

the **ROTO**

ISSUE 30 WINTER 2021/22

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Rotary
Club of Rugeley
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Centenaries marked as clubs work together on a Rotary Foundation Global Grant project

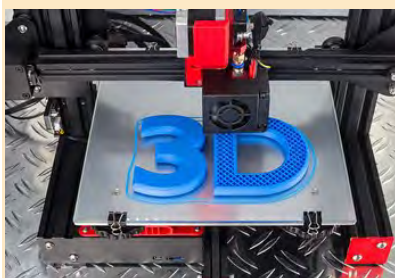
One of the many international initiatives actively supported by many clubs across Rotary GB and I is the Rotary Jaipur Limb Project.

1984 was a momentous year for the tens of thousands of disabled men women and children, invariably poor, who would receive a Jaipur Limb in the coming decades as a result of a visit by a small group of Rotarians to a pioneering limb making workshops in Jaipur. They saw how no disabled person was turned away, coming as they did by any method of transport and often from great distances in India, and how they were treated free of charge.

So, the Rotary Jaipur Limb Project was born.

For many years the limbs, together with the unique Jaipur foot have been extremely basic and simple to manufacture, using plastic tube heated in an oven to form the exact moulded shape of a disabled persons amputated limb. The moulds are created by wrapping the end of the patient's existing amputated limb in Plaster of Paris which is then used as the mould to form the new limb.

The project has grown and now has several permanent centres across India and Africa. Additionally, outreach mega limb camps are run in which sometimes over 500 people receive the limbs over the course of a week. The limbs cost around £35 each, with funding being provided by donations from Rotarians across the world.



Now, in an exciting and innovative new project the City of Wolverhampton Rotary club decided to mark its centenary by taking part in a global grant application from the Rotary Foundation, to install a 3D printing machine in the Jaipur Limb Centre in Bangalore, to produce the limbs more rapidly and at a fraction of the cost. The club worked in partnership with the local Rotary club – Bangalore Sadashavanigar in India, and the Rotary club of Guildford who took the lead as the International partner to apply for the grant. The application succeeded.

The project is valued at £57,600, which will cover the cost of the machine and the provision of the first 1,000 limbs. Monetary donations towards the cost of the project have been made by the Rotary clubs of Guildford and the City of Wolverhampton, and an extremely generous contribution from the Jaipur Limb Trustees committee in the UK. However a major share of the cost has been provided by The Rotary Foundation. For the twelfth consecutive year, the Rotary Foundation has received the highest rating – four stars – from Charity Navigator, an independent evaluator of charities for demonstrating both strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency.

3D printing is a process whereby material is joined or solidified under computer control to produce a three dimensional object with material being added together layer by layer. Very complex shapes can be produced, such as artificial limbs, for which the operative simply uses a scanner over the amputee's existing limb end to programme the computer.

President of the City of Wolverhampton Rotary club, Richard Green, says “this remarkable project represents a move into future technology enabling many more amputees to be treated allowing them to regain employment, and members are proud to be marking the club's centenary in this unique way.”

Speaking for the Rotary club of Guildford, Club Foundation Officer, Andrew Jackson, says “Our member, Past District Governor Clive Addis-Jones, was for many years a trustee of The Rotary Jaipur Limb Project and facilitated the Guildford Club contribution. Guildford club is very pleased to be able to support the City of Wolverhampton club in their Project by running the Global Grant as International Partner for this innovative piece of equipment and the limbs it will be able to provide”.

Blooming lovely

Whitchurch was in bloom again – after the Rotary planting sessions in some of the town’s most prominent flower beds.

The 2021 season – the seventh since Whitchurch Rotary Club formed a floral partnership with Fourways Self Drive – attracted a new wave of compliments for the best known raised beds beside the traffic lights at the junction of Bridgewater Street and Station Road.

“Local residents, motorists and visitors to the town regularly tell us how much the welcoming splash of colour is appreciated,” said Rotary’s Walter Schafer. “It’s become our most striking flower bed feature.

“When these raised beds were first built in 2015 it was not clear who would maintain them so we took them on. Then we teamed up with Fourways as sponsors and we couldn’t do it without their generous help and willing support.”

Rotary, in conjunction with Whitchurch Inner Wheel, also maintains flower beds at Pepper Street, the Bullring and the end of Alkington Road – with annual plantings of geraniums, begonias, tulips, daffodils, roses and rhododendrons.



Celebrating the seventh floral partnership season for Whitchurch Rotary Club, Inner Wheel and Fourways Self Drive – from left: Walter Schafer, Jill Williamson - General Manager of Fourways, Rotary Club President Dave Simcock, Bob Thompson, Inner Wheel President Clair Schafer and Brian Acty.

“Find the Rotary Bears”

Church Stretton Rotary “Find the Rotary Bears” competition held during August was a great success and achieved its aims, as the following comments show!

“We really enjoyed finding the bears! We were on holiday in Church Stretton, to explore the hills and because a good friend lives in Church Stretton, and the bear hunt gave us a really good way to get to know all the lovely businesses you have.”

“It’s the first time we have taken part in a hunt around town & it was thoroughly enjoyed by the whole family, grownups included! It made shopping in town much easier and enjoyable too, thank you.”

Organised by Church Stretton Rotary’s Youth Team, the free to enter competition was for children under 12 years. Over 60 entry forms were given out, with 30 being returned for entry into the competition. Entries were received from children who lived as far away as Leeds and Surrey as well as locally.

After checking, there were 15 correct entries, so the winner was chosen by random draw, as laid out in the rules of the competition.

The chosen winner was Clara Biggs who received a £10 voucher which could be redeemed at one of the participating shops. All children who entered a correct entry received one of the Rotary Bears as a prize for finding all the bears.

Church Stretton Rotary thanked all the shops that willingly took part by hosting a Rotary Bear. “They really entered into the spirit of the competition, coming up with some unusual and difficult, but not impossible, hiding places”.

Already the Rotary Club has been asked if there is going to be a similar competition for the “adults” as it was such good fun! Well, you never know, it might happen.



2019/20 snooker competition concludes in 2021



The pandemic delayed final of the 2019/2020 district snooker competition between The Rotary Clubs of The Wrekin and Cannock took place on Tuesday 27th July at Stallings Road Snooker Hall, Wall Heath.

In a match that wasn't decided until the final frame, Cannock were the winners 5-4. Rotarian Brian Reilly, District Governor in the 2019/20 Rotary year, presented the trophy to the victorious team.

...as was the table tennis competition

Having endured delays due to COVID-19, the final of the 2019/20 District Table Tennis competition was played on Monday 16th August when the Rotary Club of Leek faced the Rotary Club of Walsall.

The Leek club have won the competition on numerous occasions and were once again the victors. Past District Governor Brian Reilly presented the shield to Leek (on the right in the photograph).



Outstanding Young Citizens recognised at Rotary awards ceremony

Nine inspirational finalists, together with their nominators and guests, attended an awards evening, hosted by the Mayor of Wolverhampton, Cllr. Greg Brackenridge to celebrate their outstanding good citizenship.



left to right, Parwiz Karimi, Dylan Wright, The Mayoress and Mayor, Rotarian Roger Timbrell (Chairman) and Lucy Palin

The winners were Parwiz Karimi, who founded the Afghan Youth Association to help young Afghan refugees to integrate into the British way of Life, Lucy Palin who founded and runs Project Give which tackles period poverty in the City and Dylan Wright for leadership and voluntary work. Other finalists were Dhavina Chadha, Caitlin Jefferis, Louis Johnson. Alex Parker, Aijon Brown and Syed Naqvi.

These awards are now in their seventh year. They are sponsored and run by the four Rotary clubs in Wolverhampton in partnership with the City Council, Express and Star and Wolverhampton Wanderers Foundation.

Winners get great odds

Four winners have been announced for Newport Rotary Lite’s successful Spot The Oddity competition – and they’re delighted.

Winning entrants have received a £25 voucher to spend in participating businesses in Newport.

Newport Rotary Lite President Phil Knight said “We’re delighted we had such a positive response from both people doing the competition and Newport businesses – the support has been great, and people have had a lot of fun.”

“The feedback has been brilliant, with several shops reporting increased footfall, people going into Newport businesses that they’ve never been in before, and perhaps best of all at the moment – really enjoying a free activity in the centre of our town.”

“It was a really simple idea. All you had to do was Spot The Oddity in the window of participating businesses, find as many as you could, then just enter the competition. Businesses really got into the spirit of it – we had David Bowie’s Space Oddity album in the window of a brilliant electrical store, gnomes, a can of baked beans, socks in a computer shop, a teapot in an optician’s – and Concorde for sale in an Estate Agent’s window. I think some of the businesses had as much fun as the participants. We’ve already had people contact us saying they will enter future competitions.”

The winners were Kate and Stuart King, Sam Edgeley, Kim and Lawrie Boardman, and 10 year old Sophie Dahn and her 6 year old sister Lucy. One of the winners Kate King said “It was a great way of exploring and mooching around shops in Newport. It made us stop and look in businesses we didn’t really look in before. We loved it!”

Phil Knight added “Like many voluntary groups we lost 80% of our income during lockdown so we’ve been a bit limited on what we can do for the town. We wanted to do something that helped local businesses that have supported us so well, something that was free for everyone to take part in, and provide a bit of fun for children of all ages! Hopefully we’ve helped everyone a little.”



Spot the Oddity winners Sophie and Lucy

School notice board

A promotional board to make students aware of the work of Rotary in Stafford is situated in a corridor at Sir Graham Balfour High School, Stafford.

The board is maintained by Teaching Assistant, Lynn Gallimore, who has responsibility for Community involvement.



