

Rotary

The Official Magazine of Rotary International in Great Britain & Ireland

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August/September 2019



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MAX & KEIRA'S LAW

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Max & Keira's Law
Organ donation is changing



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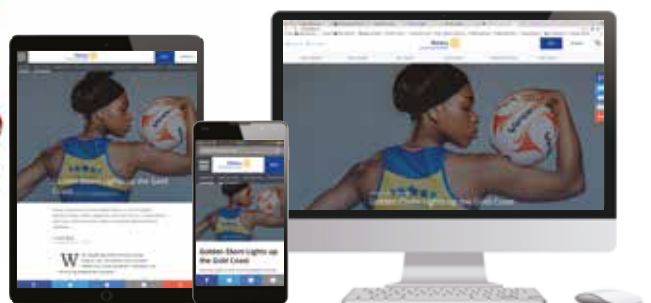
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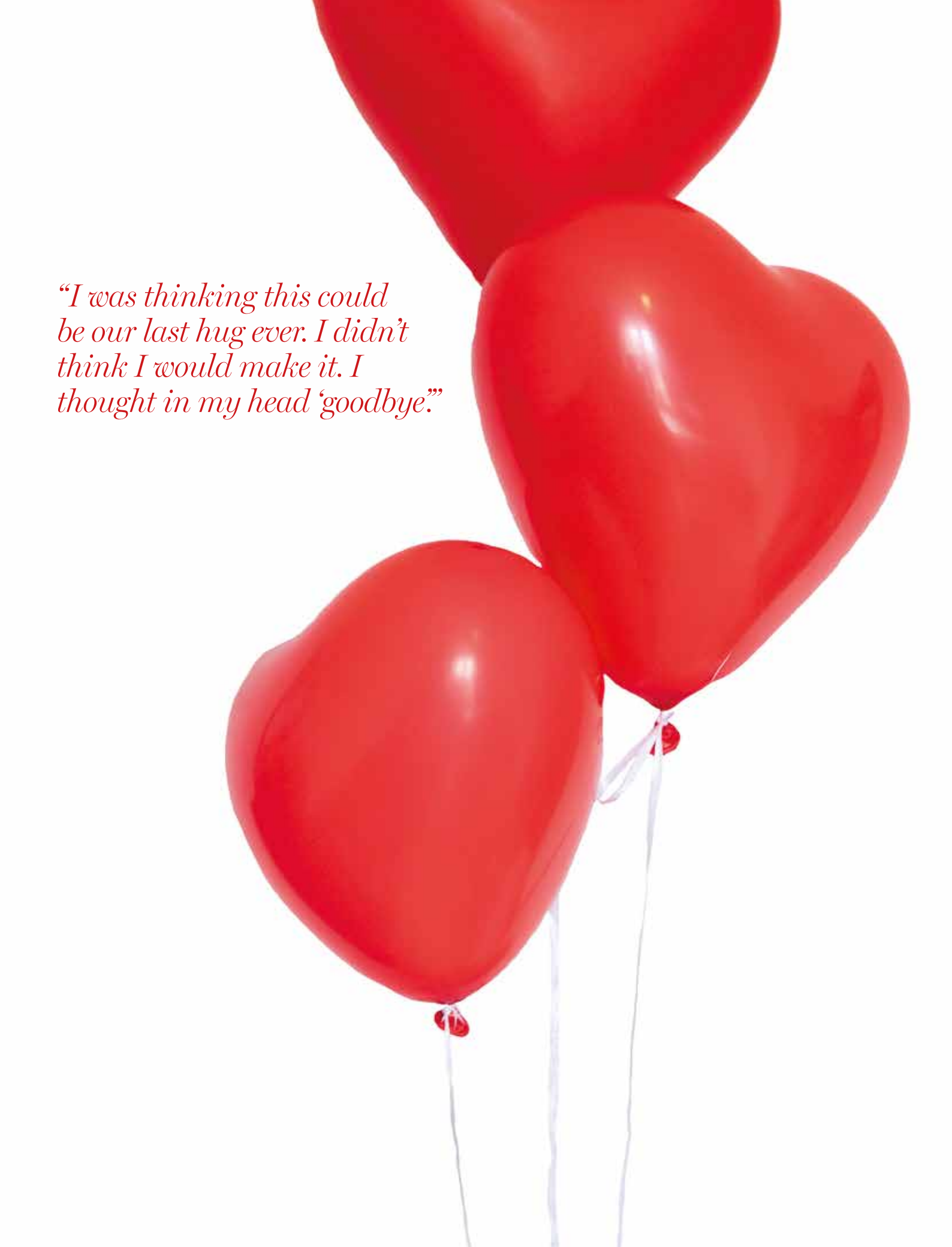
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Three red heart-shaped balloons are floating against a white background. The balloons are arranged in a cluster, with one at the top, one in the middle, and one at the bottom. They are tied with white strings. The text is written in a red, cursive font on the left side of the image.

*“I was thinking this could
be our last hug ever. I didn’t
think I would make it. I
thought in my head ‘goodbye.’”*



The gift of life

Max and Keira's Law will change the landscape for organ donation next year. Dave King met Max Johnson, the plucky youngster who, without Keira, would not be alive today.



Max Johnson

MEET Max Johnson once, and you're never going to forget him. He's a cheeky chappy, an incredibly intelligent and articulate 11-year-old, who talks nineteen to the dozen, yet packs a wicked, warm smile.

But then this is a young boy who, two years ago, was staring death in the face.

As he was being prepped by theatre staff at Newcastle's Freeman Hospital ahead of a nine-hour heart transplant operation, Max said goodbye to his parents, Emma and Paul, for what he feared would be the last time.

"I was thinking this could be our last hug ever," recalled Max. "I didn't think I would make it. I thought in my head 'goodbye.'"

Rewind to September 2016. Max is a typical action man. He loves sports, he enjoys gaming, he indulges in a bizarre passion for music speakers which deliver thumping, deep bass rhythms from his bedroom in Winsford, Cheshire, capable of waking up the entire street. He is also a Stoke City supporter.

But three years ago, Max was getting very tired and looking very pale. He had also started to lose weight. A mild heart murmur was detected, but the family doctor reckoned Max was asthmatic and so he was prescribed a nebuliser.

But that wasn't doing the trick. "Max was swallowing air a lot at the time, which was bizarre," explained mum, Emma.

"He was coming to us at night saying he had pins and needles in his legs and feet. Max was deteriorating physically and spiritually. When we went for a chest x-ray at Northwich Infirmary, I could barely get Max up the hill.

"When we saw the chest x-ray I said, completely innocently, 'I didn't know hearts were that big'.

"The lady technician was very quiet and poker-faced, unable to tell us the results, but you could sense something.

"I quickly Googled 'enlarged heart' and it came up with dilated cardiomyopathy, which is a condition when the heart becomes enlarged and cannot pump blood effectively. It was then that the alarm bells started ringing." ►



Max after his operation at Newcastle's Freeman Hospital

It was clear that this fragile child needed a heart transplant. Max went on the urgent transplant list in January 2017 and, a month later, his heart was fitted with a mechanical pump.

Max's dad, Paul, added: "All of a sudden, we had gone from asthma to something which could kill him."

When Max found out he needed a heart transplant, he texted the heart-breaking message: "I'm done for, dad."

And so the wait.

On Sunday, July 30th, Loanna Ball was driving along the A361 North Devon Link Road near West Buckland near Barnstable. Her seven-year-old son Bradley was in the front, and nine-year-old Keira in the backseat.

Then, at around 11.30am, the family's Vauxhall Vectra collided with a Ford Ranger 4x4, which was towing a cattle trailer.

The road was closed for hours as emergency services fought to save the family. Loanna and Bradley survived, but sadly Keira died from her injuries at the Bristol Children's Hospital.

On August 2nd, the family made the decision to donate Keira's organs. One man in his 30s, who had been waiting

“*You work on the basis that future comes but one day at a time. Every day is precious. Max is having days, weeks, months and now two years which, if natural selection had its way, he wouldn't have had.*”

for two-and-a-half years, received one of Keira's kidneys, a lady in her 50s got the other kidney, while her pancreas and liver went to another little boy.

Keira gave her heart to Max.

Father Joe Ball told *Devon Live*: "Keira helped to save four lives. I watched as the ambulances left the hospital with her organs. She was in the operating theatre for nine hours and it was hard sitting there knowing it was Keira.

"She lives on, and that gives us great

comfort now."

Meanwhile, 300 miles away at the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle, Max was gravely ill, having waited for 206 days in the high dependency unit.

Because Max has an O negative blood group, and he is slight in stature, it was difficult to get a match.

"After eight months in hospital, I started to lose hope," recalled Max, whose weight had dropped to 20 kilos.

"We then got one offer, everything matched, but the heart beat was off.

"Five days later, we heard there was another heart which was a match."

This time it was a good match. This was Keira's heart.

At 3pm on August 2nd, Max underwent his heart operation.

"We didn't know if Max would make it," added Emma. "Harry, our older son, was very worried in his own way. Twenty per cent of children don't make it through the operation, so we knew the odds."

Just before he went down for the operation, a woozy Max said to his parents: "I won't see you for a while, I love you both."

At just after midnight, Emma and Paul were told their son was out of the ►



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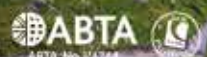


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Keira Ball



Max Johnson

“Keira helped to save four lives. I watched as the ambulances left the hospital with her organs. She was in the operating theatre for nine hours and it was hard sitting there knowing it was Keira.”

theatre. They had been staying nearby at Scott House, provided by The Sick Children's Trust, who hosted the family throughout their stay in Newcastle.

“When we saw Max, he was covered in a mass of tubes, wires and drain lines,” said Paul.

“We knew it would be quite a sight.

“But even then, you looked at his chest and all you could think was ‘there is a heart which once belonged to somebody else and which is now keeping Max alive – what a remarkable decision someone has made to donate, because this has only been possible because of them.’”

After the life-saving operation, Max spent a further 39 days at the Freeman Hospital before being driven back home to Cheshire.

Fast forward to nearly two years later and Max is like a whirling dervish. He's a young man packed with energy, who's loving sport and loving life again.

He's not totally out of the woods. Transplantation is a life-long commitment, and there are all sorts of risks surrounding organ rejection, renal failure, furring of the arteries, and the ability to fight off infections.

“You offset the negatives with a lot of the positives and the first one being that without a transplant, our little boy would have died,” explained Paul.

“Now you can see what he is like. You would not know to look at him.

