

Rotary

The Official Magazine of Rotary International in Great Britain & Ireland

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Saluting Rotary's heroes

Rotary
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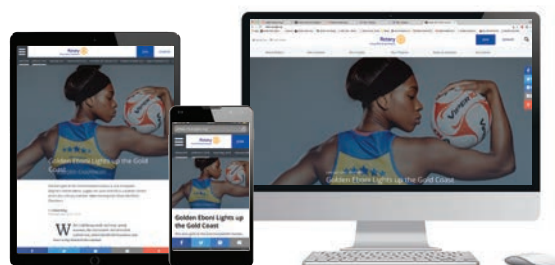
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ROTARY MAGAZINE ONLINE





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CORONAVIRUS

When time stood still

For Rotarians, the COVID-19 pandemic not only changed life, but altered the way Rotary engaged with its communities. Dave King reports.

THIS was a time when life stood still. When a virus, which first took hold in Wuhan, China, at the beginning of the year, paralysed the world, killing more than 333,000 by mid-May, and infecting in excess of 5.1 million people globally.

Suddenly coronavirus, or COVID-19, pressed the pause button on society on an unprecedented scale. It has led to lockdowns, social distancing, huge queues outside supermarkets, families separated, and with massive implications on business and everyday life.

And who knows what the future holds for life beyond COVID-19.

For Rotarians, the pandemic has meant they have had to change. Face-to-face meetings were swiftly abandoned



"When the dust one day settles on this crisis, and life returns to normal, history will show that Rotary was unyielding in its support for its community and remains as relevant as ever."

once Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced the lockdown in March. District conferences, which had been many months in the planning, were suddenly cancelled.

But never was the value of Rotary and its importance as an organisation, which sits at the heart of the community,

underlined more.

Rotary has a history of being at the forefront of delivering humanitarian aid; from the two World Wars which blighted the 20th century, to its never-ending commitment of being among the first on the scene to a range of man-made and natural disasters.

But never has Rotary had to respond on such a global scale as in 2020, and in Great Britain and Ireland, Rotarians rose brilliantly to the challenge, despite the inevitable restrictions on movement.

As many clubs swiftly discovered the ease with which modern technology allowed Rotary meetings to continue, so the word 'Zoom' provided a fresh catalyst to fellowship and provided an impetus to community work.

For smaller clubs, and those unable



to get involved because of Rotarians' own caring duties, and their own age limitations, many chose to donate cash to foodbanks nationwide, notably the Trussell Trust.

In Thames Valley Rotary (District 1090), clubs raised more than £76,000 for foodbanks in the first five weeks of the crisis, through donating money they would have spent at weekly meetings. And that tally has snowballed.

Besides foodbanks, other clubs have designed funds to support specific charities involving the most vulnerable.

However, for hundreds of Rotary clubs, the pandemic provided an opportunity to

strengthen existing ties with community projects they had previously been involved with, as well as creating fresh initiatives.

In north-east England, the region's 56 clubs raised more than £50,000 in the first eight weeks for local charities.

Foodbanks, cancer charities, the NHS, neighbourhood support groups, schools and care homes across the region have benefited as Rotarians have also undertaken dozens of projects to assist the community.

And in Hertfordshire, Ware Rotary took just 12 days to set up the Bricket Wood Rotary Community Corps with 23 volunteers helping the vulnerable with

hospital transport, food deliveries, postal deliveries, and collecting prescriptions from a local pharmacy.

Suddenly, as people who had been placed on furlough because their businesses had shut down, and for those with time on their hands, COVID-19 became an opportunity to volunteer.

More than three quarters of a million subscribed to become NHS volunteers.

When the dust one day settles on this crisis, and life returns to normal, history will show that Rotary was unyielding in its support for its community and remains as relevant as ever. ●

Rotary during 🦠 COVID-19

🦠 **Abergavenny, Monmouthshire:**

Have donated bottled water, squash and fruit to patients in the local hospital as well as donating £7,000 to local and international charities.

🦠 **Barnstable Link, Devon:**

Organised a 'Children's Art Challenge' for pupils to take part in while they were unable to attend school.



🦠 **Cardiff East:**

Have adopted a local foodbank as a club project, with members regularly volunteering and donating both food and money.

🦠 **Colchester:**

The Rotary club has set aside £15,000 to distribute to local good causes who are struggling, including the Colchester Foodbank, Headway Essex, the East Suffolk & North Essex NHS Foundation Trust and Next Chapter, a charity working with victims of domestic violence.

🦠 **Cowdenbeath, Fife:**

Spearhead by the Rotary club, the technical department at Lochgelly High School was able to make 200 visors for use by staff at NHS Fife's key centres.



🦠 **Dumfries & Galloway:**

Co-ordinating fund-raising efforts for the For the Love of Scrubs group. Rotary clubs in the region which has raised more than £10,000 to make hundreds of scrubs for medical staff.

🦠 **Hamble Valley, Hampshire:**

Part of co-ordinated efforts in the area, alongside other community groups and religious organisations. They are sharing key messages about social distancing, registering people as vulnerable and promoting the NHS volunteer scheme.

🦠 **Heart of England:**

Midlands clubs have created a COVID-19 Community Support Fund, providing much-needed financial support to foodbanks across the region, as well as

providing materials and teams to assist with providing scrubs for the NHS.

🦠 **Hounslow, Middlesex:**

Donating food parcels and groceries to the staff at West Middlesex Hospital, as well as supporting the local foodbanks and the Hounslow Open Kitchen which provides free meals to the needy twice a day.

🦠 **Jersey:**

Delivering freshly-cooked meals daily to members of the Good Companions Club, a long-running project of Jersey Rotary, which supports some of the most elderly and vulnerable people on the island.



🦠 **Limerick Thomond, Ireland:**

Supporting a 'Meals on Wheels' scheme by donating dinner boxes to St Munchin's Community Centre, a local not-for-profit organisation. ►

Rotary during COVID-19

Louth, Lincolnshire:

Donated £3,000 to help vulnerable people, the club supplied laptops to children having to self-isolate to continue their education.



Lytham, Lancashire:

As part of Lytham COVID-19 Support, they helped to provide over 100 white clogs for staff in the Critical Care Unit at Blackpool Victoria Hospital. The Rotarians have also been working across the area helping the elderly and vulnerable.

Mendip, Somerset:

Members are helping to answer the telephones for the newly-formed Cheddar Valley Community hub. Formed by local business people to assist the vulnerable who are self-isolating to get vital supplies. Younger volunteers will then go to get the supplies.



Narbeth & Whitland, Carmarthenshire:

Supporting a Cardiff-based company Venn Tailoring and their team of volunteers to make scrubs for NHS workers in Wales.

Nene Valley, Northamptonshire:

Provided 25 microwaves for each ward at Northampton General Hospital for nursing staff to warm meals without leaving their posts.

Newbridge, Ireland:

Has established a volunteer group within the club to deliver prescription medicine to the elderly and those who cannot visit the pharmacy. Also partnering with Dora May's Café and All Seasons Restaurant delivering hot meals to elderly and vulnerable people twice a week.

New Forest, Hampshire:

Ladies from Becton & District and Lymington have been knitting hearts to give to patients to share with separated families at hospitals in Portsmouth, Southampton and Bournemouth.



Northwich Vale Royal, Cheshire:

Volunteering as part of a local coalition of organisations and businesses to offer assistance with supplies, shopping, dog walking, and phone calls to those isolating.

Nottingham:

Seeking daily volunteers to support Sycamore Dining, a charity which makes affordable meals for those living independently. Daily deliveries of hot meals to elderly and vulnerable in the community are essential.

Penicuik, Midlothian:

Has partnered with the Food Fact Friends foodbank, helping to deliver food enough for 4,600 meals in just two weeks.

Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College Interact, Darlington:

Sending hundreds of letters and cards to local elderly people and care home residents who are isolating.

Reading, Berkshire:

Eight Rotary clubs in the town are working together in similar fashion collecting prescriptions, fetching urgent supplies, posting mail, dog walking and providing a friendly phone call to those who are self-isolating. They are also encouraging children to write letters to nursing homes or to an elderly neighbour.

Romney Marsh, Kent:

Involved with setting up of the Romney Marsh Community Support Hub. The group includes a number of charities, including foodbanks, as well as local church leaders, Kent Police, councils, doctors' surgeries, scout groups and community wardens.

Sale, Cheshire:

Community support scheme ensuring elderly residents can get to the shops, as well as for essential doctor and hospital appointments. They have been working in collaboration with taxi operators, Scotts Cars, to subsidise costs, so those in need can travel free of charge.

Tullamore & District, Ireland:

Working together through daily updates on their WhatsApp group, they are involved in food collection and delivery, distribution of hand sanitiser and protective health equipment.

West Wickham, Kent:

Rotarians have completed a mammoth project by donating 173 scrubs bags to NHS workers, and donated 2,200 creams and 4,000 chocolates to front line staff.





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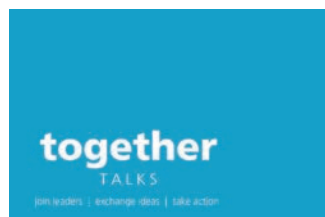




Rotary GB&I President
Donna Wallbank



Our glass remains half full



Some of the projects which Rotary, Rotaract and Interact clubs have been involved with over the COVID-19 lock down

I WANTED to begin by thanking Rotarians and friends of Rotary for all they do, particularly to give thanks for our Rotarians who have passed to higher service, whilst extending our condolences to their families. They ensured Rotary connected the world as they gave service.

But, as we head towards Rotary's future service, let us always remember that the footsteps of those we have lost truly made a difference. The path they trod actively opened opportunities for us to be able to continue, leaving a legacy to our communities' future.

For all of us affected by this loss, let's ensure we support their loved ones and each other - now and in the future.

As we near the Rotary year end, we must recognise that, during COVID-19, Rotary achieved so much locally, nationally and internationally.

We have connected in ways we could not have envisaged. Importantly, Rotary is proving how it is as relevant now, as it was in the past.

It is needed in every community as Rotarians are 'People of Action' and Rotarians have taken action by making a difference to those in need.

Rotarians will continue to create opportunities, which will enable further action after these worrying times.

We are stronger when we work together. That combined strength and joined-up thinking must be continued for the benefit of communities, society and, importantly, for humanity.

Our time now is a time of doing. It is a time of accepting change and of reflection. It is a time to understand what we do is as relevant now as it was in the past. It is a time to reflect on the

importance our commitment has benefitted so many people.

But also our vulnerability may have also made us realise that what we had is all we needed. And, if we had more than we needed, then we are fortunate and our glass always remains half full.

We will be mindful that those who have lost family members, jobs and businesses, both at home and internationally, will be trying to rebuild their lives and that we, as Rotarians, have a continuing part to play in helping them move forward.

Importantly, Rotary is recognised for what it does. We are not a secret organisation, but can now be seen as active, action enablers in all of our communities.

Now is the time to take more action, individually and collectively, to extend the hand of friendship to the amazing volunteers who have been working shoulder to shoulder within our communities. With us and for us.

We each must invite them to be part of our global organisation as they will help us to become even stronger and we are stronger together.

My glass is full of pride as I look at what you have done and achieved. Your commitment to our values has made a difference.

As a Rotarian, you have made other's lives better. Until we meet again, please stay safe.

We need to have positivity in our thinking, to look for the light at the end of the tunnel as the worries and stresses we have lived with will no doubt have had an effect, but our glasses must remain half full and we must promote an optimistic view as we take strength as we move ahead because we are Rotary and as Rotarians we take action, change lives and create a lasting change. ●

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COVID-19

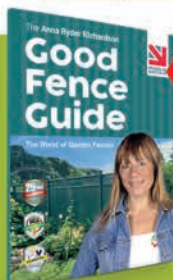
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DAVE KING

From Albert Square to Maidenhead!

Maidenhead Bridge Rotary's COVID-19 Volunteer Response Project received national coverage on BBC1 in May when they were visited by former EastEnders' star, Ross Kemp.



TV STAR Ross Kemp has been in a fair few war zones since his EastEnders' acting days – and last month he found himself in sleepy Maidenhead!

Ross was filming the work of Rotary in the Berkshire town for a new slot which was broadcast on BBC1 in May called '*Ross Kemp: Britain's Volunteer Army*'.

The Maidenhead project featured on the programme on Thursday, May 21st.

