

Rotary

The Official Magazine of Rotary International in Great Britain & Ireland

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④ DOLLY IN DREAMLAND

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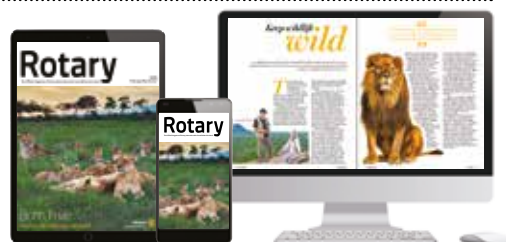
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Published by Contently Limited: **contentlylondon.co.uk**

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LUKE ADDISON

Don't judge a book *by its cover*

WITH her tell-tale looks and sweet, sultry voice, Dolly Parton has been a country and western icon for more than half a century.

The legendary singer has sold more than 100 million records and enjoyed a successful movie career.

However, less well-known is Dolly's philanthropy. Since the mid-1980s, this

icon of country music has supported many charities through her Dollywood Foundation – particularly in areas of literacy.

One of the main projects is the Rotary-supported Dolly Parton Imagination Library, for which the inspiration came from her father, Lee.

"My daddy was the smartest man I have ever known," she said. "But he could not read or write. Early on, I decided if I were ever in a position to do

something good for kids, it would be to make sure they could read.

"I am not a person to tell people what they should do, so I thought if we could do something that inspired kids to love books and to love reading, then maybe we could make a difference.

"After a year or so of figuring it out, we created the Imagination Library."

Dolly set up the first Imagination Library in 1995 in her hometown in Sevier County, Tennessee.

Since then, The Dollywood Foundation has sent over 100 million free books to children worldwide, with more than 1.3 million posted in the UK.

The Imagination Library is a free book-giving initiative devoted to inspiring a love of reading for young children everywhere.



Founder of Imagination Library, Dolly Parton



Pat with Dolly Parton



Every child enrolled in the Imagination Library receives a book personally addressed to them in the post every month until their fifth birthday.

All of the titles in the Imagination Library are published by Penguin Random House and carefully selected by a panel of experts in early childhood literacy and reading.

A child enrolled from birth to their fifth birthday will build their own home library of up to 60 books and the programme is completely free for children and their families.

In June 2014, Dolly handed over her one millionth book to a UK child. "Every time a child comes up to me and says 'Thank you for the books', I say, I love being known as The Book Lady!"

For Rotary, this has been a perfect project working alongside Helen Hastle, who is the Regional Director of The Dollywood Foundation UK.

With access to local schools, councils and youth services, alongside dynamic and hard-working members, Rotary clubs have been able to deliver and successfully run Imagination Libraries across the UK.

The driving force of the Rotary effort has been Rolf Sperr from the Rotary Club Cleethorpes, who has been instrumental in setting up five branches alone.

Dolly, incidentally, is an Honorary Member of the Lincolnshire club. Rolf, who has been a Rotarian since 1990, says "There is a big difference between the children who get the books and children

who do not get the books by the time they start primary school."

Rolf has worked closely with Leonard Gelblum from the Rotary Club of Nottingham – a project which coincided with the Midlands club's centenary.

"The Rotary Club of Nottingham is one of the oldest clubs in the country," explained Leonard. "It was about to enter its 100th year of operation."



"I am not a person to tell people what they should do, so I thought if we could do something that inspired kids to love books and to love reading, then maybe we could make a difference."

"We had a talk from the Dolly Parton Foundation who spoke about a library to the club which ticked a big box for us because literacy in Rotary is a major project. At the same time, we discovered the importance of early intervention in education – if you can get hold of kids before they are four or five-years-old then you can lay the foundations of education."

The Nottingham Imagination Library now has over 3,781 children registered and shipped over 89,000 books since starting

five years ago.

As a result, Nottinghamshire City Council has produced a website called www.dollybooksnottingham.org with a voice message from the country and western star.

Dolly Parton knows that the value of Rotary to the project is immense. "To make all of this work successfully, we have to have partners," she explained.

"No matter how clever our idea is, it takes our local sponsors to make this dream a reality for the children.

"Since day one, local Rotary clubs expressed an interest in what we are doing. However, we did not go big time until I was invited to speak at the Rotary International Convention in Montreal.

"We created an international partnership that day which continues to grow over the years.

"Rotary is so strong. I don't think you need much advice or inspiration from me. You have always dreamed big and have done so much good for so long. I can only say 'thank you' and tell you that it is always an honour to work together."

But Dolly is dreaming big. When asked about her vision for the libraries in ten years, she said: "Our hope is for 2.5 million children to be enrolled and receiving a book each month. It's a big dream, but I am a mighty big dreamer!" ●



You can find out more about Dolly Parton's Imagination Library here: imaginationlibrary.com/uk



**PRESIDENT OF ROTARY
IN GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND**
DENIS SPILLER

Tuning into Rotary

WITH the conference season over, I have been treated to a tour of district councils and project visits around Great Britain and Ireland.

When you get into the year as President, even as an experienced, well-travelled and seasoned Rotarian, you come to realise that you have only seen a glimpse of the great works that our clubs are delivering.

It is warming to see the focus on schools from a library scheme in a conventional primary school where children come with over 20 different first languages, to a polytunnel and gardening installation in a school for children with very special needs and some with the most limited communication ability.

It has been a privilege to meet Rotarian victims of the Cocker mouth floods and to see the project work delivered by the local clubs to build flood defences.

We all know that similar great works are being delivered across all our districts and in many cases making use of Foundation grants, both district and global, because don't forget, Global Grants can deliver projects in Great Britain and Ireland too.

Here is a new project that you will all wish to hear about. In District 1120, clubs have voted to support the setting up of a Rotary radio station. The lead is an experienced hospital radio DJ and initially as an internet radio channel, the plan is to move it to a DAB frequency in due course.

The internet makes it accessible to every one of us, and therefore, the broadcast team are open to promoting Rotary on a national scale. Interviews, project presentations and requests will be sought to fill the broadcast hours. Get in touch with District Governor Carol Vizzard to find out more.

The tree planting deadline is fast approaching, and the reports are coming in of some great results, my own club Strood, planted 90 trees, in some new woodlands, that's three each rather than one and, on February 25th, with RI President Ian Riseley and many others from Coventry, we planted a Japanese Parasol tree in the memorial gardens.

This tree is a direct descendent of one that emerged from the ashes of the city of Hiroshima in 1945. April 24th was the planting deadline, but please don't let this stop you. Keep calm and carry on planting!

The polio eradication programme moves on a pace, and at the time of writing, just three cases have been reported this year.

The very sad, yet very happy and entertaining film 'Breathe' has now been released on DVD. I encourage you to invest £10 on this disc. Turn the lights down and the surround sound up and you will remain absorbed until the end, at which point you will truly understand the reason why we have spent 33 years destroying this virus and why the next five years are so critical.

There is never enough space to mention everything I would like, so I look forward to talking with you at any of the Rotary Conference, Rotary International Convention, the Grand Tour, and seven remaining district councils coming up.

See you there. ●



"Here is a new project that you will all wish to hear about. Clubs in the South East are supporting the setting up of a Rotary radio station. The lead is an experienced hospital radio DJ and initially as an internet radio channel, the plan is to move it to a DAB frequency in due course."



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Father forgive

Dave King reports from February's Presidential Peace Conference held at the Ricoh Arena in Coventry

COVENTRY – the city of peace and reconciliation. A city which experienced pain and suffering 78 years ago when it endured a relentless bombing campaign during the Second World War.

More than 500 people died on that fateful night in November 1940, as the city lay smouldering in ruins the following morning.

At Coventry's historic cathedral, only the outer shell of the walls and the tower remained standing.

But in the days that followed, two enduring symbols emerged from the rubble: two charred roof beams which had fallen into the shape of a cross were bound and placed at the site of the ruined altar; and three medieval roof nails were collected from the floor and, using wire, these too were bound into a cross.

This was the original Cross of Nails.

As the Rev Canon Dr Sarah Hills told this story and showed black and white film of the bombings, together with harrowing images of the mass graves of the victims, there was a numbed silence at the Presidential Peacebuilding Conference taking place just five miles down the road at Coventry's Ricoh Arena.

But out of the rubble came sorrow, hope and love, explained Rev Hills, the Canon for Reconciliation at Coventry Cathedral.

"The following morning, Provost Dick Howard, the leader of the cathedral



Rev Canon Dr Sarah Hills

“Our aim is to heal the wounds of history, celebrate diversity and build a culture of peace,” she added.”

community, declared ‘Father forgive’, which was not a popular message for many people in Coventry,” said Rev Hills.

“It was not ‘Father forgive’ those who are our enemy, but ‘Father forgive’ all of us, because we are all in need of God’s forgiveness.”

This was a commitment not to seek revenge, but to strive for forgiveness and reconciliation; to build a kinder, more Christ-like world.

Shortly afterwards, the words ‘Father forgive’ were inscribed on the wall of the

cathedral’s ruined chancel.

The Cross of Nails has become a striking symbol of peace as, following the war, Coventry reached out the hand of friendship to the German cities of Kiel, Dresden and Berlin, which have endured similar human suffering.

A new Coventry Cathedral was built in 1962 nestled alongside the ruins. Rev Hills told the Peace Conference how the Cross of Nails community had grown to 220 partners in 29 countries, all in places of conflict or post-conflict, promoting peace.

“Our aim is to heal the wounds of history, celebrate diversity and build a culture of peace,” she added.

Today in Coventry Cathedral sits a Globe Candlestand which was built by students from Kiel.

The stand commemorates the 7/7 bombings in London on July 7th, 2005 and holds 57 candles to commemorate the dead – including the four bombers.

“Victims and perpetrators alike. That is what ‘Father forgive’ means since all of us are in need of forgiveness,” Rev Hills told the conference.

“That is what peace-making is about. It is difficult, it is risky and it is often counter-intuitive.

“It is easy to make peace with your friends, it is not that easy to make peace with your enemies, and that is what we have to do.” ●

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“Polio eradication demonstrates how effective international organisations can be when they all come together with a common purpose and a common vision”



Government Minister, Harriett Baldwin

A Nobel choice

GOVERNMENT Minister, Harriett Baldwin, has lent her support to calls for Rotary International to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its fight against polio.

Speaking at the Rotary Presidential Peacebuilding Conference in Coventry, the Minister of State for both International Development and Africa, praised the stand which Rotary has taken for 30 years in its bid to totally wipe out the disease.

In a *Wall Street Journal* editorial in 2005, marking the 50th anniversary of the Salk polio vaccine to prevent poliomyelitis, the influential newspaper stated: “Rotary’s unsung polio effort deserves the Nobel Peace Prize.”

