

Rotary

The Official Magazine of Rotary International in Great Britain & Ireland

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rotarygbi.org
April/May 2021





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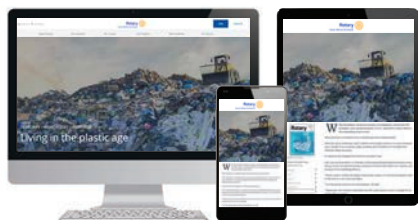
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The most challenging of years

Twelve months on from the outbreak of COVID-19 in the British Isles, what has the impact been and how has Rotary responded?

| DAVE KING |

WHO could possibly have imagined a year ago, at the start of the first lockdown, how COVID-19 would change lives in an unprecedented way?

The biggest societal shift since the Second World War, which has claimed the lives of 126,000 people in the UK.

The stealth-like nature of Coronavirus will, undoubtedly, leave a permanent scar on society. This most savage of killers has exposed a vulnerability which no man-made war could have ever inflicted.

But the pandemic has also drawn together communities.

Social barriers, which may have once existed, have come down. Neighbours have looked out for each other. The spirit of the Blitz witnessed two generations ago, has been rekindled amid the carnage of Covid.

At the heart of the battle has been the brave battalion of health workers and keyworkers, many of them Rotarians, who have kept our nations going. Some have sadly paid with their lives to help others.

But since March 2020 and the first lockdown, Rotary in Great Britain & Ireland has been at the forefront of volunteer efforts. It has been a defining moment for Rotary in these isles.

Cheryle Berry from Clay Cross Rotary in Derbyshire is co-leader of Rotary's Humanitarian Service team.

She is full of admiration for the rapid response of Rotarians to the crisis over the past 12 months.

"This has been the most challenging

year that many of us have ever experienced," she said.

"Through membership of the Voluntary and Community Sector Emergencies Partnership (VCSEP), as well as working with resilience networks across Great Britain & Ireland, Rotarians have responded magnificently.

"There has been an unprecedented need for volunteers throughout the country, who have been helping at vaccination and testing centres with stewarding, parking, administration, transport, vaccination and after care.

"The work has always been done with a smile and a cheerful word.

"Our communities have seen Rotarians in a different light, as people who are not just fund-raisers, but doers."

The Voluntary and Community Sector Emergencies Partnership (VCSEP) is a partnership of local and national voluntary, as well as community sector organisations – of which Rotary is a part.

It was formed in 2017 following lessons learned from major incidents such as the Grenfell Tower fire. The idea is to bring a more joined-up approach to tackling a crisis, such as COVID-19.

Cheryle has been closely supported by Peter Dowse from Brentwood Breakfast Rotary in Essex, who has been the Rotary GB&I Resilience Lead.

Over the past year, the former Metropolitan Police officer has brought together a network of Rotarians to serve as District Resilience Officers and VCSEP Cell Leads.

He has co-ordinated the volunteering, as well as providing advice and training.

The third member of the team has been Brenda Parsons from Rotary Satellite Orpington in Kent. "Brenda has been our pioneer with the VCSEP, upon which we have built our structure," explained Cheryle.

"As Rotary Cell Lead for the south-east, Brenda was the first to develop many procedures and policies which have been used as examples of good practice."

Cheryle pointed out how, throughout the pandemic, Rotarians have been stalwarts in supporting their communities.

Clubs have been working with the vulnerable and isolated, helping with shopping, collecting prescriptions and providing transport.

In the south-east, from Essex round to the south coast, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, and parts of south-east London, Brenda has been co-ordinating resilience team efforts.

Their response is typical of what has been happening with Rotarians nationwide, and replicated many times over.

In District 1120, which covers Kent, Medway, south-east London and East Sussex, Rotarians were already involved in resilience activities before the pandemic, having received training to support rest centres, and flood wardens.

Brenda explained: "In response to the VCSEP, we set up 14 geographical areas with its own co-ordinator and each club has provided a lead Rotarian. This has enabled quick and targeted responses from Rotarians willing to travel to meet needs. ▶





Clitheroe Rotary in Lancashire is doing its bit by helping vaccination teams at the local health centre

“Since March 2020, a Corona Central team has met every two weeks to review progress, to identify and provide support needed and solve issues.

“This is chaired by the resilience officer. We hold a database of all activities which have been undertaken since last March.”

As with many Rotary clubs nationwide, the District has responded to a call from schools to provide laptops supporting students’ home learning during lockdown.

The south-east England district has provided more than 300 laptops.

Beckenham and Margate Rotary clubs have each provided 100 computers, as well as raising more than £10,000 in donations to buy further IT equipment.

“All five districts are involved with supporting local food banks or food-related projects for those in need,” added Brenda. “Rotarians have been collecting, packing or delivering, even on Christmas Day.

“Several clubs have been engaged with sewing projects for hospitals and the homeless, with more than 5,000 scrub bags provided.

“Rotarians have also been raising funds for local charities and front-line workers, using some new innovative and interesting approaches.

“All districts have members who are on the front line working and some of who have returned to work in healthcare settings after retirement.”

Now, in a bid to support the largest immunisation programme in history,

Rotarians have been standing shoulder-to-shoulder with health workers at vaccination centres across the British Isles.

In Lancashire, both Carnforth and Clitheroe Rotary Clubs have been mentioned in *The Guardian* and *Daily Mirror* for their efforts to support vaccination efforts during the current crisis.

Clitheroe Rotarian, Bill Honeywell, has been co-ordinating a 100-strong vaccination team of Rotarians and locals at the Clitheroe Health Centre.

Bill has organised them into shifts so that a group of them are always on hand to marshal cars and help guide often frail pensioners in from the cold.

“They’re just so grateful to be here,” Bill told the *Daily Mirror*. “A lot of them haven’t been out for maybe 10 months, so it’s a thrill just to be out in the open.

“For them, to be able to go away smiling after having the jab is a joy to behold. Their relatives are all incredibly relieved and thankful. We’ve had so many tins of biscuits dropped off as thank-yous that we’re going to pile on the pounds!”

Rotary District 1285 stretches across the Cheshire Plain north via the Manchester metropolis to the Yorkshire border, and also takes in part of Staffordshire, as well as the Isle of Man.

Resilience chief Mike Wilson said that Bolton Lever Rotary had produced a YouTube video of its work during Covid to show what can be achieved.

“Rotarians are doing varied projects,

providing PPE equipment, laptops and tablets from homes and hospices, and help with local food banks,” he said.

“Clubs have also provided help at COVID-19 testing and assisting at vaccine health centres and local rugby grounds.”

In Wales and Scotland, Cheryle Berry has been meeting with Red Cross teams.

They lead the volunteer sector in both countries looking at ways of direct Rotary engagement with their work, and it is a similar story in Ireland where Rotarians have started volunteer activities.

In Ireland, District 1160 is split between Northern Ireland and the Republic. “In the north, we have had Rotarians volunteering at vaccination clinics since February through the organisation Volunteer Now,” explained Ireland District Governor, Conny Ovesen from Youghal Rotary.

“We have had Rotarians from Enniskillen and Armagh Rotary clubs involved. They’re being called upon to help with parking, registration and sitting with people after they’ve got the jab at some of the larger vaccination centres.”

Collette O’Neill from Cork Bishopstown Rotary is liaising over Rotary Ireland’s involvement with the vaccination programme in the Republic of Ireland.

She said: “The Communications Branch of the Health Service Executive (HSE) reached out to Rotary Ireland inviting us to join their COVID-19 Vaccine Community Network, alongside other

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"ROTARY'S RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC HAS BOOSTED ITS PROFILE AND IMAGE IN THE COMMUNITY."

volunteer and charitable organisations.

"The purpose of this network is to create a team who, over the coming months, will work with stakeholder groups to ensure that people who are due to get their vaccine next have the information that they need from a safe and trusted source.

"The role of Rotary Ireland is to support the HSE in the provision of public information, advertising and provide an easy accessible forum where questions will be answered and fears can be addressed."

Collette meets regularly with the Irish Government's HSE. One crucial role Irish Rotarians will be playing is communication about the vaccination programme.

All Rotarians will be encouraged to download a Covid tracker app, to heighten awareness and support the programme.

In South Wales, District Governor Alison Sutherland from Cardiff Bay Rotary, said that up until the beginning of March, Rotarians had little involvement with the vaccinations because they have been unable to have the relevant risk assessments.

"We are still in lockdown," she said.

"Many of our members would be excluded from volunteering on the grounds of their age."

Welsh Rotarians have been involved with innovative ways of fund-raising and community activities. Newport Uskmouth Rotary began the collection of old laptops which were refurbished and then passed onto youngsters for home schooling.

"This has now been picked up by at least another seven Rotary clubs and has the involvement of our IT Officer in the refurbishment side," added Alison.

"Newport Uskmouth not only started this but, as a result, 80 new Chrome books

were donated."

In North Wales, Rotarians have also been focused this year on supplying laptops to schools and supporting food banks.

Meanwhile, Holyhead Rotarians have been volunteering at the town's vaccination centre and supporting the local hospice food banks.

District Governor, David Hartley, from Maghull and Aughton Rotary, believes that Rotary's response to the pandemic has boosted its profile and image in the community.

He said: "The wider question is whether Rotary will have gained ground through Zoom meetings and new initiatives, or lost ground with the deaths of members, loss of interest and the decimation of fund-raising.

"But this is hardly a Welsh thing.

"As dreadful as COVID is, it has certainly opened opportunities with many clubs who dine, giving what they would have spent on meals to local charities."

Calum Thomson from Tranent Rotary is District Governor for Southern Scotland.

"The global pandemic has hit us hard with nobody escaping its clutches. It felt sometimes like this virus was in control of all our lives," he said.

"Within our Rotary world, we have had to rise to the challenge and learn to adapt.

"That third part of the Rotary International Strategic Plan - increasing our ability to adapt - has never been more prescient.

"I have seen clubs immediately adopt and implement new technology into their way of doing things. Attendance remained the same, increasing in some clubs while the fun and fellowship remained.

"Successful clubs have adapted in a positive manner and the positivity is worth sharing. Online social events such as quizzes and whisky tasting spring to mind.

"Fund-raising did happen - from operating an e-Bay online shop to socially distanced golf tournaments it was possible

"Projects in the community were not cancelled, where there was a need, Rotary responded.

"Our district has tried different ways to keep the word 'cancel' out of the Rotary lexicon."

Cheryle Berry believes the impact of Rotary's work is now reaching out to all sections of the community.

She explained: "This is not just Rotary in Action with the vaccination programme, but continuing our help with food banks, supporting the isolated and vulnerable, providing laptops for young people, providing personal protective equipment for hospitals and care homes and campaigning for social distancing.

"The list is endless.

"Rotary's response has gained us new partnerships with voluntary and statutory organisations which will continue.

"And we have gained new Rotarians from volunteers who have enjoyed working with us.

"Yes, it has been a challenging year, but one where we can all be proud to be Rotarians." ●

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Running like clockwork

Rotarians across the British Isles are volunteering at Covid clinics - and they're in it for the long haul. Dave King reflects on his first day working at a vaccination centre in Hampshire.

FRIDAY afternoon at the Holiday Inn on the outskirts of Winchester.

Nestled at the foot of the South Downs National Park, this 131-room hotel would normally be buzzing with visitors checking in for a weekend stay on the south coast.

But not today. Instead, the four-star hotel, which last year completed a £2.5 million refurbishment, has been taken over as a Covid vaccination clinic.

The Winchester Rural North and East Primary Care Network is part of the biggest vaccination programmes rolled out in NHS history. And there to help are a group of orange bib-wearing volunteers from Winchester Rotary.

With the vaccination programme expected to spread well into the summer, we are preparing for the long haul.

We have been meticulously organised with a seven-day rota of two-hour shifts by Bruce Royston-Smith.

The paperwork beforehand was pretty minimal – a terms of reference, risk assessment, and a volunteer agreement.

It is the complete opposite in Portsmouth where I am volunteering with Rotarians for the Solent NHS Trust, who require a Disclosure & Barring Service check, two references, plus three forms of ID and a photograph for a pass.

All a minor inconvenience.

Our volunteering commitment to the Covid clinics is being mirrored by hundreds of Rotary clubs across Great

Britain and Ireland. This is Rotary in action. We are people of action.

It is minus one Celsius outside with an Arctic-like breeze blowing off the Downs. But because of the spacious hotel car park, no volunteers are needed for parking duty today.

Instead, our tidy team are inside the warm hotel, positioned at various strategic points from reception to the vaccination room and the exit, where I am located.

In front of me are six vaccination stations. Each one is manned – or womanned – by a team of two; one typing in details into a laptop, and a second person administering the vaccine.

Patients are asked to sit down for up to 15 minutes before driving home, just in

case of any reaction.

The health centre manager has asked us to warn staff if we spot anyone looking a bit peaky after their vaccination.

Once the quarter of an hour is up, they are guided to the car park, and we wipe down the previously-occupied chairs.

I have never cleaned so many chairs in two hours – and don't talk to me about my wrinkly hands!

The organisation is like clockwork.

The medical team at the Holiday Inn are carrying out around 1,000 vaccinations a day. It's a similar story of vaccination volume at St James' Hospital in Portsmouth, where I have been on front gate duty checking visitors' credentials – and turning away a few chancers who have





tried to sneak a dose of vaccine!

At Winchester, newly-arrived patients report to reception at their appointed time, and are then ushered through for their jab.

"It's wonderful," says one lady, as I showed her to a chair. "I was expecting there to be queues outside, but it has been marvellous. Everyone has been so kind."

