

the **ROTO**

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Kyiv - Moments in Time

The front cover of Rotary shows the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, receiving Walsall Rotary's fundraising book *Kyiv - Moments in Time*.

The book is a selection of photographs taken in Kyiv between 1996 and 1999 by Peter Ford a former UK Foreign Office Diplomat in Kyiv now living in Walsall.

All profit from the book are donated to Walsall Rotary's Ukraine fund.

Walsall Rotary are fortunate to have a member's wife who comes from Ukraine and who is in daily contact obtaining updates of medical supply requirements which change constantly.

The club purchases supplies in the UK and then sends them direct to a Rotary Club in Poland which then forwards to a Rotary Club in Ukraine for delivery where needed.

Typically, Walsall Rotary receives documentation and photographs of the kit at the front line a week after leaving Walsall.

Other Rotary Clubs are sending kit to be delivered via our safe route and are just dispatching generators for field hospitals sent by Burnley Rotary.

The book is selling well via Rotary and online book sellers as well as through the amazing contacts of Peter Ford including BBC TV and Radio interviews.

Copies can be obtained online at kyivbook.shop or, ideally, from Walsall Rotary member Trevor Chapman t.chapman@britishoptical.com



Last Call for VSE team members

The Vocational Study Exchange (VSE) committee has put out a 'Last Call' for team members to be identified the selection ahead of the forthcoming VSE programme in September/October of this year. The team will visit the Groningen area, situated in the north of The Netherlands in District 1590. Potential team members need to be identified for selection before the closing date of the end of June 2023.



Priority in the first instance will be given to the four preferred vocations identified by our Dutch colleagues - Police, Veterinary services, Dental services and Undertaking but the available opportunities can now be circulated more widely to other vocations.

The priority is to identify good candidates who will be ambassadors of their vocations and our Rotary District. Whilst primarily intended for non-Rotarians appropriate Rotarians may apply.

This unique opportunity is open to anyone over 18 years of age, not in full time education, who lives or works in our District and is able to represent their vocation. They should be prepared to work within the team under the guidance of the team leader, to make short presentations in the host District and in our District on their return.

All travel and accommodation are provided. Vocational opportunities and cultural visits in the hosting Country will be organised by the hosting District according to their opportunities.

Further information and application forms from John Mottram – l_mottram@hotmail.com

A joyful celebration with moments of poignancy

The four Rotary clubs in Wolverhampton came together to attend the City of Wolverhampton club's carol service held in the beautiful surroundings of the Ukrainian Catholic church, continuing the support shown to the more than 150 Ukrainian refugee families that have arrived in the city.

The service was led by the Rev. Father Taras Dovbeniuk and there was an address by Mychajlo Fedyk who gave an especially moving talk on behalf of the local branch of the Association of Ukrainian citizens in the UK. Mychajlo said that even in these awful times being experienced by his country, the spirit of hope and determination was strengthened by the marking of Christmas and the goodwill and active support provided by Rotary International.



Bible readings were given by representatives of the clubs in the City; a beautiful rendition of Silent Night was given by Carol Tyler-Morris and Mandy Tyler, with musical accompaniment provided throughout in the skilful hands of Past District Governor Robyn Davies from Wrekin Rotary.

In an emotional final Rotary exhortation, President Sylvia Morgan thanked all the members of the club's fellowship committee who had worked to make the occasion such a memorable one. She expressed the determination of Rotary to support the citizens of Ukraine as they strive to overcome the privations being experienced in war and she said she knows that our Ukrainian friends will be the victors, so that we can live in Rotary Peace and Fellowship The World Over.

Dragon Boat Event

Once again the Dragons roared at Himley Park on Sunday 21st May. Sixteen teams of paddlers arrived to do battle on the water, have a huge amount of fun and in the process, raise a significant amount of funds for good causes. The weather was perfect, the crowds came to cheer everyone on and enjoy the spectacle of over 200 paddlers racing each other on the Great Lake.

The final came down to four teams - The Flaming Unicorns, The Willows Dental Centre, Team GXO and Milden Steel. In an incredibly close race, Team GXO passed the finish line just inches ahead of the Willows, only four hundredths of a second separated them. So close!

Over the 19 years that Wolverhampton Rotary have organised this event a total of almost £400,000 has been raised for charities, mainly within the club's local area.

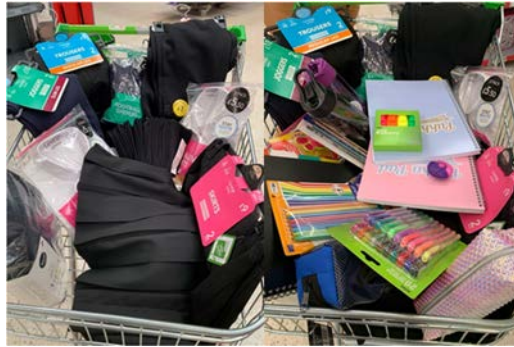


Supporting Ukrainians

Since the arrival in Stone of refugee families from Ukraine began, Stone and District Rotary have been working to help them integrate into the local community, which, as it is in a new country with a different language, is not easy.

Working with both adults and children, the Rotary Club has recently provided school uniforms for a number of primary and secondary aged children and language books for adult learning.

For Ukrainian refugee families arriving in Stone, it is recognised that it is important for their school-age children to be seamlessly integrated into the education system and the Club has provided school uniforms and stationery to help make this happen.



Some of the uniforms and stationery provided by Stone and District Rotary

Equally important is the need to give adults the language skills they need to work and live in the community. In this respect, the Rotary Club has worked with tutor, Andy Babb to purchase specialist books to help them. The books were presented to Andy and his students by Club President Sandie McQueen at a lesson at St Michael's Church Hall in Stone.



Anya and Sandie

Sandie said: "The Club is proud to be helping our new arrivals here in Stone. Using a Rotary Foundation Grant, the club has been able to buy school uniforms and books so we are helping at all levels.

"The benefit of what the club is doing can already be clearly seen but it is part of a nationwide Rotary programme to support Ukrainian refugees." Sandie went on to say: "It's an amazing effort where Rotary clubs throughout the country are making a significant difference to the lives of many new arrivals. Rotarians here in Stone are delighted to be part of it."



Tutor Andy explains to Irina and Sandie how valuable the books will be in helping his students learn the language faster.

Donation to residential centre

Tettenhall Rotary has donated £1,000 to the Birch Thompson Memorial Fund to support work in maintaining and developing Gelliwig, a residential centre on the edge of Snowdonia National Park close to Porthmadog in North Wales which offers low cost residential accommodation for young people from Wolverhampton and the wider West Midlands.

Gelliwig has long been a popular destination for organisations from Wolverhampton including school and youth groups. It's a great base for activities such as hiking, canoeing and rock climbing.



The Birch Thompson Memorial Fund was formed in 1981 in tribute to Colton Hill School teachers Graham Birch and John Thompson, who both died in 1980. It has helped thousands of young people to develop their skills and talents and to experience the outdoors. The importance of the Fund's work was recognised with the award of the prestigious Queens Award for Voluntary Service in 2020.

The £1,000 donation will be used to refurbish an external play area for the use of the young people who visit Gelliwig each year.

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

Welcome



Blythe Bridge & District
Tony Davis

Church Stretton
David Bennett
Malcolm Szortowski

Market Drayton
Elizabeth Herd

Newcastle-under-Lyme
Bob Bell

Newport
Jonathan Butler

Newport (Shrops) Lite
Jonathan Butler

Stafford
Keith Ralls

Stone & District
Kai Hill

Tettenhall
Neil Hardy

Walsall
Jon Grist

Wednesbury
Marilyn Ann Norton
Jane Wigman

Wednesfield
Richard Harper

Wellington
Haydn Griffiths

The City of Wolverhampton
Harjeet Cheema

Medical supplies for Ukraine

Blythe Bridge Rotary has within its club a member whose son is married to a Ukrainian. Her father is taking some surgical staplers and staples to a hospital in Kyiv. The journey includes flying from Luton to Warsaw followed by a coach journey to Kyiv.

The club purchased the supplies from Medical Sutures Ltd who kindly gave a discount. The company generously included many other additional items of medical equipment free of charge. There is currently an urgent need for these in Ukraine.

Blythe Bridge Rotary are making an appeal to the public and companies to donate any size generators, and will collect them from anywhere.

