

Rotary

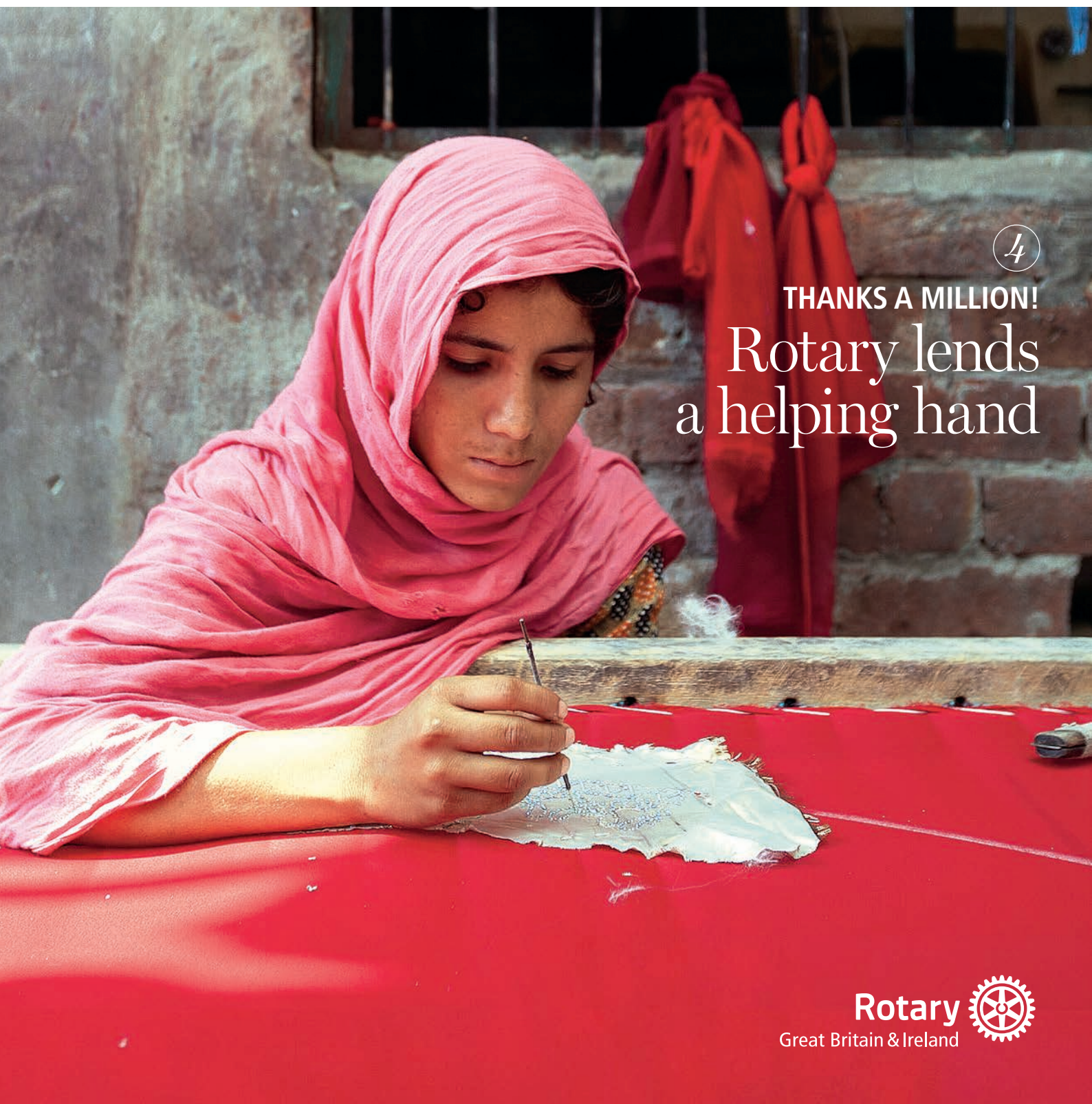
The Official Magazine of Rotary International in Great Britain & Ireland

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Stain of child abuse	16
Reality of Climate Change	30
Toastmasters alliance	32
Champions of Change	48

rotarygbi.org

August/September 2021



4

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ARTICLES

- TALK FROM THE TOP: SHEKHAR MEHTA** 21
New Rotary International President, Shekhar Mehta, reflects on the challenges ahead.
- TALK FROM THE TOP: NICKI SCOTT & DAVID ELLIS** 22
Rotary GB&I's Leader of the Association and Chairman of the Executive set out their stalls
- TALK FROM THE TOP: JOHN GERM & AMANDA WATKIN** 24
Reflections from the Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair, and General Secretary of Rotary GB&I..
- LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** 36
Four pages of letters covering subjects including famous Rotarians and corporate membership.
- AND FINALLY** 58
Rotary magazine editor, Dave King, evaluates how Rotarians can benefit from the partnership with Toastmasters International

FEATURES

- THE ANSWER LIES IN THE SOIL** 06
Filipina farmer Bernadeth Cabusog has benefited from Rotary support for her business.
- AUNTY NANCY IS A SHINING LIGHT** 08
How Aunty Nancy Chaima, or 'Aunty Nancy' has been supported by Rotary in Malawi.
- CHILD ABUSE: A STAIN ON SOCIETY** 16
How Rotary clubs in Norfolk are working together to help tackle child sex abuse.
- THE SECRETS BEHIND CLOSE DOORS** 18
Norfolk's Lord Lieutenant, Lady Philippa Dannatt, describes the horrific stories of child abuse.
- A HUMANITARIAN CRISIS** 30
The impact which climate change is having on the work of charities such as ShelterBox.
- TOASTMASTERS ALLIANCE** 32
Explaining how the partnership between Rotary and Toastmasters International can benefit..
- FIFTY YEARS OF RYLA** 42
A look back at a half century of the Rotary Youth Leadership Award scheme.