Maidenhead Bridge Rotary has formed a COVID-19 Volunteer Response Project, which has been working in the community by putting together food packages and helping the vulnerable in their community.

Rotarian Lisa Hunter was joined by Ross Kemp and a cameraman in her back garden putting together food parcels.

"Ross was very down to earth and keen to show some of the positive stories which have come out of this very negative and uncertain time," she said.

"He was funny and genuinely interested in what we were doing, both in the current crisis, and in Rotary generally."

For the past 10 weeks, the Maidenhead Bridge Rotarians have been helping to feed 23 families in the town who have been

having a tough time financially during the pandemic.

After filming in Lisa's garden, while maintaining social distancing at all times, and wearing protective equipment such as gloves to avoid contamination of the food parcels, Ross went on the road with club President, Costa Franceskides, to deliver a couple of parcels to the families.

The opportunity to appear on national television came about after Maidenhead Town Centre Manager, Steph James, had heard about the work the Rotarians were doing, and suggested to the BBC that they speak to the club.

Lisa said she was nervous about being featured on the programme, but believes the exposure will help to promote the work which Rotary is doing.

"It's great that we can showcase Rotary doing what it does best – helping those in need," she said. "And I am sure it will bring good publicity for Rotary as a whole."

"I am hopeful that the programme will show Rotarians taking action, that women and young people are members too."

"It's hard to believe that we still have to break down the public perception of Rotary, but it's true to say that most people

believe the organisation is just for old men who sit having lunch, raising a bit of money, and not doing an awful lot of work in the community.

"This is, of course, not the case, and if this documentary can help to banish that mind-set, then that's a good outcome to my mind."

Lisa said she wouldn't describe herself as an EastEnders' fan, though she has watched the soap opera for the last 20 years when she gets a chance.

"It was definitely an unusual experience having one of the Mitchell brothers in my back garden and got the neighbours' curtains twitching too," she added.

The Volunteer Response Project in Maidenhead is going well. To date they are supporting 137 households running errands each week, which includes shopping, collecting prescriptions, posting mail, and even walking a dog on a daily basis!

The Rotary club has drawn together a team of 129 volunteers, made up of Rotarians and members of the local community, who have given over 500 hours of volunteering time.

In addition, they are providing 23



TV star Ross Kemp filming the work of Maidenhead Bridge Rotary and their Covid-19 Volunteer Response Project in Lisa Hunter's back garden



“Ross was funny and genuinely interested in what we were doing, both in the current crisis, and in Rotary generally.”

families with weekly food parcels.

Lisa explained: “This involves doing a weekly shop – round the supermarket with three trolley-loads and then a game of Tetris trying to get it all in my car!

“We then create the individual boxes with the help of my nine-year-old, before distributing the parcels with a team of five volunteers covering different areas of the town.

“To try and bring some happiness into the families’ homes, we have also given them Easter eggs, a family card game supported by the Kevin Cruise Foundation and, most recently a Rotary-branded flapjack recipe card, plus the ingredients to make them.

“Some of the photos we’ve had back are great to see.

“ One little girl got her mum up at 7am to make the flapjacks as she was so excited. This is just one way we can make a difference and make this odd time a little nicer and memorable for the right reasons.” ●



Lisa Hunter and daughter Chloe, packing parcels ready for collection



To watch the BBC video visit:
**BBC iPlayer and search for:
Ross Kemp and Britain's Volunteer Army**



TOGETHER, WE

CONNECT

With the challenges we are all facing with COVID-19, face-to-face meetings are temporarily not an option. Rotary clubs are continuing to get together, share ideas and make a difference through online platforms and are looking to welcome new members, volunteers and participants to their local, virtual communities!”

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Rotary
Great Britain & Ireland





Hunger Could
DOUBLE
in 2020

as a result of the COVID-19 crisis

According to the United Nations, the number of people facing hunger could DOUBLE in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. At Rise Against Hunger, we still need to reach 1.7 million people we serve around the world with nutritious meals, grants and sustainable agriculture — that's why we need your help now more than ever! In times of uncertainty, it's even more important to come together to provide critical support for those who need it the most.

Donate or learn more about our COVID-19 Relief & Resilience Plan:
riseagainsthunger.org/covidrelief



Mark Maloney
Rotary President 2019/20

AS COVID-19 reached around the globe, we found ourselves in a world transformed. We have been forced to connect in ways we could never have imagined, testing our ability to adapt.

We have made tough decisions, including canceling club meetings, district conferences, presidential conferences, and, much to our regret, the 2020 Rotary International Convention in Honolulu.

Together, everyone is placing the public good and welfare first, despite the loss of meetings, events, and experiences that had been planned for years.

Our Rotary friends in Hawaii showed us that 'aloha' means mutual regard and affection. It extends warmth and caring with no expectation of anything in return. The spirit of aloha applies wherever in the world we may live.

As Rotarians, Rotaractors, and members of the family of Rotary, we are connected, and as aloha has been defined to me: Our connection to one another is based upon mutual respect for our differences as well as our appreciation for what we have in common. Community is the sum of individuals — individuals who have concern for one another, who care, share, and take responsibility.

As I have witnessed the members of the Rotary community act to care for humanity amid the coronavirus pandemic, I have seen the aloha of Rotary.

We are indeed people of action. Every day, but particularly during this pandemic, the Rotary community has demonstrated its aloha spirit. It is a gift to be shared, and we are each a steward of this gift of Rotary.

I would say that the last part of our shared Rotary year was transformational.

We found new ways to make the lives of others better, new ways to move forward together. And, together, we will continue to grow Rotary so that we may increase our gift of Rotary to our local and global communities.

Gay and I will always remember and treasure our year with you, our shared journey, as Rotary Connects the World! ●



Gary C.K. Huang
Trustee Chair 2019/20

AS I write this message, the world is in the grip of the COVID-19 pandemic. I want to dedicate this column to the ways that Rotary members, as people of action, have helped and can help, and share what we are doing at the Foundation to support you.

Rotary has long been a leader in fighting disease and advancing health. The polio infrastructure that Rotarians have helped build is being used to counter the new coronavirus, in addition to serving countless other health needs. In many countries, polio volunteers have been deployed to address COVID-19.

At the Foundation, the Trustees took swift action to support your work. You can use district grant funds to support local activities, such as purchasing protective medical gear for health workers.

You can repurpose previously planned activities as a COVID-19 response, or reimburse COVID-19 activities dating back to March 15th in your district's 2020/21 district grant.

Due to your generosity to our Foundation, the Trustees were able to quickly approve millions of dollars for the Disaster Response Fund to make a multitude of disaster relief grants immediately available for club and district projects related to COVID-19 relief efforts.

As this Rotary year ends, our fight for the cause of public health is at a critical point. We must overcome COVID-19 and continue to build on the many decades of programmes and projects of our Foundation.

If you have not already done so, please do whatever you can to help by making a year-end contribution to our Foundation. Your gift has never been so important.

When I think of Rotary members truly making a difference in their communities, I remember what the great Laozi once taught us about leadership: "A leader is best when people barely know he exists. ... When the work is done ... they will say: We did it ourselves."

The world depends on us to lead. For your leadership, I will be forever grateful. ●



Tony Black
RI Director 2019/21

HOW are you all coping with the COVID-19 restrictions?

Many of you are in the front lines of our communities' fight against coronavirus.

The work being done by Rotarians is truly impressive.

Others, like me, are in lockdown or restricted movement.

I have been lucky that I have my Rotary work, albeit by email or social media, and my garden to keep me busy.

Whatever position we are in is difficult and we need to be ever mindful of our own health and well-being as well as of those around us.

Staying in contact with your club members is particularly important whether this is by social media or by a simple phone call.

We are now living in a completely different world and there are going to be many changes over the next few years — many for the better.

Such as volunteering, looking at what we are doing to our environment. We need to be the leaders and enhance what we have gained over the last few months.

Our use and understanding of modern technology has been quite spectacular and may well be part of our future. Do we need face to face meetings every week? Do we really need to have a meal?

Maybe virtual meetings and conferences will be the norm for many. Some may attend face to face meetings virtually, a club meeting face to face but bring in a speaker virtually from anywhere in the world.

It is amazing how groups/clubs have got together for virtual coffee mornings, virtual tea parties even virtual wine tasting.

The potential is endless, we just need to open our minds.

These are just some of the thoughts and ideas that all of us need to think about and find out what suits us and our clubs.

This is a brave new world and we should grasp it in both hands and see where it leads us. Please keep up the great work you all do and stay safe. ●

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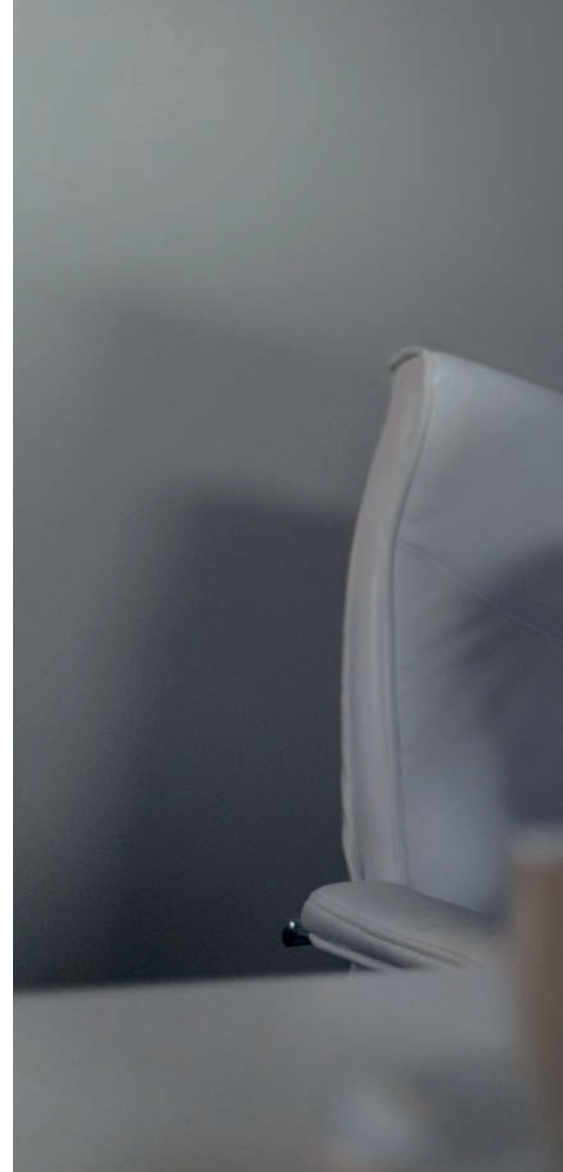
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New horizons after lockdown

With many communities at home and across the world locked down and isolated, will Rotary ever be the same again? Martin Brocklebank founder and secretary of the eClub of Innovation discusses.



UNTIL a few months ago, everything in the world of Rotary was ticking along in the regular way with clubs meeting together over a chicken dinner and members putting the world to rights.

Oh, what a difference a few months make! There are no Rotary club meetings in their usual venue because of the dreaded Covid-19, social distancing and lockdown.

Fellowship has always been an integral part of all Rotarians ethos and this emergency has heaped pressure on us to think and act outside of the box whether we want to or not to retain this fellowship.

Rotarians worldwide discovered they can use technology to keep in touch with surprising ease and yes, pleasure.

Social media is awash with proclamations of discovery.

Finding video conferencing led by Zoom and other platforms has come into play, and the use of email, WhatsApp groups and YouTube / Facebook live

broadcasting is tempting us with new horizons during the crisis.

Opening previously unforeseen opportunities. One meeting online, for example, will enable members to sample new technology and begin a journey of discovery.

Looking back to the early days of the Rotary eClub in East Anglia - now the eClub of Innovation - and remembering being asked three questions after I made presentations to land based clubs.

They went like this:

- 1. How do you have fellowship?**
- 2. How do you do projects?**
- 3. Which 'real' Rotary club do you belong to?**

Back then, the only limit was our imagination. Now we have scores of tales in our storybook.

Like the time a member joined our meeting from his hospital bed or the time we were joined from 46,000 feet in the bar of an Airbus 380 over Iraq by a member

returning to work in Qatar. Anywhere there is a signal, members can attend online to enjoy our meetings.

Our members can access our Zoom video platform anytime to connect and collaborate around the world on projects.

They can share documents and work on them together in real time, thousands of miles apart.

Members regularly hold small impromptu meetings either for fun or talk and share more serious issues.