Transportation has kindly been promised to transport them out to Slovenia by Gareth Higgins the Managing Director of KMF Fabrications of Newcastle free of charge.



Club Experience - the key to member satisfaction

THE 2022 Rotary International All-Member Survey report was published earlier this year and the results are clear - the number one driver of member satisfaction is 'club experience'.

The annual survey conducted by Rotary International's Research and Evaluation team goes to all Rotarians and Rotoractors. In 2022, just over 78,000 members responded to the online survey.

The key finding of the 2022 survey is that club experience is the most important driver of member satisfaction. The particular factors of club experience that matter most are also clear - 'meeting enjoyment' and 'confidence in club leadership', followed closely by 'satisfaction with club service', 'satisfaction with finding friends' and 'comfort with other club members'. The survey findings also confirm the obvious -

members with higher satisfaction levels are more likely to be retained in Rotary; perhaps less obvious, they also attract more new members to our clubs.

Club experience is also directly linked to the reasons why people have considered terminating their membership in the past 12 months. For members who are dissatisfied, there are two main reasons - 'the club's lack of community engagement', and the belief that 'the club does not represent my values'. 'Conflict with other members' is also significant.

The survey also yielded important insights into the reasons why members join and stay in Rotary. New members join for a multitude of reasons - community service, friendship, international service, and professional connections. However, they stay for two main reasons - community service and friendship. Whilst most new members reported a positive on-boarding and induction process, a sizeable group (20 per cent) indicated that they received only 'a little' information about the time and financial commitments associated with Rotary suggesting they may not be adequately prepared.

At a practical level, the 2022 All-Member Survey highlights the importance of improving the club experience for members and suggests strategies that may prove most effective. These include

- Taking time to understand individual members' needs and expectations, and delivering an experience that meets those needs.
- Ensuring members are actively involved and engaged in service, making friends and, where appropriate, professional connections.
- Improving the meeting experience through more effective time management, better speakers, and more interesting opportunities for club members to learn.
- Creating a club culture that is welcoming and inclusive
- Addressing conflicts between members proactively and quickly

In the end, delivering an exceptional club experience is the key to engaging and retaining members and attracting new members into our organisation. It is also the key to creating great brand ambassadors for Rotary.

I encourage everyone to make member satisfaction and improving the member experience a priority in our clubs. Using Rotary's Member Assessment Tools at [rotary.org](https://www.rotary.org), would be a great place to start.

Reproduced from an article by Dr Jessie Harman, Rotary International Regional Director (Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific Islands and New Guinea)

printed in the March edition of Rotary Down Under.

Dr Harman's very first experience of Rotary was as a participant of RYLA



A sense of belonging

Emily Hou joined Rugeley Rotary in May 2022. Here she tells of her early experiences of Rotary.

The reason I decided to join Rugeley Rotary was because the people of the Club make me feel at home and give me a sense of belonging in this country.

Original from China, as an overseas student. I came to Birmingham for my MBA study in 2016. It was the first time I had left my hometown and travelled such a long distance. Although I met some good friends at the university, most of them returned to their home countries after graduation.

In 2017, I received an offer of a job located near Rugeley, Staffordshire. Since then, I have moved and settled down in the town. Apart from my colleagues, I hardly knew anyone else in the local community, until 2020 when I was introduced by Anita from Uttoxeter Rotary to members of Rugeley Rotary.

The first member I met in Rugeley Rotary was John, who showed understanding about my challenges living in a foreign country. At that time, I was preparing to renew my Working Visa as well as applying to take a second master's degree at Cambridge University - life at that time was full of uncertainties. Rather than simply convincing me to join Rotary, John and Anita were helping me adapt to the local community and provided me with a great deal of helpful advice. I was also invited to join the meetings of Rugeley Rotary as a guest, where I found everyone to be so friendly and who treated me as a family member. I was touched by their kindness and saw the spirit of Rotary.

Eventually in 2022, everything was more settled - I had received my renewed visa and a university offer. I then joined Rugeley Rotary without hesitation. As the first 'hybrid-member' in our Club, I'm able to attend the meetings from Cambridge remotely. I enjoy the atmosphere of our Club. Though we are a relatively small group compared to other clubs, we discuss and perform everything as a harmonious family. In addition, by participating in activities and volunteering work organised by other Rotary Clubs, I have broadened my network and horizons in the UK.

Inspired by my experience, I believe there is an opportunity to use a similar approach and encourage more international graduates to get involved in Rotary?



Let us feature your story in the next edition of *theROTO*



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

Martin Kettrick's red book night

Martin Kettrick BEM, 65, had the surprise of his life at the recent Blythe Bridge and District Rotary Charter and President's night when he was invited to a Red Book trip down memory lane.

Just like the Eamon Andrews' television show where a celebrity was treated to a walk into their life history, Martin was the man of the night.

Organised by club President Brian Mate, who was helping the club celebrate their original inauguration and charter on February 22nd 1988, it was decided that a Red Book event was called for.

Helped by a very special presenter who took Martin through his life story to date, it was said that Martin joined the Royal Marines at the age of 17 and travelled all over the world.

However, on November 16th 1980 Martin, a young Corporal, was training with the Royal Marines, abseiling at Keswick Quarry when the rope that was supporting him broke. He sustained a bad fall breaking his back and cracking his skull. He has spent the rest of his life in a wheelchair. But it hasn't held him back.

His friend Jack Ashley turned up to surprise him at the special event. He had been instrumental in helping Martin recover. In June 1989 he met his wife Christine and after marrying her in 1990, they have been together ever since.

Martin became a champion fundraiser for local, national and international causes and a video of his work was shown to the assembled Rotarians, family and guests who had travelled to the event.

His many fundraising events have been both challenging and brave, including his time as a wheelchair racer. He has also abseiled down the quarry in Keswick and raised £12,000 for the Rebecca Owen Trust.

In 1992, over 30 years ago, Martin became a Rotarian press ganged by fellow Rotarian Jeff Clay, followed soon after by competing in the London marathon and then the Great North run, plus many others. He also met Dame Tanni Gray Thompson, fellow wheelchair racer, DBE and television presenter and has known her now for over thirty years.

Supported by fellow Rotarians he has raised many thousands for charity.

In July 2021 Martin, paraplegic paralysed from the chest down, took part in a kayak paddle challenge 12 miles across Lake Windermere for the Greendoor outdoor pursuits Project - always pushing himself to the limit.

One of his great passions is to raise funds for the Blesma charity for limbless veterans. The charity is dedicated to helping serving and ex-Service men and women who have suffered life changing limb loss or the use of a limb or eye sight in the honourable service of their country.

In 2005 he received a Rotary Paul Harris award in recognition of his service to Rotary. One of his favourite sayings, said guests who had helped him, was 'I need you to do me a favour'. In 2016 Martin received the Rotary Champion of Change Award.

Among Martin's proudest moments was the presentation of the British Empire Medal and a visit to the late Queen's garden party.

The Blythe Bridge Charter night with the many guests, surprise visitors for Martin and the brilliant speech given by President Brian, was an extremely successful and unusual event.



Rotary Bell Boat Regatta introduces new class of team entry

Ellesmere Rotary's annual Bell Boat Regatta will take place on The Mere on Sunday 2nd July. Regatta Committee Chair, Geoff Corfield said that planning is progressing well for this stellar event in the town's calendar. People can expect a day full of excellent competition with accompanying attractions for all the family on the adjacent Cremorne Gardens. It is intended to run four classes of race: Family, Open, Ladies and Juniors. The new class of family team should consist of four adults and four children, with an experienced operator provided on rudder by the organisers.



Geoff also announced that the main beneficiaries of this year's event will be two charities with strong local links that offer support to people with learning disabilities. The first is Flamingo Lounge, which has organised a number of events at The Comrades Club in Ellesmere. It provides fun, inclusive events for people with learning disabilities, those living with neurodiverse condition, and their carers to take part in night life culture and economy, as party goers, performers and producers. The organisation is disability-led and provides live events locally, and outreach opportunities such as mobile discos or DJ and Event workshops, all to fulfil their aims and values of social inclusion.

The second is Our Space, in Trimpey Street, Ellesmere, which is run by the charity Bethpage. In addition to housing the Ellesmere Library, at Our Space Bethpage offer support to and activities for the elderly and those with learning disabilities. Over the years Our Space has provided an invaluable venue for many local activities that could not have taken place without it.