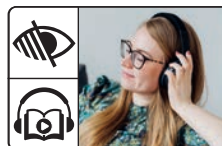
NEWS & EVENTS

- HOW ROTARY HELPS ENTREPRENEURS** 04
The story behind the partnership between Rotary and the charity Lendwithcare.
- CREDIT UNIONS PROVIDE SUPPORT** 10
Credit unions have been stepping up to support the vulnerable during the Covid pandemic.
- TRUE SERVICE ABOVE SELF** 14
Three Rotarians from England have been honoured by Rotary International.
- ROTARY IS AT TIPPING POINT** 26
Former Rotary International President, Barry Rassin, details plans being hatched to reshape the structure of Rotary.
- GIVING HOPE IN THE LEBANON** 46
Rotary clubs across Great Britain & Ireland have supported the rebuilding of Karantina Hospital in Beirut devastated by an explosion a year ago.
- JUST CHAMPION!** 48
Profiles of the Champions of Change award winners who have just been announced.

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Rotary clubs lend £1.3 million to Lendwithcare, and counting

Rotary clubs have been helping communities grow by providing loans to entrepreneurs across the world. The scheme, working with the charity Lendwithcare, has so far provided more than £1.3 million from Rotary clubs to help those fighting their way out of poverty.

| LAURA WILLCOX |

HUNDREDS of Rotary clubs across Great Britain & Ireland have been supporting Lendwithcare since 2011. They have raised funds to make small loans to entrepreneurs in developing countries allowing them to start and expand their businesses and work their way out of poverty.

Lendwithcare is a revolutionary way to help people in low income countries to work their way out of poverty with dignity.

Lendwithcare allows you to lend as little as £15 to fund a small business, and once your money is repaid you can choose to recycle your loan to support another entrepreneur, or withdraw your money.

Tracey Horner, Head of Lendwithcare, praised those Rotary clubs who have contributed towards the £1.3 million lent to entrepreneurs.

She said: “We have been bowled over by the amount of time and effort the many

clubs have dedicated to raising funds to lend, and their commitment to continuing to recycle their loans.”

The partnership between Rotary and Lendwithcare began in 2011 when Currie Balerno Rotary in Edinburgh invited Lendwithcare to talk at one of their meetings after hearing a feature on microfinance on the radio.

Since then, they have continuously made generous loans to entrepreneurs as hundreds of other Rotary clubs followed their lead, allowing small loans to create a huge impact.

Tracey added: “When we did our first talk at Currie Balerno Rotary to tell them all about Lendwithcare, we didn’t dream it would lead to so many other clubs getting involved and an official partnership with Rotary!

“They loved the idea, and it spread from there,” she said.

“It became clear quite quickly that

Lendwithcare was a brilliant fit with Rotary’s values, and the partnership has grown and evolved along with the loans and the businesses they support.

“It continues to be a fantastic partnership, and we hope Rotary continues on to the next million – and beyond.”

Despite reaching the £1 million milestone, Rotary clubs are showing no signs of slowing down as loans continue to change people’s lives.

She praised the work of John Crowe at Nantwich Rotary in Cheshire whose club has been at the forefront of the scheme.

The Cheshire club has lent more than £60,000 to almost 11,000 entrepreneurs in 11 countries. From figures published earlier this year, the club has helped 34,184 family members and created 2,582 jobs.

John said: “Nantwich Rotary is proud to be part of this fantastic initiative.

“Lendwithcare is a great way to help people out of poverty. You see exactly who





"THROUGH LENDWITHCARE, ROTARY HAS HELPED CHANGE THE LIVES OF MORE THAN 5,000 ENTREPRENEURS AROUND THE WORLD SO FAR."

the money is going to and what they will use it for."

Rotary in East Anglia (District 1080) is also one of the pioneering areas for Lendwithcare, through the work of Nick Corke and Brian Davies.

"They were very supportive of Lendwithcare in the early years and set up our most prolific lending team," added Tracey.

"Through Lendwithcare, Rotary has helped change the lives of more than 5,000 entrepreneurs around the world so far.

"It continues to be a fantastic partnership, and we hope Rotary continues on to the next million – and beyond."

And with the environment now Rotary's seventh area of focus, the Lendwithcare chief said this has opened up even more horizons for closer working.

She explained: "There is so much scope for the future – with Rotary focusing more closely on the environment, and

Lendwithcare seeking to invest in more and more small businesses that preserve, protect and improve the environment.

"For example, with our loans for solar lighting and bio-fuel loans.

"We're now turning our attention towards businesses that are helping to reforest the Amazon rainforest. It feels like Lendwithcare and Rotary are moving in the same direction, and there's so much to look forward to together." ●

| Information |

Lendwithcare is keen to get more Rotary clubs involved. For information, contact:
info@lendwithcare.org
lendwithcare.org

| Fact file |

LENDWITHCARE

- Lendwithcare is an initiative of poverty fighting charity, CARE International UK.
- CARE fights poverty and injustice in 87 countries around the world to help the world's poorest people.
- CARE's innovative solutions aim to ensure that poor people across the world have access to the financial tools and training they need to lift themselves out of poverty.
- 100% of loans go to the entrepreneurs.
- CARE is non-religious and non-political, allowing it to deliver humanitarian and development assistance to anyone in need, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, age, religion, political view or sexual orientation.



The answer lies in the soil

BERNADETH Cabusog is a 34-year-old farmer and mother-of-two from the Philippines who has received loans from Lendwithcare, including from Stevenage Grange Rotary in Hertfordshire.