Dates for your diary

Tuesday 18 January	District Quiz, Round 1
Saturday 12 February	District Officers and AGs briefing *date to be confirmed
Tuesday 15 February	District Council
Wednesday 23 February	Rotary Day
Saturday 5 March	Presidents Elect Briefing *
Sunday 13 March	World Rotaract Day
Thursday 17 March	District Quiz, Round 2
Tuesday 22 March	World Water Day
Sat/Sun 26/27 March	President Elects Training
2 to 9 April	District Assembly *
Tuesday 19 April	Paul Harris’s Birthday (1868)
Wednesday 18 May	District Council
Thursday 19 May	District Quiz, Final Round *

Wild flower seed planting

Rotary in Church Stretton planted 100m of wild flower seeds on verges to encourage people from all walks of life to connect with each other in celebration of their local green spaces by planting wildflowers.

The challenge was backed by organisations across civil society and business including Rotary, Scouts and the Royal Voluntary Service, and was planned to be the biggest seed planting in UK and Irish history.

Members of Church Stretton Rotary were joined by Restoring Shropshire's Verge's Project and Church Stretton Scouts as they sowed seeds on Saturday 23rd October on the verges along the Shrewsbury Road between Church Stretton and All Stretton

Rotary shares a key commitment in protecting the environment and it became one of the worldwide organisation's seven Areas of Focus earlier this year. Rotary is committed to supporting activities that strengthen the conservation and protection of natural resources, advance ecological sustainability, and foster harmony between communities and the environment.

Rotary supported the #BillionSeedChallenge, in planting wildflowers to brighten up parks, verges and playgrounds with incredible splashes of colour. Plantings took place throughout October, and culminated on 30th October, the day before COP26, the international climate conference in Glasgow.

Julian Hargreaves, the Club's Community Team Leader commented, "This was a brilliant environmental project for us to get involved in being totally in line with Rotary's current philosophy. Working together with the community and the Scouts was a pleasure. We are particularly grateful to Terry Davies, Group Scout Leader, for arranging for the Scouts to do this; they were very enthusiastic raking and sowing and did a brilliant job".



Left to right, back: Rotarian Julian Hargreaves; Scouts Joshie Naylor, Isaac Hall, Oscar Russell, Terry Davies - Group Scout Leader; front: Scouts, Norah Hall, Toby Russell, Maisie Hall.

"Special Rotarian" receives award at Club President's night



Blythe Bridge Rotary held their President's night on 2nd August at the Upper House, Barlaston. Peter Nixon was President of the club during the very difficult year 2020-21. On his President's night Peter presented Martin Ketrick with a very well deserved Paul Harris Sapphire pin.

Martin has been in Blythe Bridge Rotary for nearly 30 years. During this time he has raised thousands of pounds for many charities including The Royal Marines, BLESMA (a charity supporting Limbless Veterans), SAAFA ("The Armed Forces Charity"), Victim Support and Blythe Bridge Rotary.

Martin now gives inspirational talks to students - this BLESMA initiative reached out to over 30,000 students in the year pre COVID-19 and the project continued online during the COVID-19 restrictions.

Martin also organised a fortnightly food collection for a local foodbank since the beginning of COVID-19 lockdown and has done much more to help in the community.

In 2016, Martin was awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's 90th birthday honours list.

Polish immigrant tells of community integration

A Polish immigrant who came to Shropshire 16 years ago has told a Rotary club of how she has helped to set up an organisation to integrate European countries into the British culture.

Kate Fejfer, who is chair of the Shropshire European Organisation (SEO) involved in community projects, was a guest speaker at Shrewsbury Severn Rotary Club where she addressed more than 20 members. Kate, who has a son aged 13 and daughter aged nine, is married to an ambulance driver in the town. He is Polish and they met in Wem.

She told Rotarians: "It wasn't my aim to stay so long. But it is a pleasure to belong to the biggest group of non-speaking English in the country. There are up to 5,000 in the Polish community in Shropshire and we work closely with the Polish government and Polish consulate. They have visited Shrewsbury numerous times."

But in answer to a Rotarian's question she said the town's Polish born MP Daniel Kawczynski, who was first elected to the seat in 2005, didn't to her knowledge have any contact with the local Polish community.

"We do try to promote our culture outside and Remembrance Sunday was very emotional," she told the Rotary club.

She said the SEO's community work had been recognised through awards from the mayor of Shrewsbury and the Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire. This had resulted in a higher profile for Polish and other international communities in Shropshire.

She spoke of plans to open a community café next year. "It will be the biggest project for next year," said Kate who told Rotarians that various events are organised to highlight Polish culture and the culture of the other international groups living in the area.

The SEO was set up to support the wider integration of all European groups into local communities and this helped integration across the different groups as well as their wider acceptance into the local host community. The SEO provides support, individual, family, and for business where needed to all European citizens living and working in the area. Often, problems arose accessing key services such as education, social, medical and financial where language could provide a barrier. The SEO was a key support in these circumstances.

Kate was full of praise for the high professional standards of the British police who have been very supportive following an increase in hate crime incidents post Brexit.

More recently much of the work and support had been directed at other nationalities living in the county, Romanians, Latvians, Hungarians and Malaysians whose numbers were smaller and support networks less effective. There were 16-20 different cultures in Shrewsbury, but she was promoting the Polish culture.

She added that the SEO worked with different inter-faith groups and a wide range of professionals to ensure access could be gained to areas such as mental health, maternity and other specialist services. Demand for services, and advice about access, had dramatically increased during the covid pandemic.



Kate is welcomed to Shrewsbury Severn Rotary Club by president John Yeomans.

New club ... new ideas

Mercia & Marches (M&M) Rotary was born out of the need for an alternative type of Rotary experience when compared with the traditional Rotary Club model. Although as the name suggests, and as required by Rotary International, it is necessary to have a geographical location, M&M in convening its meetings on-line, consequently makes the club accessible not only to people from within District 1210, but also elsewhere in the UK, and further afield.

M&M online meetings are normally held twice a month and are recorded to enable members to remain fully informed of our plans and activities especially those with working and domestic commitments.

Some of the M&M members transferred from their previous club because that club no longer met their needs and /or could not fit in with the member's personal family commitments.

'M&M' is proper Rotary!

As with the 'traditional' Rotary model, the M&M club has a president, and other officers. Its members are full Rotarian members, all part of D1210, with the same reporting procedure and voting rights. The club undertakes Rotary projects both locally and worldwide together with commitment to the Rotary Foundation and 'End Polio Now'.

Implementing and actioning its own projects, M&M seeks to work with not just other Rotary Clubs, but to also network with other organisations and groups to effect bigger and better projects, whilst, at the same time, increasing Rotary awareness and image. Perhaps M&M could assist your club.

Designing 'New Look' Rotary

Realising the need for an alternative Rotary 'club' model, there is a wealth of information available from "My Rotary" online whilst also keeping in mind 'How can Rotary *fit the member*, not how does a member *fit into Rotary*?'

Why did I join M&M?

Rtn. Tim Dukes: "A wise person once said 'The start of something new brings the hope of something great, anything is possible' (anonymous). Mercia and Marches Rotary is a new Club and brings with it the hope of many good, worthwhile and exciting projects and experiences!

"I have been a Rotarian for nearly thirty years. It is fair to say that, due to both work and family

commitments, my own commitment to Rotary has varied during that time - from being President to taking leave of absence. I have however never lost my belief that Rotary is a force for good. My old Club, of which I had been a founder member, closed its doors and handed back its Charter earlier this year. Looking for a new Rotary home, Mercia and Marches Rotary looked promising – a new format aiming to create a dynamic and inclusive club, operating in an informal style, but still delivering good 'Rotary'. The difference is less emphasis on attendance and process with more emphasis on action.

"Mercia and Marches Rotary is a Passport Club and, as meetings are mainly on-line, this seems to me one very good way of injecting new energy and keeping Rotary refreshed for all. We are a new Club and these are early days. However, much work has already been done to establish the foundations of a successful Club and we are now looking at our first community project. Yes – Mercia and Marches Rotary looks promising.

,,, and why did I choose to join M&M?

Rtn. Jane A. Evans: "I really wanted to find a new style of Rotary for me and my ever changing work/life balance. M&M offers me the flexibility and autonomy to be involved with other Rotarians, Groups and Volunteers without Geographical Boundaries.

"We are a small and a very welcoming group, exploring project ideas, encouraging inclusivity and breaking down barriers. We really do listen to one another! We want to pique the interest of people of all ages.

Yes, still early days, however, M&M is already thinking 'Out of the box' becoming an influence for positive change and powering towards the next Generation of Rotary. I really feel like a 'Local Global Citizen'"

M&M projects

Whilst 'M&M' Rotary is only five months old and currently driven by the very enthusiastic members. The team is now seeking out additional project opportunities within District 1210 and further afield.

The club is currently in conversation with several town councils, schools and colleges to promote the Queen's Green Canopy initiative to plant trees, to celebrate her platinum jubilee next year. This will provide us with an excellent opportunity to increase



Rotary ‘awareness’ with great publicity and ‘PR’ opportunities.

Conscious also of possible membership dividends. Whilst this is work in progress, we are confident of success in the very near future.

Not forgetting our international ‘obligations’, when our Club Funds allow, Lend with Care is also being considered as we seek to help struggling communities particularly in poverty-stricken countries. Supporting this initiative enables people to earn their way out of poverty and become self-sufficient.

On a more seasonal note, we may have the opportunity to help with a Santa sleigh.

We are a ‘young’ club, with great ideas, bags of enthusiasm, and members that enjoy and WANT to be involved. ‘Let’s GO Rotary’.

‘M&M’ President Derek Smith says....



“I was delighted to have been invited to help develop Mercia & Marches Rotary as it offers an alternative to the traditional Rotary club which, in my opinion, is too restrictive.

“Our members have the freedom to roam across the whole of the UK as we have no geographical boundary whilst keeping a watchful eye on the ever-changing demands of our local communities.

“We seek to network with other clubs so we can exchange ideas and learn from each other and importantly ALL work together.

“We are working to create experiences where all people are welcomed, respected, and valued - people of all backgrounds, cultures, experiences, and identities. Our equity policy strives for the fair treatment, opportunity, and advancement of all Rotary members.

“In summary we differ from traditional clubs as follows.