Bridge building

In March, Rotarians from the three clubs in Stafford visited Doxey Primary School and enjoyed a day of engineering.

It was the first time since the pandemic that it was possible to organise a Rotary Technology Challenge, and the day was spent with the final year six students on the challenge.

Students were introduced to engineering and the work of Engineers. The day commenced with three short presentations from Rotarians, to enable the students to understand the brief and what they are aiming to achieve. The students then embark on designing and building a scale bridge. The project introduces discipline, design, problem solving skills and the building and testing of the final bridge.

Students took part in groups of four and worked together to complete the tasks. Tools and material were supplied by the Rotary Clubs and included cardboard, paper, wood and plenty of Sellotape!

On completion of the bridge, there was a testing process and a final decision on the winning team. The students thoroughly enjoyed the day and were fully immersed in the project and tasks. The students were bright and enthusiastic throughout and a credit to the School.



Girl power

In 2022 Stafford Rotary made a donation to the Century City Rotary Club in Cape Town, South Africa. The money was given to support a project to help girls with their school attendance which was affected by them not having basic sanitary items. Unfortunately, Covid had hit the country very hard, and the South African club was struggling to meet the projects target to get it off the ground.

As a result the club's contact in Cape Town, Nell Harrison investigated an alternative project, and it was then agreed that the money would be transferred to Constantia Rotary Club. Stafford Rotary's contact is now Elizabeth Danckwerts (Biffy) who has been sending the club lots of photographs of her purchases of panties, cotton, needles, tweezers, adaptor plugs and bars of soap, plus a complete audit trail of her expenditure from our donation. The project now being supported by Stafford Rotary aims to provide girls with the sewing skills to make reusable sanitary kits, and, in the future, make other items and clothes. Biffy sent an update to Stafford Rotarians explaining how the project started and progress to date.

"Having developed a great working relationship and friendship with the Claremont Rotary Club in Los Angeles and a local Not for Profit Organisation in Los Angeles, we have been talking about reusable sanitary kits for girls with a similar project already in operation at Victoria Falls. Rotarians from Claremont, USA were on their way to inspect the Victoria Falls project and came on down to Cape Town to visit me. They saw the work I was doing in Khayelitsha and the interest I had in the reusable sanitary kit project for these girls who really need this assistance.

"I got a call in about October 2022 with two days to put together a budget for a District Designated Fund grant (DDF) for \$3,600. The grant was approved and the money transferred into the Constantia Rotary Club bank account. Now the work actually began with a deadline to start producing evidence by April 2023.

"The decision was to split the DDF over two schools - a junior and senior school in Khayelitsha- pictured right - a township on the Cape Flats in the City of Cape Town. The name is Xhosa for New Home and is reputed to be one of the largest and fastest growing townships in South Africa. There was already an established working relationship of 10+ years with the junior



school. We needed to start building a relationship with a senior school. One senior school where the research was done were not interested in any additional work, even if this was an extra skill for the students. This was very sad, however, a senior school I approached on the other side were magnificent, and 10+ teachers signed up for the programme. Quotes and other costs were evaluated to see how good the hastily prepared budget was. Discussions were with a pattern drawer followed, as we were using bits and pieces from a number of different designs and a Rotarian who had operated a clothing factory. This identified a need to change the budget and bring in a seamstress from the community for six months and get the sewing machine supplier to provide training. A donation of 36 boxes of samples came through a club member who works for a national clothing company. About 90% of the clothing had holes in it or was only usable for being cut up for the bag, pad holder, or pads. We have approached the company about giving items that are in perfect condition to children in need at the schools we are working in.

“Sewing machines and over-lockers were bought. Bins bought and labelled. Pins, needles, tape measures, unpicks, paper and material scissors, press stud machines, etc bought and filled into the equipment bins. The other bins were sorted with bag, holder or pad material. These were delivered in early February to each of the schools. Local seamstresses were found and each school was asked to sign a document acknowledging receipt and responsibility for capital equipment.

“Currently we are in talks with the machine company to arrange the training.

“Classes for the students will run Monday to Thursday afternoon for two hours, with two classes each afternoon. This means that all the girls only work for one hour per week. The seamstress is there to teach staff and students to use the machines and also create a work routine or flow, and also alternate everyone to learn each step of the process. Within two terms or six months the seamstresses should be able to leave this to the staff and students. We are putting together teams of twelve students bargaining on ten of them pitching up. They will do pattern cutting, material cutting, press stud machine operation, machine work and over-locking work, tidying up, packaging, hand sewing required, etc.



“Each student that learns and works on the project will receive priority for the first free kit, then the kits will be given to each student in the school (both schools have over 1,200 students male and female).

“After these have been distributed the remaining packs will be sold to the community to replace the material required. Thereafter, the students can move onto sewing anything else that takes their interest (e.g. pencil bags). Grade 12 students will be excluded from the project so they can focus on their studies.

“If this pilot project goes well, there is the possibility of a huge Global Grant which would be in the region of \$45 000 to \$55,000. There is also potential for this to be spread over district 9350, 9370 in South Africa, and maybe even India and in Claremont, USA.

“We foresee starting to write up this Global Grant GG in the second half of 2023 (if not sooner) and hopefully implementation at the beginning of 2024.

A huge thank you goes to the Rotarians of Claremont, Los Angeles and the brilliant working relationship we have created”.

Looking for the scruffiest mutt, the waggiest tail and the fastest sausage eater

There will be 'More to see in 2023' at this year's Ludlow Dog Day. With new highlights alongside old favourites, this year's event has been refreshed to appeal to all, whether or not they have been before.

Held in the beautiful grounds of Stokesay Court, situated approximately six miles north of Ludlow and just off the A49, the eighth Ludlow Dog Day is to take place on Sunday 23rd July.

The day is all about fun for the whole family, particularly our furry friends. Dogs can take part in over 20 competitions, from the scruffiest mutt and waggiest tail to the fastest sausage eater. There are have-a-go events including dog agility, flyball, hoopers, tricks and scent work, while gun dogs will be able to demonstrate their ability to retrieve...or not!

Demonstrations throughout the day include past favourites such as the Paws for Thought Display Team and Bliss Gate Dog Obedience Team alongside new additions including All Positive Dog Services with hoopers, loose lead and learn a trick and Little Nippers Lurcher and Terrier Racing.

As well as the doggy events, there will be plenty of stalls to enjoy whether selling dog and country related goods or pampering to human needs such as the food stalls, the drinks bar and the popular tea tent.

Money raised in past years has enabled Ludlow Rotary to distribute over £130,000 amongst a wide range of charities and community organisations. The club plans to use this year's event to support 'Ludlow Rotary Cares', the club's community grants scheme, as well as other deserving causes.

For more information on this opportunity to enjoy a wonderful day in a glorious setting while supporting numerous community and charitable needs, see ludlowdogday.org.uk.



Raffle raises over £1,200

The winner of the Giant Easter Egg raffle, run by Newport Rotary and supported by Newport Inner Wheel, receives her prize. There were also nine lucky runners-up from Newport and surrounding villages who also received chocolate Easter eggs. This year's raffle raised over £1200.

Newport Rotary President Gareth Lambe said 'We are very grateful to Aldi of Newport and Waitrose for hosting the collections and to the people of Newport, Telford, Stafford and the surrounding areas who gave so generously to support the event.'

The beautifully decorated chocolate Easter Egg was kindly donated by Magna Foods of Telford.



New High Sheriff Mandy pledges to honour unsung heroes

One of Shropshire's best-known businesswomen and a prominent Rotarian has been installed as the county's new High Sheriff – and pledged to shine a light on the county's unsung heroes.

Mandy Thorn MBE was officially installed at a special ceremony attended by guests from across Shropshire held at St Mary's Under the Wrekin Church in Leighton on April 13. She takes over the role from Selina Graham.

Mandy said she would use her year in office to highlight the people, groups and organisations who go the extra mile to make Shropshire such a special place to work and live.

“Shropshire is full of people who give up their time to help others in all sorts of remarkable ways and I want to take the opportunity of my year in office to say thank you to as many of them as possible. It might be the postman who goes out of his way to keep an eye on the elderly people on his round, or the sporting group which does everything it can to help people of all ages and abilities to stay active. It could be a business which uses its profile to support community groups and initiatives, or encourages and supports its staff in volunteer work, or a group of villagers who collect all the litter from the roads and lanes in their area.