She lives in the village of Sudlon II in Cebu province, along with Jennifer Timbal, and they have been working as farmers since they started living together 13 years ago.

Bernadeth plants crops on three different plots of land.

She is lucky to have an area with an abundant source of water nearby which lets her continuously grow crops without a problem during the dry season.

They have been repeatedly growing crops such as lettuce, 'baguio' beans, cucumbers, eggplants and tomatoes.

Due to their many successful harvests, the couple were able to build themselves a house to live in and send their first child to school.

Here, Bernadeth discusses how these loans have made the world of difference to her business.

How helpful has your loan from Lendwithcare been?

Very helpful financially. I was able to buy volume of farming inputs and pay the

labourers I hired to help us in the farm. During the lockdown because of COVID-19, we had almost nothing left. The stores, hotels and restaurants were closed. We were having difficulties selling our farm produce. But after eight months of struggle, we are about to start a new life. Almost 75% of our institutional buyers are operating now, so we're getting back on track.

What did you do with your loans?

Of course our means of living is farming. First thing first is to buy farm inputs. I have two persons who I pay to work in the farm. I pay them every week 1,800 pesos each person (£22). Loans help us a lot, but in return we help 2 persons to have a job.

How is your business going now?

So far so good. I can say that our business transactions are back to normal. There is always the challenge of COVID-19 but we do take precautionary measures. I can say that the agriculture today is more efficient and valuable. We're not just farming, we feed the whole world.

What are your plans for the future?

I could say I have many plans in mind. I want to rent some land for farming.

This will help me expand and increase the harvest of crops. If ever I can save enough money, I want to buy or install rain shelters or greenhouses so I can still operate my farm even in the rainy season. The future is what I am looking forward to: good farming; good income; good life and good health always of my family. ●



Amount requested:

£2,623.41



Repayment term:

24 months



Activity type:

Farming



Partner:

LAMAC Multi-Purpose Co-operative



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Aunty Nancy is a shining light in Malawi

FEBCO (Financing Energy Business Cooperative) is the first energy cooperative in Malawi and has been supported by Bury St Edmunds Rotary in Suffolk.

It is a registered Savings and Credit Cooperative run by 14 experienced and committed solar entrepreneurs.

Lendwithcare's partner, SunnyMoney Malawi, has worked with entrepreneurs to build a network of super agents who provide access to solar lights across the country.

The super agents are successful entrepreneurs, but access to finance is the biggest challenge to maximising their sales, reaching their potential as businesses and increasing energy access across Malawi.

Each entrepreneur within FEBCO has contributed 40% of their own capital into a fund. They use the loan from Lendwithcare to top up this loan fund.

Members boost their businesses by purchasing a variety of solar light stock and covering essential business expenses such as mobile airtime and travel costs to expand their customer base.

Nancy Chaima, or 'Aunty Nancy' as she is known, is SunnyMoney Malawi's

super agent for Nsanje.

Nancy has established herself as the person selling solar lights in her area.

She will use her portion of this loan to open a solar shop and buy a good level of stock for the shop.

Nsanje is Malawi's poorest district and was recently ravaged by floods. It is in the most southern district of Malawi and borders Mozambique.

Nancy has been a SunnyMoney entrepreneur for over five years. Before she became a SunnyMoney agent, she was a rice and bean farmer.

Nancy is now at the point where her business needs to expand.

A loan through the new savings and credit co-operative, will provide her with capital to build a shop and hold more stock for her business so she can serve the significant demand in Nsanje.

Nancy will use her portion of this loan to buy phone-charging solar lights at \$31 each. She plans to sell solar lights to 60 teachers across 20 schools, making a net profit of \$450, which she will reinvest into the business.

The next step for Nancy is to hire area agents in Nsanje from the commission

she makes. This means Nancy will be able to create a workforce of people travelling around the whole district providing light to communities.

Nancy will then open her SunnyMoney shop, providing a hub for anyone's energy needs in the surrounding areas. This will be one step closer towards lighting up the whole district, as well as Nancy's business. ●



Amount requested:
£14,400.97



Repayment term:
6 months



Activity type:
Green/Social



Partner:
Solar Aid Malawi

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ROTARY JOURNEY

If you're interested in joining Rotary there are a number of options available. Rotary is flexible, ranging from full membership to project volunteering.

Join an existing club in your area

There are around 1,700 Rotary clubs across Great Britain and Ireland. Often having multiple clubs in one area, giving you more flexibility to find one that suits you.

Form your own Rotary club

Rotary builds from the ground up. So if you've got family, friends, colleagues or acquaintances to join you, why not start your own Rotary Club? You can lead the way by facilitating new and vibrant volunteering opportunities in your area. Rotary has a dedicated team of volunteers to help you every step of the way.

Join the Rotary Global Hub

Access all the benefits of a club experience by becoming a member of our direct, online community the Rotary Global Hub. This model of Rotary allows you to connect digitally with like-minded people in location or cause-based hubs where you can join leaders, exchange ideas and take action.

Consider Corporate Membership

Perfect for business! If you and your colleagues want to work closely with your local Rotary club to get involved in the community, you can. Rotary is a great way to put your organisation's Corporate Social Responsibility ideas into action.

Get in touch and make a difference

We want to make sure your Rotary experience is the best it can be and fits around your lifestyle. We'll ask you a few questions to understand what you're looking for, before connecting you with members in your area, where you'll have chance to try a few clubs to find your best fit.



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Rotary



How credit unions help the community

The Covid pandemic has witnessed many people struggling financially, through losing their jobs or being put on furlough. Credit unions are community savings and loan co-operatives which are helping the most vulnerable.

| DAVE KING |

ROTARIANS are known as people of action, an example set by three members from three different clubs in West London and Surrey who are involved with a credit union.

