

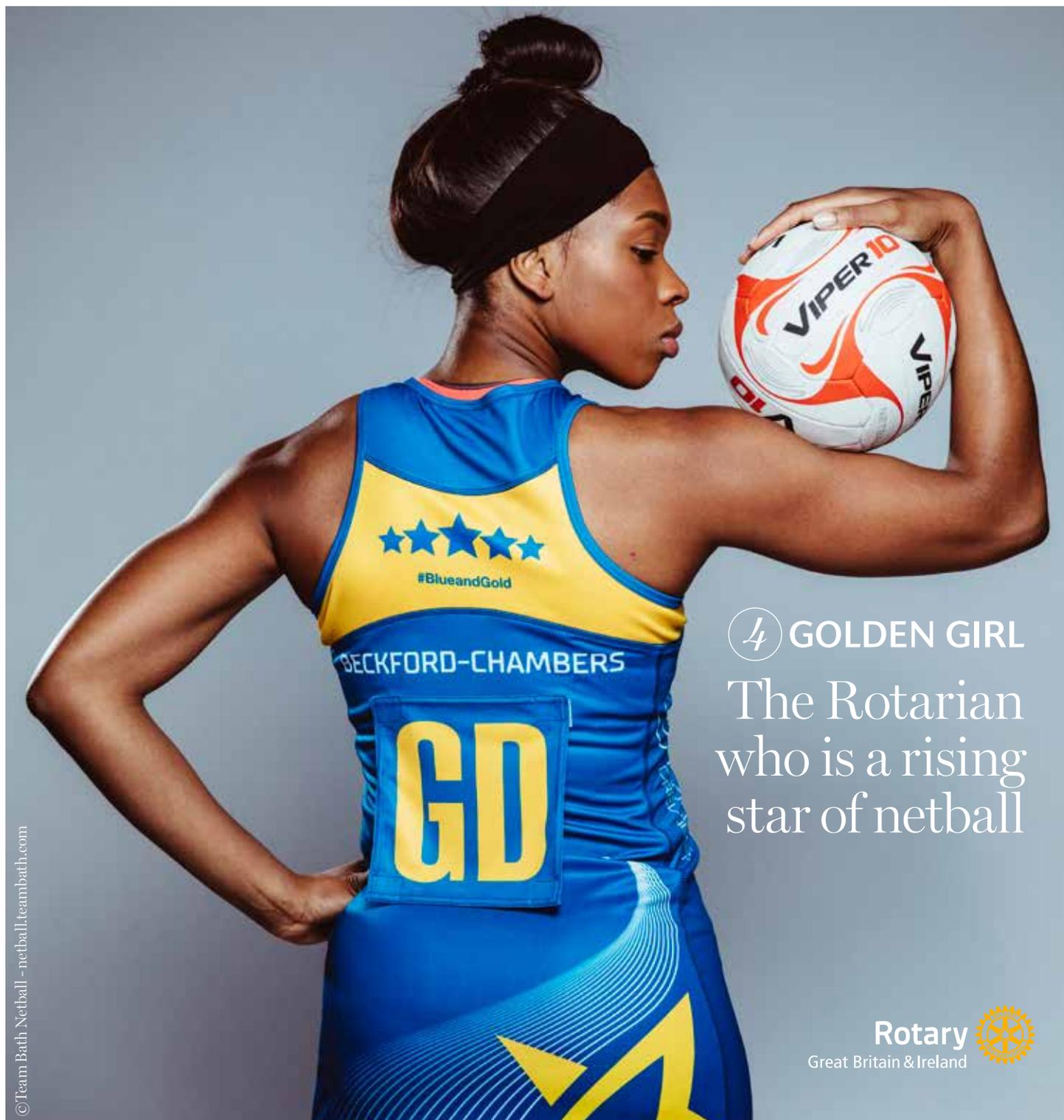
Rotary

The Official Magazine of Rotary International in Great Britain & Ireland

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rotarygbi.org
June/July 2018



④ GOLDEN GIRL
The Rotarian
who is a rising
star of netball

Rotary
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Silver Sunday (24)

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Enjoy Rotary anywhere



Golden Ebony

*lights up the
Gold Coast*

She won gold at the Commonwealth Games, is one of England's brightest netball talents, juggles her sport with life as a trainee solicitor – and is also a Rotarian. Dave King meets the enigmatic Ebony Beckford-Chambers.





WITH a lightning smile and easy-going manner, the charismatic and articulate netball star, Ebony Beckford-Chambers, has been in big demand this summer.

Ever since the England Roses pulled off two astonishing last-ditch wins over Jamaica and then defeated arch-rivals Australia in the final by a solitary goal to win gold at the Commonwealth Games, Ebony and her team-mates have fast become the darlings of British sport.

"It has been fantastic to see how much buzz there has been about netball, and how people got behind the England Roses at the Commonwealth Games," reflected Ebony.

"It has been intense. So many people have been interested to find out about the journey, and the experience, and to share it with us."

Ebony didn't get to bed until 6am after celebrating the netball gold with team-mates, their friends and families. She even slept with her medal that first night!

Gold on the Australian Gold Coast this April, made up for missing out on a medal at the last Commonwealths in

Glasgow four years ago, and followed a bronze won at Delhi in 2010.

Since starring in the nail-biting final Down Under, Ebony has been on a whirlwind tour, meeting the Earl of Wessex, appearing on Good Morning Britain and on BBC Radio 5 Live, as well as fitting in a host of media interviews.

Following Great Britain's Olympic gold in the hockey in Rio, women's sport is in good shape in the UK. England's cricketers won the World Cup last summer, the rugby team reached the World Cup final, and the footballers are ranked number two globally.

"I have been touring the country to mark an historic achievement and with the result it has been wonderful that netball has received recognition to put the sport on the map," added Ebony, who has been playing the sport since the age of seven, receiving her first England call up aged 15.

"Our hope is not only to inspire young girls, women, and even men to play netball, but that it will have a lasting impact across the country.

"Women's sport is getting more recognition. In netball, we're performing at our best on the world stage and we do this on considerably less funding than other sports.

"We hope this achievement will see more investment into women's sports and netball, in particular."

Unlike many of her England team-mates, who are contracted full-time and train at Loughborough University, Ebony is training as a solicitor with Mogens Drewett LLP based in Bath. She specialises in dispute resolution and will qualify in January.

She gets up at 6am for a training session at the University of Bath, is in work for a full day from 8.30am, and is then back at the university in the evening for bouts of physiotherapy, strength and conditioning, as well as technical sessions.

It means a punishing daily routine of training, playing and travelling for the 30-year-old, whose sporting sights are now set on the World Cup in Liverpool in a year's time.

"It has been absolutely fantastic to find an employer who, not only supports my legal ambitions, but who has a full understanding of what my sporting prowess is and aims to support my ambitions," added Ebony, who plays for Team Bath in the Vitality Netball Superleague.

Incredibly, despite the intense

training and holding down a full-time job, Ebony this year became a Rotarian. Both of her parents are Rotarians – her mother, Pauline, in the Cayman Islands, and her father, Basil, in Birmingham.

She explained how, through the influence of her parents, Rotary has been a part of her life for some time. Now a member of the Rotary Club of Bath, she was involved in their Christmas street collection last December.

"How do I find the time? That's a question I ask myself every single day," added Ebony. "I think that it is easy to make excuses, you have to prioritise what is important.

"What is helpful is that the Bath club meets at lunchtime, which has worked out well.

"I have had such a warm welcome there. I am the only woman member and youngest, but they have embraced both me and the diversity.

"During the Commonwealth Games, I had a flurry of emails from the club congratulating me, saying how impressed they were and explaining they were getting up at 4am to watch the games on TV.

"They have been very welcoming and embracing all that I bring to Rotary.

"My parents have been Rotarians for a number of years so I have seen how much they have enjoyed being part of Rotary.

"There is an opportunity to network, but also it is also about making a difference, and giving back, which is very important.

"I think in terms of the charitable nature of Rotary, this is something which I feel I am able to contribute."●

"My parents have been Rotarians for a number of years so I have seen how much they have enjoyed being part of Rotary."



Princess Royal: Rotary is for communities everywhere

THE Princess Royal has paid tribute to Rotarians for the work they do in communities across the globe.

Princess Anne, who is an Honorary Member of the Rotary Club of Elgin, in Scotland, spent more than two hours visiting the Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland annual conference in Torquay on April 7th.

Besides giving a speech to delegates at the Riviera International Centre, she spent considerable time touring both the Rotary Showcase and exhibition area chatting to Rotarians and charity representatives.

“This is an organisation I have grown up with, meeting and seeing Rotarians almost wherever I have been all over the world. And they have always been busy,” she told delegates in a 15-minute speech to the conference.

“They have been busy supporting others to run fund-raising events and activities, as well as their own things – but they have always been busy, and you are still very busy.”

Her Royal Highness used the speech to turn the spotlight on a number of charitable projects, including The Chaffinch Trust.

Based in Elgin, the Trust encourages charities, organisations and individuals to collaborate and work together to improve conditions for those living in disadvantaged areas.

“The Chaffinch Trust was set up by a friend of mine,” she explained.

“The Trust understands and is keen to support a joined-up approach between charities, to make much more effective and efficient use of all the knowledge and funds that are available in so many different ways in this country, and across the world.”

Princess Anne, who is the Patron of Save the Children, highlighted some of the work this charity had conducted in the early 1980s through the Stop Polio initiative, a mantle which was later picked up by Rotary International through the End Polio Now campaign. This was a classic case of joined-up thinking, she said.



©Peter Croan

The Princess Royal meets Young Citizens Award winners at the Rotary Conference in Torquay

She praised the structure and discipline of Rotary International which has meant that the world is now so close to eradicating polio.

“What Save the Children recognised, and has been hugely grateful for, is the way in which Rotary picked up the challenge of stopping polio,” she added.

“Rotary understood the way it could make a real difference and how well prepared it is as an organisation to apply that discipline to deliver the polio vaccine over a much wider global reach.

“The fact it has worked so incredibly well is a huge credit to every individual member of Rotary, and the way you function as a global organisation.”

Princess Anne cautioned that even though the end is in sight towards eliminating polio, the world had to remain strong and resilient with a commitment towards immunisation once the disease has been eradicated.

Praising the initiative of Rotary in tackling dementia, its work around peace and the peace scholars, and also with promoting the Duke of Edinburgh Award, particularly among young carers, the Princess underlined the work which the organisation does at grass roots level.

“Rotary is for communities everywhere,” she said. “Rotary understands the communities in which it lives and it is involved, of course, in many projects.

“I see and I know what a difference Rotarians make in Great Britain and Ireland, and also overseas.

“And with more than 1,700 Rotary clubs here, supporting a wide range of projects, backed by fund-raising and for your hands-on service, it is little wonder that Rotary members are busy.

“We don’t very often get an opportunity to say thank you to groups like Rotary – but thank you, and congratulations.” ▶

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Rotary President: Credibility is vital to us

JUST a couple of weeks after the ball-tampering scandal in South Africa, it was the one subject which the cricket-loving Rotary International President, Ian Riseley, was not going to ignore.

The audience at the Rotary conference in Torquay knew it, Ian Riseley knew it, and after insisting how wonderful it was to be back in the land of his ancestors, this proud Aussie addressed what he described as “the elephant in the room”.

“Cricket is a wonderful sport,” he enthused. “It is one of those sports where a high standard of ethics is expected, hence the expression ‘it’s just not cricket’. The spirit of the sport is more important than the result itself.

“And you know what? I think the Rotary four-way test could be an extremely useful guide to the way in which some people, including my own country’s team, should play the game.”

The spirit of ethics was crucial to everything Rotarians do, added Ian who drew on a previous RI presidential mantra of ‘consistency, credibility and continuity’ by insisting that it was credibility which makes Rotary so different.

“Credibility is vital to us,” he said. “If it is not for the way we do things, if it is not for our ethical stance, then we might as well be a social club.”

In his address to delegates on the opening day of the conference, Ian saluted the work of Rotarians in surpassing the target of planting 1.2 million trees around the world this year as part of his presidential challenge.