“Wherever people, businesses or communities are going the extra mile to make this wonderful county an even better place to live, I want to help celebrate them.”

Mandy, who has been married to husband Mark for 37 years, ran Shrewsbury-based Marches Care before selling the business in 2021. She received her MBE in 2014 for services to dementia. She has been a member of the Rotary Club of Shrewsbury Darwin since November 2006 and was club president in 2016-17. She is a deputy lieutenant, a former chair of the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership, former president of Shropshire Chamber of Commerce and former chair of Lingen Davies Cancer Trust. Mandy was also a founding director of Shropshire Partners in Care and former vice chair of the National Care Association and has also been a governor of Telford College and non-executive director at Business Link Shropshire. She is currently a trustee of the national charity Skills for Care and for the Harper Adams University Development Trust.

“Shropshire has given so much to me in terms of the opportunities I have enjoyed throughout my career, and to be given the chance to give something back as High Sheriff is very special,” she said.

Mandy also paid tribute to her predecessor Selina Graham and said she would be carrying on her work with National Crimebeat, the youth crime prevention charity of the High Sheriffs' Association of England & Wales. “Selina has been an absolute inspiration during her 12 months in office and has brought a huge amount of drive, energy and passion to the role. I hope to be able to live up to the tremendous example she has set.”

The origins of the High Sheriff office date back to Saxon times, when the ‘Shire Reeve’ was responsible to the King for the maintenance of law and order within the shire, or county, and for the collection and return of taxes due to the Crown. Today, there are 55 High Sheriffs serving the counties of England and Wales each year. Whilst the duties of the role have evolved over time, supporting the Crown and the judiciary remain central elements of the role today. In addition, High Sheriffs actively lend support and encouragement to crime prevention agencies, the emergency services and to the voluntary sector.



New High Sheriff Mandy Thorn with Dr Jeremy Johnson MBE and his daughter Pippa. Dr Johnson is a past District 1210 assistant governor as well as past president of Shrewsbury Darwin Rotary



Conference 2023

The Telford Hotel,
Spa & Golf



Saturday 30th September

featuring inspiring speakers from home and abroad

Additional options:

Golf Competition on Friday 29th

Conference Dinner and Entertainment on Saturday 30th

Ironbridge Museums Visit on Sunday 1st

Host Dr Mukunda Chidrawar, District Governor 2023-24, invites Rotarians and guests to have fun and fellowship, enjoy the hotel facilities, make new friends, experience The Power of Rotary and inspired.



get

from South Africa
Lungiswa Gwaai
Partnership Manager
LEAP Science and
Maths Schools



Phil Dyer
RotaryGB&I Public Image
Co-ordinator



Chief Guest
Eve Conway
Rotary International
Director 2023-25
and RI President's
Representative

Bob Maskall
RotaryGB&I Leadership,
Development and
Training Lead



Keynote Speaker
Geoff Mackey
"Tomorrow's World
Today"



Nicky Chinn
Songwriter/
Record Producer
Bipolar UK Ambassador



from Sweden
Suzan Stenberg
Rotary Foundation
Coordinator Zone 17

Craig Hammond
Motivational Inspirational
Speaker



Dave Ellis
Past Chair of Executive
and RotaryGB&I Board
Ambassador



RotaKids
The choir from
St Thomas of Canterbury
Catholic Primary School,
Walsall



Friday 29th September

Golf Competition 18 Holes

First Tee at 12.30pm
Teams of 4
£30 per person

Informal Pre-Conference Dinner in Restaurant 1779 overlooking the Ironbridge Gorge

*included in Dinner, Bed & Breakfast
rate for overnight guests-
also available to non-residents
at normal restaurant rates*

Saturday 30th September

Conference Dinner and Entertainment

Three course meal
followed by entertainment



Doug Parker
Comedian

Maggie O'Hara
Singer

Disco

Sunday 1st October

Ironbridge Gorge Museums

An optional extra to end your
conference weekend

A Sunday morning visit to Blists Hill,
the recreated working town

Visit Victorian shops and cottages,
taste authentic food and sweets
and join craftspeople
demonstrating their trades



Day Delegate Rate

including buffet lunch
and refreshments
during the day

£48

(payment received by
15 August,
£53 thereafter)

Booking form and more information available at
rotary1210.org/2023conference

Conference Dinner and Entertainment

on Saturday evening

£39

(payment received by
15 August,
£43 thereafter)

Accommodation

Dinner, Bed & Breakfast (Fri)
Single £129,

Double/Twin £165

Bed & Breakfast (Sat)

Single £105,

Double/Twin £117

bookable direct with
the hotel

0330 107 1599

quoting

"Rotary International".

Above rates apply
until 22 July 2023

Getting to know you: District Governor Elect, Dr Mukunda Chidrawar



How long have you been a Rotarian? I joined Rotary in February 2015, though I have been involved in Rotary since 1972 while in Rotaract for seven years in Thane, India.

How were you introduced to Rotary? As a past Rotaractor I was in search of a Rotary club. It was Christmas of 2014, while shopping at the Saddlers Centre in Walsall I bumped into Rotarians from Walsall Rotary with their Santa Sleigh. I met President Adrian Wilcox who invited me to join Rotary.

What was your vocation before retirement. I worked as a General Surgeon for 26 years in India and UK. I changed to General Practice in 2006 and retired in 2021. I am a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons and also a Member of the Royal College of General Practitioners. I had a very rewarding career and I understand from my colleagues that my patients still miss me.

What is your district role? I will be District Governor for the 2023/24 Rotary year, having previously served as an Assistant Governor, VSE Team Leader, and as a member of district committees.

What have you found the most rewarding aspect of your district roles in recent years? As an Assistant Governor, getting to know the clubs, understand the members, listen to their views, learn about the projects they do and their dedication.

Who has been your greatest inspiration in Rotary? Past District Governor Dr Venkat Gadwal, of District 3142. He encouraged me to join the Rotaract club of Thane. I was awarded Medical Books for the entire course of Medical graduation by this Rotary club and it changed my life forever.

Others include Past District 1210 Governor Dr Fraser Dukes will always remain a great inspiration and internationally Past Rotary International President Ravi Ravindran.

Who has been your greatest inspiration outside of Rotary? It has to be my dad who always said 'Whatever you do in life give your best' and 'Think of the less fortunate ones and try to help change their life'. Others include Mrs Barde, my schoolteacher and Dr Tilak, surgical trainer in my Medical School.

And the most frustrating? Refusal to change with times and apathy in some members.

What encouraged you to offer yourself as District Governor? I was a District Rotaract Representative during 1978/79 in District 3142, India (equivalent to District Governor in Rotary). It was a privilege and a very rewarding experience to change and make a difference to peoples' lives. A passion for Rotary has been with me ever since. The support and understanding of a few Senior Rotarians who understood my passion for Rotary also encouraged me. Past District Governor Dr Fraser Dukes was the first one to encourage me to stand for DG and later current DG Steve Antill also suggested I should stand.

What changes would you like to see in Rotary? Tell the Rotary success stories and Rotary International Vision Statement, Inspire Rotarians. Create enthusiasm and passion, recruit younger Rotarians whilst at the same time respecting the experience of senior Rotarians, start new Rotary clubs, undertake projects in our communities which create an impact, and work with local voluntary organisations. Dream of Rotary bustling with activities, enthusiasm and responding to the community needs, people acknowledging Rotary in our communities and wanting to join us. It is a team effort and up to us to turn this dream into a reality.

What are your leisure interests? I love golf, reading history, and travelling - especially trekking.

What do you do to relax?

I do yoga and meditation. I am also a regular gym user.

What is your favourite food?

I like several international cuisines, however Italian food is my favourite.

What was your first car?

I was in Mumbai when I got a 'Maruti-Suzuki' in 1987. It was a small 800cc car for which I had to wait three years.

What is your favourite type of holiday?

My wife Ujwala and I love trekking in the Lake District or in the Alps of Switzerland and Austria. We love the lakes and the mountains.

If you could invent a gadget what would it be?

It would be a wrist band / watch which would indicate instant cardiac/stroke risk as well as the effect of lifestyle and diet over time.

What was your first record or CD?

ABBA.