Credit unions have come a long way from the man and his ledger in the church hall collecting savings and offering loans.

There are around 500 credit unions in the UK, and more than 1.8 million members nationally.

A credit union works by pooling the resources of all members' savings and prudently allowing members to take a loan from this pool of money. As this loan is repaid back into the mutual pool, it enables

the credit union to operate and lend to more members.

Mukesh Malhotra is Past President of Hounslow Rotary and the current Chair who oversees the running of the Thamesbank Credit Union.

Sarah Gardner, who is the current President of Elthorne-Hillingdon Rotary is Vice Chair, and Ekaterina Moteva, President of Egham Rotary, serves as Business Development Manager.

As a community co-operative, Thamesbank Credit Union is owned by its members and is a not-for-profit organisation. It offers ethical and affordable financial services, preventing poverty by providing members with a sustainable,

affordable alternative to high-cost lenders.

Mukesh Malhotra explained: "It is not always about the people who don't fit a typical bank loan.

"Yes, we serve those who might have run into few difficulties and are barely scraping by at the end of the month.

"We have many people, who run into difficulties because suddenly their laptop breaks or their children suddenly need new uniforms which they have outgrown.

"Whatever the loan is for, we encourage putting a few pounds aside while repaying the money, so hopefully it becomes more of a habit, than a duty."

A typical credit union could be described as a variation of a community bank. Like a traditional bank, savings are guaranteed by the Financial Conduct Authority, and all substantial loans are subject to relevant checks.

The difference is that the members are local. Loans go to local people, the office is local and you know that at the end of the day that the profits made don't go towards an expensive office building or financing the CEO's lavish lifestyle.

Profits are shared amongst the members, and voted for at the annual general meeting, so every member has a say.

Sabrina Nandkishore is testimony of how Thamesbank can be a lifeline to anyone. She was a single mother bringing up two children who struggled dealing with finances.

She explained: "I slowly got into debt due to living expenses and childcare. I felt too embarrassed to discuss this with my family.

"After watching a money programme on TV discussing affordable borrowing, I found out about credit unions being more affordable than my credit cards.

"After setting up my account, I applied for a child benefit loan, and each month I have been very pleasantly surprised that I started to save.

"Thamesbank Credit Union would always pay some of my loan and deposit the rest of my child benefit into a savings account.

"Until then, I never had an opportunity to save any money. I began to pay off my loans and have some money for emergencies.

"I have been extremely lucky in the pandemic to still have a job, and have saved money by not commuting each day into central London."

When someone opens a savings account, they become a member who makes regular payments into a savings account directly - from a salary if the employer can make payroll deductions, or by standing order.

These savings accumulate over time, allowing members to budget for future expenses or apply for low-cost loans based on multiples of savings they hold.

Rotarian Sarah Gardner, herself a

mother with two young children, explained that credit unions can serve pretty much everyone in the community.

She said: "The stories that we hear from our members make us feel good about the everyday running of the business and thinking of its future.

"It is very fulfilling to be there, when people need you most and to know that we can extend a helping hand in time of need."

There are numerous credit unions around the UK. Thamesbank operates within the London Boroughs of Ealing, Wandsworth, Hounslow, Richmond upon Thames, Kingston upon Thames and the Surrey Borough of Spelthorne.

Ekaterina Moteva said that many people have found themselves caught in spiralling debt, particularly during the pandemic. What Thamesbank is able to do is to operate at competitive rates to consolidate debt. They don't charge early repayment or arrangement fees.

"Very often we hear that people become an easy target for loan sharks, because they are too embarrassed to speak about money worries," she added.

"We would love to be there to help." •

Information

thamesbank.org

ekaterina.moteva@thamesbank.org






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THANK YOU!

True service above self

The Rotary International 'Service Above Self' award is a coveted honour which has been bestowed on three Rotarians from Great Britain & Ireland.



Lisa Hunter
Maidenhead
Bridge Rotary



Ray Sanderson
Wootton Bassett
& District Rotary



Dick Nathan
Northwick Park
Rotary

THREE Rotarians from England have been honoured with one of Rotary's highest awards.

Lisa Hunter from Maidenhead Bridge Rotary in Berkshire, Ray Sanderson from Wootton Bassett & District Rotary in neighbouring Wiltshire, and Dick Nathan from Northwick Park Rotary in north-west London have all been presented by Rotary 'Service Above Self' awards.

Just 150 of these are presented to Rotarians across the world annually.

According to the award criteria: "Nominees must be Rotarians in good standing. They must have demonstrated exemplary continuing humanitarian service, in any form and at any level."

Lisa, who lives in Maidenhead with her husband Adam, and 10-year-old daughter, Chloe, is a former Rotaractor who was Founder President of her club.

She has been at the forefront of Rotary's work during the pandemic to support vulnerable families and those who were isolated

Club colleague James Berkeley, who nominated Lisa, said: "Lisa didn't let the pandemic stop Rotary's efforts. She led the team in a successful project and ensured this was a Rotary in Maidenhead project, rather than purely Maidenhead Bridge.

"Hundreds of families have been helped through the project. All this whilst experiencing the pandemic and lockdown herself, home schooling Chloe, and trying to keep a business afloat."

Dick Nathan has been a stalwart of the Northwick Club and the London Rotary District. He initially joined Harrow Rotary in 1985 and has held many District posts, including District Governor from 2013-14 and District Secretary since 2016.