And he praised the work he had seen being performed by clubs all around the world. It was why he was asking every club, through their districts, to disclose how



Rotary President Ian Riseley (second left) planting a tree for Earth Day in Torquay

©Peter Croan

much they contribute to charities, and how many hours are put in by Rotarians for charitable activities.

“Both of these are important since some clubs have a bottomless pit of money by being wonderful fund-raisers and able to write cheques, which is great,” he explained.

“But some clubs do their best work personally, hands-on, and that, in the name of Rotary, is just as important as funding things.”

The RI President also took time out to praise Rotary in Great Britain & Ireland President, Denis Spiller, for the Rotary2 initiative which is looking to develop more than 200 new clubs this year.

“Denis has been very creative in his role and, frankly, we have to realise we have to try different things,” he said. “We have to

look at a different approach to the way we have been working, which may work better.

“Let’s face it, the average age of our membership is a challenge in many parts of the world, including here in Great Britain and Ireland, and I congratulate Denis on seeking to try different things.

“Change is a constant in the world, I think we all know that, it is also a necessary constant in Rotary. We should not be afraid of change, we should embrace change, and I think that is something Denis is doing very well.” ▶

i Watch extended video highlights from **#RotaryConf2018** by searching ‘**Rotary Great Britain and Ireland**’ on YouTube

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DAVE KING

Chris Tarrant:

I thought I was going to die from a stroke

FLYING in the middle of the night on a plane from Bangkok, bound for Heathrow, Chris Tarrant thought he was going to die.

Heading back to London on the 14-hour flight after three weeks filming in South America and Asia, the TV star realised what he had initially thought was cramp was turning into a fully flung stroke.

"I really did think, am I going to die on a plane?" revealed Chris.

"It sounds daft and a very British thing, but I didn't want to ask for help. It was the middle of the night, everyone around me was asleep, the stewardesses on the plane didn't speak much English at all.

"And I thought even if I asked for help, and they went to the extreme measure of putting the plane down, just think from Bangkok to London where would you want to be put down? Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran?"

As Chris tried to leave the plane once it had landed in London, he collapsed. He'd lost complete use of his right leg and arm, and was rushed to Charing Cross Hospital where he stayed for the next three weeks.

Chris has told the tale many times since the incident in 2014, but during a quiet chat at the Rotary conference in Torquay, it has clearly made its mark.

"I remember lying in hospital on the first night," he recalled. "I was exhausted and pretty scared that if I went to sleep I wouldn't wake up."

Fortunately, there was no lasting damage. "I am one of the incredibly lucky

ones," added Chris, who was put through six months of gruelling physio.

"My speech was impaired, with one side of my face badly down.

"Obviously my speech is a relevant part of how I earn my living and pay for my kids, so I went through all sorts of facial, muscle work and speech therapy.



"I am one of the lucky ones, which is how I got involved with the Stroke Association."

"This strange woman used to arrive at the house and beat me up. She carried one of these bags with 'pain equals pleasure'. She was amazing, really stretching my muscles and she gave me savage physio."

It's as a result of that harrowing experience that Chris now does a lot of work with the Stroke Association, which in April worked with scores of Rotary clubs in Great Britain and Ireland as part of 'Know Your Blood Pressure Day'.

Members of the public were able to have their blood pressure checked free of charge in a bid to raise awareness of the link between high blood pressure and strokes.

It is estimated in the UK that 5.5 million people are undiagnosed with high blood pressure, something which Rotary clubs and the Stroke Association are trying to reduce.

For 71-year-old Chris, he acknowledges the cause of his stroke was excess living. For years he had lived hard, drinking too much and working too many hours.

He added: "It was a wake-up call and I have changed my life a bit.

"My missus is very tough on food. I don't drink whisky, I do a bit of exercise and although I work, I don't work anywhere near as hard as I used to.

"I am one of the lucky ones, which is how I got involved with the Stroke Association. Of anybody, I can say take it easy, these are the things to look out for, don't put yourself through the excessive lifestyle I did."

Chris, who has also become a polio ambassador for Rotary, has just completed filming another series of "Extreme Railways of the World" for Channel 5, which included visiting Auschwitz and Dachau for a feature on the trains which took Jews to their deaths in the Nazi concentration camps.

Ironically, the programme which made Chris a household name, "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" returned in May on its 20th anniversary, with Jeremy Clarkson in the chair he once occupied.

"I did Millionaire for 15 years and 650 shows, what do you want, blood?" joked Chris, when asked why he was not reprising the role.

"Clarkson is going to do it for a week and good luck him. But I no more want to do Millionaire again, than I want to go back and do Tiswas!" ●



“

“It sounds daft and a very British thing, but I didn’t want to ask for help. It was the middle of the night, everyone around me was asleep, the stewardesses on the plane didn’t speak much English at all.”

”



Blooming marvellous!

IT'S not too many months away from World Polio Day on October 24th, and orders are being taken now for September delivery of purple crocus corms for planting around then.

This year, organisers are asking Rotary clubs to involve the sporting side of their community, such as sports teams, local sporting celebrities, sports venues.

This is in addition to groups the clubs are already working with, including local parks and gardens, Royal Horticultural Society groups, local NHS Trusts, schools and youth groups.

One of the main Rotary events for World Polio Day will be at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, which will involve disabled sporting personalities helping

with crocus corm planting.

How about seeing if you can raise the profile for planting on World Polio Day by arranging a cup of tea and a purple cupcake after the planting, followed by the switch on by one of your sporting celebrities, the town mayor or local MP of purple lighting on key buildings in your community at dusk?

The Rotary polio story is an excellent hook for engaging with local communities and local media, as well as your own club activities locally and internationally.

The purple crocus corms provide multiple opportunities for raising awareness and funds both at planting time and then with the blooming.

Suggested signage templates and

media releases are available to help take full advantage of these important opportunities.

We hope these winning photographs from the 2016/17 photographic competitions will inspire clubs to bathe the whole of Great Britain and Ireland in purple!

Corm prices are fixed at £100 per 5,000 corms, or £30 per 1,000 by June 30th, so get your orders in early to ensure you get them at this price. You can always place further orders before the July 31st deadline. ●

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“The Rotary polio story is an excellent hook for engaging with local communities and local media, as well as your own club activities locally and internationally.”



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Moving Rotary towards *a brighter future*

IT'S Spring, so it must be Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland Conference time, and this year it came to Torquay.

The weather was kind, the speakers fantastic and the entertainment superb.

The Riviera Centre is compact and we filled it both up and down with a wonderful showcase.

It was our honour to welcome Her Royal Highness, the Princess Royal, for over three hours and she did us proud, meeting around 100 individuals and speaking for 20 minutes.

Her recognition and thanks for the work of Rotarians in Great Britain and Ireland was genuine and gratefully received. Thank you Chairman, Jeremy Voizey, and team for a great event.

Thirty-five minutes late by Royal consent, the Annual Business Meeting (ABM) finished just 10 minutes later than scheduled, which must be a first. I was pleased to present a new path for RIBI, which received significant approval by the membership.

Rotary International President, Ian Riseley, was present and supports our plan to create a Rotary fit for the 21st century, which will be a model for the world.

The meeting again employed online voting, and we retained full attendance through to the end.

Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland has this year seen change and development as never before, and I thank every district and club for getting behind the plan.

I know that change is not easy for all, not through lack of recognition of the need, or the will, but the process must be planned and importantly it must involve all members.

Clubs will know when the time is right and the changes that are to be

made; from a simple alternative meeting night, to committee structures and satellite club sponsorship.

Following the ABM, you shall see proposals for changes to the Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland Presidency, General Council and the Executive, but remember these have no direct impact at club level.

Rotary2 was launched 15 months ago with a target of 250 new flexible club opportunities. By June 30th, we shall have reached this goal and thank you everyone for making it happen.

Every District will have Rotary2 clubs and I encourage you all to visit them.

President Ian's tree planting challenge has sparked your imaginations and it looks like we shall easily exceed his target too.

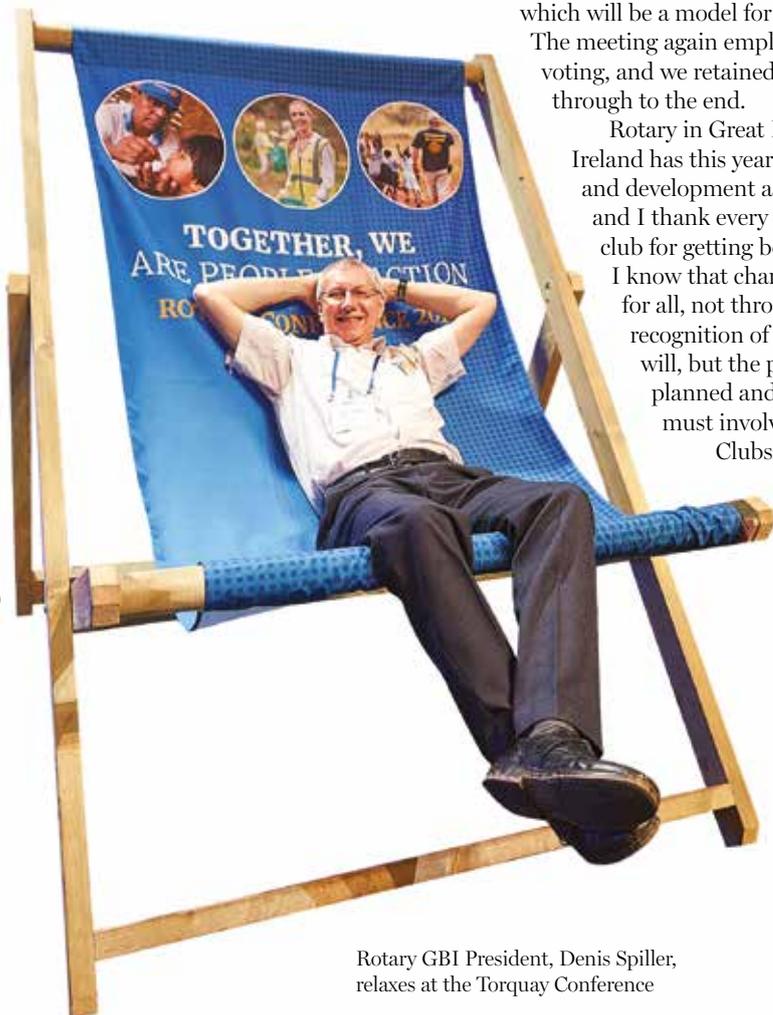
The Rodney Huggins Environmental Trophy will be presented for a tree planting project and I want to thank Rodney for this great initiative. Thank you Terry Knowles for a marvellous job of co-ordinating the whole programme.

Finally, a few words about the Rotary Purple4Polio Grand Tour. Thank you to everyone who got involved and put in the thousands of miles to promote and raise money for our polio eradication campaign right across the country.

Cars and vehicles in all shapes and sizes, from a 1930s classic to a converted dump truck, were adorned with bright purple stickers across their doors, boots and bonnets.

Another Rotary year is almost done. Rotary has certainly made a difference.

As we enter the new Rotary year, we are now ready to Be The Inspiration to move Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland to a brighter future. ●



Rotary GBI President, Denis Spiller, relaxes at the Torquay Conference

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Letters *to the Editor*

Time to beat the Aussies!

THE International Fellowship of Cricket Loving Rotarians (IFCR) is one of the largest and most successful international Rotary Fellowships.

On May 25th, 1993 the formal launching of IFCR took place in the Long Room of the Melbourne Cricket Club courtesy of the Australian Cricket Board.

It has its 25th anniversary in 2018 and also celebrates the 10th World Cricket Festival in Melbourne in January 2019.

The name was deliberately chosen to ensure that the organisation welcomes Rotarians and family with an interest in the game, even though they are not active players. This Fellowship is attractive to potential Rotarians.

Through frequent tours to and by other countries, strong friendships have developed. British Rotarians took opportunities to see Rotary in action in other parts of the world, to develop personal connections and co-operate with overseas Rotarians in implementing worthwhile projects.

IFCR GB&I has donated well over £15,000 for the various international projects they have visited and seen first-hand including giving out Polio vaccine.

The most recent project to be

undertaken is in India and is hoping to achieve a Global Grant.

A GB & I team has been to each of the nine World Festivals which have taken place in the New Forest, England, where it all started in 1997.

