

# Rotary

The Official Magazine of Rotary International in Great Britain & Ireland

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October/November 2018

## Rotary behind bars

REHABILITATION  
OR PUNISHMENT?

4

Rotary   
Great Britain & Ireland



★★★★★  
"INSPIRED"

★★★★★  
"ENTHRALLING"

★★★★★  
"RELAXATION"

★★★★★  
"ADVENTURE"

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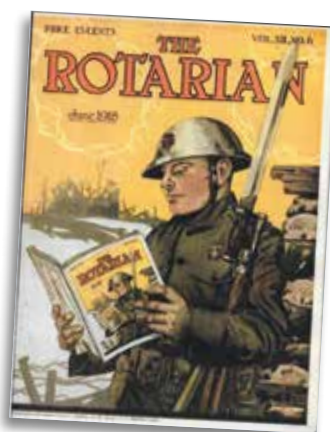
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### Rotary and war

Telling the stories of Rotary life at home and on the battlefields of Europe 100 years ago.



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## EVEN MORE ONLINE





# *When Oliver Twist met Mary Poppins*

*Dave King visits HM Prison Parc in Wales to learn about  
an innovative Rotary-led programme working with prisoners.*

**T**HE knuckle tattoo on either hand spelled the letters L-O-V-E and H-A-T-E on each finger. As Howard Craven engaged in animated conversation with the prisoners about their heroes in life – and those they disrespected – this faded ink legacy was the only clue to inmates that he was once one of them.

Stood alongside, in a raspberry-coloured summer dress with matching, fashionable shoes, the quietly-spoken, flame-haired Alison Sutherland was asking a young man about his mother's qualities which made her his hero.

Faced by nine prisoners inside a workroom at the category B HM Prison Parc near Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, this was a most unlikely double act. It was *Oliver Twist* meets *Mary Poppins*.

What is remarkable, is that this implausible combination works. This was the second day of a Rotary-backed 'You Can Change' activity which helps offenders realise that change is possible and your past does not have to dictate your future.

Howard, who grew up in Swansea and taken into care at an early age, is a classic example of how this works.

"I was brought up in the care system," he admitted. "I was placed in a detention centre at the age of 12 with my two brothers. Later in life I began taking drugs.

"I was drinking, I was having relationship problems – I was having a problem with society.

"I realised when I got out of prison in 2000, at the age of 36, that something had to change otherwise I would end up dead or in prison for the rest of my life. I had to learn how to live differently."



Alison Sutherland pictured with Howard Craven at HM Prison Parc

It required a huge amount of self-discipline to move away from rock bottom.

Howard went on a 12-step programme to tackle a toxic combination of addictions; gambling, alcohol and drugs. And he made a conscious decision then that, if he was to properly rehabilitate, then he had to give something back to the community.

Now a Supporting Mentor for 'Invisible Walls Wales' and the Endeavour Unit at the country's biggest prison, with 1,700 inmates, including lifers serving murder sentences, Howard has become an integral part of the work which helps Parc Prison inmates reclaim their lives.

Howard started work at HMP Parc in 2015 after spending many years supporting prison leavers in the community.

He was instrumental in setting up and

running the Endeavour Unit, for former servicemen and first-time offenders coming into prison.

For the past two years, he has been delivering the 'You Can Change' activity alongside Alison, which aims to inspire and equip prisoners to return to their families and community where they can live fulfilled lives, free of crime.

This activity has been borrowed from PeaceJam, the international youth movement which has been nominated eight times for the Nobel Peace Prize. Over the three days, the prisoners are challenged on their views, prejudices, fears and hopes.

Videos play an important part, with films about the lives of Gandhi, Muhammad Ali and the American gangster, Stanley 'Tookie' Williams, who later preached a



Stock image

message of rejecting gangs and embracing peace.

“It is about trying to ignite beliefs and challenging attitudes,” added Howard.

“We are also trying to address the root causes of what brought them here in the first place. It is believing you can change, even if it is a small change.

“Some people get it, others don’t.”

Inside that room of nine inmates were a couple of teenage brothers jailed for drug dealing, sitting alongside a veteran of the legal system who was shortly due for release after serving a term for serious assault.

“It’s all about choices,” explained the veteran. “It’s all about making the right choices, but you have to make them in the environment you live.”

“I want to stop selling drugs and get a job when I get out of here,” said another. “I know I can make changes, but only small changes.”

Over the past two years, Howard and Alison have delivered eight sessions at Parc Prison for 128 prisoners under the umbrella of Rotary in South Wales 1150 and PeaceJam Wales.

“Mary Poppins and Oliver Twist is an interesting way of looking at it,” explained Alison. “Howard and I are different, but we compliment each other like good cop, bad cop, however we get the reaction and we seem to be getting the results.”

But how do you measure success



*“I realised when I got out of prison in 2000, at the age of 36, that something had to change otherwise I would end up dead, or in prison for the rest of my life. I had to learn how to live differently”*

with a programme like this? The ‘You Can Change’ activity is one of a number of building blocks provided at Parc Prison to help inmates once they have been released.

“What we are doing is sewing the seeds, what we don’t know is when they will bloom, or if they will bloom,” added Howard.

“We know they will have left us equipped with the knowledge to turn their lives around. The rest of it is up to them.”

Earlier this year, Howard was honoured for his work when he received a Rotary Community Champion award in Cardiff.

Presenting the honour, Denis Spiller, then president of Rotary International in Great Britain & Ireland, said: “Howard’s work has helped so many people who could easily have become lost causes and given

support to their families.

“He is a very worthy recipient of the Rotary Community Champion award, and a great inspiration to show that they too can change if they wish to do so.”

Howard Craven added: “It was an honour to receive an award such as the Rotary Community Champion. When Alison and myself first started two years ago, we didn’t dream of receiving such acclaim – it is as much hers as it is mine.

“Rotary and I share a lot in common in that we want to help and make a difference to those who have become a little lost in life.” ●

## FACT FILE

### UK PRISONS

- The prison population has risen by 77% in the last 30 years
- 65,000 people were sent to prison to serve a sentence in 2017
- Nearly a third of people assessed in prison in 2016/17 reported that they had a learning disability
- England and Wales has the highest imprisonment rate in western Europe



To join Rotary visit:  
[rotarygbi.org](http://rotarygbi.org)

# Letters *to the Editor*

## Dolly delight

I would like to express my absolute delight to see a copy of the *Rotary* magazine with lovely Dolly Parton on the front. I am currently at Gatwick Airport flying to my beloved Ireland via Knock then onto County Leitrim.

I am very proud to be a member of Rotary Kingston upon Thames in Surrey, where, if I may say so, for a very small club it achieves much for the local community.

I came to England 47 years ago and after having six pre-term babies, two of whom sadly died, set up a charity called 'Born Too Soon' supporting families who have premature or unwell babies being cared for on the Neonatal Unit at Kingston Hospital.

Rotary Kingston upon Thames was the very first club to support us when we set it up in 1985. It was through the support of Rotary that we have helped to raise several million pounds for our Neonatal Unit and also I have met the most amazing people.

Thank you to each and every Rotarian for the care and support you give worldwide.

**Pauline Woods**  
**Rotary Kingston upon Thames**

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## Merging not the answer

I refer to your article 'A joint future' in the June/July issue of *Rotary* magazine, which was prompted by a forthright speech at our conference by the then Inner Wheel President, Liz Thomas.

I understand that as the Editor of the *Rotary* magazine, the views you expressed in your article are your own, but we are on exactly the same page when it comes to describing male Rotarians as 'blockers' for not allowing women to join Rotary.

However, by suggesting that Inner Wheel is adopting the same approach by not allowing men to join their organisation misses the fundamental point of their *raison d'être*.

As my wife is a member of Inner Wheel, I hope I have a reasonably good understanding of what makes Inner Wheel different to Rotary, but if you are

not connected with Inner Wheel it isn't very difficult to undertake some research as regards what the organisation stands for as their website states: "International Inner Wheel is dedicated to the pursuit of a society in which women are given equal opportunity and are equally represented in every sector."

As an international service organisation, it has clubs in parts of the world where a man would not be allowed in the same room as a woman let alone the same club, so please advise how merging the organisations is going to work there!

Rotary definitely has its own membership problems to resolve, but merging with Inner Wheel certainly isn't the answer.

**Paul Hickson**  
**District 1145,**  
**Membership Extension Officer**

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## Fellowship lost

I read your Editor's Letter in the recent issue of *Rotary* referring to Inner Wheel with much interest.

It is the first time I've seen any acknowledgement from the higher echelons of Rotary International or Rotary GBI of the double standards practised by Rotary whereby Rotary clubs must be open to both sexes, but Rotary then actively promotes its links with Inner Wheel which per your quote from the Inner Wheel President is "unapologetically a women's organisation, run by women, for women..."

The *raison d'être* for Inner Wheel disappeared the day Rotary clubs had to become dual gender, so why does Inner Wheel still exist?

It exists because its members enjoy spending some of their time in the company of other women, just as many men enjoy the banter, mickey taking and common interests which are a feature of men only gatherings.

Interestingly there was a press report last weekend of the explosive growth of the Men's Shed movement which is giving a new lease of life to many otherwise lonely men.

Rotary unquestionably made the

correct decision to open its doors to women members, and dual gender clubs no doubt operate successfully in many cultures and environments.

But I suspect, many clubs have lost some of the inherently male elements of "fellowship" which help to bind the members together when women have joined the club.

**John J Elliot**  
**Rotary Langholm**

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## Dismay at article

I am dismayed to read your article on modern slavery in the June/July issue which asks for Rotary "to take up the mantle and get involved".

You are clearly not aware that Mark Little from Norwich has been working on modern slavery for more than a decade and he set up the Rotary Action Group Against Slavery and has been supported by two other British Rotarians, Harry Payne and Stephen Sypula for many years. I was elected to the Board three years ago.

We have done advocacy in the UK and beyond, including meetings with the Home Secretary, and Mark contributed significant amendments to the Modern Slavery Act. We have also had meetings with the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner. We were involved in the Commonwealth Summit and helped get modern slavery into the communiqué.

Mark has had stands and sell-out break-out sessions at many conventions including Toronto in June. The Action Group has members in more than 60 countries and clubs in California have received a global grant of \$300,000 to raise awareness of modern slavery. Mark has done remarkable work in India and Nepal. Mark and I have contributed videos for a university course on slavery.

I hope you will correct the impression that Rotary is doing nothing in Britain and give Mark an opportunity to write an article for *Rotary* magazine.

**Judith Diment**  
**Rotary Maidenhead Thames**

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# Can your club help children like Claire achieve their full potential?

WaterAid/ Ernest Ranzhamalala

Rwanda's children are their country's future, but the lack of clean water facilities in school means that girls like Claire go to lessons thirsty and tired, unable to concentrate. Grades suffer and ambitions lose their sparkle.

Over the next three years, Rotary-funded projects in Rwanda will bring hope and opportunities to children like Claire, helping them to achieve their full potential.

To help give more Rwandan children a brighter future, call **020 7793 4594** or visit **[www.wateraid.org/rotary](http://www.wateraid.org/rotary)**



**WaterAid**

### Breaking the mould

Many members of Rotary have been familiar with Rotary Institutes over the years. Well this year, by request, we have broken the mould!