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

I would take a book called Ikigai - The Japanese secret to a long and happy life. My record would be Sitar by Ravi Shankar.

If you could pass a law, what would it be?

It would be a fixed penalty for litter and plastic throwing.

If you could be in a film, what would it be and what character would you play?

A film aiming to bring about an end to social and religious discrimination. The role would be of an educationalist.

Name your favourite TV programmes.

I like action movies, documentaries by Sir David Attenborough and National Geographic TV. I also love to watch cartoon movies with my grandson who loves 'Alvin and the Chipmunks' and 'Grizzy and the Lemmings'

What Olympic sport would you compete in?

I used to excel in javelin throw in my school and I would have loved to compete in this sport.

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

It has to be Mahatma Gandhi, who got his lawyers degree in London before he had an extremely successful law practice in South Africa. He then gave up everything for his nation and preached non-violence. Such people are born once in a century.

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

It has to be a teaching from the religious Book 'Bhagvad Gita' (a Bible for Hindus), chapter 2 verse 47 in Sanskrit, it translates as "Perform your duty but do not have any expectations of the fruits"

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

Enthusiasm and energy.

Name the five guests you would invite to a dinner party.

I would like to have my best friends and family, a comedian, a storyteller, a historian and a musician.

Which living person do you most admire, and why?

Sir David Attenborough for his passion to create an awareness to save our planet Earth.

What is your most treasured possession?

My dad's wristwatch which he gave me when I passed my A levels and the trophy I was awarded in 1979 'Outstanding Leadership' at RYLA in Mahabaleshwar, India. I still treasure it in my study and it continues to inspire me to work hard and do my best.

Is there something about life that you have never understood?

Where and in which family you are born is never in anybody's control and yet people discriminate against each others, why - and will it ever end?

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

Not knowing how long I would be stuck, I would prefer to be with an optimist of the likes of Brian Lara, a world cricket legend.

If you didn't live in Britain where would you choose to live?

It would be the South Island of New Zealand in the midst of mountains and lakes.

What is your most valuable possession?

I believe health is the most valuable possession for everyone.

Reveal something about yourself that might surprise us.

I sang a few songs in my school and college programmes.

Your Rotary in Three Words.

Change Peoples' Lives.

Compose a slogan to sum up your life.

'Dream it, Believe it, Achieve it'

How would you like to be remembered?

A passionate Rotarian who worked hard to bring about a positive change to peoples' lives.

'Big Help Out' front page scoop

The Bank Holiday on the Monday following the Coronation gave many Rotarians the opportunity to volunteer as part of the nationwide 'Big Help Out'.

In Newport, Rotarians from both Newport clubs were among the volunteers who turned out to plant a community coronation orchard in the town's Victoria Park and they were the group that was featured in the photograph on the front of the Town's weekly newspaper. Rotarians John Morton and Gareth Lambe were shown representing Rotary with Newport Town and Borough councillor Peter Scott.

Approximately 40 volunteers from many of Newport's community groups met to plant fruit trees in a lasting tribute to the coronation and the town's strong volunteering network.

Councillor Scott explained: "We've had a huge group of volunteers from 13 of Newport's community groups represented.

"Each group came and planted their own tree, which will be labelled with their group name."

Other groups participating included a walking group, local litter-pickers and The Hub – a youth club and community café. Apple, pear, plum and damson trees were planted, which will provide Newport's residents and visitors with free, fresh fruit for the foreseeable future.

Councillor Scott added: "It has been put there with the future in mind, which is exactly what The King wanted, for volunteers to do something that will help others for years to come. It was very heartening to see so many people come down, it went really very well."

View from above

Wellington Rotarians were recently very fortunate to have an interesting presentation by Ross Jones, a commercial drone pilot producing visuals for his own employers and other commercial businesses such as house builders and surveyors as well as media outlets including the BBC and Shropshire Star.

He illustrated his talk with fantastic photos, many taken from a tiny 249g plastic drone which members had a chance to examine. The photos he passed round were brilliant in their clarity and demonstrated the potential for business use. Ross included comments on military drones, the negative side such as flying them in restricted areas such as airfields and prisons and also discussed his thoughts on future developments.

Ross is pictured showing the drone he uses to take the aerial photographs to club President Richard Studd



TREES PLANTED TO HONOUR KING

Community orchard will be a lasting tribute as nation celebrates royal coronation

MEGAN JONES
megan.jones@mrmedia.co.uk

A community orchard has been planted in Newport to mark the coronation of King Charles III.

The project was part of the national Big Help Out initiative in celebration of the historic royal occasion.

About 30,000 organisations put on around 55,000 events to mark the crowning of Charles III with a showcase of volunteering. In Newport, groups turned out to plant the community coronation orchard in Victoria Park on Monday.

About 40 volunteers from several community groups came together to plant fruit trees in a lasting tribute to the town's strong volunteering network. Newport councillor Peter Scott said: "We had a huge group of volunteers from 13 of Newport's community groups represented.

"Each group came and planted their own tree, which will be labelled with their group name."

Volunteers from the local rotary club, a walking group, local litter-pickers and The Hub – a youth club and community café – were all in attendance to plant the fruit trees.

Councillor Scott added: "It has been put there with the future in mind, which is exactly what the King wanted, for volunteers to do something that will help others for years to come. It was very heartening to see so many people come down, it went really very well."



Councillor Peter Scott, centre, with members of Newport Rotary Club John Moreton and Gareth Lambe



Corporate member

Earlier this year the Cannock Rotary established a partnership with the Stafford and Cannock League of Hospital Friends charity by inducting them as a Corporate member of the Cannock Club.

The aim of creating this new partnership in the community is that it can be used to address big challenges such as homelessness and mental illness, yet at the same time gives corporate members access to Rotary's global network of 1.2 million volunteers. It diversifies the club's skills and expertise, expanding its potential for doing good and brings in new ideas to keep current members engaged whilst emphasises a commitment to serving others as part of the League of Friends culture, something their staff will appreciate.

The partnership's first event was the 'Sleep out to kit out' in April 2022 when together with The Stafford Rotary, Soroptimists, local councillors and volunteers, over £12,000 was raised to help people in hostel style accommodation move on to independent living.

Since then the league staff have assisted Rotary with mock interviews at local schools and colleges, raising funds at the Christmas collections and judging some of the recent youth competitions.

The Stafford and Cannock League of Hospital Friends as well as providing catering services to Cannock and Stafford hospitals is now one of the largest providers of supported housing in the area. A key objective is to provide modern furnished accommodation for those wishing to live independently but who need help and support to achieve this. They work with their residents to support and empower them to achieve their goals and aspirations.

This year is the league's 50th anniversary and with Rotary assistance they are celebrating by undertaking 50 good deeds of kindness to the community including the planting of trees, litter picking and assisting food banks.

To acknowledge the official launch of this partnership a New Rotary sign has been placed in the shopfront window at the League head office in Stafford.



Immediate past President of Cannock Rotary Harold Bould with League of Friends trustee and treasurer Yvonne Buckland

District handover

As one Rotary Year concludes and another begins, the District Handover is an opportunity to enjoy fellowship and meet Rotarians from across the district, including members of the district team, and their guests.

This year's event takes place on Friday 30th June, 6.15 for 6.45pm at The Hub at Walsall College, just five minutes from M6 Junction 10.

The programme for the evening includes a three-course meal and entertainment. Dining at the Hub is highly recommended in online reviews. It promises to be an enjoyable evening but don't delay - the venue requires meal choices in advance, so register using the form at rotary1210.org/handover2023

First Responders benefit from Carols in the Square

Church Stretton Rotarians held a Coffee Morning at the Ragleth Inn, in Little Stretton, where Rotarian Julian Hargreaves handed over a cheque to Tracey Prosser, First Responder for £1,000 having rounded up the £937 raised at Church Stretton Rotary's Carols in the Square event. At the event, 300 people sang around the Christmas tree on Christmas Eve. Rotary sourced the tree with the assistance of Wrights Estate agents, the Church Stretton Accordion Band accompanied the singing and The Kings Arms helped out by supplying the Mulled Wine.

This donation will go towards a replacement car for the First Responders, their old one being 16 years old and unlikely pass its next MOT.



With the current ambulance response times being so poor, Tracey and her husband Warren, are more essential than ever and a reliable vehicle is so important. With no help from the NHS for this, Church Stretton Rotary are going all out to find a garage that might be happy to sponsor them as happens in other parts of the country.