For next January's World Festival of Cricket in Melbourne, which runs from January 20th to 25th, any Rotarian, their family, friends and potential Rotarians are invited to take part.

There is a reasonable balance between cricket and other holiday activities to attract the cricketer, their partner and family. The first night dinner is at the hallowed Melbourne Cricket Ground!

As you might expect of Rotarians, most of the players are past their prime, so to ensure that players of varying ages and ability are offered a decent opportunity to participate, normal rules are amended to suit. Nevertheless, competitive instincts remain strong and provide an opportunity for the Poms to enjoy beating the Aussies.

To find out more information about the festival or becoming a member please contact me at keithhopkins@hotmail.co.uk, phone 07715 052718. To find out more go to:

www.gbrotarycricket.co.uk

Keith Hopkins
Rotary Club of Kirriemuir



Cricket loving Rotarians!

On-line reader

WHAT an improvement on the too-shiny magazine that probably did not even make it to surgery waiting rooms.

Perhaps there is one more change that could help the screen reader. Namely, either change the aspect ratio to landscape or, as is almost the case with the article about Maidenhead Bridge in the April issue of the magazine, insert white space mid page.

That means, by setting the PDF view to 'Fit Width' you can first read the top 'frame' of text and graphics without scrolling before paging down to the lower frame.

I am putting the point view of a landscape-screen user, but a tablet-screen user could work in the same way, or view whole pages and rotate the tablet.

But well done anyway.

Colin Wells
Rotary Club of High Wycombe

Editor's note: The format of the magazine has been well received online, as well as in print. However, we are aware that the magazine is not yet mobile responsive. Once the new-look Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland website launches later this summer, these issues will be resolved.

Caravan fellowship

HIGHLY rewarding, yet not too well-known aspect of the world of Rotary is the existence of Rotary Fellowships which, operating outside of the normal pyramidal structures of clubs and districts, bring together Rotarians with specific interests.

One of the oldest and most successful of these Fellowships is the International Caravanning Fellowship of Rotarians (ICFR) which was formed 50 years ago in the UK.

ICFR continues to serve Rotarians from all over the British Isles who have caravans and motorhomes. It enables



Rotary Caravanning

members to visit beautiful parts of the world and interesting events in the company of fellow Rotarians.

We meet old friends and make many new friends, all in the most relaxed of circumstances. ICFR encourages us to get out and about, to make the most of our caravans and motorhomes and to visit great places we might otherwise never see. In short, we get Rotary fun and fellowship - on wheels!

Our annual programme usually includes 25 or more local rallies and three or four continental rallies. Every few years we have an intercontinental fly/hire rally: past destinations have included New Zealand, South Africa and North America.

Despite our long and active history, we regularly come across Rotarian caravanners who are unaware of the Fellowship's existence so, as we move into our 51st year, we are making a determined effort to redress this lack of awareness.

We have been circulating "News & Views", our twice-yearly magazine, much more widely and copies have already been sent to District Governors, District Governors-Elect and District Secretaries in all the Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland districts.

We have also produced a new "Just Give Me Two Ticks" leaflet to summarise

the activities and advantages of ICFR and we are endeavouring to make this available in Rotary clubs as well as in caravan sites and dealerships.

Anyone wishing to know more should visit our website: www.rotarianscaravanning.org.uk where it is also possible to download copies of our magazine.

Come and join us. The £10 annual subscription could be the best £10 you ever spend!

Geoff Bell
President - ICFR
Rotary Club of Medway
icfr@rotarianscaravanning.org.uk

Together in Lebanon

FELLOW Rotarians and friends,

Pursuant to their mission of fostering friendship and strengthening cross cultural understanding, and after the great successes of the international gatherings previously held in 2010 and 2015, Rotarians of Lebanon are pleased to announce the 3rd "Together in Lebanon", a week long programme of tours and festivities scheduled from Saturday

October 13th until Saturday October 20th, 2018.

Rotarians of Lebanese origin, Rotarians friends of Lebanon, friends and families are all welcome to participate in an enchanting experience where visitors will have the opportunity to:

- Discover and experience Lebanon by immersing themselves in its rich cultural and religious heritage, mingling with the Lebanese and exploring various regions;
- Benefit from professional networking contacts with fellow Rotarians, visit projects completed in Lebanon, meet local twin clubs and other clubs;
- Foster friendships by strengthening the bond between local Rotarians and the Rotary community at large.

There have been invaluable exchanges between Rotarians, their clubs, and countries to date and we look forward to further building on the success of 2010 and 2015 and taking it to new heights.

United by the love of Lebanon, what better time and setting for Rotarians and friends to meet and share old experiences or create new ones!

For registration and information updates, kindly visit www.togetherinlebanon.org and please let us know if any additional information is required.

Looking forward to receiving you in Lebanon we remain.

May Monla Chmaytelly
Chairperson of the Committee
"Together in Lebanon 2018"

Get in touch

We welcome your letters on any subject to do with Rotary. Submissions should not be more than 250 words long. Please include your name and address.

Email: editor@rotarygbi.org or **Post:** Rotary magazine, Rotary in Great Britain & Ireland, Kinwarton Road, Alcester, Warwickshire B49 6PB.

The comments made on this page do not necessarily represent the views of Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland and Rotarians.

Seven-up *for Rotary at Melrose*

THE Melrose Rugby Sevens is one of the most historic sporting events in the UK, dating back to 1883.

And this April, Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland sponsored the weekend tournament in the tiny Scottish Borders town, which this year attracted 12,000 fans.

Among those on the touchline was former Scottish rugby star, Doddie Weir, who is raising money for Motor Neurone Disease, through his foundation My Name's Doddie.

He said: "It's very special being here because this is where rugby sevens was invented, so this was an exciting day for all."

Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland President, Denis Spiller, attended the tournament. "With the avenue of Rotary flags lining the walkway to the hospitality tents, people would have thought they

“

"A rugby team works together to tackle the challenges and reach its goals, as does Rotary in our communities at home and abroad, but typically in less muddy conditions!"

were attending a Rotary event," he said.

With worldwide TV coverage, pitch-side advertising boards and Rotary logos emblazoned on the back of the match officials' shirts, this was a high profile showcase for the organisation.

"The logistics beforehand were a bit demanding with the weather and access to the ground limited due to heavy rain that had hit us on the lead up," said

Peter Croan, Public Image Chair for Southern Scotland.

"The good news was that the sun shone and we were bathed for most of the day in glorious sun and had a good number in the ground."

The partnership with the Melrose Sevens kicked off three years ago, and this year The Rotary Foundation was the tournament's designated charity.

Earlier in April, Rotary was the principal sponsor of the inaugural Rotary Melrose University Sevens at The Greenyards ground.

Denis Spiller, added: "It's great to be part of the team for this year's Melrose Sevens and beyond. This partnership makes perfect sense.

"A rugby team works together to tackle the challenges and reach its goals, as does Rotary in our communities at home and abroad, but typically in less muddy conditions!" ●



A touch judge wearing Rotary-branded kit at the Melrose Sevens

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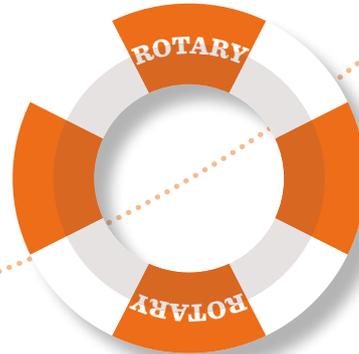
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Rotary was a *lifeline* when my husband passed away

Ten years ago, Rosemary Simpson's life changed when her Rotarian husband Douglas died. Today, she is the second female president of the Rotary Club of Belfast in its 107th year. Here is her story.



Rosemary Simpson

WHEN my husband Douglas passed away, I was left shocked and somewhat unprepared in how to deal with our family business. As a former nurse with no business training, I felt the whole prospect somewhat overwhelming.

My husband had been a Rotarian

for many years and had great personal fulfilment from the friends and business contacts he made as well as the difference he was making in the world. My father-in-law was also heavily involved in the organisation.

I had always attended Rotary functions alongside Douglas and enjoyed the social scene very much, but never gave any thought to joining myself.

All that changed after Douglas's death, the president of the Rotary Club of Belfast approached me to become editor of the club magazine. This I did eagerly, as I had experience through Inner Wheel being editor of its worldwide publication. And everyone in the club was so welcoming that I decided to give it a go.

Having a role gave me a purpose to my Rotary membership. I found it fulfilling and rewarding and I began to attend regular meetings with a renewed vigour. Joining Rotary meant that I had something to look forward to, a network

of friends around the same age as me, from all walks of life who all had similar views and values as me, and a sense of purpose to my week and allowed me to help 'do good' in the world.

I became so involved in the club and loved my time with them so much that I became club secretary. This allowed me to use my skills and actively make a difference within the club that my husband had loved so much.

Rotary is a fantastic way of meeting people – I appreciated the opportunity to meet and make new friends which was especially helpful not only after losing Douglas, but also in the business world which I was very new to. Rotary changed so much for me and really was a lifeline at the most difficult time of my life. I have made lifelong friends and socialise regularly.

Ten years ago, if you had have told me I would be the president of the Rotary Club of Belfast, I wouldn't have believed



ROTARY PRESIDENT
IAN RISELEY

Talk from the Top

“I had always attended Rotary functions alongside Douglas and enjoyed the social scene very much, but never gave any thought to joining myself.”

you, but now that I am here it has been a most wonderful experience.

I have been involved in so many wonderful projects, notably in the One Last Push campaign which is the eradication of polio which Rotary International has been heavily involved in for many years.

I had a very good friend who lived with polio all of his life and he was such a great inspiration to me, to be involved in a campaign where we actively administer vaccines to children in deprived countries against this harrowing disease is truly humbling and very rewarding.

Our club is also involved in The Silver Line project which is headed up by Esther Rantzen CBE and aims to tackle loneliness in the older generation. This project is very close to my heart.

As a caring individual I have appreciated the opportunities Rotary has given to me to help others, both young and old, through our involvement in eradicating polio, in giving young people encouragement and support, by sending students bi-annually to Chicago in our ‘Towards A Better Understanding’ scheme.

We also have always helped disabled children locally, and have assisted young people to prepare for the job market

through our “YouthAction” project, whilst remembering people worldwide through our ShelterBox scheme - giving people in disaster areas hope and aid.

What could be a more satisfying and worthwhile way to reach out and give ‘Service Above Self’?

As an organisation, we are looking for men and women of all ages and backgrounds to join us either as volunteers, members or both.

You can use your time, talents, professional skills and energy to improve the lives of people in our local communities and around the world. I belong to the Rotary Club of Belfast but there are many clubs across Great Britain and Ireland, like ourselves, ready to welcome new members with open arms.

By joining Rotary, I had not only helped myself at a very dark and lonely time in my life, but I also felt that I was able to help others. I would wholeheartedly recommend to anyone of any age to join this fantastic organisation which is making such a positive difference to the world. ●



To get involved with Rotary in your area visit:
rotarygbi.org

FOR 60 years, choosing a theme has been the privilege, and sometimes the challenge, of each incoming president. Looking back on those past themes opens a small window into the thinking and the vision of each leader – how they saw Rotary, the place they saw for Rotary in the world, and what they hoped Rotary would achieve.

When my turn came to choose a theme, I did not hesitate. I knew immediately that our theme in 2017-18 would be Rotary: Making a Difference. For me, that small phrase describes not only what we do now, but what we aspire to do.

We want to make a difference. We strive to help, to have an impact, to make the world a bit better.

Over the past two years, I have seen so many ways that Rotary is doing just that.

In Guatemala, I saw the difference that simple wood stoves are making in the lives of women who had been cooking on open fires: they no longer breathe smoke when they cook, they spend less time gathering firewood, and they are using their stoves to start small businesses.

In Israel, I visited a Rotary-supported hyperbaric centre that is helping brain injury and stroke patients return to healthy, productive lives.

In communities around the world, Rotarians are Making a Difference by resettling refugees, immunising children, ensuring a safe blood supply, and helping young people learn and thrive.

All over the world, Rotary is continuing its advocacy, fundraising, and support for polio eradication.

Last year, wild poliovirus caused only 22 cases of paralysis in only two countries.