- Greater flexibility, project driven.
- Fewer shorter meetings – possibly including family members socialising – recruitment opportunity. No meals = less overall membership costs.
- We will listen to members ideas and deliver if considered appropriate
- Offering a viable alternative for those not wishing to join non-traditional clubs, and with a different way of working, hopefully will attract younger volunteers.

“Our aim is to enable Rotary to fit into a member’s life, not for a member to have to fit into the Rotary structure.”

Why not see for yourself? – Can we help YOUR club?

As a new club we have not set out to ‘break the rules’, but make ourselves flexible and more adaptable, fitting the club and ‘Rotary’ around our (prospective) members, rather than expecting everyone to stick rigidly to a standard club template.

“M&M Rotary looks forward to engaging with other Rotary clubs as we believe this could prove to be mutually beneficial”.

Club undertaking Rotary District 1210 'Disability audit'

An exciting part of becoming a member of Mercia & Marches Rotary (M&M Rotary) is that each member shares the vision: *"We would like to ensure that all children, young people and adults with disabilities are able to live a healthy, full and fulfilling life in the way they choose. We want to see disabled people becoming full citizens, members of their communities and importantly, part of the Rotary Family."*

We want to encourage and enable people with all types of disabilities to become part of the Rotary family. This means changing the way we do things to ensure inclusion for all disabled people that is based on simple solutions.

Many offices, bars, restaurants, shops etc, are not accessible to people with a disability, added to which disabled people need to be heard and their opinions taken into consideration to improve facilities and access, the same also applies to provision goods and services.

At M&M Rotary, we want to consider how this applies to our communities and in particular Rotary in District 1210. As one of our first projects, every member of M&M Rotary, disabled or able-bodied has downloaded the Access Ability App. Users of this App review venues as they visit them, and the rating will help and inform others; hopefully, eliminating any access anxiety for future visitors. The process is focused on achieving positive change – not accessibility shaming. M&M Rotary members are already submitting reviews of all the places they visit in their daily lives.

As part of our plans, we intend visiting all D1210 Club meeting/venues and submit a review. By doing so we can highlight disability issues and encourage greater inclusion of disabled people in to Rotary.

These are bold and ambitious plans and will require the co-operation and vision of all Rotary partners. We look forward to visiting you all soon. 'M&M' Rotary 'Leading the Way'

Rotarian celebrates 50 years service



Rotarian George Roby met with fellow Church Stretton members at Berry's Coffee House to celebrate his 50 years as a Rotarian.

George was presented with a framed collection of photographs covering many of his activities over the years.

He was thanked very sincerely by President Don Lovejoy. Church Stretton Rotary looks forward to his continued contribution.

Almost six months as District Governor

By the time you read this we will be nearly half way through the Rotary Year. It is so good to see clubs and members meeting again and can I say thank you to everyone for greeting me and making me so welcome at your meetings.

The way we all meet is changing. The use of technology has helped us all to be more effective especially in the way we can do business without the long drive and costs involved. Some clubs are holding hybrid meetings where members, who don't feel confident in going out and meeting people, are able to join the meeting on-line, this way they are not missing information and are able to participate. If we all think back a couple of years, a few were using Skype and other video call methods but had we heard of Zoom? Probably 'no'. Please don't forget the advantages we gained through technology as we return to face to face meetings.



There is talk of substituting the word "Fellowship" with "Friendship". I think that fellowship has a far deeper meaning and should be kept in the Rotary vocabulary alongside words like peace and service.

There are changes afoot at Rotary GB&I level where the Governing Council comprising a large team of over 30 people, 25 of whom change every year is being replaced with a smaller Board where members would be in place for three years. Nominations and interviews are being carried out so that the new streamlined Board can be in place for July 2022.

We are all being encouraged to work together at club and district level. You might have heard the word "clusters" being mentioned. District 1210 is currently talking with three other districts to see if there are areas where working together could enhance what we do.

On my visits I have heard about some amazing projects. Many have been fund raising like Vintage Car Rallies, Duck Races, and Charity Auctions to name but a few and it's so good to see clubs working together and supporting each other. Please don't forget Rotary Foundation and especially End Polio Now. The Foundation is our own charity and remember what we donate now will return to us as grants in years to come.

Finally may I wish everyone a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year and good luck to all the Santas who are growing beards and donning their red costumes.

In Rotary Fellowship

Robyn

Fundraiser for Pink sisters and misters

Blythe Bridge Rotary recently heard a very moving talk from Pink sisters and misters, a cancer support charity situated in Meir helping local families following a cancer diagnosis.

After hearing their talk Peter & Barbara Nixon held an afternoon tea party at their home and raised a further £325 for them. Blythe Bridge Rotary donated £200.



The gift of life

The International Rotary E-Club of District 1210 has arrived! The club has already completed its first project within a fortnight of its charter on 5th October– the donation of an oxygen concentrator to a hospital in Hyderabad, India to battle Covid-19. India like any other large country in the world has been through two large waves of Covid-19 affecting a majority of the population. With meagre resources and poverty in certain areas, there was disparity in the treatment of Covid cases leading to a critical shortage of oxygen in hospitals followed by higher death rates and oxygen being available only to those who could afford it.

The club therefore conceived a project called “The Gift of Life” and decided to donate an oxygen concentrator to a hospital specialising in Covid-19 cases in one of the areas hard hit by the pandemic. The hospital had already won awards from the government in putting a number of steps to reduce Covid levels considerably. The oxygen concentrator will help provide oxygen to patients who require it - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The club has stipulated that the oxygen should be provided free of cost to anyone who needs it urgently. Since the oxygen concentrator is the size of a microwave oven, it can be easily moved from one ward to another at ease and can be quickly set up - thus saving lives. The oxygen concentrator has been extremely helpful and welcomed by the hospital, many patients and their families. Without the concentrator a number of patients would have lost their lives. The e-club is very humbled by the response of the community and is immensely proud to have been part of front line operations in tackling Covid-19.

Other projects in the pipeline during this Rotary year for the e-club are – (1) Feed poor school children – one meal a day for just £1 a whole month – a joint project with Akshaya Patra – a UK charity (2) Increase awareness and reduce blindness amongst children and adults in poor countries to elevate poverty (3) Under Environment Protection, educate women in poor countries to use menstrual cups instead of sanitary pads which they can ill afford and damage the environment to coincide with UN Menstrual Hygiene Day on 28th May, 2022.

The International Rotary E-Club of D-1210, England meets on 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month on Teams / Zoom at 12 pm winter / 1 pm summer (UK time).

Club thanks Supervet Noel

Shrewsbury Severn Rotary Club was delighted with the presentation by ‘Supervet’ Noel Fitzpatrick as well as being grateful for the proceeds from the special event, which the club will distribute to local charities as well as needy local causes.

The Supervet gave an outstanding performance to a near sell out audience at Theatre Severn in what was a most ambitious fundraising project – the biggest of its kind that Shrewsbury Severn Rotary Club has undertaken.

Joint organiser Rotarian Julian Wells, himself a fellow vet, said: “Noel was very entertaining and the audience really warmed to his exciting presentation which had them eagerly anticipating the next revelation.

“I have known Noel for some years and I was confident he would captivate a Theatre Severn audience as well as bringing something very special - and very different - to Shrewsbury. I have warmly congratulated him, but the audience reaction at the end of the presentation said it all. The applause was the biggest thank you we can give him for an evening those who were there will remember for a long time to come.”

The Supervet presentation at Theatre Severn was off-on due to Covid-19 and members of Shrewsbury Severn Rotary Club were both relieved and pleased when confirmation of his appearance could be publicised.



Young Heroes Awards

“I was really shocked to be nominated, let alone win. What I do is just natural to me, and I don’t see it as a big deal. It took someone outside of the family to recognise that I go above and beyond to help my siblings “ - Poppy Cumberlidge, Church Stretton Rotary - Young Hero (12 – 18 years)

Regardless of many people’s impressions, young people can act in selfless, brave, supportive, caring and committed ways. Usually without wider recognition.

It was Church Stretton Rotary’s aim for the Young Heroes Award to give recognition to these young people.

Towards the end of 2020, Church Stretton Rotary asked the following question: “Do you know a young person aged between 6 and 18, living in South Shropshire, who has made a significant contribution to their community, individual or family member through a single act of selflessness, bravery, or sustained effort, over the last 18 months?”



Poppy Cumberlidge and parents



Hannah Woods with her parents

Nominations for 14 young people were received, these going forward to the initial selection process. The judging of those shortlisted was made more difficult by the Covid restrictions involving numerous Zoom interviews. The selection panel had a difficult task of selecting the two chosen Young Heroes and highlighted that all nominees deserved great credit.

Each nominee received a certificate, prize, and an invitation with a parent to the Awards Dinner.

The Awards Presentation was held on Friday 30th July at Wistanstow Village Hall to celebrate the Young Heroes Awards. Footballer Dave Edwards, of Welsh International, Wolves and Shrewsbury fame, presented the Young Heroes with their prizes. The chosen Young Heroes, Hannah Woods (younger age group) and Poppy Cumberlidge (older age group) also received a cash prize, trophy, goody bag and shield. The shields, in memory of Rotarians Colin McIntyre and Len Bolton, were presented by their widows Lesley McIntyre and Linda Bolton.

Following the presentation, Dave Edwards gave an excellent speech on the virtues of our young people.

Church Stretton Rotary thanked Nick Jones of Throgmorton Associates and the Euro Quality Foundation for sponsoring the Young Heroes Awards and the Awards Ceremony.

Another Little Lending Library

Wednesfield Rotary Club President, Stan Jukes, delivered another Little Lending library, as part of the club’s drive to support children and schools with encouraging reading and improving literacy.

The latest delivery was made to St. Patrick’s Catholic Primary Academy.

On its Facebook page the school said it would fill the library quickly to enable pupils to start using the Library ASAP.



Footballer's centre helps the homeless

In October, Kidsgrove Rotary welcomed Lou Macari who gave members an insight into his football playing and managing career. He also told how in 2016, a news bulletin drove him out of his house and on to the streets of Stoke-on-Trent to find out what life was like for someone who was homeless.

