

# the **ROTO**

**ISSUE 31** SPRING/SUMMER 2022

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



## Rotary 1210 pulls out all the stops to help suffering Ukraine people.

Rotarians across the West Midlands, Staffordshire and Shropshire have sent more than the equivalent of \$40,000 and essential items out to Ukraine in support of the people still living there, and to areas such as Poland where refugees have fled to safety.

Charities set up to enable people to contribute include the Rotary Foundation Disaster Response Fund, the Red Cross, Rotary Great Britain & Ireland, ShelterBox, Rotary in Poland, Refugees in Moldova, Stafford and District Polish Association, Rotary in Romania.

Many essential items have been collected and sent over. Strong links have been formed with Rotarians in Ukraine, Poland and in other countries where refugees are now living.

Items sent include maternity kits, food, toiletries and many other urgent items. The clubs in District 1210 have shown they can all pull together for a crisis and are applauded for their incredible ongoing work to help the Ukrainian people.



## Bakery product company helps with the provision of Buddy Benches

With support from a Warburtons' Grant Wednesfield Rotary supplied another Buddy Bench to St John's Primary Academy in Essington. Members were happy to see the children loving the bench.

## Concert gets a standing ovation

A Whitchurch audience gave a standing ovation at the close of a two-hour music concert in aid of local Rotary and Inner Wheel support for cancer charities. Viral Internet sensations 'Cor Bach', supported by two of the town's most talented young musicians, performed to raise nearly £2,400 towards prostate testing and breast cancer initiatives.

The acapella 'CoZr Bach' singers worked through a wide selection of musical styles after opening with Queen's 'Crazy Little Thing Called Love'. There were close harmony versions of pop hits from Elton John, Billy Joel, Seal, Electric Light Orchestra and the Beatles, to sea shanties and Disney film classics from 'The Lion King' and 'The Little Mermaid'.



Guest flautist Oliver Smith added a selection that bridged classical Handel with modern film score maestro Ennio Morricone, and saxophonist Oliver Pritchard Jones' programme included Dave Brubeck's signature jazz instrumental 'Take Five'.

The audience of 200 at St Alkmund's Church were thanked by Rotary and Inner Wheel for being part of 'wonderful support from a great little town'.

"All the artists performed free of charge for our two highest priority campaigns," said presidents Dave Simcock and Clair Schafer. "Prostate cancer attacks men. Breast cancer attacks women. So we're all at risk."

## Debating Competition

Cannock Rotary held their club public speaking and debating competition 'Youth Speaks' at Cannock Chase High School in January.

This year due to ongoing Covid restrictions the number of entries was lower than previous years, however the quality of the debating skills of the students was first class.

The competition was judged by an independent panel chaired by Martin Thornley the chief executive of the Stafford and Cannock League of Hospital Friends, Lisa Bramwell, Senior Lecturer in Teacher Training, Wolverhampton University and Elizabeth Partington.

This year's winning team was from Cannock Chase High School. The team of Mollie Stevenson, Vivienne Palmer and Vipua Mbai debated the challenging topic of Euthanasia.

This year the club introduced a new award for the best speaker at the competition (the 'Maurice Partington Cup') plus a monetary prize going to the school they attend. Maurice Partington was a highly respected and long serving Rotarian who sadly passed away last year. The award is sponsored by his widow Elizabeth in memory of her husband who had supported the 'Youth Speaks' event for many years. The first ever winner of the Maurice Partington Cup was Vivienne Palmer.



## Rotary District Young Chef Final

The district's Young Chef final (the only district final to be held in Rotary International region 19) was held at Stafford College at the beginning of March. Candidates had two hours to prepare a three-course healthy meal (starter, main course, and desert) for two people costing less than £20. Only eight candidates took part in the cook off at the college.

The clubs that entered candidates were Newport Rotary Lite (2); Stafford (1); Stafford Castle (1); Stafford Knot (1); Dudley (2) and Ellesmere (1). The candidates ages ranged from 13-15 years old.



Stafford College once again were very generous with their welcome and hospitality and provided the venue and facilities free of charge. Tom Harrison and two colleagues from the college acted as adjudicators marking both the working practices, preparation, presentation, and taste of the various dishes.

The number of parents, family members and Rotarians who attended to support these young people was very pleasing and it was good for all the adults to get to know more about Rotary and those involved locally.

All the candidates received a certificate of participation from Robyn Davies (District Governor) along with a copy of the latest cookbook from the Hairy Bikers entitled The Hairy Bikers' Everyday Winners.

The winner was Jennifer Tsakoeva (pictured above), aged 14 years, from Weston Road Academy in Stafford who was sponsored by Stafford Rotary. She received the Winner's Certificate and trophy from Robyn Davies.

The Runner Up was Neha Gurung (pictured right), aged 15 years, also from Weston Road Academy in Stafford and sponsored by Stafford Castle Rotary. She received a Runners Up certificate and trophy from the District Governor.



## Lives will be saved by Steve's Trig Point Challenge

Two Whitchurch Rotarians have hung up their walking boots after a 12-month fundraising project that can now continue to save countless more lives.

On New Year's Day 2021 Steve Chisholm and his wife Christine Collen set out to visit Shropshire's 96 trig points.

And on 30 December they finished the year having climbed 71 of them and raised more than £8,300 for the club's 'Lifeline' service - a home call system that enables elderly and vulnerable people to summon emergency help when they need it.



"It has been an interesting year, and one we will never forget," says Steve. "We've been to remote parts of the county that we otherwise might never have seen and the scenery, for the most part, has been fabulous. Although some of the walks were hard, it's been an amazing experience for so many different reasons and the satisfaction has far outweighed the sore feet and aching legs."

Trig points are a nationwide network of stone pillars that have made it possible to measure and map the UK landscape since they were first set up in 1936.

Steve has been fascinated by their history and use since he was at school – so tracking down the surviving Shropshire features became a personal challenge for him and Christine.

Covid restrictions stopped them reaching the county's total of 96 trig points. But five of the stone pillars could not be traced – which means the couple were only 15 short of their target. Others were difficult to find covered by hedges, overgrown by gorse, hidden behind fences or simply moved from their original sites.

The cross country routes have stretched hundreds of miles including the Stiperstones, the Wrekin and Offa's Dyke, while following a trail of local history - from the Cantlin Stone, which marks the 1691 death of a pedlar close to the Kerry Ridgway, to the 'Nanny Murphy' legend of Mary Yates who walked from her home in Lizard Common to London shortly after the Great Fire of 1666.

The 'Trig Point Challenge' will help fund Rotary's 'Lifeline' service. Since it was launched in 1993 the club has put more than 180 units into homes throughout Whitchurch and the surrounding area. They connect to telephone lines and enable elderly and vulnerable residents to alert a call centre and summon help in an emergency.

## Young Writer Competition winner

The Winner of Wellington Rotary's Young Writer competition, Grace Delahay aged 11, attended a meeting of the club to read her entry.

Grace composed a Rap/Poem on an environmental theme entitled "Group Together". Grace is a pupil in Year 6 at St. Peter's Academy, Bratton.

Grace's entry was entered into the District Competition which she also won.

The photograph shows the club's Community/Youth and Vocational Chair Peter Williams with Grace having received her certificate.



## Lend with Care continues to provide an opportunity to help people around the world

Ralph Cooke, as Stafford Rotary's lead for its microfinance project has once again been busy reinvesting the money that has been repaid to the Club by the entrepreneurs the club previously made loans to.

The statistics on the project are quite staggering. The club has made 132 loans totalling £5,091, which has created 375 jobs, helped 453 entrepreneurs and, as a result, helped 1,548 family members and 2,376 people.

One of our latest loans is to Mrs Dang (pictured right). Mrs Dang lives with her family in Cam Thuy District, a mountainous area of Thanh Hoa province, Vietnam. She is married with two children, one in college and one in school.

Mrs Dang is a tailor, and her husband runs a small shop selling building materials. Besides her work, she also grows vegetables, and raises chickens and ducks for her family to eat. Her family's main income comes from her husband's business, and as the economy in the region is growing they are planning to expand their shop, selling more building materials. Their total loan is for £1,455, with Stafford Rotary contributing £45 which should be repaid in 13 months.



Liba Leonor (pictured left) is 69 years old, and lives with her husband in the Huaquer sector of the Mira Canton in Ecuador. She has been growing avocado and beans twice a year on her own land, and sells her produce to local merchants, and in the markets in the area.

Liba's total loan is £1,665, and the Club loaned £45 which will be repaid over 18 months. With the loan, Liba plans to hire 60 people to work for a day in the cultivation of beans and blackberries and to purchase fertiliser and other agricultural items.

Nazia Bibi (pictured right) is 37, and lives with her husband and four children in Kasur, Pakistan. Three of their children are in education and the other is an infant. Nazia has been making shoe uppers to contribute towards the family's household expenses for the past four years. She sells the shoe uppers to shoe makers in her area and her monthly income is £49.

Nazia has applied for a loan to purchase Rexene and thread, which will increase her production, and also increase her monthly income so that her family can live a better life.

The Club has loaned £45 of the £163 requested which will be repaid over 15 months.



Farmers from under-developed countries are being supported by Shrewsbury Severn Rotary which made a further ten loans each of £60 to entrepreneurs in the farming industries of Cambodia, Zambia, Vietnam, Rwanda and Ecuador.

Shrewsbury Severn's international chair Chris Allsop said "Supporting farmers in this way helps them to start long-term sustainable projects for the benefit of themselves, their families and local community."

## New Laundry in Ethiopia

City of Wolverhampton club President Richard Green has just completed another assignment, serving as Rotary Foundation Cadre Technical advisor on a \$104,000 Global Grant project to construct and equip a new laundry for the perinatal/ maternity wing of the Gondar University Hospital in war-torn Ethiopia. Working in partnership with Rotary clubs in Del Mar near San Diego, California USA and the local club, Gondar Fasilides, a commercial sized washing machine, dryer, water purifier and autoclave in the new building were provided. Another vital member of the team was architect Rotarian cadre member Ron Pickford from Australia.



The hospital maternity staff were under severe difficulties because of the unrest in their country; virtual meetings and site inspections were often difficult to arrange.

A truly international team effort made possible by funding from the Rotary Foundation together with the goodwill of a large number of Rotarians across the world. Photos show the laundry facilities before the new construction (above) and the first laundry load going through the new laundry (left).

## Foodbank support passes a milestone

Wellington Rotary is a supporter of the foodbank in Telford. Club members started collecting food and toiletries each month in September 2018 after a presentation by Erin Aston from the foodbank. She shocked members as to the local level of need. These donations grew significantly over time so that more than 3,000kg in total was donated prior to the pandemic plus some £500 in cash.

When lockdown came along in March 2020, members wanted to continue support so instead made donations into the club's benevolent fund to be used to support the foodbank. By the end of December 2021, the club's highest ever monthly cheque of £756 took the total donated by members since the first cash donation at the end of March 2020 to over £10,000.



Simon Lellow, Operations Manager at the Foodbank said "Telford Crisis Support wishes to express our thanks and gratitude for the generous ongoing support received from members of Wellington Rotary; the regular monthly cash support has made a real difference to individuals and families across the borough who have found themselves in need of a helping hand."

He added, "The cumulative donation of £10,018.50 received over the period March 2020 to December 2021 from the Rotary club has assisted Telford Crisis Support in providing much needed support to many in our communities. Acts of generosity such as this from Wellington Rotary Club are integral for us (the Foodbank) to continue to do what we do."

