Autumn of 2022, Sylvia was keen to help again hands-on in the development work she has a passion for. Back in Staffordshire, Sylvia is an Ambassador for the charity The Buddy Bag Foundation - that helps children with a backpack of essential items, after they have been taken to safety away from domestic abuse. So knowing that many of the children she would be helping on Lusaka's streets had suffered abuse at home, or had been trafficked/abducted - and were then vulnerable to more violence on the streets, (resulting in some teenage girls then having babies living with them on the streets) - Sylvia wanted to use her skills and volunteer experience from previous overseas work, in UK schools and with other charities to help children in Lusaka.

Besides offering support on the streets, which the volunteers sometimes found very challenging, the Footprints team also visited outreach project services offering rehabilitation and safe spaces to street children, with Sylvia and other team members donating medical supplies and other aid items they filled their suitcases with.

In a lighter context, they also helped in schools in different townships, including Mississi compound - where Sylvia took a lesson and distributed letters to pupils at Eneless Patmoss school, that were written prior to her departure by some pupils in 2 schools in Eccleshall, Letters were written back to the Eccleshall school pupils, which will help children here to understand more about Zambian culture, and about its children, and some issues of poverty and development, and how attending school is the main way to break the cycle of poverty.





## Prostate testing sets a new record

Nearly 600 men gathered at Whitchurch Rugby Club for one of the largest single community events in the history of the town's Rotary Club.

A total of 586 men, aged over 45, had potentially life-saving PSA ('prostate-specific antigen') tests to detect possible prostate cancer. That number is the highest since the project began seven years ago.

A team of 39, including professional NHS phlebotomists, members of Rotary and Inner Wheel, and other supporters, ran the three-hour screening session. Blood samples were taken for analysis in a bid to catch early symptoms of prostate cancer, a disease that kills more than 12,000 men in the UK every year - that's one death every 45 minutes.

Catching the disease early has saved dozens of lives in the Whitchurch area alone since the Rotary initiative was launched by organiser Dave Simcock.

The tests are free of charge and the costs covered by Whitchurch Rotary from fundraising projects and public donations - including £2,000 from Whitchurch Town Council. Andy Hall, Town mayor (pictured) was among the first to be tested.

"The men who turned up for testing probably made one of the most important decisions of their life," said Steve Chisholm, the president of Whitchurch Rotary. "A total of more than 2,000 tests have now been administered and this year's attendance set a new record. The teamwork involved, from the car park crew right through to the exit door, was an impressive show of organisation and I'm proud of every helper who gave their time."



## Why Rotarians are 'sitting tall'

For the first time in the 35-year history of Shrewsbury Severn Rotary its members sat tall at the front of their chairs to practice – an ankle loosener!

It was all part of a chair-based exercise programme designed to boost circulation and help prevent trips and falls.

The club was visited by Sue Chalk, Head of Service at Community Resource, an organisation which supports people to stay active and connected to their communities as well as helping them to maintain their health and independence to live a full life.

This is achieved through a range of community-based projects with the help of a team of local and committed volunteers.

She described to Rotarians how staying active and physically fit can prevent falls and how one in six deaths were due to inactivity.

"Staying active is one of the best things you can do for your health. Quality of life improves and it's never too late to start."

She took Rotarians through a series of hand and leg exercises including standing on one leg. "You don't have to walk a marathon," said Sue, who added "I am not here to lecture – just encouraging you to keep active."

Rotarians agreed afterwards that the advice was 'incredibly useful.'



## Ball finale for X-ray appeal.

At the end of September, Newport Rotary Lite, and the Newport League of Friends held a spectacular Grand Finale Ball to mark the end of the town's mammoth fund raising project to upgrade the X-ray machine in the Cottage Care Centre in the town.

The Ball featured The Dirty Rockin' Scoundrels, a disco, a three course dinner and other entertainment. The appeal was organised by the two Newport GP practices, Newport League of Friends and Newport Rotary Lite. The ball raised £3,000 adding to the appeal that has raised £200,000 in two and a half years.



The new machine is digital so doctors will have much quicker access to X rays and the results will then go straight to the hospital for interpretation.

Newport Lite President Margie Haslop said: "we were delighted to be asked to be a partner in this amazing appeal. It became a brilliant team effort right across Newport with individuals, groups, The Town Council, parish councils and charities helping".

In November, Newport Rotary Lite held another fundraising evening at the Navy Club in the town. The "Evening of Folk" featuring "The Deacons" and "the Elderly Brothers".