I am confident that soon that number will be zero, and we will begin a new phase in the timeline of eradication: counting down at least three years from the last sign of wild virus to the certification of a polio-free world.

As Juliet and I return home to Australia, we will bring warm memories of the places we have visited, the friends we have made, and the service we have seen.

Thank you, all of you, for the tremendous work you are doing, through Rotary: Making a Difference. ●

Making the business case *for humanitarian action*

BUSINESS leaders can not only make a real difference to the people who need it most, but they can also benefit their own firms and employees.

That's the view of Garth Arnold, the 100th District Governor of Rotary Ireland.

At a time when humanitarian needs far outstrip funding for life-saving help on our own doorstep and globally, Garth is asking the question whether Irish businesses could be the new frontier for philanthropic fund-raising?

"The cumulative effect of humanitarian work is limitless," explained Garth. "It not only gives to the people in need, but it can bring you so much personally and professionally."

This is the basis on which today's Rotary clubs exist. In Ireland, Rotary has been alive for more than a century, now featuring 73 clubs stretched across the Emerald Isle.

In a bid to promote Rotary in Ireland, Garth has been telling the business community about the movement's four way ethical test, foundations for any personal or professional relationship – is it the truth, fair to all concerned, will it build on goodwill and better friendships, and will it be beneficial to all concerned?

"These guiding principles provide the foundation for everything that we do and ensure a strong ethical belief that our Service Above Self brings good to both our charitable and humanitarian actions," added Garth.

"These principles also guarantee good business practice outside of the clubs.

"I believe involvement can bring enormous benefits to both the individual and their business."

He added: "Obviously, Rotary offers business representatives an opportunity to network with other like-minded



"It is a global, professional networking organisation for business people with a moral and social conscience."

individuals. It often provides members with sales leads and invaluable contacts, but benefits go far beyond the obvious.

"It is a global, professional networking organisation for business people with a moral and social conscience.

"Rotary brings its members opportunities to support incredibly worthwhile causes both at home and abroad and brings each member the chance to stand up and be counted and to make a real lasting difference in the world.

"From a business point of view,

getting your business involved in activities which have a positive effect on the local community clearly helps increase regional influence, awareness of your organisation and delivers on corporate social responsibility.

"For the individual, being a member of Rotary can instil an immense sense of pride, offering a way in which they can use their skill set for the greater good and ultimately inspire others to get involved.

"Quite simply, it can change many lives for the better." ●

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Putting Silver *on the map*

A PROJECT which is asking folk to pause and think about older people, while celebrating their contribution to society, is looking for support from Rotarians.

Silver Sunday was launched in the City of Westminster in 2012 by Councillor The Lady Christabel Flight, Westminster's Older People's Champion.

The purpose of the innovative project is to overcome loneliness, after a recent report discovered that more than a third of people over 75 admitted they were lonely.

The Westminster initiative aims to celebrate older residents, as well as helping them get out and meet new people.

Cllr The Lady Flight said: "We have a Mother's Day and a Father's Day, so why not have a day to celebrate older people?"

"My aim now is to get Silver Sunday in the diary and on the calendar, much like Mothering Sunday."

Silver Sunday has now burst out of



the boundaries of the capital and is being adopted nationally – with this year's event taking place on October 7th.

With the help of the Sir Simon Milton Foundation, Silver Sunday has grown to more than 750 free events held nationwide last year – from the south of England to Glasgow, and Northern Ireland.

Thousands of older people were able to get out of their homes, attend a special event where they made new friends.

Highlights of last year's Silver Sunday events included a Walking Football Cup in Worcester, tea with the Mayor in Cumbria, ferry rides in Bristol, a Dance-a-thon in Chelsea, tours of the Botanic Gardens in Belfast, workshops with the English National Ballet, Sunday lunch in Hastings, a craft afternoon in Norfolk, and a concert at the Royal Albert Hall.

Attending a Silver Sunday event can be the first step for many isolated older people to try something new in their local area.

According to the Sir Simon Milton Foundation, as well as giving them confidence, it also encourages elderly people

to stay mentally and physically active, learn new skills, while ensuring they feel they are a valued part of their community.

Lucinda Hurrey, a project officer with the Sir Simon Milton Foundation, said she hoped that Rotary clubs would get involved this October by putting on special events focussed on the elderly.

She said: "This year, we are again asking everyone – organisations, community groups and individuals – to put on free events for older people, or simply write a card or deliver a cake.

"Anything which helps them to feel appreciated, get out and make new friends, or try something new.

"We would be very grateful if Rotary clubs could get involved by hosting their own events for local residents, a tea party or coffee morning, for example."●



i For more information visit:
silversunday.org.uk or email
info@silversunday.org.uk

WHAT IS A 21st CENTURY MAN?

THE MATTHEW COLLINS PUBLIC SPEAKER

In a post Harvey Weinstein world what is his future? And if masculinity is dangerous how can a man begin to manage his maleness?

Drawing on his experience of raising sons alone, teaching dangerous criminals in a male prison and simply being a bloke, former BBC 2 Travel Show presenter, Matthew Collins, offers a unique perspective on how men can start to tame the threatening side of their maleness. It all begins with language.

"Engage With Gentle Words" is a new comedic talk that Matthew is offering to Rotary groups. It's thought-provoking, literary and participatory. The males it covers range from toddlers and schoolboys to gangsters and gentlemen. It's essential listening for any man who wishes to become developed and mindful.

To find out more about Matthew Collins and to book him for this talk, go to: www.matthewcollins.co.uk

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The **Community Heartbeat Trust** is a national heart charity, that is dedicated to helping communities place defibrillators addressing the equipment, the Governance, the liabilities and the long term support. We look at projects *holistically* and *sustainably*. We have an active programme of donating AEDs to needy causes. CHT is the *preferred supplier* to Rotary GB&I.

We offer the **right** equipment choices for the situation, with the **right** storage meeting the correct requirements, the **right** back-up for the community, and the **right** long term resilience and add on services to make the project a success. All supported by a range of free advice and support services. We don't make profits for shareholders.

CHT is now the **leading** organisation placing community defibrillators, working with most ambulance services daily, and as a 'not-for-profit' we can offer unbiased and detailed advice on how to undertake this type of project – correctly.

If you want to place a defibrillator into the community, come to speak to us first. We are the **only** specialists in this area, and are staffed by people who *know* this marketplace, and have *lived and breathed* defibrillators. We don't have commercial or self interests, nor try to convince you to buy unsuitable or old technology equipment. We just help you **'Do It Right'**.



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www.communityheartbeat.org.uk



COMMUNITY HEARTBEAT
The Community HeartBeat Trust

INSPIRATIONAL CITIZENS

THEY are inspirational youngsters who, through their hard work and determination, have unselfishly assisted others.

From helping the homeless to clothing children who live in poverty and being a wheelchair whizz kid on the tennis court, these were the winners of Rotary's Young Citizen Award.

Their achievements were recognised last month at the Rotary national conference in Torquay, receiving their awards from BBC TV presenter Ellie Crisell. Here are their stories.



Jamala Osman

Nominated by Rotary Club of Redbridge

Jamala, *pictured left*, became a carer for her brother and twin sister as a teenager after suffering from depression and the loss of their mother.

Growing up in Ilford, she was surrounded by gang culture and violence.

By 14-years-old, she had been kicked out of her father's house and lost contact with her siblings, and it was only four years later when she reconnected with her siblings to become their carer.

Jamala was accepted on to the highly competitive Barclay's apprenticeship programme. Now aged 24, she is a

branch manager, is considered one

of the bank's most successful apprentices who regularly

speaks at schools about

mental health and

making positive life choices.

Joseph Cox

Nominated by Rotary Club of Leith

Saddened by the sight of a growing number of rough sleepers in the Edinburgh area, 11-year-old Joseph decided to take action.

His simple idea "Socks for the Street" touched the hearts of people in the local community and around the world. The charity collects new socks, underwear, gloves, hats, scarves and boots for the homeless.

He persuaded his school to be a drop off point for donations and has set up a Facebook page and an Amazon wish-list of essentials for keeping warm on the streets. Joseph even travels with items in the family car everywhere they go in case he spots someone in need.

Ryan Montgomery

Nominated by Rotary Club of Corstorphine

Ryan, 16, from Edinburgh is committed to helping others through first-aid and set up his own charity, Corstorphine Emergency Response.

He has been administering first-aid since the age of 12, supports events and trains fellow students and teachers at Craigmount High School to deliver CPR.

After realising how important defibrillators were, Ryan set up a campaign to raise funds to supply four defibrillators for his local community. He did this through various means including collecting 300 old mobile phones.



© Peter Croan



©Peter Croan

Young Citizen Award winners (from left) Abbie Breakwell, Jamala Osman, Ryan Montgomery, Dale Rawlins, Rebekah Hinton and Joseph Cox

Andrew Davies

Nominated by Rotary Satellite Club of Chesterfield

In September 2012, Andrew, then 13, became very unwell. He was referred to Sheffield Children's Hospital where he was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia, a rare and a rapidly spreading disease if not treated quickly.

Over the following months he endured courses of chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant.

Thankfully Andrew recovered and decided he wanted to give something back. Realising a bone marrow transplant costs £150,000, he set his sights on raising the same amount so other young lives could be saved.

Now aged 19, Andrew's fund-raising total stands at nearly £140,000.

Rebekah Hinton

Nominated by Rotary Club of Bradford West

Rebekah, 20, was so deeply concerned by the desperate lack of children's clothing in the deprived community of West Bowling, Bradford, that she set up the Children's Clothes Bank at the age of 16.

With help from a local toddler group and her own school with collections of clothing, she has helped many families from

all backgrounds, including refugees.

The clothes are sorted at her local church and distributed in exchange for vouchers which Rebekah designed called C2C (child-to-child). The vouchers reach families in need through a network of health visitors, social workers and the local children's centre. When families come to the clothing bank, they exchange the vouchers for good quality clothes.

Dale Rawlins

Nominated by Rotary Club of Gloucester

Dale set up a disability football team when he was 14. Two years later, he opened a social enterprise sports shop in Gloucester to create employment for the players and generate funds.

When Dale finished school, he committed to the enterprise full-time, which gives people the confidence and skills towards mainstream employment and move from institutional to independent living.

The enterprise creates funds enabling young players to take FA Level 1 coaching courses. A couple of the players lacked the necessary literacy skills and confidence so Dale trained alongside them.

Four hundred young people have benefited. Dale runs the largest pan-disability football club in the UK, with 13 adult and three children's sides. He has set

up one of only five disabled ladies' teams in the country and one deaf team with over 130 regular players.