“There are those who have had transplants who have gone on to lead phenomenal lives. We met one person who told us he'd had his heart transplant 28 years ago, and is now married with kids.

“These are people who have gone on to forge productive happy lives for

themselves. And while there are no guarantees for Max, why can't it be him?

“You work on the basis that future comes but one day at a time. Every day is precious. Max is having days, weeks, months and now two years which, if natural selection had its way, he wouldn't have had.”

Thanks to a campaign, jointly orchestrated by the Daily Mirror and the British Heart Foundation, Max is promoting the introduction of Max and Keira's Law which seeks to change the landscape of organ donation.

The law, which comes into effect next year, will presume that consent has been given by someone to be an organ donor, unless they have opted out.

Previously, you have had to opt in by carrying a donor card.

Pre-Brexit, only four European Union nations did not have an ‘opt-out organ donor system’ Germany, Holland, England and Northern Ireland. In Wales, which has adopted the system, this has resulted in a rise in the number of transplants.

Both Scotland and the Republic of Ireland are to roll out the idea.

Max's great uncle, Robert Lewis, is a member of Hazel Grove Rotary in Cheshire, where Paul has spoken about the campaign.

Rotary has long been involved with the promotion of organ donation, back to 1996 when Dr Keith Barnard-Jones was President of Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland, encouraging Rotarians to become organ donor cardholders.

According to the Johnsons, it is important everyone knows someone's wishes about organ donation. It's an easy decision to make when you are alive, but harder when someone is gone.

The amazing twist to the story is that Max has met Keira's family. The unique bond of tragedy and the gift of life has brought them together.

“Max and Keira's Law is an amazing thing which can save people's lives,” said Max. “I think about Keira a lot. I was nervous about meeting her family and shy about what they might ask me. I was conscious they had lost their daughter and I didn't want to upset them.

“Joe (Keira's dad) is a nice person. He is the person who saved four people's lives. That family is very special. Everyone should know how special they are.” ●

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INVERNESS · SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS

Organ donation what's it all about?

The English organ donation law is changing in 2020 to help save more lives. The change already exists in Wales, and there are plans afoot in Scotland to follow the other nations' lead. But what does it mean?

How is the organ donation law changing?

From spring 2020, all adults in England will be considered to have agreed to be an organ donor when they die, unless they have recorded a decision not to donate, or are in one of the excluded groups. This is commonly referred to as an 'opt out' system. You may also hear it referred to as 'Max and Keira's Law'.

Why is the law changing?

Every day, around three people die in need of an organ, because not enough organs are available for transplant. However, only 1% of people die in circumstances that would allow them to donate. The law is being changed to help save and improve more lives.

When is the law changing?

The opt out system in England will come into effect from spring 2020. The law around organ donation in England will remain 'opt in' until this time.

Which groups are excluded from this change?

- Those under the age of 18
- People who lack the mental capacity to understand the new arrangements and take the necessary action
- Visitors to England, and those not living here voluntarily

- People who have lived in England for less than 12 months before their death

What do I have to do?

Whatever you decide, make sure you tell your family, so that they can help to ensure your choice is honoured. If you want to be an organ donor, you can choose to donate some or all of your organs by joining the NHS Organ Donor Register.

If you do not want to be an organ donor, you should register a 'refuse to donate' decision on the NHS Organ Donor Register. This is also known as opting out.

If you are already registered on the NHS Organ Donor Register, and your decision remains the same, you should tell your family what you want.

If you want to change your decision, which is already registered on the NHS Organ Donor Register, you should amend your registration.

What if there is no information on the NHS Organ Donor Register about my wishes?

If there is no recorded decision for you on the NHS Organ Donor Register, it will be considered that you agree to be an organ donor when you die. Your family will be asked for any information that shows whether or not you wanted to donate.

Organ donation remains an act of great generosity. Adults covered by the change in the law will still have a choice about whether they want to be an organ

donor and their families will be consulted about donating their organs when they die.

If you would like to speak to somebody about your choices, please call a dedicated line: 0300 303 2094.

What is the NHS Organ Donor Register?

The NHS Organ Donor Register is a database that holds the details of all those who have registered a decision about organ donation, whether they have decided to donate or not. Registering on the NHS Organ Donor Register and telling your family are the best ways to ensure your decision is honoured when you die.

What are the current statistics about organ donation in the UK?

(need to update - www.organdonation.nhs.uk/helping-you-to-decide/about-organ-donation/statistics-about-organ-donation/)

- 6074 people are waiting for a transplant in the UK
- 412 people have received a transplant since April 2019

Organ donation law in Wales

The legislation for Wales is 'deemed consent'. This means that if you haven't registered an organ and tissue donation decision (opt in or opt out), you will be considered to have no objection to becoming a donor.



You can still opt in to the register if you want to do so, but it is not required in order to give consent for donation. You can also nominate up to two representatives to make the decision for you. These could be family members, friends, or other people you trust, such as your faith leader. This legislation was introduced in December 2015.

Organ donation in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Ireland

The current legislation for Scotland and Northern Ireland is to opt in to organ and tissue donation. You can do this by joining the NHS Organ Donor Register and sharing your decision with your family. You can also record a decision not to be a donor.

The Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill, which includes provision for a 'deemed authorisation system', was published by the Scottish Government in June 2018 for consideration by the Scottish Parliament. The date for the change to legislation is not known, but it is likely to be several years before it is implemented.

Following detailed consideration of the issue, the Northern Ireland Assembly decided in 2016 not to proceed with any changes to the basis of consent for organ donation.

However, they introduced a new statutory requirement for the Department of Health to promote organ donation as a means of increasing the number of organs available for transplantation.

In Ireland, the position is also to opt in to organ and tissue donation, which is facilitated by Organ Donation Transplant Ireland, who manage the overall process of donation and retrieval in Ireland. They work closely to support families at the time of their loss and throughout the journey of donation.

There are three specialist transplant centres in Ireland which were responsible for 231 transplants from 80 donors in 2018. Last year, Minister for Health, Simon Harris, obtained approval to move

ahead with legislation to provide a 'soft' opt out system of consent.

Under this system, when a person dies, consent would be deemed to have been granted unless the person, while alive, registered their wish not to become an organ donor. The 'soft' element of it is that the next of kin will always be consulted before an organ is removed. ●

FACT FILE

ORGAN DONATION LAW IN ENGLAND IS CHANGING

- From spring 2020, all adults in England will be considered to have agreed to be an organ donor when they die unless they opt out
- Every day, around three people die in need of an organ, because not enough organs are available for transplant.
- If you do want to be an organ donor, you can register to be a donor on the NHS Organ Donor Register.
- If you do not want to be an organ donor, you can opt out by registering a 'refuse to donate' decision on the NHS Organ Donor Register.





Rotary GBI President
Donna Wallbank

As Rotary Connects the World

IT'S been quite a journey since the elections to serve as President for Rotary in Great Britain & Ireland for 2019-2020, but it has gone so quickly.

There's been none of the 'are we there yet?' questions which are normally asked on a long journey. Instead, the travelling has been supersonic. Learning needs have been quickly addressed and homework done to ensure the roadmap is a good one.

Obviously, I can't afford to miss any connections, be it travel, human or potential leads towards partnership opportunities! None of us can.

Our Rotary journey creates connections. For me, some have been connections I would never have dreamed of. Hopefully, we can all say the same. After all, by experiencing the same connections and creating those same opportunities, then we are truly Rotarians who enjoy what we do, becoming better people.

The Rotary family is anyone who proudly wears a pin connected by the rondel, which includes our young Rotary members, who endeavour to do good in our communities and the wider world, using the new Rotaract term, 'Dogoodery'.

It is about each of us connecting with people who we would not ordinarily be involved with, each striving to make a difference. It's about staying in touch so that the initial connection becomes a lasting one.

We need to ensure those educational establishment connections are in place, ready for the new academic year, to make a difference to young people.

It's about trying something new, and not putting your personal prejudice ahead of what might be a perfect connection or an opportunity for future community leaders.

We must recognise that Rotary needs extra hands to do more good, to fund-raise and increase awareness of the eradication of polio once and for all. It's not possible to do this on our own, but with partners pledging



"You are the catalysts of change. You can be a changemaker where change is needed, and that's why I believe that, this year, we will all be 'people of action'"

help like Bill and Melinda Gates, then we can do more, and we can keep our promise to the parents of the world by telling the polio story.

I get frustrated that nationally, Rotary's commitment in the community is often overlooked by the media. However, locally we can ensure we shout out loud, using all avenues including social media, as local radio, newspapers and TV do 'pick up' the stories we tell and it creates wider publicity.

It may not be the connection we want initially, but this can lead to a connection which may not have happened otherwise.

As we look ahead, we know internally that our message is 'Rotary Connects the

World', but Rotary connections are made every day which develop community engagements, at home and internationally.

So let's not forget that connections also develop young people; those new to the work place, new to our communities and new to business. We can each connect, helping them to become better people so they can assist in projects, as well as connecting to people who can develop their skills and employability.

You are the catalysts of change. You can be a changemaker where change is needed, and that's why I believe that, this year, we will all be 'people of action'. ●

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Mark Maloney
Rotary President 2019/20

DURING 2019/20, I am encouraging Rotarians and Rotaractors to grow Rotary. We must grow our service, we must grow the impact of our projects, but, most importantly, we must grow our membership so that we can achieve more.

Let us try a new approach to membership, one that is more organised and strategic.

I am asking every club to form an active membership committee consisting of people of different backgrounds who will look methodically at the leadership of the community.

Your club's membership committee will then apply Rotary's classification system - designed to ensure that the range of professions in your community is well represented - to identify potential leaders with the skill, the talent, and the character that will strengthen your club.

If your club's membership committee is unsure how to proceed, look to the club membership committee checklist on Rotary.org for clearly defined steps to organising its work.

How else will we connect to grow Rotary?

We will also form new types of clubs - either independent clubs or satellite clubs - with different meeting experiences and engaging service opportunities, not just where there is no Rotary, but also where Rotary is already thriving.

No Rotary club in the world can possibly serve all segments of its community.

Therefore, we must organise new clubs to engage the community leaders who cannot connect with our existing clubs.

Growing Rotary is all about taking the connections that make our organisation unique in the world and strengthening and multiplying them.

Let us commit ourselves to growing Rotary and to welcoming the next diverse generation of women and men as Rotary Connects the World. ●



Gary C.K. Huang
Trustee Chair 2019/20

NI HAO, Rotarians!

We have some very good problems that I want to discuss with you. The number of Rotary global grant requests is exploding. Rotarians are seeing the amazing impact of our grants, and they want to harness the power of global grants to take on ambitious projects.