The event raised a further £555 for the appeal.

## Alumni reconnects

A very successful Alumni annual get together was held in October and maypole dancing was the order of the day.

Each year Alumni Leads Beverly Ricketts and Bob Cliff organise a special day bringing together former Rotarians, students who have taken courses with Rotary, parents, friends and families to celebrate the Rotary family. This year was no exception.

Held at Coalbrookdale and Ironbridge Community Centre, the get together included a guided walk around the historic highlights of Ironbridge led by Immediate Past District Governor Robyn Davies, followed by an incredible buffet created by District Governor Steve Antill, and Rotarians Troy Allen & Helen Antill. Handmade cakes and refreshments were served.

The afternoon featured speeches by DG Steve, a presentation of an Alumni badge and was topped off with a dance round a maypole in the middle of the hall in which lots of visitors and Rotarians took part led by IPDG Robyn.





# Are your passwords secure enough?

Most, if not all of us, use passwords each and every day and whilst the organisations we use them with do their best to offer a secure environment, there is little they can do if a hacker wants to and does guess your password.

The table on the right from a cyber-security company (Hive Systems) indicates how long it would take a hacker using a computer program to discover a password by “brute force” - a process of submitting many passwords or passphrases with the hope of eventually guessing correctly.

The lower the complexity of a password, the lower the number of possible passwords and the quicker it is to discover a password using “brute-force”.

How can users counter this?

## Create a strong password for important accounts.

Weak passwords can be hacked in seconds. The longer a password is, the stronger it becomes and the harder to hack. Make your passwords strong by using a sequence of three random words. You can make it even stronger with special characters, so ‘*FlamingoHeadMan*’ could be ‘*42@FlamingoHeadMan*’. Starting with your most important accounts (such as banking, email and social media), replace your old passwords with new ones, by stringing three random words together.

## Use a separate password for your work and personal accounts.

You are likely to have many online accounts. If one of those accounts gets compromised, you don’t want the attacker to have your work password so make sure your domestic and work passwords are different. Try not to use your work email address for personal websites or applications and use a separate unique password for your email accounts as you will often use that email address to reset other passwords.

## Where available, switch on two-factor authentication for important accounts.

Two-factor authentication (2FA) is normally a free security feature that gives you an extra layer of protection online and stops cyber criminals getting into your accounts – even if they have your password. It reduces the risk by asking you to provide a second factor, such as getting a text or code when you log in, to double check you are who you say you are. Check if the online services and apps you use offer 2FA. If they do, turn it on and begin setting it up with accounts you care most about such as banking, email and social media. For your work accounts this may be enabled by your IT team or provider.

## Store passwords securely

Using the same password all over the internet for your accounts makes you vulnerable. For example, if that one password is stolen all your accounts can be accessed. It’s good practice to use different passwords for the accounts you most care about. Remembering lots of passwords can be difficult, but if you save them in a secure password manager, you don’t have to.

TIME IT TAKES A HACKER TO BRUTE FORCE YOUR PASSWORD IN 2022					
Number of Characters	Numbers Only	Lowercase Letters	Upper and Lowercase Letters	Numbers, Upper and Lowercase Letters	Numbers, Upper and Lowercase Letters, Symbols
4	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly
5	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly
6	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly
7	Instantly	Instantly	2 secs	7 secs	31 secs
8	Instantly	Instantly	2 mins	7 mins	39 mins
9	Instantly	10 secs	1 hour	7 hours	2 days
10	Instantly	4 mins	3 days	3 weeks	5 months
11	Instantly	2 hours	5 months	3 years	34 years
12	2 secs	2 days	24 years	200 years	3k years
13	19 secs	2 months	1k years	12k years	202k years
14	3 mins	4 years	64k years	750k years	16m years
15	32 mins	100 years	3m years	46m years	1bn years
16	5 hours	3k years	173m years	3bn years	92bn years
17	2 days	69k years	9bn years	179bn years	7tn years
18	3 weeks	2m years	467bn years	11tn years	438tn years

 [Learn about our methodology at hivesystems.io/password](https://hivesystems.io/password)





**Please sponsor our hero as  
he undertakes the 5600 km**



# **Plymouth-Banjul Challenge in January 2023**

**to raise funds for Rotary eye care charities\***



**TO SPONSOR THIS HEROIC EFFORT GO TO:**



**or**

**[www.justgiving.com/john-miles22](http://www.justgiving.com/john-miles22)**

## **\*GLOBAL SIGHT SOLUTIONS & SIGHTBOX**

**See over for details of the rally and the charities**







**PLEASE SEE OPPOSITE PAGE**



## DETAILS OF THE PLYMOUTH-BANJUL CHALLENGE 2023:

Our hero will drive the 5600 km in an old Rolls Royce,  
commencing in January 2023.