Having seen the level of need in his adopted city, Lou decided to do everything he could to help those who find themselves homeless, work towards better lives.

Club members laughed out loud at hilarious stories of happenings during his footballing years. Lou also gave members an insight into how the Macari Centre in Hanley has grown and is providing support and accommodation to around fifty individuals, along with four meals a day.



Lou has agreed to be an Ambassador for Kidsgrove Rotary, and the club is looking forward to many years of working together.

Buddy's Elf out and about

Sylvia Keris from the Rotary club of Eccleshall Mercia, who was recently awarded the title of Ambassador of the Year for The Buddy Bag Foundation (BBF), is appealing for more kind people to knit teddies and to sew fabric drawstring toiletry bags & pencil cases, for this very valuable charity.

Sylvia is a collecting point for teddies and bags, and also for Lego donations, and can be contacted re deliveries on 01785 851005.

BBF provides children with a backpack of essential clothing, toiletries and comfort items - including a teddy bear - when they are taken to a safe refuge, away from domestic violence. The charity packs 180 age-related Buddy Bags every week for children from babies up to 16 years of age - each rucksack with its contents costing around £25.

Sadly, domestic violence cases increase over the festive season. So in support of the charity and to also bring some festive cheer, Sylvia has vowed to dress again this year as Buddy's Elf, 24hrs a day, everyday in December. Wherever she goes - whether food shopping, GP appointments, on a walk or doing volunteer work - Sylvia will be dressed as an Elf.

Humorous Elf photos are posted every day in December on the Eccleshall Today Facebook page. If the Elf makes you smile, you could leave a festive message for friends or Rotary colleagues and a little donation please at www.justgiving.com/campaign/elf2021 in support of the Buddy Bags charity.

Local businesses were offered the opportunity for the Elf to stand by their business logo or products as a way of promotion, in return for a donation.



Rotary support for charity conference organiser

The organiser of a unique conference to combat the effects of alcoholism has expressed her 'grateful thanks' to a Shropshire Rotary club for their support.

Jane Mackenzie, who stage managed the groundbreaking 'Alcohol – Share the Truth' virtual conference on November 18 and 19, captivated members of Shrewsbury Severn Rotary Club.

She gave more than 20 members of the club a talk at one of the club's meetings. As a result of which, Shrewsbury Severn Rotary agreed to donate £500 to support her work.

She said: "I am most grateful to the generosity of Shrewsbury Severn Rotary Club for their extremely kind support – I think the members share my concerns about this progressive and terminal disease. I was delighted to be able to put important points of concern across about the effects of alcohol addiction on families and on those suffering with addiction to this substance."

Jane outlined to Rotarians how her daughter Amy, 37, died two and a half years ago after she fell and hit her head.

"Ten percent of drinkers become addicted to alcohol, and I didn't realise how many young people it is killing, in the prime of their lives. When I was mayor I decided to raise awareness about this, because problem drinking affects us all in one form or another. I set up the charity Share Shrewsbury to support anyone affected by alcohol addiction and we started to make a difference locally. There are specific things I would like to change, such as early intervention before problems become entrenched, and better services"

The virtual conference attracted a range of top speakers from many different sectors. Said Rotarian John Yeomans, president of Shrewsbury Severn Rotary Club: "I hope the donation of £500 will support the excellent work you are doing. What an important issue it is in all our lives."



Citizens Advice Bureau benefits from IT equipment gift

Twelve laptops of the same model, twelve mice and two wheelie laptop bags were handed over to Valerie Graham of CAB Telford at their Wellington offices, funded by a £1,000 District Grant matching the £1,000 from Wellington Rotary's Benevolent Account.

The laptops will enable the CAB's Digital Inclusion Project to deliver digital training using same-spec equipment to people who do not have the skills to engage with the outside world. The training includes face to face streaming (such as Zoom), email, job search, application for benefits and on line shopping.

Classroom training is given at the CAB offices and the outreach scheme visits schools in the area.

Valerie Graham said "Citizens Advice Telford is grateful to Wellington Rotary for their generosity in supplying us with laptops, enabling us to make a difference to people's lives."



District Conference held at Lion Quays in Shropshire



District Governor Robyn welcoming Rotarians to the conference

Rotarians enjoyed a great day at this year's conference held close to Oswestry. Many thanks to Governor Elect Steve Antill and his wife Helen, who organised the day and sorted out the technology.

Major Foundation Donor Ian Priestley, Endowment and Major Gift Advisor for the Rotary Foundation gave an interesting talk about Rotary's charity and the three funds of the Foundation: The Annual Fund, the Endowment Fund and the Polio Plus Fund. These enable the advancement of world understanding, goodwill and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education and the alleviation of poverty.



Ian Priestly (on the right) presented Past District Governor Barry Picken, with a special badge to recognise that he has become a Major Donor.

Joint conference Lead Past District Governor Ken Wagstaffe presented awards to clubs that donated the highest "per capita" donation to the Annual Fund. This year the award was presented to Walsall Saddlers Rotary Club. Foundation lead A second place award went to the Rotary Club of Newport and third went to The Wrekin Club.



Walsall Saddlers' Foundation Lead Samin Panda received the award on behalf of his club.

Certificates for donations to End Polio went to the Rotary Clubs of Blythe Bridge, Dudley, Shrewsbury Darwin, Telford Centre, City of Wolverhampton, Whitchurch and the Wrekin.

Presentations on Global Grant projects were given by District Governor Nominee Dr Mukunda Chidrawar from Walsall and Past District Governor Richard Green from the City of Wolverhampton Club

Mukunda talked about 'Touching Little Hearts' Indian project. A global grant in 2018, jointly with host partners from District 3141 on the Bombay West Coast, funded \$69,130 for 49 paediatric heart surgeries. The funding

covered the pre-op, operation and post-operative care for one year for each baby. Rotary International Director Dr. Bharat Pandya inaugurated the project. Dr Mukunda is a retired surgeon himself.

Richard gave a talk on a Global Grant project in Bangalore – to benefit the Jaipur Limb centre. He talked of visiting the centre and being given a flower and a thankyou by a very happy recipient of a specially made limb after an amputation. A grant of \$80,000 was given to provide a 3D digital printer to create plastic limbs.



Ken Wagstaffe (above) talked about his role as a CADRE member. This is a team of people who go out to the projects to evaluate the work. On one visit he went to Northern Ghana to see a project in a village of 6,000 people where there was no road access and people arrived there by canoe or bike trailer. A well was dug 30 feet down, or 25 metres, to where the water was clean and free from flesh eating bugs and parasites that were making inhabitants very ill. Since there was no electricity the workers installed a solar powered pump to create a bore hole.

Ken had to evaluate and assess the outcome of the project in this area where the life expectancy had been 25 years. Now, thanks to the project this length is doubled.

Finally Ken said to loud applause: 'This is the power of Rotary Foundation'.



Later in the morning of the Conference Rae Oldham MBE gave a talk about the Dementia UK Admiral Nurses who help care for some of the 850,000 people living with dementia in the UK at the moment.

She became an Ambassador following the death of her husband John Oldham, a former Rotarian and District Judge. He had also been a District Secretary of 1210. He passed to Higher Service in October 2020 and Rae talked of the emotional journey they travelled with his illness. John belonged to the Stafford Knot club.



Rotarian Bob Cliffe, joint Lead for Alumni, selling Pudsey Bears for Children in Need.

Another powerful speaker was Maggie Hughes Past DG from Cardiff 1117 who talked about Dementia Friendly communities and the Alzheimer Society. These are projects going on all over the country and are sustainable in the UK where dementia is one of the biggest killers of older people.

Many clubs in District 1210 are working collaboratively with local authorities and community groups to establish support for people living with the brain disease and their carers.

The morning session ended with a talk given by Sue Evans on how to keep stress useful and how to look after yourself.

In the afternoon Jim Hawkins from BBC Shropshire ran a "Question Time" session where the audience asked questions to a panel of Ian Priestley, Paul Shackley (Local Government officer), Maggie Hughes and Barry Picken.

Record sum raised at fireworks event

A massive attendance of around 9,000 people flocked into Clough Hall Park, Kidsgrove on Saturday 6th November and almost £16,000 was raised.



The funds raised are used by Kidsgrove Rotary to help people and families in need as well as constituted community groups and charities in its local area.

Warwick's Funfair was also at the event along with food and entertainment stalls.

The Kings Church of England School had a stall and bouncy castle, to help raise funds for its international school trip to Gambia.

The incredible display was carried out by John Evans and his team, at Monumental Fireworks in Kidsgrove.

The bonfire at the event was created from pallets donated by Robert Lightfoot.

Roy Pedley award evening

Every year an Award is made to a student of Textiles at Dudley College in memory of the late Rotarian Roy Pedley. The award of £500 is aimed to help the student in further studies. Prior to the event, Alan Black of the Rotary Club of Dudley liaised with the lecturers and set up Zoom interviews for likely candidates and their lecturers.

This is the third year of the presentation which is usually included in the Club's Youth Services Evening at The Lodge restaurant and function room. All change this year, as it was held in the Evolve Theatre which enabled more work of the students to be displayed rather than via photographs.

This year Sarah Lewis was the winner receiving £550 as she now studies Fashion at Staffordshire University. Sarah Moore was the Runner Up receiving £50.

The evening started with drinks in an adjacent room and then all moved into the Evolve Theatre where a film was shown of the students' work with a musical accompaniment with various other displays. There followed two dancers displaying fashion and textiles. Jamie, Ray's granddaughter spoke of her pride in her grandfather's legacy and was supported by ten members of the Pedley family.



Dudley Rotary President Colin Knipe with Sarah Lewis



RACE NIGHT

Saturday 29th January 2022

Hadley Community Centre
High Street, Hadley, TF1 5NL

Bar opens at 6.30pm First Race at 7pm

Entrance
£10.00

Includes
Ploughman's Supper

Available from
Robyn Davies 01952 272342
Anne De Vere 01952 585678
and Club Members



Bulb planting sets a record



Rotarian Willie Strachan with bulbs about to be planted.