Recently, our club hosted the Rotary International President, Mark Maloney, for an online meeting and engaged with 100 participants. Ideas are limitless.

Increasingly, Rotarians are adopting technology, and this could revitalise Rotary and bring a new wave of ways of engagement that is attractive and enjoyable.

Post crisis, I think we will see many clubs continue to use the technology and become a hybrid of their former selves.

The club silos that restricted



collaborating with each other will fade as we realise that we can connect easily with other clubs and Rotarians.

I describe 'eRotary' as like the introduction of the microwave.

It's like this:

- 1. 'There were those that got it and hailed that it would replace the cooker in every kitchen.'**
- 2. 'There were those that said it would never take off!'**
- 3. The other group simply just did not understand it and were flummoxed by it all.**

My take is that it will be like the evolution of the microwave in that you see it in many people's kitchens today as an integral part of family life. We see this evolving now in Rotary.

Our eClub of Innovation was chartered in May 2014 with a global membership of 33 aged between 20 and 80-years-old, and mixed gender.

It was a journey of discovery as we

found ourselves on untrodden ground.

We sought guidance from other eClubs, most were helpful, giving us ideas on how best to move forward.

Initially, it was the blind leading the blind, but we developed our own identity and realised that as an eClub we could do things differently unless there was a compelling reason to follow tradition.

Now, we have a clearer idea of where we are heading. We have a living document called 'Our Evolving Plan' which helps us every year to focus on how we develop, and members can contribute to this document.

We use more than just Zoom to run our club; we use several online tools, and through experience we developed a way of working and deciding on how we shape our club.

See our video at:

[facebook.com/rotaryclubofinnovation](https://www.facebook.com/rotaryclubofinnovation)

We have an online space called Workplace Intranet where members can share ideas, chat and plan actions, anytime, anywhere. This allows us to

keep in touch with each other anytime, anywhere when we want.

Our ethos is all about connecting, communicating and collaborating globally to achieve the Rotary values of friendship and service.

This has proved invaluable and helpful bringing the Rotary world and beyond into our living rooms, studies, kitchens or wherever we choose to connect.

Is this crisis changing Rotary for the better? We now know that whatever is thrown at us we can stay connected for the good we create. Just try it, and it might change your life for the better.

We are the eClub of Innovation.

www.rotaryclub.org.uk ●



[LAURA WILLCOX]



Rotary Heroes

We shine a light on some of our amazing Rotary members, working hard as key workers, who are going the extra mile to support us all as we battle the COVID-19.



Working together



Richard & Nicky 
Rackham

Assistant Director Governance and Resilience NHS / Specialist Nurse in Organ Donation



RICHARD and Nicky Rackham are both key NHS workers from Essex who have witnessed the challenges and changes our health care system is facing during the coronavirus pandemic.

Richard was a scientist in the NHS working in diagnostic laboratories before moving into management..

As the Assistant Director for Governance and Resilience he helped lead the organisation on Brexit and the challenges that it brought.

But today Richard is faced with a new challenge, a challenge on how to tackle coronavirus.

As the NHS changes how it operates in order to cope with an increased demand in services, Richard has taken on a temporary role.

He is now the Pandemic Director for NHS Blood and Transplant, leading the response to coronavirus and ensuring that the healthcare system continues to be supplied with blood, organs and tissue cells.

Before the outbreak of COVID-19, Richard would travel up and down the country and across Europe working with other blood services. However, he now works from home to lead the response on NHS Blood and Transplant, attending online meetings and phone calls.

For Nicky, the changes coronavirus

"Both Richard and Nicky are working around the clock, working long hours, to support the NHS and the public, in unfamiliar circumstances."

has brought to the healthcare system have affected her job role significantly.

The training given to organ donation nurses is huge.

Not only are they speaking with people at possibly the most awful time of their lives - the death of a loved one - they also need to ensure the process of testing, retrieving, offering and transporting the organs is done so the best use is made out of this gift of life to those who receive these organs.

However, as coronavirus spreads, hospitals are moving some staff into other departments which are likely to be put under more strain than most, treating people with severe symptoms.

Nicky has been moved and is now working on an ITU ward directly with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 patients.

Like many health professionals, what Nicky is most concerned about is the personal protective equipment provided

to health care workers. Nicky is working with patients with severe symptoms and is doing all she can to ensure she does not bring the virus home to her family.

Both Richard and Nicky are working around the clock, working long hours, to support the NHS and the public, in unfamiliar circumstances.


The coronavirus has not just affected Richard and Nicky's professional lives, but also their personal lives. They have two sons living at home aged 12 and 17.

They are thankful that their sons are old enough to mainly look after themselves and understand why they are working such long hours.

Like many others in the healthcare profession, the main message they want to share is: 'stay at home'. ●

Rotary  Billericay Mayflower & Billericay Town



Rotary  **Maghull & Aughton**

David Hartley

Postmaster

DAVID Hartley is the owner of a post office in Southport Merseyside. On a daily basis David, along with his staff at the post-office have a lot of interaction with the community, handling their parcels, dealing with money and transactions.

When coronavirus restrictions and guidance came into place, David understood he needed to provide staff with gloves and sanitiser to help keep themselves safe. However, this simple task proved difficult. Demand for disposable gloves and hand sanitiser rocketed once the public realised the seriousness of the coronavirus threat.

David is continually disinfecting any surfaces which are commonly used to keep the public who come into the post office and the staff as safe as possible.

The number of customers in the post office has reduced dramatically since social restrictions were put in place by the government. This concerns David as he still needs to pay staff and bills.

With the uncertainty of everything coronavirus brings, it is difficult to understand how long it will affect the sales, and income for David. However, he is determined to continue running the post office for as long as possible. ●

Alan Armes

Coastguard Officer

ALAN is no stranger to working under difficult circumstances. He has been a volunteer with Her Majesty's Coastguard based in South Queensferry, west of Edinburgh, for almost 16 years. The team are trained in various skills and

Natascia Santoro

Senior Physiotherapist

NATASCIA is from Argentina and moved to London two years ago. For the past year she has been working as a Senior Physiotherapist for the NHS at Newham University Hospital in east London, where she works with outpatients in their recovery.

"I believe that together we are strong and will defeat the coronavirus, and everything that comes."

At the beginning of March, Natascia along with others in her team took part in inductions and training in order for them to be better equipped to help wherever they may be needed during the coronavirus crisis.

Another change that affected Natascia's day-to-day practice, was how sessions with patients were conducted.

Sessions were no longer face-to-face and had to be done over the phone. This allowed patients to still get the support and guidance required, but avoiding face to face contact.

Natascia is now working alongside




doctors and nurses, helping them with ventilation and mobility of the patients.

This change has been a challenge for Natascia after many years in physiotherapy, working with inpatients is very different.

Natascia added "Even in this hard situation, I am very proud to be part of the NHS, where solidarity, respect, teamwork and faith are predominate.

"I believe that together we are strong and will defeat the coronavirus, and everything that comes." ●

Rotary  **Elstree and Borehamwood**

techniques for an emergency, such as advanced first aid, searching for missing or vulnerable people and learning techniques to help with rescues in various and challenging situations.


Alan is part of a team of 12 who regularly assist police in searching for missing persons and being called out to emergency situations.

The work can often be high pressured, however, COVID-19 adds an extra risk to an already challenging job.

Since the outbreak of coronavirus, Alan along with other team members have attended several calls. The biggest challenge has been cross-contamination from casualties infecting the team and causing the whole station to close and

self-isolate. However, coastguards are an emergency service, so they still attend when required, more mindful of cross contamination, and they are doing all they can to avoid this. ●



Rotary  **South Queensferry**



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AS CORONAVIRUS SPREADS, SHELTER SAVES LIVES

In a few short weeks, the safety of home has become more important for all of us. But what hope do you have of protecting your family from coronavirus in a crowded refugee camp? Or washing your hands without clean water?

In the poorest countries of the world – many also shouldering the burden of disaster or conflict – there are fewer medical facilities, and countless families without proper homes to isolate in, living in incredibly crowded conditions.

ShelterBox is Rotary's partner in disaster relief, providing emergency shelter and household items to families after disaster. Their aid is vital in slowing the spread of coronavirus, protecting families and giving them a private space to call home.

It's 20 years since one Rotary club in Cornwall created ShelterBox, a humanitarian organisation that has now supported more than 1.5M people. They could not have

known the challenges facing our world in 2020 – but they founded an organisation of action, ready to respond.

ShelterBox teams are well accustomed to adapting quickly when a new disaster hits – communicating remotely and with different languages and cultures, working to resolve complex problems, and getting aid on the move across borders and barriers.

Support from Rotarians worldwide is already making a difference in this crisis. Families fleeing conflict in Syria have received shelter materials, plus basins and soap to wash their hands. Aid is on its way to survivors of Cyclone Harold in Vanuatu, and the Taal volcano eruption, which will move families out of crowded, shared accommodation. And a hospital in the Philippines now has more triage and treatment space, created from ShelterBox tarpaulins.

Today, you can provide shelter for more people during this crisis. Donate or find out more at www.shelterbox.org/donatecovid19

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Teaching one click at a time



Carolyn Hallett 
Teacher

CAROLYN has been a teacher for four decades, and has seen a few changes and crises in her time, but nothing like the changes coronavirus has forced upon the education system.

For the past 27 years, Carolyn from Exmouth in Devon, has been a special education teacher working with students who are blind or partially sighted, and also those with medical needs which prevents them going to school.

Until now Carolyn has resisted teaching online as many of her students have no contact with the outside world.

Many suffer with anxiety, depression or a medical condition which keeps them housebound. Therefore, for them to make contact with someone outside their family, this can be the first step to return to a more normal social life.

However, with COVID-19, Carolyn has had to change her delivery method to an online approach, ensuring her students still got an education, but keeping to social distancing measures.

So while the majority of students are staying home, maybe with a learning pack or links to online platforms, Carolyn's students are having lessons as usual, but via their computers.

Carolyn explained: "This is crucial for them to feel part of a system that cares, acknowledges their needs and is prepared to act quickly to meet them."

Changing to an online approach was daunting at first. However, the students took to the change well, and Carolyn,



"However, with the pandemic knocking on our door, Carolyn had to change her delivery method to an online approach, ensuring her students still get an education, but keeping to social distancing measures."

along with the students, were able to adapt to the new way of learning quickly.

Carolyn added: "I had a somewhat surreal experience of talking to a student on my laptop, and waiting for a typed response – some anxious students don't like microphones."

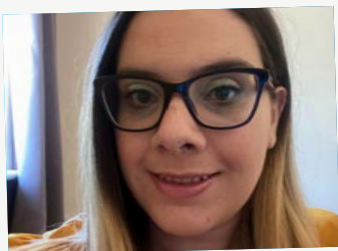
Carolyn has found the biggest challenge is keeping the year 11 students focussed. Their GCSE exams have been cancelled, however, she has been asked to provide a proposed grade, and evidence to back it up.

The Devon-based teacher pointed out how her colleagues who work in mainstream education, have also spent hours creating revision packs and doing everything they can to help their

students and providing essential work.

Senior staff members are also working on whatever plans they can in these uncertain times for returning to school and normality, as well as the huge task of catching children up with the education they have missed out on.

All the while, she is continuing the mission that all teachers have: to enable people to have the best chance to thrive and succeed, whatever the circumstances. ●



Rotary  Brynmawr

Eirian Teague

Mental health counsellor



SINCE 2013, Eirian is a mental health counsellor in south Wales for young people and adults. The coronavirus has had significant effects on mental health across the country and is the biggest national crisis in both mental and physical health Eirian has ever seen.

Prior to the pandemic, Eirian was used to working with her patients face to face. However, due to social distancing, she has had to adapt her practice to online contact via Zoom calls with her patients, and finding creative ways to keep them engaged. Although it has been a challenging, the online contact has proved to be positive for allowing engagement and support to continue.

"You aren't stuck at home, you are safe at home."

Eirian has witnessed people experiencing increased anxiety with social restrictions, plus the uncertainty about what the future may hold.

Seeing friends, family, grandchildren, is a simple pleasure which gives people joy. Not being able to see those you care about most can be a real struggle.

Eirian said: "It is really important to keep as much as your usual routine as possible. Stay in touch with your relatives and friends to help lift your spirits and ensure they are safe and healthy."

She pointed out how a lot of dramatic language has been used to discuss the pandemic, and the language we use can contribute to raised anxiety.