The route being Plymouth UK - France – Spain - Morocco –  
Western Sahara- Mauritania - Senegal – & finally Banjul in The Gambia.

It's not a race, it's a rally for old bangers of limited value, with  
the vehicles sold to benefit local charities on arrival in Banjul.

The two Rotary charities being supported by our hero are:

## GLOBAL SIGHT SOLUTIONS

which enables specialist eye hospitals to be established in the developing world  
thereby providing free eye care to the poor.

**Just £5 provides a sight restoring cataract operation!**

[www.globalsightsolutions.org](http://www.globalsightsolutions.org)

## SIGHTBOX

who provide resources, assistance and education to the visually impaired,  
in the UK and abroad, in preparation for a working life.

[www.sightboxtrust.co.uk](http://www.sightboxtrust.co.uk)

For information about the two charities contact  
[john.miles13@btinternet.com](mailto:john.miles13@btinternet.com) or go to [www.globalsightsolutions.org](http://www.globalsightsolutions.org)

It's planned that representatives from the both Rotary charities  
will be at the finishing line to show their appreciation.





## Historic firsts

The Rotary Club of Shrewsbury celebrated a number of “firsts” in June at the final meeting of the 2021-22 President’s term of office which had been extended by a year because of the Covid pandemic.

Mary Pascoe was the first President of the club to have also been President of the Inner Wheel Club of Shrewsbury.

One of President Mary’s final duties was to present three Paul Harris Fellowships – the highest honour a club can award.

The independent awarding committee recommended Club Secretary, Alan Copplestone (top right) and Club Treasurer Paul Ross (centre right). They also recommended past President Paul Pascoe (bottom right), and was the first time a president has presented the award to their spouse.

At the meeting, President Mary formally handed over the Chain of Office to the incoming president, Margaret Thrower, creating another first, as the club has now had a unique sequence of three consecutive women presidents.

But there was a final first to celebrate. In her opening address to the club, President Margaret totally surprised her predecessor by presenting her with a Paul Harris Fellowship – making Mary and Paul not only the only married couple in the club, but the first to become Paul Harris Fellows on the same day.



## Festive 5K run

On Sunday 18th December, Audley Rotary’s annual Festive 5K run, organised in partnership with running club Audley Striders, will be raising funds for Midlands Air Ambulance Charity Service.

Entrants are encouraged to wear fancy dress. Neil Ginnis, Club Secretary said “It’s a great day out and a lovely way to bring the community together. The number of entries has grown each year and this year we are expecting 200 runners.”

Runners who are also football fans have an incentive to run quicker this year, to ensure they are in front of the TV for the start of the World Cup final in the afternoon.



# Changes to the District Foundation Grant process and timings

The following changes have been made in respect of future applications for grants

1. The Rotary Foundation 'Club Memorandum of Understanding' (MOU) will now accompany any grant application whether that be District/Global or Disaster Grants. One signed copy will be sufficient for the full Rotary year. The MOU is only required from clubs applying for grant. *(previously it was required from all clubs in January each year)*
2. The District Grant application closing date will now be the end of May each year to the grants committee. *(previously the end of March)*
3. The grant committee will review all the applications during June and clubs will be informed by the end of June if the application has been successful, therefore each club's matching funds can be ring fenced for the grant going into the following Rotary year.
4. District grant reporting will not be changed and this should be by the end of March the following year, with a final report no later than end of May. *(In most cases District Grants are complete by the end of March)*
5. Due to an increase in club's changing banks due to charges being incurred, the grant application form now requests details of the club's Charity/Benevolent account to assist and speed up payment of moneys once the funds have been received from The Rotary Foundation.
6. Grant funds are requested from The Rotary Foundation in early July and hopefully moneys will be received by the end of August.



It is hoped that the above process will make the District Grant more meaningful to both the recipient of the grant and to clubs due to the shortening of the period from the present six months down to three.

Should you have any questions or require further information with regard to District Grants please contact Geoff Ward - Chair Grants Committee ([geoffreybward1@gmail.com](mailto:geoffreybward1@gmail.com)).