## District Governor is nearly “past it”, she says !!

We are all planing for summer, and Rotary is also planning ahead for the incoming Rotary year. District Assemblies are nearly done and Clubs and members are looking forward. Having said this there are still many events taking place.

We have all been totally shocked by the sudden events in Ukraine and members have all responded in the usual amazing Rotary way. I have had responses from half the clubs in the District and can say that nearly £50K has been sent to various charities and Rotary in eastern Europe and this does not include the enormous amount of medical supplies, food and clothing which has been collected and shipped. I have also not included in this the funds which are being held by clubs to be used later when more information is available on how we can support specific projects in the future.

We have been able to hold two face to face District Finals in Rotary’s youth competitions. The Young Chef final was organised by Martyn Dean of the Newport Lite Rotary and held at Stafford College. The smells coming from the kitchens were wonderful (My cheese and pickle sandwiches were a bit of a let down). The Young Musician competition final organised by Trevor Davies of Wrekin Rotary, was held at Wrekin College and the standard was absolutely incredible. Six instrumentalists and four singers performed and gave us all a wonderful afternoon concert. As well as these two competitions there have been entries into the Young Artist, Environmentalist, Writer and Photographer competitions. The results of these will be announced shortly. This gives us the inspiration to work towards all the youth competitions next year.

Three clubs in our district have celebrated centenaries, Dudley, Walsall and City of Wolverhampton. All three clubs are thriving and have new members. Whilst they have had the opportunity to celebrate and look back on their successes, we all must look forward and support new clubs some of which ay be a different style of Club. Two new Clubs have been chartered this year, the International E-Club of District 1210 and Market Drayton Rotary.

Membership is of concern to everyone and without new members continually joining, Rotary will slowly fade. I have heard too many times “Why are you not a Rotarian?” the answer comes back “Because I have not been asked”. Please talk to your friends and family and ask them to join.

As I come near to being “past it” may I wish Steve Antill and his team every success for the coming year. There are many challenges to face but I know that these will be very ably addressed.

Rotary Peace and friendship to everyone

*Robyn*



**District Governor Robyn in action helping create a new pond at Southall School in Telford**

## Volunteering with Street Children in Zambia

Eccleshall Rotarian Sylvia Keris, who is an Ambassador for the charity The Buddy Bag Foundation (which helps children in the UK taken away from domestic abuse into safety, with a backpack of essential items) has been given a place on a team of volunteers going with the charity Mission Direct, on a two week project to Zambia, in the Autumn of this year.

The charity will be working with their established long term project partners in the country, who help children living on the streets of Lusaka - many of whom will have fled from domestic abuse, or whose family can no longer afford to keep them, or because of their disabilities. The team will be helping these vulnerable children, at risk of further abuse, trafficking, in need of medical care, and some teenage girls who have babies with them on the streets.

Each volunteer on the team has to raise £2,000 for their place on the team, and Sylvia had already raised half this amount by early 2020, the original date of her overseas project, before Covid postponed all travel. Sylvia previously volunteered with the charity in Sierra Leone.

Mission Direct has now cautiously begun, post Covid restrictions, taking project teams to a limited number of countries, and a Zambia Development Aid project is now rescheduled for the autumn.

Sylvia has begun selling tickets in her Grand Raffle draw again, to raise funds for the project work and donate aid items to the organisations working with the street children. The raffle draw will be in mid-August, with tickets selling at £1 each.

Local businesses have generously donated prizes including vouchers for meals at London House Restaurant, The Smithy and The Royal Oak. There are also family entrance tickets to Gentleshaw Wildlife Centre, tickets for Eccleshall Community Cinema, Holistic therapy, Print by Stone Artist Craig Sumner, a History of Stafford illustrated reference book, and family board games.

Sylvia will be outside the Co-op store in Eccleshall selling raffle tickets on a number of occasions, beginning on Friday 1st July. Alternatively you can phone her for tickets on 01785 851005.

Sylvia is also happy to give illustrated talks to groups such as Rotary, WI, churches or any other local organisations on her international aid project work - either before or on her return from Zambia trip - in return for a donation towards the Zambia project.



**Sylvia on a previous trip to Zambia in 2012 when she was helping local builders working to create a school in the Ndola region of Zambia**

*In Remembrance*

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



**Laiage Bown (Shrewsbury)**  
**Stephen Bunting (Shrewsbury Darwin)**  
**Joe Cartwright (Newcastle-under-Lyme)**  
**Alun Davies (Stafford Castle)**  
**Robert Dean (Blythe Bridge and District)**  
**Gordon Duncan (Shrewsbury Severn)**  
**Clive Hinwood (Wellington)**  
**Roderick Jones (City of Wolverhampton)**  
**Barrie Kelsall (Shrewsbury)**  
**Patrick Lewis (Church Stretton)**  
**Colin Millhouse (Leek)**  
**Ken Rogers (Uttoxeter)**  
**Graham Rowley (Sedgley and Wombourne)**  
**Scott Walker (Wellington)**





## Support for The Buddy Bag Foundation

Crafters in Burslem Rotary and friends of Rotary have been busy sewing, knitting and crocheting. Past President and Chair of Community Service, Christine Colaluca has been sewing a large batch of washbags (100 at last count!) using applique to decorate them to make the bags as individual as each child supported by the Buddy Bag Foundation. The Buddy Bag Foundation supports children who are suddenly displaced and have nothing with them when they are taken to a place of safety.

This project is ongoing and is well-supported by other members of Burslem Rotary. A friend of Burslem Rotary, Mrs Miriam Owens (mum of PP Dave Owens) knitted the most adorable teddy bears, and PP Seema Kazmi (chair of International ) spent some time crocheting brightly-coloured Teddinas during the winter. This is an ongoing project which the whole club has supported in different ways since we met John Wilson, a Rotarian and one of the ambassadors for the Buddy Bag Foundation.

## Classic Cars visit

Gathering in a showroom where valuable cars were on display members of Wellington Rotary, together with friends shared coffee and cakes prior to a tour of Classic Motor Cars [CMC] in Bridgnorth.

The company focuses on classic car restoration, preservation and conservation having a particular affinity for Jaguar.

The company's website says "Our team have restored and maintained some of Jaguar's most important road and race cars over the years. Our 'all under one roof philosophy' gives us total quality control. From paint and panel, to trim, engine builds and all other mechanical and electrical work, virtually all the work we carry out is done on site".

CMC is an employee ownership trust, and consequently every member of staff is effectively a shareholder in the business.

The group moved on for a very interesting tour taking in all of the stages of a full scale restoration of those cars we would all love to own. There was also an opportunity to view many of the classic cars they hold in store on behalf of customers.

Members then moved on to the Down Inn to enjoy fellowship combined with a carvery lunch.



## Ken Rogers- a special Rotarian



Rotarians in Uttoxeter and Stone are mourning the death of Rotarian Ken Rogers who died in April after a period of deteriorating health. Ken was Secretary of Uttoxeter until very recently having previously given many years service in Stone as both President and Secretary. He had also held District Office.

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



Ken was also passionate about RYLA and was always as fully involved as possible. He was very willing to use his extensive IT skills to support other Clubs, particularly most recently with Zoom technology.

With his health in decline, the Uttoxeter Club decided to hold a special Celebration Lunch in his honour and to celebrate his 40 years as a Rotarian last October. This was attended by over fifty Rotarians and friends including current and past District Governors. Ken was very much at the centre of the event and had a wonderful time. He commented afterwards that it ‘was great to be at your own wake!’

President Roy concludes: “Ken was both a special man and a great Rotarian. He earned both his PHF award with Stone and a further Sapphire award in Uttoxeter, a tangible recognition of his great contribution to both Clubs, He will be greatly missed.”



## Support for college awards

Shrewsbury Severn Rotary has agreed to support the Shrewsbury Colleges Group Star Awards which recognise student achievements, often gained under difficult personal circumstances.

The event will take place at Shrewsbury College’s London Road site on June 30 and Shrewsbury Severn Rotary Club will donate £250. A club representative will also attend the awards.

# Club splits its Tree of Light money between two organisations

In February, Ellesmere Rotary distributed the proceeds of its Tree of Light Appeal 2021. The total collected from the generous people of Ellesmere amounted to £1,640. This amount was split equally between the Ellesmere Carnival Committee, to help with the costs of the 2022 Carnival, and the Oswestry and Borders branch of the Trussell Trust Food Bank, which covers the needs of the Ellesmere area as a party of its remit.



**President Derek Clifford with Paige Roberts-Thomas, Pearl Allum and Mandy Roberts of the Carnival Committee**

demand is unrelenting. Cash donations enable the Trust to directly purchase trade services or domestic appliances when needed, as well as allowing flexibility in the issuing of dedicated product and food vouchers to users that can be exchanged at local butchers or supermarket stores etc. Tree of Light co-ordinator, Bob McBride, said “Ellesmere Rotary is very grateful to the good-hearted people of Ellesmere, who have used the Tree of Light as a conduit for supporting our community life so generously. From the People for the People”.

Club President Derek Clifford presented the donations to Pearl Allum of the Carnival Committee and to Liz Jermy, project manager at Oswestry and Borders Food Bank. Pearl explained to members that fund raising during the pandemic had been very difficult and the Rotary donation would go a long way towards covering the resultant shortfall in meeting the costs of staging the Carnival in the summer. Liz informed members about the extensive geographical area that her branch is responsible for (including parts of Powys, Wrexham and through Shropshire as far as Burlton) and the pressures of increased Food Bank use in our area as a result of the pandemic. The services that the Trussell Trust provide to the needy are a myriad, and the



**President Derek Clifford with Liz Jermy**

# Rotary goes ‘Batty’ in a local park

Uttoxeter Rotary has recently funded the provision of 20 new Bat boxes and their erection in Bramshall Road Park in the town.

The project in conjunction with the Friends of Bramshall Park will support the natural habitat for these endangered mammals.

Rotarian Anita Thomas-Epple, the Club’s Environmental Officer said “This project fits perfectly with Rotary International’s environmental focus and our own local biodiversity plans.

“We were pleased to be able to respond with the funds when approached by Carolyn Green, one of the Friends of Bramshall Road Park.”

It is hoped that the boxes will attract further numbers of bats and enhance this important and popular local resource.



## Tommy's Weight Loss Challenge

Bank Holiday Monday 3rd January was the official launch of Tommy's Weight Loss Challenge at the Mayfair Centre Church Stretton.

Tommy Conlon has set himself the challenge of losing ten stones during 2022. Standing on the scales in the Mayfair Centre he weighed in at 31 stones 9 pounds. So the clock has started and the money is already rolling in for the charities he is supporting, Little Rascals and Rotary Charities.

Since Tommy's Challenge was first announced he has had terrific support from many people including Dave Edwards, a Shrewsbury Town Footballer, who is helping with his exercise routines, Natalie Hughes from Little Rascals, Amanda Bebbington, a Personal Trainer and all the members of Church Stretton club, of which Tommy is a member. Van Doesburgs Deli and the Holly Bush Cafe are providing Tommy with subsidised nutritional lunches to help keep him on track – no more packets of crisps Tommy!

If you want to support Tommy his website is [tommysweightloss2022.com](http://tommysweightloss2022.com) where you can donate through Just Giving.