One crucial aspect of our global grants is the emphasis on sustainability when planning a project.

When we come together to tackle a problem, we do not just drop off a check and leave.

We change lives. We bring sustainable solutions.

The growth in the number of applications for global grants is a good problem to have; it shows Rotarians' dedication to service.

But to fund more global grants, we need to keep The Rotary Foundation growing.

Another good problem we have is how best to support Rotarians' desire to provide relief in the face of disasters.

Through our disaster response programme, clubs can get grants from a new fund when a disaster strikes — but only if you fund it.

We can help our fellow Rotarians rebuild quickly, but we need you to step up. And we are so close to ending polio forever.

All of us have done great things in our lives.

But just imagine that you make the donation that funds those final drops that rid the world of polio forever.

You will never do anything so great and so important in your life.

There is an old bit of wisdom that says, "Wherever you go, go with all your heart." So open your heart and give to your Foundation.

It may be the most important thing that you ever do.

Donate today, then drop by my Facebook page and tell everyone just how good giving made you feel.

Let's connect and change the world together. ●



Tony Black
RI Director 2019/21

WITH the changes just voted in at the Rotary in Great Britain & Ireland business meeting and the changes happening at Rotary International (RI), I feel I am at the leading edge of where RI and Rotary in Great Britain & Ireland want to be going over the next few years.

All very exciting, and I hope to play my part in these changes.

Some things do not change, and ending polio is still Rotary's highest priority. There have been a number of setbacks over the last year, but we still have to persevere until the scourge of polio is eliminated from our planet.

Rotary membership is still our biggest internal challenge and Rotary leaders are playing their part in 'Grow Rotary' to address the massive challenge of falling Rotary membership worldwide.

While we should focus on Rotaract and the under 40's, we should not lose focus on those over the age of 45 years.

That age group forms the core of Rotary. Many, some with grown up families, would like to give back to society what they have gained, find themselves reasonably well placed with spare time, and they should not be neglected. A judicious mix of both is required.

So, what of the future? What can Rotary do and get involved in?

I encourage all Rotarians to become more involved in environmental projects such as

- Reducing plastic use
- Beach clean ups
- Discourage the release of balloons into the atmosphere, from where they fall to land or the sea and doing untold damage or death to many creatures, both on the land or in the sea

I am only learning about modern day slavery, about which I really knew nothing. It is estimated that there are 40 million slaves, hidden from view, spread over nearly every country and continent in the world. Surely it is the duty of us all to take action and end this crime against humanity.

Finally, I will do my best to help, advise, and encourage Rotarians around the world in any way I can. ●

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Possible signs of dementia

Putting things in unusual places, losing items or getting lost.



Possible signs of dementia

Changes in mood and personality - becoming confused, suspicious or aggressive.



Typical age-related changes

Becoming irritable now and then. E.g. when your routine is disrupted.



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WORDS BY DAVE KING
IMAGES BY PETER CROAN & MIKE THORN

Rotary brings the world to Hamburg

The 110th Rotary International Convention took place in Hamburg in June. Editor Dave King, visiting his first Convention, takes a sideways look at the showcase.

THE old-fashioned clock sitting on the bookcase says it's just after 6am on day three of the Rotary International Convention in Hamburg.

Home is a delightful Airbnb in leafy Eimsbüttel, north of Hamburg, just two stops on the U-Bahn from the Hamburg Messe und Congress, where this year's assembly is taking place.

From the bedroom window of this beautiful, old Hanseatic mansion, which has been converted into spacious apartments, you can spot the 916-foot Heinrich-Hertz-Turm, the radio communications tower which overshadows the sprawling convention centre.

The tower serves as a drawing beacon to 25,000 Rotarians from 170 countries who have flocked to this picturesque north German city. Their custom is expected to bring around £21.3 million to the local economy.

In Eimsbüttel, this ornately-decorated apartment, with its high ceilings, and Paul Gauguin paintings in every room, is hosted by Margarete.

A widow in her 70s, accompanied everywhere by her faithful Jack Russell, Daisy, Margarete is a house-proud former fashion journalist who, on my first day, offered a stern discourse on men's toilet habits.

“*Like your annual health check with your doctor, the convention experience is like being injected with a Rotary brand of caffeine, fuelling your body with purpose and vision for the next 12 months.*”

“Mann muss auf der Toilette sitzen und nicht sprühen,” she said. No need to translate, but you can guess what sprühen means!

Oh yes, you know who's boss! This week in Eimsbüttel, not one crumb has been spilled on the finely polished wooden apartment floor, all cups and plates have been neatly stacked in the dish-washer and it is definitely sitzen-time for that morning constitutional!

Living with a family Airbnb fashion is a delicious way of savouring a slice of German life, slightly distant from the cosmopolitan crowds of the convention.

It cost just £400 for the eight-day stay; far preferable to the expense of an over-priced, characterless hotel with its

annoying muzak in reception, boisterous stag/hen parties and limp breakfasts. And a good base for my morning runs along the canals and leafy suburbs.

Among the houseguests in Eimsbüttel are Bill and Bev Reed from Spokane in Washington State, situated close to the Rocky Mountains. Bev is District Governor for District 5080, and both are members of Aurora Northwest Rotary Club.

This morning, they've headed to a breakfast meeting for their District at a hotel in the town centre – a quick dash downtown on the uber-efficient U-Bahn; free transportation gifted to all Rotarians during the convention.

Bev explained over breakfast yesterday how she'd managed to persuade Bill Gates to speak at her District Conference recently. Bev, who works as a charity fund-raiser, knows Bill Gates' older sister, Kristi, so decided to pop the question.

“I nervously asked what would be the chances of Bill attending my conference?” explained Bev. “Kristi said 50-50. So when I picked myself up off the floor, she told me she would deliver the invitation personally.”

True to form, the Microsoft founder attended the conference in Spokane to talk about the end game for polio, plus the partnership between the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Rotary.

Bev had introduced her illustrious ►



2018/19 Rotary President Barry Rassin

guest by playing a gallery of Gates' family photos of Bill, Kristi, and their younger sister Libby all growing up in the Sand Point area of Seattle.

These images were sourced from Kristi, as Bev offered a tongue-in-cheek reminder to the Microsoft founder about the wisdom of listening to your older sister!

"Oh, Bill Gates simply loved it and was laughing. These photos had never been seen publicly," enthused Bev. "What a treat."

This chance encounter with Bill and Bev is just typical of the four-day convention, an inspiring, mini United Nations of contact-making.

Strangers from all four corners of the world drawn together by Rotary, a global network of volunteers dedicated to tackling the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges.

The House of Friendship, split across two huge halls and featuring more than 200 projects, is symbolic of the vast challenges which Rotarians are tackling.

The diversity is mind-blowing; from Crutches 4 Africa and Mediators Beyond Borders International to Women, Children & Youngsters Peace Builders in Colombia, and Save the Baltic Seal.

And no fewer than 10 Rotarian Action Groups had set up specific stalls on addiction prevention, endangered species, clubfoot, diabetes, family safety, microfinance & community development, peace, population & development, multiple sclerosis awareness, mental health initiatives. And on, and on, and on...

This convention is unimaginably vast, so much so, that two opening ceremonies were held on the first day.

Unless you're a master of pausing time, it is humanly impossible to cover everything, including the morning plenary sessions with its impressive carousel of frontline international speakers tackling themes of leadership and integrity, service, plus diversity and fellowship.

The 35 break-out sessions each afternoon tackle every Rotary issue under the sun attracting audiences in the hundreds.

Tomorrow, I am sitting on a panel of speakers to discuss media content in Rotary with journalists from India, Germany, and Rotary International's chief communications officer from Chicago. Will anyone bother to turn up?!

And let's not forget the numerous offsite breakfast, luncheon and dinner functions, concerts, ballet performances and museum visits.

Tonight, I am visiting the Rotary Club of Hamburg-Dammtor, beginning with a cruise on the Alster Lake, and then dinner. It's a weight-watcher's nightmare!

This year, there are around 600 Rotarians from Great Britain and Ireland visiting Hamburg, and what a treat it is.

Similar to your annual health check with your doctor, the convention experience is like being injected with a Rotary brand of caffeine, fuelling your body with purpose and vision for the next 12 months.

I love the feeling of fellowship, I love the opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new acquaintances.

And while fellowship might seem an old word from a distant age, we would be fools to forget its important part in the foundations of Rotary – and its relevance today, moreso than ever.

It's a privilege to be in Hamburg and to call myself a Rotarian – but shouldn't we be sharing more?! ●

FACT FILE

HAMBURG CONVENTION

- More than 26,000 people registered for the convention, representing 3,605 Rotary clubs in 170 countries.
- Rotary committed US\$102 million this year to end polio.
- Hamburg gained €24 million in tourism revenue.
- First German nominated to serve as Rotary International president in 2020.
- mytaxi donated €70,000 to German Rotary club projects.
- There were 35 speeches and 98 breakout sessions.
- There were 334 exhibit booths, of which 200 featured Rotary humanitarian projects.

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Wacky races in Essex

It takes almost a year to plan, but Billericay Rotary's annual Soapbox Derby has proved to be a major attraction in the Essex town.



THE streets of Billericay were alive to the sound of soapboxes.

For the fourth year in succession, Billericay Rotary organised the fun-filled day with home-made contraptions racing one at a time along an obstacle course with hair-raising ramps in the Essex town.

Around 8,000 people turned out for the spectacle which raised £25,000 for charities, bringing the total sum over the four events to £125,000.

This year's Rotary causes are Médecins Sans Frontières, Rotary's End Polio Now, Clamanda Primary School in Kenya, Little Havens Children's Hospice in Essex and the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance.

This year, 30 soapboxes of various imaginative designs took part, with their drivers and assistants dressed in a variety of costumes and performing dance routines before each run.

There were three categories – corporate, student and wacky, which the teams raced in, and but for an opening push, all the contraptions relied on gravity to take them round the twisting course.

Soapbox organising committee member Peter Greene, said: "Despite the

weather, thousands of people proved that this is an exceedingly popular event close to the hearts of Billericay residents."

The Soapbox Derby received extensive media coverage, including an article published in The Guardian.

Les Sheppard, Soapbox Derby chairman added: "What a great day it was.

"We couldn't replicate last year's brilliant sunshine, but, despite the somewhat chilly weather, thousands turned out to experience the fourth spectacular charity Soapbox Derby.

"Since then we have had numerous positive comments, both direct to club members and on social media, that highlight how much the residents of Billericay and those who had travelled from further afield enjoyed the event."