## Knitters crown a pillar box

Knitters from Newport Lite Rotary who regularly produce blankets for the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford, turned their attention to create something special for Her Late Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.

They knitted and crocheted a Crown topper for a pillar box in the town's High Street brightening up the town ahead of the Jubilee weekend in May.

Sadly, by the end of June, despite it being chained, padlocked and cable tied on, the pillar box topper disappeared.





## Donation of toiletries

*Rene Carlisle of Newcastle-under-Lyme Rotary writes:*

Jean, a very good friend of mine rang and told me she had heard on the radio and TV that people were not only struggling to buy food and pay their bills, but many were now also finding it hard to find the money to buy toiletries.

She was appalled and felt so sorry for these people who were in such dire straits. I was told she had been buying toiletries every week, for a couple of months and she now wanted to bring them to me for distribution, as I would know who needed them.

I was very touched by this and marvelled yet again at the compassion some people feel for their fellow man. She told me that she had taken this decision because of how much I did on behalf of Rotary, the Barracks Trust and Newcastle Community Transport and everything else she knew I did for the community.

Jean is 86 years old and feels, because of health reasons and other factors, she doesn't have the energy now to join any organisations, but she still wanted to do as I do and this was her way of giving something back.

I like to think of myself as a person of action and I think this is a marker that I may be getting it right!



## Rotary lights up the town

Rotarians in Kidsgrove held their annual Bonfire and firework event in the town's Clough Hall Park on Guy Fawkes Night at the start of October.

District Governor Steve Antill accompanied by his wife Helen and their daughter Chloe (pictured below), lit the bonfire and fired up the twenty minute long firework display created by local company Monumental Fireworks.

Stallholders sold their food to the 2,000+ crowd and a funfair helped make it a fantastic night for those attending.

Proceeds from the event are used by the club's charity to support local organisations.





# What is a Rotarian?

A Rotarian is a person:

who digs wells from which they will never drink,  
 who vaccinates children they will never meet,  
 who restores sight for those they will never see,  
 who builds houses they will never live in,  
 who educates children they will never know,  
 who plants trees they will never sit under,  
 who feeds hungry people, regardless of race,  
 religion or politics,  
 who makes crawlers walk half a world away,  
 and who knows that real happiness can be found  
 by serving others.

*So how can a Rotarian best serve others?*

By supporting our only Charity – The Rotary Foundation

The Rotary Foundation is at the core of everything we do in Rotary and without it we could not fund projects to allow us to continue to: “Do Good in the World”

If you have any questions about our one and only charity, please contact:

Tom Hunt  
 Ludlow Rotary  
 Endowment & Major Gifts Advisor  
 for The Rotary Foundation  
 07860 525831  
 tomhunt@littlebarnca.co.uk

# Mischievous elf ready to raise funds for Buddy Bags again!

Eccleshall's mischievous elf, Sylvia Keris, is getting ready again to promote & raise funds for the Buddy Bag Foundation during the festive season. Sylvia will be dressed 24 hrs a day as Buddy's Elf, every day in December up to Christmas Day, and will be getting up to hilarious antics when encouraged, whilst promoting BBF - a wonderful Charity that provides a bag of essential clothing, toiletry and comfort items (including a knitted teddy) to children in refuges around the UK, who have escaped from domestic violence.

So as she goes about her everyday life - whether food shopping, at GP appointments, walking in the Countryside or along the canal, at Rotary meetings or even at Yoga classes, etc., Sylvia will aim to bring a smile to people's faces. And pictures will be posted everyday to see where she appears next (similar to Elf on the Shelf) on local Facebook pages including 'Love Eccleshall' and 'Eccleshall Today'.

Buddy's Elf is happy to visit local charity venues to promote your cause; or can make appearances at commercial work places to promote your Business - in return for a donation to BBF please. Any enquiries about booking the Elf can be made in advance by e-mail to [john@buddybagfoundation.co.uk](mailto:john@buddybagfoundation.co.uk) and donations can kindly be made via the webgiving page [www.justgiving.com/campaign/elf2022](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/elf2022) with all money going directly to BBF.





## Rotarians support their community at lights switch-on.

Many Rotarians across the district have been working together as they make preparations for the Christmas season - some organising activities for their own club and others offering themselves as additional resource for other organisations.