The First Responder Facebook page reports that at least two people have since given them further donations amounting to £575 and Rotarians hope more people will help the cause.

Mile of cash

Newport Rotary President Gareth Lambe, President Elect John Morton and President of Newport Rotary Lite Margie Haslop, were photographed doing an impression of 'Gene Kelly Singing in the Rain' in the wet weather at the launch of Newport's Mile of Cash on the town's High Street.

It's part of the town's celebration on St George's Day. Residents and businesses turn out in their hundreds to mark the saint's day. Celebrations include a traditional procession, involving George and the dragon, Morris dancers, street entertainers and the famous spicy 'dragon sausages'

Ahead of the event, residents and visitors to Newport are encouraged to drop their spare change in bright red buckets, aiming to raise a 'mile of cash'. Inspired by the historic mile of pennies - a tradition that would see pennies lined back-to-back for a mile throughout the town.



President Gareth said 'We will be out again supporting the St. George's Day events in what we hope will be better weather -fingers crossed'.

The two Rotary clubs helped to raise £1,492. After organiser's costs, £200 each was given to Newport Visually Impaired Club, The Saturday Club, Warm Welcome on a Wednesday, Senior Together, (the latter two both supporting dementia sufferers and carers), First Responders and Funky Friday (an inclusive weekly disco for those with special needs).

Remembering John Sayer

**Past District Governor
Lynne Deavin writes**

What can we say about Past District Governor John Sayer who was called to Higher Service on 12th April. John was District Governor in 2016/2017.

John was brought up in London and South Hertfordshire. He studied Chemical Engineering at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne and returned to the Home Counties to develop his career in the Chemical Industry.

In 1985 he moved to the North Midlands.

John's Rotary journey started when he joined the Rotary Club of Stone and District in 1997 and he went on to hold most roles in the Club including President in 2003/2004.

John was also invited to join the District 1210 Youth Service Committee and for many years managed the "Young Innovator" competition, and was Chair of Group Study Exchange in 2011/12.

When John became our District Governor in 2016/17 and the international theme for that year was 'Rotary Serving Humanity', the theme he chose for his Conference at Southport was 'LIVE THE DREAM'.

John joined the Rotary Club of Blythe Bridge and District in 2020.

District Governor Steve Antill said "I first met John when I was District Secretary and he was working on the Youth Committee, leading the Young Innovator competitions. His passion for Rotary was always evident, and amongst other things he will be remembered as a great supporter of Rotary working with Children in Need. He pioneered the co-operation in our District, and even during his recent illness he continued to support clubs with merchandise and advice to maximise our joint efforts.

"John worked closely with other local organisations, most notably in Stone, where he was at the forefront of Rotary working alongside outside partners. John's knowledge of Rotary was evident, both as a Past District Governor, and as District Secretary. Despite his health issues forcing his retirement from the latter John was always on-hand to offer advice when asked, and I will miss him greatly, both as a Rotarian and as a friend".

Away from Rotary John had many other local interests:

He was Chair and Secretary of the Stone Festival Committee for a number of years.

He volunteered with Young Enterprise ('YE') both as a Business Advisor to local school YE teams and a local Board Member helping to put on events of the programme.

He was Chair of a Community Shop at Summerfield Court in Stone.

I am sure you will all agree that Past District Governor John Sayer served humanity and LIVED THE DREAM. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Editor note - for the winter 2021 edition of ROTO, John was asked a series of questions. He was also asked to 'compose a slogan to sum up your life.' His response was 'He enjoyed life'.

**John requested that, in lieu of flowers or otherwise in memory,
donations should go to Rotary Foundation's Polio Plus fund.
Donations can be made at [justgiving.com/campaign/inmemoryofjohnsayer](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/inmemoryofjohnsayer)**



Race Night in aid of Imago Foundation

Rotary Cannock recently held a Race Night in support of the Imago Foundation which was a resounding success bringing together community members, businesses, and charitable souls to raise an impressive £1,400.

Rotarians and the charity were grateful of the support of local businesses who so generously provided raffle prizes to add an extra layer of excitement and anticipation to the event.

The funds raised on the night will be used towards drilling a borehole on The Imago Foundation's site in Namaso Village, in the Mangochi District of Malawi. This will provide sanitation and clean drinking water to the surrounding communities, as well as the nursery and primary school which will be built by the Foundation during the next couple of years.

The Imago Foundation was founded by Hanna and Martyn King who are both Honorary Members of Cannock Rotary. The club first sponsored Hanna in 2014, when she went to Malawi for a gap year that was extended to two years because she fell in love with the country and its people.

Malawi is known as the Warm Heart of Africa! Hanna saw first-hand how a good education pulled students out of poverty. After her gap year, she came home to the UK and met Martyn who was pulled into her dream of opening a school. Together, the two of them travelled around Malawi in their 'DIY built' camper-van, visiting various organisations to learn about the charity and education sectors. After a few years, they found the perfect site for their charity; they bought six and a half acres of land and built a small house with their personal money.

The mission of The Imago Foundation is to educate, nourish and empower marginalised communities in Malawi through atypical education and outreach and by challenging the status-quo of inequality, in order to break the cycle of poverty. The Foundation's main areas of focus are education, nutrition, and sustainable land use.

The couple were married in 2022, and on returning to the UK earlier this year have visited many Rotary clubs in the area who are supporting them with their ongoing work in Malawi.

The couple are fundraising to build a nursery, primary school and permaculture site that will be run by them. They are returning to Malawi in August this year.

The next fund-raising event is a 60s, 70s and 80s Disco Night at Grangemoor Working Men's Club in Burntwood on Saturday 17 June.

For further information about The Imago Foundation and their charitable initiatives, please visit www.theimagofoundation.org or call them on 07842 569 504.



Diary dates

Friday 30 June
District Handover at The Hub,
Walsall College 6.15 for 6.45pm

Monday 4 September
District Council 7pm

September 13 -17
13/14 DGE & DGN training
15 -17 Rotary Action Summit
Midland Hotel, Manchester

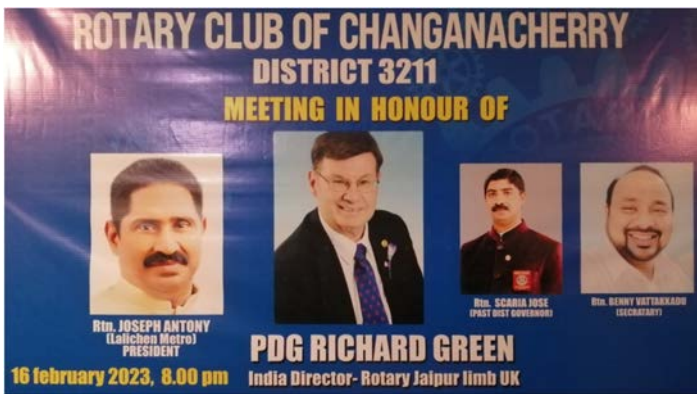
Friday 29 September
Golf Competition 12.30pm,
Telford Hotel, Spa & Golf
Informal Dinner in the evening

Saturday 30 September
District Conference 9.30am,
Telford Hotel, Spa & Golf
Conference Dinner with
entertainment in the evening

Saturday 1 October
Post Conference visit to
Ironbridge and the Blists Hill
museum

Visit to India

Richard Green, Past District Governor of District 1210, and India Director for the Rotary Jaipur Limb Project visited India in February, where he visited 16 clubs. He also attended the Conference of District 3201 at which he was given an honorary welcome by the 2,200 delegates, and held a number of meetings to prepare for several future humanitarian projects to be funded by the Rotary Foundation in partnership with various Rotary clubs in Great Britain and Ireland. The projects will include three mega Jaipur Limb camps for amputees, check dams to assist farmers with irrigation, a dialysis centre, a mobile health clinic and the provision of sewing machines for 40 ladies who have just completed a sewing course arranged by the local club, Pavagada, District 3190.



On his visit to the Rotary Club of Changanacherry, District 3211 in Kerala, he was very pleased to receive, on behalf of the Rotary Club of Wolverhampton, a Rotary Service Award certificate recognising the support sent by the club during the pandemic in the form of several oxygen concentrators and BiPap machines enabling Covid sufferers to breathe.