During his tenure as District Secretary, Dick has seen the replacement of a printed magazine with a weekly e-newsletter, has overseen the departure from the District's permanent location in York Gate, London, and steered the District's administration through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dick said: "I was surprised and shocked to have been singled out for this

amazing award. It is one of the very few times I have been lost for words in my 35 years in Rotary.

"This comes at the end of my tenure as District Secretary, and it is now time to give an opportunity to the younger Rotarians."

Ray Sanderson has been a Rotarian for 32 years, initially with South Cotswolds Rotary and, more recently, with Royal Wootton Bassett & District.

He has served as club President, Assistant Governor and member of District 1100 Executive and chaired District committees on Kid's Out, Community Service and International Service.

He led a club Global Grant for a mobile x-ray unit for the Red Cross in Cape Town and numerous South African fund-raising projects benefiting deprived township areas.

Ray is co-founder of the Wiltshire Life Education Centre, and the inspiration behind the Malmesbury Community Corps, started as a response to the frequent floods from the River Avon which the Wiltshire town suffers. ●



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Child abuse is a stain on civil society

Jim Wilson is a Past President of Norwich Marchesi Rotary, and a former chairman of Norfolk Police Authority. Here, he writes about why Rotary clubs should become active in the campaign against child sexual abuse.

| JIM WILSON |

THE statistics are appalling. The consequences in terms of childhoods destroyed and lives scarred is shattering.

The first ever attempt, published in January 2020 by the Office for National Statistics, to produce a co-ordinated, accurate estimate of the number of young people affected by childhood abuse before the age of 16, suggests a fifth of the population has suffered from it.

That is 8.5 million victims of physical, emotional or sexual abuse. Of those, no fewer than 3.1 million have suffered sexual abuse or exploitation.

How can Rotary assist in combating this horrifying cancer that exists in our communities?

How can Rotary support the estimated one in seven who seek help and counselling, generally later in life, to help them cope with their trauma?

First, by raising awareness of a subject not widely discussed or understood, so victims can be pointed in the direction of trained and sensitive help.

Second, by supporting those organisations, many of them underfunded and voluntary, who have the expertise and knowledge to counsel victims seeking release from terrible childhood experiences, which if unchecked can go on to wreck every aspect of an individual's life like nothing else.

And, third, by helping to sponsor this vital work, which can start the process of rebuilding and reviving lives damaged in childhood.

Currently the fear of the police, experts in this area, and many members of Parliament is that the COVID-19 lockdown will have resulted in many more childhood victims.

Victims suffering silently, behind closed doors, with no-one to turn to, with schools mostly closed, and therefore even that one opportunity of safeguarding denied them.

In Norfolk, it is estimated there are between 9,500 and 10,000 victims of child sexual abuse.

Norfolk's Lord Lieutenant, Lady

Philippa Dannatt, wrote that organisations like the Sue Lambert Trust, will need every kind of support, particularly financial, in the months and years ahead.

She wrote: "They will be deluged by clients once lockdown is over.

"The effects of sexual abuse in childhood destroys any semblance of childhood and unchecked can go on to wreck every aspect of adult lives like little else.

"These are hidden crimes taking place behind bolted doors and curtained windows, every hour of every day, without respite.

"To be blunt, children are being abused physically, mentally, and sexually by the very people who should be protecting them the most. Family should be our safe haven. Sometimes, tragically, the complete opposite is true.

"Child victims are too traumatised, too ashamed and above all else, too scared to come forward. And these crimes stretch across every echelon of society."

Norfolk's former Chief Constable,



"AS WE EASE OUT OF LOCKDOWN, WE ARE GOING TO SEE A SIGNIFICANT UPLIFT IN THE NUMBER OF REPORTS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE, CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND MODERN SLAVERY."

Simon Bailey who retired this summer, was the national police lead on child abuse.

He commented recently: "As we ease out of lockdown, we are going to see a significant uplift in the number of reports of domestic abuse, child sexual abuse and modern slavery.

"I think it is absolutely inevitable, and we have to be prepared to deal with it."

Last year, Mr Bailey went on record as saying the UK is the third biggest consumer of online sexual abuse.

He said: "We have got to start being very honest about this. We have to start debating the consequences more in public.

"We have got to start coming to terms with the fact that there are some appalling things taking place online, and that unfortunately the internet is probably the root of most of the evils.

"We have got to start genuinely asking the question how much more are we as a society going to tolerate?" He described it as presenting the police and the community with devastating challenges.

Norwich Marchesi Rotary has decided

it cannot stand on the sidelines.

It is determined to try in a small way to do something to meet the huge challenge, and is hoping to make this a collaborative project with the help of other clubs in Norfolk and Norwich.

With the financial support of six other Rotary clubs, plus a District Grant, Norwich Marchesi has sponsored the Sue Lambert Trust with enough cash to support their five therapy rooms for a year, where one-to-one counselling and support is delivered to victims of child abuse who seek their help.

The Norfolk Rotary clubs have also ensured that there are enough books and leaflets to assist with counselling.

In the past year, the Sue Lambert Trust undertook over 8,800 therapy sessions given by their 60-plus trained counsellors.

The aim is to increase the support they can give to meet the increasing demand which the circumstances of lockdown inevitably will have provided.