I invite everyone, colleagues, friends and family, to our 'Be The Inspiration' weekend in Stratford-upon-Avon this November.

We will be based at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on Friday, November 23rd for Foundation Day, and the 'Be The Inspiration' weekend runs on Saturday and Sunday (November 24th and 25th).

In the presence of Rotary International President, Barry Rassin, and Rotary Foundation Trustee Vice Chairman, Brenda Cressey, there will be a programme of knowledge and inspiration.

This will involve Rotaract, young members of Rotary, Shakespeare Schools Foundation, renowned Rotary member Geoff Mackey, the Alcester Junior Drama Club and a close friend of Prince Harry, the ex-Royal Marine double amputee, Ben McBean, who will be truly inspirational!

There will be time to hear of our Rotary successes, plans for the future, plus your two minutes of inspiration and your points of view in the break-out sessions.

There will be an opportunity to meander through the solely Rotary Showcase, speak to enthusiasts and experts, as well as hear from individuals who continue the good work undertaken by Rotary and our Foundation throughout the world – Shelter Bus, Arch Klumph Society members, the Rotary Doctor Bank, peace scholars, ShelterBox and youth programmes.

It is our task to educate, assess need, inform, inspire, enjoy, support, partake and publicise.

Please register using the online registration: [www.rotarygbi.org/members/events](http://www.rotarygbi.org/members/events)

**Brian Stoyel**

**Rotary International Director 2017/19,  
Chairman RI Board Executive Committee**

### Organ donation plea



Organ donation and its vital role in saving the lives of so many people is back in the news.

Recently, there was a story published in the *Daily Mail* about 10-year-old Max Johnson who had a heart transplant in 2017.

His donor, Keira Ball, was just nine-years-old when she was killed in a car crash, but her heart was given to Max who has fronted the Daily Mirror's 'Change the Law for Life' campaign, which is pressing for a change in the law for organ donation with the introduction of an opt-out system.

The remarkable coincidence for Rotary Hazel Grove in Cheshire is that one of the speakers this year was Max's father, Paul – he happens to be the nephew of one of our Rotarians, Robert Lewis.

Paul and his family are leading figures in the campaign to change the law concerning organ donation. A new opt-out system for organ donation will be in place by 2020 in England, if Parliament approves "Max's Law".

Thanks to Past President of Rotary in Great Britain & Ireland, Dr Keith Barnard-Jones back in 1996-97, organ donation had been enthusiastically promoted as many Rotarians have signed the organ donation card.

Today is a perfect time for Rotary to step back into the limelight for this splendid cause and I hope we shall respond once again – Max is our inspiration!

**George R. Ayres,  
Rotary Hazel Grove.**

*Do you believe it is right there should be an opt-out for organ donation, rather than opt-in? Write to: [editor@rotarygbi.org](mailto:editor@rotarygbi.org)*

### Women who keynote

My friend Kirsty Devlin from Manchester, an ex-founder of the Rotaract Club of Ormskirk Edge Hill and who is starting out in the tech industry has designed a website forum called 'Women Who Keynote'.

With the empowerment of women being one of the world's sustainable development goals I thought this would make a great story for the magazine.

After being in the tech industry for a few years now, Kirsty got a bit fed up of turning up to shows and meetings to be greeted by an all-male panel, who were nicknamed 'manels'.

So she took it upon herself to create a place where you could go to find some great speakers who are not only male.

'Women Who Keynote' is a platform designed for women and non-binary individuals to promote themselves for speaking opportunities.

The platform is designed to showcase speakers of all experience levels and across all industries. If you have something to say, you are a potential speaker.

The site currently has 161 great speakers and Kirsty is hoping to take the forum to international level once it is established at national level.

We are always looking for great speakers within Rotary at club, district, national and international level.

What a great resource for any club or district to have at their fingertips. In fact, it's something a lot of speaker secretaries are crying out for.

I am also pretty sure that we have plenty of great 'women who keynote' within Rotary who would love to have their names added to the ever growing list.

Please take a look at the site:

**[www.womenwhokeynote.com](http://www.womenwhokeynote.com)**

**Stephen Gilligan**

**Rotary Dukinfield & Stalybridge  
and Past President of  
Rotary Maghull & Aughton.**

### 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](mailto: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.



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DAVE KING

# Tackling domestic abuse

*The High Sheriff of Wiltshire, Nicky Alberry, explains how important Rotary has become in helping her campaign to tackle domestic abuse*

**D**URING football's World Cup this summer, there was one eye-catching meme which went viral on social media: *'No one wants England to win more than women – domestic abuse rates rise by 38% when England lose'.*

It was published by the domestic abuse charity, the Pathway Project, drawing attention to a delicate subject when everyone's eyes were fixed on sport.

According to the Office for National Statistics, 1.2 million women suffered domestic abuse last year and, on average, two women every week were killed by their

partner or ex-partner between 2014 and 2017.

For Nicky, as the current High Sheriff of Wiltshire, this is an issue which sits top of her targets and one she is very familiar with through a couple of friends.

"They had very supportive family units, a good education, good jobs, yet they still ended up in a very unpleasant and unhealthy relationship," she said.

"Both of my friends have children. Fortunately, they managed to extricate themselves from their relationships and move on with their lives.

"But, it really made me think that there

are a lot of women who I see at the refuges and out and about in Wiltshire who don't have that support. They don't have the courage or the ability to be able to live on their own, away from their perpetrator.

"In a way, this was one of the catalysts for choosing domestic abuse as one of my focuses for the year."

Nicky, who is a past president of Swindon Rotary and an active member, is only the 10th woman in the county to hold the office of High Sheriff. She is appointed by the Queen for what is the oldest secular appointment after the Crown. In Wiltshire, the role dates back to Saxon times in 1066



when they were the King's right-hand man responsible for keeping law and order in the county. That meant raising an army, collecting taxes and dispensing justice – everything that kept the county or bailiwick safe.

Over the years, with the creation of Parliament and the armed forces, along with the rise of the police force, the role no longer has connotations with Robin Hood and Sherwood Forest.

Every High Sheriff serves a one-year term and because of her involvement with the charity Swindon Women's Aid, as well as serving as chairman of the Domestic Violence Organisation in Swindon, Nicky chose this as her theme.



*“They had very supportive family units, a good education, good jobs, yet they still ended up in a very unpleasant and unhealthy relationship”*

“Swindon Rotary and other clubs in the town have been a huge supporter of the refuge here,” added Nicky.

“Since taking on the role, I have spent a lot of time going out and understanding what all the organisations, including the police and the court system, are doing to tackle domestic abuse, which, sadly, affects one in four women, and one in six men, and has a massive impact upon children.

“Domestic abuse is huge. We are seeing families where second and third generations have been subjected to violent relationships, and the police and court systems are dealing with it all the time.

“Quite often, the women have complex problems in addition to dealing with the violent relationship – and it doesn't need to be physical violence, it can be a controlling or coercive relationship with their partner.

“These women may have drug or alcohol problems, as well as mental health problems.

“It is a very, very big problem today, but I have been heartened by the support that is being given to these victims, and the willingness of everybody to think how can we do things differently to make it better



Nicky Alberry, the High Sheriff of Wiltshire and a Swindon Rotarian

and actually stop many of these cases from escalating.”

Nicky frankly admits that she is being “a right pain in the neck” in pushing the agenda, mindful that the public sector is under huge financial pressures.

It can mean that by the time a woman and her children end up in a refuge, it is far too late. The problems are deep-rooted and expensive to deal with; the family need a new home to live in, a new school for the children, police and possibly court involvement, plus medical intervention, the list goes on.

What she wants is more collaborative working between education, health, police, the courts, and community organisations to educate people about healthy relationships and different ways of living together.

In January, with the support of Wiltshire's Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner, Nicky is hosting a conference looking at early intervention and working with perpetrators. “You have got to address both sides of the problem, and work with them to change their behaviours and to do something around the health aspects too,” she added.

But what about Rotary, an organisation she joined in 1997. What part can it play in tackling this thorny issue?

“Rotary can do a lot,” answered Nicky, who pointed out how a couple of members of her club have put together a programme of activities for the women and their families at the Swindon refuge.

Fundraising is another avenue, whether buying Christmas presents or

Easter eggs for the local refuge, as well as supplying clothing, food and practical items to help the women and their families when they move on and out of the refuge.

“Raising awareness is important, as well as supporting some of the practical programmes for victims, including volunteering to become mentors to support the women on a six-week programme called ‘Route 66’ designed to help them start thinking about becoming financially independent and looking for a job.

“Rotary is ideally placed to work alongside this agenda,” said Nicky, who admitted that her club has been “absolutely brilliant” this year helping her as High Sheriff of Wiltshire. ●

## FACT FILE

### DOMESTIC ABUSE

- Domestic abuse affects one in four women, and one in six men
- Seven women a month are killed by a current or former partner in England and Wales
- 20% of children in the UK have lived with an adult perpetrating domestic violence
- It is estimated that around three women a week commit suicide as a result of domestic violence



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[rotarygbi.org](http://rotarygbi.org)



# *The cement that binds us together*

Providing solutions for feminine hygiene in India

**I**T'S incredible to think that, last year, more than 140 global grant projects, worth well in excess of £3.24 million (\$4.2 million) were carried out by Rotary members in Great Britain & Ireland, **writes Calum Thomson.**

These were wonderful, sustainable projects which have re-shaped communities and changed people's lives around the world, all funded through The Rotary Foundation – Rotary's only charity, and which we feature here over the next five pages.

In 1917, Rotary's sixth president, Arch Klumph, a successful businessman and musician from Cleveland, Ohio, proposed setting up an endowment fund "for the purpose of doing good in the world".

That simple idea with an initial

contribution of \$26.50 (£20.40) from each member, set in motion what is now called The Rotary Foundation – a powerful force which has transformed millions of lives around the globe.

Rotary is dedicated to six areas of focus to build international relationships, improve lives, and create a better world to support our peace efforts, as well as ending polio forever.

The Rotary Foundation is consistently rated as one of the best charities in the world. Stewardship of funds is essential to maintaining our fantastic reputation of integrity and performance. We trust Rotary members to implement and deliver great projects. Many are professional experts, and all share a passion and desire to succeed.

By contributing to The Rotary Foundation, members benefit from pooled

resources, clubbing together to fund many projects across the world via grants.

When the time comes to implement a project, then you can rely on the Foundation to help fund your idea through grants.

All global grant projects are financed mostly with The Rotary Foundation funds. This allows us to increase our project size and make an even bigger difference to the lives of others.

The Rotary Foundation requests all Rotary members to give as much as they can to fund our causes and projects; but it also asks all them to help spend these donations too!

So, before you hand over cheques to outside charities for their projects, isn't your own charity worth your support? ●

## **THE SIX AREAS OF FOCUS**

### **PROMOTING PEACE**

Rotary encourages conversations to foster understanding within and across cultures. We train adults and young leaders to prevent and mediate conflict, and help refugees who have fled dangerous areas.

### **FIGHTING DISEASE**

We educate and equip communities to stop the spread of life-threatening diseases like polio, HIV/AIDS, and malaria. We improve and expand access to low-cost and free health care in developing areas.