## 'Reverse Advent Calendar' helps to feed Whitchurch

As millions of people took things out of advent calendars, in December 2021, Whitchurch Rotary Club was doing the opposite. Members and supporters were putting things in.

They had their own 'advent calendar' appeal that collected food items for each day of the month. And the donations, weighing in at nearly 170 kilograms, have were handed over, along with a cash gift, to Whitchurch Food Bank.

"We were looking for a finale to what has been a successful programme of Christmas fundraising events," said organiser Maggie Allen, "and this idea proved to be a good way of ending another difficult year for the town."

The project came with a special tribute to the Whitchurch community that has turned December 2021 into a record-breaker for the Rotary Club's Christmas fundraising. The 21-day annual tour by Rotary volunteers who took Santa's illuminated musical float around the town and surrounding areas raised a 'best-ever' figure of more than £9,000. Dedications on the 'Tree of Life' added nearly £1,500 and beat last year's surprise total.

It was, said club president Dave Simcock, "a tremendous and big-hearted response that will help fund the community projects we are already planning for 2022. We owe the town a big 'thank you' for supporting our work so generously."

Dave also added personal praise for the Rotarians and friends who gave up their Christmas Eve and Christmas morning to prepare, cook and deliver 116 meals to the town's elderly or disabled residents who were less able to make arrangements for themselves.



**From left: Graham King, Mike Nimmo and Maggie Allen from Whitchurch Rotary Club deliver the 'reverse advent calendar' food boxes to Tony Livesey at the Food Bank.**

# Does District Serve a Useful Purpose?

Each year the President of Rotary GB&I visits our District for a couple of days. In 2015/16 the then President Peter Davey included a visit to the Rotary Club of Dudley to see a project the Club was supporting. At that time there were discussions taking place at Rotary HQ as to whether RIBI (as it then was) should continue to exist.

Delegates at the 1922 Rotary Convention in Los Angeles changed the RI Constitution to make provisions for national or territorial units that would operate as administrative units of Rotary International. Five years later the constitution was again changed to stop the creation of further territorial units but allowed existing units to remain. In fact, there was only one - Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland (RIBI). In the rest of the world Districts deal directly with Rotary International in Evanston.

During his visit, Peter Davey asked Dudley's President whether the club's members thought that RIBI served any useful purpose. The quick reply was that Dudley club members even wondered if District served a useful purpose! Whilst this was intended to be a joke it does reflect the views of some Rotarians.

When I joined Rotary the only thing I knew about District Rotary was that the District Governor visited clubs once a year. I had not been a member long before Rotarians from other clubs appeared and I was told that there was a meeting of the 'Zone'. What is that I asked? Something to avoid like the plague was the reply. I did until I became President. The second day of my Presidency saw me visiting the Rotary Club of Walsall Sadlers when my friend Paul Daniels was made President. Talking to Ashley Gray at the bar, as one does, led to a discussion about Matching Grants (the previous manifestation of Global Grants). In due course with Ashley's help major funding was received.

I was also given a great deal of help by Past District Governor Richard Green amongst others. Richard had been the District Foundation officer when The Rotary Foundation ceased to directly fund Group Study Exchanges. He had been asked to look for an alternative and came up with the concept of the Vocational Study Exchange (VSE). Dudley has long standing links with a club in Brittany and Richard asked me if we could use that link to set up a pilot exchange. I was invited to join the newly formed VSE committee – a subcommittee of Vocational Services. I joined and have never regretted it.

Of course, this was not my first brush with District. That came a couple of months before I became Club President when I attended the President Elect Briefing Session (in those days we were 'briefed' rather than 'trained'). There I learned of the District structure parallel to that in clubs. I met enthusiastic Rotarians and learned so much more about Rotary.

In due course I took over the chairmanship of Vocation and VSE. In July 2020, I started my first year as an Assistant Governor. As a result, I have visited many clubs throughout the District, both urban and country, large and small, old style and new. I have joined their meetings, social and fund-raising events and generally widened my Rotary experience. Is my pleasure a justification for District? Of course, not but it has made me appreciate that there is a lot that we do which would not be possible without it.

No club would have the contacts within and outside of Rotary to run the VSE. Participants get cultural as well as vocational experience such as visiting Museums as far apart as the Potteries, Ironbridge and the Black Country. Funding of projects by the Rotary Foundation would be cumbersome and impossible to run without a local area administration and how would we manage to wonderful Youth projects such as Rotary Youth Leadership Awards and the youth competitions. Who would co-ordinate disaster appeals?

The answer to the headline question has to be Yes it does serve a useful purpose. It also gives you as Rotarians the chance to broaden your experience. Even if you are new to Rotary, you could make a contribution by joining one of the committees (contact details are in the Handbook published monthly). If you are experienced then put something back by becoming an Assistant Governor. Talk to your club's current AG to find out more. The District can only function if Rotarians participate.

Graham Dean

# Centenary Year Celebrations

Knowing that Walsall Rotary was approaching its centenary year, the club started to develop plans early for events to mark the occasion. Members began by identifying two key dates - 5 October 1921 (when the inaugural dinner was held) and 1 June 1922 (the date of the club's charter).

A Celebratory Dinner was originally planned for 1 October 2021, but had to be deferred twice, because of Covid. It was eventually held on 10 May 2022, with the guest of honour being David Ellis, Chair of Rotary Great Britain & Ireland. It was attended by over 100 Rotarians, spouses and friends, from a number of Clubs. The District Governor, Robyn Davies, was also present.

On the anniversary of the inaugural dinner, 5 October 2021, a special online "Zoom" meeting to mark the Anniversary of the Inaugural Dinner was held, "attended" by many Rotarians from the UK and other countries. Ahead of this meeting club members planted a commemorative tree and placed a bench in Walsall Arboretum.

The club set two "Centenary Challenges" - virtual walks over 100 days, sponsored to raise money for Rotary Foundation, other Charities, and Ukraine. The club has raised, about £14,000 in the process.

A Service of Thanksgiving at Walsall Parish Church on 1 June 2022, the anniversary of the Charter, was led by Rotarian the Revd Jim Trood, a club member. This embraced all faiths and denominations. Representatives of the Methodist Church and the Hindu Community were present. Attended by over 40 people, including some members of other Clubs. President Mukunda read out a short history of the Club.

An event to mark the end of the Centenary Year is a Garden Party to be held on 24 June at the home of one of the club's members.

Following the creation of Rotary in Chicago in 1905, the concept quickly spread across the United States. The idea arrived in the British Isles in 1911, with the formation of clubs in Dublin and London. A club was chartered in Birmingham in 1914.

Following the first World War, the Rotary Club of Birmingham encouraged the formation of new clubs around the Midlands, and one of the first was in Walsall. On 5 October 1921, an inaugural dinner was held in a town centre restaurant, presided over by the Birmingham Club (see opposite). It was unanimously agreed to form a Rotary Club of Walsall. Over 40 men - it was men only in those days, of course - were inducted as Rotarians. The Club's Charter was granted by Rotary International on 1 June.

Since 1921, the Walsall Club has "spawned" eight Daughter Clubs, and seven Granddaughter Clubs in the wider Walsall area, and also an E - Club, an international Club that meets only online, and involves members from a number of different countries. It was one of the first in the area to admit female members after the rule change, and now has a number of lady members.

The Walsall Club has been successful over the years in a wide range of projects for local and international worthy causes, raising several hundred thousand pounds in the process.

Even in times of declining membership in voluntary organisations, the Club has maintained a healthy membership, currently standing at 45.





**"SERVICE, NOT SELF."**

**Rotary Movement's High Ideal for Business Men.**

**INAUGURAL DINNER OF LOCAL CLUB.**

"Service, not self," sums up the altruistic ideal of the Rotary movement as explained to a representative gathering of local and professional men, held in the Oak Room of the Picture House on Wednesday evening. It was the inaugural dinner and meeting of the Walsall Rotary Club, and was attended by several of those who are prominently connected with the Birmingham Club, and who have assisted in the formation of the local organisation, including Mr. C. A. Smith (ex-president), who took the chair, Messrs. A. L. Mathison (president), F. R. O'Shaughnessy (secretary), and W. Unite Jones (editor of the official organ, "Rotaria").



Mr. A. W. HUTTON.

Explaining the object of the rotary movement, Mr. Smith said it was possible for a man to put into his business something that was not perhaps absolutely essential to it—soul, something of himself; to inculcate good relationships with employees, customers, and other business men, and to establish confidence in his character and integrity. There were many movements on foot for giving a wider outlook and for taking men out of their ordinary occupations. Rotary, on the other hand, showed that those occupations were means of serving society. It was a sphere wherein they repaid to society something of the debt they owed for all the privileges they enjoyed. That was a high ideal, but people in business had to get rid of the notion that it did not matter to the rest of the world in what spirit they did their work. Trouble in the relationship between employers and employed, and between different sections of the community, had one foundation—lack of confidence and trust. The great system of industrialism had tended more and more to destroy the confidence between men which existed in the Middle Ages, and to make a man more and more a competitive producer or machine. Rotary sought to emphasise the fact that the struggle for existence could be sweetened and made beautiful by the spirit in which it was carried out. In the

without the elements of competition—for membership was limited to one representative of a particular line—and as men with common aims and objects. It was hard enough in these days to make a living, and Rotary would not render it easier; but it would make it easier for a man to be a good citizen and more congenial to carry on his business.

**Ethical Principles in Business.**

Mr. W. G. Harrison seconded the resolution proposed by the Chairman, approving the formation of a Walsall Rotary Club and enrolling those present as members. He said that the ideal of service upon which the Rotary movement was based was exactly what was wanted in business to-day. It must promote good business, because confidence and good feeling between the parties were assets of the highest value in conducting to business success. They had been told business was not consistent with high ethical principles; but they found it was not only possible, but that there was an organisation existing for the purpose of promoting them.

The resolution was carried, and the following were afterwards elected as the first officers: President, Mr. A. W. Hutton; vice-president, Mr. J. C. Shannon; chairman of committee, Mr. H. P. Lavender; hon. treasurer, Mr. H. Ashmole Ashmall; hon. secretary, F. L. Bullows; Council of Management, Messrs. E. J. Brown, S. D. Reynolds, G. W. Richmond, W. H. Yates.

It was decided that meetings should be held at 1 p.m. on the first and third Fridays of each month.

Mr. Hutton, in his first address as President, said he felt he could not wish for a better way of winding up his career in Walsall than by helping to forward the Rotary movement. Those who had studied the ethical code of rotary might have thought it was somewhat idealistic; but high ideals were necessary to elevate the mind and raise the conduct of living. They must not be visionary ideals, like those of some of the Labour Party, which impelled them to propound schemes which ignored the laws of economy and nature, and which would only be workable if we were freed from the deficiencies of human nature. It must be the practical idealism of the golfer who had constantly before him the "bogey" of the course and was always trying to get as near to it as possible. He was not one of those who had a low estimate of the ethical standard of business. There were people who believed it was impossible to be successful in business, and at the same time to be honest and truthful; but Rotary's object was to make it possible, or easier.

After an address by Mr. O'Shaughnessy, the Birmingham Club members were cordially thanked, on the proposition of Mr. Lavender, for their help and encouragement.

*Extract from the Walsall Observer October 8 1921  
Presented to  
Rotary President Roy Quinton  
by Walsall Inner Wheel President, Barbara Cattell  
October 29 2011*



# Wasting food feeds Climate Change

When you throw something in the bin, it's not just food that is going to waste, it's all the precious resources which went into making it. And each one has an impact on climate change.