The more money that can be raised

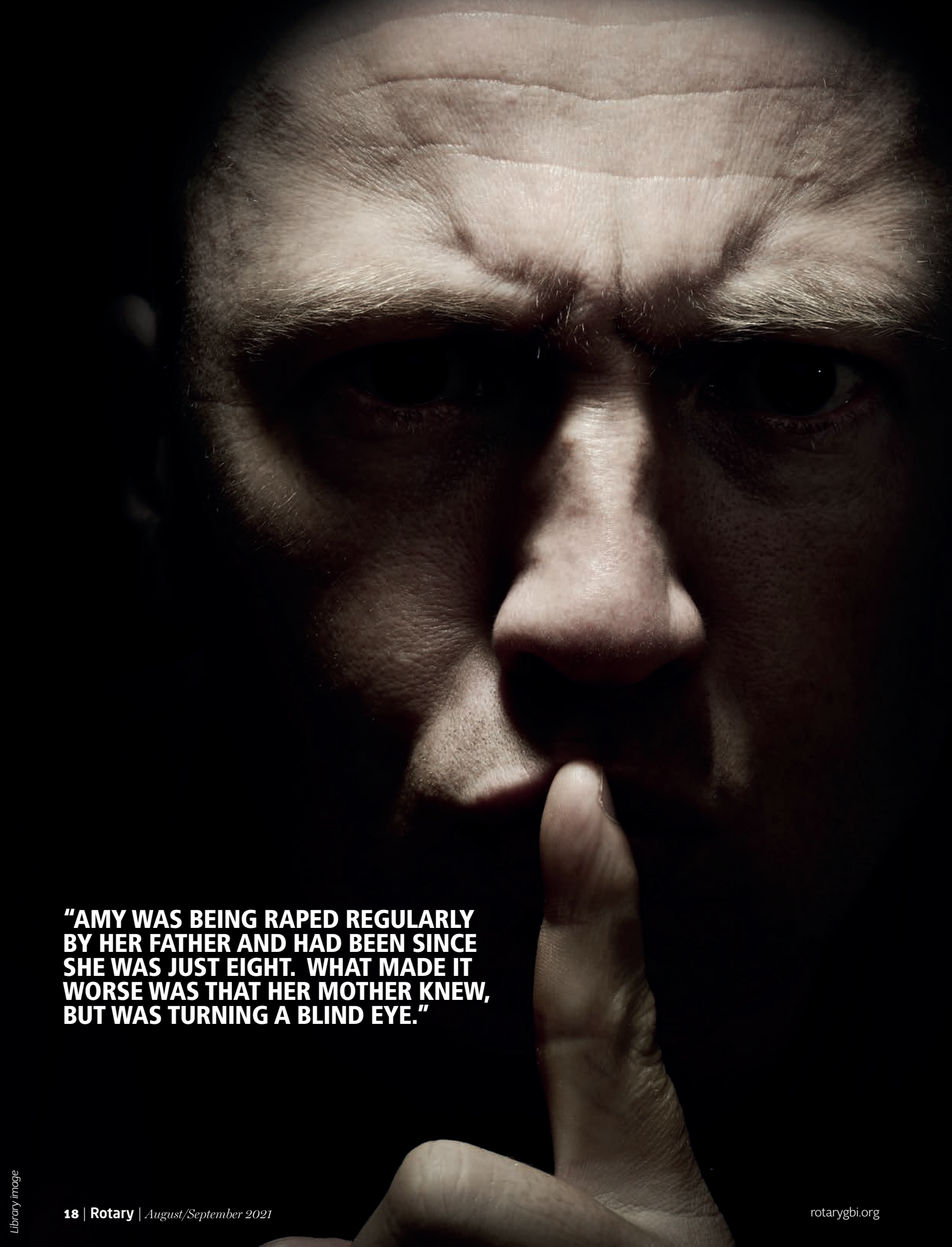
to fund therapy facilities the more child victims which Rotary and the Trust can support.

Clive Evans CEO of the Sue Lambert Trust said that since December, when Rotary provided this sponsorship, the Trust has increased its weekly counselling sessions by 22% from 250 to 305.

The demand for victim support has increased by 68% - an indication of the escalation of child abuse under Covid lockdowns.

He said: "This is an unprecedented situation for us and, if this trend continues, we will be looking at an increase of 80% in requests for support compared with previous years."

Norwich Marchesi Rotary hopes to continue assisting with funding in the coming Rotary year. As Rotarians we believe child abuse is a stain on civilised society that no decent community can tolerate. ●



**"AMY WAS BEING RAPED REGULARLY
BY HER FATHER AND HAD BEEN SINCE
SHE WAS JUST EIGHT. WHAT MADE IT
WORSE WAS THAT HER MOTHER KNEW,
BUT WAS TURNING A BLIND EYE."**

A dark secret hidden behind closed doors

Lady Philippa Dannatt is the Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk and a trained counsellor. Here she describes first-hand the scale of child abuse which is going on behind closed doors.

| DAVE KING |

TO her teachers at school, Amy was the troublesome child.

She had started promisingly but then her marks in class went into a tail-spin.

Amy dressed dowdy. Her appearance was unkempt. Her attitude was quiet and sullen. She loathed swimming classes, and would get into a tantrum with the teachers about getting undressed in front of the other girls.

But then Amy had a secret. A dark secret.

Amy was being raped regularly by her father and had been since she was just eight-years-old. What made it worse was that her mother knew, but was turning a blind eye.

Calmly telling the story about Amy is Lady Philippa Dannatt, the Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk, who is a trained counsellor with the Sue Lambert Trust.

With centres in Norwich and Great Yarmouth, the charity has been working for more than 20 years supporting the victims of child sexual abuse which, according to the NSPCC, is on the increase – especially after Covid.

There is work dealing with horrendous cases of sexual abuse, which is being replicated the length and breadth of the British Isles.

“Amy came to me at the Sue Lambert Trust when she was 21,” explained Philippa. “It was hard that her mother was turning a blind eye. Ironically, the mother worked as a carer in a care home.

“Amy couldn’t tell the teachers what was happening, but would give every kind

of indication that she was being abused.

“She loathed swimming classes because it meant getting undressed.