At the conclusion of a meeting with the Rotary club of Qulon, District 3211, Richard was surprised and delighted to receive a personal Rotary Excellence Award in recognition of the support and guidance he is giving to the club as they draw up their plans to hold a mega Jaipur Limb camp.

Fresh fruit and veg for food bank

Shrewsbury Severn Rotary's monthly donation of £250 has enabled a food bank to provide local people with fresh fruit and veg alongside their non-perishable parcel.

Speaker Karen Williams, project lead of foodbank PLUS based at the Barnabas Centre, told Rotarians that their regular donation had been a 'real boost' for individual clients. Without such support for healthy, more sustainable food, the outcome would have been only non-perishable goods.

"Healthy food is much more sustainable," said Karen who said that in just two days that week, 110 people had been fed. There would be 50-60 people fed the following day and around 120 people the day after that.

She told Rotarians that a lot of people did not want their employers or peers to know they were using the food bank. "We want to give people a sense of dignity – a lot of people end up at the food bank never thinking they would – but they do. The sense of shame can be difficult for people.

Karen openly revealed that the Barnabas – a charity – also dealt with people who were homeless and were sleeping on people's sofas. But they were in work.

A number of nurses, as well as teachers, were using the food bank and they were now starting to take referrals from employers.

"We are assisting people in a crisis and most people use us up to eight times a year. We are also supporting people back into paid work."

She added that donations to the Barnabas were going down, but food prices were going up. "We work on donations, such as the one we receive from Shrewsbury Severn Rotary. "We have to work on donations as well as honour and justify every single penny," she added.



Karen Williams with Shrewsbury Severn Rotary president Fred McDonogh

Scarf and tie auctioned

Tony Janetta of Inverness Rotary in District 1010 (Scotland North) very generously offered a 2022/2023 Theme Tie and Nicki Scott Rotary International Director did the same with the theme scarf to be auctioned in aid of Rotary's charity, The Rotary Foundation.

What is so special about this I hear you ask? What makes these items special is that they are both signed by Rotary International President Jennifer Jones. The design of both the tie and scarf were based on painting created by Jennifer's brother. A limited-edition print was given to all this year's District Governors to auction as they saw fit.

The auction took place after the dinner at the leadership meeting in Warwick on 18 February. The tie raised £300 and the scarf £250. The winners could each choose where they wished the money to go.

The winning bid for the scarf was made by Nitish Joshi, Chair Nominee, Rotary Great Britain & Ireland Regional Board "I feel lucky having won the bid for the scarf – my chosen area of focus was 'Water & Sanitation'. I feel it is a basic human right for everyone to be able to access fresh water wherever and whoever they are. The Rotary Foundation charity does an amazing job delivering water sanitation to many parts of the world. My contribution though small in comparison when combined with support from other like-minded Rotarians means WE CAN AND DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. Thank you, Foundation."

The winning bid for the tie was made by Himanshu Jain from Stratford Rotary, District Governor Elect, District 1130 (London) "I was delighted to win the auction for the signed tie and be able to donate to our own charity in the process. As we all know, giving to the Foundation directly supports the work of Rotary and its members. These donations enable us to carry out our charitable initiatives of ending polio, advancing positive peace or strengthening local communities."



Himanshu with RI President Jennifer Jones wearing the tie!!

District quiz final

Many clubs participate in the District Quiz each year and the final round was held at the Four Alls Inn, at Woodseaves, near Market Drayton on Wednesday 24 May.

Twelve clubs from previous rounds were competing and the winners on the night were the Wellington 'A' team, ahead of Audley and Newcastle-under-Lyme.

The winning team (below) were presented with the trophy by District Governor Steve Antill.



In Remembrance

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



Brian Bentley (Wolstanton)
Michael Collis (Cheadle)
Pravinchandra Daya (Walsall)
Norman Collins (Whitchurch)
Allan Law (Walsall)
John Moore (Bridgnorth)
Richard Persson (Whitchurch)
John Pike (Sedgley & Wombourne)
John Sayer (Blythe Bridge & District)
Brian Stoddard (Cheadle)
Olive Tudor (Burslem)



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.

Rotarians positively impacting the lives of those in need



DONATE TODAY:
WWW.ROTARYGBI.ORG/DONATE



Helping local organisations and disaster relief charities

Eccleshall Mercia Rotary has recently awarded grants to several worthy local organisations, and to a Rotary-run disaster relief charity. The club was very busy raising generous donations from the public in its local area, through the Club's Hook a Duck stall at various events, December's many Santa Sleigh fundraising activities, and bucket collections held outside the local Co-Op store. Despite being a small club in terms of membership numbers, Eccleshall Rotary is active in its community.

President Sylvia Keris, who is also an Ambassador and volunteer for other local and International charities, recently presented a number of donations to several organisations, and had the chance to meet some of those who would be benefitting from the grants.

Grants included an award of £600 to Tittensor Primary School towards the cost of buying Chromebooks to help children with their lessons, for which the School teachers, pupils and PTA were delighted. Sylvia was invited to a special school assembly to hear them sing and give their thanks.



Eccleshall Stay and Play Group were given £150 to purchase a sensory tent with equipment that they wanted, to provide a quiet space, which some children who attend the regular playgroup would benefit from. President Sylvia was able to meet the mums, play with the children, and see the Sensory tent, before presenting the cheque to the group's founders Hayley Wall and Lucie Talbott.

A £200 donation was given to the Buddy Bag Foundation (BBF), to help towards the cost of the Buddy Bags which contain essential clothing, toiletries and comfort items, for children who have been taken into the safety of a refuge, away from domestic violence. Sylvia also acts as the collecting point for knitted teddies and fabric toiletry bags which are included in each Buddy Bag.

And with the help of a bucket collection, and other fundraising, a donation of £1,000 was made to Disaster Aid UK & Ireland for their Syria/Turkey Earthquake appeal, and an additional £1,000 given to Disaster Aid's Ukraine Appeal. This charity is run by Rotarians, (all volunteers) who send trained Disaster Relief Response teams to areas where there has been conflict or natural disasters - providing essential supplies such as home rebuilding equipment or tents (as appropriate), water filters, tools and other provisions, to help those in emergency situations.

Ultra marathon challenge

A keen runner and rugby league enthusiast is combining both interests to fundraise for the Motor Neurone Disease Association and one of Graham Berry's sponsors will be Shrewsbury Severn Rotary whose members were inspired by a talk he was invited to give them.

Graham, 50, of Shrewsbury, will face his biggest running challenge yet when he tackles a two-day/150km ultra marathon from Wigan Warriors' DW Stadium to Leeds Rhinos' Headingley Stadium via the Leeds-Liverpool canal later this year.

The lifelong Wigan Warriors fan who was born and raised in Wigan was inspired by Rob Burrow, Leeds Rhinos no.7, who was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease at the age of 37.

"This young, fit man, 5ft 7ins, 11st, played 515 games in total for Leeds, England and Great Britain," Graham told Rotarians.

"Rugby League is like a family – we stand together. Even as a Wigan fan I felt compelled to do something."

He said he had also been inspired by another Leeds Rhinos Rugby League player Kevin Sinfield, one of Rob Burrow's best friends, whose personal marathon efforts had already raised over £2.5m

Kevin had come up with the idea of an ultra marathon which is anything longer than a marathon. "My personal best is four hours and the longest so far is 93km (58 miles).

"I also took up the challenge of running 70 miles in a week which is a lot for any runner and I also run ultra marathons on a treadmill."

He will set off for his ultra marathon on Thursday 7th September 7th at 6am and arrive by 8pm on Friday 8th in time for the Leeds v Wigan match kick off – which might be televised – and where Leeds plan to interview him on the pitch.

"I shall have to find both grit and determination to get through the two days. With there being no cure for Motor Neurone Disease, treatment comes down to occupational therapy to enable sufferers and their families to receive support."

He has been an MNDA runner for about three years and has so far raised over £7,000 through running and other campaigns.

Graham said "Not a lot of people know about the condition and not a lot is known about the causes. It is usually a pre-disposition of people in their 60s and 70s, but no-one really knows where it comes from.

"With there being no cure treatment comes down to occupational and speech therapy to enable sufferers to go on for longer. There's no finishing line until there is a cure."

He added: "Any organisations who kindly support me will get many mentions on social media and their name and logo on my race vest/ shirt. One of those will most certainly be Rotary."