Eirian wants to encourage people to modify their language to help reduce feelings of anxiety and panic "You aren't stuck at home, you are safe at home." ●

John Finnerty



Command and Control Room
Co-Ordinator at a Garda Station

JOHNNY works at the Henry Street Garda Station in Limerick City, Ireland, taking calls from the public, and dispatching units to deal with the situations accordingly.


In March, the Irish Government introduced public health measures and restrictions on movement and social interactions. This change led to the police changing how it runs, in order to serve the new way the community is operating.

Many front line officers were tasked with policing new public health measures, ensuring communities were keeping within the new guidelines.

John was still being flooded with calls, however, the nature of them had changed. Rather than people calling to report crimes, he found many calls were from concerned citizens enquiring about the new public health measures, as well as many elderly people who were looking for advice and help.

John said: "Many people just want to be reassured, so a good listening ear is



Rotary  Limerick Thomond

very important."

He also added: "In Limerick we have been very proactive in providing assistance to the elderly and vulnerable.

"The police have formulated a COVID-19 community response team, bringing together 300 volunteers to help support people within the community with basic requirements such as collecting prescriptions and food shopping."

Now, when John gets a call from an elderly or vulnerable person, he can refer them to the community response team knowing they will get the assistance they need. ●

Kelly Blankley



Service Manager,
supporting homeless

KELLY has been working in the homeless sector since 2008, and with Signposts in Luton, a charity supporting the homeless since 2010.

Since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, the homeless have naturally been anxious and worried about the impact this will have on their lives.

A high percentage of their clients have underlying physical health conditions, meaning they could potentially experience more severe symptoms if they become ill.

Kelly explained that for clients who are sleeping on the streets of Luton, the situation was even more dire.

Rough sleepers lack hygiene facilities, so advice about washing your hands, and staying at home was impossible for them

to follow - they have no home.

Kelly, along with the rest of the team at Signposts have been working with other organisations and the authorities, to find homeless a place to stay. They were able to get 26 rough sleepers off the streets and into hotel rooms and they continue supporting clients by bringing them food, and ensuring their health needs are met.

Kelly added "I have been overwhelmed by our staff, clients' and trustees' response to the pandemic. I am proud to be a part of this incredible team." ●



Rotary  Luton

Team doctor



Michael & Katalin Fernando

Consultant Paediatrician, Associate Medical Director / Consultant in Emergency Medicine, Trust Lead for Trauma Services, Director of Medical Education

MICHAEL and Katalin have both worked at Yeovil Hospital in Somerset for 10 years. The challenges which COVID-19 has forced upon the NHS healthcare systems have seen their job roles change and the pressure increase dramatically.

Michael, a consultant paediatrician explained: "We are doing our best to keep people safe and have changed the way we work to ensure this."

"Many clinics which would usually be face-to-face meetings are now done via telephone. The public are only advised to go to the hospital if it is needed."

This helps to reduce the pressure in the hospital in order for the departments to work together more effectively and get on top of coronavirus.

Katalin was previously a doctor in the Hungarian Armed Forces. She has seen active service in Afghanistan, Iraq and Kosovo, working in a number of critical and high pressure situations previously, making her well prepared to deal with the pressures of the COVID-19 crisis.

She now works closely with the emergency department, a department which is the frontline in this battle against coronavirus.

Michael explained the main areas of the hospital under the most increased



"Katalin was previously a doctor in the Hungarian Armed Forces. She has seen active service in Afghanistan, Iraq and Kosovo, working in a number of critical and high pressure situations, making her well prepared to deal with the pressures of the COVID-19 crisis."

pressure are the Emergency Medicine Department and Adult Intensive Care.

One of the most significant challenges the emergency team will face is maintaining an appropriate workforce. Katalin, along with the rest of the team, are looking after patients with severe coronavirus symptoms, putting themselves at risk on a daily basis, however, if they begin to show signs of coronavirus they have to self-isolate.

This could lead to the emergency department being under-staffed when they are under the most pressure to perform efficiently, in order to manage to coronavirus situation.

However, everyone in Yeovil Hospital has been working together to ensure the emergency department is prepared to handle a significant increase in patients. Nurses and doctors from other

departments are being trained to work in the emergency department, to support the team, and step in wherever necessary.

Michael added: "A number of the paediatric team have undertaken additional training to ensure we can offer our colleagues in Adult Intensive Care additional practical support."

Fortunately children tend to be less seriously affected than adults with COVID-19. Michael and Katalin have a four-year-old daughter and are grateful to the nursery supporting them with childcare.

Katalin, along with Michael, are both amazed at the level of support being shown to key workers by the public, and are grateful for all the support. ●

Rotary  Yeovil

Belinda Artingstoll

Special Features Producer
for BBC Radio Cumbria



FOR Belinda, it became clear during March that her role as a special features producer would change because of COVID-19. People were starting to cancel or postpone projects she was working on, and her current role wasn't suitable for the changes happening within the community.

Belinda is used to being at the heart of many community activities and projects, so it was fitting that in light of coronavirus she set up an 'information desk' to report on pandemic.

Working from home, she began to collate information from a variety of sources for broadcast on BBC Radio Cumbria, with useful information and advice for those who may be struggling during the isolation period.

Belinda added: "Across each day I also try to include information in the bulletins about ways to look after your mental health, how to protect yourself against the virus, help for local businesses and highlight any virus-related scams which might be doing the rounds."

The toughest thing about this change has been missing the daily face to face contact she had with people in the community. Working from home and spending hours on her laptop for information is a huge change from her usual job, however, she continues to support her community with information. ●



Rotary  Carlisle Castle



David Jenner

GP partner



DAVID has been a partner at the College Surgery in Cullompton, Devon, which provides service to 17,000 patients, for 30 years.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, David along with other members of staff, increased their hours to help support one another and the community.

There has been an increase in patients on the intensive care unit at the local hospital, and a predicated surge of cases

across the UK, therefore David and the team at the GP surgery have created a clinic for suspected COVID-19 cases to support the local hospital and community.

Like many GP surgeries across the country, face-to-face consultations have been cancelled, and patients speak to doctors and nurses over the phone to decide what the best course of action for them is.

"In most consultations I am asked how I am before I can ask that of them".

Another challenge which David, along with many health care workers face, is the concern over the standard of personal, protective equipment provided, as they are expected to be in contact with COVID-19 patients with just gloves, a plastic apron and a surgical mask.

Although these are challenging times, David has been overwhelmed with how much patients have shown compassion for him. He added: "In most consultations, I am asked how I am before I can ask that of them." ●

Rotary  Exe Valley

Barry Woods

Warehouse manager



WHEN coronavirus first became a threat, it caused a sudden increase in sales of certain products as consumers began panic buying and stocking up on items. This took a strain on supermarkets, and supply chains, to try and keep up with demand.


For Barry, a Co-op warehouse manager in Wincanton, Somerset, the pandemic, particularly the first few weeks, was incredibly stressful and demanding.

Some weeks Barry would be sending the same amount of stock to stores as they would expect to send over the Christmas period.

The warehouse continues to operate, however, social distancing measures have

been put in place to try and protect staff as much as possible. Markings have been placed throughout the warehouse to help remind colleagues of the social distancing policies. ●



Rotary  E-Club, District 1070

Smiles all round



Cheryl Law

Nursery owner



CHERYL is the owner of two successful nurseries for babies in Buckinghamshire from three-months-old, to children five years of age. She employs 36 dedicated staff members including nursery practitioners, chefs and housekeepers who all play their part to help look after 65-80 children per day between the two sites.

With one nursery close to a hospital, Cheryl wanted to keep the site open for key workers children and offer the facility to others. However, as parents became more aware about the need to stay home, numbers reduced until the nursery was only looking after three children in one day. Sadly, this was not sustainable and Cheryl took the tough decision to close the nursery until further notice.

However, the second nursery still remains open and continues to care for the children of front line workers.

Cheryl explained: "Many of our parents are front line operatives - nurses, paramedics, doctors and police."

When Cheryl announced they would stay open, almost every member of staff said they wanted to carry on working.

She added: "You see we are the constant foundation that these children have in a scary unsure emotional world. Mum or dad or both working very long hours. They can't see their grandparents, or aunts, uncles, cousins, or friends."

Cheryl explained that from a financial point of view, it would have been best to shut both nurseries. However, for



"When Cheryl announced this branch would stay open, just about every member of staff said they wanted to carry on working."

Cheryl and the rest of the nursery team, supporting the parents who are key workers with child care is far more important.

Many of the parents are doing incredibly exhausting jobs, but they can do it knowing that their children are safe and loved and well looked after, and that the children can carry on being children, laughing and having fun - that's what children should be doing.

Cheryl and the rest of the staff are all working together, and supporting one another to ensure they can continue to keep the nursery open, and the children they care for safe.

She acted as 'head chef' along with others also stepping in, when a member of staff had to self-isolate.

Cheryl hasn't forgotten about the children who usually attend the nursery, but are staying at home.


She has set up a virtual nursery through Zoom, YouTube and FaceTime Live. She offers interactive activities for the family to join in, to help parents who are at home with their children.

As well as ensuring the children in her area are cared for, if parents have to go to work, Cheryl has also signed up to be an NHS COVID-19 volunteer to help care for others in her community.

Cheryl has also set up a GoFundMe page to help raise money to support key workers to say thank you for all the work they continue to do. ●

Rotary  **Wendover & District**



Rotary  E-Club, District 1070

Angela Woods

**Special Education
Needs Co-ordinator**

ANGELA works at Kingsthorpe Grove Primary School in Northampton. Due to the coronavirus risk, the government has closed schools up and down the country, and put social distancing measures in place.

However, the schools still operate to help look after the children of key workers, and vulnerable children. The teaching staff now work on a rota to ensure the minimum amount of people are in the school at one time.

Angela's main concern is for the children who are isolating at home. She said: "We are making weekly phone calls to them, but for some children this will be a very stressful and unsafe time."

She has created a YouTube channel which teachers are using to share and support children who are learning from home. Although education is important, for many families this time together is rare.

Angela added: "I just hope that parents are using this time to do things they don't normally do with their children - bake, garden, play, imagine and just to have fun." ●

Carol Cadwallader

Supermarket shop worker



FOR many years Carol was a manager of a public house and restaurant, and joined Tesco in Greater Manchester to work in their café once she had retired.

Since social distancing was put into place, the café closed, and Carol volunteered to work on the shop floor to

Ian Levy

**Member of Parliament
for Blyth Valley**



IAN was elected to be the Member of Parliament in December 2019, and since then has been thrown in the deep end, helping to support his communities during the coronavirus pandemic.

Ian has been working hard to ensure everyone in the Blyth Valley region is being supported, particularly those who have had to self-isolate.

He said: "The government and Northumberland County Council have done a great job, and have risen to this challenge but I have also launched Blyth Valley Together."

Blyth Valley Together is linking local groups who are supporting their community through coronavirus together, so they can combine their resources and help more people. Food parcels have been delivered to groups across Blyth Valley for distribution to local residents who need support.

Ian explained: "This project has made such a difference with new friendships being formed and people of all ages getting involved. The whole community has pulled together."

Ian is determined to do all he can



to support not only his community, but his family. As a husband and father-of-two, he expresses concern as to how the pandemic could affect those closest to him. He continues to work hard and find ways to support Blyth Valley and all the residents in the community. ●

Rotary  Blyth

help support the other staff members.

When the public became more aware of the seriousness of coronavirus, stockpiling became an issue. People were buying excess of certain products, causing a shortage in supply. In order to overcome this, many supermarkets began to ration products, to try and ensure everyone can get the products they need. Carol said: "I was extremely glad when Tesco brought in the rationing of products although it did not go down well with some of the customers."

Carol said the majority of the customers are lovely and appreciative of all the hard work supermarkets and staff are doing, with many thanking them.

However, since working on the tills over the lockdown period, Carol along with other staff members have been verbally abused by customers who did not take well

to the rationing policies when they were first put in place.

As people get used to the new rules in place, Carol says the days are a little easier, as customers become more understanding as to why these measures are for the good of everyone. ●



Rotary  Heywood

THE ROTARY SOCIAL

What is being watched, posted, liked, shared and tweeted around Rotary, COVID-19 and more in the world of social media.