Now, speaking at the Ricoh Arena in front of 500 Rotarians drawn from 14 countries, Mrs Baldwin echoed that call.

She said: “Rotarians you have been truly polio superstars. Your efforts do definitely deserve the Nobel Peace Prize.”

And the Minister added: “I want to say thank you Rotarians that humanity is on the cusp of eradicating polio.

“We should take great comfort from the fact that little over 30 years ago there were 350,000 cases in over 100 countries and yet in 2017 there were just 22, proof that, working together, aid really has an impact.”

Mrs Baldwin pointed out that the UK has been the second largest sovereign donor to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

Since 1988, the UK has donated £1.3

Rotary President, Ian Riseley



billion to the fund.

“Polio eradication demonstrates how effective international organisations can be when they all come together with a common purpose and a common vision,” she added.

“Thanks to UK aid, there are more than 16 million people walking today who would otherwise have been paralysed. And the UK is leading the final push to eliminate the disease.

“We are on the verge of one of the greatest public health stories of all time. The world is so close to being rid of polio that we must renew our efforts to ensure that 2018 is the year when the disease is consigned to history.”

Earlier, Dr Ranieri Guerra, Assistant Director-General for Special Initiatives with the World Health Organization, described Rotary as “a fundamental partner and a key player” in its efforts to tackle polio.

Dr Guerra said: “Polio is currently

at the lowest level in history with fewer cases reported from fewer countries than ever before. The world now has the best opportunity to eradicate polio once and for all, and for all future generations to come.”

The day-long conference, with the theme of disease prevention and treatment, was hosted by Rotary International President, Ian Riseley. He explained the idea was to explore the connections between Rotary’s five areas of focus and peace.

He said: “In Rotary there is no hard and fast line between the various areas of focus. Work done in one area often brings benefits in another.

“A project that puts clean water and sanitation in a school, for example, is going to not only advance water and sanitation, but also basic education, literacy, disease treatment, child health and so on.

“There are parts of the world where the best thing you can do to improve literacy rates among women is to simply improve the water supply, so girls are no longer carrying water instead of going to school.

“There are endless examples where ways of understanding the complex relationships within humanitarian service can lead to more successful results.”

Mr Riseley added that peace is an area of focus which, on the face of it, seems to sit outside this dynamic.

He added: “It is time for Rotary to start looking at those complicated realities, to start exploring them and understanding them much better than we do now to get the greatest impact possible out of everything we do.” ●



Dr Shirin Ebadi



“My dream is a dream of peace, a society where instead of perpetrating violence people exercise tolerance towards one another. And to tolerate each other, we have to know each other first.”

A fearless campaigner for peace

PEACE is not a word, it is a culture – that was the message from Nobel Peace Prize winner, Dr Shirin Ebadi.

Dr Ebadi became the first female judge in Iran, but when Islamic clerics grabbed power following the revolution in 1979 she was kicked out of the judiciary and became a lawyer.

She was subsequently jailed by authorities in Tehran after filing a complaint against the chief of police while defending the family of a student killed during a police raid.

Despite this, the diminutive campaigner fearlessly worked on cases dealing with the unfair treatment of women.

And in 2003, she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her work in promoting democracy, peace and women's rights in the Middle East.

Now exiled in the UK because of death threats from the Iranian Government, Dr Ebadi told the peace conference her time in prison was “harsh and unfair”.

“However, it provided me with a sense of empathy towards my clients,” explained the former children's court judge.

“Despite the hardships, the reason I carried on with my activities is that I truly believed in the course that I had chosen.”

Peace, Dr Ebadi explained, is cultural and something which has to be taught from childhood. And while efforts for peace

might become bedraggled by set-backs, we should not fear failure and instead be prepared to take a step back.

“Everyone has a dream in their life, and the main reason some dreams are not ever fulfilled are because the fear some human beings have of failure and defeat,” she said.

“Do not fear set-backs or defeat. When I look back at my own life I realise every success I have experienced has followed a defeat.

“My dream is a dream of peace, a society where instead of perpetrating violence people exercise tolerance towards one another. And to tolerate each other, we have to know each other first.”

Dr Ebadi said that multi-culturalism was a positive step in this direction, pointing out how the Swedish city of Malmö is represented by more than 80 different nationalities who co-exist peacefully with no acts of violence.

“If we hope to co-exist in a peaceful society, we have to think of every individual in that society,” she explained.

Dr Ebadi has been a long-term critic of the Iranian Government.

In 2009, Tehran seized the Nobel medal which Dr Ebadi kept in a bank box, as well as freezing her bank accounts.

Recently, Iran has been the scene of widespread protests as international sanctions have a major impact on the economy – the biggest protests in a decade.

When asked about those protests,

Dr Ebadi pointed out that everything has a price, including a democracy. “If your forefathers had not paid a price during the world wars, then you would not have had the democracy you enjoy today.

“Therefore, any nation that is seeking democracy and freedom must, unfortunately, pay the price for it.”

She said the best way to bring peace to the Middle East was to stop so-called ‘dirty money’ belonging to some of the leaders, from flowing into western banks.

And Dr Ebadi used the platform to condemn the Iranian Government for its “shameful actions” in detaining the charity worker, Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, who has been imprisoned since 2016.

She was jailed for five years for trying to topple the Iranian Government.

Dr Ebadi said: “The Iranian Government is unjustly holding an innocent person behind bars.

“And Nazanin is not the only such case. There are 32 other cases who are all languishing behind bars.”

At the conference, Dr Ebadi explained she had first come across Rotary in 1973 when she spoke at a club in Iran, where she persuaded the club to set up a training centre for imprisoned children.

The Rotary club was shut down in 1979 but Dr Ebadi added: “I very much hope the conditions will be good again so we can have another Rotary club in Iran.” ●



Health Awareness Day

RODNEY HOWELL

Sunday morning *Rotary*

ONE glance at the website of the Maidenhead Bridge Rotary Club is enough to show that, by any measure, this is not your average Rotary club.

Not only does the home page photo show a happy, smiling group of casually dressed 30 to 40-year-olds, mostly female, and many have babies or toddlers in their arms but, amongst the options listed in the main menu, is a section headed “Pimp My Community”.

The club was formed in 2012, aiming to provide professionals aged 30-plus with an opportunity to get involved in local and international community projects and meet like-minded people in the local area. From 25 members at formation, the club has advanced to 47, despite a high level of churn that has seen 13 members leave for an assortment of reasons, although not all have been lost to Rotary.

The club is some 60% female and is mainly made up of people working in IT and the creative industries. It meets twice a month on Sunday morning in the upstairs room of Costa Coffee and the kids

“The club is some 60% female and is mainly made up of people working in IT and the creative industries.”

are welcome – the principal purpose is to plan their ongoing projects.

Lisa Hunter, a founder member and currently the club’s Public Image Officer, explained the ethos behind “Pimp My Community”.

She said: “The club sets its focus on vocational service and engaging with smaller, local charities to assist them in their efforts. “We use the skills of our members to provide marketing aids for these charities and to help them engage with the business community”.

As an example, Lisa evinced their work with the local food bank where Rotarians completely overhauled its system of operation to eliminate food loss and waste. Hands-on work such as this provides the opportunity for members

to meet up outside regular meetings and promotes the bonding and fellowship of the club.

The club also revamped the Facebook and Twitter accounts of the local adventure playground and optimised its social media use. Elsewhere, members have created logos and helped with rebranding and printed material.

With three Rotary clubs and a Rotaract club, Maidenhead is quite a Rotary town and “Bridge” Rotarians strongly support joint working with their neighbours.

They run a joint website giving a united presence within their community and the clubs come together to jointly organise larger projects in a manner that other towns would do well to emulate.

With their dedication to community service and their furtherance of fellowship through the work involved in that service, the Rotarians of Maidenhead Bridge are far from a traditional club but they may point the way towards engaging the younger generation with the Rotary objectives that have served us well so far. ●



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This book portrays the long journey, undertaken over a quarter of a million years ago, by the first known modern man, Homo sapiens. My own little changed Y chromosomes moved with him from the west Central Africa, to Ethiopia, the Middle East, the Eurasian Steppes, Europe, Norway, and eventually to the British Isles. Mutations changed his bodily features to fit the climate he had moved into. Other modern humans left Africa and also moved around the world over seventy thousand years ago.

The whole basis of human evolution and migration revolves around climate change, natural selection, and the survival of the fittest. Without these, we would never have left the sanctuary of the forest. We would never have progressed. Evolution is a steady march from primal origins to adapt to fit the terrain we live in. I try to explain these facts in an easily readable form.

The Recommended retail price of this book is £15.99, but Rotarian readers can obtain it at a reduced cost of £11.00 plus £2.00 p&p. All profits going to WaterAid. Please email me with your name and address. I will send your book and payment slip. Rotarian Richard D Glover. rg35416754@gmail.com



Just tree-mendous

IT was a year ago when the then Rotary International President-Elect, Ian Riseley, challenged every club worldwide to make a difference to the planet by planting a tree for each of its members.

Targeting the start of his presidential year last July to Earth Day on April 22, he pointed out how trees remove carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from the air, which slows global warming.

"It is my hope that the result of that effort will be far greater than the environmental benefit that those 1.2 million trees will be," said Ian. "I believe the greater result will be a Rotary that recognises our responsibility not only to the people on our planet, but to the planet itself."

Rotarians in Great Britain and Ireland, led by President Denis Spiller, have not been slow in picking up the challenge of planting 47,000 trees across these isles.

Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland has been working closely with the Woodland Trust, developing thousands of miles of forests, as well as woodlands ancient and new for planting.

Denis reported that there have been countless projects going on, from planting in schools and churches, village greens and roadsides, to restoring woodlands and creating vast new ones, including a 17,000

trees project in Nidderdale in Yorkshire.

"At such low cost, I anticipate that clubs will not plant just one tree per Rotarian, but two, three or maybe four.

"My own club, in Strood has just planted 90 as part of a local woodlands restoration project. Oak, beech and hornbeam were planted equating to just short of four per member."

Easthampstead Rotary Club in Berkshire has also taken up the challenge.

It is working with its local council and they have bought two lots of 45 trees from the Woodland Trust; one planted by Rotarians and volunteers this spring, with a second batch being planted later this year.

"We have had our local rangers in to a club meeting to give an excellent presentation and this kind of environmental activity is gaining momentum," explained Bruce Irvine, International Chair.

It's not just in this country that clubs have been engaged in tree-planting. Paul Keeley from the Rotary Club of Newcastle Gosforth has headed up the Sustainable Global Gardens programme. This involves tree planting in Tanzania.