Another gentleman, who had begrudgingly made a 15-mile drive from his rural home, was glad it was all over.

"I wasn't sure about coming, but we got it done," he says. "Give the nurses their due, they are doing an excellent job."

Generally, the mood is upbeat. I am chatting to the patients about the weather, football and roadworks on the M27.

For a few, it's the first time they have managed to get out for weeks to enjoy face-to-face conversation.

All, without exception, are glad they have received the first vaccination, before returning in 11 weeks' time.

Time passes swiftly. The conversation is convivial, and the appreciation of thanks, as patients clock the Winchester Rotary bib, are genuinely well meant.

Domino's have been plying volunteers with pizza which sums up the generosity of spirit within the community.

Just when there is a lull in the flow of vaccinations, the health centre manager

"THE ORGANISATION IS LIKE CLOCKWORK. THE MEDICAL TEAM AT THE HOLIDAY INN ARE CARRYING OUT AROUND 1,000 VACCINATIONS A DAY."

strides up. "Excuse me, have you had a vaccination?" she asks.

Somewhat surprised since I'm not due for a jab until April, she says they are keen to get the volunteers vaccinated too.

Waiting at station 3 is Jane. She retired as a local GP three years ago, but has returned to help the Covid clinic.

"Normally I would be walking the dogs or playing tennis on a Friday afternoon," she reveals.

"It's great to be here helping."

The process is simple. Jane asks a few questions while her assistant types the details into a laptop. She explains I will be receiving the Oxford AstraZeneca jab.

The injection is short and sweet.

Jane hands me a card carrying the name and batch of the vaccine, the date it

was given, plus a reminder to attend for a second dose during one of my volunteering shifts in April.

Dr Nigel Watson is the clinical lead for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight COVID-19 Vaccination Programme.

He said: "Clinics are going really well with lots of our patients and staff saying how smoothly things have run.

"We'd like to thank everyone for bearing with us as we know how important the vaccine is to many people.

"Whilst the vaccine roll-out is really good news, we know that the virus is still very much with us so we all must do everything we can to protect ourselves and others." ●

HOLGER KNAACK

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



THIS year, we celebrate Earth Day on April 22nd with a new sense of purpose. The environment is now an area of focus for Rotary. Solutions for all great tasks always start with you and me, and there is much we as individuals can do simply by changing our behaviour: cutting down on our use of plastic and using energy wisely are just two examples. But now we have the opportunity to do more together.

Supporting the environment is not new to Rotary; clubs have long worked on environmental issues based on local needs. Now climate change — a problem that affects us all, rich and poor — requires us to work together more closely than ever.

Alberto Palombo, a Venezuelan engineer living in Brazil and a member of The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers, shares his view.

For 30 years, my work has been to connect with communities and policy officials to take care of the environment.

Today, I am excited about Rotary's opportunities to help reduce environmental degradation and make communities more environmentally sustainable.

In every community where we

have a Rotary, Rotaract, or Interact club or a Rotary Community Corps, there are environmental challenges.

As Rotary members, we can become stewards of environmental sustainability and adopt the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in our daily lives at home and in our clubs.

Then we can incorporate them into our Rotary projects.

My club has been involved with water and environment projects since day one. We seek opportunities to empower Rotarians and foster partnerships in our region and beyond, working with groups like the Inter-American Water Resources Network and the World Water Council.

Local clubs worked with the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Rotary Action Group (wasrag.org) to help Rotary get a seat at the table during the 2018 World Water Forum in Brasilia, where we discussed how communities can recover from environmental disasters like the one caused by the failure of a mining dam on Brazil's Rio Doce in 2015.

Taking care of the earth is an effort that never stops.

To make an impact, we must align our knowledge, abilities, and enthusiasm — and Rotary is already great at doing this. As a volunteer with the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group

(esrag.org), I have seen how our work for the environment dovetails with much of what we are already doing in water and in our other areas of focus.

Rotary members are not passive spectators; we take action. Let's work together and make a positive impact.

Support from The Rotary Foundation will define this new chapter in our service. Through district and global grant projects, we will build upon our previous projects that help the environment. We will look for ways to collaborate more closely and make a greater impact on global environmental issues. And we will incorporate environmental concerns into all of our programmes, projects, and events.

Rotaractors and participants in our youth programmes expect Rotary to take a clear position and provide leadership with vision. We will work with them, seeking intelligent solutions to the problems they will inherit.

Our incredible members, networks, and Foundation give us the capacity to make an important and lasting contribution.

Now, we will discover together how Rotary Opens Opportunities to help us expand our service to preserve the home we all share. ●

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K.R. Ravindran
Trustee Chair 2020/21

MAKE no little plans, American architect Daniel Burnham said. “They have no magic to stir our blood and probably themselves will not be realised.”

When Rotary heeds Burnham’s advice and follows through with action, we shine. We made big plans when we spearheaded a global initiative to eradicate polio; last year, the World Health Organization’s African region was certified free of wild polio virus.

When the coronavirus hit a year ago, The Rotary Foundation awarded 319 COVID-19-specific disaster response grants for \$7.9 million.

To date, we have further awarded 317 COVID-19 global grants worth \$24.1 million, which, combined with previously approved global grants that grant sponsors repurposed to support coronavirus response, has made for a total outflow of more than \$32.7 million.

We are now thinking big again,

through our programmes of scale grants.

We will award a \$2 million grant annually to one project that aligns with one or more of Rotary’s areas of focus.

The grant should solve problems for many people in a large geographic area through a measurable and sustainable approach within a three- to five-year period.

It also requires like-minded partners who are committed and resourceful.

The idea is to replicate these programmes in different communities around the world, applying lessons learned.

The Rotary Club of Federal Way, Washington, has made no little plans.

As sponsor of the first programmes of scale grant, the club is leading, in partnership with Zambian Rotary clubs and Malaria Partners Zambia, an effort to end a disease that is widespread.

Through ‘Partners for a Malaria-Free Zambia’, Rotary will help train 60 Zambian district health officials, 382 health facility staff, and 2,500 community health workers to save lives.

It will also equip them with the necessary supplies and gear to get the job

done. Their aim is no less than reducing malaria by 90% in 10 target districts in two of Zambia’s provinces.

Rotary members are also applying the power of partnering by teaming with several organisations.

They include Zambia’s Ministry of Health through its National Malaria Elimination Centre to ensure the programme contributes to the national strategy.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and World Vision are also investing substantial resources in co-funding and implementing this \$6 million programme.

These first programmes of scale grants will inspire others and make a great impact in the years ahead.

It is just the latest chapter in the story of Rotary. One that recounts how ordinary citizens unite, to not only plan big, but also take bold action to help others in need. It is a stirring story that you, the dedicated members of Rotary who support The Rotary Foundation, are supporting this venture. ●



Tony Black
RI Director 2019/21

AT the January Rotary International (RI) Board meeting, it was unanimously agreed the RI Convention scheduled for June in Taipei would take place virtually.

This decision has disappointed many Rotarians, but the health of the attendees was uppermost in our minds.

Look out for information on the virtual convention.

So what is Rotary to get the COVID-19 vaccinations to people around the world?

An RI COVID-19 task force is looking at how we can support pandemic relief efforts. There is a need for global co-operation between citizens and governments, building on our experience in combating the polio virus.

A comprehensive communications

strategy has been developed to help inform and inspire clubs, members, and participants to take action in their communities in appropriate ways as vaccination efforts progress around the world.

To add focus to this effort, and to clearly communicate about Rotary’s support for regional and local COVID-19 vaccination efforts, five key categories have been identified as areas in which clubs and members can play an important role:

- 1) Community education – sharing information from health departments and supporting their efforts.
- 2) Equitable distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- 3) Combatting misinformation by sharing accurate and fact-based information in a regionally appropriate way.
- 4) Prevention of COVID-19 by continuing to engage in projects supporting mask-wearing, social distancing, project

hygiene practices, donations of personal protective equipment.

- 5) Encouraging preparedness to receive the vaccine (e.g. advocacy efforts to ensure governments will have their preparedness plans in place).

Rotary has produced a range of resources to guide Rotarians which can be found at rotary.org

An opportunity for collaboration with UNICEF is under discussion, which would highlight how polio eradication is proof that vaccines work, and how the lessons learned can be applied to the COVID-19 crisis.

This effort would include joint advocacy efforts, co-operating on communications efforts, alignment on messaging, and arranging opportunities for collaboration at the local level in regions identified as priority markets by both Rotary and UNICEF. ●

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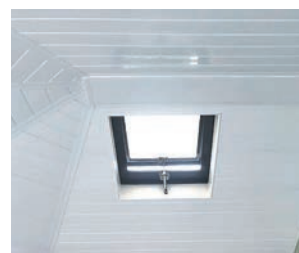
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Giving hope to job-seekers

More than 12 months on since Europe felt the full impact of the pandemic, so it has taken a heavy toll on the jobs market. But Rotary has been helping some of the unemployed to get back on their feet.

| DAVE KING |

THE withering impact of COVID-19 on jobs can be witnessed by walking down any High Street where the metal shutters have been firmly padlocked.

Economists are predicting that UK unemployment could reach by 2.6 million by the middle of 2021 – that is 7.5% of the working age population.

Much depends on the longevity of the pandemic and the benevolence of the

Government's furlough scheme which has provided a haven for many businesses and their employees.

And as lockdown restrictions are eased this summer, it will be interesting to see which businesses are able to bloom in the quagmire of coronavirus.

Bromley, which used to be an ancient parish in the county of Kent, also sits in the suburbs of the capital as the London Borough of Bromley.

It has an historically low rate of

unemployment, around 3.7%.

But last year, as lockdown measures left thousands without work, Bromley experienced a 182% rise in claims for unemployment benefit – the highest of any London Borough.

That prompted action by Bromley's eight Rotary clubs and the creation of the Rotary Work Club.

The initiative was founded by Christine Atkinson and echoes a similar Rotary club project from the 1980s.

"SOME OF THE PARTICIPANTS HAVE ALREADY FOUND WORK, AND CREDITED THE ROTARY WORK CLUB FOR ADDING TO THEIR APPROACH AND CONFIDENCE."

"For Rotary clubs, support for issues which concern our local community is a key priority," said Christine.

"The issue of suddenly rising and drastic unemployment is one of the biggest society faces.

"But for the cushion of the furlough scheme, which cannot last indefinitely, even though it has just been extended for a second time, it would be much worse."

The Rotary Work Club is a course of weekly online learning opportunities to people in the town who are out of a job or feel they are at risk of unemployment - a growing audience that is usually neglected, but which is just as important in mental health terms.

They do not promise a job, but offer free, independent, practical guidance and support.

Christine said: "It is already clear that for some, having recourse to a local, helpful, no-strings resource of help and companionship provides an uplift to mental health at a very difficult time.

"We are not a recruitment agency or job brokerage - we don't look for jobs for candidates or look for candidates for employers.

"We are also not a job referral scheme, so we don't connect employers to candidates, or vice versa."

During the pilot phase last autumn, participants learned useful skills to help them to gain new employment or to start a business.

Christine described phase one as

a success as the team of Rotarians and volunteer professionals delivered a much-appreciated series of online workshops.

Some of the participants have already found work, and credited the Rotary Work Club for adding to their approach and confidence.

The final session of phase one was attended by representatives of Enterprise Nation, the Federation of Small Businesses, and Nicki Scott, Leader of the Association for Rotary Great Britain & Ireland from 2021-23.

The Mayor of Bromley, Councillor Hannah Gray, added her support to the initiative, saying: "I believe Rotary does amazing work and its members are often unsung heroes. I would like to thank everyone involved."

Liam Carlisle, Chairman of the London and South East Forum of Credit Unions, is also behind the initiative and he joined phase two of the Rotary Work Club which ran from January through to late February.

The second series of seven Rotary Work Club seminars on Zoom focusses on:

- Getting back on your feet
- Sorting your finances
- CV writing
- Job search
- Interview skills
- Developing your LinkedIn profile
- Starting your own business

Each session is being delivered by trained volunteer facilitators from many different professional and business backgrounds.

"Launching phase 2 means that we can reach out to more of the growing and constantly changing audience of people in need that we set out to help," added Christine.

"The session content was deliberately made modular and portable so that other people in other areas can use the model created by Bromley's Rotary Work Club to serve more people in local areas.

"The COVID-19 pandemic is having a well-publicised and devastating impact on employment and businesses.

"The Rotary Work Club was created to help job-seekers gain fresh employment or start a business even against this background.

"The participants include people who hadn't had an interview in 20 years, some who found application forms hugely challenging, and some who had been told they lacked confidence or enthusiasm at interview, but without being given any advice on how to improve.

"More Rotary areas in the UK and beyond, and more professional volunteers, are coming forward and showing interest in continuing and expanding on this work." ●



TOM GRIFFIN

Rotary President of Great Britain & Ireland

A question of value

ROTARIANS are encouraged to have an elevator speech – ready to answer the ‘what is Rotary?’ question when someone points to your pin in the lift. It’s useful to have a succinct reply ready, but the question of ‘what is Rotary?’ really deserves a longer answer.

Essentially, we are a membership organisation which does service – but there’s a lot more, and I think that the true definition lies in our five core values:

Fellowship; Integrity; Diversity; Leadership; Service

We enjoy the fellowship of our fellow club members every time we meet – online or face-to-face – but Rotary offers so much more.

When you join Rotary, you don’t just join a club of a few dozen members, you become part of a worldwide community who share the same values.

That means that almost anywhere you go in the world, you will find fellow Rotarians happy to welcome you to their club; friends you just hadn’t previously met.

Our commitment to integrity means that we are people you can trust.