It took a small team of enthusiastic Rotarians little more than an hour to plant 4,000 crocus bulbs in the grounds of a historic Shrewsbury building.

This was the third crocus bulb planting to be undertaken by members of Shrewsbury Severn Rotary Club at the Shrewsbury Abbey. as part of a Rotary initiative of planting bulbs to increase awareness of the programme to eradicate Polio.

The group, comprising project leader Alun Humphreys, together with fellow Rotarians John Yeomans (Club President), Chris Heaven and Willie Strachan (both Past Presidents), completed the planting in a record-breaking time.

John Yeomans said “We are now well practiced at carefully cutting the turf and prodigiously planting the crocus bulbs which we hope will make a wonderful new display in the grounds of this lovely building next spring.

“The tradition of bulb planting is now very much part of our Rotary calendar and a service that we enjoy providing for the benefit of the local community.

“We appreciate the pleasure that these crocus bulbs provide for passers-by.”

Added John: “Rotary crocuses are an easy way to reach out to the wider community to raise funds and awareness of End Polio Now.

“At the same time they help to raise the public profile of Rotary.”



Club President John Yeomans shows the bulbs that have been planted and others in a bucket which are about to be planted.

Homelessness support

“As we welcome customers back for face to face contact at our walk-in centre in Wellington, we are in desperate need of snack food items that we can distribute to the most needy of our visitors.”

That message was seen on Facebook and the Rotary Club of The Wrekin responded immediately. After only a few days bags of food, warm clothes and hygiene items were delivered to KiP @ Maninplace.

The staff and volunteers at KiP responded “We are thrilled to have your continuous support! This donation will help those in immediate need through our emergency accommodation as well as those who require food parcels and emergency clothing.

“So, thank you. By helping us you are helping others!”

The club’s support is ongoing and most weeks donated items are taken into KiP.



Rotary International President Nominee 2023-24 speaks to an international audience

Past District Governor Ron Lucas writes: There are Zoom meetings; and there are zoom meetings, but 17th August was a very special and unusual Zoom meeting. For the first time in the 92-year history of the Rotary Club of Newcastle under Lyme, it's guest was the Rotary International (RI) President Nominee (at the time Designate) 2023-24, Rotarian Gordon McNally from the Rotary Club of South Queensferry, Scotland.



This took place as a result of the success of the series of Kelso Conversations which Gordon organised over the last year or so and which received global audiences and in particular the presentation on 10 June 2021 by RI Director & Rotary GB&I Leader, Nicki Scott from the Rotary Club of North Cotswold.

Gordon not only sent me the link to the YouTube recording of Nicki Scott's presentation, but he also made a request to 'attend' our meeting when the date was fixed. Subsequently on 6th August the RI Nominating Committee announced their selection of Gordon as RI President 2023-24, nevertheless Gordon still wished to attend our meeting, as previously arranged.

When he assumes office on 1 July 2023, Gordon will only be the sixth RI President from these islands in the 118 years history of Rotary since the first Rotary Club met in Chicago in 1905. These Past RI Presidents served in 1931, 1945 (Tom Warren from Wolverhampton), 1972, 1994, and 2009 (fellow Scotsman John Kenny).



An invitation was sent to all our Honorary Members, and via the District Secretary, to all the District 1210 Team, and via Derek Broome to colleagues in South Africa. It is worth recording that 48 were 'present' via Zoom, as follows – our District 1210 Governor Robyn Davies; eight Past District Governors (PDGs); namely Ron Lucas, Derek Broome D9210 southern Africa, Mick Goward D1175 Cornwall, Lynne Deavin, Trevor Davies, John Sayer (District Secretary), Ashley Gray and Brian Reilly.

From South Africa; Dennis Figov PDG D9210 RC Waterfront Cape Town, June Webber PDG D9350 RC Waterfront, Francis Callard PDG D9400 RC Northcliff Johannesburg, Carl-Heinz Duisburg PDG D9350, Bev Frieslich RC of Cape of Good Hope and AG D9350, Ann Wright.

From Australia; Dr Richard Luke PDG, Victoria, our Honorary Member, and his wife Lorna

From Jersey; PP Charles Strasser, our Honorary Member. Other visitors included Steve Antill DG Elect, Dr Mukunda Chidrawar DG Nominee, PP Michael Parrott RC Nantwich, Jane Cooper, District 1210 Rotary Foundation Chairman, Troy Allen, AG Zone 7, John Wardle D1210 Treasurer, Cressida Dickens AG Zone 3, and PP Bruce Boucher.

President Paul warmly greeted all our special visitors with 24 of our own members present, Rob Wilcox 'pulled the strings' and we enjoyed a powerful and inspirational presentation from Nicki Scott, who began her 25 years as a Rotarian in Chicago becoming District Governor before she returned to the UK with her family. Gordon was genuinely pleased to be present, spoke about his hopes and aspirations of his RI Presidency and concluded the meeting with some encouraging words – and quite remarkably, he is still only 64.

Getting to know you: John Sayer, District Secretary

John is a member of the Rotary Club of Blythe Bridge



Where were you born? Southgate, North London.

Where were you educated? Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Barnet. Still one of the finest in the country.

What brought you to Staffordshire? A career opportunity. A Staffordshire based ceramic colour manufacturer was seeking an experienced Engineering Manager.

How long have you been a Rotarian? Since 1997.

How were you introduced to Rotary? A neighbour – John Beamond – invited me. ‘Inviting people’ has always been the single most successful way of developing our membership.

What was your vocation before retirement? Chartered Chemical Engineer. As my career progressed I became a Project Manager and ultimately moved into General Management.

What are your roles in Rotary? I am District Secretary and Secretary of the Rotary GB&I Environmental and Sustainability Team, I volunteer with other Rotarians in our local community shop. I was District Governor in 2016/17.

What encouraged you to offer yourself as District Secretary? As a Past District Governor I had the knowledge, the vocational skills and the wish to serve Rotary

Who has been your greatest inspiration in Rotary? Alan Woods – he had been Head Teacher at Alleynes in Stone (although had retired once I got to know him) and really demonstrated the basic Rotary values of Service above Self. He also gave me invaluable advice when I first became President of Stone – essentially that you lead by example and persuasion and to always respect your fellow Rotarians.

What changes would you like to see in Rotary? Rotary has always evolved and must continue to do so – we must become more relevant to younger generations and welcome them into the Rotary family. We need to be flexible in how we conduct our projects and our business, but not forgetting the basic principles on which this great organisation is built – ‘Service above Self’, the Four Way Test and above all else Respect for one another.

What are your leisure interests? I enjoy travel, good food and watching sport. I was a season ticket holder at Rugby Union side Sale Sharks for several years. I also enjoy a cryptic crossword.

What is your favourite food? I enjoy most foods that are prepared and presented well. The Young Chef competition links with my environment hat, and I was always delighted to be involved with that competition.

What is your favourite type of holiday? Sunning on the beach is not for me. I enjoy interesting short breaks and a change of scenery.

What do you do to relax? Sit down with a cryptic crossword.

What was your first car? A ‘Sit up and Beg’ Ford Popular (google it!).

What is the best piece of advice you have ever been given? “You come into this world with nothing, and you take nothing with you when you leave it, so try to make something out of nothing.”

What Olympic sport would you compete in? Oh dear, I am built for comfort and not speed, so probably Crown Green Bowling.

If you had to be stuck in a lift with someone who would you prefer it to be? Someone to keep my spirits up – perhaps Tim Vine or Eric Morecambe

If you could invent a gadget what would it be? A house cleaning device with a garden extension.

If you didn’t live in England where would you choose to live? In my younger days I travelled quite widely but would not want to live anywhere else – if I couldn’t stay in England, then Scotland or Wales.

Name the 5 guests you would invite to a dinner party. The Queen, John Germ (RI President in 2016/17), Julia Roberts, Jimmy Greaves and Karen Carpenter.

What is your most valuable possession? Memories!

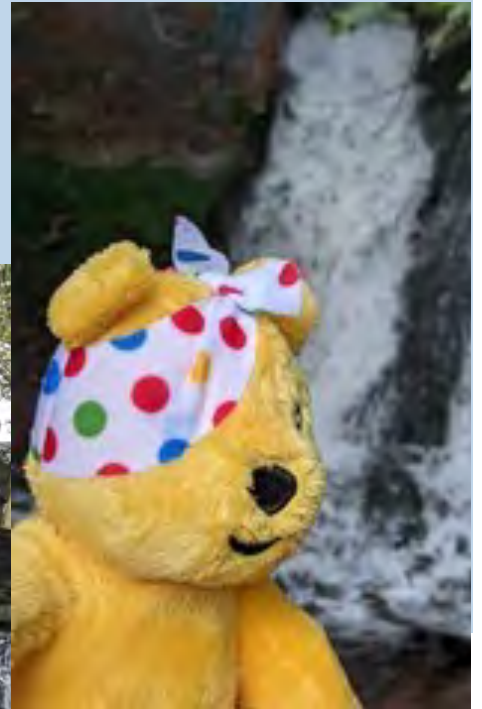
Compose a slogan to sum up your life. ‘He enjoyed life’

Rotary reconnects

Rotary Alumni 1210 shared fun, fellowship and fundraising at their annual Rotary Reconnect event on 9th October 2021.

Alumni, friends and families came together to take part in a BBC Countryfile Ramble for Children in Need.

Everyone had fun as they rambled along Cannock Chase Heritage Trail to find The Slitting Mill Waterfall then enjoyed Rotary fellowship enjoying tea and homemade cakes, whilst fundraising for Children in Need.



Another Rotary Tree of Light fundraiser launched

A new fundraising initiative for the Rotary Clubs of Wolstanton and Stoke-on-Trent has been launched with a “Tree of Light” at Trentham Shopping Village which offers members of the public the opportunity to donate to charity in remembrance of loved ones. This is the first time the two clubs have worked together and the Rotary Clubs have been working in North Staffordshire since 1927, supporting local, national and international charities.