Wellington Rotarians were asked by the Town Council to provide support for events taking place at various locations around the town ahead of the Christmas Tree light switch-on in the town's Market Place.

On Saturday 19 November, the council had planned a whole afternoon of activities including festive face painting, street entertainment, Santa's grotto and a Christmas parade while the local market would be hosting one of it's popular late-nights to follow the switch-on.

BBC Radio Shropshire was broadcasting from the Market Square at lunchtime and as part of the live broadcast interviewed Rotarian Jim Tranter about Rotary and how the club were helping during the afternoon.

Rotarians, together with members of other organisations, were on hand to pass information to members of the public as to what was happening and where, pointing them in the right direction for their chosen venue, and enjoying a bit of the fun themselves.



Whilst some of the club's members were outdoor, others opted to help hundreds of children and parents who visited All Saint's Church to take part in craft activities making Christmas stars and watching the church's puppet show.

The Club then helped on the following Monday evening as lights were switched on at three local shopping parades. Santa needed help to get from one parade to the next so given the reindeer were resting ahead of the big night in December, Wellington Rotary offered to help.

President Richard was Santa's chauffeur for the evening and District Treasurer John Wardle was on hand to assist. The weather was very poor throughout the evening but families turned out for the switch-on at Shawbirch, Brooklands and Arleston. At the last parade Santa arrived on an appropriately decorated rickshaw driven by elf David Saniforth of Shropshire Cycle Hub. For some reason the photographer couldn't get Santa and District Treasurer John in the same photograph!





# Hotel now providing accommodation for Ukrainians

A Rotary club has made a presentation to a Shrewsbury hotel in recognition of its work in looking after homeless people throughout the Coronavirus pandemic - and beyond.

Rotarian John Yeomans, outgoing president of Shrewsbury Severn Rotary Club, told members that the Prince Rupert Hotel in town was now taking in people from Ukraine.

"This symbolises amazing kindness and generosity," he told hotel owner Mike Matthews and his assistants Charlie Green and Jacki Law (pictured with John, right).

He presented Mike with an engraved glass tankard and Charlie and Jacki with crystal vases in recognition of 'Service Above Self'.

He said how impressed he and members had been with the moving story of how, over 18 months, they had been looking after the homeless of the town and were still doing this.

"It is an amazing story and it has been recorded in a book *'Prince Rupert Hotel for the Homeless: A True Story of Love and Compassion Amid a Pandemic'* which has been beautifully written by Christina Lamb, US editor for the Sunday Times.

"It is mind-blowing what they had to deal with. They risked their lives to look after people they knew nothing about which is at the core of what these three people do. They are now taking people from Ukraine into the hotel.

"As the Rotary motto says, 'Service Above Self' which symbolises Mike, Charlie and Jacki."

The three were made associate members of Shrewsbury Severn Rotary during the pandemic.



## Young journalists prove their worth



Newport Rotary Lite run an annual competition with local schools to find the 'Best Front Page' design.

The competition is intended to help pupils develop their IT skills on a practical project and get them looking at how a newspaper front page works. Pupils triumphed in their entries. Year six pupils from Lilleshall Primary School took the two top places.

Hayden Delves won the competition with his "Daily News". Ava Davies came second. Winners were given certificates and the top three received trophies too. -including school teacher Steve Firmstone.

Lite Youth Lead Martyn Dean said : "We were so impressed at the quality of entries this year. It was clear participants had worked really hard, and the standard gets better each year. "



# So – What is Vocational Study Exchange?

Vocational Study Exchange (VSE) is a successor programme to the old Group Study Exchange (GSE) but it is substantially different from its predecessor.

VSE is a district led and organised programme, funded entirely by the membership of District 1210. As such it retains greater flexibility and the ability to change as society, trends and culture changes. It is a stand out programme in that District 1210 is one of few districts in the UK and internationally that carry out exchanges on a regular basis.

**OK, how is it different then ?** The programme is an exchange between District 1210 and another international district, of a team, consisting of a Team Leader (a Rotarian) and up to four (usually three) team members (so far the same as GSE).

However VSE is only for two weeks for each exchange programme. Hosting is with Rotarian hosts and the emphasis is very much on vocational/work placements and experience in the other district but with the usual cultural experiences and Rotary visits.

More especially – VSE within District 1210 is able to offer placements as a team member, to Rotarians, relatives and friends of Rotarians and supporters of Rotary Clubs.