I was saddened to hear someone at the recent membership summit question why we still have the Four Way Test.

These days it’s more relevant than ever. When fake news is being peddled and public discourse is becoming more and more strident and partisan, our commitment not only to ‘the truth’, but also to fairness and goodwill takes the issue of whether we can trust what is said or done to another level.

The fact that Rotary exists in most countries guarantees that our global membership is diverse.

But a word of caution here; are we in Great Britain & Ireland truly diverse in our membership? Do we truly reflect our communities in terms of the age,

gender, ethnicity or occupational background of our membership? I leave it to you to look at your club and answer that question.

We offer leadership to our communities every time we identify a need, and meet it with a service project.

We exercise leadership in running our clubs, and learn or develop skills of value to us in our non-Rotary lives.

And Rotary itself offered leadership to the whole world when it said “we can eradicate polio”, and persuaded an initially uncertain World Health Organization that this was possible. Quickly, the WHO, national governments and others followed that lead, and now polio is endemic only in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

And service. Every club in its own way contributes something to Rotary’s tremendous record of service.

It’s heartwarming that in the last year or so, when many service projects have had to be put on hold,

Rotary has continued to serve – shopping and collecting prescriptions for the vulnerable, buying laptops for children studying at home, providing PPE to hospitals and care homes, and helping out with admin or stewarding at coronavirus vaccination centres.

So, what then is Rotary? To me, it is a community, bound together by our adherence to these values – and the world is a far better place for its existence. ●



"EVERY CLUB IN ITS OWN WAY CONTRIBUTES SOMETHING TO ROTARY'S TREMENDOUS RECORD OF SERVICE."

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Banks issue urgent Covid scam warning

In recent months, Mark Mullally and Sally Schofield from NatWest's Community Banking team have been speaking to a number of Rotary clubs warning about the dangers of online fraud. Here's their advice on what action you can take to beat the online scammers.

ACCORDING to Action Fraud, the COVID-19 lockdown over the past 12 months has seen an increase in scams of 400%.

By alerting Rotarians and the general public in advance by raising awareness of these types of scams, criminals will be less able to take advantage, even though lockdown measures are easing.

Vaccination scams are emerging as one of the top threats. A phone call, email or text message is sent in an attempt to steal personal and financial details.

The message contains a link to a fake NHS website with an application form to register for the vaccine asking for various personal and bank details which are then used by criminals.

Banks have issued tips to help stay safe and secure, as well as detailing five of the most common scams seen during lockdown.

You are now more likely to be a victim of fraud in the UK than any other crime.

During last year's lockdown, criminals took advantage of more people working remotely and online. It therefore makes sense to take some simple steps to make yourself and your family more fraud proof.

TIPS ON HOW TO BECOME MORE FRAUD PROOF

- Customers are reporting fake adverts on reputable sites such as Google, Facebook, eBay, and Instagram.

Try to shop online with websites that you know and trust using MasterCard or VISA.

If you see a deal online that looks too good to be true from a website you've never heard of, do your homework; check what the merchants refund policy is, do they have a landline to call if there is a problem, are there any negative reviews about them?

If you have doubts, don't make the purchase.

- If an online seller asks you to send money direct from your bank account to theirs, this is probably a scam.

If they fail to deliver the goods you will lose your money.

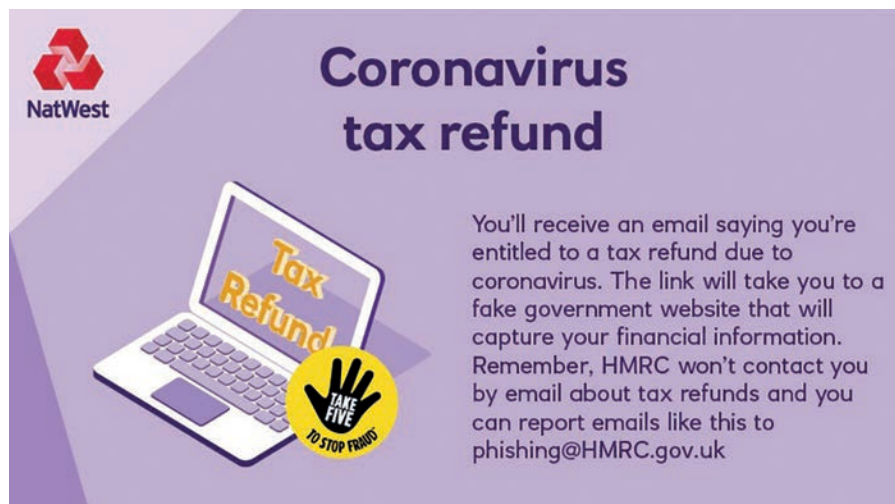
When it comes to buying online, use your MasterCard or VISA to pay, or carefully follow the scam advice on auction sites such as eBay and Gumtree will help you avoid falling victim

- Don't give away your personal and bank details too easily. Criminals use online competitions or offers of free shopping vouchers as a way of harvesting information from their next victims.

- Be sceptical of unsolicited phone calls, texts or emails asking for personal or bank details. Your bank or the police will never ask for a full PIN or password, card reader codes, or ask you to move money from your account.

- Do not recycle passwords and definitely use a unique password for your bank accounts and your email account.

- Pass this information on to your family and friends, especially anyone you think might be vulnerable.



An example of one of the current scams being highlighted by NatWest Bank



"DURING LAST YEAR'S LOCKDOWN, CRIMINALS TOOK ADVANTAGE OF MORE PEOPLE WORKING REMOTELY AND ONLINE."

CURRENT SCAMS

1 POSTAL DELIVERY SCAMS

With more shopping taking place online criminals have been using fake DPD and Royal Mail emails to collect personal information which they then use to commit further fraud.

2 PURCHASE SCAMS

Criminals follow the trend and will offer goods for sale that are in high demand.

Our customers have reported scams involving pets that don't exist, games consoles, mobile phones and even hot tubs and camper vans. If you see a good deal advertised via auction sites or on social media be careful.

Follow the payment advice on the website, ideally pay by MasterCard or VISA and definitely do not pay direct into someone's bank account until you have taken delivery of the goods.

3 CORONAVIRUS VACCINATION SCAMS

A phone call, email or text message is

sent in an attempt to steal personal and financial details. The message contains a link to a fake NHS website with an application form to register for the vaccine asking for various personal and bank details to 'confirm your address'. This information is then used by criminals to target your bank account.

4 CORONAVIRUS TAX REFUND

Criminals are bombarding inboxes with fake emails, texts and calls claiming entitlement to a support grant or tax-rebate due to coronavirus.

The aim is to get you to give them your personal details like your name, date of birth, address and sometimes even your payment card details, which they then use to steal your money.

Report emails like this to:

report@phishing.gov.uk

Once criminals have your details, they will often call you, pretending to be from your bank's fraud team, trying to persuade you to move your money to a 'safe account' or give away your card reader codes.

5 OFFERS TO MAKE QUICK MONEY

There has been an increase in criminals trying to lure people into becoming money mules through 'get rich quick' job offers.

If someone offers you money to use your bank account refuse and alert the police.

The personal consequences of allowing criminals to pay money through your account can be life-changing and you may not be able to open a bank account again.

NatWest is also offering customers free Malwarebytes software to help with added online protection. ●

| Information |

More information on how to avoid scams is available from:

www.friendsagainstsams.org.uk

www.actionfraud.police.uk

www.natwest.com

Help for hospices

Rotary clubs across three counties have been working together to support hospices which have been badly affected by the pandemic.

| DAVE KING |

Library image

THE impact of COVID-19 has hit many charities hard.

Recent research has revealed that eight out of 10 charities believe the coronavirus pandemic will negatively impact on their ability to deliver on planned objectives over the next year.

The report, 'Respond, Recover, Reset: The Voluntary Sector and COVID-19' reveals, unsurprisingly, how the devastating financial impact of the lockdowns has left nearly 40% of charities and community groups in a worsening financial situation.

Worryingly, one in ten charities believe they may be forced to close within a year, according to the report, which has been authored by Nottingham Trent University, the National Council for Voluntary Organisations and Sheffield Hallam University.

Hospices, providing valuable end of life care, have been at the sharp end of those funding challenges. Nationally, there are 155 adult hospices in the UK.

In Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire

and Hertfordshire, Rotarians have responded to the challenges faced by hospices and the unprecedented pressures being put on their resources.

Rotarians across the three counties, as part of District 1260, have managed to provide valuable funding to support the work of hospices in the region.

Luton North Rotarian, Paul Denton, was the driving force behind sourcing £64,000 of funding to eight hospices in the region.

Paul is Chairman of the District 1260 Global Grants Committee that led the application.

He said: "We found many district clubs were already supporting the hospices, but 29 clubs were happy to support a Rotary Foundation Global Grant with 50% added to their money."

A total of £43,000 was raised with a Rotary Foundation COVID-19 Global Grant. This was added to cash from the District 1260 District Designated Fund, 29 clubs in the district, The Rotary Foundation, and Bloomington Rotary in Minneapolis, USA, who acted as an



"THANK YOU FROM KEECH HOSPICE CARE. WE SIMPLY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE THIS LEVEL OF CARE AND SUPPORT TO OUR PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF ORGANISATIONS SUCH ROTARY. WE CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH."

international partner for the grant.

Luton North Rotary returned the favour by being the international partner for a COVID-19 Global Grant sourced by the Minneapolis club to fill the shelves of superstores in Minnesota.

Paul Denton added: "The Rotary Foundation advised that the application should be written as eight mini Global Grants under the umbrella of one grant number, with full use made of the concessions allowed under the new COVID-19 rule.

"Each hospice provided a list of the items relevant to their particular needs.

"These included, web cams, syringe drivers, laptops for outreach work, special mattresses, PPE, online virtual therapy headsets, and a locked drugs dispenser."

The money paid for 40 different items for the hospices, which have been visited by members of the sponsoring Rotary clubs, District Governors Mary Whitehead (2019-2020) and Vijay Patel (2020-2021), along with Leslie Robertson, the District 1260 Secretary, and Paul Denton.

The hospices have been extremely

grateful for the Rotary lifeline.

Richard Harbon from Garden House Hospice Care in Welwyn Garden City, explained how they have been hit hard by lockdown.

"As soon as the restrictions of COVID-19 kicked in, all of our shops closed and virtually all our events were either cancelled or postponed," he said.

"This meant an expected shortfall at the end of the year of £1.3 million.

"Thankfully, the Government is now providing support of £700,000 meaning an expected shortfall of £600,000.

"Clearly the longer restrictions are in place, the more money we will lose.

"It may, as described by one senior nurse, be like starting again. We are so grateful for Rotary's offer to help."

A spokeswoman for the Hospice of St Francis in Berkhamsted, said: "The generosity of Rotary could not have come at a more significant time, as we faced the biggest drop in income in our 40-year history when the demand for our services was only increasing.

"With the grant, we purchased new

laptops, headsets and software which allowed our clinicians and patients to stay connected and offer the same outstanding care virtually. This ensured we could still be that reassuring voice at the end of the phone to anyone who needed us."

It was a similar message from the Peace Hospice in Watford, who said: "Your support has helped us greatly to continue providing the very special care that our patients and families need.

"We would not be able to help those who need us without charitable supporters such as The Rotary Global Grants Committee who gave a grant of £4,695 for two syringe drivers, lock boxes, an ECG machine and accessories for the Inpatient Unit. Thank you all."

In Letchworth, where the Isabel Hospice received £6,261, the funding has been used to purchase vital equipment for the unit including syringe drivers for dispensing medication, wander mats for patient beds which alert clinical teams of movement or changes, and a cooling blanket to be used when someone passes away. ▶



Garden House Hospice Care in Welwyn Garden City have been hit hard financially by the pandemic

"CLEARLY, THE LONGER RESTRICTIONS ARE IN PLACE, THE MORE MONEY WE WILL LOSE. IT MAY, AS DESCRIBED BY ONE SENIOR NURSE, BE LIKE STARTING AGAIN. WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR ROTARY'S OFFER TO HELP."

Rotarian Paul Denton said that the project had enabled more Rotarians to see The Rotary Foundation at work and how the money is spent.

"The project has had full Rotary involvement and full support from the hospices," he said. "It is a great example of The Rotary Foundation working for and with communities, showing how Rotary Opens Opportunities."

Luton North Rotary has had a long-standing connection with Keech Hospice since it opened in 1991. It cares for both adults and children and received £10,000 from the Global Grant.

Nikki Samsa explained how the past year has been extremely challenging for the hospice. The number of patients receiving care is growing daily. This includes patients who are new to the hospice who have tested positive for COVID-19.

Our adult in-patient unit is running at full capacity with over 50% of the patients being admitted with a positive COVID-19

test result.

"The need for us has never been greater," she said. "Our patients are some of the most vulnerable and highly susceptible to the virus.

"It presents a real threat to their lives and despite their own fears, our dedicated care teams have been continuing to care for children and adults at the end of their lives, both at the hospice itself and out in our communities."

And the impact of COVID-19 is simply chilling and heart-wrenching.

Nikki added: "Just the other day our Clinical Director sat on the patio with a lady in her eighties while her husband, who had tested positive for COVID-19 before he was admitted to Keech Hospice, passed away inside.

"Our nurses offered to dress her in full PPE so she could enter the room to see her husband. However, as she was clinically vulnerable, the family decided the risk was too high and remained outside.

"She was wrapped in a blanket with a cup of tea and hot water bottle to keep warm. They were both given a crochet heart which they could squeeze, the lady was able to take her heart home and the second heart remained with her husband, and went with him when he was moved to the undertakers.