Twitter | Facebook | YouTube | Instagram



PEOPLE OF ACTION

When there is a problem, Rotary asks "how can we help?" Rotary clubs across the UK and Ireland have mobilised to support their communities during COVID-19. Head to [@RotaryGBI](#) on Twitter and check out our thread of over 100 club projects. Or search [#RotaryResponds](#) to see how clubs around the world are rallying to give support.



Twitter | Facebook | YouTube | Instagram



WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER

During lockdown, Rotary GB&I launched a brand new online series of events called [togetherTalks](#). The online sessions with leading speakers give viewers the chance to interact and engage with guests they wouldn't ordinarily encounter from the comfort of their own home. Head to our [YouTube channel](#) to catch up with the guests so far.



Twitter | Facebook | YouTube | Instagram



SNAIL MAIL SUNSHINE

A day rarely goes by when Queen Elizabeth Interact Club in Darlington aren't posting something positive on their Twitter account. They are [@QEInteractClub](#) - a must follow! They've sent over 1,000 cards to isolated elderly people in their community for their Snail Mail Sunshine project. Amazing!



Twitter | Facebook | YouTube | Instagram



INSPIRING YOUNG PEOPLE

2020 has seen another group of inspiring young people win Rotary Young Citizen Awards, all of whom were interviewed live on BBC News! Catch up on those interviews and hear their inspiring stories on our [YouTube channel](#).



Twitter | Facebook | YouTube | Instagram



#HEALTHYATHOME

The World Health Organization has been at the centre of the coronavirus response, and their [Instagram](#) account, [@WHO](#), is full of important tips on staying healthy. From how to prepare food, to being active at home, or supporting a child with autism.



Twitter | Facebook | YouTube | Instagram



HOME HEROES

The 2.6 Challenge has taken the nation by storm, encouraging you to safely fundraise in weird and wonderful ways to boost the income of the country's charities. Search [#TwoPointSixChallenge](#) on Twitter to see how people have been getting on!





Twitter | Facebook | YouTube | Instagram



POLIO INFRASTRUCTURE TACKLING COVID-19

Fighting #COVID19 requires worldwide solidarity. Check out the [@EndPolioNow](#) Twitter account to see how and why the polio programme is committed to lending its tools, workforce and surveillance network to help countries respond.



Twitter | Facebook | YouTube | Instagram



SALUTING CAPTAIN TOM

You'll have all seen 100-year-old war veteran's record breaking fundraising, but you can also give him a follow on Twitter, [@CaptainTomMoore](#), which at the time of writing has over 300,000 followers! He has captured our hearts during lockdown!



Twitter | Facebook | YouTube | Instagram



#NHSHEROES

The job that all key workers are doing to keep the country moving is exceptional, including those in our hospitals, care homes and other healthcare settings. Tweet #NHSHeroes to show your support for our frontline health workers!



Twitter | Facebook | YouTube | Instagram



2020 CONVENTION GOES VIRTUAL

This year's Rotary International Convention is going virtual, from 20th - 26th June! Be sure to visit the RI Convention website, [riconvention.org](#) or find our more on the Events section of [Rotary International's Facebook page](#) to find out what's on.



Twitter | Facebook | YouTube | Instagram



#ROTARYRESPONDS TELETHON

Over 65,000 viewers worldwide tuned in to the [#RotaryResponds](#) Telethon, which raised over \$525,000, enough to fund 21 grants toward COVID-19 response efforts. Head to the video section of [Rotary International's Facebook page](#) to catch up and watch highlights from Rotary clubs around the world.



Twitter | Facebook | YouTube | Instagram



STAY IN THE LOOP

As well as the Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland social media pages, you can also follow the Rotary Magazine Editor, Dave King, on Twitter and Facebook, where you'll find loads of content from clubs around the UK and Ireland. Go to [@RotaryEditor](#) to give Dave a follow!

together

TALKS

THIS JUNE | EVERY TUESDAY | AT 19:05

DATE: 02 | JUNE

TONY HAWKS

COMEDIAN &
BROADCASTER (CHILD AID)

DATE: 09 | JUNE

SANJ SRIKANTHAN

CEO, SHELTERBOX

DATE: 16 | JUNE

**HEIDI EGGLETON
& LUKE ADDISON**

ROTARACT

DATE: 23 | JUNE

ROY SPENCER

CONSCIOUS CAPITALISM

DATE: 30 | JUNE

SYLVIA WHITLOCK

WOMEN IN ROTARY

To register for togetherTalks visit:
www.rotarygbi.org/togethertalks

Subscribe to the Rotary GB&I YouTube channel
for notifications of all upcoming togetherTalks

Watch previous shows on demand:
www.youtube.com/RotaryInternationalinGreatBritainIreland

join leaders | exchange ideas | take action

You Tube
LIVESTREAM



Rotary: the original social network

Nicki Scott, Rotary International Director from 2021, reflects on the togetherTalks, which she co-hosts online each Tuesday.

NEVER let a good crisis go to waste. Winston Churchill famously spoke these words as he worked towards forming the United Nations after the Second World War - and for which Rotary was one of the founding fathers. Our third togetherTalks' guest, Michael McQueen, reminded us of this quote.

Michael, the Sydney-based social researcher, professional speaker and best-selling author, speaks globally to organisations about how to stay relevant, and this is something which we all want for Rotary too.

He sees the togetherTalks platform as a great example of action being taken quickly towards this end goal. An opportunity born out of us all moving towards virtual platforms to connect.

There was nothing to say that we could not have done this sooner, but it took COVID-19 to see how we could be communicating differently - not only with Rotarians, but also with non-Rotarians too.

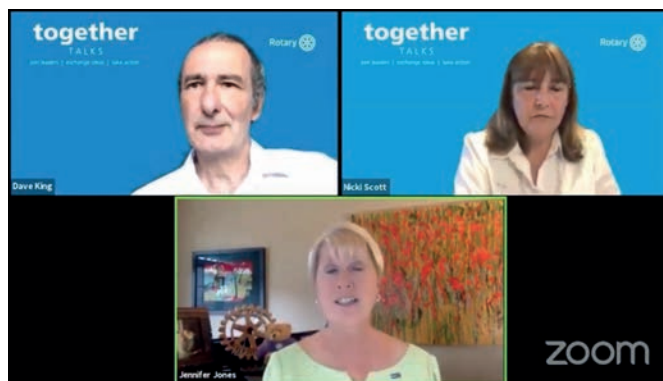


"Now is the time for accelerated change which will define Rotary and enhance its relevance for a new generation. We need to be riding that wave of momentum now."

We know of at least 750,000 self-identified new volunteers emerging in support of the NHS and those who are in need in our communities. These are potential Rotarians - they just don't know it yet! And this was the genesis of the togetherTalks.

Something new, something innovative, live-streamed each week, featuring a variety of speakers from across the globe, both inside and outside of Rotary.

We didn't want it to be just another Zoom session. We wanted togetherTalks to be sharp, fast-paced with a professional edge, and driven by audience questions. We wanted quality speakers too, drawn from a variety of quarters.



So, very quickly, I pulled together a team including Dave King, editor of *Rotary* magazine from Elthorne-Hillingdon Rotary in Middlesex, Phil Dyer from Prescot Rotary on Merseyside, Vicky O'Farrell from Haywards Heath Rotary in West Sussex, James Anderton from Macclesfield Castle Rotary, and Jennifer Allen, publisher of *Rotary* magazine.

Former Rotary International Vice President, Jennifer Jones, kicked off the first togetherTalks on May 5th, with a live interview from Ontario, Canada. We've had some great speakers already including Holger Knaack, the incoming Rotary President.

Visitors sign up to each Tuesday evening talk via Eventbrite where they can post questions, and watch the 40-minute show live, from either a front seat in the Zoom room, or via YouTube.

All of the shows are uploaded straight away onto the Rotary in Great Britain & Ireland YouTube channel.

This is all about promoting Rotary, but in a subliminal way. togetherTalks seeks to enhance Rotary's relevance, raise awareness of key contemporary issues, and reach a wider audience, beyond Rotary, with the goal of driving membership.

Now is the time for accelerated change which will define Rotary and enhance its relevance for a new generation. We need to be riding that wave of momentum now.

The togetherTalks provides a platform for Rotary to return to the essence of its roots - as the ethical, original social network. ●



Where there's a Will, there's a way

Sailor Will Sears from Dorset is the winner of the first Rotary Young Citizen Sporting Hero Award.

THIRTEEN-year-old Will Sears is a remarkable teenager who has challenged the status quo and taken part in sailing championships across the world despite his disability, competing in the same class as athletes without his medical condition.

And Will, who was nominated by Christchurch Rotary in Dorset, is the first winner of the new Rotary Young Citizen Sporting Hero Award.

Will has been a keen sailor since the age of 10 but, last April, he suffered a haemorrhagic stroke. He was diagnosed with cavernous malformations in his brain, two of which had haemorrhaged and as the result of the damage, now has epilepsy.

Suddenly his world was turned upside down.

Before his stroke, Bournemouth-based Will was sailing every week, nationally and internationally. He was devastated to be told by medical professionals that his sailing

was over.

Determined not to let his disability define him, Will was resolute in taking his place at both the National Championships in Essex and World Championships in Sweden. No easy task!

First, he had to convince the National Sailing Committee that he was able and safe before tackling the world organisation.

With the help of his Roald Dahl nurse and his sailing club, the national committee agreed to allow him to compete under strict conditions. There isn't any dispensation for disability in the championships, so Will sailed as an equal with his peers.

The national championships weren't without difficulty. Will suffered a seizure on the water and was medically retired for one of the two days. Determined as ever, he went back out on the water, achieving fifth place in the regatta fleet. The RS National Association awarded Will the Class Trophy for his endeavour and determination.

As for the World Championships in Sweden, Will's participation was only agreed at the last minute after some high level negotiations between the International Association and the UK sailing and medical team.

When he arrived however, Will was surprised to have been selected to be the UK squad flag bearer paraded at the opening event.

Again, there is no recognition for disability in junior competitive sailing. Will started well but had a seizure on the second day and was medically retired.

Determined not to let his disability win, the Dorset youngster returned to the water on the final day and managed some epic sailing, bringing his final score back up to 44th in the world.

Will has been able to continue to enjoy his sailing and has now returned to Sea Scouts, even teaching young Scouts to sail as an Assistant Coach.

Will has become a role-model helping others in his school and beyond.

By his example, and by the precedents he has set, he has opened the doors for many other young people suffering from epilepsy and similar conditions. ●

 August's issue of Rotary magazine will feature more winners of the Rotary Young Citizens Award. For a full list of winners, visit: www.rotarygbi.org

Give peace a chance

Iqra Khan, nominated by Bradford Rotary, is this year's Rotary Young Citizen Peacemaker Award winner.

GROWING up in Bradford has been difficult for 16-year-old Iqra Khan. When she was a child, her family suffered a racist attack and racial abuse.

"That was the defining moment in my life and I have always wanted to be at the helm of the fight to bring my community together," reflected Iqra.

"I did not want to be known as the British Pakistani girl in the hijab.

"I wanted to be known as the girl who fought for others."

Iqra is a founding member of Team Theology set up in her school, Bradford Academy, as a faith discussion group.

She began advocating for a group that was more about action rather than discussion, one which was more about positive change rather than conceptual change.

Iqra organised and led whole year group assemblies on the true meaning of Ramadan. Iqra did not stop there.

She took Team Theology to a community Iftar evening, presenting to

parents and religious leaders.

She also contacted the local interfaith group to deliver a message of peace at the local cathedral. Iqra looked at key readings from all faiths and taught about the shared truth of peace.

Iqra works with her local community and has trained as a ju-jitsu coach.

She said she never wants any young person to feel vulnerable and isolated. What she has learnt from Team Theology is that peace can only come once everyone has a shared vision.

She coaches some of the most vulnerable young people in Bradford, giving them a sense and purpose.

As the first Muslim Pakistani coach at her school, Iqra has inspired a number of local residents who have also taken to ju-jitsu training.

The local group is now made up of a number of females.

Iqra made the front page of the school newspaper with her passion and message for peace.

PE teacher, Warren Clarke, said: "Iqra is not only an amazing athlete. She

is an amazing person and her exceptional attitude drives others forward.

"She is unique. Her personal message for bringing communities together seeps through her inner core and all she wants to do is inspire others.

"She has certainly inspired me."

Iqra has delivered at two PeaceJam Slams and shared her vision of bringing communities together.