### **PROVIDING CLEAN WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE**

We support local solutions to bring clean water, sanitation, and hygiene to more people every day. We don't just build wells and walk away. We share our expertise with community leaders and educators to make sure our projects succeed long-term.

### **SAVING MOTHERS AND CHILDREN**

Nearly six million children under the age of five die each year because of malnutrition, poor health care, and inadequate sanitation. We expand access to quality care, so mothers and their children can live and grow stronger.

### **SUPPORTING EDUCATION:**

More than 775 million people over the age of 15 are illiterate. Our goal is to strengthen the capacity of communities to support basic education and literacy, reduce gender disparity in education, and increase adult literacy.

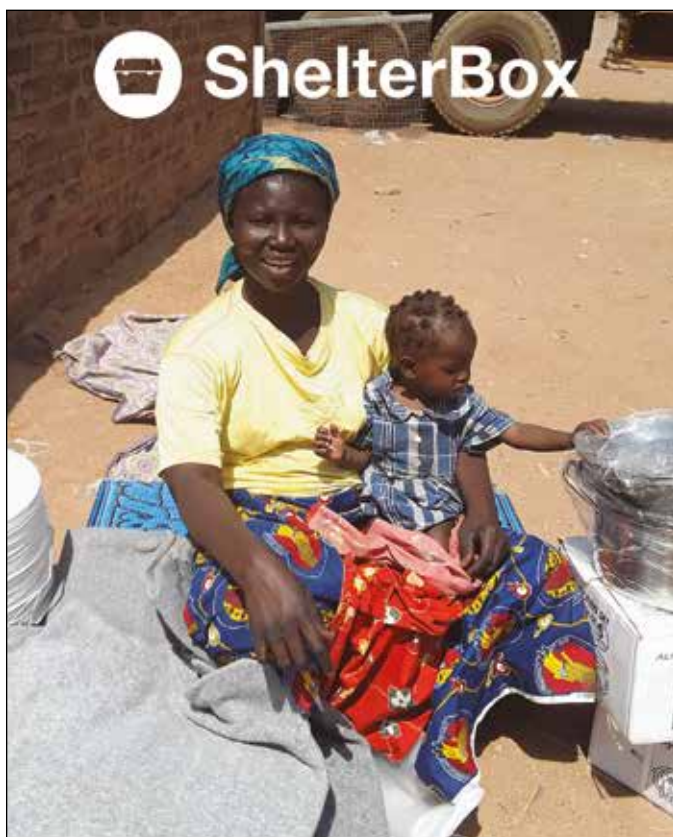
### **GROWING LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

We carry out service projects that enhance economic and community development and create opportunities for decent and productive work for young and old. We also strengthen local entrepreneurs and community leaders, particularly women, in impoverished communities.





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# *What is The Rotary Foundation?*

Providing support for sick children

## **WHAT DOES THE ROTARY FOUNDATION DO?**

Over the next few pages, you will read some examples of how The Rotary Foundation helps those in need.

## **WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM FOR THE ROTARY FOUNDATION?**

- Personal and Rotary club donations, apart from the results of certain club fundraising events, the most tax efficient is a personal contribution to the Rotary Foundation in United Kingdom using Gift Aid.
- Lump sums and/or legacies will usually go to the Endowment Fund, where only the income arising is spent and the capital retained.
- Donors may designate the spend to be on peace, polio or one of the six areas of focus.
- Rotary regions, known as districts, may donate part of their District Designated Fund.

## **WHAT ARE DISTRICT GRANTS?**

The Rotary Foundation works on a three-year cycle, so donations are invested for three years with the income arising used to cover expenses. Districts then receive one half of the funds they raised three years ago for District Grants. The money available will, of course, vary, depending on funds previously raised. The district can decide on the criteria for awarding grants.

## **WHAT ARE GLOBAL GRANTS?**

These are generally larger projects of a value in excess of \$30,000 (£23,170), including the use of District Designated Fund, with matching from the World Fund, as well as contributions from the host Rotary club and the international Rotary club. Interestingly, a global grant has been set up using an English club as the host and a Scottish club as the international partner.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

Partner organisations, such as the local church or school, can also work on global grant projects with a Rotary club. Even outside bodies can obtain a 50% top-up from The Rotary Foundation's World Fund.

## **WHAT ARE PEACE SCHOLARS?**

Ten scholarships for a Masters' degree in Peace and Conflict Resolution are awarded each year for each of five Rotary Peace Centres; Bradford, Brisbane, Uppsala (Sweden), Tokyo and Duke/University of North Carolina in the United States. In addition, a certificate programme is run from Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok.

## **WHAT ABOUT POLIO?**

All monies received towards End Polio Now are designated separately in order to qualify for matched from the Gates Foundation of 2-to-1 raised by Rotary. So £1 raised, becomes £3 matched!

How much should Rotary members donate individually?

It is often assumed that The Rotary Foundation asks every member for \$100 each year. Though this is not much money to most Rotarians, just over a pound or Euro per week, actually the Foundation asks every Rotarian to voluntarily give something – a dollar is enough.

## **WHY DONATE TO THE ROTARY FOUNDATION?**

By contributing to The Rotary Foundation you enable all Rotary clubs and volunteers, wherever they are, to benefit from our pooled resources. You help fund countless projects throughout the world via grants. When you wish to implement a project, you can rely on the Foundation to help fund your idea through grants.

## **THE GRANTS ARE TOO COMPLICATED**

Then ask the experts. Each district has an experienced and knowledgeable team who are there to help, guide and support.

## **AND FINALLY!**

The Rotary Foundation is Rotary's only charity. Not only does it provide the income, but we also decide how the available monies are spent – it's quite simple really!



To find out more, visit:  
[rotary.org/foundation](http://rotary.org/foundation) or  
[rotarygbi.org/about-rotary/the-rotary-foundation](http://rotarygbi.org/about-rotary/the-rotary-foundation)



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The  
**Rotary**  
Foundation



RODNEY HOWELL

# *Where there's a well, there's a way*

*The Rotary Foundation brings together clubs from across the world working together to fund major projects through their financial pulling power. Here's how successful Rotary partnerships were forged to build a series of wells in Sri Lanka.*

A fresh water well being constructed in Kilinochchi

THE decision made by a small charity working to relieve poverty in Sri Lanka to take a stand at the 2016 Rotary conference in Bournemouth has resulted in a massive financial boost to its work in the north of the island.

Child Aid Lanka (CAL) is an association of expatriate Sri Lankans living in the UK and based in Cheam, Surrey.

They work to improve the lot of deprived children in Sri Lanka by ensuring they receive a proper education.

Ironically, the Bournemouth conference coincided with the appointment of Ravi Ravindran, a member of Rotary Colombo, as President of Rotary International, who would be attending the Dorset event as part of his official duties.

“Rotarian Tom Drake, of Water Aid UK, suggested that we take a stand because of the link”, recalled CAL Trustee, Sean McQuaid.

“We felt we had a good, sustainable charity, aligned to Rotary’s aims, and we were looking for kindred spirits. It was all about awareness raising.”

The outcome was, in Sean’s words, “a wonderful reaction” which exceeded all expectations and which, a couple of years down the line, resulted in a global grant and a huge boost to the tiny charity’s efforts.

Among the conference attendees was Alistair Marquis, a member of Whitburn Rotary Club in Southern Scotland, who also happens to be a World Bank Education Consultant involved in helping to update the Sri Lankan school system.

He was well placed to see that CAL’s projects to build wells to provide local sources of fresh, clean water in the Kilinochchi district of North West Sri Lanka, was linked to the work in which he was engaged.

These wells would, after all, free children from the drudgery of walking long distances to fetch water each day, so allowing them to attend classes.

Many of the villagers in Kilinochchi are also survivors of the 30 year civil war, featuring many who have been displaced or are war widows struggling to re-establish livelihoods.

“*Water is a most basic necessity, and many villagers who lost crops during long and repeated droughts will benefit from this project.*”

Water is a most basic necessity, and many villagers who lost crops during long and repeated droughts will benefit from this project.

The assistance of his club and others, when linked to the financial clout of The Rotary Foundation, would enable the relatively small number of wells that CAL had already completed to be hugely increased.

“The surface water sources out there are toxic,” pointed out Alistair. “So proper hydrological surveys were vital.”

Fortunately, contacts within Rotary Colombo, who acted as financial controllers at the Sri Lankan end of the operation, led to a recently completed university study which saved a year towards the completion of the project.

The wells, constructed through a programme entitled ‘Well Done’, are eight to ten feet in diameter and have to go down about 30 feet to reach the water table.

They are constructed of locally-made concrete blocks by a construction company which has already built more than 16 wells for CAL, each with a 25-year life span.

Spending the money locally, through the Rotary members in Colombo, ensured that there was a further economic gain for the community. The water is raised in a simple and sustainable way via a bucket, pulley and rope.

Each well costs around \$1,000 (£770) and 50 wells are planned.

Five wells have been completed and a further 35 wells are planned for completion within the next six months.

One final hurdle was that, unlike in Africa, the land in Sri Lanka is not communal, but instead it is established in

small, privately owned plots. As a result, the owner of the land had to sign a contract allowing his neighbours access to the well to draw water for drinking.

The \$55,000 (£42,250) grant took about 18 months to obtain, despite having the Rotary contacts in place and the principle being established.

The money came from the Whitburn and Livingston clubs in Scotland, as well as Rotary Tywyn in Wales, topped up by district grants, plus £14,500 from the charity itself to scale up the total.

“The trustees did our homework before taking that step, but all the information we got indicated that we could trust Rotary with our money,” explained Sean McQuaid.

The charity’s trustees share much of the Rotary ethos, taking no expenses and going to Sri Lanka on holiday to enable them to keep an eye on the progress of projects.

When the work is complete it is hoped to move on to a further phase named ‘Well Done Too’, again based on the Rotary emphases on water, sanitation and education.

“Most Rotarians who have raised money for this work will never see and never know those who benefit,” added Alistair Marquis.

Truly an excellent example of the power of the Rotary effect. ●



For more information visit:  
**Child Aid Lanka**  
Email: [info@childaidlanka.org.uk](mailto:info@childaidlanka.org.uk)  
[www.childaidlanka.org.uk](http://www.childaidlanka.org.uk)





# *The power of partnership*

Providing clean water to villages in Malawi

*Here are three more projects run by Rotary clubs in Great Britain and Ireland which demonstrate the power of partnership in changing the lives of others through The Rotary Foundation.*

## **BRINGING BASIC SANITATION TO A REMOTE VILLAGE IN MALAWI**

**Area of focus:** Providing clean water

**Host sponsor:** Rotary Inverness Culloden, Scotland

**International sponsor:** Rotary Lilongwe, Malawi

**Total budget:** £48,000

**Background:** The project focussed on the eradication of open defecation in rural communities and waterborne diseases by addressing education and training.

**Scope:** Providing a water pump for clean water, building a new well, and providing two toilets with hand washing facilities.

**Fun fact:** International partners came from Scotland, England and France – the more partner clubs, the less financial burden on any individual club.

**Top tip:** Work on projects in phases. This phase was the second of three distinct, but related projects, designed to improve the lives of ordinary children in Malawi.