Trees of Light are run by many Rotary clubs around the UK and raise large sums for charities each year. Half of the money raised at the Tree of Light at Trentham will be split between the Midlands Air Ambulance and the Newcastle-under-Lyme based Peter Pan Centre for children with special needs with the rest being given to smaller local charities through the Rotary Clubs’ charitable trusts.

Mike Herbert, the member of Stoke Rotary Club responsible for community activities said “It is exciting to start this new initiative and we are very grateful for all the help and support from Trentham in setting up the tree.

“In addition, many local companies have sponsored the tree already and we are looking forward to a very successful fundraising activity.”

“The 15-foot Norwegian Spruce is sited in the centre of the Shopping Village and covered in 6,000 white lights. Members of the public will be asked to make a donation in remembrance of a “loved one” and all the names will be recorded in a digital Book of Remembrance displayed in the window of the News Kiosk at Trentham and on the dedicated tree of Light web page.”

Members of the Rotary Clubs will be at Trentham every day to greet the public and explain how the Tree will support the deserving charities.



Homelessness and climate change in the spotlight

Homelessness and climate change were some of the topics discussed during a talk given by Shrewsbury Town Council's clerk. Speaking to Shrewsbury Severn Rotary Club members, Helen Ball said homelessness is an issue facing every town in the country and addressing it is about getting organisations working collaboratively together.

It was also about drugs and county lines which were blighting the town.

She told Rotarians: "We have a task force looking at ways in dealing with the issues and seeking best practice. It is difficult because they are not always breaking the law, but it is sorting out the problem and providing them with the necessary support. These are individuals who are used to sleeping rough for a long period of time. They need longer term support so this is not a cheap or quick fix."

Homelessness was one of the issues raised by Rotarians during the town clerk's talk in which she went on to highlight other local issues. One of these was the capacity of the sewage system and how it was impacting on the River Severn running through Shrewsbury.

"We have a Victorian sewer system which often can't cope with the capacity of modern life and often full to capacity sewers have to release into the river. This is starting to impact on the bio diversity of the river affecting plants, fauna and fish. We are lobbying Severn Trent," she told Rotarians.

Helen was asked why the considerable local new build had no solar panels as part of the planning conditions, as well as why all the heating was by gas. She explained that these issues were not part of planning policies, but added an assurance that this point was 'being investigated.'

She spoke of the 2020-21 'life threatening' floods when staff worked nights filling sand bags to help businesses. "This is a kind of humbling experience you need to operate in a different way. Why wouldn't we help the community?"

"The biggest crisis," said Helen, "is the climate emergency and not putting off until tomorrow what we can do today to make a difference to the community. And that is down to every single one of us. We have worked out what the Town Council's carbon footprint is; this equates to the same as 40 households, yet we have 30,000

households in Shrewsbury so there is a lot we can do to encourage others to do their bit.

"Over the last year we have converted all of our street lights to energy efficient LED lights and installed solar lights. The mayor will get an electric car in the next couple of weeks – there's a multitude of other things we have put in place. We have changed our model of working. We have a team of people working together to get the best resources out of different organisations. It is the pooling of finances and delivery of services to make Shrewsbury a better place through Team Shrewsbury.



Shrewsbury Severn Rotary Club president John Yeomans welcomes Helen Ball to the meeting

"Play is important and Covid brought facilities to the fore. Parks and open spaces have changed the emphasis of people from a play point of view and the social wellbeing of young people. We have spent lots of time and money on making sure we have the best facilities. The splash facility and play area in the Quarry has probably been the best £375,000 the Town Council has ever spent. People come from miles around to let their children play here."

In response to 'what can Rotary do to help?' she responded: "Bulb and tree planting is creating a carbon footprint sustainable moving forward in the future. Spreading the climate emergency message. Be proud of the town we live in. We are exceptionally lucky and our job collectively is to look after Shrewsbury."

BMX club unveils new facilities

Wellington Rotary members decided to support Wrekin Riders BMX Club in Dawley after hearing of their success and future plans from a guest speaker at one of their meetings.

The club first funded a clubhouse to provide a much needed welfare area for the increasing membership which incorporated a kitchen, a changing/first aid room and a club room for members to warm up on spin bikes and to recover from racing.

The BMX club on Duce Drive took delivery of the clubhouse just before the pandemic hit and Rotary members realised the club was using temporary toilets. The Rotary members then funded a toilet unit which would provide essential permanent toilet facilities for the club.

The BMX club was forced to close during the pandemic but as soon as the gates could be opened work started on the groundworks to create a courtyard area, along with a septic tank. Both the groundworks and the septic tank, both essential for the toilet facilities to work, were funded by Telford & Wrekin Council. Great Dawley Town Council also contributed to the funding for the new facilities.

Brian Richards, project manager for Wellington Rotary said: "It's a great pleasure to have been able to provide these welfare facilities for the youngsters who come out in all weathers to practice and compete on the track."

The waste drainage and hardstanding work was carried out by LVG Building and Construction.

As part of the Toilet Twinning Charity to provide latrine facilities in developing countries, Wellington Rotary also sponsored the club toilets to be twinned with new facilities in Panyagor, South Sudan. This twinning contributed to make Wellington a toilet twinning town.

Kirsty Smallman, volunteer and sponsor of Wrekin Riders said: "The support we have received from Wellington Rotary has been amazing and made such a difference to our facilities at Wrekin Riders. The riders have the welfare area now with a private first aid and changing area and we have the kitchen area too. To then be told the Rotary would fund a toilet unit was unbelievable for us. We then started fundraising as we realised the cost of a septic tank and groundworks but thankfully Telford & Wrekin Council agreed to fund the works in order to enhance their facility. "It has been a special year for BMX and more and more riders are arriving week on week to have a go. We are very proud and grateful to have the facilities we now have thanks to Wellington Rotary, Great Dawley Town Council and Telford & Wrekin Council."



Peter Seaward - Wellington Rotary, Cllr Andy Burford for Dawley and Aqueduct, Brian Richards - Wellington Rotary, Saara Reynolds - volunteer of Wrekin Riders, Cllr Ian Preece for Dawley and Aqueduct, Cllr Stefan Heighway, Mayor of Dawley. Front Left to Right: Kasper Reynolds - 11, Alex Hemmings - nine and Markku Reynolds - 13, all members of Wrekin Riders

Wrekin Riders is a voluntary run BMX club which boasts a £250,000 national standard flood-lit track which has previously been home to the British BMX Series. This year a number of riders brought home British titles from the British Championships, and some are looking forward to the World Championships in France next year.

Rotary helps Logan over the line



Newport Rotary Lite have given local lad Logan £300 to help him build independence in his new garden.

Logan, who has Cerebral Palsy, has recently moved into the first house that his family have owned. His lovely mum Michelle launched a fundraising drive to convert the garden into one where Logan can become much more independent – and score loads of goals. She had already raised £3,200 when she

approached Lite. The club’s donation, added to other fundraising and the family’s own resources, meant the safety and conversion work could go ahead. Both mum and Logan are thrilled.

Newport Rotary Lite President Phil Knight said “It was such a pleasure to help this fantastic family – they were bending over backwards to help Logan achieve his potential and have some fun in a safe place. They had combined what the family could afford with fundraising from a whole range of great organisations and individuals around Newport, and they just needed that last bit of help to get Logan over the line. I think his smile says it all really. I think this is a win for Logan.”



Logan enjoying his new found independence

Sailing day

Wednesfield Rotary Club were delighted to be able to hold the Annual Sailing Day at Greensforge Sailing Club for the members of Next Step West Midlands. It is always an enjoyable event and luckily for all concerned the day was sunny and dry, at least on land! The members are fun to be with and we know that they had a great time.

Next Step West Midlands caters for people with a learning disability or profound and multiple disabilities aged 16 -30.

The club was grateful for the kind support of the Greensforge Sailing Club to make the day possible. The Sailing Club is located at Calf Heath Reservoir in Gailey, Staffordshire. The club also thanked the Blakemore Foundation (AF Blakemore & Son Ltd) and Tesco (Penn Road) for financial and food donations respectively. The BBQ was well received !

On its Facebook page, Next Step said “The day brings so much joy to us all especially our young adults. Things have been difficult for everyone during the last 18 months and even more so for those who have disabilities. Having everything stopped, and not being allowed to do "normal" routine things was difficult for those who understood what was going on, but for those who have disabilities who didn't understand it has been even more difficult for them and even more so for their families.



Wildlife friendly 'lazy' gardening

from Anita Thomas-Epple, Uttoxeter Environmental Officer

For hundreds of years, Britons have been known for their tidy, 'perfect gardens' with manicured lawns; it has even become a caricature of Britishness. We like our fenced-off gardens, short, striped lawns and well-dug and turned-over vegetable patches. I, too, ascribed to that house-proud gardening ethos and for many years I've visited Germany, even living there for a while, and felt irritated at the unkempt lawns and more wild-looking gardens of my neighbours. These days I feel completely differently, and I get it!

Saddening and shocking news this week revealed by the Natural History Museum is that almost half of Britain's natural biodiversity has disappeared over hundreds of years, with farming and urban growth triggered by the industrial and agricultural revolutions being blamed for this loss.

It is time to ask ourselves – is what we are doing good for our environment or our wildlife?

We can all do small things to redress some of this loss by changing the way we do our gardening and reducing the over-tidying of our green spaces. Let's face it, this can be hard work and time-consuming even for the keenest gardeners amongst us. So, a little lazy gardening is a win-win!

For a number of years now I've been learning about the art of 'lazy' gardening to help our local wildlife and I'd like to share with you some of these things.

Lawns

You can be super-lazy in the spring and leave cutting your lawns until June. Many people are now joining in No Mow May

supported by Plant Life Charity. Leaving your grass to grow will encourage natural flowers that will attract all sorts of pollinators, like bees that are vital for producing nectar, flowers, our food and honey.