"The crochet heart enabled them to have a psychological connection, something to touch and squeeze when they are unable to be at the bedside holding hands and hopefully provided them some comfort at such a difficult time.

"This is an extremely difficult time for our care teams both emotionally and physically.

"Thank you from Keech Hospice Care. We simply would not be able to provide this level of care and support to our patients and their families without the support of organisations such as Rotary.

"We can't thank you enough." ●

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Creating better futures post-Covid

Reading Matins' Rotarian Dorothy Dix and her charity Creating Better Futures are tackling the fall-out from COVID-19 in Zimbabwe.

THE coronavirus pandemic has hit the vulnerable the hardest. None more so than in politically-fragile Zimbabwe.

There, thousands of children missed vital months of education and training during lockdown. They live in homes without electricity, so there was never a possibility to learn digitally. Instead, they did household chores, or sold fruit on the streets to raise money to eat.

These children have fallen well behind their peers.

The loss of education has been especially harmful for girls. Many now face greater barriers to returning to school, including domestic abuse, teenage pregnancy, and even marriage.

Meanwhile, the pandemic sent hundreds of families deeper into poverty.

They had little or no access to food once the country entered lockdown.

The dire situation has prompted the charity Creating Better Futures, led by Reading Matins' Rotarian, Dorothy Dix, to launch a UK appeal to fund a three-point recovery plan.

- Training extra teachers to make up for lost school time.
- Providing extra practical training opportunities in sustainable agriculture, computing and entrepreneurship.
- Employing counsellors to help with children's mental well-being.

UK Aid Match brings charities, the public, and the government together to help the world's most vulnerable people.

The UK Government will match every pound donated and Creating Better Futures is hoping this might generate £200,000 for vulnerable children in Zimbabwe.



Sponsored children in Zimbabwe before COVID-19 hit the country hard

Born and raised in Zimbabwe, Dorothy Dix, created the charity in 2012, after studying in Norway, and then at the University of Reading.

"Rotary International has inspired me to become a member of the Rotary Club of Reading Matins," she said.

"Education has completely changed my life. Therefore, here at Creating Better Futures we are passionate about building better futures for children living in poverty by providing them access to education and long-term welfare support."

The charity works with around 5,000 children and the Rotary Club of Harare in Mutare and Domboshowa, two largely rural, poverty-riddled areas in Zimbabwe.

The last two years have been especially challenging because of Cyclone Idai in 2019, poor harvest caused by droughts, and now the coronavirus.

Creating Better Futures is focused on a child sponsorship programme, providing

school fees and uniform for 180 children.

They also support 5,000 children through a feeding programme which guarantees each child two meals every day they go to school.

In working with girls and gender equality, the Berkshire-based charity runs a reusable sanitary pad programme. The pads are made from fabric and are washable.

After the initial success of the project, they are starting a social enterprise where members of the community make the pads and sell them, with the profits going back into the community.

The charity also runs a number of farming-focused community projects to give smaller communities a sustainable source of income. ●

Information

For more information visit:
creatingbetterfutures.org.uk



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Ann from Kent, January 2021

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The Wulugu Project in Tamale, Ghana, where Lafita is training to become a seamstress



The Boychild International Training Centre in Homa County, Kenya, with a trainee student making furniture

Tools of the trade

Alan Geeson from Grantham Kesteven Rotary describes a project which, for 14 years, has been equipping people to transform lives in the most desperate situations.

THE devastating tsunami of 2004, which killed hundreds of thousands of people following an earthquake under the Indian Ocean, was the kick-start for the Trade Aid Trust Fund.

Known as Trade Aid (a Business in a Box), it was set up in 2007 to support communities that had been devastated by disasters.

The charity was the brainchild of Rotarian John Asher, a founder member of the Grantham Kesteven Rotary Club in Lincolnshire, who had been so impacted by the devastation wrought by the tsunami.

He saw pictures of fishermen returning to their damaged boats, realising there was sufficient material available to repair the boats if they had the right tools.

Grantham Kesteven Rotary took on the idea of creating six different tool boxes ranging from carpenter, builder, mechanic to blacksmith, teacher and tailor.

Further tool boxes specifically for plumbing and electrics were later added.

It was agreed from the outset that, wherever possible, new tools would be

supplied since, if you are giving help, then you give the best you can afford.

Since then, Trade Aid boxes have been sent following natural disasters in Haiti, Guatemala, the Philippines, Nepal, plus to areas of conflict in Kenya, Nigeria, Swaziland and Sudan.

Once Trade Aid became established it became obvious that there were other avenues where Trade Aid could help, such as education and vocational training.

This followed from an email from a Catholic Mission in Zambia asking for help to support local youths gain useful employment.

Four boxes were sent to set up a training workshop.

This developed into a long-term commitment and extended to other Catholic Missions in Zambia and Malawi.

Supporting education and vocational training is now the larger part of Trade Aid, but it will always be there to help after disasters, when requested.

In respect of our education and training programme some of the projects are listed below.

In northern Ghana, Trade Aid supports the Wulugu Project, which has built schools and takes young girls, who have been abused, off the streets.

The project gives the girls education and training in tailoring to obtain employment in the local area.

Trade Aid has supported this project for more than eight years.

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April / May 2021 | Rotary | 29

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That's a lot more effort than our annual litter pick!

For sure it involves more time, but actually **less effort**. Sound too good to be true? Well, we host free parish soirées to explain, and set you up to be litter-free forever. **PLUS, we give everyone FREE KIT to KEEP!**

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When you arrive in Volunteer Expo Online's virtual platform, begin exploring from the lobby

Volunteer Expo Online: Your ultimate guide

Volunteer Expo is the new, national volunteering show, hosted by Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland. Taking place on May 7th and 8th, 2021, this is your ultimate guide to what's in store. Don't miss out on this amazing event!

| JAMES BOLTON |

The virtual platform

By taking Volunteer Expo virtual, we want to make sure that visitors still get to experience the things they love about an in-person, live show. This is not a standard programme of Zoom calls!

When you first step into our virtual lobby, there is so much for you to explore. Head into our Exhibition Hall, with over 60 stands for you to visit. Or grab your seat in the Main Stage, where we have a two-day line-up of speaker sessions and Q&As. Or venture into the Workshop Hub and take part in a packed programme of sessions.

The exhibitors

The volunteer sector is so diverse, full of amazing organisations doing life-changing work. We wanted to capture that variety in our virtual exhibition, with over 60 exhibitors waiting to meet you. Chat with the local, national and international charities you know and

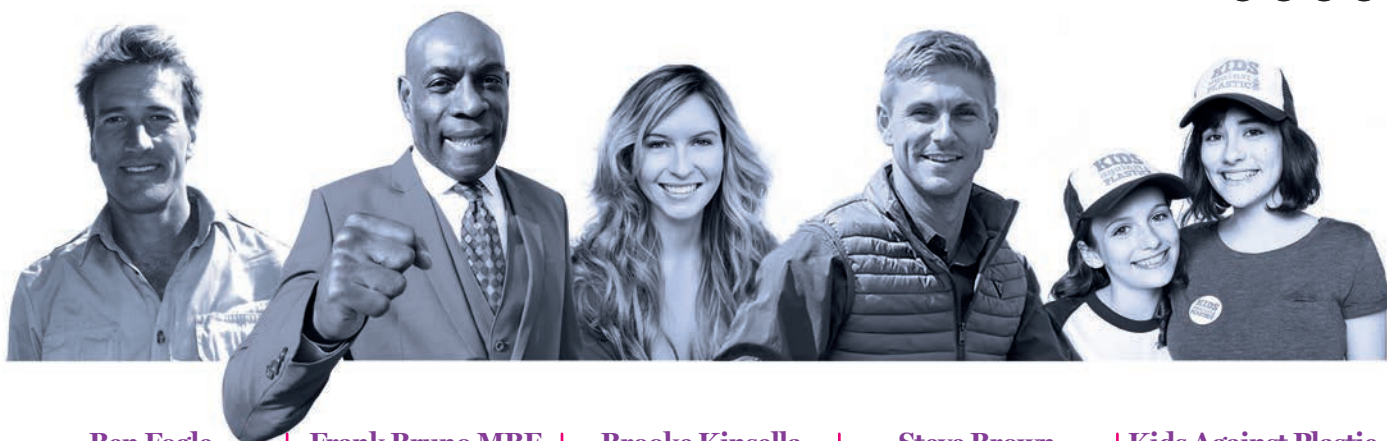
love, and ones you're yet to discover.

Plus, Volunteer Expo Online will also celebrate your Rotary favourites! Our very own Rotary-derived projects, including emergency-response box charities, End Polio Now and more.

Our virtual environment allows you to download materials to take away, and engage in live text and video chat with exhibitors.

The legacy

According to a recent report from the Together Coalition, an estimated 12.4 million people have volunteered during the COVID-19 pandemic, and 4.6 million of those did so for the first time. As we come out of the other side of the pandemic, the volunteer sector will be at the forefront, supporting people through the recovery. Volunteer Expo is your chance to be part of that legacy.



Ben Fogle
on the environment

Frank Bruno MBE
on mental health

Brooke Kinsella
on tackling knife crime

Steve Brown
on mentoring
young people

Kids Against Plastic
on recycling and
plastic pollution

The speakers

Volunteer Expo Online is bringing you leading speakers on society's biggest issues. Hear from celebrity campaigners such as heavyweight boxer Frank Bruno on mental health, and broadcaster Ben Fogle on the environment.

We've got sector leaders, including CEOs Catherine Johnstone (Royal Voluntary Service), Sarah Vibert (National Council for Voluntary Organisations) Matt Hyde (Scouts) and Sanj

Srikanthan (ShelterBox) to offer their insight into the current state and future of volunteering.

Plus, we've got real life volunteering heroes sharing their incredible first hand experiences of making a difference including Amy and Ella Meek, founders of the charity Kids Against Plastic, whose Plastic Clever scheme has been adopted by over 900 organisations.

The workshops

It wouldn't be a volunteering show without giving you practical ways to get involved! Our Workshop Hub does exactly that. Run by our exhibiting charities, our free workshops give you chance to delve into the topics you care about, or explore something new.

We're covering everything from mental health to plastic pollution. From disability-inclusive volunteering to digital fundraising. From wildlife conservation to sanitation. There's something for everyone.

**This amazing event will be
taking place on May 7th & 8th, 2021**

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Workshop Hub



Main Stage

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Outcast
Poverty
Starvation
Orphans**



**Donations
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Sustainable
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Stability**

In Rwanda, many mothers with HIV resulting from genocide are outcast from their villages. They will lose their lives this year, leaving orphans.

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Contact Ros to organise a virtual talk, at: compassiondirectuk@gmail.com

**To make a donation, go to:
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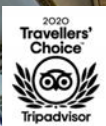
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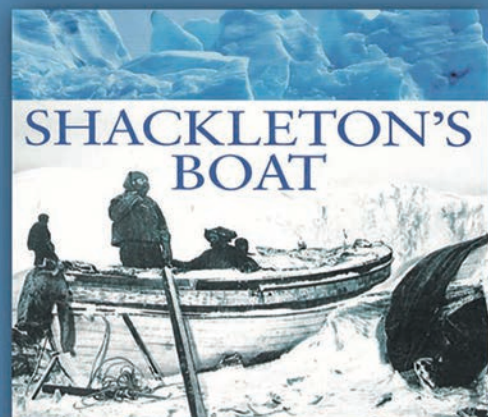
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Letters to the editor

Farming matters

REGARDING February's issue of *Rotary* magazine, may I point out that the greenhouse gases connected with farming are calculated incorporating the amount involved in housing and feeding such regimes as feedlots.

The system in the UK, which is a far more extensive one, involves a substantial amount of grazing, thus using land which is not available for production of arable crops.

Some supplementary feed may be required, for instance, in the dairy industry, but the beef and lamb production can be a great use of upland pastures.

Production by British farming will reduce global transport costs and thereby emissions.



Production of arable crops requires a large amount of additional fertiliser often produced by the petrochemical industry.

The livestock produce a fertiliser which is on site and, if handled correctly, does not produce unusable by-products.

David Hopkins
Buxton Rotary, Derbyshire

Skimming the surface

IT IS always good to care for one's own neighbourhood's environment and even better if doing so benefits others downstream. So, it may be taken that I support activities at local, national and international levels to reduce the amount of plastics reaching the oceans.

However, I feel that the information in the February issue of *Rotary* magazine allows concentration on local initiatives to obscure the larger problems.

It is estimated that there is about 8.3 billion tonnes of plastic in the world.

Each year millions of tonnes of this reach the oceans, mainly via rivers.

Ninety per cent of this river-borne contamination is deposited into the oceans by just 10 rivers: two are in Africa and the other eight are in Asia. These rivers are the Yangtze, Indus, Yellow, Hai, Nile, Ganges, Pearl, Amur, Niger and Mekong; in that order. The Yangtze alone deposits 1.5 million tonnes of plastic into the sea each year. By contrast, our own River Thames accounts for just 18 tonnes.

I would love to see that 18 tonnes taken out of the river and out of the global total. But let us be clear, that though it is good to clear the plastics from your local beach, park or woodland, there is a far larger geo-political problem out there.

It is damaging to food chains and to all marine life, to which such initiatives hardly skim the surface.

Alan Hawkes
Saffron Walden Rotary, Essex



Print raises literacy levels

HAVING spent all of my working life in the printing and publishing industries, may I congratulate Laura Willcox on her excellent article which was both accurate and balanced (*Rotary*, February 2021).

As a farmer replants his fields after harvesting one crop for food, a forester plants at least one tree for every one that he fells to provide pulp for the making of paper which is then usually recycled, often on more than one occasion.