There was even drama after the race, when newly-wed Joe Starling lost his wedding ring at the event. Thanks to the power of social media, the ring was reunited with Joe after it had been found on a field, and handed to Peter Greene.

Les Sheppard added: "We are thrilled and delighted to have, not only found the ring, but to have returned it so quickly to the distraught couple." ●



IMAGES BY PETER MITCHELMORE

Rotary



Rotary's shared values with UN

Irishman John Ging, UN Director for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, has praised Rotary for its positive contribution to society.

TOP United Nations official John Ging has told of the huge impact Rotary's humanitarian work continues to have across the world.

The Irishman was speaking in Kilkenny at a commemoration celebrating the key role Rotary played in the formation of the United Nations.

Mr Ging, who is UN Director for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, also paid tribute to Kilkenny Rotary, which celebrates its 40th anniversary this year.

He said: "The connection between the United Nations and Rotary is one that dates back to the very outset.

"Rotary was part of the development of what the United Nations is today.

"I'm coming from the humanitarian side of the United Nations, which means that we're working every day with tens of millions of people who are depending on international support and assistance to survive.

"The overwhelming majority find

themselves in that situation as a result of actions over which they have no control.

They are entirely the victims of conflict, natural disasters and what they hope for is that somewhere someone will help them.

"We should not see it as charity, we should see it as our duty as human beings.

"And I think that's what Rotary stands for. We are one humanity wherever we are, whatever language we speak, whatever nationality we are.

"We are stronger and better if we are united in our humanity.

"That is what makes us human that we look out for other people.

"I personally have first-hand knowledge of what Rotary is doing internationally.

"And it makes a real difference to real people. I'm really very happy to be part of this celebration.

"Congratulations to you to Rotary Kilkenny for your achievements and contributions."

Jimmy Connolly, President of Kilkenny

Rotary speaking at a celebratory dinner in Kilkenny Castle said: "This year the Rotary Club of Kilkenny makes its own little piece of history, when we mark 40 years since the club formally joined the Rotary family, on this very day, the 4th of May 1979.

"A lot has changed in the world over those 40 years.

"One thing, however, that has not changed over all those years is the importance of Rotary's core values and principles, in an often-inward looking world.

"I speak of community, through fellowship, ethics, by applying our Rotary four-way test of all we think, say and do as a moral code for personal and business relationships, and service: to fellow citizens on the journey of life.

"In an age of individualism and materialism, where ethics in business, politics and in the broader society are often lacking, Rotary's values and service principals have actually become more important over time." ●

Car wash worry

IN the article about slavery (*Rotary* magazine, April/May) you draw members' attention to forms of modern slavery.

I must question the section on 'car cleaning, four or five men cleaning a car for 30 minutes for just £5'. If this is true, then that is slavery, but it is also five men working very slowly.

In the car wash I use, there are five men, but from start to finish it takes about 10 minutes maximum. Further to that, the first man who pressure hoses the car is now working on the car behind mine and sometimes even the car behind that one!

I am in contact with a group of asylum seekers from Iraq and Iran who, while waiting for the right to remain, did take work in car washes and said that they had to work hard for less than the minimum wage. They knew it was illegal, but they said they could clean at least five cars in an hour.

Yes, this is exploiting people and is a form of slavery. We should all be aware of this practice and avoid using these places.

Secondly, may I appeal to you to add a footnote to any article relating to the provision of defibrillators.

We all know that defibrillators are great but we should also know, that all defibrillators tell the person operating it, to 'continue with chest compressions'.

This will be for at least two minutes until the machine analyses the casualty's heart again. Most likely it will then say again, 'continue with chest compressions'.

The average ambulance response time is six to eight minutes. This means that the person providing chest compressions will have to deliver between 720 and 960 compressions.

The British Heart Foundation has programmes which give training in CPR to 'ordinary' people and I would recommend that any organisation providing defibrillators should ensure that members of the community can access CPR training and if possible training in the use of defibrillators.

Colin Platt
Oldham Rotary

Be plastic aware

HOW ironic that the *Rotary* magazine that came through my letterbox today was encased in plastic when the cover story shining through the wrapper was titled "The fight against plastic pollution".

Come on RIBI there are other more environmentally friendly alternatives available now to wrap magazines for postage. Just ask the National Trust, they already send their quarterly magazines in a biodegradable wrapper that can be simply thrown away with the food waste. Let's see some action with the next edition please.

Martin Horsted
Hemel Hempstead Rotary

Editor's note: Definite own goal on our part. We are looking at a more environmentally-friendly way of distributing *Rotary* magazine in the future.



Is this the wrong message?

THIS letter will be better understood by anyone who saw the picture on page 41 of the April/May edition of *Rotary* magazine.

The articles on modern slavery and the Worry Tree Café were inspiring, but the content was badly let down by what appeared to be advert from a dating agency – a photo of a young couple who appear to be reading a tablet.

The weather is clearly sunny but the woman has her sunglasses balanced above her forehead. Apparently the photo is intended to show that "Together, we

connect". Unfortunately the impression is given that joining Rotary might be a good way to meet one's soulmate.

Fellowship/friendship is a key part of the Rotary experience but I think that most Rotarians spend more time with their sleeves rolled up or battling with wind and rain than posing in casually unbuttoned white shirts and business jackets.

The sentiments in the small print at the bottom of the page are great but they are not reflected in the photo. Rotarians are People of Action but these faces don't reflect theirs. I hope that this advert isn't being displayed more widely to the general public.

My comments are not necessarily those of my club. My attempt at a straw poll at a recent meeting of the club mainly elicited requests for the woman's phone number! I rest my case....

Glenda Ferneyhough
Hemel Hempstead Rotary

Copyright care

AS a retired professional photographer, the webmaster for a Rotary club website and designer of posters, I have followed the discussion regarding copyright.

Current technology of image reverse searching, image recognition and meta-data tracking, has made it all too easy to embed tracking data into images that immediately report copyright infringements. This can generate claims, along with invoices.

It has struck me that claims to organisations, charities and the like are easy target by fraudulent claimants.

Organisations will quickly recognise they don't have written permission, will not want the hassle of possibly being taken to court and will want to settle any claims as quickly as possible.

I think it is important to point out to clubs that they should always do some background checking on the claimant to establish they are the legal copyright owner and not a scammer trying their luck.

Roy Romsey
Southampton Magna Rotary

We welcome your letters on any subject to do with Rotary. Submissions should not be more than 250 words long. Please include your name and address. Email: editor@rotarygbi.org or post to: *Rotary* magazine, Rotary in Great Britain & Ireland, Kinwarton Road, Alcester, Warwickshire B49 6PB. The comments made on this page do not necessarily represent the views of Rotary in Great Britain & Ireland and Rotarians.

Fellowship on wheels



Camp site at Ganzekraal near Cape Town South Africa

DO you meet many Rotarians who aren't members of your club?

For most of us, our contacts are restricted perhaps to social links with neighbouring clubs or to the formal, vertical links from club to district level.

Yet, there is within Rotary an active and successful way of meeting and making friends with other Rotarians all over the country and beyond. Many Rotarians are unaware of the existence of these Rotary Fellowships.

Nowadays there are just over 80 Fellowships covering a wide range of interests. You can find a full list on the Rotary International website at: www.rotary.org/en/our-programs/more-fellowships

My own fellowship, the International Caravanning Fellowship of Rotarians (ICFR), is very active in organising events for caravanners and motorhomers alike.

Our focus is on exploring and touring not just in the United Kingdom, but also in continental Europe and even further afield.

This photograph shows Fellowship members on a glorious autumn day as we were walking in the Lake District fells in the north of England. We do have some non-walking members, but we made sure they weren't left out: they travelled by car to join us for a superb lunch at a Cumbrian pub half-way around the route.

Last summer one of our continental tours visited three different areas on the River Dordogne in France. One of my personal highlights of the tour was the

opportunity for a crowd of us to canoe ten kilometres down the Dordogne back to our campsite. Carefully holding my paddle in one hand and my camera in the other I managed to get this shot of two very enthusiastic paddlers, Derek Rogers (Stonehouse Rotary Club) and Alan Kemp (Cardiff Rotary Club) racing past us.



The picture above shows one of the sites we visited at Ganzekraal near Cape Town on a recent fly/hire trip to South Africa.

ICFR is often described by its members as "the best kept secret in Rotary". Nowadays we try very hard to open up that secret to all Rotarians with caravans or motorhomes.

If you would like to know more, go to the ICFR website:

www.rotarianscaravanning.org.uk

There, you can download copies of our magazine, News & Views, which will give you a good idea of what we get up to.

Since I joined ICFR a decade ago I have made friends with Rotarians all over England, Scotland and Wales.

I've also travelled to some wonderful places throughout Britain as well as in France, Germany, Italy and Switzerland, and it's all thanks to ICFR.

Come and see what you're missing. ●

Colin Bradford | Rotary Club of Alnwick



Fellowship members in the Lake District

FUN & FELLOWSHIP on wheels!

We are ICFR:

- We are caravanners & motorhomers - and we are all members of one of the very best of Rotary Fellowships.

We organise:

✓ EVENTS AT HOME

- Lots of local rallies in the UK;
- 2 large national rallies each year.

✓ CONTINENTAL TOURS

- 3 or 4 European tours each year;
- Popular destinations include France and Germany.

✓ INTERCONTINENTAL TOURS

- Fly/hire tours held every few years;
- Destinations like South Africa, New Zealand, North America.

**NEW! Membership
now open to people
with personal, family
and other links
to Rotary.**

We welcome:

- New members - so come and join us!
- For more info, email us: icfr@rotarianscaravanning.org.uk
or visit our website: www.rotarianscaravanning.org.uk

Rotary



International Caravanning

ICFR



Fellowship of Rotarians

DAVE KING

Changing the odds

Two out of every three people in the world cannot access safe, affordable surgery when they need it. Mercy Ships uses hospital ships to transform lives and serve nations.

LEA MILLIGAN knows how life-critical it is to have health treatment readily available. Four years ago, his wife was in labour at the Lister Hospital in Stevenage, when the midwife revealed they couldn't detect the baby's heartbeat. His wife was rushed into theatre and, 10 minutes later, his son was born.

"I remember as they closed the doors to the operating theatre, my whole life stopped," recalled Lea. "All I could say was 'Lord, help me, there is nothing that I can do.'"

The irony is not lost on the Executive Director of Mercy Ships UK, who points out that every year, 17 million people die because of a lack of access to surgery.

That's more deaths than HIV, tuberculosis and malaria put together. Lea said: "17 million people this year will see their whole world stop and say 'Lord, help me, there is nothing I can do.'"