When you do finally cut your lawn in June, cut it using the highest setting of the mower. Your lawns will not only look lush, but they will provide perfect habitat for much fauna, such as insects, and small animals. Leave a section to grow long and wild and sow some bee-friendly wildflowers in there which will attract a number of pollinators. I recommend choosing a sunny spot for this. My long grass section of the garden is also a real hit with our visiting hedgehogs.

Grass absorbs CO₂ so composting your grass cuttings in a secluded corner of the garden can even store the carbon in the ground.

A really quick and lazy hack to make your longer grass and lawns look tidy is to use a half-moon lawn edger to tidy around paths a couple of times over the summer. It doesn't take long and provides a visual wow factor.

The Ritz of bug hotels

Bug hotels have become a real thing and if you search the Net, you will find a plethora of dainty little houses that can set you back as much as £25. Insects don't need these - all they need is a corner of the garden where you can build up a natural habitat for them. The picture shows a corner of my garden that is beneath a cherry tree and is undisturbed. I have laid down old sticks and branches that have fallen from the cherry tree, logs, part of an old pallet, dry leaves, bark,

stones, hollow bamboo that grows randomly from the neighbour's garden, long, dead grass and plants that have died back like allium stems and pinecones found on walks.



It takes no effort what-so-ever to add to it and there's very little tidying up at the Ritz. I might cut back some of the rampant ivy occasionally – how lazy is that? The pile attracts so many creepy crawlies and it's right next to our resident hedgehog's house, so it is always their first port-of-call at dusk. This summer I've watched several birds fly by to collect the dried grass and twigs to build their nests. Best of all this is the place where we relocate all the spiders that have found their way into the house in September.

The No Dig, low maintenance veggie patch

A common practice for allotment holders and vegetable gardeners is to dig over the patch at the start of the season. I spent many a day helping my dad dig over our large vegetable garden when I was young. These days there is a big focus on mulching vegetable

patches and raised beds with the dead vegetation, grass cuttings or your own compost so that the fauna and worms break down the material and aerate the soil at the same time without having to dig deep each year. Hurrah for your back!



Vegetables such as parsnips with deep anchor roots are great for naturally aerating any compacted soil. The microorganisms in soil need aeration but over-digging can aerate the soil too much and speed up the breakdown of organic matter. This can lead to poor soil in the long run and the need to use more organic matter.

This method isn't only just lazy but it's also good for your carbon footprint, as our soil holds huge amounts of carbon dioxide. By digging our veggie patches and gardens we expose soil to the air and release CO₂ and other greenhouse gases.

Wildlife pond

Adding a small wildlife pond to your garden takes little effort but makes a huge impact on the local wildlife, not to mention is great for relaxation. If there's a pond there aren't weeds! In lockdown last year it took me just a day to put in a small pond in my garden. The perfect spot was next to a palm for shade and sunny half the day. We dug a hole large enough for the pre-formed pond liner, put sand beneath to support the shape and laid stones, rocks and slate around

the top edges. I built up one side of the pond with cleaned large stones and gravel to create a shallow beach area to ensure the hedgehog and other animals could get out. I filled the pond with rainwater from our water butt, put in aerating plants given to me by a neighbour, a few pond plants in special soil and I threw in a small handful of watercress from my fridge. Within a few weeks the pond was well established with clear water, and earlier this year I put in a handful of frogspawn that had been gifted to me. The tadpoles thrived and we were rewarded with lots of baby frogs around the garden. Not only that, but an adult frog also found its way to the pond this summer. There is very little maintenance required, apart from thinning out the aerating plants and watercress every so often. The pond has been not only a lovely aspect of the garden, but I have loved watching the birds bathe in it, the tadpoles growing into frogs and thirsty wasps and bees drinking from it. Even our cats prefer to drink



from the pond rather than their water bowl!

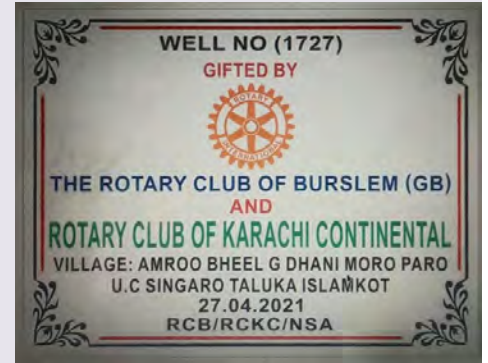
If you want a small wildlife pond but with very little effort, do the above with a large shallow plant bowl instead of a pond liner. I would recommend putting in stones and gravel and either sinking it in the ground or ensuring there are rocks around the edges so that frogs, newts and hedgehogs can climb out.

All you have to do then, is wait and the wildlife will find you.



Well restoration in Tharparkar desert

Seema Kazmi's year as President of Burslem Rotary Club was centred on the premise of 'Do what you can with what you have wherever you are' and the club's members worked as a team, doing what they could, with what they had, wherever they were. As a result, the Club was able to support local, national and international projects.



In August 2020, when the Covid-19 restrictions allowed outdoor gatherings of 30, the Club arranged its first "Little Lunch Do" which raised £630 in just two hours. As a result, the club was able to support at least two local projects and an international project which completely surprised us. The Club sent £265 to Rotarian Nassim Ahmad of NSA an organisation which supports the restoration of dried up wells in the Tharparkar Desert in Sindh, Pakistan. The Club was sent pictures and costings of the well before any money was sent to the NSA.

Little did club members know that this single well project would go on to inspire the restoration of another 26 wells with donations of £300 coming from Muslim families in Stoke, London, Turkey, Pakistan and the USA. 22 of the 26 carry the Rotary Roundel and the Club's name on the dedication plaque, including the one pictured - a joint project with the Karachi Continental Club.



Before (left) and after (centre and right)

Special celebration lunch

Members of both Stone and Uttoxeter Clubs gathered at the Stone House Hotel on 7th October to mark 40 years of Rotary Service by Ken Rogers. Past and present District Officers joined the party and tributes were made and stories told.

Roy Smith, President of Uttoxeter Club explained "Ken is at the heart of our Club and as Secretary gives me and my predecessors the very best guidance. Through his many years as a member of Stone and through holding District Office he is widely known in Rotary circles. In particular as a member of the District Conference planning team in past years his influence and great enthusiasm marks him out as a special Rotarian"



Ken added: "This was an afternoon of nostalgia and great Rotary fellowship. It was wonderful to meet so many old friends and exchange reminiscences. I had a great time!"

Martin's paddling raises £2,000

On a sunny day in mid September Martin Kettrick from Blythe Bridge Rotary paddled 12.5 miles in Tittersworth Reservoir.

It was very cold and tiring for Martin but he was supported by Rotarians, friends and 2 local charities - Royal Marines Association and Green Door.

Martin raised £1,600 for Green Door and £400 for the local Royal Marines Association. Green Door is a charity situated at Westport Lake Tunstall. They provide fully adapted cycle hire, canoeing, kayaking and archery. They also offer many other activities to help combat loneliness and isolation.



Samaritans opens 'new and improved' shop

A charity has received a 'lift' with the opening of its new shop in Telford. Wellington's Samaritans branch has relocated from King Street to Crown Street, and an official opening event was held on October 31.

Councillor Dorothy Roberts, the deputy mayor of Wellington, officially opened the new shop which has more space to display and sell donations as well as a newly installed lift which has improved the accessibility of the premises.

A spokesperson for Telford Samaritans said they were delighted to open after an "exciting relocation. The new space has improved access and the facilities for both volunteers and customers alike."

Rotary clubs from Ironbridge and Wellington donated part of the funds raised by the Telford Tree of Light, during Christmas 2019. These funds were put towards the costs of this move and the improvements made.

With more than 50 volunteers, Telford Samaritans has been providing emotional support from its premises on King Street, Wellington for the last 45 years.

Last year, the volunteers from Telford Samaritans spent over 3,000 hours supporting the public through the 24 hour helpline and email service.

Every day, Samaritans volunteers respond to around 10,000 calls for help. The charity has 20,000 volunteers across 201 branches throughout the UK and Ireland and are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for anyone who needs support.



Rotarian Vic Young, President of Wellington Rotary in 2019, at the shop opening with a certificate acknowledging the donation from the Telford Tree of Light.

Club's PHF award

The highest award of the worldwide Rotary organisation, the Paul Harris Fellowship, has been awarded to Mrs Rene Carlisle, of Trentham, a member of the Newcastle-under-Lyme Club. She has been given the award for outstanding service to Rotary and, in particular, for her tireless work raising funds for and providing PPE equipment to local hospitals and care homes during the Covid crisis and also for working with foodbanks in the area.

Mrs Carlisle, aged 80, joined the Newcastle Club in 2014 and has served constantly on the club's various committees, all dedicated to helping local, national and international causes. She is well known by many of the local charities and was nominated as a Sentinel of the year Hero, alongside the Rotary Club of Newcastle, which was also nominated a Hero.

Rene was head of the Community Services Committee for a few years and has now taken on the chairmanship of the club's Youth Services Committee. In 2019 she was appointed the club's President. Her appointment coincided with the 90th anniversary of the club's foundation. During her year of office, the club was awarded the prestigious Rotary Silver Citation for achieving its goals to help its community in a year that was challenging for Rotarians throughout the world.

The Covid pandemic interrupted her year of service and she closed regular face to face meetings on 17 March 2020 in line with Government Covid guidelines, thinking that it would be for a short time only. The members of the club have met ever since on Zoom. Face to face meetings began again in Newcastle Golf Club from the first week in September.

Rene Carlisle was born and educated locally and for many years owner of a hairdressing salon in Newcastle and a ladies' fashion shop and hairdressing salon in Silverdale. Rene was heavily involved in local politics for over twenty years. Married with a son, a daughter and a stepson. She also has, along with husband Keith, ten grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Club president, Paul Worrall said: "We are very proud of Rene, who richly deserves the award for the amazing work she did during the early days of the Covid crisis and for her constant work for and commitment to Rotary.