*"Each of the villages with a nursery school was given a nutrition garden, as well as tomato, rapeseed, mustard plant and pak choi seeds to grow food to supplement the children's diet – any excess vegetable production will be sold as a fundraising exercise for the village."*

**Rotarian Duncan MacDonald**

## **INTRODUCING PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION TO SCOTTISH STUDENTS**

**Area of focus:** Promoting peace

**Host sponsor:** Rotary in Southern Scotland

**International sponsor:** Rotary in the East Midlands, England

**Total budget:** £24,000

**Background:** Conflict within some of our most deprived areas can destroy lives and condemn young people to a life of misery and lost opportunities.

**Scope:** The project worked with the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards scheme to identify individuals and provide mediation training.

**Fun Fact:** No club cash was needed for this project since all sponsor funds came from The Rotary Foundation's District Designated Funds.

**Top Tip:** Remember, all of the nations within Rotary Great Britain and Ireland are treated as separate countries, so they can co-operate in global grants.

*"I feel the impact has been consistency and being able to have a responsibility within their local community by helping others through their sectional awards and feeling better about themselves through exercise and health and wellbeing within their Duke of Edinburgh's Award."*

**Katie Nicol, Operations Manager, Muirhouse Youth Development Group**

## **PROVIDING SOLUTIONS FOR FEMININE HYGIENE IN INDIA**

**Area of focus:** Fighting disease

**Host sponsor:** Rotary Pune Inspira, India

**International Sponsor:** Rotary Cardiff Bay, Wales

**Total budget:** £59,500

**Background:** Providing cost-effective solutions to the 250,000 female sanitary towels discarded in the Indian city each year.

**Scope:** To provide 68 public areas within the city with waste incinerators, plus training for over 10,000 young women.

**Fun Fact:** A first in this type of project sponsored by Rotary and its Foundation, but which can now be replicated globally.

**Top Tip:** You can easily meet up with international partners – volunteers from both Rotary clubs met online via Zoom to discuss their project and celebrate success.

*"The club was anxious to ensure that it was responding to a genuine local need and not simply imposing a project on a community that was not a priority for that community."*

**Rotarian Steve Jenkins**

Read about more Rotary Foundation projects on: [www.rotarygbi.org](http://www.rotarygbi.org)

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Qantas has donated blankets to Rotary clubs worldwide

# *Blanket coverage for the homeless*

*Rotary clubs across London and the Home Counties have been handing out blankets and other unwanted items from the Australian airline, Qantas.*

*Dave King finds out why.*

**W**E live in a fast-moving, corporate world where image is everything, when businesses tend to brand-change as frequently as football clubs sack managers.

But for Rotary clubs in both the UK and Australia, their work with the homeless has benefited hugely thanks to rebranding by one of the world's leading airlines.

Last year, Australian airline Qantas decided it needed to ditch thousands of blankets which it offers passengers on short- and long-haul flights, and wanted to direct them to a good cause.

Initially, these were on-board blankets,

which may have had a small blemish or were slightly frayed, but which were otherwise in good condition.

Rotary Rockdale City, eight miles south of Sydney, was at the heart of the 'There is Hope Blanket Project' through Vinod Reddy, a volunteer with Qantas, and who now heads up the initiative.

He explained: "Each blanket is sanitised and dry cleaned before being picked up for storage, ready to be rehomed.

"The success is dependent on the generosity and big-heartedness on innumerable fronts, primarily from the project's altruistic sponsors."

Along with helping the homeless

in Rockdale, the Australian project also focused on Fiji following the devastating Tropical Cyclone Winston.

Fiji Airways carried thousands of blankets freight-free, with inland transport provided by a Fiji-based Rotary member, whose forwarding company delivered the blankets to a major divisional hospital for further distribution to rural hospitals ravaged by the cyclone.

Internationally, blankets have also been distributed to Kolkata, Nepal, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Papua New Guinea and Sri Lanka.

But now Qantas, which is going through a rebranding process, has offered Rotary tens of thousands of soft furnishings including blankets, duvets, headrest covers, mattresses and other items, which are being picked up at Qantas hubs worldwide, including London.



*“Each blanket is sanitised and dry cleaned before being picked up for storage, ready to be rehomed for the needy”*

The homeless in the capital and home counties are benefiting. Mike Hodge, a Rotary member in Barnet and husband of current Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland President, Debbie, has been closely working on the UK end of the project with Tony Sharma, from Rotary Tower Hamlets and Himanshu Jain from Rotary Stratford.

In February, Tony, Himanshu and their team were at Gatwick Airport collecting 1,100 blankets, quilts and some baby equipment from Qantas's first class section which were then transported from West Sussex to a Gurdwara in Forest Gate in east London.

From there, these items were distributed to 20 Rotary clubs in the capital who had links with homeless charities and night shelters.

It was a major logistical exercise involving initial transportation, storage and distribution.



300,000 people are classed as homeless in the UK

Then in May, Qantas announced they had more than 8,000 soft furnishings from business and economy class to distribute.

In addition they provided over 10,000 items of crockery and cutlery, which were being replaced with lighter plates, knives, forks and spoons, which would help the airline to save on fuel.

The kitchen gear is being directed towards night shelters, soup kitchens, rehousing projects and community café projects run by clubs in the region.

“It is a project which came out of the blue,” admitted Mike.

“It was not one where someone had an idea and we had to work on it. This was a case of ‘how can you make the idea work?’

“My attitude always is ‘why not?’ and then I think about how.”

A call went out again to clubs in London and the home counties who could make use of the blankets and the other items.

It is ironic that at the height of the homeless project, the UK was experiencing one of the hottest summers in 42 years.

Further storage was found in Barking, Essex, in an industrial container owned by a Rotary member. Such were the numbers, that some of the goods ended up in Mike and Debbie's living room in Hertfordshire.

However, by the time the blankets have reached the homeless charities, they will be ready for when the colder nights set in.

“It has been a challenge, but it has been a great effort,” added Mike.

“For a logistics company, what we

achieved would have been a doddle. But we didn't have permanent storage, we didn't have a fleet of vans, we were having to rely on Rotarians pulling together.

“I don't know whether this will be a one-off. Maybe we might benefit from other companies rebranding, and if that ever proves to be the case, then we might have to think about finding more permanent storage facilities.”

This project has exemplified the international reach of Rotary.

An introduction through Rotary friends 10,000 miles apart has instigated a hands-on project with volunteers in 40 Rotary clubs working together alongside 58 local charities supporting those in need. ●

## FACT FILE

### HOMELESSNESS

- There are 4,447 rough sleepers across Great Britain
- 300,000 people are classed as homeless in the UK
- The loss of a private tenancy is the single leading cause of homelessness
- Councils spend a total of £1.15 billion on homelessness services every year



To join Rotary visit:  
[rotarygbi.org](http://rotarygbi.org)





**Rotary GBI President**  
Debbie Hodge

# Rotary changes lives

A QUESTION often asked is: 'Why did you join Rotary?' For me the answer was very simple, I needed to know who the key individuals in the community were - the town council representatives, the trusted professional and trades folk - because of my new job, my vocation, in the town as a church minister.

At that time, I knew little of how my skills and knowledge could be used in Rotary, or what far reaching effects they would have, along with the skills and knowledge of others in Rotary projects and programmes, both at home and overseas.

The first time my professional skills were used was when I was chosen to lead a Group Study Exchange Team to Australia.

I brought to that role my experience in nursing education and working with groups of students abroad, and my knowledge of Australia (I had shared in education programmes in Perth).

That trip changed my life and also the lives of the five team members who shared their skills and knowledge with colleagues in Australia. They brought home ideas and work practices which changed them as individuals, their working lives, plus the communities where they live and work.

The most recent experience was in Soweto, Johannesburg, where my specialist skills as a chaplain and lecturer in spiritual care were called upon as part of a Global Grant Project taking palliative care into the community of the township.

The impact of that work to individuals and their families is immense, as anyone in these islands will know if you have had loved ones cared for and enabled to die peacefully at home.

The effect has gone wider now, with the model of care I developed being adopted in palliative care across South Africa.

We must not neglect the gifts

individuals bring into Rotary. If we underestimate the value of those gifts, we underestimate the value of the individual.

We then starve communities and individuals of creative solutions to their needs and problems, both locally and globally.

Utilising Rotarians' skills and knowledge in projects and events engages them in action. That action can then engage others who may not be in Rotary.

It provides the platform for further engagement and the building of members who, in turn, will engage in more projects.



*"Utilising Rotarians' skills and knowledge in projects and events engages them in action. That action can then engage others who may not be in Rotary"*


So the virtuous circle of People doing Projects bringing Publicity continues.

There is one vocational skill we all have - the ability to see what is happening in our local community. Call it 'nosiness' or curiosity, but this is one aspect which is vital in the work to end modern slavery.

What do you notice in your community, what makes you question what is happening, makes you uneasy about a situation?

These tiny bits of information are the building blocks to raising awareness and identifying potential instances of modern slavery.

It is in everyone's back yard and at Conference: Showcase 2019 in Nottingham we will be looking at this issue, learning how Rotary can play its part by creating slave-free communities. ●

 For more information visit: [www.rotarygbi.org/events/annual-showcase/](http://www.rotarygbi.org/events/annual-showcase/) and [www.ragas.online](http://www.ragas.online) for details about the Rotary Action Group for Slavery.



In South Africa, we partnered with the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital



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**Barry Rassin**  
Rotary President 2018/19

## A MODERN ROTARY

**I**MAGINE if we could take a snapshot capturing all of the work Rotary does on a given day.

No one – except Rotary members – would believe that a single organisation was capable of accomplishing so much. In that snapshot you would see dedicated volunteers working to eradicate polio, setting up microloans, providing clean water, mentoring young people and countless other actions.

We can do all this thanks both to our geographic reach and to the fact that our clubs are made up of people who are engaged with their communities.

As a part of the community that you serve, you know the needs, you have the connections and you're able to take immediate action. That's why every Rotary club's membership should reflect the diversity of its community.

We're also expanding the age diversity of our clubs. In each of our communities, young professionals are eager to contribute their talents, give back and learn from mentors. Let's share with them what Rotary is all about.

The Engaging Younger Professionals Toolkit at Rotary.org has an action plan to help you reach young leaders and Rotary alumni in your area.

Another resource that can help us better reflect our communities – one that is global like us, is a quarter-million members strong, and already shares our values of service and leadership – is Rotaract.

Rotaractors are our partners; team up with them on projects, ask them to speak at your events and invite them to join your club. Dedicated Rotaractors worldwide are becoming members of Rotary and even starting new Rotary clubs while still serving as members of Rotaract.

The world needs Rotary, and Rotary needs strong clubs and engaged members in order to do more good. It is our responsibility – yours and mine – to make sure everyone who shows an interest in joining Rotary gets an invitation.

Make use of the Membership Leads tool at Rotary.org, which helps people who are interested in joining Rotary to connect with a club that's right for them. Let's not keep Rotary's story, the story captured in those snapshots of service, to ourselves. ●



**Ron D. Burton**  
Trustee Chair 2018/19

## ROTARY AND POLIO

**A**S a district governor, I attended the 1988 Rotary International Convention in Philadelphia. There, I heard that there were an estimated 350,000 cases of polio in 125 countries.