The printed word was largely responsible for raising standards in literacy and education over the last 500 years, especially in the lower classes, whilst also giving much pleasure to readers of wonderful works of literature.

Long may this continue!

John Botting
Felixstowe Landguard Rotary, Suffolk

Teed off by plastic waste

I AM fortunate to live a very short distance from a golf course, laid out around ancient rights of way. What strikes me when I walk across the course is the assorted colours and variation in size of plastic golf tees.

I am not a golfer. I have no idea as to how many times a tee can be re-used. I am just conscious of the number I see discarded.

I am certain Rotarians collect their redundant tees, but how do you environmentally dispose of them?

Do clubhouses have tee boxes? Could a Rotary club sponsor one or have them mounted next to the ball cleaners?

If Rotarians are looking for a project close to their heart why not a sponsored tee afternoon?

I don't think it is a game-changer, in terms of the of the R&A rules, but a small contribution to environmental change.

Stuart Boulton
Rugby Rotary, Northamptonshire

Surely all trees matter

BORN in Liverpool and living nearby, the history of slavery is one I am acutely aware of.

It is estimated Liverpool ships were responsible for the transport over 1.25 million slaves in the 'middle passage', an industrial scale, dwarfing London and Bristol and anywhere else in the world at any time before or since.

This legacy alone, ignoring the treatment of slaves and their future offspring once landed, leaves black people hugely disadvantaged (I am conscious that 'disadvantaged' is an embarrassing understatement compared to the scale of wrong).

When we hear an appeal to 'Save

the Amazon Rainforest' we rarely hear someone say in response 'but surely all trees matter'.

We understand that whilst many forests are endangered, an appeal that names one isn't undermining other causes. Instead it provides a focus to address a particular issue and galvanise a response.

I am happy to say Black Lives Matter is a way of calling for a righting of wrongs and equality, for a part of humanity so long mistreated, demeaned and dealt with unequally.

Steve Burrows

Mid Wirral Rotary, Cheshire



Why print a magazine at all?

HAD to laugh. The address slip with December/January's *Rotary* magazine made great play of environmental credentials and the use of a fully recyclable magazine pack.

If you are so keen on preserving the planet, why on earth print the magazine at all?

Those of us - surely the vast majority these days - who are internet-enabled can read it just as well on-line. By all means do a small print run for those who write in and request hard-copy, for whatever reason.

Minimising the print run and postage will save Rotary in Great Britain & Ireland cost.

John Holden

Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire

Science is never settled

THE article 'Combatting Climate Change Starts With You' (*Rotary*, February 2021) reflects the 'group think' in the reasons for changes in climate making CO₂ the culprit.

The increase in CO₂ has greened the planet and increased grain, rice and many other staples bringing harvests to record levels in the last few years.

Climate change is blamed for a lot of natural events which on closer examination have nothing to do with increases in CO₂.

I am not an expert, but I suggest that a more balanced view is looked at. I suggest reading the article by Joseph S. D'Aleo, 'Climate Claim Fact Checks'.

I have a similar sentiment on this as Jane Horn had in her letter (*Rotary*, February 2021) entitled 'Time to speak out'.

Do I really want to be part of this organisation which is taking a limited view? Science is never settled.

I hope you have the courage to print my letter.

Don Heys

Taunton Rotary, Somerset

A meaty subject

I READ "Combatting climate change starts with you" (*Rotary*, February 2021), and must say how disappointed I am with the article.

Rotary should be politically neutral and try to give a balanced view.

Your article says: take action by reducing your meat intake.

There are many, many scientists with many different opinions on various aspects of climate change.

An opinion which somewhat contradicts that given in your article is put forward by Professor Frank M. Mitloehner from the University of California, Davis, who says:

"As one example, the energy in plants that livestock consume is most often contained in cellulose, which is indigestible for humans and many other mammals.

"But cows, sheep and other ruminant animals can break cellulose down and release the solar energy contained in this vast resource.

"According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, as much as 70% of all agricultural land globally is range land that can only be utilised as grazing land for ruminant livestock.

"The world population is currently projected to reach 9.8 billion people by 2050. Feeding this many people will raise immense challenges.

"Meat is more nutrient-dense per serving than vegetarian options, and ruminant animals largely thrive on feed that is not suitable for humans.

"Raising livestock also offers much-needed income for small-scale farmers in developing nations.

"Worldwide, livestock provides a livelihood for one billion people."

Mike Gauntlett

Yate & District Rotary,
Gloucestershire



Together we shall overcome

I HAVE just finished reading a book by Eric Sykes titled 'If I don't write it, nobody else will'. This reminded me of my Rotary club.

We are a small club, now at present under 20 members, but do not despair, we are looking forward and setting up a satellite club.

At our opening meet, we had nine potential members with two more who could not attend that evening. There is hope on the horizon, always!

It can easily become the case when a club loses a few members in a fairly short space of time that despair creeps in and the heart can be lost.

We must look forward and not dwell on what has passed. Keep the glass half full or, better still, use a pint tumbler; it will hold more!

Yes, we have endured some dull times, that is in the past. Let us look forward.

'Rotary must be fun'. I like that remark and I try to make it such in our club.

Why are we Rotarians?

We like doing good and helping others less able. Let us just keep it simple and let us look forward, make changes within our club to make it attractive to future generations.

There is no such thing as CAN'T, is there? There will always be challenges to face and overcome.

Together, we shall overcome.

James G Robertson

Castle Douglas Rotary,
Dumfries & Galloway

It's time to think outside the box!

THE last few weeks have given me time to think outside the box.

If you are getting edgy about not being summoned for a COVID-19 jab it probably means you're not as old as you think you are.

Why would a small minority of people spit at the police and try and sell us vaccines?

In 2019 if you walked into a bank wearing a mask, you'd be arrested.

In 2021 if you walked into a bank not wearing a mask, you'd be fined.

Who likened mask refuseniks to the same people who smoke illegally in a hotel bedroom while leaning out of the window?

At a Zoom meeting, do you occasionally think that the books on the shelf are more interesting than the person sitting in front of them?

I am also noticing a greater awareness, or re-awakening, of the natural world.

I have snowdrops coming through. I shall sink a glass of Rioja when I spy my first garden daffodil. Nature waits for no man.

Darkness is now arriving in early evening rather than late afternoon.

Things WILL get better.

To hug a relative or friend outside your bubble.

To enjoy a pint of Thatcher's cider in a pub.

To watch a film in a cinema.

To go on holiday, even abroad.

The pleasure of making my menu choices for the club's centenary banquet in October.

Getting back to regular meetings in person, and meeting my fellow members.

We have been here before.

One hundred years ago we experienced over four years of war and then endured the influenza pandemic. An estimated 500 million cases and some 50 million deaths.

The weather will improve, the jabs will continue to increase in types and numbers and this vile virus will be on the retreat. They say there are two types of people; the glass half empty and the glass half full.

I think there is a third: the glass is refillable.

We WILL get there!

David Ray

Weston-Super-Mare Rotary, Somerset

Do something useful to help your community

I AM a member of the Rotary Club of Midhurst & Petworth. We, along with other Rotary clubs, are doing what we can to help in the pandemic.

A specific example for us is helping at the local Riverbank Surgery in Midhurst as the public arrive for their Covid vaccine jabs.

Assisting in the car park, temperature checks, confirming appointment times, ensuring no entrants have been in contact with Covid sufferers recently and that they are exhibiting no signs of Covid.

Help is also required inside the surgery ensuring safe distancing and cleansing of

seats. This will likely continue for many weeks and months.

Members of the public, local tennis club, and our local Inner Wheel Club have had the necessary DBS checks and have come to help us in this worthwhile task.

Such activities can help one's resilience in lockdown. They also give a sense of well-being and pride and by helping others our own issues are put into perspective in these difficult times.

Geoff Payne

Midhurst & Petworth Rotary, West Sussex



Let's make joining Rotary easier

EVER since I joined Rotary over 30 years ago now, membership levels and new member recruitment have been live issues.

It has always seemed strange to me that an organisation with the aims and values of Rotary should have any problems attracting new members.

The recent response by society at large to COVID-19 has underlined the fact that people, particularly young people, are very keen to volunteer and get involved in community projects.

In this environment, Rotary should find recruiting new, younger members, who are the future of Rotary, a relatively simple proposition. I have wondered increasingly why, therefore, it seems so difficult to so many clubs including my own.

Analysis suggests that the problem is a fundamental one; with the way Rotary

actually works being the principal issue.

We consider ourselves to be an open, welcoming, organisation yet our lengthy recruitment process has been cited to me as a real obstacle.

It is hard to exaggerate the extent to which our process is at odds with so many values of the younger volunteer population who look to social media to organise projects with involvement being as simple as a couple of clicks on a keyboard.

We would like to believe that we are open but the message we give out through our new membership process is that we are an exclusive, judgemental and, sometimes, secretive organisation.

Graham Taylor

Berkhamsted Bulbourne Rotary,
Hertfordshire

No excuse for tearing down memorials

I READ with interest the letters about Black Lives Matter in the December/January *Rotary* magazine.

I agree with John Sutton's statement that "it is not fair to judge what happened 400 years ago through today's eyes".

Tearing down the memorials of philanthropists and other worthies is not excusable on such basis.

Public demonstration would be better directed at the injustices of today, such as the Chinese attitudes to human rights (e.g. the Uyghers, Mongolians, Hongkongers) or

the Russians for their deceitful poisonings in this country.

I believe as individuals we should try to avoid buying goods from such countries because by doing so we inadvertently support them.

The most effective way of responding is through widespread personal action, rather than by government, since the latter would only incite an aggressive political response.

Ryan Bond

Banchory-Ternan Rotary, Aberdeenshire

Pretty as a picture

ROTARIANS have been inspired by Captain Sir Tom Moore's achievement.

The photograph in the *Rotary* magazine last summer inspired me to paint a portrait from the photo.

I had run out of excuses not to get back to my hobby of watercolour painting and had started again.

Having had a good reception of the photos of this painting, I decided try to sell the prints to raise funds for the Captain Tom Foundation <http://captaintom.org> which is supporting his legacy.

If you are interested in buying any prints, then please contact me at: dahirstxyz@gmail.com

I also do the occasional commission, with a Rotarian discount, to The Rotary Foundation.

David Hirst

Pocklington Rotary, Yorkshire



Rotary: *the gift that keeps on giving*

We are living a moment of change and opportunity. It's also a time when people get volunteering and why Rotary should grasp the opportunity right now to grow

| TOM GUMP |

NOW, more than ever, our communities need people of action – the world needs more Rotarians! As friends and neighbours, we want to come together in new ways. We need to truly listen to each other and need Rotary's Four-Way Test.

Even though we cannot travel as easily as we used to, we still want to be globally connected; we need the global connections that Rotary provides. As the world changes, so does Rotary and we, as Rotarians, should ask our friends to join Rotary now.

Rotary members choose their projects. While it is true you can volunteer without paying dues, if you want to have real impact in the area of service you choose, with projects you choose – Rotary is your best option.

In fact, Rotary is the only organisation I know of where the members raise funds for their cause; plan the project they want; and actually work on the project.

In other organisations, the leadership chooses the project – not the members.

My district recently formed the Rotary Club of Minnesota Veterans, a Rotary club formed to serve veterans.

The members of this club decided shortly after starting, to partner with other District 5950 clubs to secure a \$20,000 grant, to update and furnish a family room at a Haven for Heroes home in Anoka, Minnesota.

Haven for Heroes is a stand-alone, non-profit, substance and alcohol-free board and lodging facility which provides recovery and transitional housing to service members and veterans.

Rotarians from across the district came together, leveraged district grant funds and did the work. Club members chose the project they wanted and made it happen.

A worldwide network allows for a greater global impact.

Rotary also provides its members with a network of other individuals with similar values, to work together to serve on an international level.

Last Spring, our district wanted to help out with COVID-19. We did not know

exactly where to start. Then, I received a call from Rotary International letting me know about 13 Rotary International districts in Italy that were trying to minimise risk of infection for healthcare workers. At that time, Italy was one of the worst COVID-affected areas.