70% of all food that's thrown away in the UK comes from our home, which means every single one of us has a vitally important role to play in the battle against climate change. 4.5 million tonnes of food are wasted every year which could have been eaten - enough to fill 38 million wheelie bins! With the UK throwing away food valued at £14billion, it's costing the earth in more ways than one. For the planet and for our future generations - we need to reduce how much food goes in the bin by changing our habits around food, including how we go about buying our food and paying more attention to food once it is in our homes, and the average family can save up to £720 per year by ensuring that all food in the home is eaten and not binned.

How food impacts our planet and affects climate change? - It's not the piles of rotting food in landfill that are the biggest culprit. It's all the resources that have been used to produce the food we eat at home, to get it from the farm to our tables, that are then wasted if we throw that food away. In fact, 25-30% of global carbon emissions are created by growing and producing food alone. To grow food, you need land, which can lead to deforestation. And then you've got to factor in water, energy, fertiliser, machinery, fuel for transportation - the list is endless, not forgetting the energy and time that farmers invest in our food. Food production creates more greenhouse gases than every commercial flight in the world combined.

Join the Fight against Climate Change - Help to halve food waste by 2030

The United Nations (UN) has set a goal to cut food waste by 50%. This would reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by a massive 1.5 gigatons per year, which is more than the current emissions of Japan. And it would mean we'd no longer need to convert an area the size of Argentina into agricultural land which, if we continue to consume at the rate that we do, we'll need to.

## It's beginning to look like a Bee.

After a two-year delay due to COVID, Burslem Rotary's Ford Academy Reading Caravan project is now beginning to take shape. The club was able to obtain an old caravan and get it onto the school playground just before the pandemic lock down in early 2020 but have not been able to do anything with it until earlier this year.

The caravan has been cleared out, walls relined and repairs undertaken. The club has also arranged for it to be painted inside and it's just waiting for the carpets to be laid ready for the books to be placed inside in preparation for handover.

When the caravan arrived on the school grounds the pupils were asked how would they like the caravan to look and they said 'a bit like a Bumble Bee' so that became the key to the design.

During the Rotary year 2019/20 money was allocated for the project and so after the initial purchase, we have had to wait patiently before recommencing the work. Work has continued during the current Rotary year but what has been most encouraging to members is all the club has had to provide was the materials with the work being carried out by friends of Rotarians friends, relatives and even the school staff.

The project came out of the Books4Home service which Burslem Rotary had taken into the school and which subsequently led to suggesting the Reading Caravan Project, where the children can go in their breaks during the day and do a little more reading.





Sponsors



**Fun**

# Ludlow Dog Day

**On Sunday 24th July  
Stokesay Court  
From 10.00am - 5pm**

All money raised supports our three charities.



[www.ludlowdogday.org.uk](http://www.ludlowdogday.org.uk)

Rotary Clubs of Ludlow and Church Stretton Charity no. 250736

# New group launched by planting trees in Newport, Shropshire

A new Rotary Club planted trees to mark the Platinum Anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's reign and to help mitigate climate change.

The first planting of 12 mature trees took place on February 8th, having been funded by Newport Town Council.

Although Mercia & Marches Rotary initiated discussions about the tree planting the exercise was completed in conjunction with Newport Rotary Lite and assistance from a group of community volunteers plus valuable guidance from grounds maintenance contractor idverde. All those taking part worked well together for the benefit of the community.

Councillor Peter Scott summarised the activity. "It was a pleasure to work with Newport Rotary Lite and the community volunteers yesterday. We planted 54 trees and shrubs, 10 of which I was very happy to donate to Rotary Lite to improve the vista on Dungarvan Field. My Newport Tree project to plant 1,000 trees in 5 years continues apace! We all want to do something towards the Climate Change crisis and tree planting is a positive way to do it. I look forward to assisting Rotary Lite with their further tree planting. Together we are turning Newport greener one tree at a time".

Initial discussion with Adrian Corney, Green Space Infrastructure Officer of Telford and Wrekin Council resulted in securing a plot of land on Longford Road in Newport that would enable the creation of a small copse. It was used for further planting in March by several students from the town's Burton Borough School, who were supported by Rotarians from the Newport Lite and Mercia & Marches clubs.

Rotarian Les Goodchild said he was keen to see Newport Lite working alongside Mercia & Marches to help improve the environment in Newport and especially keen to work alongside pupils from Burton Borough school. "The students were a joy to work with, their attitude and work rate was brilliant, and they really threw themselves into the planting" said Les.

Rotarians discussed environment issues with the students, and admitted they learnt as much from the students as the students learnt from them.

Jodi Beaver, Eco-coordinator at Burton Borough School said she was very appreciative of the opportunity given to the students.

She added "We are excited to be given this chance as we know it will have a great effect on the local environment in terms of improving air quality and reducing the effects of climate change.

"We thank Rotary for their help in organising the tree planting and allowing Burton Borough School to be part of Newport's mission to become even more sustainable and environmentally friendly for the future".



# Getting to know you: Rotarian Tim Joyce

## How long have you been a Rotarian?

Just over 39 years! I was only 29 when I joined.

## How were you introduced to Rotary?

My late father-in-law, Tom Ball, proposed me for membership. He was a well-respected member of the Stone and District Club, and had served them twice as President. Unfortunately, Tom passed away before I was inducted. It therefore fell upon the other members to integrate me into the Club.

## What was your vocation before retirement

I designed electrical energy meters. Whilst I was with the business, it went from being part of GEC, then ABB, then it was bought by a German energy supplier, then it belonged to two different venture capital businesses, before becoming part of Honeywell. During my time with the business, I saw 23 General Managers / MDs come and go.

## What is your district role?

I support the District Secretary by collating the data required for the District Handbook, squeezing it into an 80 page booklet – and then keeping it up-to-date as the year progresses. I also endeavour to keep up-to-date the various Group Email Address lists that the District has for distributing information to the relevant role-holder in each Club.

## What are your leisure interests?

Reading, gardening, DIY, puzzles from the weekend magazines – and sitting in front of a computer screen.

**What is your favourite food?**  
Roast Beef – preferable the nicely browned slices at each end of the joint.

## What was your first car?

A 1959/60 Morris Mini Minor. Twelve years old when I purchased it and had it towed home. Those were the days when sheet steel from biscuit tins, pop-rivets and liberal amounts of body filler did not automatically mean an MOT failure.

## What was your first record or CD?

A long time ago (1967) – it might well have been the Beatles Magical Mystery Tour EP.

## Who has been your greatest inspiration in Rotary?

Difficult to identify just one individual, but certainly up near the top of the list was the late Dr Fraser Dukes. I first met him when he was rolling out the Polioplus programme in the 1980s. Always a gentleman, always positive and inspirational, full of energy. And he kept at it for nearly 40 years.

## What is your favourite type of holiday?

With the family, somewhere scenic, but not too much walking. Plenty of good food and drink though. Much of my wanderlust was satisfied whilst working – I got sent to mainland China (twice with a 30 year interval in-between), Indonesia (including a weekend in Bali), Japan, New Zealand, Libya, South Africa (for a day), the USA, and a number of European countries.

## What do you do to relax?

Sit down and smoke a pipe or two of good tobacco.

## Name your favourite TV programme/s

Technology-based programmes such as “Vintage Voltage”, and craft-based programmes such as “Repair Shop”. I also enjoy the re-runs of “Father Brown”.



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

Isambard Kingdom Brunel – to learn how he was able to design such a wide range of things: bridges, tunnels, railways, boats, a pre-fabricated hospital ...

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

Energy! Both personal “get up and go”, and – if possible – lots of kWh of zero-cost gas and electricity.

## Is there something about life that you have never understood?

How in a non-infinite number of generations, slowly changing due to random mutations, and filtered by natural selection, we have ended up with the diverse range of species that now live on earth.

## Reveal something about yourself that might surprise us.

That my academic qualification is a Master of Arts in engineering.

# Lalage Bown - Advocate for the right for access to education and Women's Literacy

The Rotary Club of Shrewsbury remember a member of the club, Emeritus Professor Lalage Bown, OBE, who died in Shrewsbury hospital on 17 December 2021, aged 94, following a fall at home.



An advocate for women's literacy she dedicated her life's work to improving education for the disadvantaged, especially women, seeking to bring university opportunities to the widest possible sections of society. The first 30 years of her working life were spent at universities in Gold Coast (Ghana), Nigeria, Uganda and Zambia and on her return to the UK she was Professor of Adult and Continuing Education at the University of Glasgow for 11 years, retiring in 1992.

Lalage was immersed in a tradition that regarded adult education as a catalyst for significant social change. Her ideas were informed by a post-war world in which many believed that the kind of injustices suffered under colonial rule had to end. But, beyond this, in her radical way, she also saw the need to develop new inclusive, post-colonial approaches to education, including the reform of university curricula. She devoted her life to this mission, inspiring and challenging all she met, professionals and learners, across many countries in Africa and Europe.

Lalage Bown was born in Croydon on 1 April 1927, the eldest of four children; this was just one year before women gained equal voting rights with men, and a time of great change and an appropriate time for the arrival of someone who would devote her life to women's education and their place in the world. It is interesting to note that Lalage's mother would only agree to marriage once she was assured that any daughters would have the same access to education as sons!

Professor Lalage Bown gained six Honorary Doctorates, was awarded an OBE in 1977 and named a fellow of the Educational Institute of Scotland and a fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1991. In 2009 she was inducted into the International Hall of Fame for Adult and Continuing Education. She remained an active member of many boards, trusts, committees and councils concerned with higher education, adult education, literacy and community enrichment in Africa, the Commonwealth and the UK, including being a life member of the African Adult Education Association.

Lalage was an outstanding communicator: she wrote, edited or contributed to around 26 books and monographs plus around 86 articles. In her leisure time she enjoyed travel, reading and entertaining friends. She was living proof of the adage "If you never stop learning, you never grow old." One colleague said if he were to highlight one special characteristic of Lalage's among so many, it would be her open, friendly and collaborative attitude to working with other people.

In 1998 Lalage retired to Shrewsbury, where she remained very active despite her advancing years. She became a member of the Shrewsbury Town Centre Residents' Association (STCRA), and then took on the role of Honorary Treasurer, Vice-chair, and finally Chair from November 2002 until November 2005. Since then, she took an active interest in the Association, involving herself with local campaigns and was a generous donor to appeals for public monuments in Shrewsbury.

She has been a friend of the Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery and was a Committee member for three years from 2007 to 2010, producing the booklet commemorating 25 years of the "Friends of the Museum".

In 2006 Lalage joined the West Shropshire Talking Newspaper and was a regular editor. This role involved scanning the local press to select the news stories for the 90-minute weekly audio programme. It involved producing dozens of scripts for the studio presenters and readers. She always said that when editing she knew every scrap of local news and gossip, from blocked drains to multiple murder cases. Also during this time, she contributed many personal feature accounts where listeners got to hear her special voice and to enjoy her huge wealth of knowledge, both locally and worldwide, and her unique

way of telling a story. She became a firm favourite with listeners whether talking about her Shropshire childhood or her 30 years of work in Africa. She was a truly gifted communicator.