Rotary Young Citizen WheelPower Sports Award Winner:

Abbie Breakwell

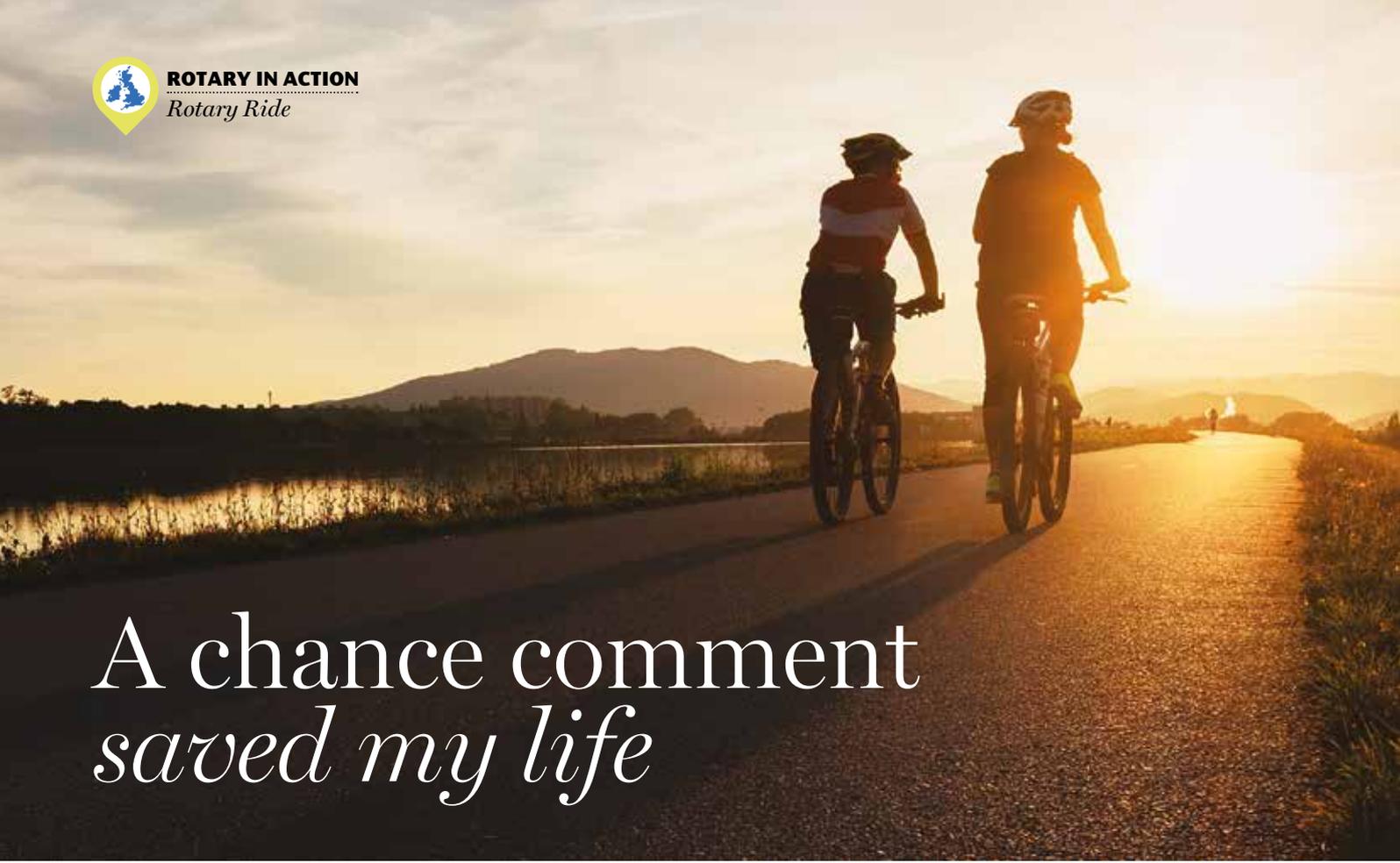
Nominated by Rotary Club of Long Eaton

Fifteen-year-old Abbie has a muscle-wasting disease and a spinal cord syrinx which has left her wheelchair-bound.

This award is presented jointly by Rotary and by the charity WheelPower, which provides opportunities in sport for people with physical impairments.

Abbie, who has always loved sport, did not let this stop her and she started playing wheelchair tennis two years ago. She trains several times a week and attends tennis camps across the country. Her dream is to represent Team GB at the Paralympics and to play at Wimbledon.

Abbie is one of two girl tennis players and five boys picked for the Tennis Foundation's new programme to produce world class wheelchair tennis players. She is also an ambassador for This Girl Can, encouraging other girls to improve their life through sport. ●



A chance comment *saved my life*

FOR Colin Timms, it was a chance comment to his doctor which probably saved his life – and brought him face-to-face with one of the most common cancers affecting men.

“I went to see the GP about something else and just happened to say to her, ‘I went to the loo in the middle of the night and found I couldn’t pass water;’” recalled Colin, who is a Dawlish Rotarian.

Colin’s passing remark prompted the GP to carry out a PSA test. This blood test measures the amount of prostate specific antigen (PSA) in your blood – PSA is a protein produced by normal cells in the prostate.

When the results came back unclear, a biopsy was arranged and seven of the eight cell samples returned positive. Scans revealed the cancer had spread to Colin’s pelvis, parts of his ribs and his left shoulder.

Welcome to the world of prostate cancer, the third biggest killer in the UK behind lung and bowel cancer, and the focus of this year’s Rotary Ride.

Rotary Ride is a series of bike rides organised across the country on and around Father’s Day weekend, June 16th–17th to raise money for prostate cancer charities: Prostate Cancer UK, Prostate Scotland,



“Rotary Ride organiser, Keith Hopkins, described the event as a very personal journey for many people.”

Prostate Cymru and the Irish Cancer Society as well as local charities.

From family days, fun rides, static bike rides to more challenging events, there will be something to suit all abilities.

The number of men dying from prostate cancer has overtaken female deaths from breast cancer for the first time in the UK. An ageing population means that more men are developing and now dying from the disease.

Prostate Cancer UK says advances in the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer are paying off, and increased funding could benefit prostate cancer.

The latest figures from 2015 show there were 11,819 deaths from prostate cancer compared with 11,442 deaths from breast cancer.

Colin is determined to beat prostate cancer. He was put on the hormone therapy Zoladex and he has now been

under treatment for 11 years. He is about to undergo another round of Zoladex.

Throughout his treatment Colin remained positive, and his actions even prompted male friends to have the PSA test with their local GP.

“There are two ways of dealing with it,” he added. “I could either go into my shell and say ‘woe is me’ or spread the word as far as I could.

“When I got the diagnosis the very first thing I did was go to a club meeting and said, ‘Look chaps. I’ve got a problem but I believe it is under control.’”

Rotary Ride organiser, Keith Hopkins, described the event as a very personal journey for many people.

He said: “Participants are riding for their friends and family, people they know who are dealing with or have been through prostate cancer. It is a great day out but it is also very personal thing.

“I am very grateful to everyone for putting on a Rotary Ride in their area.

“There are some super scenic routes in country parks and around castles as well as a ride in a racing circuit normally reserved for cars.” ●



Rotary Ride information including locations can be found at: ride.rotarygbi.org

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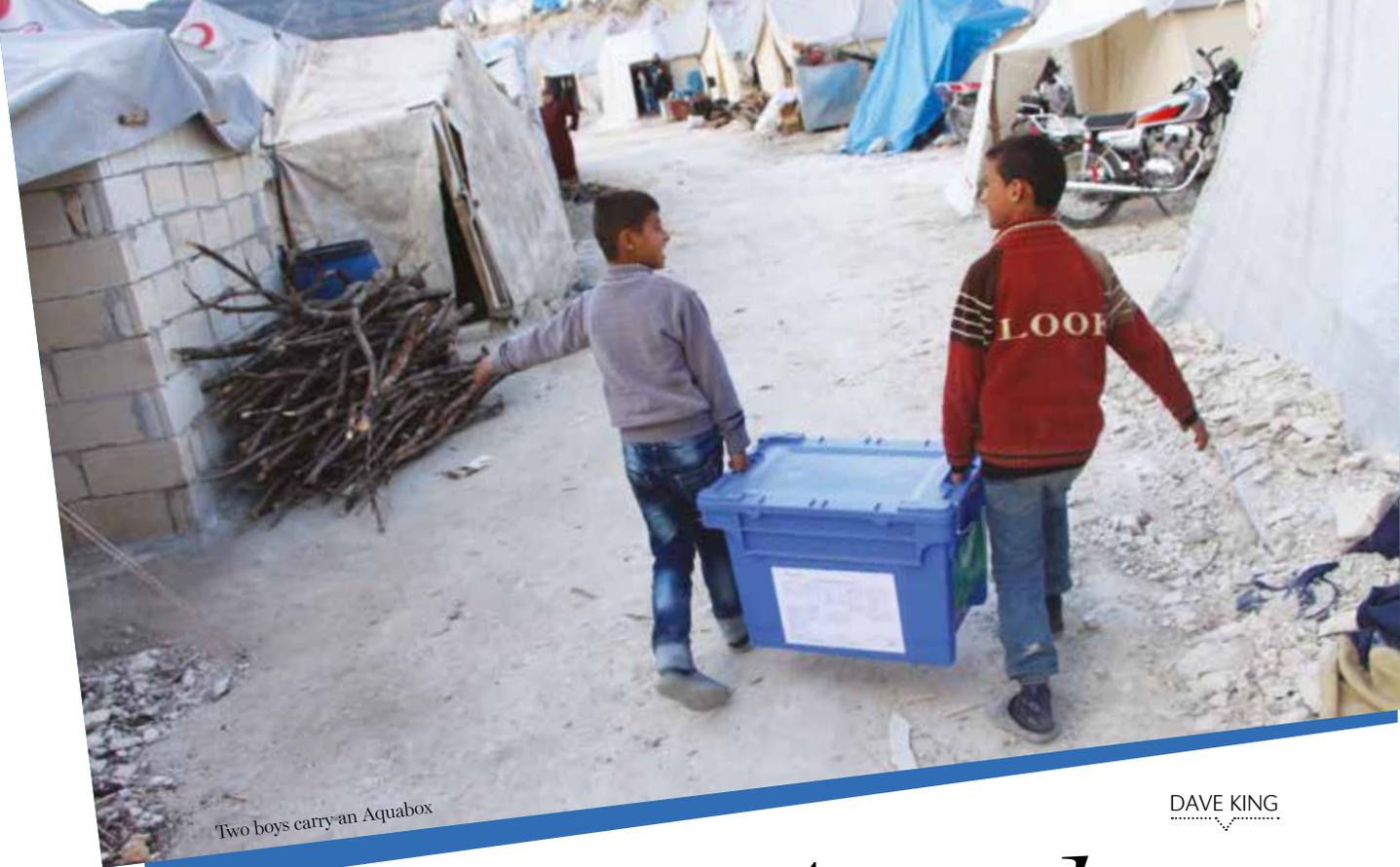
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Two boys carry an Aquabox

DAVE KING

Aquabox: life-changing and life-saving



“If you’re in disaster situation, the first thing that goes is the infrastructure and fresh water. Children and adults die of thirst, of typhus and cholera - you can’t go for very long without clean drinking water.”

NINE O’Clock on a bracing Friday morning in the Peak District, and already an array of volunteers are hard at work packing blue container boxes.

They’re the size of those storage boxes you buy to pack away the Christmas decorations. But here, in an unremarkable industrial unit situated just outside Matlock, their work is both life-changing and life-saving.

This is the headquarters of Aquabox, a Rotary-inspired charity which, for 26 years, has sent more than 110,000 humanitarian aid boxes to disaster zones around the world.

Earthquakes, flooding, drought, typhoons, hurricanes and war, Aquabox has seen it all. Loss of life, lack of food, severe water shortages.

Working with aid agencies in these stricken zones, the Derbyshire-based charity sends the blue boxes containing aqua filters, plus humanitarian aid including cooking utensils, hygiene equipment, tools, shelter materials,

baby and children’s clothing, as well as educational items.

“When we started off the charity we began sending out basic aid items, such as cooking stuff and tarpaulins to survive,” explained trustee Roger Cassidy, who is a member of the Rotary Club of Wirksworth, which kicked off the venture in 1992.

“But then as time went on and we got more feedback from the field, we discovered that educational items also became important.

“So we send out books, envelopes, pens and paper and things like that.

“When children are in a camp with nothing to do, this is a way of establishing as much normality as possible.

“The other thing we got feedback about was sanitation items. Things like soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, basic items which you need when you have been through a dreadful disaster like the hurricane in the Caribbean.

“It enables people to establish a little more humanness to their lives.

“The most recent addition has been adding a solar lamp.



**Aquabox have shipped
out more than
1,200 boxes
over the past six months**

"Rather than putting in candles and matches, which is what we used to do, we added solar lamps a couple of years ago.

"A lot of these disasters occur in countries where there is a lot of sunshine.

"We have also added bamboo cups and bowls, instead of tin items, trying to be more environmentally-friendly."

At the heart of the Aquabox operation are the water filters. When the charity first began, the original boxes had a tap on the side, water would be poured into the box mixed with a chlorine tablet.

The bottom line in any disaster is that the greatest number of deaths occur through water-borne diseases. So, ensuring a safe and reliable source for drawing water in a disaster zone, is a priority.

The pumps, which cost £25 each, are assembled manually in Wirksworth by a mixture of Rotarians, Inner Wheel volunteers and church groups from across the Peak District.

According to one of the assemblers, Mick Brittain, the parts are pretty robust. Within each water filter there is a backflush mechanism to ensure its longevity of up to three years by expelling any muck on the membrane.

"We've got pumps operating in The Gambia which have been going for six years," explained Mick. "It is a wonderful product - so simple, and it is a life saver.