Access to healthcare is something which we take for granted, but for five billion people around the world, particularly in Africa, that access doesn't exist.

Since 1978, Mercy Ships has visited 56 countries, providing services worth more than £1.2 billion and directly helped more than 2.7 million people.

The charity's focus is the continent of Africa; to provide healthcare in countries where there is not safe and affordable surgery.

Their floating hospital is staffed almost entirely by volunteers, who treat dental and eye problems, cleft lips and palates, tumours, club feet, childbirth injuries and burns, among a multitude of conditions.

"Mercy Ships exist to stand in the gap, to change the odds, to tip the balance of the scales back in their favour," explained Lea.

Mercy Ships is a unique organisation because it brings services to countries that

would otherwise never be able to access those services. It gives the charity the flexibility to bring first-class healthcare to the Developing World.

Rotary has remained a long-term partner of Mercy Ships and funded the ophthalmic theatre on the current ship, Africa Mercy.

"The partnership between Mercy Ships and Rotary goes back a long way," added Lea.

"The work that Rotarians have done to support Mercy Ships throughout the years doesn't just stop at raising money, but Rotarians are serving onboard the ship, being part of what we are delivering, being part of the planning and execution, and mobilising each other."

Now Rotary has recently launched a \$1million Dollar Challenge to support the Mercy Ships charity, which has commissioned the construction of the world's first purpose-built civilian hospital ship.

Debbie Hodge, then Rotary in Great Britain & Ireland President, announced at the Nottingham Showcase in May the

commitment of these isles to be at the forefront of the international fund-raising effort.

She said: "Rotary has been supporting Mercy Ships for 30 years. For the current ship, Africa Mercy, Rotary's money built the eye theatre, so we are continuing a tradition."

"The work that Mercy Ships can do, with Rotary support, towards building in-country projects can raise the health of nations and raise the health of a continent."

Current Rotary GBI President, Donna Wallbank, is also backing the project.

A second ship, the Global Mercy, is currently being built. The charity hopes the new ship will have the capacity to carry out more than 20,000 operations a year, with five operating rooms, 102 acute care beds, seven intensive care beds and a further 90 self-care beds. There will be accommodation for 641 people, including the crew and medical staff.

Speaking at the Nottingham Showcase, Lea called for Rotarians in Great Britain & Ireland to come on board with the project.

He said: "I would ask you to continue





“Rotary has been supporting Mercy Ships for 30 years. For the current ship, Africa Mercy, Rotary’s money built the eye theatre, so we are continuing a tradition.”

to stand with us because, together, we can change more lives, we can train more people, and together we can see diseases of poverty eradicated and change the odds.”

The project in the UK is being led by District 1260 (Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire) since Mercy Ships UK is based in Stevenage, Hertfordshire.

Two global grants through The Rotary Foundation are being set up by the District to cover the \$1million Dollar Challenge.

In view of the large sum, the grants team is inviting all Rotary districts to donate around \$10,000 with District Designated Funds. Clubs are also being invited to join forces with pledges of £250 upwards.

If completed, it will be the largest single Rotary Foundation grant, and Rotary in Great Britain & Ireland will have been a major contributor.

The Rotary money will specifically fund a range of sophisticated medical equipment for two decks, with six operating theatres, three infection isolation rooms, 147 wards beds, six post-operative recovery beds and four intensive care beds.

Debbie Hodge sees this project as a perfect opportunity to dovetail with the work with Rotary opportunities such as Vocational Training Teams, who can support the work in-country, being the trainers and teachers in areas as diverse as medical and nursing to agriculture and animal husbandry.

“All of this can lift Africa, potentially on a health front and if you do it on a health front, you take them out of poverty,” she added.●



For more information visit:
mercyships.org.uk

FACT FILE

MERCY SHIPS

- Since 1978, Mercy Ships has provided services and materials in developing nations valued at more than £1.2 billion.
- 56 nations visited
- 592 ports visited
- 95,000 life-changing surgical procedures
- 445,000 dental procedures
- 6,315 healthcare professionals trained to train others
- 42,250 professionals trained in their field of expertise
- 2.7 million lives impacted

Connecting with youth

The Rotary Leadership and Management Programme is an award for young people endorsed by the Institute of Leadership and Management. Tim Cowling, from Faringdon Rotary in Oxfordshire, explains what it's all about.

THE idea originated in 2014, when we wanted to develop something which would reward Interactors and would be acknowledged outside the Rotary organisation. From this idea, the Rotary Leadership and Management Programme was born.

The programme enables clubs to engage with Interactors, Rotaractors and other young people, helping them to develop leadership and management skills through 14 hours of tuition and the implementation of a project.

It results in an award equivalent to a City and Guilds level 2 qualification and is endorsed by the Institute of Leadership and Management.

It was run as a pilot in District 1090 (Thames Valley) in 2015 and in Zambia in 2018. It has now been launched nationally with the support of Past Rotary in Great Britain & Ireland President, Debbie Hodge, and adopted by several districts.

The relevance of the programme has stretched beyond Interact clubs. In District 1240 (Essex, East London & East Hertfordshire), it has become an integral part of the Rotary Youth Leadership Award programme, and in District 1260 (Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire) the scheme is helping students in a special needs school work with their local communities.

We are also in discussion with several other external youth organisations.

The projects include a toy collection for a children's hospice, organisation of a school concert, a car washing day and a community litter pick.

Each student has a specific area of responsibility and will be required to demonstrate how they managed their part of the task. This is assessed through a formal presentation and interview.

Alongside the project, the students undertake their 14 hours of tuition, focussing on management and leadership skills, delivered by an approved tutor.



They also maintain a workbook or project diary, showing their application of the programme's material.

The delivery can be by a teacher from the sponsoring school or by a club Rotarian with experience of teaching or training. The project team will run a familiarisation programme for new tutors and will support clubs and schools through the whole process.

This programme demonstrates the relevance of Rotary to the world of young people and rewards them for their involvement.

It increases the profile of Rotary within participating schools, and provides a useful addition to the student's CV, as well as a talking point at an interview.

In the words of a recent graduate: "The programme was both beneficial and

enjoyable in order to get a reward for all our work and progression. It is a good qualification."

Within Zambia the programme has been accepted as an important development tool for young people. One Zambian student said: "I have learnt new ways to tackle different situations such as time management and communication skills. I am proud to say that these things will improve my overall ability to lead a team or even a nation!"

The Ministry of Education has now asked District 1090 to undertake a programme of training tutors to make the programme self sustaining in Zambia. ●



To find out more about the programme contact:
timjcowling@gmail.com



Transforming lives in partnership

Adama thought she would never see her beautiful babies, but after a 20 minute surgery her sight was restored. Now Adama can watch her children grow.

Together, Rotary and Mercy Ships are eradicating diseases of poverty in West Africa.

GET INVOLVED

Pledge your support for the new hospital ship: the *Global Mercy*.

BOOK A SPEAKER

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www.mercyships.org.uk/rotary

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Malcolm the Weaver by Royal Appointment

Malcolm Campbell has worked in the textile industry for 50 years, but in recent times, the Yorkshire Rotarian has found a fresh vocation – as a successful children's author.



MEET children's author Malcolm Campbell, a Scottish Rotarian who is affectionately known as 'Malcolm the Weaver' – a nickname given to him by the Queen!

"It was March 2010 and I was invited to a reception for the British Design Industry at Buckingham Palace", explained Malcolm, who is a member of Harrogate Rotary in Yorkshire.

He initially joined Rotary in 1983 while working for the Edinburgh Woollen Mill in Langholm, where he was a member of Langholm Rotary.

"It was a grand affair, with the likes of John Rocha, Paul Costelloe, the Emanuels, and Zandra Rhodes in attendance, as well as models Sophie Dahl and Twiggy, and me, as a designer of cloth for fashion designers.

"I was introduced to Her Majesty the Queen as Mr Campbell from Holland & Sherry, the global cloth merchant that I worked for at the time.

"I said 'Good evening Ma'am, my name is Malcolm, I am a Scottish weaver'. Her Majesty turned to The Duke of Edinburgh and said: 'This is Malcolm the Weaver'. Later that evening, she talked to me about Queen Victoria, and her love of Harris Tweeds and Tartan."

And so the nickname was born for Malcolm, who was born in Dunbar on the east coast of Scotland, started his working life in the textile industry, and now is the author of children's education books.

The lightbulb moment occurred when



"I want to encourage children to spend less time on their mobile phones, TV and computers, and instead to understand and appreciate the natural world around them."

Malcolm was invited by BBC Scotland to visit the Isle of Lewis with his six-year-old twins Aidan and Zoe, to film a CBeebies children's programme on Harris Tweed weaving.

While filming, Malcolm's children badgered him with questions about textiles and nature. That's when he struck on the idea of writing books about colour, craft, nature, the environment and sustainability for four to eight-year-olds.

The result is a trilogy of books written by Malcolm, and illustrated by his daughter, Sharon, who is living in New Zealand.

The first book, 'Weaver of a Life in Colour', was published in 2014 and teaches children about the wonders of nature and the emotion of colour. 'The Rainbow that Mixed Colours' and 'The Moon that Shone Dark', is a flip book published in 2015 with two environmental stories, teaching the dangers of contaminating our planet.

And the third in the series, 'The Tide



that Stayed Out' and 'The Wind that Never Blew', published in 2018, explains the ebbing and flowing cycle of the seas, along with the magnetism of the Moon.

"The combination of all stories influences children to care for our planet," explained Malcolm, himself a father of seven, with five grandchildren.

"The books are all printed in 'open dyslexic' font, which makes them much easier to read for children with dyslexia.

"The titles and stories are aimed at encouraging children to appreciate the magic of the fundamentals of life, to enjoy colour, craft, nature, the environment and sustainability. To kindle a fascination and a passion for the diversity of life on earth."

Malcolm added: "The idea behind the books is to teach children to see the magic in the fundamentals of life, and to enjoy the happiness of living.

"I want to encourage children to spend less time on their mobile phones, TV and computers, and instead to understand and appreciate the natural world around them.

"The books are learning books which teach some of the magic events in life, which are often taken for granted by adults. They also encourage children to read, rather than simply to look at pictures and images."

Malcolm works with a Bradford-based

educational charity, the Society of Dyers and Colourists who distribute the books to primary schools.

And the reaction to the books has been exceptional, with endorsements from children, teachers and schools.

Malcolm isn't going to threaten JK Rowling in the children's book charts, much of the last four years has been to establish the project in primary schools. It is funded by his own finances and his consultancy

business, Retail & Textile Co.