"The basis of this project is a group of Rotary clubs donating funds for tropical tree-planting, which is undertaken by 12 Tanzanian Rotary clubs and other NGOs," explained Paul. ●



ROTARY PRESIDENT
IAN RISELEY

AT the 1990 Rotary International Convention in Portland, Oregon, then President-elect Paulo Costa told the gathered Rotarians, "The hour has come for Rotary to raise its voice, to claim its leadership, and to rouse all Rotarians to an honorable crusade to protect our natural resources." He declared a Rotary initiative to "Preserve Planet Earth," asking Rotarians to make environmental issues part of their service agenda: to plant trees, to work to keep our air and water clean, and to protect the planet for future generations.

President Costa asked that one tree be planted for each of the 1.1 million members that Rotary had at the time. Rotarians did even better planting nearly 35 million trees.

Unfortunately, while those trees have kept on doing good for the environment, Rotary as a whole has not carried its environmental commitment forward.

That is why, at the start of this year, I followed Paulo Costa's example and asked Rotary to plant at least one tree for every Rotary member. My goal was to achieve a good result beyond the considerable benefits that those 1.2 million (or more!) trees would themselves bring. It is my hope that by planting trees, Rotarians will renew their interest in, and attention to, an issue that we must put back on the Rotary agenda: the state of our planet.

Environmental issues are deeply entwined in every one of our areas of focus and cannot be dismissed as not Rotary's concern.

Pollution is affecting health across the globe: more than 80% of people in urban areas breathe unsafe air, a number that rises to 98% in low- and middle-income countries. If current trends continue, by 2050 the oceans are expected to contain more plastics by weight than fish.

And rising temperatures are well-documented. The need for action is greater than ever – and so is our ability to have a real impact.

As past UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon put it, "There can be no Plan B, because there is no Planet B."

Our planet belongs to all of us, and to our children, and to their children.

It is for all of us to protect, and for all of us in Rotary to make a difference. ●

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Letters *to the Editor*

Star Letter

Should Rotary consider its third party charitable funding?

FOLLOWING the recent reports of sexual exploitation and abuse in delivering humanitarian and development programmes by many of the large overseas aid charities and the news that £553,479 was seen to “disappear” from the books of Oxfam due to fraud and corruption in its 2015/16 annual report, it should make all Rotary clubs stand up and be more aware of the need for increased transparency within the charities that we support with monies that we are fully accountable for.

Rotary cannot be seen to tolerate sexual abuse or the exploitation of vulnerable people, let alone fraud and corruption. Even when these are under control, Rotary should also ask how much of every pound that we raise and donate to other charities actually reaches the point of need. Many would be surprised how close to 50% it can be after these charities have deducted all their costs, salaries and expenses.

Rotary has always claimed that working with our own Rotary club partners – a pound raised is a pound spent. We do not pay ourselves salaries or claim unnecessary expenses.

Let us get back to the principles of Rotary and do the work ourselves in the name of Rotary (and The Rotary Foundation when involved) and show the world that regardless of it being a local community project, an international project or even a disaster appeal we are more often than not the most efficient way of reaching and understanding the need.

Who better than the local Rotarians to understand the needs of those on the ground where the action is needed – abroad or at home?

As a District Governor, I always asked clubs one question: “How many charities that you fund-raise for and donate to, reciprocate and fund-raise for your club’s charitable work or our own Rotary Foundation?”

No prizes for guessing the answer – none. Yes, none every time!

On top of this, rarely do these “other” charities give credit or publicity to Rotary’s funding. And then we complain that we get no publicity.

There are two answers:

1. Do it yourselves and put Rotary on the label
2. Make Rotary publicity one of your terms if you do give to a charity and if they do not like it – do not give it. They will soon learn that Rotary is not a soft touch.

Yes, it is time to put Rotary back on the map. Let’s stop being the soft touch and get back to our Rotary principles and show that, along with our own Rotary Foundation, we are a major force in the world of public charities.

Paul Charter
Rotary Club of Newent & District,
Gloucestershire

Enjoyable read online

I HAVE just read the online version of the Rotary magazine for February and March. I found the format very clear and readable with excellent photos and colour.

May I congratulate you and your colleagues on producing this substitute for the paper copy. Moreover the fact that a cost saving from eliminating a paper magazine that was seldom read or left at our venue is even more cause to congratulate those in RIBI who have driven this necessary change. It is important to keep the costs of Rotary membership as low as possible and in my own small way have felt I’ve made a contribution to this at club and district level.

It is relatively easy in an organisation to add costs but it takes more effort and initiative to adopt change and reduce costs.

John Chapman
Rotary Club of Rainhill, Merseyside

All white in the world

FOR the past 18 years, the Rotary Club of Chichester Harbour has supported over 6,500 families in need in our community.

We have collected and redistributed clothing, furniture, furnishings and equipment, working with local health visitors, social workers and our foodbank to identify those who are in dire need.

This has included families fleeing domestic violence, who often arrive at a new location with literally nothing.

However, an area where we experience the most difficulty is the provision of white goods. Do any Rotarians know of organisations with branches in our area, who perhaps take these in part exchange, or who have shop soiled items, that they would be willing to let us have at preferential prices? If so please contact: therese.brook@btinternet.com

Hilary Riddell
Rotary Club of Chichester Harbour



TOGETHER, WE

CONNECT

Rotary provides valuable opportunities for individuals to network, make connections and build relationships, all while giving something back to the community - that's what People of Action do.

rotarygbi.org

Rotary  PEOPLE OF ACTION

Ice cream funds 12,600 immunisations

IN the late summer of 2016, Rotarians Paul Robinson, Stuart Wright and Philip Morrison formulated the idea of Purple4Polio Ice Cream, the proceeds of which would go to support the Purple4Polio End Polio Now initiative.

Having the idea was the easy part, making it happen was to be more challenging.

After a great deal of hard work and application by September 2016 the product was ready, packaging had been designed for two sizes of tubs: 125ml (cinema/theatre size) and 1 litre (family pack) plus a Purple4Polio webpage on the Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland website.

With the full support of then District 1010 Governor Roddy Duncan, Paul and Stuart, were invited to showcase the ice cream at the District Conference in Aberdeen. Delegates enthusiastically sampled the ice cream and gave it their seal of approval.

Since then, the Purple4Polio Ice Cream has been enjoyed at the Scottish Parliament at Holyrood, and the 2017 Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland Manchester Conference, at the famous Melrose Sevens rugby tournament, as well as at the Rotary Club of Elgin Marafun Event and the Rotary Club of Aberlour & Speyside's Ballindalloch Garden Party, where the Lossiemouth Military Wives sang and sampled the ice cream.

By January 31st this year, sales of Purple4Polio Ice Cream have funded so far more than 12,600 immunisations.

The ice cream initiative had originally been planned to run until October 2018, however it is going to be extended to be available for events throughout the whole of the 2018-19 Rotary year.

So, in your club's 2018-2019 plans, why not consider ordering the ice cream as a charter night dessert course or perhaps for another meal night, a garden party or as a sales item at an event your club may be taking part in or supporting.

Remember the prices of the ice cream include the 'immunisation fund' element. So every 12 pack of 125 ml tubs funds 12

polio immunisations. When a six-pack of 1 litre tubs is bought, 18 polio immunisations are funded.

Some clubs having bought individual tubs for £1.20 each, have then sold for £1.75, thereby recovering their costs and making a further 55p on each tub.

Whatever price clubs charge, they've used this profit for either general fund-raising or as part of their Foundation End Polio Now submission. To find out more visit. rotarygbi.org

Rotary Club of Huntly

Surf's up for Rotary

I WOULD like to share the following with Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland members, interested in bringing youth into Rotary. The 2018-19 Rotary International theme is, "Be the Inspiration" and in so many ways Rotarians inspire others to do more to benefit our communities and the needs of others.

Surfers Unite Rotarian Fellowship (SURF) is an exciting new Rotary Fellowship. Our goal is to establish Rotary Ambassadors who are as passionate about serving others as they may be about surfing. Connecting Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors around the world is exactly what we set out to do when I established Surfers Unite Rotarian Fellowship last May.

We are connecting, attracting, mentoring younger members through volunteer activities and events.

Surfers Unite was approved by Rotary International in December yet we completed 16 major events in 2017 including numerous Learn to Surf events with Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors and Youth Exchange students.

We now have over 320 members in over 20 countries and a website www.surfersunite.org

Through SURF we are building friendships around the world from Australia to the U.K., Brazil to Ireland. Want to travel to Hawaii and stay with a Rotarian who surfs? Reason enough to join Surfers Unite.

There may be SURF in forecast of the Rotary Fellowship Hall at RICON

Toronto, however Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland members shouldn't miss an opportunity to get "on board" today.

**Brett Morey, Founder & Chair
Surfers Unite Rotarian Fellowship
www.surfersunite.org**

Jammy dilemma

LAST summer Wilkin & Sons Ltd very kindly presented Rotary with 52,000 jars of Tiptree plum jam, which they also kindly distributed to every Rotary district in Great Britain, Ireland and Gibraltar, with the aim of raising £3 million towards the final push to rid the world of polio.

The aim was that every jar of jam should raise £20 each, and this has led to all sorts of fund-raising to achieve this. But mostly, Rotarians and their families have enjoyed eating the jam and then using the empty jars to fill up with loose coins.

The record amount for a jar so far is £1,000, but this clearly was not all in coins. The amount collected so far is in excess of £300,000.

Money collected by Rotary is all being match-funded 2-1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, hence why we want to turn the £1 million into £3 million.

Kelvedon & District Rotary Club, whose initiative this is, is now left with 1,600 jars of Purple4Polio greengage jam, which are all sitting in my garage in Little Bentley. We would like to raise a further £30,000 if we can raise £20 per jar for these, which again can be match-funded to raise a further £90,000. The jam is available to collect from Little Bentley or I can ship six jar packs at an extra cost of £8.

The club has set up a YouCaring fund-raising account on our Facebook page so you can make a donation directly.

Maybe if you could all make a donation, I could then pass the jam over to a foodbank with your agreement. But I would not like this last change to raise a final amount of money to End Polio Now to pass us by.

**Nigel Dyson
President-Elect,
Kelvedon & District Rotary Club**



Ending world hunger by 2030.

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The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 2 seeks to end hunger by 2030.

Understanding *the value of peace*

WITH "What, drawn, and talk of peace! I hate the word." And with that, in Act One, Scene One, Tybalt, the violent Prince of Cats in William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* begins a fight that could possibly have been avoided.

A journalist with more than 13 years' experience covering stories of terror, violence, attending inquests, carrying out death knocks and focusing on the emerging field of 'trauma journalism', there came a point when I was ready to take a step back and deep dive into the world of peace and conflict, which had come to underpin every bit of storytelling I was doing.