As such VSE can be utilised as a beneficial programme to develop Rotary within the district in addition to offering a potentially life enhancing opportunity for young and not so young people.

**Is it for me?** As a Rotarian in District 1210, consider a team leader role. You can be of any age, retired or working but must be prepared to work with your team to help develop their confidence to live and experience a different country culture. To work with the hosting district to ensure that all living and working arrangements are suitable and appropriate – different countries have different norms. To organise all pre trip requirements, including presentations, flight arrangements and pre and post trip presentations to Rotary Clubs.

**Team members** - is open to Rotarians, relatives and friends of Rotarians and anyone else who is over 18 years of age, is starting or in the earlier stages of a vocation or work placement or a re-training opportunity . Applicants should reside or work within the District. Anyone in full time education would normally be excluded unless the education was part of a vocational, work experience or work related programme.

**What if I do not want to travel ?** We need volunteer Rotarians to act as hosts for the incoming team members, usually for one week and to fit in with other hosts, i.e., we try to 'cluster' hosts in a close proximity in order to maximise travel and organisational needs. We also need to identify suitable work/vocational placements – once we know what the make up of the incoming team actually is.

**Where do I sign?** Well, if you are the only member of your club who has actually read this article, then make sure you bring it to the attention of other club members. Think about the VSE leader position, at the time of writing (November 2022) the tie up with another district has not yet been sealed but once finalised, will be announced. Applications for team leader and subsequent interview should be completed by March 2023. Team member selection in co-operation with the team leader is completed hopefully before June 2023, with the exchange visit in September or October 2023.

**Hosts and work placements.** The incoming Danish team will arrive on Saturday 18th March 2023 and depart on Saturday 1st April 2023. Volunteer hosts and work placements can indicate their preparedness to be involved from now onwards. Precise details of hosting and placements is a work in progress and the VSE committee pledge to keep everyone who expresses an interest in VSE, fully up to date with progress and developments.

*For more information please contact John Mottram, Etruria Rotary, [l\\_mottram@hotmail.com](mailto:l_mottram@hotmail.com)*





## Rotary Youth Leadership Award 2022

After two years of COVID and isolation the leadership course took place again.

This year's was different as the venue was Hebden Hey Scout Campsite (just outside Hebden Bridge) in West Yorkshire.

There were not as many participants as hoped. The capacity of the course is 32 participants working in four teams. This year's course was run with just two teams.

Although smaller, the course ran well and everyone seemed to enjoy the week.

As the course was held at a significant distance away from the district, the "Talent Night" was changed to a "Welcome Home" event. Sponsoring Rotarians, parents and "rylarians" met at the Ketley Community Centre in Telford where David Hyner gave an inspirational presentation and participants on the course performed their turns!

In 2023, the course will be held at the usual venue - the International Scout Campsite and Outdoor Activity Centre at Kibblestone Road, Oulton, Staffordshire.



## Nominations now open for Rotary Young Citizen Awards

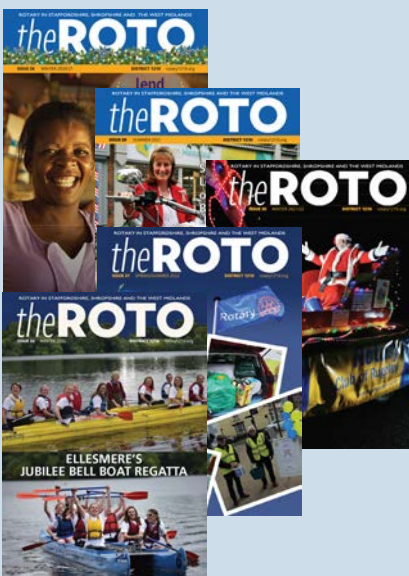
If you know an outstanding, inspirational young person or group, under the age of 25, whose citizenship and dedication to a good cause or project deserves recognition, why not nominate them for a Rotary Young Citizen Award 2023.

This is a great opportunity to showcase positive young role models who are making a difference by helping others.

The Awards include the Rotary Young Citizen Environmentalist Award, reflecting Rotary's Area of Focus, to recognise an individual or group who's passionate about protecting the environment.

There is also the Rotary Young Citizen Peacemaker Award and the Rotary Young Citizen Sporting Hero Award.

The nomination deadline is Tuesday 28th February 2023.