But I also heard some exciting news; we had surpassed our goal of raising USD\$120 million for the eradication of polio. We had raised USD\$219,350,449 and later, after the accounting was done, that figure was revised to USD\$247 million. What a celebration we had. We proved to ourselves, and to the world, the strength of Rotary and that we could take on a global health challenge.

In the ensuing 30 years, we, along with our partners – the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation – have raised even more funds, organised National Immunisation Days and advocated with world governments.

Our goal has always been to keep our promise to give children a polio-free world and in 2017, there were only 22 cases.

We've done incredible work, but we know the job isn't over. Once we reduce the number of cases to zero and no viruses are detected in the environment, we must wait for WHO to certify the world officially polio-free.

That requires at least a three-year period without a single detection of the wild poliovirus in a person or the environment.

During those three years, we will still have to vaccinate children and ensure through surveillance that the virus never regains a foothold.

Rotary members have always been on the front lines of this effort – we still are. So, what can you do? Tell everyone you know about Rotary and polio. Make a donation. Update your club and explore how together you could participate directly in the fight.

On October 24th, we'll celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative's formation at our sixth annual World Polio Day event, in Philadelphia, the city where it all started.

Host a World Polio Day fundraiser or watch party, and tell us about it at [endpolio.org/promote-your-event](http://endpolio.org/promote-your-event). For more inspiration, check out [endpolio.org](http://endpolio.org).

I need your help. I'm depending on you to help us keep our promise. ●



**Brian Stoyel**  
RI Director 2017-19

## ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

**W**EATHER – a talking point which never pleases everyone but, as I write these jottings in August, the rain has returned. Where were those balmy sunny days of summer?

In many countries recently, including here in the UK, fires have broken out on moorland and in residential areas, followed by heavy rain and flash flooding.

All in a day's work for many groups of our Rotary members rallying at times of need. Certainly, our pockets never seem empty when help is needed and donations can reach funds for specific emergencies by using our Rotary in Great Britain & Ireland (RIBI) Donations Trust.

This is our expertise, to aid in the aftermath, once the media has moved onto the next human ordeal.

One can only appreciate and applaud the generosity shown by supportive communities worldwide.

My reporting on Zones 17 & 18A to the Rotary International (RI) Board continues to impress as RIBI President Denis Spiller – with the Rotary2 initiative which has spawned 250 clubs, has handed the baton to Debbie Hodge, who aims to add a further 100 clubs.

The new RIBI Executive structure is clicking into place and District representatives are busy preparing for their respective RI Council roles with Resolutions (November 2018) and Enactments (April 2019).

When partaking in the Council on Legislation (CoL) review committee, I see the global diversity and similarity of our membership looking for progressive change and nimbleness of operation.

At the July Board meeting, President Barry asked where will we be in five years' time? Together with three Board colleagues I was tasked, as Chairman of the RI Board Executive Committee, to appraise the discussion topics.

As you can imagine many old chestnuts arose – diversity of membership, value for money, formality, Rotaract, Institutes, Conferences, RI President representatives to District conferences and committee structure.

Your Board is determined to propose change – the talking must stop, action is required! ●

# Looking for a defibrillator?

A defibrillator is a medical device. It needs **Governance** to make sure you meet all liabilities, and appropriate storage to ensure the safe keeping, with regular maintenance and checks to keep it in working order. It is not a TV you just buy from the internet, and then forget, or something where you buy the cheapest available, just to tick the box. This is about saving lives.

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.

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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**'.



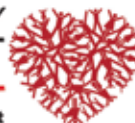
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# Land of my fathers

*Phil Bennett is regarded as one of the greatest rugby players of all time. Earlier this year, the Welshman spoke at the Rotary conference in Torquay. Dave King tackled him on rugby and his charity work.*

**M**ENTION the name Phil Bennett, and for rugby fans the world over there is one moment which encapsulates the silky skills of this enigmatic Welsh fly-half.

It was the Barbarians against the mighty All Blacks at Cardiff Arms Park in 1973 when Phil fielded a long kick just five metres from the Babas' try line.

"Brilliant," screamed the BBC commentator, Cliff Morgan, as Phil side-stepped twice to evade four All Black players, before JPR Williams, John Pullin, John Dawes, Tom David and then Derek Quinnell set up Gareth Edwards, who spectacularly dived over into the corner for one of the most iconic tries of all time.

"If I'd have been playing for Wales, I'd probably have kicked the ball into the stands," admitted Phil, as he reflected on the amazing match. "The crowd went

absolutely berserk. The rest of the game was like Wales playing at home."

Now, 45 years later, there's no mistaking one of the greatest rugby players of all time, who won 29 Wales caps and twice toured with the British & Irish Lions.

Phil, who turns 70 this year, is still closely connected with the sport, as president of the regional side Scarlets and with his media work. Once a week, he even has a gentle rugby run-out with his pals.

"Yes, of course I miss the game," he admitted. "As a sportsman, when you have played at a decent level, playing is the greatest enjoyment you can ever have.

"It's just fantastic.

"What I always enjoyed is that you shake hands with your opposite number, have a couple of beers, and then mix with your family and friends.

"So I do miss it, but I have been very lucky working for the BBC which has kept me in touch with the game."

But if there is any hint of regret or envy at today's rugby rich kids, Phil is having none of it.



Stock image

Standing at 5ft 7in tall, and tipping the scales at 11 stone in his pomp, 21st century rugby is a different world and a different game. Current Wales fly-half, Dan Biggar, is 6ft 1in and weighs 14.5 stone and is reported to be earning £650,000 a season.

"I couldn't have played the modern game today the size I was," admitted Phil.

"Rugby is so brutal these days. The big guys are built up in the gyms to play a physical game.

"I am one of these people who believes you are born in the era you that are due to play. Good luck to the boys who are earning good money. That's their good luck.

"I didn't earn any money out of the game, but that's the way it goes.

"I remember one of the great boxers from the Valleys. Howard Winston, told me how not long before he fought for the world championship in the 1960s he used to get paid about £500 a fight.

"So that is a different world. It is the world I was brought up in, it is the world I enjoyed. I loved the game, I was lucky I saw the world and I've got no complaints."

One of Phil's other passions is his charity work and honouring his great friend, Ray Gravell, a tough-tackling centre, who won 23 Wales caps.

In 2000, Ray was diagnosed with diabetes, and those remaining years before his death in October 2007 were ravaged by illness.

Ray, Phil and another Scarlets, Wales and British Lions legend, Derek Quinnett set up the 'Three Lions Charitable Trust' to

support causes, charities and individuals across West Wales.

Following the death of one of Wales' most loved and colourful personalities, The Ray Gravell & Friends Charitable Trust was established, with Phil one of the trustees and a driving force.

Over the past decade, the Trust has raised £1 million for those good causes, through fundraising events, donations, and 70 patrons giving £1,000 every year.

"We have really worked hard and it has been magnificent," added Phil.

"Sometimes, when we are working late at meetings and you are tired, you wonder what the heck you are doing.

"But then, when we give a cheque to a hospital, and you see some of the little kiddies and the patients, you realise how it is well worth it.



Rugby legend, Phil Bennett

"So many people have told us how we have changed their lives, or someone you know.

"We visited the cancer unit at Llanelli Hospital to hand over some new equipment, and those kinds of things make you feel so good.

"So I am sure 'Grav' up there would be looking down at us with a large whisky and having a laugh saying: 'Look at them working hard on my behalf'.

"But it has been total satisfaction for me and I am so proud we have raised that £1 million." ●

## FACT FILE

### PHIL BENNETT

- Phil Bennett won 29 international caps for Wales between 1969 and 1978
- Phil became the first Welsh replacement in international rugby, making his debut against France, aged 20, replacing Gerald Davies
- Phil was a member of the British Lions victorious tour to South Africa in 1974, scoring in all four tests
- In 2005, Phil was admitted into the International Rugby Hall of Fame



For more information visit:  
[www.grav13.cymru](http://www.grav13.cymru)



# Equality in motion for Rotary

*Rotary has been open to women for 35 years, yet for many, Rotary is seen traditionally as a male dominated organisation. The Colchester Gazette recently published this article focusing on how District Governor, Lesley Sulley, is breaking the male-only perception.*

**M**ALE, pale, frail and stale – the words Lesley Sulley uses when she explains what she thinks is the perception of a typical Rotary member.

Describing herself as lively and vibrant, Lesley, 65, is clearly at pains to distance herself from the unflattering and rather dated description.

First and foremost, she's female. And while in 2018 that shouldn't make a difference, Lesley, this year's District Governor for her area, says it has.

"Women have been accepted into

Rotary for 35 years. I am challenged regularly and, interestingly, my husband is challenged on it too.

"It is male Rotarians and sometimes their wives. They have said things to me like: 'We were happy, our husbands were going out on a week night, now women are spoiling it'."

But Lesley adds: "It is only the tiniest minority and our biggest defenders are male.

"People in general are frightened of change. It doesn't mean once they get over the hiccup that they don't approve.

"Most clubs will say women joining is

the best thing that has happened."

Lesley, from Braiswick on the outskirts of Colchester, joined one of the town's four Rotary clubs, Colchester Centurion, ten years ago.

She is the second woman to hold a role for an area which spans Essex, east Hertfordshire and east London.

In total, there are 63 clubs in the district, seven of which don't have any women members.

Across Great Britain and Ireland, women make up just 17% of the membership.



*"Most clubs will say women joining is the best thing that has happened"*

Evidently, the organisation clearly has some catching up to do after being around for 113 years.

Lesley's club was founded by Christine Beedle 18 years ago – the first in Colchester to be open to men and women.

The other three clubs in her area have followed suit.

So, what have the new members brought to Rotary? "Diversity," says Lesley. "It has just moved with the times."

She adds: "What they say to me is that I am a breath of fresh air."

Lesley's successor will be a woman, Pauline Dean, also from the Colchester Centurion Rotary. ●



Lesley Sulley handing out finishing medals at the Foulness Bike Ride



To join Rotary visit:  
**rotarygbi.org**

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To arrange a speaker at your Rotary Club and hear more about MAF's inspirational work, please phone **01303 851955** or visit **[www.maf-uk.org/rotary](http://www.maf-uk.org/rotary)**



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MOLLY YOUND

# Smartphone doctor wins Rotary Peace Award

*Dr Waheed Arian has been instrumental in using modern technology to bring modern medicine to some of the world's most inaccessible places. As a result, he is one of two winners of this year's Rotary Peace Award.*

**E**VERY year since 1947, Llangollen has staged one of the world's most inspirational cultural festivals.

Around 4,000 performers and as many as 50,000 visitors converge on this beautiful small Welsh town for the International Eisteddfod to sing and dance in a unique combination of competition, performance as well as international peace and friendship.

It is here on the banks of the salmon-rich River Dee, in the shadow of the beautiful Berwyn mountains, that the Rotary Peace Award is presented.

This summer, one of the winners was Dr Waheed Arian, who was honoured for providing medical assistance through the internet to doctors working in war-torn countries.

When he arrived in the UK from Afghanistan as a 15-year-old, Dr Arian spoke very little English, had less than £100 in his pocket, and was told he would probably become a taxi driver.

Winning the award prompted an appearance on BBC Breakfast TV where he revealed that his idea was a simple one which was free and united people via technology so that expertise can be shared.