“When it was non-uniform days, she would wear big, black, bulky clothes to hide her figure. She made herself as deliberately unattractive and as deliberately morose as she could in the hope that somebody would ask her what was wrong.

“All the school did was to telephone Amy’s mother to tell her that she was not working. The school got it so wrong.”

Amy left school with few qualifications. It was a few years later, while attending evening class where she formed a good relationship with her teacher, that she unloaded about the scale of abuse she had suffered.

The police were called, and her father received a lengthy prison terms. He was jailed not just for the years of sexual assault, but police found worst grade paedophilia on a laptop which Amy said he had forced her to watch with him.

The wife of retired General, Richard Dannatt, the former Chief of the General Staff, Philippa first worked with the counselling service Relate while living in Germany.

“When Amy came to see me at the Sue Lambert Trust, she was an absolute joy to work with,” reflected Philippa.

“Amy is very artistic, so we did a lot of expression stuff through poetry and drawings, sometimes quite dark, sometimes funny.

“Counselling is about creating change. When someone comes to you, they are at their lowest ebb, sometimes suicidal, so the only way is up.

“It is about changing, and with Amy she really managed to change and move forward after years of working together.”

Now, Amy is at university after completing an access course. She has changed her life around.

“This is a case of a young person who came to me, who has broken all sound barriers, and is just amazing. I am very proud of her,” added Philippa.

“It is a long journey, two to three years. Some people think counselling is just smiling and nodding and saying ‘yes, yes’. But it really isn’t.

“I am a pro-active counsellor. With Amy, she was so angry at the way the school had not picked up on what she was going through. They should have known, she said.

“It is said that in every class of 18, there is one child who is being sexually abused. It is very much out there.

“I persuaded Amy to write to the headmaster so she could have a chat with him about this whole business, to advise the school how they could intervene successfully in future.

“Instead, we took a furious phone call from the headmaster who said ‘how dare this girl come and stir up trouble’. He complained it was nothing to do with him since the incident had happened under a previous regime.

“So I did something I’ve not done before. I wrote to him on Sue Lambert paper, using my name and my title, and said I was very disappointed was their approach.

“It had the desired effect. Amy was invited back and the headmaster was charming to her. ▶



“He invited all the senior staff into his office who showed her the system they now have in place to identify young people to give them a safe place to be in. This is exactly what Amy needed.

“Amy was able to talk to the staff about the kind of things they should be looking for. Things like the young person who doesn’t want to get dressed in their gym kit, someone whose work suddenly goes off the rails, and then ask: why is this happening?

“I think the most telling thing Amy said was ‘please never ring home’. Don’t ring the parents, because the chances are that they could well be the perpetrators.

“That was something the school learned that day.”

Philippa admitted that she is not easily shocked, but there are times when she is deeply saddened by the depravity.

Sadly, the Covid lockdown has provided a fertile ground for these crimes to thrive.

Philippa explained: “Someone once said to me ‘We don’t have that kind of thing happening in Norfolk’. It is hard to believe. There is still an awful amount of denial and disbelief.

“Child sexual abuse is so deeply shocking. It cuts across every level of society.

“Regrettably, there will be a need for agencies like the Sue Lambert Trust.

“Awareness is so important and for the victims to be believed. It is awful how many people have no idea that child sex abuse happens, and far less who actually believe it when people try to tell them.

“I would say please keep your ears and eyes open. Please believe people, of whatever age, if they try to tell you something.

“However horrendous or unlikely the story sounds, please don’t shut them up. Let them tell their story. It is only when we get these stories out there, that we create an awareness of what is happening.

“I give presentations and tell audiences of stories like Amy.

“Sometimes it frightens people.

“But I am also aware that there will be people in a respectable crowd of people, listening to my presentation, who will be abusers themselves, and equally there could well be someone in that room who has been abused.” ●

| *Fact file* |

CHILD ABUSE

- An estimated 3.1 million adults were victims of sexual abuse before the age of 16.
- Prevalence was higher for females than males.
- Many cases of child abuse remain hidden. One in three children sexually abused by an adult did not tell anyone.
- Over 90% of sexually abused children were abused by someone they knew.
- It is estimated only one in eight victims of sexual abuse come to the attention of statutory authorities.
- Traumatic life experiences can have a significant impact on people’s lives, increasing the risk of poor physical and mental health, and poorer social, educational and criminal justice outcomes.

Source: National Association for People Abused in Childhood

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

SHEKHAR MEHTA



GREETINGS my dear changemakers,
As we focus on membership in Rotary this month, I ask you to help make history this year.

For more than 20 years, our membership has stood at 1.2 million. Rotary is a vibrant organisation with a 116-year history, members in more than 220 countries and geographic areas, and a rich legacy of work in polio eradication and other humanitarian programmes.

Rotary has changed so much in our own lives and the lives of others. As we Serve to Change Lives, don't you think Rotary could have an even greater impact on the world if more people were practicing Service Above Self?

My vision is to increase Rotary membership to 1.3 million by July 2022, and the call to action is simple: Each One, Bring One. This year, I want every Rotarian and Rotaractor to introduce a new person into their club.

We are a membership organisation, and members are our greatest asset. You are the ones who contribute so generously to The Rotary Foundation. You are the ones who dream big to bring good into the world through meaningful projects. And of course, you are the ones who have put the world on the brink of eradicating polio.

As we make membership a priority this year, let us focus on diversity by reaching out to younger people and especially to women.

Every club should celebrate its new members, and every Rotarian who sponsors a member will be personally recognised by me. And those who are successful in bringing in 25 or more members will be part of our new Membership Society.

Even as we share the gift of Rotary with others, let us be sure to engage these new members, because an engaged Rotarian is an asset forever. And remember that engaging our current members and keeping them in our clubs is just as important as bringing in newcomers.