She had been a member and President of the Harlescott Townswomen's Guild

Also, in 2006 she joined the Rotary Club of Shrewsbury, where she was a very active member on every committee that she served on and was especially forthright in supporting youth through Youth Speaks and other Youth projects. She was Chairman of the Community Services & Youth Committee in 2014-15. She would regale the club with her usual humour on stories of her university career and her work in Africa. Her sharp intellect and impressive body of knowledge made her interesting company (unless you were a Rotary speaker being grilled by her questions!). In 2015 she was awarded a Rotary Paul Harris Fellowship for her local, national and international work.

Her sense of humour, her love for and pride in both her own and her adopted Nigerian family, whom club members met at times, as well as her engaging smile will be greatly missed by the club members and all those who knew her.

## Cook with Rotary

Rotarians in Leek have launched a special cookbook following the club's Youth competition Young Chef final.

The book was released last year. Copies are still available and the money raised will go towards supporting Leek's Youth Charities.

Rotarian Martin Edwards designed the book which holds many wonderful recipes. Local businesses helped sponsor its publication.

The book reflects the skills and pleasure that many of Leek Rotary's members and families have in preparing and enjoying food.

The club has, for many years, encouraged students aged 11 – 18 years from the area's four Middle and High schools to participate in the Young Chef competition. Participants are judged on the cooking of a healthy meal, its presentation, the understanding of food hygiene issues, the organisation/planning of their menu and the ability to cope in a demanding situation.

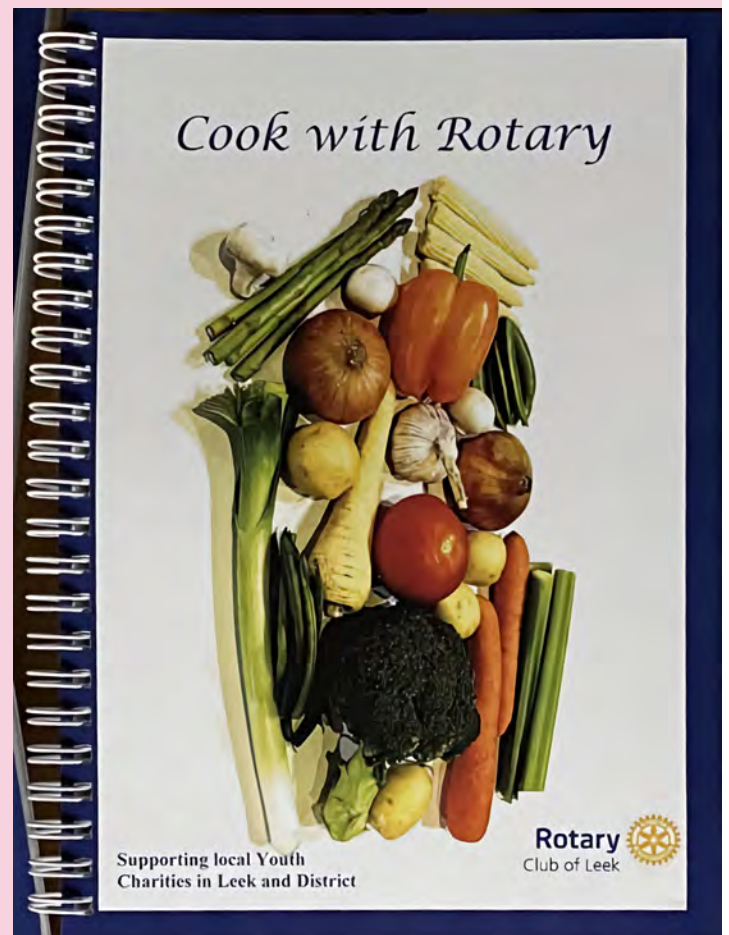
The enthusiasm, preparation and commitment of the young people grows each year and the club thanks the school teachers, parents and carers of all the competition pupils, for their help.

Chef Emma Bettany spoke about the competition. Her son entered it and she watched as his confidence and ability grew. Emma was one of the judges and she feels that cooking is an essential life skill. Emma runs the 'Peak Weavers Restaurant' in Leek and the 'Em in the Kitchen' service.

She said the competition is a great stepping stone into an exciting career, and teaches students about the food delivery service including costing and organisation.

Judges Damian Link and Phillipa Higginson from the 'Primo Piano' restaurant employ young people and said the youth competition was a 'fantastic opportunity for students to get involved and experiment with food.

They added: 'The standard of food produced is to an exceptional level and we were impressed by the creative menus delivered to a high standard.'



# Can you help?

to construct and paint Little Lending Libraries to give to schools in District 1210

Alumni1210  
**Rotary**  
Books4Home



The shed starts as a flat pack



**Then** it requires construction



**Then** painting and decorating



**Then** Children get to choose a book to take home and keep forever

Are you good at DIY?

Do you enjoy painting?

Are you artistic?

Do you have an hour or two to spare?

Do you want to make a difference in the world?

Rotary Books4Home require your help to construct and decorate Little Lending Libraries to give to schools in D1210.

**Please get in touch**

e- [beverley@btinternet.com](mailto:beverley@btinternet.com)  
t- 07738 173028

[www.RotaryAlumni1210.co.uk](http://www.RotaryAlumni1210.co.uk)

## Books4Home scheme

With literacy being such a key skill for us all during our life it is sad to find that many children do not own a book of their own and certainly never have had one read to them at home.

So the Shrewsbury Darwin Rotary took up the challenge and joined the Rotary Books4Home project which aims to help children develop their love of reading. It encourages children to read for pleasure and not just because they have to. They have a chance to choose a book for themselves from a selection given to the school, and can then take the book home, read it and keep it.

Under the enthusiastic leadership of Club members Jenny Brackwell and Jane Crouch the club set about collecting books for eventual distribution to local schools.

Club President David Barker added “I expect many of us can remember a favourite book we had as a child, which we might read over and over again, and how important literacy was to set us up not only though school but through our careers. I am delighted with the quantity of books collected by our members, and we have just donated books to the Martin Wilson Primary School and Greenacres Primary School.”

At the Martin Wilson School the Rotary Club handed over 230 Books for the Children to take home and 150 books for their library and at Greenacres it was 210 books for the children and 200 books for their library.

Wednesfield Rotary made another delivery of children’s books to Edward the Elder Primary School and Long Knowle Primary School.

Edward the Elder School were delighted with the number and quality of the books. The picture shows the librarians investigating and them putting in the “Rotary Alumni Books for Home Stickers”. A total of 245 books were delivered to each school.

The children at Long Knowle loved having the books, they all took one home and some have kept their book. In each class, some have opted to have a swap-shop box, so that they can share the books around between them.



**With a selection of books donated, Lindsey Hughes (left) of the Greenacres Primary School and Rotarian Jenny Brackwell.**



## Kitchen equipment purchase with grant funding



The Rotary Club of the Wrekin applied for a Rotary Grant of £500 to which the club added a further £500.

The money has been used to purchase kitchen equipment (pictured) to teach cooking skills to pupils at Southall School in Telford, which provides a curriculum which is both aspirational and challenging for its students who have a range of moderate and complex needs.

Southall domestic science teacher, Steve McCallum, is pictured

standing between Club President Jane Chaplin, who is presenting the cheque, and District Governor Robyn Davies. The first meal made using the equipment was pancakes, so the grant has already been well used.

“Young Chef” is a Rotary youth competition and Southall School is keen to invite the club to organise a similar competition within the school.



## RYLA attendee joins Rotary

Zoe Fern age 20, has joined Rotary. Zoe attended Rotary’s RYLA – Rotary Youth Leadership Award – course back in 2019 when she was 17. Since completing the course she has continued to participate in Stone & District Rotary events. Club members decided to sponsor Zoe’s membership for six months in a new initiative designed to introduce younger members to the club. Zoe is already planning her first event: a teddy bears picnic to be held in June.

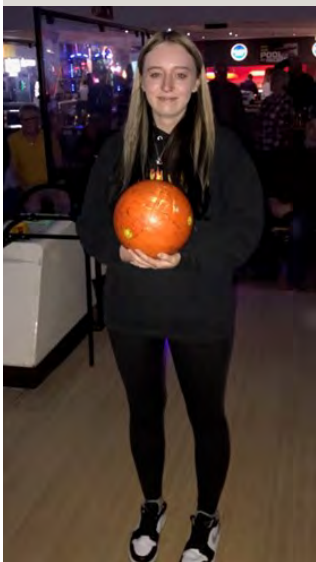
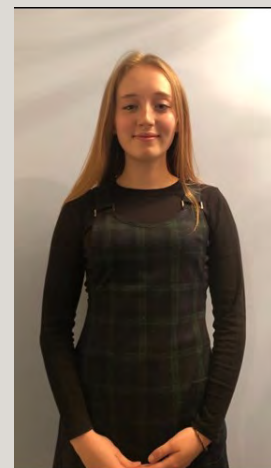
Zoe was asked some questions:

Q1.... Why did you join Rotary? I have always enjoyed participating with Stone & District Rotary fundraising for the local community and wanted to do more.

Q2.... Is Rotary not just full of old people? Well yes, the age range is quite different to mine, however their experience and knowledge has been amazing, it has helped me gain more confidence with interacting with new people, and it has really helped with my confidence at work.

Q3.... What activities do you enjoy? Well recently we had an inter district Rotary table tennis and ten-pin bowling competition, which I really enjoyed, I am looking forward to learn crown green bowls and croquet which are the next inter district competitions.

Q4.... What do you think is the future of Rotary? Inspiring young adults to join Rotary to fund raise for their community meet new friends and have fun, Rotarians in my view are very welcoming and offer loads of experience of life.



## Close finish to district Snooker Final

After a brilliant night of snooker Bilston and Wolverhampton West are the 2021/22 snooker champions. They beat Cannock in the final at Bilston by just 3 points after the tie ended 3 frames each.





## Jubilee Bell Boat Regatta 2022

Ellesmere Rotary has announced that the main beneficiaries of their 2022 Jubilee Bell Boat Regatta will be two charities with strong local links.

One is The Lyneal Trust, which maintains three narrow boats, Wharf Cottage and chalets for use by families and groups that require disabled facilities. The Trust provides opportunities for disabled people to enjoy day trips and holidays based on the local canal system. Currently its fund-raising efforts are aimed at financing an update for Wharf Cottage.

The second is The Movement Centre, which is based adjacent to the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Hospital at Gobowen. The Centre is a separate entity that is entirely funded by charitable donations. It helps children with early years movement control problems in Shropshire and neighbouring counties. It provides specialist physiotherapy and patient specific bioengineering to fashion the right equipment to achieve the correct standing posture and movement. Typically, the children are 1 to 5-year-olds, who undergo assessment and then a 12-month course. There are now some six-month courses also. Additionally, there is a review forand continuation service those that require help as they get older. The Centre must raise a minimum of £200,000 each year to continue with its vital work.

The Regatta takes place annually on The Mere on the first Sunday in July (3rd) and is accompanied by a host of other attractions on the adjacent Cremorne Gardens including many activities for children to enjoy. There are also refreshment stalls.

Chairman of the Regatta Committee, Geoff Corfield, said "The occasion is a wonderful day out for all the family, and we are pleased that the event is able to go ahead in Jubilee year. The two charities should have received support from the proceeds of the 2020 event cancelled due to COVID, and now need funding more than ever."

Registration takes place at 11am with the first race at 11.30. There are three classes for the Bell Boat races: Open, Ladies and Youth.