There are now plans for an animation series with BBC ALBA, called 'A Grey Day', as well as a school play and a theatre play based on the concept of the Malcolm the Weaver books.

"Our primary focus is to have the trilogy of books in every primary school in the UK, all 22,000 of them," added Malcolm. ●





Doctors changing the world

For 25 years, the Rotary Doctor Bank of Great Britain and Ireland has been providing medics around the world. Chairman Arthur Knight tells the story.

IT was in 1993 when Rotarian David Morgan from Porthcawl Rotary and who was President-Elect of Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland, hatched the idea of the Rotary Doctor Bank.

David had seen the work done by the Rotary Doctor Bank in Scandinavia and felt that there should be something similar here.

And so, under the chairmanship of George Mercer from Cardiff Rotary, the Rotary Doctor Bank of Great Britain and Ireland was formally launched in the Welsh capital on July 5th, 1994.

The newly-formed committee faced several immediate tasks; to make the

Rotary Doctor Bank's presence and service known abroad, to locate hospitals in need, to raise funds and attract healthcare professionals willing to give up some of their time to serve in hospitals abroad as volunteers.

It was decided early on that, as the Scandinavian Doctor Bank concentrated their efforts on helping hospitals in Kenya, we would start in Uganda.

Contact was made with Kyambogo-Kampala Rotary and on a fact-finding visit many hospitals in the Ugandan capital were visited in May 1995.

There are many Mission Hospitals in Africa, founded and staffed by Catholic nursing orders and even today there are

some nuns originally from Britain and Ireland who have devoted their lives to helping the poor and needy.

It was decided to only send volunteers to mission hospitals since this was where there was the greatest need.

Our first volunteer was the late Dr Robert Bratman from Rotary Aberdare. He had spent his life working as a gynaecologist in California and on retiring in 1994, he moved to Wales as his wife was originally from Aberdare.

Robert spent seven weeks in 1995 on the island of Pemba, between Tanzania and Zanzibar, and on his return, he spent many years as a medical advisor to the Rotary Doctor Bank.



The late Dr Bill Duff, a former member of Rotary Porthcawl was the first volunteer to visit Kamuli Mission Hospital in Uganda, he spent two months there in 1995.

When Bill arrived in Kamuli he was told, very firmly, that it was not safe for Europeans to go out alone, so whenever he left the hospital grounds, he was accompanied by an armed guard.

This was the start of a long association with Kamuli Mission Hospital and we have sent more volunteers there than any other hospital.

The situation is now much improved so our volunteers can move around quite safely.

A number of volunteers made significant changes to the lives of people in the regions they visited.

Rotarian Dr Tim Jenkinson, a GP from Lancaster, took his wife, Gillian, to Kamuli. Gillian was a retired biology teacher who volunteered to teach at the local school.

She soon realised that there was no form of sex education carried out at the school and as AIDS had started in Uganda and is still a big problem there, this was very important.

Gillian started a programme of sex education in the school, which she reinforced during many subsequent visits. The programme is still in existence and has spread to other schools in the area.

Rotarian Dr Tim Peet, a surgeon from the Channel Islands, raised money to build a new wing complete with an operating theatre, in Kitovu hospital in the Ugandan city of Masaka, for which he was awarded an MBE in the 2011 Queen's Birthday Honours.

Another Rotary volunteer, Dr Jim McWhirter, a retired GP from Henley-on-Thames, has transformed the run-down buildings at Kamuli into modern hospital wards and operating theatres, which will ensure the future of the hospital for many years to come.

This is thanks to the aid of District Grants, Matching Grants and Global Grants.

Jim also introduced computers into Ugandan hospitals to help with administration and stock control.

With correct training and on-going support, this is proving to be very successful and the hospitals are



Students from Bristol University Medical School on a visit to Uganda

“Seven years ago, we arranged for two final year students from Bristol University Medical School to visit Kamuli Hospital on their elective visit.”

finding that they have more money to spend on equipment buildings and staff recruitment.

In March 2015, Jim was awarded a 'Service Above Self' Award for his work in Uganda. This is the highest award that Rotary can make and a maximum of 150 are made worldwide each year.

Jim is currently undertaking a refurbishment at the Freda Carr Hospital near Ngora in Eastern Uganda, again with the help of a Rotary Foundation Global Grant.

Our latest venture is to support the Little Angels Orphanage near Ruhija in South West Uganda, which is home to 330 children.

Dr Andrea Rauprich, a member of Rotary Swansea Valley, has raised funds for new dormitories and classrooms. Secondary schooling is not free in Uganda, it costs £300 a year for each pupil, so Andrea has started a project to

sponsor pupils at the orphanage to attend a secondary school.

In the first year of this project a boy from the orphanage came top in his class at the end of year exams. At the moment, 13 pupils are being sponsored at the secondary school by individual Rotarians and other supporters. The Rotary E-Club of London Centenary is the only Rotary club, so far, to support the project. They have sponsored Louis, who wants to be a teacher.

But what of the future?

Seven years ago, we arranged for two final year students from Bristol University Medical School to visit Kamuli Hospital on their elective visit.

On their return, they spoke so enthusiastically about their experiences that the medical school decided to include a visit to a developing country as part of the course.

The following year, seven students and a lecturer travelled to Uganda.

We now arrange for 20 students to visit two hospitals in Uganda each year.

One of the first students who went to Kamuli has now qualified as a doctor and has already visited Kamuli as a volunteer.

The future of the Rotary Doctor Bank is assured.●

 For more information visit:
RotaryDoctorBank.co.uk



A cut above the rest!

A hairdressers in Essex is working with Rotary funding to provide a unique experience for those with autism and learning difficulties.

IT'S the first of its kind in Britain – a hairdresser's salon for those with autism.

Spargo Hairdressers is based in Brentwood, Essex, where the owner, Ian Marshall, has built an extension to his shop.

Now, with the assistance of Brentwood Breakfast Rotary, plus matched funding from District 1240 (Essex, East London and East Hertfordshire) through a District Grant, it has been possible to fit out the premises with sensory equipment.

This will enable Ian to provide for free his hairdressing skills to individuals, young and old, who have learning difficulties.

Peter Dowse from Brentwood Breakfast Rotary, who is also the District 1240 Youth Services chair, is a regular at Spargo.

"After many visits to Spargo Hairdressers, in Brentwood, I discovered

“*Spargoland started to happen and has become a non-profit disability charity dedicated to children and adults with sensory, educational and physical disabilities.”***”**

that the owner, Ian Marshall, was considering turning the back of the premises into a room for the haircutting of children and young people with learning difficulties,” explained Peter.

“Spargoland started to happen and has become a non-profit disability charity dedicated to children and adults

with sensory, educational and physical disabilities.

“It is the very first dedicated building in the country for hairdressing, although some hairdressers do open at certain times for similar children and adults.”

Spargoland opened in 2017 and houses a sensory area, mood lighting and sensory toys.

For all children with autism, trust is the key and the new salon welcomes regular visits to the room so it's not too scary or overwhelming.

“Children often come and say ‘hello’ before Ian is able to cut their hair which could be on the soft floor or in a chair,” said Peter. ●

i For more details about Spargoland visit: www.spargoland.org

Looking for a defibrillator?

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

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

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

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



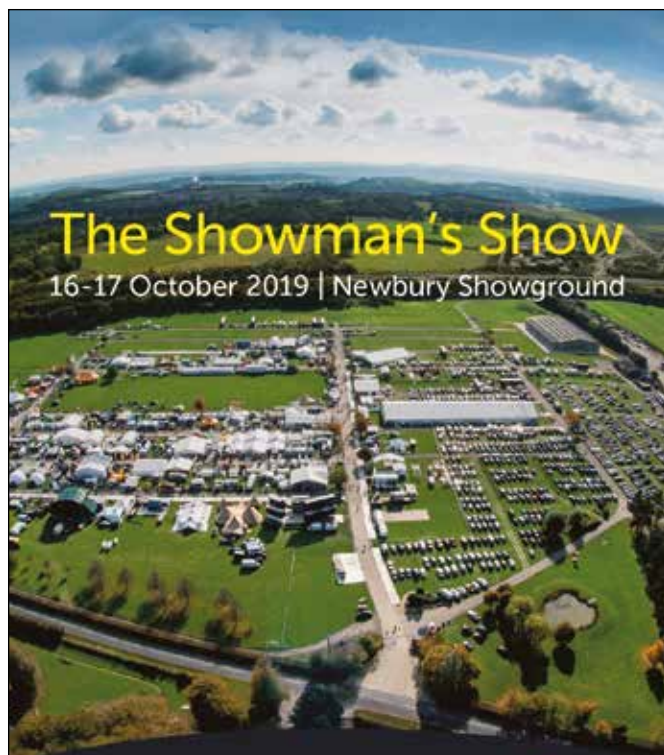
Do it right



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Welcome to 21st century Rotary

The phenomenon that is Rotary 2 has paved the way for doing Rotary differently, without the shackles of the past. Janice Mason, Past President of Rotary Social Innovation, based in Hampshire, explains how they are attracting a new breed of people to the organisation.

What is Rotary Social Innovation?

We don't know, it is innovating and changing, it is developing as we go. It is exciting, responding to community needs, responding to members' ideas and how they want to develop it. It's fluid, flexible and it makes Rotary exciting to promote.

How did the club get started?

In the normal painful, agonising way of club formation, just like childbirth, we were encouraged by Rotary 2. Despite the status quo brigade, Rotary Social Innovation SEH (South East Hampshire, as we had to have a geographical reference in the title) was born on March 3rd, 2018.

We do not refer to ourselves as a 'club', if any collective title needs to be used we are a 'group' or 'network'. Busy people do not have time to join clubs, but they like being a part of a group or network.

My husband Tim and I had previously chartered an E-Club, but we moved to a new area just as there were changes to the rules about e-membership, so we joined a traditional club whose average age was above the national average of 74.

They were interested in change and saw the need for new members, so we introduced Associate and E-membership to achieve this. To cut a long story short, the traditional members were unable to keep up with the speed of change, the concept of E-membership or the idea that the new members did not want to attend meetings or to non-specifically fund-raise.

The new members wanted to work on projects and they wanted a new model. We looked at the different elements which were being seen as important:

- New members from new business start-ups and Social Enterprises wanted business networking;
- Diversity and equality were key factors to encourage a wide range of members;
- Using modern technology and social media was a must;
- Connecting with the community and building sustainable communities was essential.

We looked for what words would describe these ingredients and we came up with Rotary Social Innovation.