So last year, I took three months' unpaid leave to take up a Rotary International Peace Fellowship at Chulalongkorn University, in Thailand.

This is a professional development programme for mid-career workers interested in understanding peace and learning conflict-resolution techniques.

Fifty people from around the world had been selected for a funded scholarship this year, after a two-part face-to-face interview process and a long paper application system.

An article I had written for BBC History several years previously, on why people destroyed cultural heritage, had instigated a real interest in identity politics.

The destruction of heritage sites Palmyra, in Syria, and Nimrud, in Iraq, was of real interest - how had we reached a point where monuments were under attack and why?

My three months would be spent examining the Taliban's destruction of the Bamiyan Buddhas of Afghanistan, in 2001, the role the media had played and lessons for the future.

Peace and conflict study courses are on offer at universities and educational centres



Dhruti Shah

around the world - it's a popular subject.

In 1948, peacemaker Gladys Muir established what is believed to be the world's first undergraduate programme in peace studies, at Manchester College, in Indiana, in the United States.

A quick online search for "peace fellowships" brings up a plethora of opportunities across the globe. King's College London is currently offering a fellowship for African women, while the United States Institute of Peace has schemes too.

The peace fellowship in which I enrolled receives \$3.4 million (£2.6

million) from The Rotary Foundation each year, although the running costs are more than that.

Rotary International invests in the fellowship programme because it gives students "a tool, to use and pass on - to build a world of hope and peace for all of us".

The Foundation also funds master's courses at peace centres in Tokyo, Uppsala, North Carolina, Brisbane and Bradford, but the centre in Bangkok is currently the only one hosting this mid-career certificate.

Taking two cohorts of up to 25 a year, the classes are intense and operate on a pass-or-fail basis.

My 23 classmates came from 17 different countries and a wide variety of backgrounds - a farmer, development consultants, lecturers, a lawyer, women's rights activists, a government official and people with experience in the United Nations and smaller scale NGOs - all with the same intention of developing our experiences in this field and learning from each other.



Rotary International Peace Fellowship at Chulalongkorn University, in Thailand



The damaged Bamiyan Buddhas of Afghanistan

We had to live together in the same university accommodation and spend a lot of time together.

But, as US classmate, Travis Burke, a consultant with experience in Afghanistan, Somalia and Ukraine, said: "The value of different voices and thoughts can't be underestimated when tackling these major issues."

This particular Thai peace course began as a pilot in 2005. It has been running ever since, producing 203 male and 220 female peace alumni from 78 countries.

Each cohort goes on a domestic and international field trip. Class 22 visited Chiang Rai, in northern Thailand, to examine the fight over the Mekong River.

We then travelled to Sri Lanka to look at the after-effects of the civil war, which came close to devastating the country.

People on all sides, from villagers to fishermen to military staff to government officials, all wanted to share their experiences.

The course lecturers include lawyers, Buddhist monks and peace activists.

The fellowship also uses its network of alumni as a resource - so who knows which of my classmates will be back in Thailand soon to pass on their expertise.

We examined military approaches, the role of storytelling and the media, how women were integral to peace, mediation and human rights, within the designated



"My three months would be spent examining the Taliban's destruction of the Bamiyan Buddhas of Afghanistan, in 2001, the role the media had played and lessons for the future."

modules.

But the world is moving on, and cyberwarfare is becoming a norm.

With fellows raising issues around disinformation and the role of fake news in obstructing peace, the deputy director Vitoon Viriyasakultorn says changes to the course curricula are afoot.

"As well as the changing political environments and emerging issues around the world, it is the right time to revisit the programme to make it more attractive and responsive to the world's changing environments and technologies," he says.

For some of my classmates, the scholarship has already instigated change.

Dan Noel Odaba, who teaches international relations at the United States International University-Africa, in Nairobi, is using the skills he learned to help young people in slum areas to learn how to resolve conflict.

Sharada Jnawali, from Kathmandu,

has 15 years' experience in the development field.

For her, the programme provided an immediate networking pool and some theoretical tools to complement the practical experience she had already accumulated, while Jill Mann, a peace activist from Leeds, says it's made her rethink how communities approach peace and conflict.

Maybe soon we'll find the words of Benvolio, Tybalt's counterpart in Romeo and Juliet, will be far more influential in a world where conflict dominates the news agenda: "I do but keep the peace. Put up thy sword, Or manage it to part these men with me."●

FACT FILE

Dhruti is in her mid-thirties and from London. She studied at Mansfield College, Oxford and has worked at the BBC for nine years in a variety of roles. In 2015, she was selected to take part in a prestigious seminar programme focussing on trauma journalism at the Dart Centre, a project based at Columbia University, New York. Her Rotary Peace Fellowship application was supported by Rotary District 1090 and the Rotary Club of Uxbridge in Middlesex.



Helping to dump polio

REMEMBER the Iron Lung Man – well Roger Frank is back! Roger is the creator behind the iron lung replica which has been wheeled around the country to teach a new generation about polio.

Now the Past President of the Rotary Club of Upper Eden in Cumbria is raring to go for the Purple4Polio Rotary Grand Tour.

Along with Arthur Littlefair from the Upper Eden club and Appleby Rotarians, John Taylor and Alan McViety, they will be embarking on a four-day road trip across the country from May 21-24.

The aim will be to visit as many Rotary check and rest points, at places of interest, as possible to raise money for the End Polio Now campaign.

Roger and the team have converted a timed-out transit tipper truck into a natty, nippy contraption dubbed Mr Dumpy.

“It has had a hard life with over 200,000 miles on the clock,” explained Roger. “It’s a real banger. The aim is to turn it into an old-fashioned arched-back garbage truck, hence the name Mr Dumpy and the slogan: sending polio to the dump!”

The road trip is the brainchild of

Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland President Denis Spiller whose team will not only be visiting the check and rest points, but each evening they plan to invade a club to spread the word before all the other cars end up in Yorkshire for the finish line party on May 24th.

“My Beetle has already done 12,000 miles since July, so let’s hope it has another few thousand in it before the end of the year,” said Denis. “The German engineering, built in Mexico, is doing pretty well so far!”

The original challenge was an old banger, but interest has expanded and classics, motorbikes, and even a purple dustcart are taking part in this fun tour in May aimed at raising awareness and funds for Purple4Polio.

Check and rest points include Brands Hatch in Kent, Brooklands in Surrey, and the Great Orme in Wales.

The map is available on the Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland website together with a Frequently Asked Questions summary. ●

i To find out more about the Rotary Grand Tour visit: rotarygbi.org



TRUSTEE CHAIR 2017-18
PAUL A. NETZEL

THE new grant model comes up frequently during my visits with Rotarians throughout the world. It is always disappointing to learn that a club or district lacks interest in participating in global grants.

What are the reasons I hear most often? Global grants are too complicated. They take too much work, require too much money. Or the available pool of District Designated Funds may not be large enough to meet the demand.

Yet the numbers tell a story that can be perceived as positive. During 2016-17 – The Rotary Foundation’s centennial year – 1,260 global grants were awarded, an 8% increase over the previous year. And the figures for the first half of this Rotary year are running ahead of last year.

Numerous upgrades have been made to the global grant online application process. The time it takes to process global grants has been significantly reduced.

In 2016-17, the average was 129 business days from the time a grant application was submitted to the first payment. The average was 107 business days for 2017-18 as of February 1st.

If your club has not participated in a global grant, I urge you to take another look at the resources now available. Start by looking at the newly redesigned Rotary Grant Center at grants.rotary.org. Explore the comprehensive resources linked in the right-hand column.

The Rotary Support Center can provide contact information: rotarysupportcenter@rotary.org

The Rotary Foundation’s Cadre of Technical Advisers is a group of volunteer Rotarians who provide technical expertise and advice to Rotarians planning projects. If you would like to receive guidance early in the process, contact cadre@rotary.org.

A critical role of the trustees is to listen. Rotary members have spoken.

Together we are a powerful force of volunteers who identify needs and respond with generosity, creativity, and passion.

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Community library keeps *the pages turning*

Across Great Britain and Ireland, clubs are involved in a host of impressive community projects. Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland's Home Committee want to showcase the best of the best. Here, the Rotary Club of Rugeley in Staffordshire outlines its ambitious library project.

THE Rotary Club of Rugeley has been in discussion with Staffordshire County Council since August 2017 to become the management umbrella for Brereton

Library, near Rugeley.

The county council is converting 23 smaller libraries to Community Managed Libraries and need established community organisations to take responsibility.

These libraries provide vital resources for the most vulnerable people in society, including the elderly who need local access to the libraries' book service or just want company.

Despite the modern electronic era, young people still love to handle and read real books. People who, for whatever reason, do not have access to the internet and need it for job seeking etc. can do so through this local library.

Because of this, we felt it was an ideal platform for a Rotary Club.

We will be responsible for all of the administration at the library and the day to day service through a team of 23 voluntary library assistants who have already been recruited by the council.

All of the necessary resources including books, computers and library management systems will continue to be provided by the Library Service and users will still have full access to the whole of Staffordshire Library Services via Brereton Library.

There is also a huge benefit to Rotary from this project.

We will be allowed some involvement in branding and will be able to clearly show that Rotary is managing the library for the community which will greatly increase our profile in the area.

We can also use the library for our own purposes free of charge.

In the long-term, we hope that we may be able to use the library as a springboard for a new satellite club.

We have recently found that people considering joining Rotary want something specific to get involved in straight away and so we have realised that it is better to have an active or potential project to attract new members.

All money taken at the library for fines; printing; reservation fees etc. is retained by Rotary to be spent on developing the facilities and services.

We have secured all of the professional services needed to set this up by making our needs known at district and thereby securing the help of other Rotarians with the relevant experience.

Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland regularly encourages us to try something different and this definitely fits the bill. ●

i If your club has a project worth sharing, then contact Geri Parlbay, District Community Service Support at: geri@theparlbys.uk



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Befriending scheme which tackles loneliness

Mike Curtis tells the story of how a Rotarian and an RAF widow bonded over Burma – a friendship which has helped spawn a befriending project.

STROMA Williams was only 12 weeks old when her father was killed in a flying accident in 1944. Now, nearly 75 years later, the wartime experiences of her father have been surprisingly revived thanks to a new befriending partnership between the Royal Air Forces Association and Rotary International.

An email to her Rotarian husband about the new scheme was seen by Stroma and she asked if she could volunteer as a befriender in North Wales.

After training, she was assigned to two people and discovered that the husband of one of them may well have met her father as they were both RAF pilots in Burma.

“The husband of this lady survived the war, but my father died when in his Mosquito aircraft broke up due to the humidity. We realised both men had served as pilots on neighbouring squadrons in Burma and may well have met,” said Stroma.