"We have volunteers from the NHS and across the globe who use smartphones and social media to give critical, life-saving advice to medics in conflict zones," said Dr Arian, who works at Aintree Hospital in Liverpool.

"I was so surprised when I received the email to tell me I had won this Rotary



Dr Waheed Arian collecting his International Eisteddfod award

award. It is a huge honour for all of us but also a huge responsibility.

"The award recognises how we bring together communities in the neutral context of healthcare and education. We go to areas where, in person, it would not be usually possible. For example, to remote areas in Afghanistan, to Syria, and Uganda, and they talk to each other."

The project began in Afghanistan in 2015. Doctors can respond within four hours to requests for medical advice, for what is being dubbed live tele-medicine.

The other award winner at the Llangollen International Eisteddfod was Sara Rowbotham, for her work in bringing peace to the victims of the Rochdale sex abuse scandal.

Sara worked for the Rochdale Crisis

Intervention Team as a sexual health worker from 2004 to 2014, tasked with identifying young people who were vulnerable to child sex exploitation.

However, she became disillusioned when under-age girls, who made claims of abuse by grown men, were being dismissed by the authorities as child prostitutes.

She became a key whistleblower which led to the conviction of nine men for sex trafficking and other offences involving 47 girls.

In 2012 she told an MP-led inquiry: "We were making referrals from 2004, very explicit referrals, referrals which absolutely highlighted for protective services that young people were incredibly vulnerable.

"It was unfortunate that it was about attitudes towards teenagers. It was absolute disrespect that vulnerable young people did not have a voice.

"They were overlooked. They were discriminated against. They were treated appallingly by protective services.

"I told everybody these children were being abused. As far as I'm concerned, I told everybody."

This year's winners were chosen by leading Rotary peace advocates, Jean Best and Dick Hazlehurst. Terry Waite, who is an honorary Rotary member and who was held hostage for nearly five years in Beirut while a member of the Archbishop of Canterbury's private staff, is president of the Eisteddfod.

The Rotary awards are the brainchild of Molly Youd from Wrexham Yale Rotary, who garnered the support of Rotary



Stock image

Doctors can respond within four hours to requests for medical advice, for what is being dubbed live tele-medicine

in North Wales and the Board at the Llangollen Eisteddfod.

She was inspired four years ago when witnessing Russian and Ukrainian dancers swapping partners to dance with each other whilst, back home, their countries were at war.

“It was a very poignant moment,” recalled Molly. “I felt then that we as Rotary should be doing something to recognise this.”

The first award in 2016 was given to the Eisteddfod for 70 years of promoting peace and international understanding through song and dance.

The following year, the charity Médecins Sans Frontières won for their témoignage project with refugees and the national winner in 2017 was the British Ironworks based in Shropshire for their ‘Save a Life, Surrender Your Knife’ campaign.

Molly pointed out that peace is one of Rotary International’s areas of focus:

“In these troubled times, it is more important than ever that we recognise the work that goes on to promote peace and international understanding in any way,” she added.

“The partnership between Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod and Rotary here in Wales is just one example of how we can all work together for a better world.

“We are born into this world with no hate and no prejudice.

“These are things which are learned and so can be changed by example. What better way than in song and dance and recognising the work of those who give so much to help others in need.” ●



*“We have volunteers from the NHS and across the globe who use smartphones and social media to give critical, life-saving advice to medics in conflict zones”*



If you would like to nominate a person or organisation for next year’s Rotary Peace Award, send details to Molly Youd at [myoud@talktalk.net](mailto:myoud@talktalk.net) and include reasons why you think they should be nominated, together with any links to support the recommendation. The closing date is March 31st, 2019. [international-eisteddfod.co.uk](http://international-eisteddfod.co.uk)



# It's time to #ThinkDifferently

*As Rotary looks at ways of stemming the decline in membership, so 'Think Differently' has challenged the ways we view the organisation. Rotarians Irene Russell (Warrington) and Phil Dyer (Prescot), who have been instrumental behind the concept, explain how.*



**P**ICTURE the scene at the AJ Bell Stadium in Salford in March earlier this year. It was March 2nd, 2018, the coldest day of the year when the Beast from the East was howling.

But this was the day when Think Differently was hatched. More than 200 Rotarians had gathered for what was being promoted as a joint public image and membership seminar, featuring speakers discussing change management and success stories of club innovation.

But that was only the half of it!

Those who braved the Arctic conditions did so because they wanted to discuss how to do Rotary differently in their town. Everything was themed black and white - all within brand guidelines, of course, - as facilitators wore black polo shirts with 'Think Differently' emblazoned on the front and 'I do' on the back.

The key speaker was change management consultant, Jonathan Miller, who assists commercial and charitable organisations to orchestrate change and make strategic shifts in their way of thinking. Incidentally, Jonathan was President of Rotary Kenilworth, Warwickshire, from 2017-18.

Jonathan was thought-provoking and controversial, who questioned every boundary and obstacle which was thrown his way - the audience were blown away with his audacity.

Gill Bainbridge from the Merseyside Youth Association opened her session with a video of David Bowie's 'Changes'. Soon, heads were up and everyone was engaged. Gill spoke about the continual reform of



Keynote Speaker Jonathan Miller

her organisation, and what she and her teams have had to do to keep the charity's approach fresh and dynamic.

We had speakers talk about satellite groups, flexible clubs and e-clubs.

And in the break-out sessions, every aspect of Rotary was discussed with ideas in abundance.

Suddenly Rotarians were getting Think Differently - a post seminar survey revealed that 79% of respondents reckoned the event had made them think about the future of Rotary in their clubs, and a staggering 87% insisted they would discuss Think Differently at their club.

So what was this all about? Well, the idea originally was to hold a district membership seminar to talk about new, flexible ways of doing Rotary.



Martin Judd from Rotary Manchester Trailblazers and Richard Cooper, from Rotary Bolton Lever, in discussion at last March's Salford seminar

As discussions unfolded, it became clear that it needed to be more than telling Rotarians you don't have to attend meetings every week, or meet at different times, or even relinquish the evening meal.

We wanted a cultural change in the district, and we wanted club Rotarians to see the benefits of thinking differently about Rotary for themselves.

The catalyst for the event was the successful application of a Membership Development Grant through Rotary in Great Britain & Ireland which allowed us to think of a bigger event.

Of course, Rotary 2 has been running successfully over the past year, creating around 200 new clubs, and promoting flexible ways of doing Rotary.

Rotary 2 is the framework change and mechanism which allows clubs to make changes. Think Differently is the cultural change process; changes to individual and district thought processes. Both concepts sit alongside one another, and both will help to ensure the longevity and vibrancy of Rotary.

Rotarians need to critically assess the future of Rotary in their town. They need to determine whether they are positively enhancing the image of Rotary and future-proofing the organisation. By adopting some of the cultural changes which Think Differently proposes, Rotary will be revitalised and continue to thrive.

In line with Rotary 2, clubs are

“*Those who braved the Arctic conditions did so because they wanted to discuss how to do Rotary differently in their town*”

encouraged to offer flexible packages to new members; less traditional, more inclusive and participatory - flexible clubs, e-clubs and satellite clubs.

Think Differently takes it beyond that framework and makes quite a few bold statements.

- **Language:** we are suggesting that use of the words membership and members are replaced with volunteers and volunteer engagement. We suggest that the formal language used in much of our correspondence and in meetings is replaced with more current business language.
- **Project driven:** we suggest the prime motivator to attract new volunteers is to offer projects, not just fund-raising schemes. These are local and international projects which will attract future volunteers. This is in stark contrast to a membership drive as the primary function. We believe projects will attract a

larger volunteer base and, in turn, enhance the offering to potential volunteers.

- **Large scale projects:** encouragement of large scale projects and working together with other Rotary clubs and external partners. An example is the Rise Against Hunger meal packing events recently held by a number of Rotary districts.
- **Other volunteer models:** look towards other volunteer sector models as good examples of what can be done to attract volunteers and how service organisations can be made to flourish and survive. For example, the Merseyside Youth Association and the National Trust.

Rotarians should think about how Rotary is perceived in their town and the impact it is having.

Think, is your club inclusive and participatory? Does it meet the needs of the community, either at home or abroad?

By changing a few simple traditions, this can positively impact the way volunteers, potential members and stakeholders view Rotary in the community.

If Think Differently succeeds, it could completely change the trajectory of Rotary in the UK. ●

**i** To find out more, contact:  
[irene.russell@mail.com](mailto:irene.russell@mail.com)  
[philipdyer.rotary@gmail.com](mailto:philipdyer.rotary@gmail.com)





Reception desks are perfect places to install a hearing loop

# Are you listening Salford?

**F**IVE Rotary clubs in Salford have joined forces to work on a collaborative community project called Let's Hear Salford to help residents with hearing loss.

According to the project's organisers, it is probable that at least 50,000 Salford residents using hearing aids could benefit from the correct use of induction loops in stores, chemists, churches, public buildings and many more places.

It has been estimated that more than 75% of installed loops are not working throughout the UK and at many locations the staff have no idea how to use them.

A hearing loop is a special type of sound system for use by people wearing hearing aids. It emits a magnetic, wireless signal that is picked up when the aid is set to the Telecoil option.

When activated at a venue where there is a loop, it cuts out the clutter of outside noise providing a clearer conversation.

The project launch in Salford earlier this summer was a huge success, supported by NHS Audiology Salford, national charities Hearing Link and Action on Hearing Loss, as well as the Salford Royal



*"It has been estimated that more than 75% of installed loops are not working throughout the UK and at many locations the staff have no idea how to use them"*

Foundation Trust, Salford City Council and Salford Clinical Commissioning Group.

Following a local advertising campaign, using social media and networking events, volunteers came forward to start checking induction loop installations.

The Let's Hear Salford Steering group is made up of Rotary members, the public, and some Inner Wheel representatives with a real desire to help those with hearing loss in their community.

Volunteers received training to carry out loop checks with special hand-held testers and ask a series of five questions about the installations.

Whilst undergoing training, local volunteer and resident, Bernard Lea, discovered his own hearing aid was not fitted with the necessary "T" switch.

Bernard, who is a former Salford City Mayor, is now enjoying a whole new hearing experience after the NHS quickly made a small modification.

Recently, Rotary member Mike Collier, the leader of Let's Hear Salford project, started a dialogue with Co-op Headquarters with the aim of improving their store facilities for those with hearing loss.

Mike said: "I have had a really enthusiastic response from senior management in Manchester with a view to rolling out a Co-op checklist for induction loops in stores, throughout the UK."

Let's Hear Salford is one of several Let's Hear groups which have been established in the UK by the charity Hearing Link, a number of them directly involving Rotary clubs. ●



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An artist's impression of how the finished bus may look

# *All aboard the Rotary Shelter Bus!*

*It is a novel approach addressing the growing problem of homelessness. Get hold of a double decker bus, convert it, and create a mobile shelter. Rodney Howell reports how this Rotary-led project is working in Birmingham.*

**T**HE sight of folk sleeping rough in the streets of our towns and cities is becoming more commonplace.

More than 300,000 people in Britain – equivalent to one in every 200 – are officially recorded as homeless or living in inadequate homes, according to figures released by the charity Shelter.