This was all taking place in August. By January, we had around 50 associate members all excited by this new concept, of whom 20 agreed to be founder members of the new group, which chartered in March.

You've tried conventional Rotary, E-Clubs and now this - how different are the models and which one works best?

This new group is a mixture of all types. It is going back to basics and stripping away the traditions that have grown over the years:

- Back to Paul Harris' business networking and rotating meetings;



Rotary Social Innovation was recently filmed in Portsmouth for a promotional video charting its innovation and success

- Back to friendship through service;
- Back to the idea of being a humanitarian service organisation, including locally, not purely fund-raising;
- Focus on the four objectives and ethical practice;
- Less emphasis on meetings and more focus on technology to talk to each other.

It is reigniting Rotary for busy people, being exciting for families to belong to and being flexible to enable everyone to be involved in a way that suits them.

No model is best, every way to access Rotary needs to be embraced.

How easy was it to attract members and where are they drawn from?

We have attracted members by promoting the idea that we are 21st century Rotary.

We're telling the story of Rotary in an exciting way which people can relate to, Paul Harris's story, how one idea from one person can be developed and grown into a bigger idea.

This leads on to telling the story of eradicating polio, and how much has been achieved by working together, in partnership with other organisations.

“We do not refer to ourselves as a ‘club’, if any collective title needs to be used we are a ‘group’ or ‘network’. Busy people do not have time to join clubs, but they like being a part of a group or network.”

Contacts have been made in the main via social media, particularly Twitter, and they have come from all walks of life.

Relationships are developed and then we have arranged to meet up for coffee.

Meeting for coffee and cake has played a key role!

We have used associate membership as a hook, where they can try before they buy, so what is there to lose? At the same time, we also tell them that joining Rotary costs less than a cup of coffee a week.

We offer a menu of opportunities for membership, with much emphasis on family membership involving the whole

family in all we do. We even have a canine member - a hearing working dog! We are about to explore how best to engage with young professionals through membership based on Rotaract.

We also engage people directly into our various projects, rather than just signing them up to try Rotary as a general concept.

How easy is it?

Very easy, as people have been excited about Rotary and the added value it gives them.

What do you hope the club can achieve?

We want to help Rotary grow and think of how it sells itself as an exciting way of helping the community. We want to show how Rotary clubs can collaborate with other organisations, not just as a fund-raising organisation, but to be a catalyst to help find solutions to meet community needs.

We want to help Rotary embrace diversity, equality and inclusion. To consider how they do things to enable their membership to mirror their community.

We are helping to build awareness ►



Janice Mason (third left) and husband Tim (fourth right) have been prime movers in this new way of doing Rotary

of social enterprise and would like to show Rotary clubs how they can be part of the buying and supply chain.

We promote well-being, in all its forms and we want Rotary to be part of building caring, cohesive and sustainable communities.

We run E-Campaigns, encouraging online collaboration to spread community messages, such as supporting the Suzy Lamplugh Stalking campaign last year and this April.

The people we are attracting are passionate about the community and many are proactive in finding solutions to situations they themselves have overcome.

With our flexibility we will be in a position to respond where needed.

The diversity of our group means there are many different ways to approaching challenges and innovative ideas are emerging from the collaboration of our members.

What have been the highlights so far?

It's exciting meeting people who want to join and the number of people attracted

to it. When we have meetings they are buzzing and members leave energised.

Our Unpacking Social Enterprise events have proved popular and have led to a National focus working in partnership with Rotary Great Britain & Ireland and the School of Social Entrepreneurs.

We are helping to develop a number of dementia-friendly communities and working with Dementia Friendly Hampshire across the region.

We are developing Creative Innovation, starting with some inclusive drama, which focuses on community issues both in the plays themselves as well as the audiences who can access the performances.

We are supporting our members' own enterprises and fund-raising activities, working directly with charities to raise funds, not just donating.

In recognition of the end of World War One, a number of our members jumped from a plane, skydiving with a total of 100 people, to raise funds for Alabaré's work with homeless and vulnerable veterans.

There is also support between members for business needs and advice.

With Eve Conway we are now making two films. One for Rotary 2 about Rotary Social Innovation and another about Social Enterprise and how they can help build sustainable communities.

Do you think there will be other clubs springing up on a similar basis?

Without a doubt. We are working on some hubs in South Wiltshire and East Hampshire. Working in partnership with other clubs we are developing hubs in other areas.

Our ethos is about collaborative working, we're very happy to chat with anyone to see where it leads.

There is still a lot to do. Our members are still exploring Rotary. We are evolving and want to be constantly innovative. ●

LATEST NEWS FROM AROUND GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND



SPREADING THE LOVE

THE manufacturers of Tiptree Jam have been honoured for their part in raising almost £400,000 for Rotary's End Polio Now campaign.

Scott Goodfellow, the Joint Managing Director of Wilkin & Sons, along with Rotarian Nigel Dyson, were presented with People of Action Polio Awards during the District 1240 (Essex) Assembly at the Writtle Agricultural College in Chelmsford.

The Essex jam makers have been involved with Rotary since 2003-04 through a 'Spread and Save' project first hatched by the then 1240 District Governor, Ray Burman.

They donated 65,000 jars of marmalade, with specially printed labels, which Rotarians bought for £1 and then later filled them with spare change.

The money went towards The Rotary Foundation.

Three years ago, when Eve Conway was Rotary in Great Britain & Ireland President, she launched the Purple4Polio tea parties with Tiptree Jam and Typhoo

Tea to spread the message about polio.

And since then, the total raised has been £132,451 which, when trebled by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, who are matching every pound that Rotary raises to end polio with another two - this amounts to nearly £400,000.

"It is a great honour and pleasure for me to present this People of Action Polio Award to Scott Goodfellow, joint Managing Director of Wilkin & Sons, and Nigel Dyson from the Rotary Club of Kelvedon & District," said Eve.

"The Purple4Polio jam initiative has given a major boost to contributions in Great Britain and Ireland to our Purple4Polio campaign to End Polio Now and forever - and achieve Rotary's top goal of a polio-free world."

Eve praised the role of Nigel Dyson who was the mover and shaker behind the Purple4Polio jam.

Having originally

discussed the idea with Wilkin & Sons of producing 1,500 jars of jam for the Essex Rotary district, Nigel asked tongue in cheek whether they might like to produce 52,000 jars of Purple4Polio jam to be donated to every Rotarian in Great Britain and Ireland.

Wilkin & Sons have not only produced jam to support Rotary's polio campaign.

In 2011, they produced 50,000 bottles of a special Rotary tomato sauce with Rotarians, once again, filling up the bottle when empty with cash. ●

**ALMOST
£400,000
RAISED**



CARIBBEAN CARGO

WINCHESTER Rotarians have joined forces with businesses on the south coast to help underprivileged amputees in the Caribbean.

Some £60,000 worth of recycled prosthetic leg components have been shipped to St Lucia.

The project was initiated by Winchester Rotarian Richard Spalding, who has a long-term connection with St Lucia.

He said: "St Lucia has one of the highest levels of diabetes per capita in the world and also has an unusually high number of road traffic accidents.

"Combined, this means that St Lucia has a disproportionately high number of amputees."

The Rotary Club of Gros Islet in St Lucia, recognised this issue and set about improving the life of amputees in conjunction with the National Council of and for Persons with Disabilities.

Their aim was to set up a new prosthetic workshop and train some prosthetic technicians.

Winchester Rotary rose to the challenge to help, initially providing some funding for training, but also sourcing some recycled prosthetic legs.

The prosthetic leg components were gathered earlier this year by prosthetist, Alasdair Gilbertson, from Portsmouth's Prosthetic Centre. And working with south coast businesses and a charity, the cargo was shipped free of charge to the Caribbean.

Richard added: "Every member of this collaboration was essential to the unique success of this project.

"We are extraordinarily grateful, especially as it was all done totally for free.

Winchester Rotary is immensely proud of coordinating this team effort, and the beneficiaries in St Lucia are already showing their gratitude for the legs."

**£60,000
WORTH OF
PROSTHETICS
SHIPPED**

SHINING A LIGHT ON POLIO



BATHED in polio purple with a spectacular skyline is Enniskillen Castle in Northern Ireland.

Situated by the River Erne in County Fermanagh, the castle was built almost 600 years ago by the ruling Gaelic Maguires.

The castle was floodlit in purple to mark a collection by Rotarians from the Enniskillen club to raise funds for the End Polio Now campaign.

Thanks to the generosity of the general public, they managed to raise £1,028 for The Rotary Foundation campaign.

It costs £2.35 to vaccinate one child

against polio, so the money raised, on top of the support given by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation which will treble the sum, means that 1,312 children will be able to receive the vaccination.

"A lot of people were quite surprised that polio still exists when we did the collection," explained Rotarian, John Trimble.

"But, unfortunately, it does, and as long as there is one child left in the world with polio there is the potential for it to spread from person to person, typically through contaminated water to attack the nervous system." ●

ROTAKIDS DO REALLY WELL-Y

ROTAKIDS at Whitchurch Primary School near Cardiff raised more than £1,000 for the RNLI after filling wellies!

The youngsters were inspired after being given a talk by volunteers from the RNLI station in Penarth.

They had previously raised money from a school disco, which was supported by a £1,000 donation from the Cardiff Breakfast Rotary Club.

Following the presentation, the RotaKids organised a fund-raising week when bright RNLI yellow wellies were placed in each classroom with the aim of filling them with pennies.

RotaKids collected all the wellies from each class and poured out a mountain of pennies. A staggering £1000.48 was collected to support the RNLI. ●



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MAYOR AT JUST 22!



ROTARIAN Keeley Allin is definitely making a difference in the North Devon town of Great Torrington where she has just become Mayor.

At the age of just 22, locals believe that Keeley is the youngest person to have ever held the town's ancient office. She is definitely the youngest Mayor in the south-west, and probably in the country.

Keeley joined Rotary in 2017 when she was just 19-years-old, but she had already attended many meetings and events with her mother, Rotarian Sue Mills.

Her interest in serving the community is long-standing. In 2008, at the age of 12, Keeley was Mayor's Consort to mum Sue, when she was Mayor, and then in 2015, Keeley became a Town Councillor in her own right.

"We are very proud of Keeley, and believe that Rotary is safe in her hands," said David Large from Torrington Rotary. "It is wonderful to have youngsters like her whose lives are dedicated to service for and in the community."

As for Great Torrington's first citizen, she is looking to put a smile on the face of the town.

Keeley said: "The main aims for my year is to encourage everyone in the town to take pride in our beautiful town."