"If you're in disaster situation, the first thing that goes is the infrastructure and fresh water. Children and adults die of thirst, of typhus and cholera - you can't go for very long without clean drinking water.

"The water filters are not just used for disaster areas. I was involved in a project in rural Botswana where they had wells, but the water was dirty. So they were using dirty water to take their polio medication."

Twenty five years on, Aquabox now runs a very sophisticated operation.

It is a far cry from the early days when boxes were packed in a cow barn in Wirksworth as well as elsewhere by Rotary

clubs, church groups and other voluntary organisations.

There are Aquabox organisations in Canada and Australia.

While in the UK, groups such as the Rotary Club of Gloucester are also involved in box packing.

It is an outstanding success story which was rewarded when Aquabox received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2016. But far from looking back, Aquabox is looking forward as there is an even greater need for the boxes.

"When we first set up, we were dealing with natural disasters," added Roger Holden. "But over the last five years, with the dreadful events in Syria, and more recently in Bangladesh, with the Rohingya people in Myanmar, as well as the war in Yemen, we are responding more to man-made disasters, than the terrible earthquakes or tsunamis 10 years ago."

In the early days, Aquabox had to deal with getting the boxes through customs.

Now their biggest issue is getting the aid to politically unstable areas through partners, such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

On one occasion, when sending boxes to refugee camps in Mogadishu, Somalia, they had to glue large washers over the Rotary symbol on the blue boxes because the Jihadist militant group, Boko Haram, associated Rotary with the USA and it was feared they would exact retribution.

Trustee John Holden revealed that the demand for aid has been massive as they have shipped out more than 1,200 boxes over the past six months.

As for the future, he said they were looking for greater involvement from other Rotary clubs to serve as satellite box-packing groups, as well as creating a team of regional ambassadors.

They also want to have stocks of the boxes stored overseas at key sites to enable quicker deployment to disaster zones.

John detailed that it costs Aquabox around £300,000 a year to operate, and they need to continue to drive more income to support their valuable work.

"Aquabox captures all of the elements of Rotary," he added.

"People freely giving their time to help other people and trying to put a degree of professional skills into that equation to make a difference in the world." ●



TRUSTEE CHAIR 2017/18
PAUL A. NETZEL

IT'S hard to believe that the first year of our Foundation's second century of service – and my term as chair of The Rotary Foundation – is coming to a close.

It has been an amazing experience to see Rotary and Our Foundation in action as I have travelled the world.

It has been inspiring to see the passion and dedication of Rotarians, the energy and creativity of Rotaractors, and the diversity of projects and forms of service.

I've seen Rotary: Making a Difference in the lives of countless people in need, because Rotarians are People of Action!

These experiences have reaffirmed my belief in Rotary's future and the vital role our Foundation can and must continue to play – especially as we approach our post-polio era.

As Rotarians, we have big challenges and bold opportunities ahead:

- We must achieve our goal of eradicating polio. Please contribute to the polio campaign.
- We must expand the conversation and determine what corporate project or projects we will undertake next.
- We must work to engage the 50% of the world's population that is under the age of 30. Surveys consistently show that these young people want to make a difference and to volunteer. We need to continue developing proactive strategies to engage millennials and Gen Z-ers.
- Women account for 50% of the world's population. They are the backbone of many clubs. We need to expand their reach and welcome their leadership.
- Rotarians and clubs need to connect more closely to the Foundation to understand how it can help achieve our goals.

This Rotary year, I invited you to share your ideas with me. Many did – about how to raise more funds, to simplify the grant process, to better engage youth, to build peace, to enhance our membership experience through The Rotary Foundation.

You expressed your passion for a future in which our Foundation will have a greater impact than ever in its second century. This is because you are our greatest strength. ●



New-style ROTARY CLUBS making a difference

Sunday morning, and upstairs at a coffee shop, a bustling group of people arrive, some carrying babies while others are accompanied by small children wearing t-shirts saying “Future Rotarians at Work” - the fortnightly get-together of Maidenhead Bridge Rotary is about to begin. Eve Conway reports.



CLUB President, Michael Atherton, starts off by inducting two new members and presenting them with their Rotary-branded coffee mugs and Rotary pins. The club has nearly 50 members and its numbers are growing.

Michael tells me: “We don’t have a meal, it’s a casual coffee club meeting. We are working Rotarians and we are out there in the community working, rather than sitting in a meeting.”

This is just one of the new-style Rotary clubs I have visited filming videos for a public awareness campaign to highlight their activities as part of the Rotary2 initiative. They bust any myth that Rotary isn’t attractive to younger people, and the enthusiasm and buzz of these clubs is infectious!

Maidenhead Bridge Rotary started five years ago as a group of former

Rotaractors who’d reached the age of 30.

Founding President, Lisa Hunter, says that as lunchtime and evening Rotary meetings didn’t fit in with their busy work and family lifestyles, they decided to do something different.

She adds: “We think it’s important that children come along and, particularly as a parent, for them to learn that they should be giving back to their community to help make a difference.”

Lisa says the club’s focus is on being part of the community. “We decided to launch something called ‘Pimp My Community’ which is working with charities that are very small and perhaps just starting up.

“So we meet with them, find out what they need and give three free hours of our professional time to really crack on and get their charity going and in the right direction.”



“We think it’s important that children come along and, particularly as a parent, for them to learn that they should be giving back to their community to help make a difference.”

This club embodies much of what the Rotary2 campaign is all about - actively promoting the development of more vibrant, diverse, innovative, family-friendly, flexible clubs/groups, creating 250 new Rotary opportunities across Britain and Ireland.

Travelling across Britain and Ireland, I have found a growing number of these new-style clubs out there.

Sitting in the pub hotel where the Rotary Club of Wrexham Glyndwr meets in Wales, Fiona Bassett, their dynamic president enthusiastically describes her new-style club.

“We don’t have a meal. We meet on a fortnightly basis.

“We have got businessmen and women, but we’ve got single mums, we’ve got stay-at-home mums, we’ve got retired people, we’ve got people from all walks of life and from all over really,” she says.

“We’ve got people from Poland, we’ve got people from Rwanda, who now live in the UK. We’ve got such a diverse club and all ages, our youngest is 22 and our oldest is 78. So yes, I think we’re quite different.

“We’re a very enthusiastic bunch. We’re so driven.”

Wrexham Glyndwr started as a satellite club and within six months chartered as a Rotary club as did the new-style Rotary Club of Marlow Bridge in Buckinghamshire, which also meets fortnightly in a local pub and doesn’t have a meal.

Marlow Bridge was started as a satellite club by the two local established Rotary clubs of Marlow and Marlow Thames, who thought there was room in the town for a group for younger, working Rotarians.

Louise Kelly, Founding President of Marlow Bridge, says: “We wanted to meet in a different format to the existing clubs that are already in the town and just bring something new and fresh to Rotary.

“We all lead very busy lives, so our

meetings are after work and more informal than other clubs.

“So we started as a satellite club and then have become our own club, in our own right. The Marlow club and Marlow Thames club have really supported us and they’ve been the driving force behind the recruitment.

“The number of women we have in the club is about 50/50.

“The majority of us are of a younger age, but our average age is about 45. So we’re bringing lots of people in. I think, really, what the draw is the community side of it and the charity side of it.

“It’s less about the networking. A lot of people just want to give something back to the community that they live in.”

And this has proved a ‘win-win’ situation because not only is the Rotary Club of Marlow Bridge gaining members, but so are Marlow and Marlow Thames, as Rotary becomes more visible in the community.

Another club which started off as a satellite is the Rotary Club of Bentley Cheshire, the first corporate Rotary club in Britain and Ireland as many of the

members work for Bentley Motors.

The club is making a big difference to its community by launching a new initiative locally to feed the hungry and the homeless.

First, they set up a Street Kitchen on Fridays in Crewe town centre to provide hot drinks and food to the town’s homeless as well as those struggling to feed themselves.

They are now running this in a community centre, providing warm clothing, sleeping bags, duvets and blankets.

Club Secretary Sarah Newcombe says: “The Rotary Club of Bentley Cheshire has been the catalyst and raised the profile of the homeless situation locally and we are really making a difference here.”

To help Rotary continue to make a difference, Rotary2 provides opportunities for Rotary to grow and be relevant to today’s world.

The clubs I visited show how Rotary is attractive to younger, working people and by providing opportunities for more such clubs to flourish in the future is a step forward. ●



IT'S GONE VIRAL

What is being watched, posted, liked, shared and tweeted around Rotary in the world of social media.



Twitter | Facebook | YouTube | Instagram



ROTARY IS FOR COMMUNITIES EVERYWHERE

The Princess Royal has paid tribute to Rotary members for the work they do in communities across the globe. You can head to our [YouTube channel](#) to see her speech in full, where she praised Rotary's contribution to eradicating polio, supporting young people and promoting world peace.



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ROTARY YOUNG CITIZEN AWARDS

If you missed our Facebook live coverage of this year's Rotary Young Citizen Awards, don't worry because you can catch up now on our [YouTube page](#)! Hosted once again by Ellie Crisell, the 11th year of the awards celebrated the amazing work of young people, who have been helping their communities through projects helping the homeless, teaching first aid and more!



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TISWAS TIME

Broadcaster and Purple4Polio Ambassador Chris Tarrant shares his Millionaire memories, and made one Rotarian's Tiswas dream come true! Check out our [YouTube channel](#) to see this classic custard pie moment along with other speakers in our Conference playlist.



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#VACCINESWORK

In April we marked World Immunisation Week! Over half a million people viewed the World Health Organization's 5 Facts on Vaccines video. How many do you know? Visit their [Facebook page](#) or search [#VaccinesWork](#).



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ROTARACT AT SUMMIT

Rotaract GBI Chair Tom Silverson was one of thousands to attend April's Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. Visit [@RotaractGBI](#) on Twitter to see what he got up to or search [#CHOGM2018](#).



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FOCUS ON THE CROCUS

Orders are now being taken for crocus corms as part of the winter 2018 planting season. Use [#Purple4Polio](#) to show off the work you're doing in your community to help end polio!

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The chilling impact of modern slavery

LAST autumn, 11 members of one Lincolnshire family were jailed after one of the worst cases of modern slavery on these shores.

The gang, who each received hefty prison sentences, preyed on homeless people and some with learning difficulties, forcing them to work for little or no pay and live in squalid conditions for up to 26 years.

The family were described in court as “chilling in their mercilessness” ordering one victim to dig his own grave.

Chief Superintendent Nikki Mayo from Lincolnshire Police revealed that the victims, aged between 18 and 63, had been picked up from all over the country and specifically targeted because they were vulnerable and homeless.

She said: “We knew these men were being kept in very poor conditions and made to work for little money.

“The extent of these conditions soon became apparent – the victims were ‘accommodated’ in caravans without running water or access to toilet facilities, and in some cases the electricity to them was dangerously obtained from a nearby pylon.

“The men were incredibly vulnerable.

“

“I don't know how I can borrow the energy Rotarians have in the way you have taken on polio, but as and when you eradicate polio, may I ask you to consider human trafficking and slavery as your next endeavour?”

“Some had learning disabilities or mental health issues while others were completely dependent on alcohol or drugs.

“Some had no idea what was happening when we arrived at the site or when they were transported into the care of support services and we worked hard to gain their trust.”

This chilling case brought into sharp focus a crime phenomenon which has largely been hidden from the public's eyes.

Modern slavery involves the recruitment of vulnerable children and adults, moving them to another place, often another country, using threats, force or deception to make them do something

against their will. It involves exploiting them to make money or provide services.

And it is on the increase with 43 million people in slavery across the world, according to the Global Slavery Index. In the UK, The Salvation Army, has reported a 300% increase in the number of victims referred for support in the past six years.

According to the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Kevin Hyland OBE, the estimate of 13,000 victims in the UK is based on old intelligence.

He claims the true number is in the tens of thousands.

It has prompted Shaun Sawyer, Chief Constable of Devon & Cornwall Police, to urge Rotary to join the fight against modern slavery.

Speaking at the Rotary conference in Torquay in April, the chief constable said: “I don't know how I can borrow the energy Rotarians have in the way you have taken on polio, but as and when you eradicate polio, may I ask you to consider human trafficking and slavery as your next endeavour?”