Using official government data and freedom of information returns from local authorities, it estimates that 307,000 people are sleeping rough, or accommodated in temporary housing, bed and breakfast rooms or hostels.

Although rough sleepers are the more

visible end of homelessness, it is estimated that more than 60% of those who are homeless do not show up in official figures.

This is especially true for single people who hold down a job but, for a variety of reasons, have no home of their own.

The plight of the homelessness in the heart of England's second city has prompted Birmingham Breakfast Rotary to try to make a difference in a unique way – a mobile hostel using a bus!

The original idea was to set up a hostel but, when it was realised that the point of need could move around the city, it was decided that a suitably equipped bus could be much more effective.

So, in January 2017 plans for the first

Rotary Shelter Bus began, featuring a team led by Rotaractor, Luca Buratti - son of Birmingham Breakfast member, Angelo Buratti - and including District Governor, Gary Dancer.

National Express West Midlands donated the club a double decker bus.

Now the plan is to strip all its seats and fixtures, before being converted into an overnight shelter with 10 sleeping pods, a kitchen, a consultation room, two shower/toilet facilities and a dining area.

The refurbishment will be carried out in Sheffield at a cost of around £37,000. This will be met by an online fund-raising website, a grant from The Rotary Foundation and sponsorship. Clubs, businesses and individuals can sponsor a pod, with a plaque recognising their gift placed outside the bus.

One of the project's trustees, Courtney Patrick, revealed that work would soon get under way. She said: "The bus has not yet been converted as we are still fund-raising at this point. We will not be converting the bus until the partnership with the local council and a charity partner is formally established.



*"Our vision is that there will be Rotary Shelter Buses all over the UK, helping to alleviate the rough sleeping problem nationwide"*

"This partnership is an integral part of the business model, and we want to ensure that all donor funds are being utilised in the right part of the project.

"The bus is currently being stored with one of the trustees and is ready to be converted upon signing formal documentation."

The initiative has already attracted the interest of Thierry Dufour, Managing Director of Jewson, who said: "Converting a bus into a mobile homeless shelter for rough sleepers is an amazing idea and it is something I would like to follow up and get involved with."

A further £13,000 is needed for soft furnishings as well as insurance and other overheads, because the Rotary Shelter Bus



Luca Buratti with the donated National Express West Midlands bus

is more than just a place to lay your head. It's a home, albeit temporary.

The hope is that the Rotary Shelter Bus will be on the road later this year. The not-for-profit's trustees are currently reaching out to local authorities and homeless charities across Greater Birmingham to build partnerships to manage the shelter.

"Once the bus is converted through the funding received, the trustees will hand the bus over to our charity/council partner," added Courtney.

"They will be responsible for the day-to-day operations and management of care of the bus, including driving the bus to the locations.

"The Rotary Shelter Bus team will assist with continuous fund-raising and agreeing corporate advertising sponsorships to support the costs incurred, as well as supporting the charity partner with any other concerns.

"It's vital that we hand over the care and safeguarding of boarders to professionals that are qualified to give the highest standard of care."

Every day, the Rotary Shelter Bus will travel across Greater Birmingham, ensuring all areas of the community are served.

The Rotary Shelter Bus will be free to all potential guests.

In addition to accommodation, every visitor will be provided with a hot meal, shower facilities, as well as an initial consultation to determine necessary care resources.

This could be the first of many Rotary

Shelter Buses on the road. Courtney revealed that as word has got out, they have already been contacted by other Rotary clubs in their district, as well as from London and Lancashire.

She added: "Our vision is that there will be Rotary Shelter Buses all over the UK, helping to alleviate the rough sleeping problem nationwide.

"Homelessness and rough sleeping isn't just affecting Birmingham, it's a societal issue everywhere in the UK.

"Once we get this pilot launched, we'll hit the ground running sourcing additional buses and promoting the concept throughout the UK." ●

## FACT FILE

### SHELTER BUS

- The Rotary Shelter Bus will be free to all potential guests
- In addition to accommodation, every visitor will be provided with a hot meal, shower facilities, as well as an initial consultation to determine necessary care resources
- Every day, the Rotary Shelter Bus will travel across Greater Birmingham, ensuring all areas of the community are served



To join Rotary visit:  
[rotarygbi.org](http://rotarygbi.org)



## LATEST NEWS FROM AROUND GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND

### HOT TECHNOLOGY

**M**ODERN technology in schools is great when it's working, but in hot and dusty environments it can be a big challenge.

Rotary Zanzibar in Stone Town had seen plenty of problems with technology, particularly second hand laptops which struggle in the heat, dust and salty humidity.

So when visiting British Rotary members suggested Kio Kit/BRCK technology which was designed in neighbouring Kenya for use in challenging environments, the African Rotary members were intrigued.

The Kio Kit consists of a set of 40 resilient tablets which can survive being dropped from a height of 70cm. They live in a robust flight case and all the tablets are charged simultaneously.

So, with the local members of Rotary on board and support from the Brighton & Hove Soiree Rotary Club, the Kio Kits were purchased for US \$5,000 (£3,750).

The tablets were received with huge delight at Unguja Ukuu Primary School where, unsurprisingly, it took the students much less time than the teachers to work out the potential of the system!

Ann Dieckmann, from the Brighton club, explained that in Zanzibar, like much of Africa, rote-learning is the norm, so immersive, interactive learning is quite a significant departure.

The content, developed in Kenya, in delivered in either English or Swahili and is perfect for East African primary schools.

It includes stories, comprehension exercises, interactive language learning, reference materials and games which teach numeracy and thinking skills.



She explained: "As teaching skills are limited, the children really appreciate the opportunity to take control of their own learning.

"The digital classroom changes the model of the students relying on the teachers for information, which is often poorly expressed and poorly researched.

"At last they can see, in glorious colour, illustrations of what they previously only saw in black and white on a chalk board."

**"At last they can see, in glorious colour, illustrations of what they previously only saw in black and white on a chalk board"**

In the two years since the system was purchased, the school has had many visitors from local non-governmental organisations and the Zanzibar Ministry of Education and Vocational Training to assess its potential.

As a result, other kits are now working in Zanzibar and neighbouring Pemba Island. The local Rotary club worked with an American club to fund a second Kio Kit for the Zanzibar Learning 4 Life Foundation, an afterschool club in another resource-poor part of the island. ●



©Richard Harris

## RACHEL EARNED IT!



**P**LYMPTON Rotary were approached by Rachel Miller, one of the Plymouth Albion Ladies Rugby Club's stars, seeking individual player sponsorship to help with kit costs, insurance and match fees.

Rather than just give Rachel £200, the club took a slightly different approach and agreed to the sponsorship on the proviso that Rachel 'earned it' by helping or rather volunteering at a few club events.

Rachel, a second row forward, is no stranger to Rotary as her grandfather was a member of Rotary in Wiltshire.

Instead of attending just one or two events, Plympton Rotary has seen Rachel help out at the planting of crocuses for the Purple4Polio campaign, several nights of the club's Christmas collections and helping at a supermarket bag.

She has attended several club meetings and been an ambassador for Plympton Rotary by wearing the club logo on her Albion training kit.

Because of these behind the scenes activities, Rachel was presented with the Albion Ladies' 'Club Woman of the Year' award. ●

## FROM CRADLE TO THE WATER

**C**OTSWOLD Tyndale Rotary has raised £8,000 for the Sharpness Lifeboat replacement fund.

Sharpness is one of the most inland ports in Britain, serving as a gateway from the River Severn to the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal.

The new Sharpness lifeboat, costing £128,000, will replace the current aging vessel, which will be taken out of service later this year.

However, the bespoke, state-of-the-art lifeboat, will also require its own dedicated cradle to be directly launched into the Severn from the Keystone Slipway.

Past President of Cotswold Tyndale Rotary, Derek Aston, decided to make it

his charity mission to raise the money required for the launch cradle.

Geoff Dawe, Lifeboat Operations Manager, at Sharpness Lifeboat Station reckoned that the generosity of Rotarians had put the final piece of the project in place.

He said: "Raising sufficient funds, on top of the build cost of the lifeboat and funds required to extend the lifeboat station to accommodate the new lifeboat, was extremely worrying. It could have put the project on hold.

"The new lifeboat station will serve as a front line life-saving facility for those who find their lives in danger on the waters of the renowned tidal Severn." ●

## DOGGED FUNDRAISING

**R**OTARY Rushen & Western Mann has continued its traditions of helping good causes on the Isle of Man through its fund-raising activities.

The club donated £3,600 to the island branch of Guide Dogs for the Blind to fund a guide dog which will have a Manx-themed name.

The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association is a charity which does so much work other than providing mobility and freedom to blind and partially sighted people.

Their work also includes campaigning for the rights of people with visual impairment and funding eye disease research.

Jane Shutt, Secretary of Guide Dogs for the Blind (Isle of Man) received the cheque from Past Club President, Paul Winnell.

The Isle of Man Foodbank was presented with 10 slow cookers by the Rotary club.

A Manx registered charity founded in 2013, it was instigated by Rotarians from Douglas. The foodbank now has its office and operation in Cronkbourne.

Foodbank Managing Director, Neal Mellon, said: "Times are hard, many people are just about managing, so when a crisis occurs such as redundancy, illness or possibly a domestic situation, everything becomes impossible to manage.

"That's why Foodbank exists. We provide emergency food and, in many cases, help clients to identify and resolve underlying problems by advising them of other support organisations such as The Salvation Army, Debt Management, Social Services and Housing Matters, in a bid to get them back to independence." ●





## ALL'S GREEN AT THE HOSPICE

**R**OTARY Ashby has provided the charity Hospice Hope with essential equipment for the garden at Hope House in Griffydham, Leicestershire.

The donation includes a sit-on lawnmower, a fully equipped greenhouse and a garden seat. Money has also been provided for seeds and plants, for weeding and the services of a tree surgeon.

In total, £4,500 was provided, with £2,500 raised by a Rotary golf day at Willesley Park Golf Club and £2,000 match-funding from a Rotary District 1070 Foundation Grant.

Hope House opened in April 2017 for people in North-West Leicestershire with life-limiting conditions. It is open two days a week and has up to eight guests attending each day, supported by volunteers.

While there were facilities for guests' use, there was little in the garden to occupy their time.

That's why a greenhouse was introduced for guests to be creative with plant growing and provide fresh salad for the kitchen.

Stewart Shepherd, Chairman of Hospice Hope, thanked Bob Ferguson, Ashby Rotary's Foundation Officer for Rotary's support. He said 'The project that Rotary promised is now complete and it has been a delight to work with you and see the outstanding success of each part.

'The guests at Hope House love the well-manicured lawn and will start to use the greenhouse very soon. They also have a beautiful seat from which they can watch the prolific wildlife in the garden.' ●



## AYOOLA REMEMBERS HOMELESSNESS



**F**OUR years ago, Ayoola Adeyanju's family of four came uncomfortably close to being homeless.

The landlord of a rented Manchester apartment, which he was moving into, was facing a repossession order - leaving Ayoola, his wife and two young sons stuck between properties with nowhere to live.

Months of bouncing between the local authority, Shelter and rodent-infected temporary accommodation left its mark on the family.