“The RAF connection has certainly given us plenty to talk about, chatting about what life must have been like for wartime pilots and learning new things about what my father and this lady’s husband did and faced during the war.”

Stroma admitted that the RAF befriending scheme had not only helped her, but enabled her to give something back. And she wondered how her mother may have benefited had a similar scheme been around.



John and Stroma ©PhilGreig

She added: “I realised that if my late Mum had a befriender as well as family, it would have made a world of difference to her.

“The two people that I go to see just enjoy chatting, especially about things that they know and remember. I was quite surprised that there are no lulls in the conversation.

“The befriending scheme definitely helps people who are lonely, bored and

for whom times hangs heavy. It helps to exercise the minds!”

The RAF celebrated its centenary on April 1st – formed in 1918 as an amalgamation of the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service.

One hundred years on, and seven representatives of Rotary in North Wales and parts of north-west England have been trained as befrienders by the association since last summer. There are ►

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Great Britain & Ireland





Stroma on the bench dedicated to her father who was killed in action serving in the RAF in Burma. ©PhilGreig

► hopes that the partnership can be rolled out across the UK.

Around 85,000 of the 170,000 RAF veterans in the UK have said that they experience loneliness. The scheme pairs a veteran with one of the association's trained volunteers who keeps in touch with visits and chats.

John Bird is another Rotarian from North Wales who has volunteered for the scheme. He said that the Rotary motto 'Service Above Self' chimes perfectly with the RAF and with the service that military veterans gave to their country.

He also sees parallels between Rotary and the RAF Association which share similar values and are both there to help people. He described the befriender training as 'superb' and hopes that the partnership will be developed.

"I have been matched up with an RAF veteran not far away. His face lit up when he found a new face to talk to," said John.

"It is fascinating to talk to such people and learn about their life. He feels good as someone is showing an interest in him. There is an opportunity to change someone's life for the better. I believe the befriender partnership can really make a difference."

Rory O'Connor, Director of Welfare

and Policy at the Royal Air Forces Association, is delighted with the Rotary partnership. He said: "It is a welcome boost for our befriending which will help us give invaluable welfare support to the RAF family.

"Like so many of our volunteers, we hope that the first seven Rotary befriending volunteers get as much out of this as they will bring to the veterans."

Amanda Watkin, General Secretary at Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland, is hopeful that this scheme will blossom. She added: "Like the RAF Association, we are an international family of people whose common goal is to help others. We see this befriending project as an important part of our drive to help communities through our volunteer work and help make people's lives better. And who deserves support more than our forces veterans?"

"If this pilot partnership works out well, we will discuss with the RAF Association whether we can help them expand it across the Rotary network in the UK." ●

i To volunteer or if you know an RAF veteran who would benefit from this scheme, please call 0800 0182 361 or visit: rafa.org.uk/befriending



RI DIRECTOR 2017-19
BRIAN STOYEL

DURING the last few months we have witnessed Rotary Making a Difference at first hand.

First, with District Governors-elect going through their paces at the Rotary International Assembly in San Diego, and then during two weeks of travel in India, initially speaking at two district conferences.

There, Maxine and I were courted, watered and inspired by the numerous health, water, sanitation, blood, limb, literacy and school initiatives and projects orchestrated by the family of Rotary.

Upon our return, we met up with the District Leaders at the Multi-District Leadership Development Forum where Warwick University provided an excellent venue and facilities. It is hoped those returning to their districts were inspired for the challenges ahead.

From there we moved onto our own Peacebuilding, Disease treatment and prevention Conference in the City of Peace – Coventry. President Ian Riseley and his wife Juliet flew in from Tel Aviv to join an eclectic mix of over 500 adults with schoolchildren becoming involved with the Peace Project and PeaceJam.

Everyone was mesmerised by the talented array of speakers, assembled together by a team led by Peter Offer, so ably assisted by our secretariat staff, with grateful thanks for sponsorship by local Rotarians and Rotary clubs. This was a memorable occasion which will be remembered for many years to come.

In between, we made a hectic dash to the Rotary Club of Nottingham for their 100th charter celebration, having earlier in the year helped the Rotary Club of Bristol celebrate their centenary.

It was heartening to see and hear from inductees into the Arch Klumpf Society ensuring our Rotary Foundation work continues for another century.

I am preparing for the next Board meeting and discussion around Rotary2 because, as I constantly refer, the Rotary world is watching Zones 17 and 18A to see the results of this year's hard effort.

Make the last few months of this year really count. Be the inspiration to ensure Rotary continues making a difference. ●

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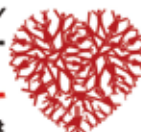
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Humbled in a country of courtesy

Fiona Phillips is a journalist living on the Welsh borders. A member of Hereford City Rotary Club, she joined colleagues earlier this year to take part in a National Polio Immunisation Day in India.

I WAS there! When the world shifted on its axis and something momentous happened, I was there and I was a part of making it happen. Because I was there for what could be one of the last National Polio Immunisation Days in India.

And that's thanks, in no small way, to the truly phenomenal efforts of Rotary International - because the mass, global immunisation programme, which was started by Rotary in the Philippines in 1979, has seen polio virtually eradicated worldwide.

At the time of writing polio is now found in just three countries in the world - Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria - and so far in 2018 there have only been three cases reported, in Afghanistan.

So, in a single generation, this scourge, that left victims dead or disabled, has been conquered - and Rotarians across the globe can take much of the credit for this world-altering fact.

British Rotarians have contributed £20 million to combat this disease, supported by many partners including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.



“As soon as we arrived we were mobbed... many of these parents were among the first to be immunised themselves when the polio eradication programme first began”

It would be fair to say I am not a natural nurse - I'm a hard-bitten hack and when the sympathy gene was being handed out, I was probably in the pub. But being given this opportunity to be involved in an event that will make history - and change the world for the better - was immense.

I'm a novice member of Hereford City Rotary Club, and we were invited by the Rotary Club of Calcutta Mahanagar, in Kolkata to assist in their work on the NID in January.

Having never travelled outside Europe the whole trip was, for me, the most enormous adventure - and everything

anyone has ever said about India being a country of extremes is true... and then some.

It's overwhelming, exhausting, frenetic, noisy, smelly and the traffic has frankly got to be seen to be believed. Two-lane roads carry vehicles five abreast with bikes, motorcycles, tuk-tuks and rickshaws weaving between; horns blare constantly - and in the middle of it all a cow - sacred to the Hindus - will just mooch about.

I have never felt more foreign in my life. Yet conversely I have never felt more welcome. India is the country of courtesy.

It is also home to some of the most deprived areas in the world - and it was in the thick of these Kolkata slums that I, and four of my Hereford City Rotary Club colleagues, and two Calcutta Mahanagar Rotarians, Ashok Kumar Agarawal and Deepak Chowdnury, equipped with a coolbox full of vaccines, found ourselves on January 28th. My birthday - and one I will never ever forget.

Making up our diverse crew was a tuk-tuk complete with loudspeaker sending out a siren call to parents to bring out their children to benefit from the



Bringing a smile to India

immunisation programme.

And as soon as we arrived we were mobbed... many of these parents were among the first to be immunised themselves when the polio eradication programme first began, and despite the poverty of their circumstances their love and concern for the health and well-being of their beautiful children shone out.

While use of the English language is widespread in India, in these areas of deprivation, where the education of girls is particularly low, our lack of Bengali should have been an issue. But it wasn't.

The international language of care was more than adequate.

Dressed in our very fetching bright yellow polo shirts and baseball caps we couldn't have been more visible. Soon, we set up a chain system, with some of our number on crowd control – and forming a barricade between us and the manic traffic, others marshalling the children; one dispensing the life-saving two drops of vaccine to waiting open mouths; another Sharpie-marking little fingers to show

they'd been 'done' and yet another dishing out a gift for the immunised.

And if there is ever a salutary lesson on the nature of Western consumerism and greed, it was the look of sheer joy on the faces of those tiny children when they were handed a small, plastic ball as a reward for taking their medicine so bravely.

Now that really was humbling.

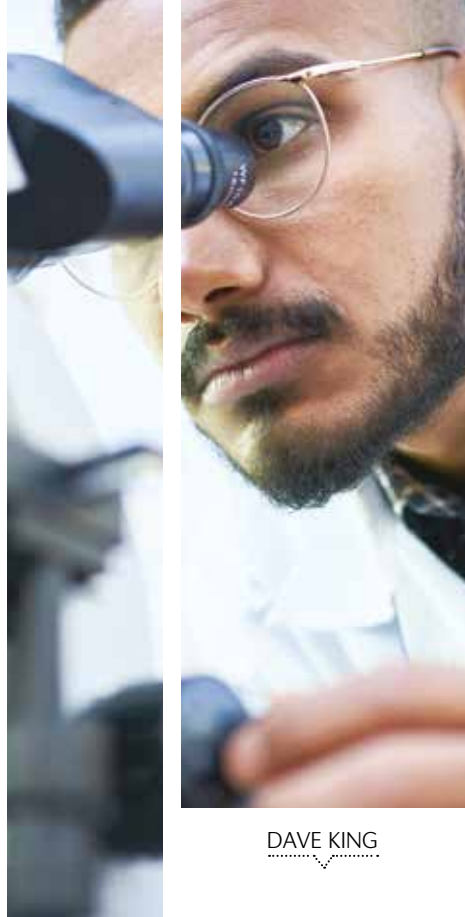
I was actively involved in immunising around 100 under-fives; the rest of the team completed more than 500 by the end of the day and across the world more than 2.5 billion children have received the polio vaccine – most dispensed by amateurs like me.

Anyone who thinks Rotary is just a lunch club for businessmen should look at its truly amazing humanitarian work – being given the chance to be part of something like the NID has changed me fundamentally – I am so proud of my involvement and of the links we have made with Rotarians on the other side of the globe.

Hereford City Rotary Club and the Calcutta Mahanagar club have generated ties that will continue – I have promised to send regular contributions to a joint Mahanagar/Hereford newsletter that I and Rotarian Payal Agarwal are planning to put together, and we hope to work together on other projects too.

Before our return to the UK we also visited the Cochin Rotary Club where we were inspired by Foundation Trustee Elect, Gulam Vahanvaty, who was the guest speaker. His views on recruitment and more importantly retention and engagement of Rotarians has proved a talking point for us ever since we got back.

I will never do anything as amazing as my contribution to eradicating polio – tiny though it was in the great scheme of the programme and I am endlessly grateful to Rotary; to my new friends in the Calcutta Mahanagar club for arranging the opportunity – and to my fellow Hereford City Rotarians for helping me to enjoy the experience of a lifetime. ●



DAVE KING



A world free of polio? *You bet!*

THE question was an obvious one, but it had to be asked: when do you realistically foresee a world free of polio?