Shrewsbury Severn Rotary president Fred McDonogh said "Graham gave us an excellent – though frightening – talk and we wish him every success with his ultra marathon."



Graham and Rotarian Fred McDonogh with Rob Burrow's famous no.7 shirt.

100,000 reasons to say "Thank You"

The Alumni 1210 Rotary Books4Home project gifted its 100,000th book to youngsters in our district earlier this year.

100,000 children in D1210, many for the first time, now have a book of their very own to read, take home and keep forever. One in five children aged five to eight do not have a book of their own at home. Children and young people who do have a book of their own at home are six times more likely to read above the level expected for their age compared with their peers who don't have their own book, research from the National Literacy Trust shows. Every single book will make a difference in the world.



To celebrate this milestone, an event was held on Sunday 8th January in The County Buildings, Stafford. The afternoon was all about saying a massive thank you to everyone involved with this hugely successful project. Thousands of people have donated pre-read books. Hundreds of Rotarians throughout District 1210 have helped by donating storage space for the books, transport assistance and book sorting time. Rotarians liaise with schools and teachers to get Rotary Books4Home projects working in many different areas of our large district.

Rotarians, Alumni, teachers, together with many Rotary Books4Home Volunteers were joined by District Governor Steve Antill, Deputy Lieutenant of Staffordshire Mr Graham Morley, The Worshipful Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor (and Rotarian) Philip Leason MBE, JP and Mrs Edith Leason, Chairman of Staffordshire County Council Paul Snape and his consort Mrs Susie Snape and Vice-Chairman of Staffordshire County Council Phil Hewitt and his consort Mrs Adrienne Hewitt.



The celebration included hiding golden tickets inside the 100,000th book gifted. Four books had tickets inside; one sent to schools in four different areas within District 1210. The youngsters chose books as normal and the golden tickets were then discovered by four lucky children in their books. The "winning" children came to the celebration and received special prizes of signed copies of books from Michael Morpurgo and Jacqueline Wilson presented by District Governor Steve.

Young musicians reach for the top notes

Wolverhampton Music School was the recent venue for the District and Regional finals of Rotary's Young Musician competition, hosted by The Rotary Club of the City of Wolverhampton and organised by Rotarian Richard Green.

The competition, with separate vocal and instrumental sections, is staged every year and starting with individual Rotary Clubs, progresses through District and Regional rounds to a National final.

In the District Final seven clubs had entered nine young musicians from their club rounds. Performances were superb, giving the adjudicators a very difficult task in selecting the winners to go forward to the Regional final in the two categories.

However, after much agonising, vocal adjudicator Lorna Parkhouse decided that 16 year old Hattie Candler, sponsored by Wrekin Rotary won the day with her performances of 'The Girl In 14G' by Tesori and Scanlan,' 'A Song Of Shadows' by Walter de la Mare and 'Love's Philosophy' by Percy Bysshe Shelley.

In the instrumental section, the audience was spell-bound, as eleven year old Tom Junde He, sponsored by Dudley Rotary, gave faultless renderings on the piano of 'Fantasia in C Minor' by Bach and the instantly recognisable 'Fantasie Impromptu' in C minor by Chopin.

Hattie and Tom duly progressed to the Regional final, where they were joined by five other young musicians drawn from three neighbouring Districts. Sadly illness had precluded the participation of one of the vocalists.

As was to be expected at this later stage in the competition, the Regional Final brought together a remarkable level of skill and talent, prompting the adjudicators to describe many of the presentations as "perfection in every way," and "of an exceptional standard". They certainly had a challenging task in selecting the winners in the two categories.

After much deliberation, vocal adjudicator Simon Whitmore decided that Hattie Candler had again won through with a reprise of the pieces which had served her so well in the District round.

In the instrumental section, the audience was captivated as Ameera Hashmi, sponsored by Lichfield St Chad Rotary, gave faultless performances on the piano of 'Novelettes in C major and B minor' by Francis Poulenc and a piece which caused many smiles, 'The Cat and the Mouse' by Aaron Copland.

Hattie and Ameera then advanced to the National Final to be held at the Stoller Hall in Manchester. The National Final of the Young Musician competition was held on 23rd April at the Stoller Hall, Manchester.

The 12 finalists came from across the UK and all were at such a high standard that it was not possible to second guess the adjudicators decision. Worthy winners were Charlie Boax, baritone horn, (Kilmarnock Rotary) and Eva Scullion, vocalist, (Ripon Rotary).

District/Regional winner Hattie Candler sang and performed her chosen songs and was extremely happy to have taken part. She is pictured with District Governor Steve.

Hattie will be performing at the District Handover on 30th June taking place at The Hub Restaurant, Walsall College



Club Contacts

Rotary District 1210

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

AUDLEY

Wednesday (E) 6.30 for 7.00pm
Tel: 01782 721483
sites.google.com/view/rotary-club-of-audley

BILSTON & W'TON WEST*

Monday (E) 7.30pm
1st of month and 3rd or 4th
depending on Bank Holiday
Tel: 07809 145 677
Search for Facebook page

BLOXWICH PHOENIX

Sunday (E) 2nd 7.30pm via Zoom
Saturday (L) 3rd 12.15pm
Tel: 07970 652834
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

BREWOD & DISTRICT*

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

BRIDGNORTH

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

BROWNHILLS*

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

BURNTWOOD & DISTRICT*

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

BURSLEM*

Wednesday (E) 6.30 for 7.00pm
2nd, 4th & 5th Weds only
Tel: 01782 373933
rotaryburslem.co.uk

CANNOCK*

Wednesday (E) 6.00 for 6.30pm
not 3rd Wednesday
Tel: 07446 816 225
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

DUDLEY*

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

ECCLESHALL MERCIA*

Monday (E) 1st & 3rd, 7.00pm
Tel: 01785 254255
rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=2107

ELLESMERE

Wednesday (E) 1st, 3rd 7.00pm
4th or 5th - contact Secretary
Tel: 07763 945161
ellesmererotary.org.uk

ETRURIA*

Tuesday (B) 8am
Tel: 01782 398769

INTERNATIONAL E-CLUB

Sunday 2nd and 4th on Zoom
12.00noon (GMT), 1.00pm (BST)

IRONBRIDGE

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

KIDSGROVE*

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

LEEK*

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

LUDLOW

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

MARKET DRAYTON

Tuesday (E) 3rd 7.00pm
Tel: 01952 541964
rotarymarketdrayton.co.uk

MERCIA AND MARCHES

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

NEWCASTLE-under-LYME

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

NEWPORT*

Wednesday (L) 2nd & 4th
12.30 for 1.00pm (GMT applies)
6.00 for 6.30pm (BST applies)
Tel: 01952 810162
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

RUGELEY*

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

SEDGLEY & WOMBOURNE

Wednesday (E) 1st & 3rd, 7.15 for
7.30pm, other weeks via Zoom
Tel: 01746 766473
Search for Facebook page

SHREWSBURY

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

SHREWSBURY DARWIN

Friday (B) 8.00am for 1 hour
No meeting on 5th Friday
Tel: 01743 247295
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/

STAFFORD

Wednesday (L) 12.00 for 12.30pm
Tel: 01785 851281
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

STOKE on TRENT*

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

STONE & DISTRICT*

Monday (E) 1st & 3rd 7.00 for
7.30pm
Tel: 01785 760120
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

UTTOXETER*

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

WALSALL

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

WALSALL SADDLERS

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

WEDNESBURY*

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

WEDNESFIELD*

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

WELLINGTON

Friday (L) 1.00pm
Tel: 07775 567654
wellingtonrotary.org.uk

WEM & DISTRICT*

Monday (E) 1st & 3rd 7.00 for
7.30pm, 3rd (E) 7.00 for 7.15pm,
Tel: 07731 931055
facebook.com/Wemrotary/

WHITCHURCH

Tuesday (E) 1st & 3rd 7.00pm,
Tel: 07501 873935
whitchurchrotary.org.uk

WILLENHALL

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

WOLSTANTON*

Thursday (E) 7.00 for 7.30pm
Tel: 01782 752258
wolstantonrotary.org

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON*

Tuesday (L) 2nd, & 4th 12.45pm
Tel: 01746 714075
rotaryclubwolverhampton.co.uk

THE WREKIN

Thursday (E) 7.00pm
Tel: 01952 246782
wrekinrotary.org

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