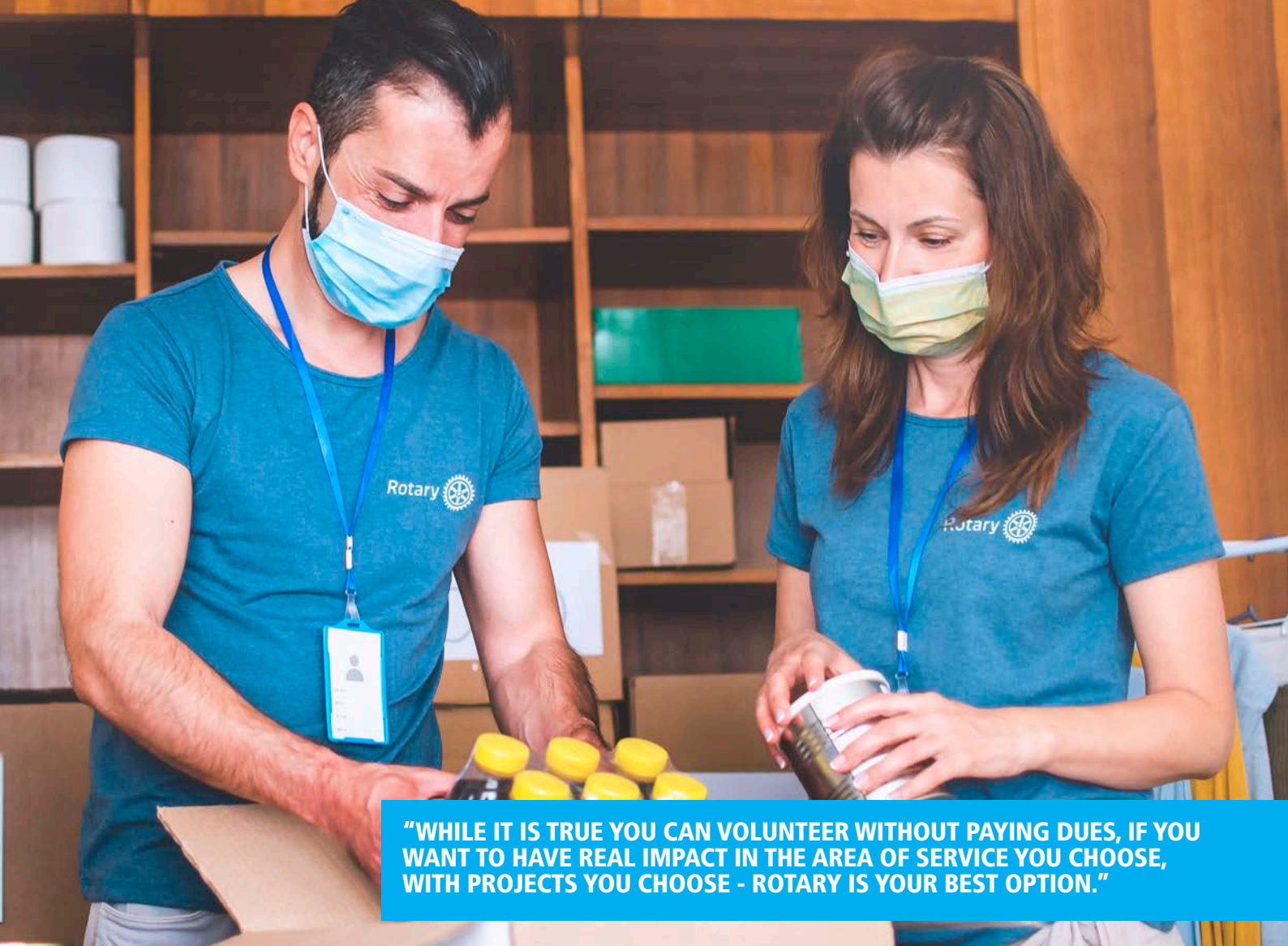
Because I was a Rotary member, I was able to lobby our district and secure a \$75,000 contribution of District Designated Funds.

We joined four US districts and a district in Japan to partner with the Italian districts. The result was a €1,300,000, life-saving project that provided an innovative high-tech solution minimising the risk of infection for healthcare workers across Italy.

Rotary membership leads to lifelong friends.

There is so much value derived from being a Rotary member (opportunities for educational and vocational development, leadership development, networking, etc).

However, the greatest value Rotary offers is the lifelong friends that develop while serving with your fellow Rotarians.



"WHILE IT IS TRUE YOU CAN VOLUNTEER WITHOUT PAYING DUES, IF YOU WANT TO HAVE REAL IMPACT IN THE AREA OF SERVICE YOU CHOOSE, WITH PROJECTS YOU CHOOSE - ROTARY IS YOUR BEST OPTION."

Whether you serve locally or internationally, you will develop friendships that will last a lifetime.

I look forward to my weekly club meetings to catch up with friends.

As a result of partnering on a project in South Africa, we have wonderful friends in Johannesburg who we look forward to visiting. And our 'family' has increased in size because we hosted youth exchange students from France, Czech Republic, South Korea, Belgium, Spain and India.

To me, all of these friends are not only worth the price of my membership dues, they are priceless because they add a richness to my life.

One last thing you need to know – it's no longer your grandfather's Rotary

In 2016, Rotary, at its Council on Legislation (COL), changed its rules to allow for greater flexibility for clubs to change its meetings' times, locations and formats.

At its 2019 COL, the organisation elevated its Rotaractors to full Rotarian status.

Rotary's governance changes have reshaped Rotary to allow it to form new and innovative clubs, including cause-based clubs, that are changing the face of Rotary.

For example, our district recently formed the Rotary Club to End Human Trafficking and the Rotary Club of Network for Empowering Women.

These new types of clubs are offering new choices for Rotary members.

I was recently invited to speak at the Membership Summit organised by Rotary in Great Britain & Ireland.

There, your upcoming Association Leader and Director-Elect, Nicki Scott, explained how she sometimes compares Rotary membership to a petrol station.

Nicki is absolutely right when she suggests if you have four petrol stations on one intersection, people are much more likely to come there. It doesn't matter which direction they are coming from, with more choice they will find it much easier to refuel.

So let's make it easier to people to discover Rotary. Just like the petrol station, it's the fuel they are after, more than the

name of the garage.

When to join Rotary? Now!

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Please encourage your non-Rotarian friends to look at joining one of our traditional clubs or one of our new and innovative clubs.

They should join Rotary now – it's well worth the price of admission! ●

| Information |

District 5950 Governor Tom Gump is a member and Past President of the Rotary Club of Edina Morningside, Minnesota, USA.

Email: tagump@gmail.com



Whoever saves a life, saves the world

The Israel-based charity 'Save A Child's Heart' reaches across conventional political boundaries for the welfare of children. Watford Rotarian, David Silverston, a trustee of Save A Child's Heart UK, describes the amazing work which is taking place.

AMONG the many causes which Rotary supports, none illustrates three of our missions better than the charity 'Save A Child's Heart'. The health of children, the training of doctors and working towards making the world a more peaceful place, are all fulfilled by this work.

It is a little-known fact that one child in 100 is born with some form of heart disease. The generic name is Congenital Heart Disease (CHD).

In developing countries, due to a complete lack of paediatric cardiologists and facilities, children born with CHD

are likely to live very short, painful and debilitating lives, rarely making it past their teens.

Save A Child's Heart - SACH for short - has a mission to tackle CHD in children from developing countries.

It does so by bringing the children to hospital in Israel for surgery, and sending medical missions to these countries to train doctors.

Based at the Edith Wolfson Medical Center in Tel Aviv, SACH has treated children from 62 countries in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Europe and South America.

SACH has also trained over 120

medical professionals in Israel, sent out more than 100 medical missions, where they work with doctors with no cardiology training, and been afforded special consultative status by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Rotary first got involved with SACH very early on through Walter Felman from Mill Hill Rotary in North London.

A Rotarian for more than 40 years, Walter became involved with SACH when it was founded in 1995 by Dr Amram Cohen. In 1999, he involved Rotary by sourcing a grant for medical equipment.

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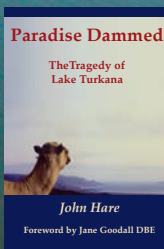
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John Hare OBE
Foreword by Jane Goodall DBE

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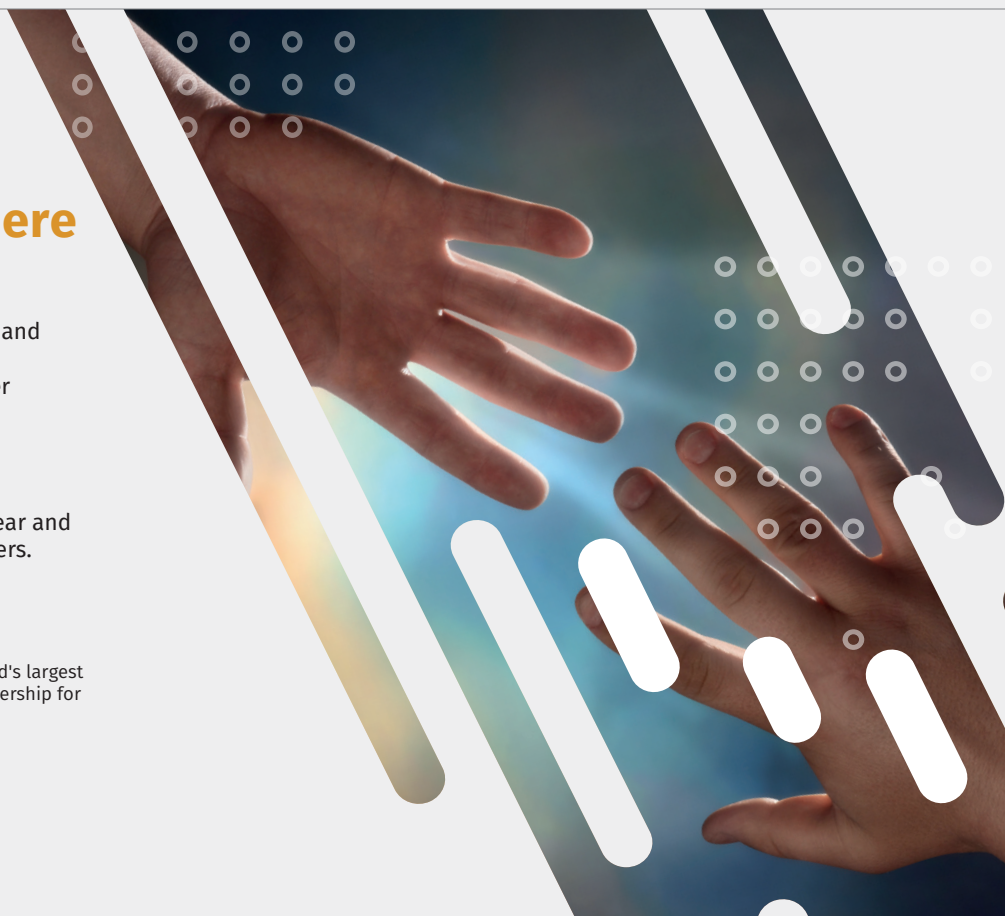
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Maddie's going for Gold

Maddie Jervis has had to overcome bone cancer and the amputation of part of her leg. But the teenage horse rider carries hopes of one day competing at the Paralympics.

| DAVE KING |

THE golden sands of the Pembrokeshire coastline provide a glorious setting for a horse ride.

These fantastic pictures on a fresh, but sun-kissed day in West Wales, were captured by Rotarian Mary Adams, who has taken the teenage rider, Maddie Jervis, to her heart.

Little more than 18 months ago Maddie, then 14, was preparing to start her GCSE studies and dreaming of one day joining the Royal Navy. But then, those dreams came crashing down.

In September 2019, Maddie was diagnosed with the bone cancer osteosarcoma. It is a most debilitating disease.

A keen horse rider, she had come home that summer from the Royal Welsh Show in Builth Wells, Powys, crying in pain and unable to walk.

The following week, when her dad Alun lifted Maddie on and off her pony because of the pain in his daughter's leg, he knew it was more than just growing pains.

The diagnosis at Worthybush Hospital in Haverfordwest was crushing.

"Our world just turned upside-down," said dad Alun Jervis, a firearms officer for Dyfed-Powys Police.

"It was like being hit by a train, and the news just kept getting worse and worse."

The road has been extremely hard for Maddie and her family. Both Alun and wife Rachael were in the Metropolitan Police before moving to Pembrokeshire.

After an initial operation in London to replace part of her femur and knee, it was



Mary is an Assistant Governor for Rotary in West Wales and said she was honoured to capture the family at this special time.

Narberth & Whitland Rotary has helped Maddie achieve her independence by helping her to buy an agricultural gator, which takes the courageous teenager, together with the horse feed, down to the field to see Eyros.

Emma Richards, a family friend, raised a lot of the money by walking from Land's

discovered that the cancer had spread, and the only option was an amputation.

That operation was carried out last May and yet, eight weeks later Maddie was back on board her Welsh Cob horse, Eyros.

Maddie is now back in school at Ysgol Dyffryn Taf in Whitland and getting about really well on crutches. She is in the process of having a prosthetic limb fitted.

"We have been slightly thwarted by the fact that Wales don't fund microprocessor knees, only mechanical ones," said mum Rachael. "So we are looking into different funding options."

It means Maddie has to be careful using the crutches and not overdo it on her stronger, right leg. Hopefully, the prosthesis will help with this.

Photographer Mary Adams of Powerpix Photography went to Amroth to take some photos of Maddie and Eyros on the beach.

End to John O' Groats.

In a letter to the Rotary club, Maddie wrote: "Thank you so much for giving me the money donation to my gator fund.

"After my amputation, I really didn't know how I was going to get on with doing things, whether I would be able to get to the field, the beach, and all the things I used to do.

"Thanks to you, and the overwhelming generosity of so many, I have been able to do pretty much everything I used to do – I just have to find new ways of doing them.

"This gator has made mobility much easier. I still need help from my mum and dad for certain things, but this money has given me back my mobility and, more importantly, my independence."

Maddie, now 15, has her sights on one day competing on her horse at the Paralympics. Before Covid, Maddie took part in three dressage competitions against able-bodied riders and won all of them.

"Hopefully, when the restrictions are lifted, I can carry on from where I left off," she added.

"I was very angry at first about everything, especially when my leg was amputated. But I am now very positive and looking forward to life."

Narberth & Whitland Rotarian,

Mary Adams, describes Maddie as "an inspiration".

Mary said: "Maddie is a wonderful role model for her peers. She is certainly determined and proves that you can do something if you put your mind to it.

"Seeing her on the horse in Amroth made me think she can achieve her dream of becoming a Paralympian.

"I believe that Maddie has the ability to go for gold as what she has done in a couple of months from losing her leg to getting back on her horse is amazing." ●

"IT WAS LIKE BEING HIT BY A TRAIN, AND THE NEWS JUST KEPT GETTING WORSE AND WORSE."