She spent time with Rotarian Remah Kasule, the Ugandan author and social innovator, who predicted: "This girl will take over one day with her message of peace, what an inspiration."

Iqra said: "Winning the Rotary Peacemaker Award means a lot to me.

"I would like to say thank you to everybody who has helped me achieve all that I have, including my family, friends and teachers at school and my Onna Ju-jitsu Club coach, Sensei Mumtaz.

"They have been truly supportive and inspirational.

"I am grateful for the countless opportunities that they have provided me with and I hope that it inspires others to push the boundaries and try new things." ●

i August's issue of Rotary magazine will feature more winners of the Rotary Young Citizens Award. For a full list of winners, visit: www.rotarygbi.org



Why toilets are the bottom line of development

Seren Boyd takes a look at the quirky fund-raising idea of Toilet Twinning, and how Rotarians can get involved.



SET against the lofty ideals of Rotary, toilets may seem a rather lowly ambition.

Yet, for the past few years, Rotarians across Great Britain & Ireland have been getting rather excited about long-drops and their potential to transform lives.

More than 50 Rotary clubs have become involved with Toilet Twinning, a quirky fund-raising campaign that helps provide proper toilets, clean water and hygiene training in some of the world's poorest communities. With more than 75 Inner Wheel clubs also twinning toilets, their combined fund-raising total has surpassed £58,000 to date.

Toilet Twinning invites people to 'twin' their toilet with a latrine overseas – and so sponsor a household toilet for a family in a poorer community abroad, or a toilet block at a school or refugee camp.

In return, supporters receive a certificate of their toilet twin, complete with photo and GPS coordinates.

Some clubs have exploited the British love of toilet humour in their fund-raising, often choosing to coincide with the United Nations' designated World Toilet Day on November 19th.

Rotary Social Innovation South East Hampshire held Bog Off Games: a toilet-themed evening at a community centre in Portsmouth, complete with quizzes, treasure hunt and, of course, toilet golf.

Northwich Vale Royal Rotary in Cheshire invited people to donate loose change in (clean) toilet bowls beside portable toilets at its Charity Scooter Rally.

The light-hearted campaign is, in fact, a response to a serious issue: two billion people worldwide lack a safe, clean toilet.

Without these essentials, families are trapped in a vicious cycle of sickness, poverty and disease.

Put simply, if you're constantly falling sick with diarrhoea because open defecation or poorly sited toilets are contaminating the village's water supply, you can't work or farm your land properly.

Every two minutes, a child under the age of five dies of a disease related to unclean water and inadequate sanitation.

In Ivory Coast, where Sita lives, only ten per cent of people in rural areas have access to proper sanitation.

Five years ago, Sita and husband, Ankoma, were deep in debt – because there were no toilets in the village. The meagre pay the couple earned by harvesting

cashews was spent at the local health clinic on medicines for their children – and their income didn't stretch far enough.

They often had to buy medicines on credit or borrow from neighbours, and the bills stacked up.

Like everyone else in Yalo village, they went to the toilet outdoors.

The children were sick often.

Diarrhoea can be fatal in remote rural communities like Yalo: life was precarious.

"We felt trapped," Sita says. "We didn't want to live any more."

When Toilet Twinning partner MAP started working with the community, they installed a new community water pump and taught the importance of handwashing and hygiene.

They also spent a long time educating villagers about the importance of having toilets at their homes, making sure they understood why not having a toilet was trapping them in poor health and poverty.

MAP trained Sita and Ankoma to dig a latrine pit and build an enclosure, and



Sita and her children in the Ivory Coast, who are thankful for the work of the charity Toilet Twinning.

they were proud to install their own latrine. And prouder still when the family's health started to improve dramatically.

"I returned the money I owed and I felt great," says Sita. "Now we have money to send our children to school."

Toilet Twinning CEO Lorraine Kingsley, who recently visited Yalo, found people were keen to show off their toilets.

"Those toilets represent change that families have made happen for themselves and now they're highly motivated to make other changes too," says Lorraine.

"Yalo have set up a village committee to maintain the water pump and keep the village clean – and it's absolutely spotless."

Toilets are a hugely cost-effective driver of development. According to World Health Organization calculations, every £1 spent on sanitation has a return of £5.50, thanks to increased productivity and lower healthcare costs.

Yet, sanitation remains a neglected sector in international efforts to reach the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Current projections suggest that only nine per cent of countries in Africa will reach Goal 6 – 'to ensure access to water and sanitation for all'.

So, the Toilet Twinning campaign, which has raised more than £11 million in its ten-year existence, continues.

It is the tangible practicality of toilets that is a significant part of the scheme's appeal for many Rotarians.

The relatively new Grantham Sunrise Rotary Club made twinning the toilets at its meeting place, The Eden House Hotel, its first international project. Several members had experienced inadequate sanitation in poorer countries and wanted to do something practical to help.

They held a fund-raising lottery and quiz night – and supported Grantham Inner Wheel at their toilet-themed alternative to a 'beetle drive', where people had to build a 'bog' instead of a bug.

'Toilet Twinning is one of the most worthy projects that we have supported to date,' says former president, Lez Jones. ●

FACT FILE

TOILET TWINNING

- Toilet Twinning helps provide proper toilets, clean water and hygiene education in remote, poor communities overseas across more than 45 countries. Since 2010, it has twinned about 140,000 toilets.
- It costs £60 to twin a household toilet and £240 to twin with a toilet block at a school or refugee camp.
- The scheme offers a Toilet Twinned Town award for groups who succeed in engaging the whole community in raising awareness and funds. Truro Rotary Evolution recently launched a bid to attain Toilet Twinned City status.



For more information or fundraising resources, visit: toilettwinning.org
contact: info@toilettwinning.org
or call 0300 321 3217.

Praise indeed

I MUST say that I have been very impressed with the last two issues of the *Rotary* magazine.

The format is very refreshing and one really feels that if one passed this magazine to a person interested in Rotary, they would really find out about what Rotary is doing in our country and worldwide.

The articles are very 'readable' and as far as I am concerned, infinitely preferable, to an on-line version. It is easy to read when one sits down for a break and is there, to hand, when one needs to access something quickly.

I am so pleased that we are now receiving a printed copy through the post.

I'll be asking other club members to save their copies for me if they are not going to use them as I feel the new magazine will be a great tool in publicising exactly what Rotary International does.

Christine Dagwell
Howden Rotary

Intemperate editorial

THANK you for the interesting articles which appear in *Rotary*.

I always enjoy reading it, both online and, as one past retirement, as a printed magazine. I have, however, to take you to task for your rather intemperate editorial berating a Rotarian who wished to reduce Rotary's carbon footprint by stopping his copy, or perhaps all of the printed Rotary magazine (*Rotary, April 2020*).

Whilst stopping physical printing will not in itself clear the smog in Delhi, it would certainly be a step in the right direction in helping global warming and reducing pollution.

It surely has not escaped your notice that more people are reading news and newspapers online and the sale of paper newspapers is declining, nor that most people of a working age write notes in meetings not on paper or chalk boards but on laptops, tablets or mobile phones.

The marketing impact of printing 45000 copies of the *Rotary* magazine,

most of which are read by existing Rotarians is tiny compared to what could be achieved by social media.

How many businesses depend only on marketing by magazine?

Rotary should be a fellowship where we listen respectfully to the views of others.

Hywel Watkin
Denbigh Rotary

It's not climate change

HAVING just read *Rotary* magazine (*February*), I would like to comment on the article relating to a very understandable fight on plastic pollution - which I wholeheartedly support.

However, the opening paragraph links this campaign with climate change - which is something completely different.

We all want to sensibly clean up our environment but we aren't all agreed that "climate change" is something that as mere humans, we have any control over.

It is no longer possible to have a sensible debate on climate change as the media have elevated the subject to the level of a religion, and anyone who puts forward a logical argument that climate change is due to natural influences - over which we have no control - is shouted down as being out of order.

I will support any initiative that involves improving our environment but, please, don't link this with something that has taken place ever since the Earth existed, long before we pumped CO2 into the atmosphere) and over which we have no control.

Terry Durrance
Southport Rotary

Amazing Rotary Ridge

I WAS delighted to read that Rotary Ridge at the National Memorial Arboretum is now being maintained. Thank you Litchfield St. Chad Rotary Club.

When I visited the Arboretum last year to rededicate the Baluch Regiment memorial near to the Ridge I was, frankly, appalled at the condition of the plaques.

Lost amongst the pine trees and some

leaning over drunkenly, it presented a sad and neglected sight, not representative of the standards associated with Rotary.

Indeed, the Ridge is rather a backwater at the Arboretum, so I hope that the new Rotary flag will attract more visitors to our memorial.

For Rotarians who have not been to the Arboretum I would urge you to do so, either as an individual or as a club. It really is the most moving and amazing place.

Patrick Farrelly
Braunton Caen Rotary

Thank you

ON behalf of myself and the charity and community groups that I work and volunteer with, we thank you and compliment you and your latest publication (*Rotary, April 2020*).

We pay special tribute to the feature on mental health and interview with Frank Bruno and his Foundation.

Raising these issues in society is as important as ever and we commend your organisation and magazine for doing this well.

Dave Gregson
Campaigns specialist (OCD Action, National Autistic Society, Bullies Out, Rethink Mental Illness, Survivors UK)

Nepalese memories

I HAVE just finished reading the excellent articles in the latest edition of the magazine (*April 2020*).

How fantastic you managed to get an interview with Frank Bruno, a real hero of mine. It was a real joy to read about his successes in combating his own demons and the efforts of those Rotary clubs which provided help with the Nepalese earthquake.

I have fond memories of my own visit to Nepal. A few weeks before the earthquake, I took a small team of Rotarians to Nepal to visit various trafficking shelters in the Kathmandu area.

The day before we were due to return, a Turkish plane crash landed on the airport runway and because they didn't have the



A common bond is shared between Rotary Florida and Rotary Great Britain & Ireland

right lifting gear, the airport was closed for six days.

As we couldn't get back to our hotel because it was fully booked, we had to find shelter for those six days with one of the trafficking shelters, which housed 450 former survivors of slavery.

The first day we were there was the festival day called 'Holi'. Our small group, which included my grandson, spent all day being plastered with paint by the children. Of course we also plastered them back. After the earthquake, I managed to persuade all the Rotary clubs in Norwich to fund-raise for two of the trafficking shelters we visited.

Mark Little
Norwich St Edmund Rotary

Each generation has its own identity

I WAS mesmerised by the feature piece from Karl Wilding, CEO of NCVO, in Rotary magazine (*April 2020*).

The statement that 'volunteering is good for the soul because the world is changed by charity' is one that the majority of Rotarians will agree with and applaud.

But serving up the idea that the current 'younger' generation are the first to be moved by volunteering or 'social action' is, at best, glib.

People are different. We are all driven by different motivations and factors.

There will always be those who like classical music and some who want heavy metal - some will choose both and others will want neither. Sweeping generalisations regarding people will never help produce a workable strategy for action.

Some younger people will want to take social action, others will not. Some people wish to be a part of an organisation like Rotary, others won't.

My own memory is that for more than 10 years, volunteer teams of Rotarians and Rotaractors from Great Britain & Ireland, led by Brian Stoyel, travelled to Eastern Europe and Africa to undertake hands-on projects including building orphanages and hospitals. Such commitment to volunteer and do stuff, like many things in life is not for everyone.

But suggesting that now, for the first time, 'social action' fits all as a panacea for today's young people, does irritate somewhat.

Each and every generation has its own identities. As Rotarians, we put 'service

above self' - which is not for everyone.

Our work should be with those who want to be part of what we are and what we will be, not worrying about those for whom Rotary, and our work, doesn't suit.

Geoff Mackey
Audley Rotary

So much in common

AS Joan and I prepare to host members, Chris and Linda Firth from Rotary in the Midlands and South West England, for six days at our 'Home Stay' sponsored by our club, I felt it was past time that I looked at your fine magazine.

Wow! Rotary is truly prospering in Great Britain and Ireland. We have much in common, from ShelterBox to the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, PolioPlus and so much more.

Thank you all so much for being members of the worldwide Rotary family. We are so pleased to have all of you. Yours in Rotary Service,

Joseph Mathews
Sarasota Bay Rotary, Florida.



Nepal: a wonderful country

Stay with print

I DIDN'T know there had been a debate about *Rotary* magazine being printed. You made the right decision.