Get your story in the next edition of *theROTO*

Send them to all members of the magazine team using  
***rototeam1210@gmail.com***



# Club Contacts

The information listed below gives the name and location of clubs, the days of the week they meets, whether (E)vening, (L)unch (M)orning (B)reakfast, as well as the club website and the telephone number to call for club information.

## ALDRIDGE\*

Thursday (E) 7.00pm  
Tel: 0121 3571 856  
[aldridgerotary.org.uk](http://aldridgerotary.org.uk)

## AUDLEY

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

## BILSTON & W'TON WEST\*

Monday (E) 7.00 for 7.15pm  
1st of month and 3rd or 4th depending on Bank Holiday  
Tel: 07809 145 677  
[Search for Facebook page](#)

## BLOXWICH PHOENIX

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

## BLYTHE BRIDGE & DISTRICT\*

Monday (E) 6.45 for 7.15pm  
1st and 3rd Mondays - check website for others  
Tel: 01782 397765  
[blythebridgerotary.org.uk](http://blythebridgerotary.org.uk)

## BREWOD & DISTRICT\*

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

## BRIDGNORTH

Wednesday (E) 7.00pm  
Tel: 01746 766245  
[bridgnorthrotary.org.uk](http://bridgnorthrotary.org.uk)

## BROWNHILLS\*

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

## BURNTWOOD & DISTRICT\*

Wednesday (E) 7.00 for 7.30pm  
Tel: 01543 677602  
[burntwoodrotary.co.uk](http://burntwoodrotary.co.uk)

## BURSLEM\*

Wednesday (E) 6.30 for 6.30pm  
2nd, 4th & 5th Weds only  
Tel: 01782 373933  
[rotaryburslem.co.uk](http://rotaryburslem.co.uk)

## CANNOCK\*

Wednesday (E) 6.00 for 6.30pm  
not 3rd Wednesday  
Tel: 07446 816 225  
[cannockrotary.co.uk](http://cannockrotary.co.uk)

## CHEADLE\*

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

## CHURCH STRETTON

Wed (M) 1st 10.00am  
Wed (E) 2nd 4th & 5th  
7.00 for 7.30pm  
Wed (E) 3rd visits/teams  
Tel: 01694 723189  
[rotaryclubofchurchstretton.co.uk](http://rotaryclubofchurchstretton.co.uk)

## DUDLEY\*

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

## ECCLESHALL MERCIA\*

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

## ELLESMERE

Wednesday (E) 1st, 3rd 7.00pm  
Tel: 07763 945161  
[ellesmererotary.org.uk](http://ellesmererotary.org.uk)

## ETRURIA\*

Tuesday (B) 8am  
Tel: 01782 398769

## INTERNATIONAL E-CLUB

12.00noon (GMT), 1.00pm (BST)

## IRONBRIDGE

Thursday (E) 2nd & 4th  
6.30pm for 7.00pm..  
Tel: 01952 598068

## KIDSGROVE\*

Wednesday (E) 7.30pm  
Tel: 07542 640013  
[kidsgroverotary.co.uk](http://kidsgroverotary.co.uk)

## LEEK\*

Monday (E) 7.00pm  
Tel: 01538 385609  
[rotaryclubleek.org.uk](http://rotaryclubleek.org.uk)

## LUDLOW

Tuesday (E) 2nd, 4th  
7.00 for 7.30pm  
Tel: 01584 841723  
[ludlowrotaryclub.org.uk](http://ludlowrotaryclub.org.uk)

## MARKET DRAYTON

Tuesday (E) 3rd 7.00pm  
Tel: 01952 541964

## MERCIA AND MARCHES

Monday (E) 1st & 3rd-Tuesday  
after BH 6.30pm on ZOOM  
Tel: 01902 758123

## NEWCASTLE-under-LYME

Tuesday (L) 12.45pm for 1.00pm  
Tel: 01630 672714  
[Search for Facebook page](#)

## NEWPORT\*

Wednesday (L) 2nd & 4th  
12.30pm for 1.00pm  
Tel: 01952 810162  
[rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.asp?ClubID=1258](http://rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.asp?ClubID=1258)

## NEWPORT (SHROPS) LITE

Tuesday (E) 1st 7:00 for 7:30pm  
Tel: 07531 197320  
[twitter.com/LiteNewport](https://twitter.com/LiteNewport)

## RUGELEY\*

Monday (E) 1st, 3rd & 5th 7.30pm  
Tel: 01889 883784  
[rugeleyrotary.org.uk](http://rugeleyrotary.org.uk)