Michel Zaffran, sitting in his office at the World Health Organization in Geneva, smiled. It was a question he had been asked many times before, and one he knew was coming.

"I believe we can achieve a world free of the wild polio virus by the middle of 2018, over this next low transmission season," he replied.

"Absolutely we will see a world without polio. It is not going to be easy, but we will very likely interrupt circulation of the wild polio virus soon."

Michel is director of polio eradication for the World Health Organisation (WHO) and coincidentally a Rotarian – a member of the Rotary Club of Gex-Divonne, just

over the Alpine border in France – who will be speaking at Rotary's Conference in Torquay later this month (April).

These next few months, up until May, are make or break to finally stop polio in its tracks. From October to May, temperatures are low in countries regarded as polio hotspots. The virus remains less active, so this is the window of opportunity for experts to get ahead of the game.

If, and it still is a big if, there are no fresh outbreaks and the virus is quarantined, then there will be three years of intense global surveillance without a single case before the fireworks can begin.

"So let's say we interrupt transmission in the next few months, it will be 2021 when we will be able to certify eradication of the wild polio virus," explained Michel.

"And within one year of that certification, we will withdraw the oral polio

vaccine to stop any possible cause of polio vaccine-derived virus."

Those hotspots are Pakistan and Afghanistan which had 22 polio paralysis cases caused by the wild polio virus in 2017 – eight in Pakistan and 14 in Afghanistan.

The big unknown is Nigeria, where the Boko Haram group has rendered the north-eastern state of Borno virtually unpassable.

In 2016, after two years without polio, four cases were reported from this region, which was a big set-back. Last year, there were no fresh cases in Nigeria, however, according to Michel, access to Borno to carry out vaccinations remains limited.

"Therefore, we cannot guarantee that the virus is not circulating there," he added. And that's not the end of it.

Containing the polio virus is like trying to herd cats, particularly in war-ravaged and remote parts of the world.



Michel Zaffran visiting a laboratory



Besides the wild polio virus, WHO has been tackling two outbreaks of vaccine-derived polio virus in Syria and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

These were caused by a vaccine which was used before April 2016 which WHO later withdrew.

“From a biological perspective, this is a different animal,” explained Michel.

“But from an impact perspective, the children still get paralytic polio.

“The reason these two outbreaks have started is because the routine immunisation coverage was very poor, there were very few children immunised, and the access to these areas was limited.”

Even so, Michel remains confident that absolute zero can be reached.

Despite the war in Afghanistan, WHO has an extremely good surveillance system to detect the virus when it is circulating and with good negotiation the immunisation programme goes ahead.

“With Afghanistan and Pakistan, I am confident we will be able to entrap transmission,” said Michel.

“In Nigeria we are doing everything we can to access these children, but it may be we are unable to confirm that area is polio-free, although we won’t see any new polio

“I believe we can achieve a world free of the wild polio virus by the middle of 2018, over this next low transmission season,”

cases. That would be a big question mark, and much depends on the war between the government and Boko Haram.”

Already there is a plan for a world without polio. One year after eradication, WHO will withdraw all oral polio vaccine, which is made of an attenuated form of the virus. “We may, for a time, see some cases of vaccine-derived polio virus paralysis but very quickly we will no longer see paralysis cases,” warned Michel.

There remain 90 facilities in 30 countries which are working with the virus for research purposes and to manufacture vaccines, and there will need to be tighter controls here by reducing the number of such facilities. Those that continue to use the virus for research or vaccine production will need to comply with very strict containment regulations.

Rotary has been fundamental towards

this push from the launch of Polio Plus in 1985, and then the World Health Assembly three years later when governments from around the world committed to eradicate polio.

Michel said that the WHO is aware of how fundamental Rotary has been in the fight by raising resources and mobilising volunteers. But it has been a partnership involving Rotary, WHO, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, UNICEF and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

No one organisation could have taken on this fight and won.

“What we need to explain to everyone is to be patient. We are nearly there, but we also need to understand what we could lose if we do not finish the job now.”

For Michel, the day of a polio-free world can’t come a day sooner.

“I will be so glad and so happy, because of the efforts which have gone into eradicating the disease, the millions of people that have engaged from all levels to achieve this eradication.

“I will be happy for the children who are going to be born after eradication who will never see this disease and never risk being paralysed by this disease.” ●

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Whether you're joining us at the Torquay Conference or not there are plenty of ways to get involved and follow the weekend's events. You can follow [@RotaryGBI](#) on Twitter and use the hashtag [#RotaryConf2018](#) to keep up to date and relive the behind the scenes action from our speakers, the Community Showcase and entertainment!



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THE BIG 50

Back in March, Rotaract celebrated 50 years of delivering service right across the world. You can hear from the current Chair of Rotaract in Great Britain and Ireland on page 36. Tweet your Rotaract memories using [#Rotaract50](#) and follow [@RotaractGBI](#).



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FREE!



Tom Silverson from Littlehampton, West Sussex, is the Chair of Rotaract GBI. As the organisation celebrated its 50th birthday on March 13th, Tom reflects on its history and the relevance of Rotaract today.

Happy Birthday *Rotaract!*

IT'S hard to believe that Rotaract has been going 50 years this year!

Rotaract is a unique international service organisation for people aged between 18 and 30-years-old.

It offers a wide range of activities, to try something new, while getting to meet others and have a great time.

The purpose of Rotaract is to provide an opportunity for young men and women to enhance the knowledge and skills that will assist them in their personal development.

We are also about addressing

the physical and social needs of their communities, and to promote better relations between all people worldwide through a framework of friendship and service.

It all sounds a bit like Rotary!

I started my journey in Rotary in 2009 when I took part in the District 1250 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, gaining valuable skills and developing my understanding about Rotary and the opportunities it offered.

My journey continued in 2010 where I was a founder member of INSIGHT, the Rotaract Club of Littlehampton, becoming

Club President in 2013/14.

In 2014/15, I took on the role of District Rotaract Representative in 1250 and in August, 2015 became the Marketing and Communications Officer for Rotaract in Great Britain and Ireland, focusing on re-branding Rotaract GBI online with the new logo and creating new marketing materials to engage clubs with Rotaract GBI.

I was elected Rotaract GBI Chair Nominee in 2015 and became Chair Elect in 2016/17 progressing to Chair in July 2017. I am very enthusiastic about representing Rotaract in Great Britain and



Ireland, continuing to support Rotaract Clubs nationally and work in partnership with Rotary.

Throughout the last half century, civilisation has continued to see a vast amount of change and benefitted hugely by the efforts of the Rotary family all over the world.

In 1968, Charlotte North Rotary Club chartered the first Rotaract Club, University of North Carolina, Charlotte, in an effort to increase the involvement of young people in the Rotary movement.

Already, Rotary ran youth programmes, including Interact which was established in 1962 and catered for high school students. Rotaract stands for 'Rotary in Action' and originally came from a combination of Rotary and Interact.

Since its inception, Rotaract's membership has continued to rise.

In the UK, the 1980's saw a particular membership boom and a wealth of club and district activities throughout the country. In 1993, Rotaract in Great Britain and Ireland established itself as a Multi District Information Organisation with the purpose of providing support and resources to Rotaract clubs across the UK.

In the last 20 years, it is fair to say that there has been a gradual decline in membership in the UK.

The biggest contributing factor for this was and still is the barrier between Rotaract and Rotary clubs.

The limitations in membership to a Rotary club meant that when Rotaractors

“*The purpose of Rotaract is to provide an opportunity for young men and women to enhance the knowledge and skills that will assist them in their personal development.*”

reached the age limit of 30, Rotary was not as suitable as other organisations and therefore the progression failed.

Fortunately, in the last few years, a number of changes have occurred which is steadily improving the picture.

Rotaract clubs are becoming more flexible, with different types of clubs such as Community, University and e-Clubs as well as a greater choice of Rotary clubs to join to suit individual needs and cater for lifestyle.

Furthermore, the relationship between Rotary and Rotaract has improved with better communication, equality and the understanding of joined up Rotary and how this can be achieved.

With the changes made from the 2016 Council of Legislation, Rotaractors can now be Rotarians at the same time which emphasises how Rotaractors are being valued within the Rotary family allowing for flexibility and the best chance of sustaining the Rotary movement.

At present, Rotaract GBI has over

60 clubs with this Rotary year seeing five chartered to date.

Additionally, there has been a huge shift in the mindset of Rotarians and the reality of an ageing membership. There is now a clear commitment from everyone that we have to work together to sustain Rotary.

Shockingly, still only a small percentage of Rotaractors join a Rotary club but there are simple things that can encourage members to continue within the movement, such as:

- Simply ask them to join your club;
- Value their knowledge and experience from their time in Rotaract;
- Give them leadership opportunities within their first year in your club;
- Suggest they open a satellite club if your club is not suitable;
- Support and mentor them;
- Allow change to happen.

Moving forward, our focus at Rotaract GBI is to continue to sustain existing clubs, providing support as needed, grow membership and facilitate formation of new clubs as well as strengthen our relationship with Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland to achieve our joint goal of a joined up Rotary. ●

Don't forget to check us out on:
Facebook @RotaractGBI
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HERBERT CHATTERS

A true champion - Professional artist Tom Yendell with Radio presenter Aled Jones, opening one of his Flat Space holiday homes

Singing the praises *of the unsung heroes*

ROTARY'S unsung heroes will be gathering in Wales on May 18th to receive their awards.

The fifth annual event — this year at Cardiff City Hall — will welcome 14 Rotarians and seven non-Rotarians to collect their certificates and badges.

These ordinary people, doing extraordinary things, will receive them from the Chair of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, Peter Kellner, and President of Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland, Denis Spiller.

This year's award night, to be held in the Marble Hall, lined by columns of Sienna marble, will also recognise 100 years of Rotary in Cardiff and Wales.

Denis will also present two Presidential awards for outstanding work in supporting and strengthening clubs.

President Denis Spiller said: "To visit Wales is always a pleasure, but to combine it with honouring our 19 champions, two Presidential awardees and to celebrate 100 years of Rotary in Cardiff, will be extra special.

"Without the dedication of Rotarians

of the past, and the vision and commitment of today's Rotarians, our organisation would stall.

"We have countless unsung heroes whose initiatives and desire to change lives simply astounds me.

"To all of those who wear a Rotary champions' badge I thank you. To all of you who wear the Rotary pin, I say keep on solving problems and perhaps next year it

will be your turn."

For this issue, we are featuring the seven winners involving projects in Great Britain and Ireland.