Rotarian wins community award

Chris Hurst, a member of Stone Rotary Club has recently been awarded a "local Hero" award by Stafford Borough Council. Chris volunteered to take on the responsibility of environmental issues for the Parish of Barlaston, and with his passion for environmental issues he has dedicated his time to projects which benefit the village, such as repairs on the canal towpath and working on flooding issues on the village green.

He has worked alongside the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust to undertake a survey of flora and fauna and based on their recommendation has commenced environmental planting on the green and around the village to encouraging butterflies and bees. The works on the village green have been long overdue. Chris's drive and willingness to be hands on have made a significant difference to the look and feel of the village.

Rotarians raise over £6,500 for Malawian schools project by walking Hadrian's Wall

Three Church Stretton Rotarians and a Welshpool Rotarian, together with supporting friends and relatives, walked the full length of Hadrian's Wall in the hottest week of the year at the end of July to raise funds for the Mlambe Project (a charity building sustainable schools in poor Malawi villages using local materials and labour).

Despite suffering from bad blisters and dehydration, the intrepid seven can be seen at the finish point at Bowness-on-Solway having completed the 84 miles in six gruelling days.



The group were amazed by the generosity of the contributors, who helped raise over £6,500 (including Gift Aid) for the Mlambe project.

Rotarian Pat Lewis, aged 85 (seen here on the walk) had suggested it, as he had previously organised such a walk 20 years before and wanted to do it again. He planned the total walk from Wallsend near Newcastle to Bowness-on-Solway to take 6 days covering the full 84 miles.

He said after the event that, despite the heat, the walk was achieved on schedule. Everyone had fun, enjoyed the challenge and had a real sense of pride to have achieved it despite the conditions.



Left to right: Sue Akers, Tim Crosskey, Phil Owen, Patrick Lewis, Dilys Lewis, Don Lovejoy, Diana Barlow.

Student's winning design

Pupils at a Ridgeway Primary School in Burntwood have seen a new 'peace garden' installed after their creative skills impressed judges in a competition.

The Peace Pole Garden at the school was officially opened by Lily-Peta Hewitt. Her design was chosen as the winner in a competition with other local schools. The children and teachers initially thought their win meant they would have the Peace Pole installed – but there were more surprises in store.

Helen Woodward from the school said "David Henn from the local Rotary Club came to deliver the Peace Pole we had won and asked to see the garden area where the pole would be going.

"I took him down to the garden and David talked about the winning entry and how he thought it would look in our school.



"He then told us the wonderful news that not only had we won the Peace Pole, but we'd also be having the garden design actually created on our school grounds."



The idea of Peace Poles originated in Japan, following World War II. It was adopted by the World Peace Society Charity and became recognised by the UN as a one of the accepted International Symbols of Peace. The garden is a place of tranquillity for children to have time to think about their own situations and the wider environment.

Higher Education Awards

The Higher Educational Award or “Bursary”, as it is commonly known, has been running at Wellington Rotary Club since 2006. The award was designed to assist with one or a number of people moving onto Further Education following A levels. The value of the award is currently £1,200 however in 2021 the Club’s Fairbourne Fund (using funds it was unable to use in 2020 due to coronavirus restrictions) generously gave an additional £1,200.

In early Spring 2021 students at Telford College were asked to apply using strict criteria. Eight applications were received. A panel of four Rotarians scrutinised the written applications and short-listed four candidates to interview (using Zoom due to coronavirus restrictions). After interviews, the club awarded £850 to Jessica Terry, £850 to Chloe Ashfield and £700 to Mary Atuahene.

At a Club meeting, held after face-to-face meetings had been restarted, members had a chance to see and talk to the successful three students. It also gave the students an opportunity to say thank you for their awards and to find out more about Wellington Rotary.

Jessica is a carer for her mother, home-schooled until aged 14. She is going to Aberystwyth University to take a teaching degree. She intends to use her award to fund a Welsh speaking course which will enable her to teach in Wales after graduation.

Chloe has always wanted to become a paramedic from a very young age after experiencing their work at first hand. She is going to study Paramedic Science at Coventry University. Her award will be used to purchase a laptop, which she doesn’t have at present, to assist in her projects and assignments.

Mary is Ghanaian born. She achieved excellent A level results and is now going to study Medicine at Plymouth University. Her award will allow the purchase of her first ever laptop and also a stethoscope.

Each student gave a speech thanking Wellington Rotarians for their very generous awards and set out the importance of the bursary in the context of their lives.

Each promised to keep in touch letting us know how their studies progress. Rotarian Peter Williams said “I have been proud to be associated with the HEA over the last seven years and feel confident that this years recipients are all very deserving of their awards.”



The Higher Education Award recipients with Club President Tom Taylor, and two of the interview panel Rotarians Peter Williams and Moz Wright

Chloe who is going to study Paramedic Science sent this message to the club: *“I want to thank you and all the members of the Rotary club for welcoming me at the lunch yesterday! I really enjoyed myself and I’m beyond grateful for my bursary cheque, it’s going to have such a huge impact on my university experience! I will definitely keep you posted on my progress and look forward to the newsletter updates from the Rotary Club! Kind Regards, Chloe Ashfield”*

In Remembrance

Passed to higher service.

Our thoughts are with their families and friends.

George Brown (Whitchurch)
Yvonne Burke (Newcastle)
Barry Conway (Kidsgrove)
Colin Cundy (City of Wolverhampton)
Dr Amar Das Gupta (Wednesfield)
Brian Fellows (City of Wolverhampton)
Adam Green (Shrewsbury Darwin)
David Griffin (Newport Lite)
Charlie MacIntyre, (Church Stretton)
Maurice Partington (Cannock)
Barry Rhodes (Walsall)
Peter Rolfe (Newcastle)

Town helped to get in a frenzy

Hundreds of people have enjoyed Newport's famous Food Frenzy – aided by the practical support of Newport Rotary Lite.

The annual event had to be postponed last year, and was one of the first large scale events in Newport since the pandemic. Over 50 traders took part, many of whom sold out of stock during the day, and many people enjoyed the catering marquee and lively demonstrations. Shrewsbury Morris Dancers provided entertainment.

The event was organised by the Newport Town Team. Newport Rotary Lite helped with organisation and provided experienced marshals. The Police thanked them for their professionalism, and Town Team spokesperson Mike Atherton described Lite's practical support as "invaluable".

Newport Rotary Lite President Phil Knight said "It was great to see this excellent event back in Newport, the town was absolutely thronged with people and there was a great atmosphere. What we did was help ensure the event and everyone enjoying it were safe. It was also a great opportunity for us to chat to people and show Rotary in action – I think it's often the quiet things that Rotary does that makes a difference. We talked to people from as far away as Ludlow and Wolverhampton, so hopefully we quietly made a difference to a brilliant event. We're looking forward to next year!"



Newport Rotary Lite provided cheerful and professional marshals for Newport's excellent Food Frenzy

Garden planters donated to school

On the 20th of October, Telford Centre Rotary President David Brown, met up with Sally Sixsmith, Head Teacher of St. Georges Primary School in St Georges, Telford to present eight outdoor garden planters to the school, paid for by the Club. The project was organised by Rotarian David Edwards in consultation with the school. DRM Aggregates delivered and donated the topsoil and aggregate on the day.

The planters were gratefully received by the school. The Head said "They will help the children in each year group to continue striving towards our school values of respect, friendship, happiness, honesty, responsibility and kindness through growing. They will not only enable the children to work as a team to create an end goal but to enjoy being outdoors, connecting with nature – which we know is important for their health and wellbeing.

"Growing flowers or vegetables teaches the children many things – from being responsible in looking after what they are growing to being patient while it grows – growing is a great cross curricular project that engages the children in learning with a hands-on approach. As well as all of the above, the children will feel a sense of pride when they see how their planters have brightened up the surroundings at St. George's school."

Millie and Jake Sixsmith, pupils at the school, moved the first two spade full of soil into one of the Planters. All school pupils and staff will be involved in completing the planters over the coming months.



Pupils Millie and Jake Sixsmith with (left to right): Fiona Bennett of DRM, Sally Sixsmith - Head Teacher, Pres. David Brown, Rtn. David Edwards and Chris Davies from DRM.

Club Contacts

District 1210

The information listed below gives the name and location of clubs, the days of the week they meets, whether (E) evening, (L) lunch or (B) breakfast, 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/site/audleyrotaryclub

BILSTON & W'TON WEST*

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

BLOXWICH PHOENIX

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

BLYTHE BRIDGE & DISTRICT*

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

BREWOD & DISTRICT*

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

BRIDGNORTH

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

BROWNHILLS*

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

BURNTWOOD & DISTRICT*

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

BURSLEM*

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

CANNOCK*

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

CHEADLE*

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

CHURCH STRETTON

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

DARLASTON*

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

DUDLEY*

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

ECCLESHALL MERCIA*

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

ELLESMERE

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

ETRURIA*

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

IRONBRIDGE

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

KIDSGROVE*

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

LEEK*

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

LUDLOW

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

MERCIA AND THE MARCHES

Tel: 07761 928111

NEWCASTLE-under-LYME

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

NEWPORT*

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

NEWPORT (SHROPS) LITE

1st Tuesday (E) 7:00 for 7:30pm
Tel: 07913 289937
newportrotarylite.org.uk

RUGELEY*

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

SEDGLEY & WOMBOURNE

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

SHREWSBURY

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

SHREWSBURY DARWIN

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

SHREWSBURY SEVERN*

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

SIX TOWNS (STOKE-ON-TRENT)

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

STAFFORD

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

STAFFORD CASTLE*

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

STAFFORD KNOT

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

STOKE on TRENT*

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

STONE & DISTRICT*

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

TELFORD CENTRE*

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

TETTENHALL*

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

TUNSTALL*

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

UTTOXETER*

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

WALSALL

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

WALSALL SADDLERS

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

WEDNESBURY*

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

WEDNESFIELD*

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

WELLINGTON

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

WEM & DISTRICT*

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

WHITCHURCH

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

WILLENHALL

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

WOLSTANTON*

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

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON*

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

THE WREKIN

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

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