## SEDGLEY & WOMBOURNE

Wednesday (E) 1st & 3rd, 7.00 for  
7.15pm, other weeks via Zoom  
Tel: 01746 766473  
[Search for Facebook page](#)

## SHREWSBURY

Wednesday (L) 12.30pm for 1pm  
Tel: 01743 231059  
[rotaryclubofshrewsbury.org.uk](http://rotaryclubofshrewsbury.org.uk)

## SHREWSBURY DARWIN

Friday (B) 7.30am for 1 hour  
No meeting on 4th Friday  
Tel: 01743 247295  
[rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=1790](http://rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=1790)

## SHREWSBURY SEVERN\*

Tuesday (E) 2nd & 4th  
7.00 for 7.30pm  
Tel: 01743 359 636  
[Search for Facebook page](#)

## SIX TOWNS

### (STOKE-ON-TRENT)

Wednesday (E) 2nd. 7.00pm  
Tel: 07787 344123  
[facebook.com/6TownsClub/](http://facebook.com/6TownsClub/)

## STAFFORD

Wednesday (L) 12.00 for 12.30pm  
Tel: 01785 851281  
[staffordrotaryclub.org.uk](http://staffordrotaryclub.org.uk)

## STAFFORD CASTLE\*

Tuesday (E) 7.00pm  
Tel: 01785 253823

## STAFFORD KNOT

Thursday (E) 2nd, 3rd & 4th  
7.15pm, 6.30pm if eating  
1st & 5th - contact Sec  
Tel: 07747 394729  
[rotaryclubofstaffordknot.org.uk](http://rotaryclubofstaffordknot.org.uk)

## STOKE on TRENT\*

Monday (E) 6.15pm  
Tel: 07763 133532  
[stokerotary.co.uk](http://stokerotary.co.uk)

## STONE & DISTRICT\*

Monday (E) 1st & 3rd 7.00 for  
7.30pm  
Tel: 01785 760120  
[stonerotary.org](http://stonerotary.org)

## TELFORD CENTRE\*

1st & 3rd Tuesday (E) 6.30pm  
Tel: 01952 273069  
[Search for Facebook page](#)

## TETTENHALL\*

Monday (E) 7.00 for 7.30pm  
Tel: 01902 764122  
[tettenhallrotary.org.uk](http://tettenhallrotary.org.uk)

## UTTOXETER\*

Tuesday (E) 7.30pm  
Tel: 01889 563469  
[uttoxeter-rotary.org.uk](http://uttoxeter-rotary.org.uk)

## WALSALL

Friday (L) 12.45 for 1.00pm  
Tel: 07870 851006  
[walsallrotary.org](http://walsallrotary.org)

## WALSALL SADDLERS

Tuesday (E) 7.00 for 7.30pm  
Tel: 07860 717706  
[rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=1829](http://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](http://wednesburyrotary.co.uk)

## WEDNESFIELD\*

Wednesday (E) 7.30pm ZOOM  
(not 1st Wed, or Aug)  
3rd Wed face to face  
Tel: 01902 757997  
[rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=1275](http://rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=1275)

## WELLINGTON

Friday (L) 1.00pm  
Tel: 07775 567654  
[wellingtonrotary.org.uk](http://wellingtonrotary.org.uk)

## WEM & DISTRICT\*

Monday (E) 1st & 3rd 7.30pm,  
3rd (E) 7.15pm,  
Tel: 07731 931055  
[facebook.com/Wemrotary/](http://facebook.com/Wemrotary/)

## WHITCHURCH

Tuesday (E) 1st & 3rd 7.00pm,  
Tel: 01948 780114  
[whitchurchrotary.org.uk](http://whitchurchrotary.org.uk)

## WILLENHALL

Thursday (E) 1st & 3rd  
6.00 for 6.30pm  
Tel: 01902 607881  
[willenhallrotary.org.uk](http://willenhallrotary.org.uk)

## WOLSTANTON\*

Thursday (E) 7.00 for 7.30pm  
Tel: 01782 752258  
[wolstantonrotary.org](http://wolstantonrotary.org)

## CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON\*

Tuesday (L) 2nd, & 4th 12.45pm  
Tel: 01764 714075  
[rotaryclubwolverhampton.co.uk](http://rotaryclubwolverhampton.co.uk)

## THE WREKIN

Thursday (E) 7.00pm  
Tel: 01952 246782  
[wrekinrotary.org](http://wrekinrotary.org)

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