In Cardiff, awards will also be made in the international category, for community champions, plus the presentation of two Presidential awards.

Go online to www.rotarygbi.org to read profiles of all 21 winners. ●

Champions of Change *Roll of Honour*

Home

Cormac Doyle

(nominated by D1210)

Mike Harvey (D1145)

Sarah Newcombe (D1180)

Daniel O'Reilly (D1160)

Tom Yendell (D1110)

Presidential Awards

Andrew Errington (D1180)

Brendan O'Shea (D1160)

International

Tony Clayson (D1285)

Peter Croan (D1020)

Patsy Dodd (D1180)

Bob Parfitt (D1070)

Alison Stedman (D1010)

Alan Wolstencroft (D090)

Norman Yates (D1190)

Community

Sean Bailey (D1285)

Afolasade Bright (D1130)

Paul Brooks (D190)

Howard Craven (D1150)

Pauline Craven (D1130)

Robert Lovick (D1080)

Molly Rennie (D1200)



Champions of Change *Profiles*



Sarah Newcombe (District 1180)

Sarah is secretary to Bentley Cheshire Rotary and became aware of the desperate plight of the homeless in Crewe.

Having encouraged the Bentley-based team to act, she engaged with the local council, other local charities and the community, thus raising the profile of Rotary and ensuring support for the project.

The 'Street Kitchen' they set up operates in Crewe every Friday, serving a core of 20 to 30 people who are considered as rough sleepers.

The project also supplies clothing and toiletries, including essential sanitary items and sleeping bags through the generosity of local companies and the council. The 'Street Kitchen' even opened over Christmas and New Year's Eve. ●



Sarah Newcombe set up the 'Street Kitchen project' for the homeless in Crewe



Cormac Doyle (nominated by District 1210)

Cormac strives to help others. He is a member of Ironbridge Rotary in Shropshire and is a mental health practitioner.

After 25 years' military service, he recognised there was a lack of clinical mental health

treatment for veterans and The Bridge Charity was born - self-funded through charity events at a cost of £45,000 - to deliver this level of care.

He delivers unique trauma-focused psychotherapy and reprocessing for military veterans who cannot access clinical care within acceptable time frames. He also offers the same service to NHS patients who have experienced a 'long wait'.

Vulnerable pensioners also receive mental health support with one of these services available in Shropshire and with support from other mental health specialists who freely give their time. ●



Mike Harvey (District 1145)

Mike researched, formulated and established "Bridging Generations" on his own.

A member of Chichester Priory Rotary for 39 years, he is the driving force behind the project, whose prime focus is to recognise the need of different generations to engage and understand issues affecting other age groups.

The meetings every two weeks involve Chichester College of Further Education, Age Concern, Rotary Meals on Wheels and care homes. Students talk regularly with the elderly in a safe space with refreshments and access to health and social care.

As a result, the view of each generation taking part has become more compassionate and appreciative of the difficulties each face, and it has helped to understand the problems of loneliness and isolation in the community. ●



Daniel O'Reilly (District 1160)

In the darkest hours there is light - such a flash of inspiration spurred Daniel, a member of Rotary in Monaghan, to transform parents' accommodation at a children's hospital.

The Our Lady Children's Hospital in Crumlin is the largest paediatric hospital in Ireland.

An education technologist, Daniel had experienced the tired and depressing facilities during his own hour of need.

His project 'Be a Gift to Crumlin', embraced Rotary throughout Ireland to refurbish and upgrade 45 rooms that act as home for stressed parents near the hospital.

The project was a triumph for volunteering and fund-raising and involved individuals, clubs and businesses.

Over a two year period more than £90,000 was raised, with Daniel embarking on a 2,000km Arctic challenge on a 1979 50cc Honda moped!. As a result, all of the rooms have been upgraded providing sanctuary and calm to help parents cope. ●



Tom Yendell (District 1110)

A member of Four Marks & Medstead Rotary, Tom paints a picture of a Rotarian on a mission.

Tom was a victim of the thalidomide tragedy, born without arms or hands. But that does not stop him from leading an active life.

A professional artist and a member of the Mouth and Foot Painting Artists, he recognised how difficult it was to find adequate holiday accommodation. So he decided to champion the Flat Spaces mission.

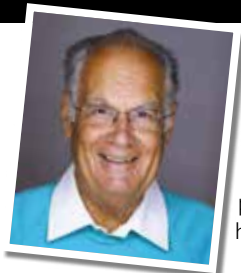
The goal of Flat Spaces is to grow a network of holiday units, throughout Great Britain and Ireland, specifically developed for those with moderate to severe physical disability to travel and holiday with confidence.

The first property was opened in May 2015 by Alan Titchmarsh and has since then enjoyed 80% occupancy, with waiting lists over the summer.

Tom does not wait for things to change, he is dynamic and motivates those around him to really make a difference even when obstacles seem unsurmountable. ●

LATEST NEWS FROM AROUND GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND

MBE FOR ROTARIAN WHO INVENTED DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY



A Rotarian who was the inventor of digital photography has been honoured by the Queen.

Peter Noble, who is a member of Poundbury Rotary Club in Dorset, was awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours' List for his work creating digital image sensors, and for charity.

In 1966, Peter created the world's first image sensor based on the 'active pixel' - the genesis of the modern image sensor used in everything from movie cameras to mobile phones.

The Observer newspaper carried the first public story on April 16th, 1967 showing a small basic image sensor - following

the first scientific paper presented at an international conference.

Peter authored some 30 papers on the topic, wrote a book, and created many patents.

Peter moved to Dorchester in 1969, founding the company known as Integrated Photomatrix Ltd (IPL) where the first video picture using the system was demonstrated, winning the company a Queen's Award to Industry in 1974. There followed a career in electronics, physics, two books and consultation for global companies.

When he came to Dorchester he joined Round Table, and later Rotary, rising to the national councils of both bodies.

He joined Dorchester Rotary Club in 1984, becoming president seven years later. He became District Governor for District 1200 for the year 2012/13 following three

terms as Assistant Governor.

In 2013/14 he started the Dorchester Poundbury Rotary Club, which he subsequently joined in 2016.

He has also been a school governor, and a member of other voluntary organisations.

For 35 years he devoted time to the world of extreme sports - starting with BMX where his eldest son, Mark, won the world championship in 1988. The team he created, known as Team Extreme, added skateboarding, in-line skating, and even break dancing - performing at many shows and exhibitions across four continents.

Peter now continues with Poundbury Rotary, as well as being chairman of Poundbury (MANCO2) Ltd and the Poundbury Community Trust. ●

RARE HONOUR FOR A SPECIAL ROTARIAN

LICEESTERSHIRE Rotarian, Bob Ferguson, has been a tireless worker for Rotary.

A Past President, he has been a member of the Ashby De La Zouch Club for 14 years and was recently presented with a Paul Harris Fellowship Sapphire Pin. The occasion was the donation of Ashby club's Santa collections to local charities.

Bob is Chairman of the club's Foundation sub-committee who has done sterling work for Rotary's charity since he joined the club. According to President Phil Dyer, Bob is also one of those special people who never refuse a request for help.

One of his early projects was to raise

sufficient money within the club to obtain a matching District Grant to buy motorcycle ambulances for Uganda. For this, he co-operated with the Partnerships Overseas Networking Trust, which was set up in South Wales to assist the people of Mbale, Uganda.

Most of the people in Mbale live many miles from local medical centres and their only means of transport is cycle or to walk. Most roads are unsuitable for four-wheeled vehicles, so the motorcycle ambulance is the most suitable form of transport.

Bob made three trips to Uganda: one to hand over the ambulance and later to take over medical supplies and mosquito nets: all at his own expense.

President Phil Dyer said: "The Paul Harris Fellowship is awarded by Rotary to those individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to Rotary causes.

"Bob, your commitment and passion in supporting the End Polio Now campaign has been an inspiration to your fellow members for the past few years.

"More recently, you have dedicated a considerable amount of time into raising funds in the form of a District Grant to boost the fund-raising we have undertaken in support of Hospice Hope. Your quiet determination and selfless manner are there for all of us to see." ●

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CHARITY BENEFITS FROM ROTARIAN AUTHOR

IT'S been a labour of love for Rotarian Richard Glover, who has just completed writing a book with the proceeds going to charity.

Richard, a long-standing member of the Rotary Club of Ossett in West Yorkshire, has written a book which traces the beginning of mankind over a quarter of million years ago, until today.

Titled, 'The Long Journey of my Little Y Chromosomes: The Origins of one Viking Family' has recently been published and is available through Amazon.

Proceeds from the book will go towards the charity WaterAid, the not-for-profit organisation which sets out to provide clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene normal for everyone.

"The recent advert in Rotary magazine for WaterAid inspired me to offer a special price for this book of £13 which includes postage and packing," said Richard. "That's a saving of £3 over the recommended retail price of £15.99.

"All profits will be going to WaterAid, which provide clean drinking water in some of the very areas of this journey in Africa."

If you would like to receive this book, email Richard at: rg35416754@gmail.com with your name and address. ●



HELL OR HIGH WATER

IT was high water on the Isle of Sheppey when Rotarian Margo Bronger, 77, launched her New Year's Day sponsored dip in the briny.

She actually went into the cold water four times on New Year's Day to raise funds to help fight dementia from which her brother suffers.

With a big smile on her face, plucky Margo, of Minster, said afterwards: "It was brilliant – there was a great atmosphere, it was a good laugh and everyone was in good spirits. In those circumstances the cold doesn't really come into it.

"I dashed in and out four times over an hour and a half as people suddenly arrived and it was a really good fun day. I am looking

forward to doing it again next year."

Margo is a Past President of the Rotary Club of The Isle of Sheppey and amongst those supporting her was fellow Rotarian Clive Eglinton.

She added: "I would like to thank Clive for all he has done as well as arranging for me to borrow an inner tube which also made it good fun."

Said Clive: "She is a very energetic and fit lady who swims, rows, walks and plays golf. As I graphically put it the other day, 'she is a tough old bird.' She has set a target to raise £1,000 and has already reached nearly £800.

"The event was arranged at short notice and, given the minimal advanced publicity, was remarkably well supported." ●

DOUAI TO GOUDA THE HARD WAY

THE Dutch town of Gouda has become synonymous with the popular yellow cheese made from cow's milk. It was also the destination for a group of Rotary cyclists engaged on a charity ride for End Polio Now.

Immediate Past President of Bexhill Rotary Club, Geoff Longmire, came up with the idea of the 200-mile ride from Douai in

northern France to Gouda, linking the East Sussex's contact clubs of Douai Sud and Gouda, who supported the venture.