Which is why Ayoola - now a member of the Rotary Club of Manchester Trailblazers and professional multi-media artist - pledged a percentage of profits, from his first solo exhibition of work to Manchester's Booth Centre.

Thirty original works went on a three-day display this summer in the Ulster Gallery at the Irish World Heritage Centre in Cheetham Hill.

Ayoola's art college degree in Lagos, Nigeria, earned him a directorship with an advertising company before he moved to Manchester in 2007 to continue his studies.

That was when his own close shave with homelessness left a scar.

"The trauma of my family's potential fate would not go away for a long time," he said. "Thinking about it right now still makes me shiver because I can imagine the despondency, depression and suffering among folks who have to sleep rough on the streets.

**"The trauma of my family's potential fate would not go away for a long time"**

"At least we had a mould-covered place to live that was unbelievably infested with creatures that would drag large food items from the kitchen into the living room, bite large chunks out and then disappear. Those experiences alone shaped my decision to support the homeless."

That has included joining Manchester Trailblazers Rotary Club which is a long-time supporter of the Booth Centre - a Manchester based local charity that looks after the interests of homeless people. ●



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## TOP OF THE CLASS

**T**HEY'RE a clever lot in the Lake District, which was highlighted by Rotary Ambleside's highly successful Quiz Kids' grand final.

Rotary members visited a number of Cumbrian schools for the first round, with the top two teams from each school going into the final.

Two teams of four Year 5 and Year 6 children aged between 10 and 11-years-old then represented each of the four schools for this fifth year of the competition.

In fact, all four schools were winners as Ambleside Rotary donated cheques for each school's chosen charity.

Langdale School emerged as winners receiving a £400 cheque for UNICEF, Hawkshead School picked up £200 for the WWF, while Ambleside and Grasmere schools each received £100 for the Kinamba Village Nursery in Rwanda and Macmillan Cancer Support respectively. ●

## MILK FLOAT FORTUNE



**R**OTARY clubs have become renowned for being inventive, but Aldershot Rotary has really shown its colours after their ageing Christmas float finally hit the end of the road.

The North Hampshire club is this year celebrating its 90th birthday.

Each December, for the last 60 years, the Rotarians have been collecting around the streets of Aldershot with their Christmas float, escorted by Father Christmas.

Local charities and community groups have benefitted to the tune of tens of thousands of pounds.

However, this year, the Aldershot club hit a problem. Rotarian Betty McClure explained: "Unfortunately our float was no longer suitable for travelling around the heavily congested streets of Aldershot. So a decision was made to replace it with an environmentally-friendly electric milk float.

"The float will be decorated with an eye-catching Christmas tableau and

will travel the locality playing traditional Christmas music, accompanied by Father Christmas."

The purchase of the float was made possible by a generous grant from the Farnborough Airport Community Environmental Fund following an application led by Rotarian Geoff Clark.

Rotarians Keith Harding and Ray Newman sourced and completed the purchase of the float which is currently undergoing conversion for this Christmas' collections.

Club President, Malcolm Bellwood, said, "We are delighted that we have been given the opportunity to carry on the legacy of Rotary in Aldershot by continuing to collect funds for local charities during the Christmas period.

"Additionally, by changing to an electric vehicle, we are reducing our carbon footprint which is a very progressive initiative." ●

## TIME FOR TEA, ANYONE?

**P**AST President of Rotary Carlisle, Nicki Quayle, loves to experience new challenges, but jumping out of a plane proved a little scary.

All in aid of charity, Nicki chose to jump from Flookburgh in South Cumbria with Skydive NorthWest on a beautiful summer's day.

With magnificent views of Morecambe Bay and the Lake District, Nicki floated to the ground to be greeted by a strong cup of tea, content in the knowledge that over £3,000 had been raised for the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution, Blood Bikes, Hospice at Home, and Life Education. ●



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## MILLION POUND FUND RAISERS

**T**HE Paul Harris Fellowship Award is one of the highest honours Rotary can bestow on a person.

Recipients are members of Rotary and community professionals, recognising their outstanding contributions to the community, exemplifying the highest ideal in Rotary in placing service above self.

Rotary Carlisle South has identified Colin and Margaret Wadsworth for their work raising funds for The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

In 2006, the two Royal British Legion Branches in Carlisle amalgamated to form the Carlisle and Stanwix Branch, with Colin taking on the role of appeal organiser, and wife Margaret did the administration.

Supported by Legion Members and volunteers, including members of local Rotary clubs, the Poppy Appeal funds soared from a previous total of £38,000 in the first year, with last year the fund topping £106,000.

In 12 years, thanks to the driving force of the Wadsworths, they have raised £922,296.

For their dedication and hard work in raising close on £1 million, the couple were presented with their Paul Harris Fellowships. ●



## MAGICAL MATHS



**T**HERE'S something magical about maths which was discovered by 20 Berkshire schools who took part in the Rotary Mathematical Competition.

Year 4 schoolchildren from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead took part in the challenging event, drawn from 20 schools.

Organised by Rotary Maidenhead Thames, All Saints Church of England Primary School won the competition, with the awards presented by the then Mayor John Lenton and Mayoress, Margaret Lenton. ●

## BAND ON THE RUN!



**I**N a parody of the Beatles' Abbey Road album cover, Ledbury Brass Band crossed the road carrying their musical instruments.

The photo, taken by Jan Long in Herefordshire, was an opportunity for the band to show off their splendid new uniforms purchased with the financial

assistance of Ledbury Rotary Club and the One Stop Shop.

"Thank you to the vehicles' drivers who waited patiently for a few extra seconds whilst the photographs were taken," said Jan. "Ledbury should be absolutely proud of its brass band, which is seen and heard at all our town events and activities. ●

## END IN SIGHT FOR SCHOOL PROJECT



**T**HE end is in sight for Rotary Yeovil with its fund-raising goal to rebuild a school in Nepal.

The Somerset club has hit the £50,000 mark to build the six-classroom Shree Saraswoti School in the mountainous Sindhupalchok region. The first brick was laid this summer.

At the end of 2017, then District 1200 Governor Stewart Cursley, challenged clubs to come up with a project which would involve all 52 clubs.

Due to the Yeovil club's association with Luke Simon from the charity School in a Bag and his current work in Nepal, a plan to re-build a school in one of the regions affected by the devastating 2015 earthquake was hatched. The 7.8 magnitude earthquake destroyed 475 of the 545 schools in Sindhupalchok.

Working with School in a Bag partners, the Helambu Education and Livelihood Project and the Mondo Foundation, the Yeovil club set about a focused fund-raising campaign to secure the £64,000 budget needed to fully build, fit out and staff a

school, which will accommodate over 200 pupils.

Thanks to the efforts of Rotary clubs, the generosity of individuals and philanthropic organisations, £18,000 was raised in the first nine months. The Mondo Foundation was also able to secure around a further £30,000. This, combined with recent fund-raising events, has seen the figure raised to exceed £50,000.

Past Rotary Yeovil President, Michael Fernando, admitted this was an ambitious project but they are determined to see it through. He said: "The recent influx of funds has meant the end goal is now in sight and, with additional funds having been pledged, we hope to reach the total by the end of this year.

"The school will benefit children in Nepal for generations to come and we are looking forward to visiting the finished school to see the plaque which will honour Yeovil for its contribution." ●



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**"The Somerset club has hit the £50,000 mark to build the six-classroom Shree Saraswoti School in the mountainous Sindhupalchok region"**

## NEW CLUB, NEW ROTARY

**T**HERE have been 250 new-style Rotary clubs which have come to fruition over the past 12 months, offering a flexible and project-driven experience.

Among them is the South Cheshire Rotary Business Networking Club, which was set up this summer in quick-fire fashion.

Established under the umbrella of Rotary Nantwich, this club is different with an emphasis on business networking.

The first meeting took place at the Nantwich Bookshop and is now based at Richmond Village, meeting weekly at 7.30am.

"We meet for an hour to allow our busy members to attend and not disrupt their working day," said Tony Coxhill.

"The new club will have an informal approach. We will be active in fund-raising while having fun and networking to provide mutual help and support to our members.

"We will be following the Rotary ideal of 'service above self'. ●



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## Speakers cont.

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# *and finally...*

*with Managing Editor Dave King*  
*[editor@rotarygbi.org](mailto:editor@rotarygbi.org)*

## Be seen on our new-look website!

**H**AVE you looked at the Rotary website recently for Great Britain & Ireland?

If not, then after you've read this piece of poetic prose, put down the magazine, grab your laptop, tablet, smartphone or crank up the aged desktop computer gathering dust in your spare bedroom, and log onto **[www.rotarygbi.org](http://www.rotarygbi.org)**

If you're already reading this article online, then please ignore that last irrelevant paragraph, because you've already found the website!

Now, in a fast-moving society where we sometimes become adverse to change, this is one of the smarter moves.

The RIBI website has had an impressive makeover with no Botox or implants used! It looks good and is easy to source information, whether you are a Rotarian or someone interested in finding out more about the organisation.

Let me signpost you to one area, it's the News & Features section at **[www.rotarygbi.org/news](http://www.rotarygbi.org/news)**

As part of a digital-first policy, this is a section which will grow rapidly with news items uploaded daily.

This really is Rotary in action. Rather than waiting for *Rotary* magazine to be published bi-monthly, the website means we can respond straight away.

Whether it is how Rotarians or a Rotary-backed charity is responding overnight to a humanitarian crisis around the world, or news of a community project on these shores, the website can react instantly and be topical.

Don't worry, the magazine will still be brimming with fresh and interesting features. So, please talk to me. Let's tell the world how good Rotary is, and what we're doing in our communities and beyond.

If you, your club, business or organisation is doing something significant in the name of Rotary, then tell me about it.

The one area I hear very little from is Ireland, so can I encourage Rotarians from the Emerald Isle to get in touch.

Send me the story details and some decent photos - no thumbs, no firing squad line-ups or cheque presentations! Instead, make the image shout 'Rotary'.

Don't assume I know the background of your story either and don't ask me to chase around for information from other sources as I've got a dodgy knee!

Summarise your story in 500 words, include a quote and email me at: **[editor@rotarygbi.org](mailto:editor@rotarygbi.org)**

Now there is no excuse not to be heard.

● Images are key to how Rotary presents itself.

Photographer Peter Croan, who is the Public Image Chairman for Rotary in southern and central Scotland, knows his stuff. He's running a webinar called 'Putting Rotary in the picture' on Monday, October 22nd at 7pm.

If you've never attended a webinar, it's not complicated. Register at: **[bit.ly/RotaryPhoto](http://bit.ly/RotaryPhoto)**

You will be sent details of the webinar, which starts at 7pm.

● Finally, an apology to the winners of the international awards from the recent Champions of Change ceremony. In August's issue of *Rotary* magazine, the stories of the seven winners was omitted.

So to Tony Clayson, Patsy Dodd, Bob Parfitt, Alison Stedman, Alan Wolstencroft, Norman Yates and Peter Croan, please accept my apologies. You can read about their amazing achievements online at: **[www.rotarygbi.org/international-champions-change-2018/](http://www.rotarygbi.org/international-champions-change-2018/)** where you can also find out about the other inspiring category winners. ●



To join Rotary visit:  
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The all new RotaryGBI website

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