Welsh Rotarians respond to Beirut crisis

| BOB ROGERS |

AUGUST 4th, 2020 began no different to any other day for the struggling port of Beirut. Against a background of economic meltdown, government inertia and the added impediment of a pandemic, the under-funded facility was one of the few enterprises feeding export income into the stagnant economy of Lebanon.

When a fire broke out in Warehouse 12, the crew discovered the warehouse held approximately 2,750 tonnes of confiscated ammonium nitrate, alongside a stash of fireworks.

Seconds later an explosion of fireworks, with the force of a truckload of TNT, tore through the walls of the warehouse and ignited the stored ammonium nitrate causing a second blast, so powerful, it was heard 150 miles across the Mediterranean in Cyprus.

Even in a city inured to the sounds of explosions and war, the scale of the blast was awesome.

The all-encompassing concussion, immediately followed by a huge mushroom cloud caused many to fear a nuclear weapon had fallen into the hands of extremists.

Over 200 people were dead, 6,000 were injured and 300,000 of Beirut's two million population were rendered homeless.

A massive international relief effort was launched.

Among those rising to the challenge were Rotary clubs throughout South Wales alerted by Beirut Cosmopolitan Rotary who focussed efforts on the devastated public hospital in Karantina.

In a country with no established health care system, the hospital is the only source of help for the city's poor.

The operating theatre for paediatric and neonatal patients was destroyed, along with most of the paediatric wing.

President of Beirut Cosmopolitan Rotary, Habib Saba said: "We decided to



The devastation at Karantina Hospital after the explosion ripped through Beirut.

focus our efforts on projects that had a longer term impact, noting that immediate relief items were already getting adequate attention.

"Our primary focus was providing the necessary medical equipment for the paediatric wing.

"There are many needy projects in the wake of the explosion, but these are the immediate priorities for us."

Clubs in Bridgend, Pontypool and Barry are among those who have joined Beirut Cosmopolitan in raising funds.

Pontypool President, Doug Warren, said: "The response, not only by Pontypool, but also by other Rotary clubs throughout South Wales and, I am sure, by other clubs within the worldwide Rotary family, epitomizes the role of Rotary everywhere.

"It is difficult to understand and absorb the effect such a tragedy has had on families

and life in general in Beirut.

"From its very beginnings, Rotary has set out to provide a service above self providing help and support to those in need."

Habib said they were submitted a Global Grant application, which was supported by the Welsh clubs.

He added: "As well as the restoration and replacement of paediatric equipment, we have been concentrating on glass and window repairs, food distribution to families in affected areas and the establishment of a community centre to help the needy." ●

| Information |

Habib Saba, Rotary Club
of Beirut Cosmopolitan
habibsaba@gmail.com

LATEST NEWS FROM AROUND GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND

ROTARY BIKES REACH AFRICA

THE latest shipment of bikes has arrived in The Gambia as part of an initiative organised by Rotary clubs in Ireland.

For more than six years, Rotary Ireland has collected more than 5,000 bikes and sent them to schools in Africa.

The Irish Prison Service has been involved from the outset, establishing a 'Bike Shed' at Loughan House Open Centre in County Cavan.

There, the bikes are refurbished. Individuals working in the bike shed not only develop the technical skills required to refurbish bikes, but their personal contribution is a means to improved motivation and has a positive influence on their self-esteem.

The bikes have been collected by Rotary clubs across the Emerald Isle and now the latest shipment of 275 cycles has just arrived in The Gambia.

These bikes will be used to help children who have to travel long distances to school.

Executive Director of CADO, Frances Mendy, thanked Rotary Ireland, who co-ordinates the work on the bikes with inmates at Shelton Abbey and Loughan House Open Centres.

He said: "This initiative has already provided 1,440 bicycles to Gambian students across the country.

"With this resource, students can thrive in their education and also contribute to other important causes like reducing waste and saving the environment."

For the past six years Rotary Ireland has been collecting unwanted bikes from



"THESE BIKES WILL BE USED TO HELP CHILDREN WHO HAVE TO TRAVEL LONG DISTANCES TO SCHOOL."

households around Ireland and sending them to Loughan House and Shelton Abbey Open Centres for repair before shipping them to school children in The Gambia to help them get to education.

Governor of Loughan House, Mark Lydon told the Sunday World: "The project has given the prisoners a real sense of community and something to be proud of as they help to make a positive impact on the lives of the young people in Africa.

"Here at Loughan House we aim to offer a number of activities that will help to rehabilitate our prisoners and provide them with skills that will be useful when they are reintroduced to society.

"The project provides them with the expertise to become bicycle mechanics and to even gain a City and Guilds Qualification which we are confident many can use to make a better life upon their release.

"The guys here work really hard and with passion and this project gives them a real sense of pride, to be involved in something which is helping others is an important part of their lives.

"We are very grateful for the support from Rotary that these prisoners are given this opportunity." ●



FOOTBALLER ON TARGET FOR SAMARITANS

MEL Eves enjoyed a successful career as a professional footballer, playing as a striker for Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Now he is a member of City of Wolverhampton Rotary where he has become involved with helping those who have been struggling with the COVID-19 lockdown.

Mel, who went on to play for Sheffield United and Gillingham during a distinguished career as a footballer, playing three times for England B, learned that Wolverhampton Samaritans were inundated with enquiries regarding stress and anxiety as a direct result of the pandemic lockdown measures.

Many of the calls being received were from people with thoughts of suicide concerning themselves or someone close to them.

Not all the calls were from people feeling suicidal – many felt lonely and isolated, worried about their families, especially about the effects of COVID-19, feeling angry at the situation they found themselves in.

So Mel and the club decided to raise money for this essential service by organising an online raffle of a signed Wolverhampton Wanderers team shirt.

The club eventually raised £1205 with the prized shirt won by keen Wolves supporter, John Wakefield of Stafford. ●



ROTARY WOOD SAVED



ROTARIANS in North Yorkshire are celebrating after councillors rejected plans to allow building on an historic Rotary Wood.

Harrogate Spring Water Ltd had wanted to extend its bottling plant on an adjacent four-acre piece of woodland which has been coveted by environmentalists.

The Rotary Wood project commemorated the centenary of Rotary International and was supported by the local community, with school children involved in planting the new wood.

The project was instigated and funded in 2005 by Harrogate Rotary.

The Rotary club was among campaigners urging the council to reject the company's planning application.

Eight councillors on Harrogate Borough Council's 12-strong planning committee, voted against the proposal.

Alistair Ratcliffe, President of Harrogate Rotary, told the *Harrogate Advertiser*: "We are heartened that Harrogate Borough Council has taken the decision to reject this application and that any further planned destruction of the Rotary Wood will be avoided."

"We will, with others, commit ourselves to ensuring that the loss of biodiversity, carbon capture and the loss of community value as an amenity are fully compensated."

Rotary Wood hosts a variety of wildlife, including wild orchids and sits alongside Harrogate's 96-acre Pinewoods forest.

Harrogate Spring Water greeted the council's decision with disappointment.

Rob Pickering, a senior spokesperson for the company, would not reveal whether they planned to appeal the decision. ●

GREEN GIFT TO MARK CENTENARY

CANTERBURY Rotary in Kent celebrates its centenary next year, and the club is looking to make a splash with a green gift to the city.

The club is hoping to mark the event by gifting a unique and eco-friendly water bottle refilling point to the cathedral city.

Two bottle refilling points will be housed in an elegant carved stone column that will make it an attraction for visitors.

The column will be carved with a quote from John Bunyan's 'Pilgrim's Progress': 'Behold ye, how these crystal streams do glide, To comfort pilgrims by the highway-side'.

It will also feature a circular window which will allow people to interact with it as a frame for pictures.

The column's location lies near the historical site of a drinking water fountain which was destroyed during the Second

World War.

The refilling station will allow tourists to have easy access to fresh drinking water, without having to buy single-use plastic bottles which add to the city's waste.

The costs of building the column will be met entirely by the clubs with funds which they plan to raise through grants, crowdfunding and financial backing from Rotarians, community members and businesses. ●



FLY TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

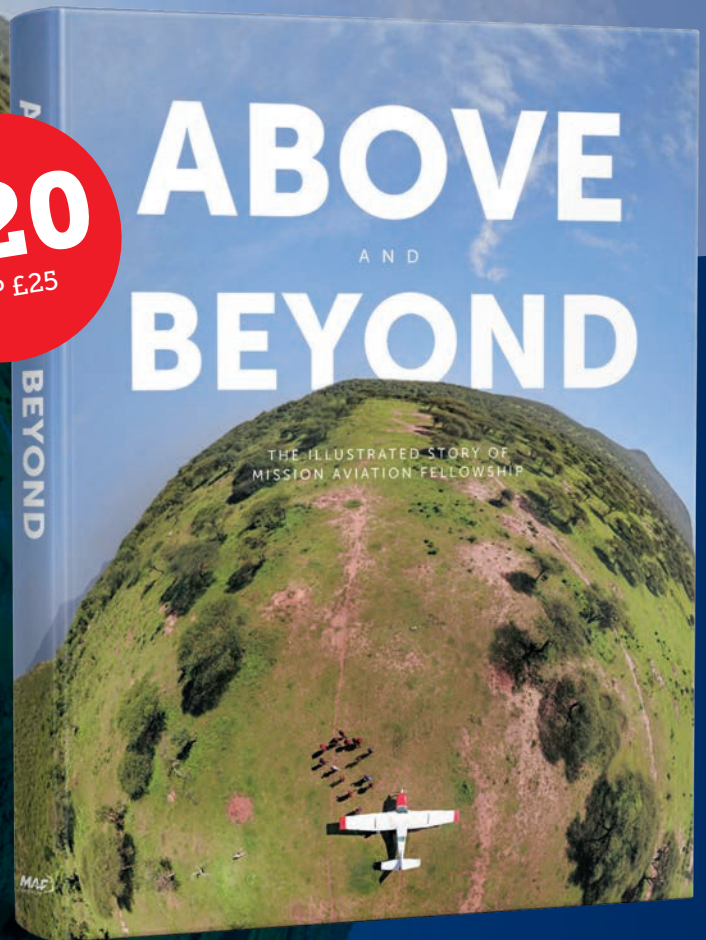
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PUSHBIKE PAUL

LONG Eaton Rotary in Nottinghamshire is being helped with its efforts to support the community thanks to the recycling efforts of a retired motor trader.

Paul Wilcox, who is affectionately known as 'Pushbike Paul' has raised more than £9,000 for the Rotary club's charity trust fund with his pushbike recycling scheme.

Paul Hopkins, President-Elect of the club, explained that 'Pushbike Paul' collects unwanted bikes of any age or condition, he then repairs them and sells the cycles on Facebook Marketplace.

"He has been collecting about 10 to 15 bikes a week, although this has increased with the rapidly growing demand since the coronavirus outbreak," explained Paul.

"The support from the public has been fantastic and the turnover on bikes has been amazing."

The scheme was featured on the BBC East Midlands news, which prompted a sudden surge in donations and sales.

The money raised goes to support Long Eaton Rotary's community work. Some of this money has gone towards the Long Eaton & Sawley foodbank, as well as to the Canaan Trust, which supports the homeless. The club has also been supporting the district foodbank project. ●



PHONE BOX IS A LIFE-SAVER



A DECOMMISSIONED red phone box in County Durham is being used as part of an innovative life-saving Rotary project.

The traditional phone box on Durham's Palace Green is the site for the city's latest life-saving defibrillator.

Three Durham Rotary clubs, Durham Bede, Durham and Durham Elvet, secured permission from Durham University to install the equipment in the high-profile location at the centre of the Durham World

Heritage Site.

Community defibrillators are part of an extended regional project being run by Rotary North East, which stretches from the Scottish borders to the North Yorkshire border.

Barbara Broadbelt, Rotary North East District Governor, said: "One of the areas of focus for Rotary is disease prevention and treatment and this defibrillator initiative is a commitment to improve the lives of everyone in our local communities." ●

HAMPERS FOR THOSE IN NEED

A JOINT initiative between Southampton Magna and Southampton Rotary Clubs has resulted in a new project to support the local community in Hampshire.

A fund in excess of £10,000 has been generated by the two clubs to help senior citizens and families in need during the pandemic. Working closely with the Iceland retail store, the team set about producing over 250 food hampers as a gift from Rotary.

The clubs have been working partnership with Communicare, St James Society, Age Concern and others to ensure the hampers reached the right people. Further support provided support to the Muslim, Sikh and Hindu communities.

Family support was given to families in need through several foodbanks in the city with additional help for the homeless.

The clubs have continued to support other causes including a fresh foods initiative working with Wessex Heartbeat.



A spokesman for the two Southampton Rotary clubs said: "At a time when it was easier to turn the lights off it is encouraging to see how focus enabled the clubs to turn them on and support those in need.

"The project has opened new doors and generated new ideas. They are hopeful that this will enable them to take some of these ideas forward and maintain the core values of Service Above Self." ●

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ROTARIANS HONoured



Two Rotarians have been honoured by the British Citizen Awards.

Mukesh Malhotra, a member of Hounslow Rotary in West London, and Sarah Gardner, from Elthorne-Hillingdon Rotary in Middlesex, were both singled out by the awards.

Despite the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the two Rotarians are among 27 extraordinary people from across the UK who are being recognised with the coveted British Citizen Award.

Sarah, who is President-Elect with her club, undertakes a number of voluntary roles as an Army Officer with the Army Cadet Force, a school governor, a trustee of Hounslow Community FoodBox and a Vice Chair of Thamesbank Credit Union.