A couple of days ago I received the on-line edition, I skimmed the contents, articles on Nepal, I'm interested in that country, I'm busy, I'll save the email and read it later. It was never going to happen - the email is still saved but lost behind lots of others that have arrived since.

Today the postman delivered the print edition. I thought I'll take a break and skim through it whilst I have a cup of tea.

So I read about Nepal and about Rotary Ridge and about Remap and much more. So much easier to read than staring at a screen.

So many thanks for fighting and winning the print battle!

I very rarely write to the Editor of any journal about anything, but this is a great example of what I have been thinking for a very long time - print beats screen hands down for magazine reading!

David Medcalf
Pwllheli Rotary

Target retirees

I WAS very interested in George Mercer's letter in your last issue (*Rotary, April 2020*).

Here in Sevenoaks, the Rotary club

formed a satellite club which is now the main Rotary club. The original (old) members are called 'Friends of Rotary' and meet once a month in a local hostelry.

Because Sevenoaks is a commuter town, the present club meets at 6.30pm in an effort to attract younger members.

The 'old' members used to meet at lunchtime. It is fair to say that so far it has been difficult to attract new members, as commuters have little time beyond their work commitments and mobile phones mean that individuals are always on call.

Therefore, it may make more sense to target retirees as George suggests.

Alan Waters
Sevenoaks Rotary

Time for name change

FOLLOWING the recent removal of the upper age for Rotaractors, I would like to suggest that it is time to change the name of Rotaract.

The name Rotaract is meaningless to most people, especially if it stands for 'Rotary in Action' - all Rotarians are in Action! It confuses rather than lures youngsters to join.

Whenever I try and explain to people what Rotaract is, I invariably say that it is 'Young Rotarians'. So, surely, it would be so much more helpful to call them just that - Young Rotarians.

And it would help with a more

seamless transition between younger and older Rotarians.

Richard Spalding
Winchester Rotary

Nepal: simply a wonderful country

EXCELLENT and very heartening reports on Nepal in April's issue of *Rotary* magazine.

I was there about two years ago, trying to climb to Annapurna base camp and visiting our sponsored child in the lowland area near India. It is obvious to any visitor that the problems of Nepal are immense.

Only one narrow winding mountain road in appalling condition serving a city of seven million.

On our return from Pokhara, the quite prosperous tourist hub, a bus had gone over the edge an hour or two earlier. Thirty-two people had died, and sadly it is a regular occurrence.

The roads in Kathmandu take chaos to a wholly new and, frankly, frightening level.

But it is the people who make this a wonderful country. The three main religions, plus a few Christians, live happily together.

The country has an extraordinary number of festivals: 50. Festivals are good, but nearly everything stops for festivals in

a country that desperately needs workers to do their jobs. Though unemployment is a huge problem.

There seem to be two main income sources, tourism and remittances from Nepalese working abroad, especially the Middle East.

I had the impression that Government was at best invisible, unless there is an election.

But there is an extraordinary atmosphere of peace, calm and happiness, despite the chaos, which quickly envelops the visitor and is extremely therapeutic. It is why so many make their homes there.

I bow my head to all the clubs and Rotarians who are doing so much good work there.

Nigel Willis
Shipston Rotary

Home from home

OVER a year ago, I became a St Albans Rotarian after I was invited to speak at a club meeting.

My wife Clare and I started the ENA Care Group in 1994 after a dear friend with severe arthritis fell and ended up in a hospital with a broken wrist.

Over 25 years of providing care in the community, we have seen many changes in the care sector, including the lack of carers and nurses in the field of social care.

Before a social care worker can visit a patient in the community or stay with them to provide 24-hour care, they need to complete in-house training for five days to ensure they are confident and up-to-date with the current caring legislation.

For years, we have been using hotels to accommodate the trainees while attending the training.

With the recent pandemic and the introduction of lockdown to minimise the spread of the disease, many hotels closed their doors to new users. We pleaded with them, informing them that they were key-workers providing care in the community, but to no avail.

In desperation, I contacted Jenny Muir for advice. Jenny is a fellow Rotarian member from another club who I met while we were organising the St Albans Swimathon. She rents apartments for business people.

After hearing my dilemma and the difficulties of finding any accommodation for our nurses and carers, Jenny was kind enough to allow us the use of her luxurious apartments.

She has been fantastic as, without her help, many of our clients wouldn't be able to receive care in these unprecedented times where coronavirus has devastated the world.

So, thank you so much to Jenny and all the staff at Home from Holme.

G.Claudio Durán
St Albans Rotary

Grow satellite clubs

MOST Rotarians agree on the need to recruit, hopefully much younger people, but this isn't for tomorrow, it's for now or there will be a very limited tomorrow for Rotary in the UK.

Rotary is under publicised in the UK.

It will undoubtedly be helpful to have our excellent magazine distributed in places where there is a large footfall, and also advertising placards at leisure centres, visitor information centres and many other suitable venues. But it will not be anything like enough.

Above all, to recruit, we need to ask.

We need to identify businesses in our locality who haven't a Rotarian (most of them) and visit them.

Advise them what we do, what we have achieved, and how they can help. Invite them to a meeting, hopefully a satellite club meeting.

Tell them that Rotarians enjoy themselves and that Rotary will be a new dimension in their lives.

Satellite clubs are an excellent idea and they are already beginning to happen,

albeit slowly.

I was involved with the formation of the Chesterfield Club Satellite Group which has 19 members and two prospective members.

My experience is that you need a nucleus from which to start. In Chesterfield this nucleus was formed from a business wishing to involve their employees in the community as part of corporate social responsibility.

Having formed the nucleus, they will then bring along their friends, colleagues and business connections, and then the club will gradually grow and become sustainable.

The annual subscription, of which approximately 70% are capitation fees, is a considerable deterrent to recruitment.

Young people, to quote Karl Wilding CEO of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, want a social experience where they can have enjoyment and fun.

I can see little evidence that we appreciate this.

Neither do I see any evidence of an urgency to recruit, even though our membership is elderly and has decreased substantially in the last 10 years.

We need a national recruitment initiative which all members understand.

Robert Wadd
Chesterfield Rotary

Editor's footnote: Membership fees are £67 plus the local administration cost which in most cases totals around £120 for annual membership of a trusted and impactful worldwide service organisation which is providing global networking and professional development, alongside fantastic volunteering opportunities.

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.

Putting Rotary in the picture

We've got three great prizes to offer for our Rotary Vision 2020 photographic competition and the possibility of your image featuring on the front cover of *Rotary* magazine.

HAVE you got what it takes to be a winner of Rotary Vision 2020? Because we're looking for the best images showcasing the amazing work of Rotary and Rotarians.

Rotary Vision 2020 is a fantastic photography competition where we are inviting you to submit your best pictures which best capture the theme: **Rotary - People of Action.**

Up for grabs are three fantastic hotel stays for two people, courtesy of McMillan Hotels, with some special activities thrown in. And the best image will be featured on the front cover of December's issue of *Rotary* magazine.

You don't need the most expensive camera with the finest lenses to take part, you can use a budget compact camera or your mobile phone. And you don't need to be a Rotarian either, the competition is open to anyone – just stick to the Rotary theme.

The key is the content and composition – capturing an image which doesn't require any words, but which captivates the subject and tells a story.

And at the heart of that story is the theme: **Rotary - People of Action.**

Be creative, have fun, and let's showcase the very best of Rotary, and please send just **THREE** of your best images.

How to enter:


- The theme of the competition is "Rotary – People of Action."
- Email up to **THREE** image(s), with captions, to: **editor@rotarygbi.org**
- Photographs must have been taken since April 1st, 2019.
- Write in the email header: **Rotary Vision 2020**
- Include within the body of text: your name, address, Rotary club (if applicable) and a short description of the images.
- You must be over 18-years-old.
- The closing date for entries is: **Monday, August 31st, 2020.**

Basic rules:

- By submitting up to three photographs, you represent and warrant that your photographs are in compliance with the official rules. All photographs will become the property of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland (Rotary) and will not be returned.
- Your photographs must be your original creation.
- You must hold all rights to the photographs, including copyright.
- Only photographs saved in a .jpg or .jpeg format may be submitted.
- Photographs may be in colour or black and white.

- Photographs must have been taken digitally since April 1st, 2019.
- If your submission includes images or likenesses of people, you must receive permission from each subject of the photograph(s), and written permission from the parent or legal guardian of any minors appearing in the photograph(s).
- By submitting a photograph, you grant Rotary a worldwide, royalty-free, irrevocable, sub-licensable, assignable, perpetual, license and rights to use, print, publish, reproduce, perform, edit, modify, adapt, distribute, broadcast, webcast, exhibit, digitize, archive, transmit, create derivative works from, and display your photograph(s), the content in your e-mail, and your likeness, name, image, statements, voice and biographical and personal information and data (collectively "Likeness") in whole or in part, for any purpose whatsoever, in any form, media or technology now known or later developed including in Rotary's publications, via streaming, and on social media.

By submitting one or more photographs to Rotary, you represent and warrant that you will comply with the above photograph requirements.

 A full set of rules can be found online at:
www.rotarygbi.org



DUMFRIES & Galloway is a beautiful, undiscovered part of South West Scotland where visitors can enjoy many activities from zip wires, mountain biking, walking, fishing and golf, to an abundance of cultural venues to visit.

McMillan Hotels in Dumfries and Galloway set the gold standard with unique style and character. They are one of the most family-friendly hotels in Scotland, which are also pet-friendly and offer the highest standard of comfort and service.

For the prize package, McMillan hotels have generously provided stays at North West Castle, the Cally Palace Hotel or the Fernhill Hotel, with various packages, and have included some trips to make the most of your stay.

For more details about McMillan Hotels visit: www.mcmillanhotels.co.uk

Further details about the trips can be found at: www.rotarygbi.org



1st prize

- Cally Palace Hotel & Golf Course, Gatehouse of Fleet – Two nights' Bed & Breakfast for two people with dinner on the first evening and use of the hotel leisure facilities.
- Round of golf on Cally Course.
- Full day of activities at Galloway Activity Centre, Loch Ken.
- Crafty Distillery Taste and Tour including a bottle of award winning Hills & Harbour Gin, Newton Stewart.



2nd prize

- Fernhill Hotel, Portpatrick – Two nights' Bed & Breakfast for two people with dinner on the first evening.
- A day of cycling guided by Galloway Cycling Holidays – choose your own bike from the fleet (including electric bikes).
- Half day Cookery Experience at Station House Cookery School, Kirkeudbright.
- Crafty Distillery Taste and Tour, Newton Stewart.



3rd prize

- North West Castle Hotel, Stranraer – Two nights' Bed & Breakfast for two people with dinner on the first evening and use of the hotel leisure facilities.
- Cream Tea Coo Tour at Kitchen Coos & Ewes, Newton Stewart.
- Crafty Distillery Taste and Tour, Newton Stewart.
- Admission to Glenwhan Gardens, Stranraer.





An abundance of activities for you to enjoy

BESIDES three terrific hotel stays, McMillan Hotels are also offering winners some amazing days out to enjoy the beauty of south-west Scotland.

They are an ideal base for visiting the many attractions the region has to offer, including The Mull of Galloway & RSPB Nature Reserve, The Isle of Whithorn, Cream o' Galloway Experience, Wigtown Book Town, Galloway Forest Park, the wonderful gardens at Logan Botanic, Logan House, Glenwhan and Castle Kennedy, plus the many golf courses and activity centres.