Mr Sawyer, who is the Association of Chief Police Officers' national lead on modern slavery, added: “Human trafficking in children, in women in particular for sexual exploitation, has

“The extent of these conditions soon became apparent – the victims were ‘accommodated’ in caravans without running water or access to toilet facilities, and in some cases the electricity to them was dangerously obtained from a nearby pylon.”



RI DIRECTOR 2017-19
BRIAN STOYEL

I CANNOT believe that I have served as Director for nearly a year and throughout I have been thrilled, saddened and heartened by the good works being executed and funded by Rotarians, friends and the Family of Rotary.

It has been said we try to cover too many interests, but industrious, enthusiastic, inquisitive people are like that – so many ideas, so many passions, so many concerns.

We are gathering more members with Rotary2, so we should be well placed to continue providing our much-needed services to the many deserving peoples for years and years to come.

Believe me, it will not be a quick fix and next year we must consolidate and expand our efforts yet again.

Changes from the RIBI Annual Business meeting, which, although perhaps appearing cosmetic, bring about opportunities and opportunities bring about a new and exciting membership, so I ask you all to embrace these changes to make your Rotary vibrant and effective.

It is true, however, by and large, the world's population have little concept of Rotary and what we do – so we must work harder in getting our projects into the press, onto the radio and television.

Our public image of the past has been encapsulated in meetings and shaking of hands and cans but today's image of innovative, minimal formality and exciting get togethers is really showing our talents and bringing our enthusiasm to the fore.

It was a pleasure to represent RI President Ian Riseley at a reception in the House of Commons to celebrate our involvement with ten years of Rotarian teams volunteering in India.

Secretary of State for International Development and Minister for Women and Equalities The Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP, spoke highly of her regard for those spending their time in India, many on repeat occasions, immunising millions of children to secure a polio-free country.

It was heartening to hear the financial support which our Government, and others throughout the world, are giving to the certification of polio eradication, implementing the polio post-certification strategy developed by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. ●

never been greater. And the issue of labour exploitation is particularly prevalent, especially those with learning difficulties and infirmity.

"Human trafficking is the exploitation of one human being for another human being's privilege. Whether it is economic or personal gratification, it has no place in modern society."

Addressing Rotarians in Torquay, the police chief said: "There are many battles made in a battle to keep a society safe and this generation has got a lot to offer.

"Because if it is not us, who? And if not now, then when will we combat human trafficking?"

Dr Joan Williams is a member of Soroptimist International, which is supporting the Welsh government's fight against modern slavery.

According to Dr Williams, the types of exploitation are wide ranging.

A most gruesome form of slavery is organ harvesting, where victims are trafficked in order to sell their body parts and organs for transplant such as ovaries, kidneys, liver and eyes.

"Due to the hidden nature of slavery and the victim's reluctance or inability to seek help, you may not realise you've come into contact with a victim," added

Dr Williams.

"Some of the signs to look out for include limited family contact, physical abuse, distrust of authority, having no friends, escorted everywhere and acting as if under another's control, avoiding eye contact or not in possession of their passport."

Dr Williams said that a number of Soroptimists have been trained to raise awareness of modern slavery in communities, through the Wales Anti-Slavery Training Programme.

She hopes Rotarians across the UK will also pick up the mantle and get involved. ●

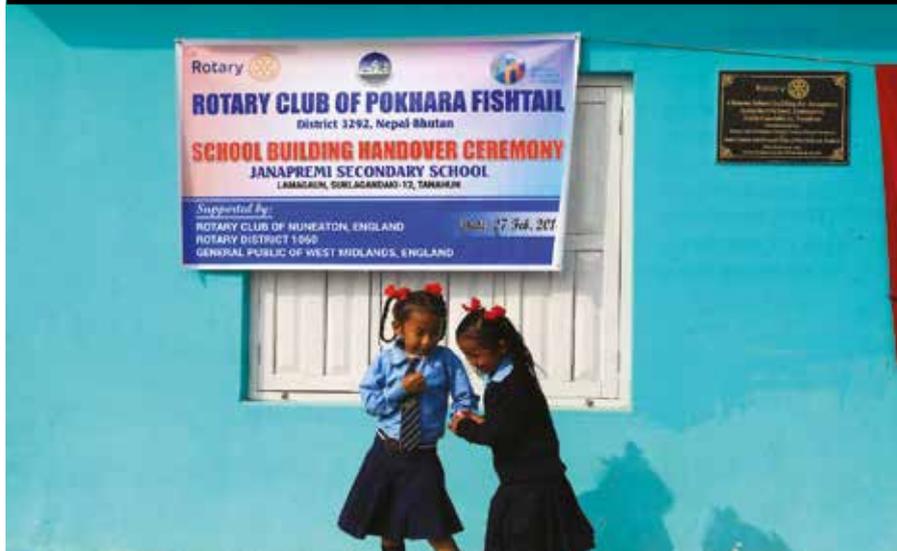


For further information contact:

- Euan Fraser from the Human Trafficking Foundation: euan@humantraffickingfoundation.org
- Kim-Ann Williamson: kimann.williamson@cps.gov.uk - Wales Anti-Slavery Leadership Group Strategic Objectives Lead and involved in the delivery of UK Training
- Stephen Chapman: Stephen.Chapman2@gov.wales - the Wales Anti-Slavery Coordinator

LATEST NEWS FROM AROUND GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND

REBUILDING NEPAL'S SCHOOLS



EVER since the devastating earthquakes in Nepal in 2015, Rotary clubs have been central towards helping rebuild the Himalayan country.

Besides huge loss of life, according to the Nepalese government nearly 770,000 houses were damaged, and the pace of reconstruction has been slow - only 73,000 have been rebuilt.

Rotary has focussed its effort on supporting schools in Nepal since 8,680 community schools were damaged by the earthquake.

Binod Koirala is a member of the Pokhara Fishtail Rotary Club in Nepal, which has been working with a number of Rotary clubs in the West Midlands and

Buckinghamshire towards rebuilding Janapremi and Prithvirupa Secondary Schools.

Both schools are located in the countryside, 120 miles from the capital Kathmandu - a demanding eight-hour drive away.

A large portion of the financial support for re-building six rooms as the Prithvirupa School came from the Rotary Club of Dronfield, and some of its members attended the opening of the new building in April.

"The Rotary contribution to rebuild a few schools has been considered as a very good initiative," said Binod. "My own club has adopted Prithvirupa Secondary School and reconstructed six rooms already.

"We have just submitted a global grant

application with the Rotary Club of Cookham Bridge for utilities at the building, including water supply, toilets, fencing and furniture, and improving quality.

"We are looking for further sources to construct another eight-room building, then the reconstruction of the school is completed.

"The school's name is going to be changed to Prithvirupa Rotary Secondary School which will be a great public image advertisement for Rotary."

A substantial Gurkha community in Nuneaton has prompted the Rotary club in the town, along with Erdington and North Worcestershire clubs, to become involved with Janapremi Secondary School, where solar powered lighting was provided by a district grant.

The latter two Rotary clubs put in £2,000 each towards the project, bolstered by £6,000 from the Rotary Emergency Fund, £500 from the district, and a staggering £6,000 was collected from the people of Nuneaton.

Earlier this year, Rotarians celebrated completion of two new rooms being built at Janapremi and handed over furniture to the school on its 67th birthday.

Ironically, even the handover of furniture on the day wasn't easy. Heavy rains meant the rural roads were so bad that the furniture was dropped in the road and loaded onto different vehicles.

"The school family was so happy having the furniture, together with the new two-room building," reported Binod, who thanked the fund-raising efforts of the Rotary clubs in the UK. ●

ROTARY REBUILDING YOUNG LIVES IN NEPAL



THE Rotary Club of Woking District has partnered the Kasthamandap Rotary Club to work on an ambitious three-year project to support 19 schools in the remote and under-developed Nagarjun Municipality.

Located north-west of Kathmandu, the first phase is a School Improvement Programme. This is part of Rotary's Literacy mission in Nepal, to improve the reading skills of children in a country which has one of the lowest literacy rates in Asia.

A series of three workshops funded by the Surrey-based club is laying a foundation for each school to deliver an education that meets the needs of the children of this very poor country, which is reeling from the destruction caused by the earthquakes.

In Nepal, the programme is being led by Rotarian Prabha Pradhan, who is an educational specialist. The first workshop has recently been held and was attended by the schools' principals.

Woking District Rotary Club's International Committee Chairman, Keith Millard, has liaised closely with the Kasthamandap club.

He said: "We have recognised the huge demand for education in Nepal, and this was a real opportunity for us to play a full role in this project which will offer a route out of poverty." ●

KEN COLLECTS FRANCE'S HIGHEST HONOUR



ROTARIAN Ken Mead has received one of France's highest honours for his part in the D-Day landings.

Ken, who is aged 90 and is a member of Coulsdon Manor Rotary Club in Surrey, has been presented with the Légion d'Honneur by the French ambassador, Jean-Pierre Jouyet.

He was one of seven World War Two veterans who were presented with the award at the official London residence of the French ambassador.

The Légion d'Honneur was presented in recognition of Ken's part in the liberation of France. Aged just 17 at the time of D-Day, he was in the Merchant Navy involved with the hazardous delivery of ammunition and supplies to the beaches.

This meant running his ship ashore in the tide where it presented a vulnerable target as its explosives were unloaded.

Ken was also on the Atlantic route, bringing desperately needed supplies to the UK in the face of very heavy losses from German submarines.

By the time that he left the Merchant Navy aged only 20, Ken had been around the

world, seeing and doing things unimaginable to following generations.

The Coulsdon Manor Rotary Club retains strong links with France and is affiliated with the Rotary Club Bailleul-Yser-Lys near Lille. ●



CHEERS FOR THE BEER



THE Rotary Club of Langley Park in Beckenham in Kent recently donated £10,000 to St Christopher's Hospice and Hospice in the Weald.

Langley Park Rotary President, Rod Leeming, presented cheques to Sarah Coughtrie of St Christopher's Hospice and Claire Milloy of Hospice in the Weald.

The money was raised last September at Langley Park's second beer festival held at Old Dunstonian Sports Ground in Beckenham. This year's beer festival will take place on September 28th and 29th.

SCOTS SUPPORT PHILIPPINE ORPHANAGE PROJECT



ROTARIANS in Selkirk have recently returned from a two-week humanitarian mission to the Philippines.

The group, led by President Ferdous Ahmed, travelled to south-east Asia self-funded on a mission to provide help and support to the Queen of Peace Children's Home in Naga City, on the island of Cebu.

The home takes care of 40 children who are either disabled or have been abandoned by their parents, plus a further 50 youngsters from nearby neighbourhoods who attend each day for education.

For over a year, the Scottish Rotarians

have been holding number of fund-raising events to support the orphanage, including providing new mattresses.

The Rotary club also bought two bunk beds and spent a day installing the new beds and mattresses, replacing the tattered pieces of foam being used.

A successful application was made to the Rotary International fund, which provided a further £2,000.

In total, Selkirk Rotary Club's campaign raised £13,000, more than double its target, making this one of the largest overseas humanitarian missions it has undertaken.

As well as replacing the mattresses, a new toilet block was built, and the monies bought much-needed laparoscopic equipment for a local hospital assisting Naga Rotary Club with a global grant project.

The cash funded 13 lemon trees, planted in the grounds of the orphanage, as well as 33 cashew nut trees at Tugawe resort, Caramoan, where Rotarians were also involved in creating a new deep well for clean water provision in one of the remote islands.

As a fitting end to the trip, the Philippines' Vice-President, Leni Robredo, made a surprise visit to the group during its last dinner in Naga, thanking Rotarians for their efforts and valuable humanitarian contribution.

Ferdous Ahmed said: "This international project, led by the Rotary Club of Selkirk and supported by other Rotary clubs in the district, with the generosity of the people in the Borders, has been an amazing success.

"The aim of Rotary is to help those in need, and this has most certainly been achieved during this mission." ●

WHAT A SPECTACLE!

THE joint efforts of Ramsgate Boxing Club and the Rotary Club of Thanet broke records at the Margate Winter Gardens by raising just over £36,000 for charity at the 13th annual boxing gala.