Mukesh is currently Director & Chair of Thamesbank Credit Union, serving in an unpaid role. This is a financial cooperative owned solely by members to provide a safe place for savings and access to loans.

Through his involvement with Hounslow Rotary and along with Australian Susanne Rea, he created Rotary's 'World's Greatest Meal to Help End Polio' fund-raiser which globally has helped save over 16.5 million children from Polio worldwide.

Mukesh is also a trustee of the Isle of Wight-based charity called Roll Out The Barrel, and a trustee of Disability Network Hounslow. ●

BEAUTIFUL BENCHES



ROTARIANS in Devon have supported their local hospital in a colourful way by providing rainbow benches.

The two beautiful rainbow benches, a unique design made by an English company, are now on show at the North Devon District Hospital.

The benches have been sited at the Over and Above Fern Centre, the new Cancer and Wellbeing Centre at North Devon District Hospital.

They have been inscribed with the words 'Thankful for our many pots of gold... Bideford Rotary 2020'.

Bideford Rotary Club designed and financed the benches, supported by a Foundation District Grant.

Jacquie Willoughby, President of Bideford Rotary said that the club had

funded the benches as a means of thanking the NHS staff for their work during the pandemic.

She said: "We wanted to do something special to bring a smile or two during this difficult time and rainbows have been a central theme.

"The benches are to remind NHS staff that they are appreciated for all they have done this year and continue to do every day, every week, every year - they are undoubtedly pots of gold!

"We also hope that patients and their friends and families who sit on these benches will find them uplifting.

"We want them to smile and be thankful for the good things in their lives, to bring focus to their personal pots of gold rather than on any disappointments." ●

HOME BOXES' PARTNERSHIP

ROTARY clubs in Loughborough have been working together to support families forced to fend for themselves in finding accommodation.

The Rotary clubs of Loughborough, Loughborough Beacon and Loughborough Inner Wheel have joined forces to support people being re-housed in the Charnwood area by providing a home starter box of basic equipment.

Each box is packed with new items, including sets of crockery and cutlery, pans, a kettle, glasses, towels and other necessities, and cost £100 to produce.

Those receiving the boxes are local

people who have nothing with which to start their lives.

All are identified through partner agencies in Leicestershire, including Charnwood Borough Council, Women's Aid, and charities working with the homeless or ex-offenders.

Since the project's inception in 2017, they have supplied around 150 boxes, with demand particularly high during Covid.

Funding has come from the Rotary clubs. District 1070 grants, plus financial awards from a range of organisations across the East Midlands.. ●



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C51TL	Two-tone Coin with Leather Strap	£119.95		
C51SB	Silver Coin with Bracelet	£139.95		
C51SL	Silver Coin with Leather Strap	£109.95		
Postage/Packing/Insurance				£6.50
Engraving required (30 characters including spaces)				Total £

Engraving:

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RM04



and finally...

From Managing Editor Dave King
editor@rotarygbi.org

Feedback is the currency of growth

CRITICISM, like rain, should be gentle enough to nourish a man's growth without destroying his roots. So said Frank A. Clark, a veteran politician from Florida, who served in Congress at the turn of the last century.

I am not sure if he was a Rotarian, but these are wise words all the same.

So, a recent Rotary International survey, asking Rotarians around the world for their thoughts to their regional magazines, provided some extremely welcome and useful information.

Never be afraid of feedback. I've always believed those who plough a lone furrow, without ever looking up, will often find themselves heading in the wrong direction.

So thank you for the 4,701 survey responses from Rotarians in Great Britain and Ireland which offered plenty of food for thought. That is a very good sample size, reflecting a response rate of around 13%.

What was encouraging was how favourable the magazine is received, both in print form and digitally.

What was noteworthy too, was how much time you spend reading Rotary.

The impressive response rate reflected how the magazine is valued by you. Most believe it increases their understanding and connection with Rotary.

Of course you can't please everyone all the time, but trends across most categories were pleasing.

Clearly, there are areas for improvement. Story relevance, and a better reflection to Rotary's People of Action, are two areas where we need to up our game.

However, the two most pleasing statistics were the passion for print, and how 79% of folk are happy with their subscription to *Rotary* magazine.

The fall-out from the February's environment-focused issue of *Rotary* magazine is still being felt.

My digital postbag went into overdrive with a couple of hundred emails – from the downright rude, to the vast majority delighted that Rotary is embracing the environment as its seventh Area of Focus.

There was much guffawing about the magazine's plastic cover, even though the wrapping clearly stated: "the magazine is printed and wrapped in 100% recyclable materials".

But, as promised, I can state here that the June issue of *Rotary* will be delivered in a recycled paper wrapper. This is definitely, a step in the right direction.

Later on this year, hopefully once the pandemic is over, we will launch a 'Read It & Leave It' campaign.

This will encourage Rotarians to recycle their magazine, fixing club contact details to the front cover, and leaving them in GP surgeries, community centres, coffee shops and business receptions promoting Rotary to their communities.

The zany world of Zoom has opened

up many doors which would otherwise have been closed.

In just four months, I have spoken at more than 25 meetings in Great Britain and Ireland, and also overseas, about why public image is paramount to grow Rotary – especially in a post-Covid world.

I have explained how Rotary's communications strategy is two-pronged; print and digital. It is the best way of connecting with existing Rotarians, while reaching out to an external audience.

Debate has been robust and the feedback has been honest.

I spoke to Pembrey & Burry Port Rotary in Pembrokeshire, West Wales, where they have two partially-sighted members who were asking about a braille edition of *Rotary* magazine.

Sadly, this is something we can't do, but it's worth pointing out that Rotary Radio UK has just started producing its own audio version of the magazine.

Podcasting is something I am keen to explore further. Not just for the blind or partially-sighted, but also for a growing number of people who enjoy listening to podcasts and audio books.

What is the shortest word in the English language with the letters: abcdef? The answer is feedback.

Never forget that feedback is one of the essential elements of good communication. After all, good ideas remain the currency of growth. ●

Rotary magazine survey results

Do you normally read Rotary magazine?

Yes, cover to cover:	19.9%
Yes, at least a few articles:	67.8%
No:	12.3%

Do you tend to read books and magazines in paper or electronic form?

Paper:	75%
Electronic:	25%

Do you agree that you are satisfied with your subscription to Rotary magazine?

Strongly agree:	25.2%
Somewhat agree:	54.2%
Somewhat disagree:	16.3%
Strongly disagree:	4.3%

On average, how much time do you spend reading a Rotary magazine?

1-10 minutes:	17.4%
11-20 minutes:	31.3%
21-30 minutes:	28.1%
31-60 minutes:	18.3%
More than an hour:	4.9%
None:	0.1%

When you receive your Rotary magazine (online or in print), do you read it before other publications?

Yes, I read it first:	19.3%
I read one or two other publications first:	52.6%
I read it last among publications:	13.6%
I don't receive any other publications:	14.5%

Why don't you read Rotary magazine?

I do not have time to read it	320
The articles and stories are not relevant to me:	276
I do not like the design and pictures:	46
The articles are not in my preferred language:	6

Would you like to see more or less of these topics in Rotary magazine?

Rotary news, information and advice:

More:	31.5%
Just right:	60.7%
Less:	7.8%

Issues, causes and people served:

More:	29.2%
Just right:	64.6%
Less:	6.2%

The magazine strengthens my connection with Rotary:

Strongly agree:	18.6%
Somewhat agree:	60.8%
Somewhat disagree:	17.7%
Strongly disagree:	2.8%

The magazine allows me to better understand Rotary:

Strongly agree:	28.6%
Somewhat agree:	58.4%
Somewhat disagree:	11%
Strongly disagree:	2.1%

Rate each feature of Rotary magazine:

Writing

Excellent:	10.6%
Good:	61%
Average:	27%
Poor:	1.3%
Terrible:	0.1%

Photography

Excellent:	24.2%
Good:	58.4%
Average:	16.2%
Poor:	1.1%
Terrible:	0.1%

People represented

Excellent:	3.2%
Good:	31.6%
Average:	52.9%
Poor:	11.4%
Terrible:	0.8%

Layout and design

Excellent:	10.2%
Good:	57.7%
Average:	29.3%
Poor:	2.6%
Terrible:	0.3%

Ease of reading

Excellent:	15.7%
Good:	59%
Average:	23.4%
Poor:	1.7%
Terrible:	0.1%

Cover

Excellent:	19.5%
Good:	55.6%
Average:	23%
Poor:	1.8%
Terrible:	0.1%

Rate the relevance of Rotary magazine to: Rotary experience:

Excellent:	16.7%
Good:	58.9%
Average:	22.8%
Poor:	1.6%
Terrible:	0.1%

Personal life:

Excellent:	9.4%
Good:	48.4%
Average:	35.3%
Poor:	6.6%
Terrible:	0.3%

Rotary magazine | CONTACT US

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Publisher:
Centently Limited:
cententlylondon.co.uk

Advertising Sales Agency:
Century One Publishing - 01727 739 196
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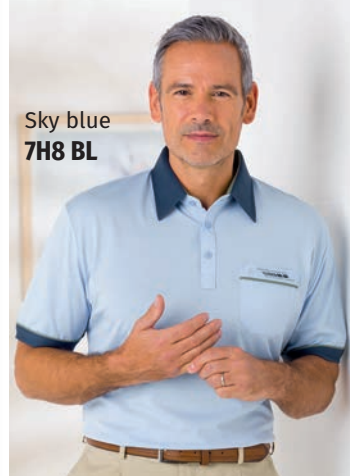
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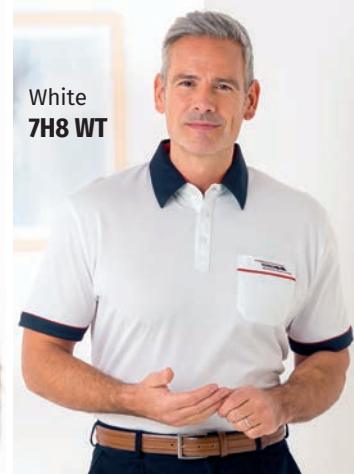
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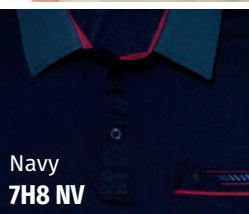


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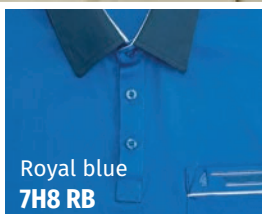


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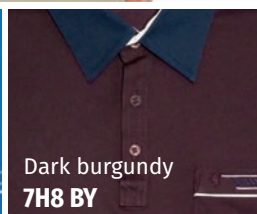
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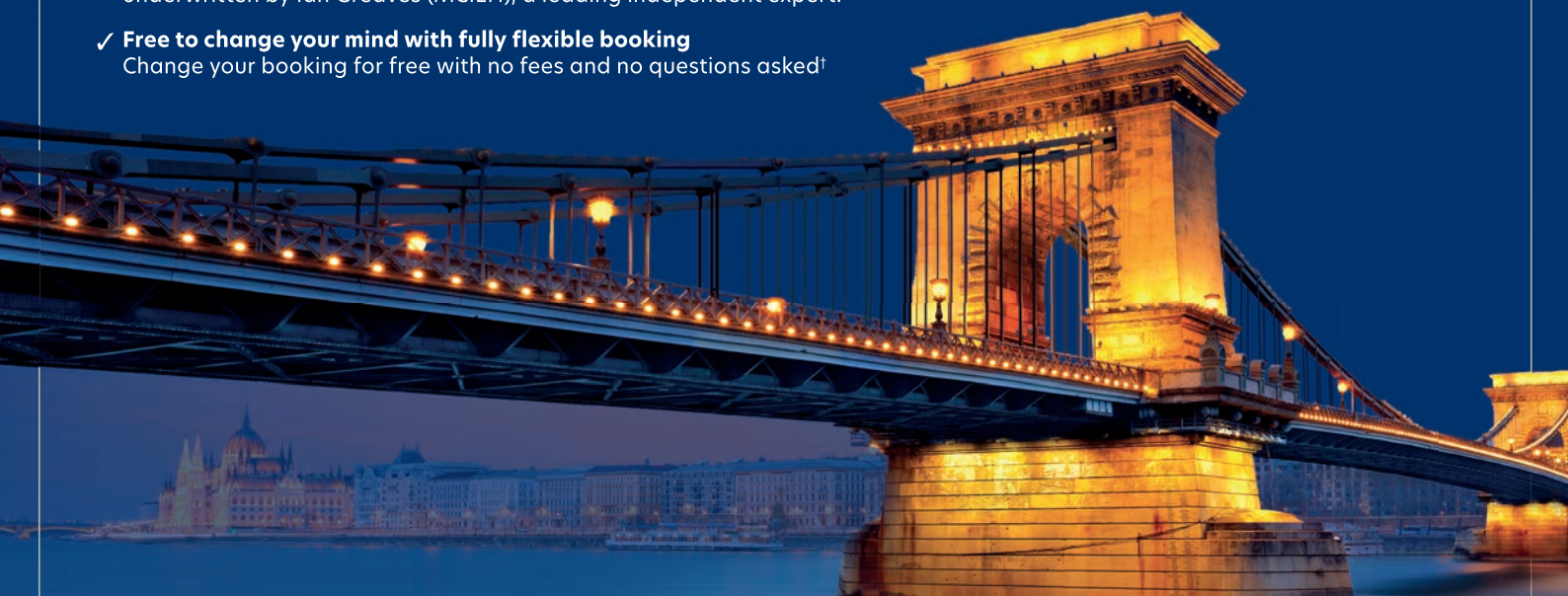
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