## Litter picking resumes

In and around Wolstanton village something stirred towards the end of March .... nothing to worry about though!

Eight members of Wolstanton Rotary were resuming their litter picking activities, helping to keep the village tidy.



"It's a pleasure for us to be back supporting Wolstanton after our activities have been restricted for the last two years" said Club President David Burke.

15 bags of rubbish were collected to be disposed of by Newcastle Borough Council.



Wednesfield Rotary also held a very successful litter pick organised by the club's Environmental Officers. A total of 8 bags of litter were collected along the towpath of a local Canal. Rotarians were joined by others from the local community, and the weather was on the volunteers side.

The club plans to organise more litter picks.

# Ellesmere Jubilee Regatta

Sunday 3rd July 2022

Cremorne Gardens 11.30am

ELLESMERE

Rotary



Supporting local charities



## BELL BOAT RACING

REFRESHMENTS\*BAR\*ICE CREAMS\*STALLS  
CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENTS\*AND MORE

Entry forms and further information from  
[corfield735@btinternet.com](mailto:corfield735@btinternet.com)  
Tel 01939270313

Charity no 1155735

## Concert Band helps Rotary support Children's Hospices

In March Ellesmere Rotary was pleased to host the Shrewsbury Concert Band at the Comrades Club in the town.

The Band was performing for the first time since Covid struck and entertained the audience with a wide variety of band music that was enthusiastically received. The evening raised £600, which was donated to Hope House.

The club has also announced that the Ellesmere Rotary Regatta, to be held on the first Sunday in July, will raise funds for The Movement Centre at Gobowen and for The Lyneal Trust. These charities were to have received the proceeds from the 2020 Regatta, which, like the 2021 event, did not take place due to the Covid pandemic.



**Ellesmere Club President Derek Clifford presenting a cheque to Linsey Kilvert of**

## Celebrating silver - one year late

Stafford Knot Rotary were joined by District Governor Robyn and husband Trevor at the Moat House Hotel, in Acton Trussell on Tuesday evening 17th May. Club members welcomed other Rotarians from within the District to share the evening. Although it was 26 years since the club was Chartered, the focus was on the silver celebration, which was curtailed by Covid.

Guest speaker was Chas Dale, a previous member whilst serving in the Army at RAF Stafford. Subsequently he has retired and taken up a role with the Royal British Legion in Staffordshire. He enlightened the audience on the wider aspects of what the British Legion undertakes in the support of retired military personnel and their dependants.

The club had focused on inviting as many ex members as they could find and many were delighted to attend and catch up with Rotary friends they had lost contact with. There were several Founder members present which gave a further dimension to the evening event.

Several Paul Harris awards were presented and the picture below shows the majority of the recipients. The diversity of causes the awards were presented for demonstrated the rich talents and variety of projects the club are involved with.



**Left to Right – Gill Hughes, Jackie Holland, President Sue Francis, Sarah Edge, Joe Wetton, Jane Cooper, Elaine Sharpe.**

## Surprise at Tree of Light presentation

Members of the four clubs who work together on the Telford Tree of Light visited Severn Hospice to present a donation made up of 50% of this year's Tree of Light contributions made by members of the public. Chair of the Trustees Peter Seaward said, "It is a great privilege for me on behalf of the Rotary Clubs of Telford Trust Fund nominally known as the Tree of Light to present to the Severn Hospice this cheque for £20,560. It would not be possible to raise this amount without the generous people and businesses around Telford for whom the Hospice is a special place." The cheque was accepted by Director of Income Generation, Norma Ross, who thanked the Tree of Light for the donation.

Norma Ross who retired as Director of Income Generation at Severn Hospice shortly afterwards was in for a surprise. Peter Seaward takes up the story, "Norma, in your first year you were responsible for raising £985,000 to keep the hospice at Shrewsbury going for the year. Over the next 26 years you and your team have raised a grand total £155m which is a truly remarkable amount. During this time, you also had to handle the very delicate issue of changing the name from 'Shropshire and Mid Wales Hospice' to 'Severn Hospice' and also find the capital monies to build the Telford hospice and the new Community Services Centre at Shrewsbury."

Peter continued, "Fund raising has changed considerably over the last 26 years and the Hospice now has 29 shops, a very successful lottery raising almost £1 million each year and a comprehensive programme of fund raising events throughout the year. Severn Hospice is well known and respected throughout Shropshire and Mid Wales and Norma has been a major player in establishing this excellent 'brand and credibility' which we recognise helps 'sell' the Tree of Light."

Explaining that Rotary International has a special award, a Paul Harris Fellowship, Peter went on to say that it is usually given to Rotarians who have given outstanding service to Rotary and to their community. He added that it was also given to people who are not Rotarians but who have given outstanding service to the community, Norma's work for her community is exceptional and a Paul Harris Fellowship would mark the excellence of her achievements.

District Governor Robyn Davies then presented Norma with the badge of a Paul Harris Fellow on behalf of the four Telford Rotary Clubs.



Shortly afterwards, Peter received a letter from Norma

"Dear Peter, I'm really not sure how to express my surprise and delight at being thought worthy of a Paul Harris Fellowship - as you know you rendered me speechless at the Tree of Light presentation. It is very humbling to be acknowledged with this award from all of the Telford Rotarians. It has been a privilege to get to know everyone over the past 26 years and to see all that you have achieved locally. I shall wear my Paul Harris lapel badge with pride - thank you once again. Wishing you and all of Rotary well".

## Crucial Crew supported

Between June 6 and 17, Shrewsbury and Oswestry Crucial Crew held its annual event at Nesscliff Military Training Centre. Each year, the event is attended by up to 1,500 children from 40 to 60 primary schools in the Shrewsbury and Oswestry area. The children receive social awareness and safety training as a means of teaching them essential life skills. The event has been running for 27 years during which time over 31,100 children have attended.

Shrewsbury Severn Rotary provided support for marshalling and other duties. Members were also asked to consider the organisers' request for financial support with the club agreeing to make a £300 donation to the initiative.

**We welcome into Rotary membership, those who have joined a club in our district during the current Rotary year:**

**Aldridge**

Christine Proctor  
John Proctor  
Rita Sidebotham

**Audley**

Karen Milligan  
Ernie Moulton

**Blythe Bridge & District**

Georgina Johnson  
Bharati Singh

**Burntwood & District**

Colin Millage

**Burslem**

Eman Kazmi

**Cannock**

Linda Chilton

**Cheadle**

Duncan Cowans

**Church Stretton**

Moira Matthews

**Dudley**

James Wright

**Ellesmere**

Carole Smith

**International**

**E-Club of D-1210**

Nalini Bidkar  
Kamal Ghanshamnani  
Lata Ghanshamnani  
Anjali Gupte  
Mayur Joshi  
Swati Kaushik  
Sulan Kharkar  
Ganesh Nagarajan  
Rajendra Oke  
Bhavana Pandya  
Nitin Patankar  
Yamina Patel  
Rajesh Patil  
Savita Phatak  
Shrikant Raje  
John Shankar  
Girish Soman

# Welcome



**Leek**

Farhad Heidari  
Peter Machin  
Nasir Miah  
Michael Ottewell

**Ludlow**

Ray Cork  
Thomas Hunt  
Robert Reed

**Market Drayton**

Peter Booth  
Sandra Hatfield  
Rebecca Hudson  
Allison Manton  
Billy Manton  
Robert Rowlands  
Jill Taylor  
Annette Whitaker  
Michael Whitaker  
Mark Whittle

**Mercia & Marches**

Beverley Ricketts  
Derek Smith

**Rugeley**

Emily Hou

**Shrewsbury**

Rita Ella  
Thomas Memery

**Six Towns (Stoke on Trent)**

Dareen Khattab  
Andrea Reiling  
Kevin Reiling

**Stafford**

David Pearsall  
Valerie Westerman

**Stafford Knot**

Stephanie Barnes  
Debra Munslow  
Susan Whiting

**Stoke-on-Trent**

Thomas Cockerham

**Stone & District**

Michael Ellis  
Zoe-Anne Fern

**The City of Wolverhampton**

Adetoyese Adeoye,  
Polly Bhambra,  
Emmanuel Jones,  
Simon Love,  
Lilieth McCarthy,  
Gail Reynolds,  
Rupesh Shrestha

**Walsall**

Abosedo Olukanni

**Walsall Saddlers**

Seama Kapoor  
Harinder Midha

**Wednesbury**

Kumar Badhan  
David Buck

**Wednesfield**

Miriam Wardroper-Hughes  
Emma White

**Wellington**

Donald Fear  
Islwyn Davies  
Violet Redmond

**Wem & District**

Callum McCarthy  
Sandra Suter

**Willenhall**

Ian Bradley  
Theresa Bradley  
Kalie Plant  
Rosanne Wilshire

**The Wrekin**

Constance Sothern



# THE ROTARY CLUB OF WELLINGTON



## Charity Golf Day

### Wrekin Golf Club

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2022



Come and be part of this Wonderful Day of Golf for  
**The Harry Johnson Trust and Rotary Charities.**

TWO TEE START [1ST AND 10TH] BETWEEN 13.00 & 14.00.

Men's, Ladies' or Mixed Teams of 4

£160 per team (includes 2 course meal)

Contact: Geoff Foulkes

27 Reynards Coppice, Sutton Heights, Telford TF7 4NJ

Email: [geoffrey.foulkes@aol.com](mailto:geoffrey.foulkes@aol.com) Phone: 01952 684582

## Rotary's focus on the environment

*Trevor Davies, District Environment Officer, writes:*



Most Rotary Clubs now have a dedicated Environment Officer. They are leading the way with projects such as:

- Litter pick days
- Youth Club grown vegetables for sale and food bank donation
- Simple cookery classes
- Tree planting
- Clearing canal towpaths
- Adopting green spaces
- Distributing wild flower seeds
- Monitoring wildlife activity
- Collecting and repairing unwanted bicycles
- Organising visits to peat bogs, landfill sites, "energy from waste" units etc
- Encouraging participation in Rotary competitions Young Environmentalist, Rodney Huggins Award and Young Citizen

These projects raise the profile of Rotary and attract volunteer help (and maybe new members).

Environment is an Area of Focus and Rotary Grants are available for qualifying projects. Grants for environmental projects are often available from other sources including local authorities, waste disposal companies, and water suppliers.

District 1210 has pull up banners and 20 different advisory leaflets available.

The hot topic of the moment is the rise in cost of fuel and energy. We can't reduce the price but there are simple ways of reducing consumption.

- Turn down the thermostat by one degree
- Wear an extra layer
- Only boil as much water as is needed
- Put a lid on the saucepan
- Drive more slowly, check tyre pressures, empty unnecessary weight.
- Don't drive short distances (more fuel is used when engines are cold).
- Make garden compost
- Check loft and cavity wall insulation
- Draft proof living areas and keep curtains closed
- Do it on a cooler wash
- Cycle or walk local journeys

Simple solutions could save as much as £1,000/year

## RotaKids Aim for the Skies.

A new RotaKids Club in Wednesfield and Wolverhampton has been sponsored by Wednesfield Rotary.



Rotakids is an exciting way for those aged under 12 to engage in important, lively activities that will make a positive difference in their school, and in their local community.

Club members will come up with ideas like fundraising for charity, improving the environment, helping the elderly or helping children in another country. The Sky is the Limit !