The nine-strong team, who also included Chris Barnett from the Rotary Club of Canterbury Sunrise, managed to raise £24,000 thanks to the contribution from the Gates Foundation. ●



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THE APPLIANCE OF SCIENCE

THROUGH an exciting and innovative venture, the Rotary Club of Wigan, partnered by the Rotary Club of Bacau, Romania, have been involved in a project with a country school in the village of Gaiceana.

Science teaching in Romania is very teacher-centred and the clubs have now provided a fully equipped and serviced laboratory which will allow the pupils to do much more 'hands-on' learning in their science lessons. The new laboratory is furnished and equipped to the highest standards enabling teachers and students to experience science teaching and learning in a new way.

Long-term, the idea is to cascade this approach to other schools across the country. The refurbishment work has been carried out by the local council, with the full backing of the Mayor and other civic officers. The Rotary Club of Wigan arranged for three Romanian teachers to visit Shevington High School in the town to look at specialist teaching materials for the delivery of science in Romania. They are looking to establish a long-term relationship with Gaiceana.

The 11 and 12 year-old pupils of The Prescott School in Wigan raised £260 to purchase additional equipment by selling cakes to the pupils and staff of that school.

The project was made possible by funding from The Rotary Foundation which contributed just over \$20,000 (£15,000) to match the funding by the Rotary Club of Wigan of \$16,300 (£12,200) which was supplemented by a contribution from the Rotary Club of Bacau. ●



A SAFER AND BRIGHTER FUTURE

THE Rotary Club of Warwick has launched a project designed to help keep school children safe on the streets.

All primary and special schools in the town were offered the opportunity to receive a supply of hi-visibility tabards, funded by the club, which could be worn when on school trips.

Five hundred hi-visibility tabards were handed out to seven primary and special schools and which will be worn on school trips by both students and staff. Each tabard carries the name of the school and the Rotary logo.

The Rotary Club of Warwick worked in partnership with Colan Ltd of Warwick who is a company officially licensed by Rotary International.

Debra Hewitt, Head Teacher of Ridgeway School, said: "These tabards will be extremely useful to us. They will help keep the children safe when walking on school trips and will also help identify our

children in crowd situations.

"We are grateful for the generosity and support from the Warwick Rotary Club."

Meanwhile, the Midlands club has also donated £1,000 to buy 2,000 keyring face masks for use by the Warwick District Community First Responders.

These are volunteers who respond to 999 calls on behalf of West Midlands Ambulance Service. They have been very busy responding to the demand for training people in CPR life-saving skills and using defibrillators, training nearly 2,000 people over the past two years.

Rotarian Graham Suggett responded to their call to train as a trainer, and soon noted that there was some reluctance to administer the kiss of life on hygiene grounds.

Working with the Responders a face mask was devised which can be attached to a car or house keyring so it is always with you in case of emergency. ●

WHAT A SPECTACLE!

IT'S fair to suggest that the Rotary Club of Morden in Surrey is used to making a spectacle of itself.

The club has been heavily involved in a project to recycle spectacles as part of a partnership with the charity ABCD: Art Building Children's Dreams (UK) which is operating in Tanzania.

John de Ronde is the charity's Director

and also a Rotarian who accompanied Past President Philip Watson on a visit to the African country to distribute spectacles at its annual clinic. "Every year we collect used spectacles from various sources, all of which are donated to our club for export to Tanzania," explained John.

"With Philip's visit, the community recognised the significance of the donations made by our club and thanked Morden Rotary for their continuing support." ●



NEWS IN BRIEF

RECORD RIDE

NANTWICH Rotary raised a record £6,161 from its Christmas Sleigh with Santa.

President Tony Hoy has been busy presenting cheques to local charities from the money raised. So far cheques for £800 each have been presented to St Luke's Hospice, Nantwich Museum, Donna Louise Hospice, Cheshire Young Carers and The Wingate Centre.

TARGETING YOUNGSTERS

WIMBORNE Rotary has launched a new website designed with the aim of raising awareness amongst young people locally of exciting opportunities for them through participation in Rotary sponsored or supported competitions.

The new website at www.wimbornerotary.org/youth shows details of free-to-enter local, regional and national competitions which can be entered by young people aged between 11 and 17.

KITCHEN EQUIPMENT

THE Rotary Club of Rochford has donated £750 from its Christmas street collections to the Waterman Primary School in the Essex town.

At the same time, the club has also presented the school with a cooker and fridge to replace their outdated equipment.

CHEERS DOCTOR!

DR Stuart Talbot MBE has recently been awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship for his work organising and running the Langley Park Rotary Charity Beer Festival over the last two years.

Both Kent beer festivals have been a huge success raising nearly £17,000 over two years. Proceeds from the 2017 Festival amounted to nearly £10,000 and were divided equally between St Christopher's Hospice and Hospice in the Weald. Plans are already under way for this year's festival.



NEW YEAR BOOST TO CHARITIES

FOLKESTONE CHANNEL Rotary Club has donated a much-needed £11,500 to Kent charities in the New Year.

The beneficiaries, which do amazing work in our community, were:

- Headway East Kent Folkestone Day Centre (acquired brain injuries);
- Hypo Hounds (training family dogs to give early warning and help prevent debilitating attacks in diabetes type 1 sufferers);
- Meningitis Now (support for meningitis sufferers and their families);
- FareShare Kent (family foodbank services);
- Celia Blakey Cancer Care Day Centre at the William Harvey Hospital.

The most recent donation was to the Celia Blakey Cancer Care Day Centre where Club

President Alan Myers presented the £2,500 cheque to Unit Manager Tracey Taylor.

The money will be used to buy a constant service coffee machine to replace the existing, time consuming, need to boil kettles. The treatment of patients may last up to 10 hours at any one time and the benefits to patients and staff will be enormous.

Alan said: "I have been so impressed by the unit and the way it has touched the lives of so many people. Folkestone Channel Rotary aims to provide further support for the Unit, to help it buy a machine for intravenous cannulation of veins. This will come from the proceeds of our 2018 fund-raising events including the Channel Triathlon which we'll launch in September 2018."

Since the club was formed in 1980, it has raised around £750,000 towards good causes. ●

MENTORING FOR GOOD

ROTARIANS in Canada and the Caribbean have just completed a six-month pilot mentoring scheme for young women in the Commonwealth.

The need for an inter-generational mentorship programme to benefit girls and young women leaders in the Commonwealth was identified at the inaugural Commonwealth Women Leaders' Summit.

With the support of Rotary International President, Ian Riseley, and Rotary International Directors Dean Rohrs and Barry

Rassin, 61 Rotarian mentors were identified from Rotary districts in Canada and the Caribbean.

The scheme was announced in London during Commonwealth Week last year when more than 650 young women, aged 18-29 years, registered to be mentored, including 550 from Africa.

Rotary is now working with the Commonwealth Secretariat to roll out this mentorship scheme to other Commonwealth countries. ●

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

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



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and finally...

with Managing Editor Dave King
editor@rotarygb.org



A sea of blood red poppies

AS a sobering reminder to the scale and futility of war, the major art project 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red' which graced the Tower of London four years ago is without parallel.

It was a breath-taking sight to see the Tower's famous moat filled with 888,246 ceramic poppies, each one representing a British military fatality during the First World War.

I was filled with wonderment at how simple, yet moving this piece of art was, set at a location where a fair share of blood has been spilled over the centuries.

Created by artists Paul Cummins and Tom Piper, it marked 100 years since the first full day of Britain's involvement in the Great War.

Now, four years on, our attentions turn to Armistice Day this November, when we mark the centenary of the end of what was considered to be "the war to end all wars".

Commemoration services are planned at Westminster Abbey, in Glasgow, Cardiff and Belfast on November 11th, and 1,400 bell-ringers from around the UK will be peeling their bells at 11am in symbolic unison, just as they did in 1918 to herald the end of the war.

To mark the Armistice Centenary later this year, Rotary historian, David Fowler, from the Edgbaston Convention Club in Birmingham, has agreed to research a feature looking at Rotary during those war

years, and stories involving Rotarians.

From initial research, David has discovered that Leeds Rotarian, Frederick William Hedges (1898-1954) won a Victoria Cross for conspicuous bravery at Bousies, France in October 1918.

And Alfred Knight from the Rotary Club of York was awarded a Victoria Cross, with four other members of the club also receiving military crosses. But that's all we know. Do you have any more information about these Rotary heroes?

David would love to hear from Rotary clubs with any Great War stories they might share. It's not just about those serving on the Western Front, but there may be stories of Rotary life during the Great War.

If you have any images, that would be an added bonus. David can be contacted by email at: dwfowler@waitrose.com

The feature will be appearing in December's issue of *Rotary* magazine.

• DO you think this concept of Rotary 2 and recruiting younger members is going just a tad too far?!

I had to share this lovely photo of Jensen Beverley (*top right*).

Jensen was just six days old when this photo was taken in February. He is the son of Leanne Beverley, the President of the Rotary Club of Coventry Jubilee.

The Rotary onesie was a gift from the District Leadership Team in the Heart of England.

• DELIGHTED to say I've just joined a new Rotary club. I've been a member of the eClub West of England for a number of years and before that with the Rotary Club of Swindon, but for a change of scenery I wanted to move to a club whose times fitted around my work in London.

It was an interesting experience trying out Rotary. I emailed a couple of clubs about joining. Some replied straight away, others I never heard a dicky-bird from. A membership action point, maybe?

I also tried a couple of clubs to make sure I found one which I felt most comfortable with – and I have landed on my feet with the Rotary Club of Elthorne-Hillingdon in Middlesex. Their first question on club night....do you play darts?!

• A QUICK clarification from the last issue following the feature on Dementia Cafés which have grown to become an impressive community asset built on a strong Rotary focus.

It should be pointed out that the engine room behind this project, Rotarians Easing Problems of Dementia or REPoD, was started by the Rotary Club of Tavistock in Devon. Good luck to Geri Parlbay and the team. ●

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Refuge: It may be tarpaulins, tents, home repair kits, aid boxes, or mosquito nets.

Water: To avoid the onslaught of disease after a disaster, temporary measures to provide clean water are often required. We have solutions ranging from personal water filters through to units capable of serving whole communities.

Training: This can take many forms – all designed to improve resilience. For example, when helping to rebuild homes that lost their roofs, bringing in a little technology to improve how the new roof is secured to the building will make it more resilient in the event of a similar disaster in the future.

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Humanitarian Aid Relief is constantly changing. To enable us to be as flexible and innovative in our responses, as a general rule, we no longer accept donations that specify the type of aid to be supplied. This allows us to better direct the donations we receive to meet the needs of the survivors. However, donations given in response to a specific appeal will be spent on that appeal.

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