This meant that an amazing £409,000 has been raised since the event was first staged in 2006. The two clubs work closely together to put the event on raising money for the Pilgrims Hospice, Broadstairs Town Shed, Oasis Domestic Abuse, Ramsgate Boxing Club, the Alzheimer's Society and other charities.

The audience enthusiastically supported the 17 bouts of which three were English Boxing Championship finals. ●



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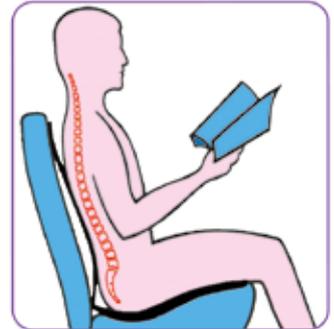
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NEWS IN BRIEF

SWIM FOR ZAMBIA

THE Rotary Club of Beckenham is toasting another successful swimming fund-raiser.

27 swimmers took part in the Swimalong at West Wickham Leisure Centre in Kent. They raised £2,788, including a district grant, for the charity Fighting Poverty in Zambia. The money will fund a rabbit breeding project in Tikondane, Eastern Province, to improve the diet and reduce poverty.

JAZZ FINALE

WIMBORNE Rotary Club organised the fifth annual Jazz at the Allendale charity concert, which marked the final performance of the Bournemouth Jazz Orchestra.

A retiring collection at the concert raised £1,250 which will be shared between the Poole Society For Young Musicians and Rotary charities. The Dorset club hopes to continue the annual charity concert, and a provisional date of February 11th has been set for next year.

MANX ADVICE

THE Rotary Club of Rushen & Western Mann on the Isle of Man recently donated £250 for publicity materials for the Manx Citizens Advice Service Southern Branch.

The branch was initially set up by the club in 1979, and currently provides weekly drop-in sessions in Port Erin. The plan is to extend its services to Castletown later this year.

POLIO AWARENESS

SEVERAL Colchester primary schools held Purple Pinkie Days to raise funds to help Colchester Rotary Club support Rotary International's End Polio Now campaign.

A great deal of fun was had, some wonderful costumes appeared, and a total of £1,400 was raised. This sum will be double-matched by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

RUGBY STAR'S SUPPORT FOR ROTAKIDS



WALES and British Lions rugby player, Mike Phillips, was on hand to present the newly-formed Ysgol Meidrim RotaKids with their charter.

For one young member, Leo Straczek Renaud, he was particularly delighted to meet the scrum-half.

The 11-year-old will be starting at Ysgol Dyffryn Taf in September, the same school that Mike attended. And with grandparents Ann and Eddie both keen Rotarians, it really is a case of keeping it in the Rotary family.

Ysgol Meidrim is the second school to receive the RotaKids charter from Narberth & Whitland Rotary. The school has already participated in the Rotary Shoebox Scheme, and is hoping to forge links with the Fisherman's Rest School in Malawi. ●

FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNISED

ROTARIAN Tony Moore has been honoured for 50 years' exceptional service to Rotary as a member of West Worthing Rotary Club.

Rotary GBI President, Denis Spiller, was among those who visited the West Sussex club to salute a man who has served as an RIBI president, a director of Rotary International and was both a district governor and president of the West Worthing club.

In addition he had served on numerous committees and boards that promoted change and innovation in Rotary, for example, the admittance of women to the movement. Tony also had a long and distinguished personal career in pharmaceuticals.

One of his most notable local achievements was the introduction of awards for students at the Lavinia Norfolk Centre at The Angmering School for physically and sensory disabled students who had shown exemplary progress in moving towards independence.

On the international front, in 1991 Tony was also deeply involved with the building and equipping of the Limi Health Clinic in an isolated part of Nepal. It provides health care and education for mothers and children, saving many lives.

In expressing his appreciation of the honour, Tony reflected back on his years in Rotary. He joined the club in 1968, 50 years to the date of this celebration when West Worthing club was only 12-years-old.

"Dinners at that time were three shillings and three pence, about 16p in today's money," he reflected.

Tony remarked that as national president he understood the role which Rotary plays in changing the world for the better. "Rotary has influence in high places," he added.

"It is not well known that Rotary had a role in the formation of the United Nations and has an observer's seat in the General Assembly." ●

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MAKING LIFE BEARABLE



OVER the past six years the Lutterworth Rotary Club, through Elaine Turner and her dedicated team of knitters, have supplied a range of charities throughout the world with 7,450 knitted teddies.

The Leicestershire-based club distributes these teddies to traumatised, orphaned or young children starting school for the very first time. The idea is that children have a teddy to enjoy and confide in.

The most recent consignment was received by the Little Faces School in Mombasa, Kenya. The children each received a teddy and a toothbrush, which was sent to Africa by Sally Harrison from the Rotary Club of St Neots, Cambridgeshire.

Sally said: "The children had been very quiet until they got their bears. Most of these kids have never had something special of their own. What a difference a comforting gift can make."



BREAKING THE CYCLE OF BEING A CARER



PADDINGTON Rotary Club is investing over £30,000 to create entrepreneurs from women who are carers.

The project, which is supported by a global grant, is targeting Westminster and surrounding neighbourhoods, including the area around Grenfell Tower - the scene of last year's devastating fire.

The initiative, known as MyLifeMix, began in May. It has been supported by The Rotary Foundation, with the Rotary Club of Carpi in Italy serving as the international partner. The Westway Trust is also backing the project.

Working with the Portobello Business Centre, it looks to help women set up their own business.

Mac Purcell, from the Rotary Club of Paddington, revealed that their goal was to

assist 20 new businesses to start trading and create 30 new jobs in the process.

He said: "The programme looks to support new, would-be female entrepreneurs through a process of change by moving women from a benefits-based dependency to a work life choices arrangement that supports their caring responsibilities.

"This includes developing and marketing a referral process designed to reach and benefit women who want to start their own business."

The programme is looking to reach 100 women by providing them with sufficient information to look at going it alone in business.

Thirty women will receive intensive eight weeks' training support and then 60 one-to-one advice sessions. ●

BLOOMING GOOD IDEA

A GROUP of volunteers from the Rotary Club of Cardiff Llanishen have brought their community together to transform their local train station and plant hundreds of purple crocuses to raise awareness of a worldwide initiative to end polio.

Members from the club, north of Cardiff, enlisted the help of schoolchildren from

Christ the King RC Primary School to lay hundreds of crocus bulbs which will erupt into a stunning mauve floral display for commuters at Llanishen train station.

The flowers were planted in recognition of the Purple4Polio campaign. The Rotary Club of Cardiff Llanishen adopted the unstaffed railway station through Arriva Trains Wales' national 'Adopt a Station' scheme. ●



A VISION FOR WAITING MOTHERS

IT took ten years to complete, but now the Rotary Clubs of Shepperton Aurora and Bulawayo have joined forces to complete a project which will make an enormous difference to pregnant mothers in Zimbabwe.

The town of Lupane lies 106 miles south of Bulawayo, and the task of the two clubs was to complete building a Mother's Shelter in the grounds of the clinic, a haven from pregnant women shortly before they give birth.

According to retired Bishop Margaret James, a former president of the Bulawayo club, many of the women travel miles on foot to reach the clinic in Lupane.

"The clinic serves a wide area," explained Margaret. "There are buses along the main road, but no public transport to reach the scattered homesteads which may be more than 30 kilometres away.

"If pregnant women remain in their homes until they go into labour, they either have to walk to the clinic or travel by donkey-drawn cart.

"This means that many of them deliver at home or on the way with obvious dangers to the lives of both mother and baby. The solution is for the pregnant mothers to stay near the clinic when they

are close to full-term. In many places shelters have been provided for this purpose."

The connection between Bulawayo and the Shepperton Aurora club in Surrey was formed through Margaret James, who was a school friend of Desmond Mulvany's mother-in-law. Desmond is a former president of the Rotary Club of Shepperton Aurora.

Desmond persuaded the club to get involved with a donation of £950, which was supplemented by a global grant of £950 plus a donation from the Mulvany family.

The shelter, which was started by the local community ten years ago was finally completed in 2017 and is now fully operational.

Tshengi Ndlovu, Immediate Past President of the Bulawayo club, said that Shepperton Aurora's intervention in the project had encouraged more donors to become involved.

The charity World Vision got involved to build modern toilet and bathroom facilities for the waiting mothers. And on the back of this, a new satellite Rotary club was established in Lupane, with two of the 11 Rotarians working for World Vision. ●

EBOLA PROJECT GAINS PACE

WHO says Rotary does not move at speed?

The Rotary Club of Marlow is celebrating after receiving a \$200,000 global grant for an Ebola project in West Africa in record time.

Since 2014, the Buckinghamshire club has been working with the Rotary Club of Monrovia to supply aid to Liberia.

Nearly £100,000 was raised in the UK along with funds from Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, the USA and other countries.

That funded immediate aid during the crisis and supported an education and sanitation campaign.

The club is now supporting a scholarship programme to train young health professionals as well as building a new oxygen concentrator at the ELWA hospital in Monrovia.

The new hospital will be the first in Liberia offering piped oxygen to the emergency rooms and the operating theatre.

Funding for this project has come through Rotary.

With the support of London District 1130, and district contributions from 1090 (Thames Valley), 1060 (Birmingham and the West Midlands), 1175 (South West), that allowed the Marlow club to seek a global grant from Rotary International.

The \$200,000 grant application was made on January 3, and approved in by Rotary International in Evanston, USA, by January 18. ●

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If you would like to advertise in Rotary call 0203 475 6815



and finally...

with Managing Editor Dave King
editor@rotarygbi.org

A joint future

IT was the one tumbleweed moment of the Rotary conference.

On the first morning of the three-day Torquay shindig, Liz Thomas, President of the Inner Wheel, was at the lectern.

"Inner Wheel is unapologetically a women's organisation, run by women, for women, who are caring, giving, doing and loving – and we are proud of it," she said, before adding how much they valued their connection with Rotary, 'inextricably linked' for over 80 years.

In this #metoo age of respect and equality, the comments were about as sensitive as a Bernard Manning stand-up routine to a convention of nuns.

Now, I should caution at this point that these are my personal thoughts, and they are not reflective of current Rotary thinking in these isles.

Inner Wheel was formed in 1924 as a spin-off organisation for the wives of Rotary, which was then a men-only organisation. They were both anachronisms of their time, running parallel paths with their work in the community.

But while Rotary finally woke up in 1989 allowing women to join Rotary, Inner Wheel has remained locked in an

unashamed, single-sex time-warp, quoting the Equality Act 2010 as its *raison d'être* for remaining women-only.

As an aside, I met a self-professed "blocker" on the Devon Riviera that weekend who believes in men-only Rotary, and will leave the day the fairer sex join his club. #whatplanetisheon?

Frankly, there is no place in Rotary for these stick in the muds. At a time when we are looking to grow our membership, we should be opening our doors and not closing them. Shouldn't the same principle apply to Inner Wheel with its 16,000-strong membership if it is to survive and thrive?

It was interesting to hear on that first morning in Torquay from Janice Langley from the National Federation of Women's Institutes.

Now let's not go there about the WI's right to exist as a single-sex organisation.

But what was impressive from Janice's speech was how WI is modernising itself, embracing modern technology and marketing techniques to make it even more relevant to women today.

And with a membership of 220,000, WI is not doing too badly. It is something both Rotary and Inner Wheel should be

reflecting on.

Earlier, in her forthright speech, Liz Thomas addressed the obvious – isn't it time Rotary and Inner Wheel merged?

"Is it right that the only solution to Rotary's membership problems should be closing Inner Wheel and expecting the members to join Rotary?" asked Liz, without answering her question.

Well I'll answer it for you – yes!

Society has changed vastly since the early 20th century births of Rotary and Inner Wheel. Unless you adapt, unless you modernise to become relevant for your time, you will predictably wither and die.

Never mind what the dull bean counters might describe as economies of scale to be gained, there are huge advantages for the amalgamation of Rotary and Inner Wheel.

It is vital both flourish, but survival will only be possible under the same banner. It is time that brother and sister join forces to work and grow together.

This won't be universally popular and the blockers will be throwing their toys out of the pram. But when we talk in Rotary about Service Above Self, shouldn't we be practising what we preach? ●

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