Each member of the club received a RotaKids Certificate and a RotaKids badge. In addition, the school was given 20 High Viz tops for use when the members are off the school site.

Wednesfield Rotary also donated £50 to the RotaKids club to get them started and will provide ongoing support and guidance.



**Wednesfield Club President Stan Jukes with Rotakids Secretary Dolly-Rose Garner, Treasurer Daniel Mace, President Tyler Price and District Governor Robyn Davies who gave the three officers their certificates and badges**

## Club entertain across the ages

Rotary Uttoxeter was busy recently enjoying the company of both young and senior members of the local community.

At one of the club's weekly meetings, members were joined by six Uttoxeter Explorer Scouts who told of their plans to attend the World Scouts Jamboree in South Korea in 2023. Charlotte Jones, Finn Done, Luke North, Catherine Mangan, George McCarthy and Joel Minshall, all students at Thomas Alleyne's High School, presented an illustrated talk on the event and their plans to raise the funds to attend this once in a lifetime experience.

Club President Roy Smith said "These young people were great company and explained the details of this event with great confidence. We were very impressed by them and their ambition and several Club members wished they were a few years younger and could join them on their adventure!"

This will be the 25th World Jamboree with over 40,000 16-18 year old Scouts attending with a theme of "Draw your Dream".

The President added "We were delighted to make a donation to their funds and look forward to their promised return visit to hear all about their time in Korea."



The following day the Club hosted an afternoon tea party for 80 senior members of the community at the Heath Community Centre. This annual event was replaced last year by the distribution of Easter Hampers around the town and villages due to the lock down.



Dave Rushton, Chairman of the Club's Community Committee said "It was great to be able to entertain our senior friends in person again. The room was full and there was a real buzz of conversation all afternoon."

Members of the Club offered transport and waited on the tables delivering a full afternoon of good company, tea, a raffle and entertainment

One of the messages of thanks was from Beryl Holly who said "We thank the Rotary Club for a perfect afternoon tea. We enjoyed it very much, excellent service, beautiful food and great company and very well organised."

The President concluded "It has been a busy week but great fun. I think we are all enjoying being able to join together again and meet new and old friends and we are pleased to be able to help this happen."





## Finnish Vocation Study Exchange team visit the district

In late April and early May, a team from Rotary District 1410 in Finland visited District 1210 on a Vocational Study Exchange. This was the first VSE team visit since Covid-19 and was a return visit following a group of Rotarians visiting Finland in 2019.

The VSE team of four was led by Rotarian Tom Jansson who stayed at the home of Shrewsbury Severn Rotary Club member Colin Sharp during the visit.

One of the highlights of his stay was a barbecue that Colin and his wife Jane hosted for their guest and which was attended by 16 Rotarians and partners.

The members of the VSE team had the opportunity to experience something of the culture of Shropshire by visiting local businesses; the historic aspects of the towns of Shrewsbury and Bridgnorth; noteworthy attractions such as Stiperstones, Blists Hill Museum at Ironbridge and the Severn Valley Railway.



The Finns had the gastronomic experience of sampling British fish and chips at a restaurant and in paper from a 'Chippy'.

The team were also able to share with members of the Telford Centre and Bridgnorth Rotary Clubs aspects of their lives in the archipelago in the South West of Finland.

District 1210 is sending a team to visit District 150 in the autumn of this year.



## Jubilee Party

Rotary Stafford Knot has been holding Pensioners' Christmas parties for the five years before 2020, but the parties for 2020 and 2021 were cancelled because of the Covid pandemic. The parties are special because they are entirely funded by local businesses, who sponsor a guest to attend. Smaller local businesses may sponsor just one person, whereas larger companies may sponsor several. In many ways they see this as a means of giving something back to the community.

The disappointment of the cancellations was diminished with the promise of holding a Jubilee Lunch to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The venue host, the Barbanell Centre in Stafford pulled out all the stops to make the day memorable. The entertainer sang all the old songs of yesteryear and was joined by the guests singing along. The dance floor was busy and a means of getting rid of the calories consumed from the delicious meal.

The event concluded with each pensioner receiving a jubilee mug, produced locally, and a rousing chorus of the National Anthem. The young people who wait on, are quite astonished that the little old ladies who turn up all quiet and reserved leave full of beans and smiles. 'There's life in the old folk still' and they know how to enjoy themselves.



# New Food Hub

Kidsgrove Rotary has launched a new project to help local people. Rotarians collect unsold perishable items from Coop, Aldi, Lidl and Tesco stores.

The Food Hub is located at the Labour Club in Market Street, and it has access to the main lounge, artist room, kitchen and toilet facilities on weekdays between 9am and 6pm. The Food Hub is run and supervised by Rotarians with the help of volunteers including some Rotary Community Corps members.

The Food Hub has been received three grants. A Community Lottery Grant of £10,000, which is specifically for rent, advertising and non-perishable items. A second grant from Arnold Clark has been awarded for £2,500 as a contribution towards non-perishable items and storage facilities. The third is a recent award of £250 from Barracks Trust to contribute towards the Hub's running costs..

The Hub has expanded its services and now provides toiletries, sanitary products and other essential items free. It has established links with FareShare, Coalfields, YMCA, Period Power, Hygiene Bank and His Church. All of these agencies have been supportive and helpful.

Members of the local community are extremely grateful for the support and have stated the Food Hub is a much needed service in the current financial climate. Many have expressed concern that they will need to rely on the Food Hub more and more as the cost of living increases. The Food Hub also has links with other local food banks in order to share best practice and work together for the benefit of the community.



The hub is currently in the process of being granted authority to award Trussel Trust food vouchers at its discretion to those in most need.

Alongside free food the hub provides hot drinks and a social area as well as running craft clubs. They are visited by at least 20-30 people daily with ages ranging from young mums with babies to very elderly and infirm senior citizens. Feedback on our service has been extremely positive

Users benefitting from the service include those desperately needing essential food, those in social isolation and those with mental health issues. The hub is also able to signpost users to other services such as Aspire, Health and Social Care and the council.



Lead Rotarian Roy Barber said “Our profile has risen significantly as a result of direct advertising both on social media and by word of mouth.

“It is our aim to continue to expand and provide services to the community as the current economic and social climate continues to be difficult and challenging for many of our local community.” he added.

## “Mr Rotary” passes to higher service

Joe Cartwright, a member of Newcastle Rotary Club and District Rotaract Co-ordinator recently passed to higher service. The President-elect of his club, Marion Reddish, writes

Joe was a man of principles with a deep personal Christian faith which was at the centre of all he said and did. Many in our club and would call him ‘Mr Rotary’ with affection, he loved his Rotary work and the fellowship which went with it. The Rotary theme of, Service before self, is never more appropriate when you think of Joe, both at District and local level.

Joe was instrumental in setting up the Rotaract club at Keele University. He worked tirelessly to make sure it got established and was successful and I know many within that club will be indebted to Joe for his encouragement, patience and love. Joe was a true gentleman and put endless energy into being our zone Assistant Governor and latterly a district Rotaract co-ordinator. Nothing was too much trouble.

However Joe was more than just a Rotarian. Joe was immensely proud of Carolyn his daughter, and Chris his son, and then latterly his grandchildren. His love for Pauline his wife was clear to see, as they were a partnership. Joe and Pauline visited schools together in the area to drop off books which Rotary had given and often we would hear from Joe what a privilege he found that to be.

Many may not know but Joe was a football referee at a high level, some of us will have enjoyed the tales told, when things went wrong as well as sharing the good moments. Male voice choirs and in particular the Daleian choir, in which he sang, was one of his hobbies. We always knew when his choir won a prize at a festival, for Joe there was only one choir! Again Joe was not content with just singing, but took an active part behind the scenes making sure all was well.

Joe was a Methodist local preacher and despite failing health, he put his calling to preach, high up on his priority list. I amongst many, have been privileged to work alongside Joe, including serving on our church leadership team. Joe’s words were always wise and sincere, and we always knew that when he could help, he did.

Joe left school at 15 and went to work for Michelin. In his early 20’s, he felt the calling to go out to the Ivory Coast and use his engineering skills to help build a hospital. He stayed there for two years before returning to Michelin.

The world is a better place for having Joe part of it. He will be missed by many. Our prayers and support go out to his family, who will miss him most.

May you rest in peace Joe, with your maker whom you served and adored.



**Joe supporting the Buddy Bag Foundation**

## Tripartite celebration

Rotary Clubs of Cannock, Bad Kreuznach-Nahetal from Germany and Brie Pont from France celebrated the 40 years of their tripartite association by visiting Stratford-upon-Avon from Friday 20th May till Sunday 22nd May.

The history of the relationship can be traced back to 1979 when members of the three clubs began to meet in various locations around Europe to establish friendship links between the clubs. The first tripartite meeting recognised by Rotary international was in Cannock in May 1982 and the clubs have met in rotation every year since then - a unique achievement within Rotary worldwide.

On the Friday evening the group of 50 visited a well known pub in Stratford for a fellowship meal followed by their own version of the Eurovision song contest and on the Saturday had a guided tour of the town. In the evening the clubs held a Gala Dinner to celebrate the special anniversary.

Rotary District Governor Robyn Davies joined the clubs for the meeting on Sunday morning, acknowledging the special relationship between the three clubs. At the meeting two honorary members of the Cannock club Hanna Bodley and Martyn King gave a virtual presentation from Malawi on their educational and environmental work. Beverley Ricketts, also an honorary member, gave a talk on her literacy project Books4Home.

Over the 40 years of this association the clubs have worked together on many projects around the world and this year the Cannock club received a joint donation of £800 towards a project of its choice.

The Rotary club of Bad Kreuznach-Nahetal outlined their ongoing work supporting people in Ukraine, where club members take much needed items to the Ukrainian border, bringing displaced families back to Bad Kreuznach on the return trip. Bad Kreuznach-Nahetal Rotary is currently looking after 40 displaced Ukrainians; Cannock Rotary has donated £1,000 from funds raised in the UK to help with this project.

The three clubs have pledged to continue the relationship and next year's meeting will be in Bad Kreuznach

As with all anniversary parties there was a cake, which once cut jointly by the three club presidents was served with tea & coffee to mark the end of this year's anniversary event.



# Murder during weekend away

So who do you think is the murderer?

That was the question that the members of Stoke-on-Trent Rotary had to answer in a Murder Mystery on the club's weekend away in Hay on Wye in May. The sun shone as they visited Croft Castle and Berrington Hall during the day and enjoyed some great food and just a little wine in the evenings.

Lots of laughter and relaxed smiles showed that the weekend worked its magic after a difficult couple of years. A grand quiz challenged the brain cells and they enjoyed relaxing in the hotel garden. And that murderer .... I don't know about you but the Elton John lookalike seems pretty dodgy to the writer.



# Funds raised to purchase hoist

Cannock Rotary has donated £2,500 to the Special Needs Adventure Playground (SNAP) to install a disabled hoist in the Pye Green Road centre in the town.

The SNAP Charity has been operating from the centre since June 2003. The facilities include both indoor and outdoor play equipment such as an aerial runway, cycle track, sand pit and diggers, soft play area, craft area and a multi-sensory room.

The emphasis for the charity is to provide a safe, secure environment with facilities and equipment to engage interest and stretch children with a range of disabilities.