Galloway Cycling Holidays

The best way to see Galloway is slowly by bike with hundreds of miles of quiet roads and tracks to explore. Pick the type of bike: eBike, hybrid leisure bike, road or gravel bike. They will guide you on a ride of your choice to castles and remote beaches, showing some overlooked gems. They will even show you a little bit of bushcraft to make the ride a mini adventure.

www.gallowaycycling.com

Galloway Activity Centre

Situated on the banks of Loch Ken, on the edge of Galloway Forest Park, the centre offers a range of fun land and water-based activities. You can try one of our 15 on or off the water activities including sailing, kayaking, paddle boarding, a giant slip 'n' slide, climbing wall and zip wire or the tallest giant swing in Scotland.

www.lochken.co.uk

Cally Palace Golf Course

This is one of the finest parkland golf courses in Dumfries & Galloway. This 18-hole, par 71, 6062-yard course is sculpted into the parkland surrounding the hotel, and uses the natural

contours of the land and magnificent trees, hidden burns and the Cally Lake. Golf buggies are available for hire, and there's also a practice area and putting green.

www.mcmillanhotels.co.uk

Glenwhan Gardens

With the warming influence of the Gulf Stream, Glenwhan grows many tender plants from around the southern hemisphere, together with large collections of rare trees and shrubs. A numbered tree trail for the dendrologist has been collated, along with a 17-acre Moorland Walk with 120 species of wildflowers, grasses, and ferns. Two small lakes (Lochans) are the focal point of these family-run gardens.

www.glenwhangardens.co.uk

Kitchen Coos & Ewes

This is a unique experience on an authentic working farm in the beautiful Luce Valley. Get up close to Highland cattle in their natural environment from the comfort of our people carrying trailer designed to deliver a great experience to all age groups in all weather conditions. The guides that will travel with you will tell you all about the farm, the coos and their environment. Then, to cap it all, enjoy home baking produced in the farmhouse kitchen.

www.kitchencoosandewes.com

Station House Cookery School

This is the only dedicated cookery school in south-west Scotland. It provides quality cookery courses for adults and children, covering a wide range of international cuisines.

www.stationhousecookeryschool.co.uk ●



Simple Bourne to help

Teacher Sue Pomeroy describes the schools' project in Zambia which has been the focus of her club, Bourne End & Cookham Rotary.



IN 2006, the Wye Valley School in Bourne End, Buckinghamshire – now Bourne End Academy – was invited to take part in a school exchange programme by the British Council for Specialist Sports Colleges.

We had previously been working in Jamaica, when I was asked if I would like to partner a school in Zambia. From that grew a partnership which has lasted for 13 years.

Libala Secondary School has 4,500 students. Initially we went out to train their students to be sports leaders to organise a sports festival for local primary schools.

Annual visits continued, each year with a different focus; science, IT and student mentoring, all linked to the sports leaders programme. In 2008, we took out some computers to set up a computer suite, and three years later we funded for a group of Libala students to visit the UK.

They came in February and had never encountered such cold weather. They visited the Rotary Conference and we also took them to the seaside. A new experience if you live in a land-locked country.

The Zambia Project charity was formed in 2013, since we had extended our projects beyond a school partnership.

We had developed a link between Chilenje School Special Needs department and Bardwell School in Bicester which had led to the involvement of Bicester Rotary.

When we went out in 2014, we took a teacher from Bardwell with us to support the teachers at Chilenje. While we were

there we also repainted their classroom.

Our Interact Club bought two new wheelchairs for two students who desperately needed them and we took four children to have hearing tests which their parents couldn't afford.

Several children who wanted to come to school couldn't because the toilets were a distance away from the unit which they couldn't access.

We saw a derelict building across the field which gave us a few ideas about creating a skills centre for special needs children to help them get a job.

Chilenje is a very poor area of Lusaka where the community needs to have access to training to improve employment opportunities.

Bourne End & Cookham Rotary linked with clubs in Cookham Bridge, Bicester, and St Ives, Australia, to apply for a Global Grant to build the skills centre in partnership with Maluba Rotary in Lusaka. Work has started to transform this building.

Libala Secondary School has been central to our programme.

They set up an Interact Club in 2010 which is still going well. They have run projects supporting local orphanages, children in hospital, environmental programmes and visiting primary schools to run IT classes for the children.

We have been able to help them develop their IT programme. After the first set of computers we have been able to send over improved machines.

The project has also helped Kabwata School. Thanks to a grant from the Openwork Foundation, and with support from Faringdon Rotary led by Linda and Tim Cowling, we were able to create a bright and fun pre-school room for young children as well as repaint and repair many of the classrooms.

The next challenge at Kabwata is to raise funds to purchase desks for the children. Many of the classrooms only have broken desks which are dangerous for the children to use.

The cost of a desk is £55 and we plan to challenge individuals to sponsor a desk or perhaps ask schools if they would be prepared to sponsor a classroom.

The cost for a classroom is £1,375.

A programme which started as a school exchange programme back in 2006 has moved forward considerably.

We continue to send donations out to our schools with the help of the National Police Aid Convoys and Operation Sunshine.

We have a new Primary School joining our programme with a partner school in Lusaka and we continue to work towards our motto: making friends and changing lives through working together. ●



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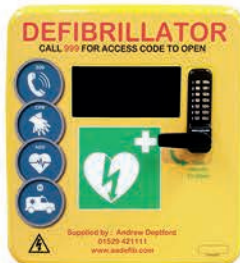
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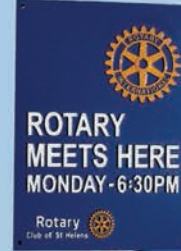


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Rotary is determined to ensure that we are accessible to everyone who wants to join us. Providing flexible, innovative, diverse and project-focused opportunities in your community - that's what People of Action do.



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The Rotary Foundation transforms donations into projects that change lives. With your help, we can continue to make a difference in your community and around the world.

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- Disease prevention and treatment
- Basic education and literacy
- Water and sanitation
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Funding for these programmes is dependent on donations from Rotarians, their clubs and the general public. By remembering RFUK in your Will, you can ensure that the work of the Foundation continues beyond your lifetime.

To find out how you can make a lasting difference contact : rfuk@rotarygbi.org

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Rotary offers young people opportunities to unlock their potential, develop their skills and broaden their horizons. Together, we use our ideas, energy and passion to make a difference in communities at home and abroad - that's what People of Action do.

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VOLUNTEER EXPO

CHANGE LIVES. TAKE ACTION.

7-9 May
2021

Sadly, Volunteer Expo has been postponed until next year. But to whet your appetite, here are just a few interesting facts and figures from some of our headline speakers and workshops which you can get involved with in 2021.



Toilet Twinning

During the session, you will gain an understanding of the global sanitation crisis and learn how you can help Toilet Twinning to empower communities find sustainable solutions to problems keeping communities in poverty.



Almost
900 children
die every day
from dirty water
and unsafe
toilets

St John
Ambulance



St John Ambulance

This session will provide you with vital, life-saving skills, increase your general knowledge of first aid and help prepare you for an emergency situation.



Cancer Research UK

The power of the voice of the volunteer and how it is helping cure cancer.

The world's
largest
independent
cancer research
charity

Steve Brown

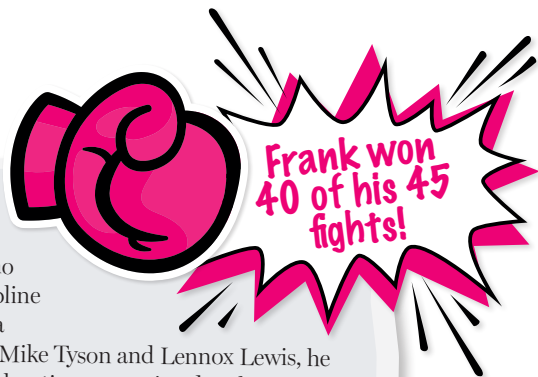
An infectious and inspirational character, Steve became paralysed after falling from a balcony at just 23 and went on to captain Great Britain's wheelchair rugby team at the London 2012 Paralympics. Steve is now a popular broadcaster and shares his experiences of being an elite athlete by mentoring young people across the country.





Frank Bruno

Former world champion boxer Frank Bruno has risen above the boundaries of his discipline to win a place in the nation's hearts. After a career going head to head with the likes of Mike Tyson and Lennox Lewis, he has a new fight on his hands: to knockout the stigma associated with mental health. He uses his profile to normalise discussing mental health, something he introduces to young people through the Frank Bruno Foundation.



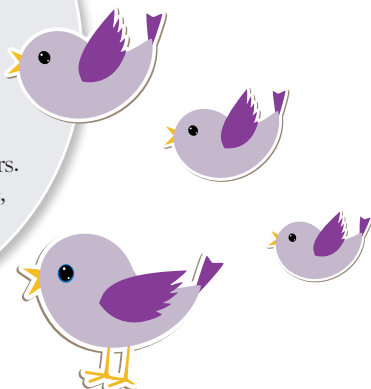
Frank won 40 of his 45 fights!

"Mental illness can happen to anybody. It could be your dad, your brother or your aunt."



Giving Nature a Home

There is more to saving nature than picking up a spade or a pair of binoculars. Conservation needs all kinds of people, skills and experience. Discover the many ways you can volunteer with the RSPB.



Alzheimer's Society

This interactive session explores the experiences of people living with dementia who recently road-tested Alzheimer's Society's volunteering. We will explore the challenges and opportunities they faced and look at how we can ensure volunteering is inclusive.

ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Royal Voluntary Service

In every corner of Britain, Royal Voluntary Service mobilises volunteers to support those in need, in hospital and in the community. Through the gift of voluntary service, their volunteers provide much-needed support for over-stretched public services and for people as they age.

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and finally...

with Managing Editor Dave King
editor@rotarygb.org

Where will Rotary be post-COVID-19?

IN its first 50 years, Rotary faced many challenges to survive – the First World War, the Great Depression and then the Second World War.

In the mid to late 1930s, fascist governments in Germany, Austria, Italy and Spain closed down Rotary clubs. Many Rotarians, though, continued to meet clandestinely.

As the Second World War raged, Rotary clubs around the world disbanded, while others stepped up efforts to provide emergency relief to the victims of the war.

It would be wholly inappropriate to compare these pivotal moments of 20th century history with COVID-19 – the estimated 70 million death toll for Second World War pales with comparison to the lives lost globally from this 21st century pandemic.

But Rotary recovered, becoming one of the founding fathers of the United Nations in 1945.

And, a decade later, on the occasion of Rotary's 50th anniversary, Winston Churchill said: "All thinking men recognise the moral and spiritual value of Rotary."

"There is indeed a wealth of meaning in the motto 'Service Above Self'."

"Few there are who do not recognise the good work which is done by Rotary clubs throughout the free world."

Never could those words resonate truer than 65 years later when Rotarians have courageously served on the front line during the COVID-19 crisis; from medics to



supermarket staff and care home workers, from police officers to bus drivers and pharmacists.

And all around the country, clubs have been swift and innovative in their efforts to support the communities they serve, many providing shopping and prescription delivery services, others helping at food banks – with tens of thousands of pounds raised by Rotary clubs to the likes of the Trussell Trust.

As a poster campaign illustrating the true value of Rotary; its wide demographic and vast skills base, responding to a country in crisis – the value is immense.

Maybe this is the moment which redefines Rotary now we have discovered, through the power of Zoom, that we can be more flexible and accessible.

Eight years ago, during the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics, 70,000 people volunteered to become Games Makers. Did Rotary then capitalise on this new wave of volunteering? I think not.

This was a missed opportunity.

Fast forward to COVID-19 when 750,000 people became NHS Volunteer Responders. Many had not volunteered before, but suddenly became aware of the values of community, selflessly helping others at this critical time, for little reward other than pride and personal satisfaction.

Who knows what the new world will hold once the dust settles from this pandemic. But Rotarians everywhere should be thinking carefully how can they draw on the momentum of volunteering to grow their club's work in the community.

And if your club is not working in the community, then ask yourself: why not?

Because, you can be absolutely sure, post-COVID-19, there will be more vulnerable people; the elderly, the homeless, the disabled and the unemployed, who will desperately need our help as this country re-stabilises.

So now is the time to think.

Rotarians responded to the call from the start of the crisis. But once the lockdown is over, how well placed will you and your club be to respond to the critical needs of your community?

And how then, can you reach out to those who, during COVID-19, discovered the value of volunteering, to help them understand the value of Rotary in providing a better future for our communities?

Let's not miss this opportunity like we did eight years ago. ●

Editorial material and opinion expressed in Rotary do not necessarily reflect the views of Rotary International in Great Britain & Ireland or the publisher. Every effort is made to ensure that the magazine's content is accurate. Information is published in good faith, but no liability can be accepted for loss or inconvenience arising from error or omission. The editor welcomes contributions of articles, news items, photographs and letters, but is under no obligation to publish unsolicited material. The editor reserves the right to edit for clarity or length. Contributors must ensure that all material submitted is not in breach of copyright or that they have obtained any necessary permission, in writing, for its reproduction. While every care will be taken with material submitted to Rotary magazine, no responsibility can be accepted for loss or damage. Rotary International in Great Britain & Ireland believes in the highest standards journalistic integrity. Rotary International in Great Britain & Ireland and the publisher do not accept responsibility for advertising and insert content. Advertisements are accepted at face value and no liability can be accepted for the actions of advertisers.

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