"We live in such a picturesque area and we should all be doing our bit to show it off to its very best. Also, I want to help our local businesses and to increase footfall in the town."

Keeley is passionate about helping the youth of the town and is a member of a steering committee which has recently started the Youth Genesis project.

HAVING A BALL



ROTARY in The Heart of England sponsored a mixed team of young people to take part in an international tag rugby festival in Northern Ireland.

The Wooden Spoon Tag Rugby tournament for youngsters with learning disabilities took place in Ballyclare, County Antrim.

The Rotary squad headed across the Irish Sea in partnership with the Wasps Rugby Football Club's community team.

The annual festival is sponsored by the children's rugby charity Wooden Spoon. Hundreds of youngsters from England, Scotland, Wales, plus Ireland's four provinces took part in the festival, which was divided into two sections based

on degree of learning disability with the emphasis on fun and activity.

The tournament will come to England next June when it will be hosted by Wasps and is likely to be staged in Banbury.

Then District Governor, Gary Dancer, who accompanied the youngsters, said: "It is hoped that Rotary in The Heart of England will play an enhanced role in next year's tournament, through our partnership with Wasps."

"This is part of our ongoing plan to offer opportunities to young people to access sporting opportunities."

"We have a successful programme to offer cricket training through the Chance to Shine programme with the Warwickshire Cricket Board." ●

BEATING DEFORESTATION

A SMALL investment by Cardiff Breakfast Rotary has seen rapid progress for an environmental project in Uganda.

Past Rotary President Michael Brooke and his wife Elsebeth began the link with Manafwa, close to the border with Kenya, after visiting the small hamlet with a group from Lisvane church in Cardiff.

They saw the African Rural Development Initiative (ARDI) which had been set up with the involvement of ActionAid.

And whilst in Uganda, the couple became aware of the importance of trees in this equatorial country, especially because of a past history of deforestation.

Michael contacted Joseph Weyusya, who leads the ARDI project, to see if they could support the tree campaign.

Rotary Cardiff Breakfast applied for a district grant to double their own contribution of £200, and now 10,000 saplings of various species have been planted to coincide with the short Ugandan rain season. ●

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DOVER GETS A SPRING CLEAN

DOVER Rotary has been instrumental in tidying up the Kent coastal town.

In recent years, the club has organised litter picking at various sites in Dover, often with members from its daughter club, South Foreland Rotary.

One litter picking exercise on an estate in the town netted over 70 large full sacks of rubbish as well as many large items including a widescreen TV, a pushchair, children's toys, vases, and chairs.

More recently, the industrious Rotarians tackled two large areas in different parts of the town.

They cleared substantial overgrowth from a property on the corner of Frith Road and St Alphege Road in the town, to assist the care home situated on that corner.

They then undertook the enormous task of cutting back and removing overgrowth from the grounds of a Victorian terrace of large houses located just below Dover Castle.

In the process, the Rotarians also removed a sack load of cans, bottles and other containers exposed by the work.

Leaders of the working parties, Tony Cook Vice President of the club and Peter Sherred Past President of the club, were both very satisfied with the outcomes of the club members' endeavours at the various sites.



RECORD FOR ROKART



NENE Valley Rotary's Club Rokart fund-raiser at the Teamworks Karting Centre in Northampton produced a record night.

The event enjoyed a record entry over the 10 heats of more than 90 teams featuring 400 drivers who helped to raise a record £10,000 for local charities.

Over the past four years, the fast and furious Rotary event has raised close to £40,000.

Team Butter won the Michael Jones the Jeweller trophy for completing a record

287 laps during the two-hour endurance race.

The real winner was the amount raised for local charities. They included UpsnDowns, who support families in Northamptonshire with children with Down's Syndrome, and the local branch of Parkinson's UK.

Other beneficiaries will be the maternity ward at Northampton Hospital and the Northampton Association For Accommodation For Single Homeless. ●

LIVER LIFE-SAVER

FOR prisoners at one of Dorset's three jails, a Rotary-funded fibroscanner is proving to be a life-saver.

A year ago, Christchurch Rotary funded a new fibroscan device which has transformed the management of liver disease in the community.

Hazel Allen, a consultant nurse specialising in hepatology and Sara Armstrong, a senior community fundraiser, visited the Dorset club to explain the impact the equipment was having.

Hazel explained how that the portable fibroscanner is now used on a daily basis at a number of locations across Dorset within

community clinics and also within the three Dorset prisons.

It means that no prisoner with liver disease has to travel to Bournemouth for a scan. Equally, no patients with liver disease from Poole, Weymouth or rural Dorset have had to travel to Bournemouth for a scan.

Instead, Hepatitis C treatment is delivered in a community setting, targeting the homeless and increasing uptake.

And it has been so successful, that there are plans to deliver treatment from a mobile bus and within community pharmacies in Dorset in the future. ●

DISABLED GAMES FIRST



Image: Cierence-meghani-official-photography

ROTARY'S Purple4Polio Ambassador British Paralympic wheelchair racer and polio survivor, Anne Wafula Strike MBE, opened the first ever Rotary East London and Essex Disability Games.

The event was sponsored by local Rotary clubs, including Redbridge, Barkingside and Roding, and Epping

Forest District Council. Ongar Leisure Centre hosted the event which was aimed at participants over the age of 18.

All of the sports were indoor activities, as sportsmen and women tried their hand at boccia, bowls, table tennis, darts, bagatelle, stick ball, quoits, wheelchair slalom and new age kurling. ●

HELPING BABIES BREATHE



AROTARIAN doctor from Somerset has been instrumental in a paediatric project in Pakistan to reduce the death rates in babies.

The neonatal mortality rate in Pakistan is among the highest in the world at 45.6 per 1000.

'Helping Babies Breathe' (HBB) is an American Academy of Paediatrics' initiative which aims to reduce infant death rates by training trainers to teach healthcare workers to resuscitate babies in resource poor settings using basic equipment.

Thanks to a meeting at an HBB master trainers' course in London between Dr Michael Fernando, a member of Yeovil Rotary and consultant paediatrician at Yeovil District Hospital with Dr Syed Furrugh, originally from Pakistan, which led to the programme spreading to Pakistan.

"During the course, Dr Furrugh learnt about Rotary and asked to be introduced to Rotary in Pakistan," explained Michael.

"Aziz Memon, Rotary National Lead for Polio Eradication in Pakistan, took on the project. Karachi Rotary funded the equipment and infrastructure required with infrastructure support from the Pakistan Islamic Medical Association."

In May, six international and local paediatricians trained 82 doctors and midwives in the HBB programme in Karachi and Sukkur in Sindh Province. Those trained will form part of the next generation of neonatal resuscitation trainers in Pakistan.

Michael said that when the HBB programme had been delivered in Tanzania and Nepal, 24-hour infant mortality fell. ●

SIMPLY GIN-TASTIC

LAST October, comedian Bobby Ball helped launch Passionately Purple gin at Lytham Windmill in Lancashire as part of a fund-raiser for Rotary's End Polio Now campaign.

And this Rotary-first purple craft gin has gone down a hit. Former Rotary International Director Brian Stoyel and his wife Maxine visited Lytham to receive a cheque for £6,000 on behalf of the End Polio Now project.

This contribution will immunise nearly 95,000 children and there's more in the vault.

It took nearly four months to finalise the labelling and branding, as well as to perfect the flavour and colour of the gin - but since its launch on End Polio Day, 1,050 bottles have been sold from Elgin to Truro and recently to Germany.

The gin has been distilled exclusively for Lytham Rotary on the South Fylde coast by Sandgown Spirits.

Purple is the colour of the End Polio Now campaign, and Sandgown Spirits has created 'Passionately Purple', a magical, colour-changing gin, bursting with the flavour of blueberries.

Bottles cost £35 each, plus packing and postage of £5.50. Every bottle sold will raise £6.20 towards the End Polio Now campaign, and that sum will attract a further £12.40 from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. ●

i For more details, email Herbert Chatters at: ossington@europe.com

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Don't just pay lip service to diversity

ROTARY Connects the World – that's the theme for this new Rotary year, and never was that notion more prevalent than at the recent Hamburg convention.

So what was the big talking point of this four-day global jamboree?

Without doubt it was Rotary's diversity – or perhaps a lack of it.

At the opening ceremony, then Rotary International (RI) President, Barry Rassin revealed the Rotary Board wants to increase the number of women in Rotary and in leadership positions to 30% by 2023.

Too modest a target, suggested those around me in the audience. Should have happened years ago, complained others.

The following day, in an interview with 2020 President Holger Knaack (*pictured*), I asked the likeable German to predict the year when Rotary International would have its first female president.

"That is a great question, and is one I have been asking myself," ventured Holger, before diplomatically sitting on the fence.

He insisted he does not know who will be his successor. In fact, he would be happy with whoever they are.

With youth, Holger, Barry and current President, Mark Maloney, have wisely stated their desire to grow Rotaract clubs to strengthen Rotary for the future.

It is a policy spawning success, judging by the large numbers who visited Hamburg for the Rotaract Pre-convention and who stayed on for the main event.

But it can't have been easy. Speaking to two young British Rotaractors, one managed to get some financial help from



his Rotary club to travel to Hamburg, but the other had to be financially creative, relying on the bakery at the local Lidl while she stayed in 30 Euro a night digs.

The tickets for some of the dinner events in Hamburg were eye-watering.

Registration for the convention alone cost several hundred Euros, and there's the small matter of flights and accommodation. Inclusivity? It simply doesn't add up.

I met a Rotarian from Berlin with her four-year-old son bemoaning: "How can Rotary want more women to join if they make it impossible for mothers to participate?" she said, asking where were the child-friendly facilities?

Also, I heard of issues with Rotaractors from Africa unable to get visas to fly to Germany because of fears they would not return home. Really? How can that be so?

And, by the way, when will there be a Rotary International convention in Africa?

For all the laudable words and wisdom

spouted from the lectern at countless conferences, surely there has to be a climate and a culture within Rotary to enable the diversity it desires. Lip service is not enough, serious change has to be enabled.

Next year's RI convention in Hawaii will definitely not be a beggar's banquet and, most probably, this isolated volcanic archipelago in the Central Pacific will be a destination for the privileged few.

It is a shame more Rotarians don't come to convention. I loved my experience.

At a time when there is so much grief in the world, when man's inhumanity to fellow man recognises few boundaries, the convention serves as a reminder of the goodness of mankind, the gentleness of Rotary and the immense service it provides.

A world without Rotary would be a world worse off. A Rotary which is truly diverse – and accessible – one reflecting all creeds and cultures, would definitely become an even more powerful movement. ●

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