In addition to the benefits for the children the charity also provides parents with a time to relax and be care free knowing their children are in a safe environment. Parents are able to meet other parents where they can discuss and share any problems and experiences with like minded people in a mutually supportive environment.

The Cannock club, which has supported this very worthwhile charity in the past, raised these funds with the aid of a district grant

Club members who attended the presentation were given a tour of the facilities and a demonstration of how the hoist will help parents and carers assist children with mobility issues.



## £0.75m raised by Tree of Light

Run by Rotarians drawn from the four local Rotary Clubs, the Telford Tree of Light is run primarily as a service to the public and for 26 years has raised substantial amounts of money for local charities.

For £5 (the same as in 1995) donors have the name of loved ones displayed in the Telford Centre in the period before and during Christmas. All donations are passed on to charities nominated each year by the Presidents of the four organising Rotary clubs. All expenses are covered by commercial and private sponsorship.

Over 50 local charities have benefitted from the £750,000 of donations received to date, with Severn Hospice receiving half of the total amount raised in most years. In more recent years, a quarter of the money raised has been granted to other larger charities in our area. These include funds to purchase of a blood bike which was named the Spirit of Rotary and Hope House, a childrens' hospice, used the donations to help provide a welcome canopy for the reception area.

The Tree of Light has proved to be very popular in Telford and Rotarians are frequently asked "Will there be a Tree of Light again this year?" and "When does it start?". Service to others is at the heart of Rotary's ideals and the Tree of Light is a good example – as embodied in its motto 'Service Above Self'.

The names of loved ones are printed in weekly batches in the Telford Journal newspaper and are displayed around the tree in the Shopping Centre and at other locations in the area. A full list of names is also on the Telford Tree of Light website ([www.telfordtreeoflight.co.uk](http://www.telfordtreeoflight.co.uk)).

The concept of the Tree of Light was introduced to Shropshire from South Africa in the 1990s by Rev Paul Firman, a member of Shawbury and Mid-Shropshire Rotary Club. The Telford Tree of Light is understood to be the most successful Tree of Light in the UK. The charity has provided information to other Rotary clubs as far away as Australia to help them set up their own Tree.



**Lord Lieutenant Anna Turner applauds the Salvation Army band at the 2021 switch on with Wellington Rotary President Tom Taylor and Trust Chairman Peter Seaward looking on**

## Peace Scholar visit

Musa Camera, the International Peace Scholar District 1210 is hosting, was the speaker at a recent meeting of Blythe Bridge Rotary.

Speaking to a packed audience, he told members about his work for the United Nations on peace building and his time as a peace scholar at the University of Huddersfield.

He had also been a guest of Foundation lead Jane Cooper District Governor Nominee, and her husband Rotarian Geoff. They hosted an evening with District Governor Robyn Davies, her husband Past District Governor Trevor, Assistant Governor Cressida Dickens and corporate member of Kidsgrove club, Kirstin Berresford.

During the evening Musa spoke about his work as a Superintendent of Police in Gambia and how that compared with his aims and plans as a Peace Scholar.

He also talked with Kirstin about Kidsgrove Rotary's plans for working in Gambia and its Global Grant aims.

Musa is an extremely interesting man with many stories to tell, and his two years sabbatical from the Gambian Police, will allow his Peace studies to be developed.

Musa is very keen to explore the many levels of Peace initiatives and is fully committed to learning during his time in the UK. He has also travelled extensively and just before arriving in District 1210, was in Northern Ireland learning about their peace processes.

# Sleep Out to Kit Out

It was a long time coming. Following the success of the 2019 Sleep Out at Stafford College, Stafford Rotary decided to expand the event in collaboration with Cannock Rotary Club, planning that it would take place in 2020. However, circumstances beyond everyone's control dictated that we had to wait nearly two years. After a phenomenal amount of planning between the two clubs, and with the support of South Staffordshire College it finally happened on Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd April.

It all started to come together on Friday afternoon. The Perren trailer being laden with cardboard boxes kindly donated by Newlife the Charity, and brought to the Cannock Campus. The 'sleepers out' gradually arrived, most taking sufficient cardboard to make their 'house', and in all 26 Rotarians, Soroptimists, friends of Rotary and local councillors participated, sleeping under the stars!

BBC Midlands sent Rebecca Wood to conduct live interviews for its regional news programme between 6.30 and 7pm. The programme concluded with a weather forecast that reassured those sleeping out. Then, it was party time in the atrium. A live band entertained close on 100 people, and there was some delicious hot food and volunteers from both Rotary clubs had contributed some superb desserts. A raffle raised in excess of £400.

Then came the serious business of sleeping out, which apart from the horrendous din from two nightclubs until 3 am, and a short sharp shower, it all went without incident. Tea, coffee and toast was available from 6am, and everyone had departed the site by 8, including a trailer load of cardboard which was later 'donated' to the tip at Stafford.

The event raised more than £6,000, to provide essentials for homeless people with enduring mental illness establish themselves in their own homes. Rotarians were very grateful to South Staffordshire College for providing the venue, and to its security staff for spending the night there too to ensure participants' safety.



# Volunteer Expo finally makes it to the NEC

Originally planned to debut at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre in 2020, Rotary organised Volunteer Expo finally debuted as an in-person event at the beginning of May having been moved online in 2020 and 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic. The NEC halls were filled with exhibitors from the charity and voluntary sector.

The central "Rotary Village" showcased various activities undertaken by Rotarians and also housed the Membership Hub. Rotarians manning the Hub answered questions from Expo attendees about Rotary and how they could join a club close to where they live.

Other areas of the NEC hosted workshops on specific topics presented by Rotarians and charitable organisations. Ade Adepitan hosted on Friday and Ellie Crisell was the host on Saturday which included the TV coverage of the Rotary's Young Citizen Awards presentation.





# Thank you for Business Support

Whitchurch Rotary said a big ‘thank you’ to local businesses that supported its work during the past year or more.

Club president Dave Simcock has started a tour of the town to present framed certificates and window stickers in appreciation of their help with a variety of community actions in 2022.

“We couldn’t even attempt many of the things we do if it wasn’t for the support we get from so many local businesses that makes it all possible,” said Dave.

These range from the Christmas meals that are distributed to elderly and infirm people in the town, sponsors of Rotary initiatives such as maintaining flowers beds or the prostate testing programme, to those who give donations and services to keep a series of Rotary projects going.

Dave explained: “The Christmas meals, for instance, rely on donations of food ingredients, the loan of space, equipment and power for preparation and cooking. And the Santa tour, which gives so much pleasure to children while raising funds for the club’s charity account, is a major user of petrol. Without the help of local business, to cover essential costs, we simply couldn’t do any of this. The certificates are, at least, an expression of our gratitude.”



**Rotary president Dave Simcock and Vice President Steve Chisholm begin the tour by presenting certificates to Jenny Mchale (Gallery Flowers) and Karen Soler (Card Market).**

# Players Strike Lucky in Tenpin Final

Cannock Rotarians ended the Rotary year on a high by winning the District 1210 tenpin bowling competition, beating the Wellington Rotary team in a hard fought match played at a neutral venue in Stafford on Thursday 23rd June.

The trophy was presented to the Cannock Sports Officer Jacko Page by District Governor Elect Steve Antill, who thanked both teams for a very sporting and entertaining final.

Jacko thanked Wellington Rotary “for an excellent game which was played in a sporting manner in the true spirit of Rotary. He stated that the win was a club effort and thanked his winning team together with members who had played in earlier rounds but were unavailable for the final”.

**Left to Right: Mel Wilton, David Marklew, Alan Thompson, Chris Young, Ian Hall, Cliff Shore with Sports Officer Jacko Page**



## Donation will help homeless support

Shrewsbury Severn Rotary has donated £1,000 to the Shrewsbury Ark, which provides ongoing Support and day centre facilities for the homeless and vulnerable in its local community. The promise of funding follows a visit to the club by Ark trustee and chair Emily Bell.

On her visit she said funds were urgently needed to fully equip their new premises and she subsequently referred specifically to laptops, mobile phones and sleeping bags. These, she said, would be 'greatly appreciated' by clients.

Emily spoke of a 'big spectrum' of homelessness with thousands of homeless people in Shropshire. About 20 on and off rough sleepers use The Ark, but there were a lot of homeless people in temporary accommodation. "There is no statutory or government funding and these people rely on donations."

She spoke of The Ark experiencing an upsurge in homelessness and poverty at the present time and she said a GP clinic, which started at the Prince Rupert Hotel in the town, was being run in conjunction with the Riverside Medical Practice. "This is unbelievably important for people sleeping rough in this town," said Emily. "Really good health care is so helpful."

She said when The Ark heard that the Rock and Fountain Inn was available to buy, 'we leapt at the chance'. "We bought it outright, but took out a big loan to do the refurbishment. It is fabulous for us. It has 10 times the amount of floor space we used to have when we were opposite the station."

The Ark moved in during February with up to 50 people visiting each day and the need was growing. Every month over 100 people registered for help and advice – 50 of those for the first time. She said there would be more drug users with hepatitis were it not for The Ark.

"We don't have any accommodation," Emily told Rotarians. "It is something we may have ten years down the line and we are talking about that. There is so much potential."

She told Rotarians: "We do everything on social media," adding that the Ark relied on 50 award winning volunteers, two of whom were going to a Royal garden party this year. "Without them we couldn't open," Emily added.



President John Yeomans with speaker Emily Bell

## Special presentation evening

A Presentation Evening was held at Linden House, Wolverhampton. Wednesfield Club President Stan Jukes presented cheques to several well deserving causes.

Left to right, Neil Quinton & Tarnya Peers (Scouts), Marion Watkins (Guides), Jenny Picken (Wednesfield Inner Wheel), Club President Stan Jukes, Mark Adams (Friends of Wednesfield Park), and Grace Higgins (Teenage Cancer Trust).



## Visit to Cambridge University

In early June, thirteen members of Rugeley Rotary spent a day in Cambridge as guests of the club's newest member Emily Hou, who is studying for her second Masters degree in social innovation at St. Edmunds College, a most appropriate qualification for a Rotarian. She organised a very full day with a grand tour of the colleges. The group had lunch in Peterhouse, joined in a workshop lecture at Darwin where we also had dinner and ended the day over a drink in the Eagle where Watson and Crick once discussed their research into DNA. There was also a punting trip which was interesting to say the least.

The workshop was given by Prof. Patrick O'Cohrs and was about the failure of the post WWI peace agreement. A very relevant talk for Rotarians in view of our sponsorship of global peace scholarships. Whilst there, we met fellow Rotarians from the USA and Nepal. Club members thanked Emily for organising what is likely to be the highlight of the club's fellowship this year.



## Rotary Community Corps

Kidsgrove Rotary are now the proud sponsors of Kidsgrove Rotary Community Corps ('KRCC').

The Corps is made up of local people who want to do good in their area, and they are supported by a Rotarian at their meetings and organise their own events.

Meetings are held every month. So far KRCC have successfully planned and held several events which have raised funds, brought the community together and encouraged a sense of pride in the local environment.

Events have included a

- A Race Night to raise funds (which were then spent to put on a community event)
- An Easter party for children and families
- Monthly litter picks.

Several KRCC members are also active volunteers in supporting the Food Hub and other Rotary projects and events.

Recently they held a Picnic in The Park Jubilee Celebration event for children. They are planning Halloween/Christmas Parties, support with food hampers and a Community Christmas meal, with several other projects in the pipeline.