Let us also be ready to form new clubs, especially flexible ones. I am very bullish on clubs that hold virtual or hybrid meetings, and satellite clubs and cause-based clubs can also be very effective ways of growing Rotary.

As you grow more, you will be able to do more. Let us keep empowering girls through our work in each of the areas of focus. Scholarships for girls, toilets in schools, health and hygiene education — there is so much we can

“MY VISION IS TO INCREASE ROTARY MEMBERSHIP TO 1.3 MILLION BY JULY 2022, AND THE CALL TO ACTION IS SIMPLE: EACH ONE, BRING ONE.”

do. Projects focused on the environment are also attracting interest the world over. Do participate in these projects locally and internationally to make this world a better place for us and for all species.

Each of you is a Rotary brand ambassador, and all of the wonderful work done by Rotarians around the world needs to be shared outside the Rotary community. Use social media to tell your friends, colleagues, and relatives the stories of Service Above Self.

Finally, I'm challenging every club, during the coming year, to plan at least one Rotary Day of Service that will bring together volunteers from inside and outside Rotary and will celebrate and showcase the work of your club in your community. ●

INFORMATION

Visit rotary.org to find out more about all of these initiatives, along with other ways to Serve to Change Lives.



Build Back Better

As we tentatively emerge from an extraordinary year, where we all adapted to challenges unforeseen in Rotary, and as individuals in unison with everyone across the world, it is time to take a deep breath and contemplate the future.

So many have experienced so much pain and loss and yet, simultaneously, this pandemic has served as an enormous catalyst for so much change.

Uncertainty exists, but there are some things we know for sure as Rotarians invested in our motto of Service Above Self: we need to come together to help our local and global communities recover.

Our work is closely aligned to the United Nations' sustainable development goals which provide a blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet now and into the future.

They first coined the phrase Build Back Better in 2006. Let's take the lessons learned this past year and ask how can we build forward better, fairer and greener?

The answer is a shift in mindset and culture which means changing our behaviour. This is true for everyone including Rotary. Alternative strategies, goals and fresh ideas are embodied throughout the 2021-24 Action Plan for Rotary GB&I which will drive greater collaboration, cohesiveness and continuity.

If COVID-19 has taught us nothing else it is that we must act in unison for the greater good.

Meeting online forced us to look beyond the walls of our clubs and realise the whole world of Rotary is open to us.

Those opportunities were always there but it took a global pandemic to help us to think differently.

Rotary is built on a strong foundation of amazing values:

friendship, leadership, integrity, diversity and service. It is about being kind and open to engaging with, and learning from, others to embrace our unity as human beings. These values will never change.

It is important that we enjoy our volunteer work with those we are alongside. There is no single right way to offer service. Variety and options that align with many different passions and perspectives are key.

Rotary GB&I is ahead of the game with respect to embracing environmental issues which is now recognised as our new seventh area of focus worldwide.

We need to track our carbon footprint. This does not mean abandoning in-person gatherings where travel is necessary but it does mean measuring and offsetting that impact.

There are many ways that we can progress our Rotary activities in the virtual world, sometimes more effectively with less demand on our personal time, but the value of interpersonal connection and coming together can never be surpassed or replaced entirely.

I say let's combine the value of both in-person and virtual moving forward in all respects from meetings to fundraising and projects.

There is much to do to help our communities and make a positive social impact. We are all People of Action.

Let's get to work! **#bettertogether #onlytogether.** ●



Nicki Scott
RI Director & Leader of the Association for Rotary GB&I

Get on board and enjoy the ride!

WELL, that was a challenging year as we all experienced life under lockdown and the difficulties the pandemic caused. However, it proved our ability to adapt, which is one of our core principles.

I would like to thank all of you for having the foresight to vote for change at our recent Annual Business Meeting. It was an overwhelming result with over 90% voting for the new Board.

The Board will become a reality in July 2022. In the meantime, we cannot afford to stand still, and a new style Executive will be in place for the next Rotary year as a forerunner to the Board, which I will chair.

Rotary International Director, Nicki Scott, has put together a three-year action plan with input from all the co-ordinator team leaders.

This has been a mammoth task. All of the co-ordinator teams have embraced the action plan. It has taken time and effort to remove the stranglehold of one-year strategies. Our thanks go to all of them for planning for change.

So, what will these changes achieve and how will they affect the clubs?

To support clubs and districts we have co-ordinator teams comprising Foundation, Membership, Public Image, Service (currently Humanitarian), Learning Development and Training.

There are also specialists for Peace, End Polio Now, Diversity and Compliance, Endowment and Major Gift Advisers.

My role will be to lead and support all the co-ordinator teams, ensuring they are on track to meet their agreed action plans and that the districts and clubs are supported better than they have ever been.

Each district will have a dedicated group of co-ordinators and specialists who they will meet with regularly to share ideas, collaborate and give support and leadership.

The co-ordinator teams have already started to work together and are not just tied to their particular area of focus.

Clubs will be provided with a complete list of the support available, along with direct contact details of each team member or specialist. This means the assistance is easily accessible.

As we come out of COVID restrictions, clubs will be re-thinking the way they meet. Please don't just revert back



to what we always did, think of new and innovative forms of meetings.

I would ask you to think of this. Plan the style of your future club meetings; not for the current members, but for those members who have not yet joined.

We must take a hard look at ourselves and ask if our club is attractive to new members?

Those that know me are aware that I am an advocate for change, not just for the sake of it, but because the clubs deserve better.

I will also continue to work closely with Nicki Scott, our Director and Association Leader, as we have been for over the last year and a half.

We are in exciting times. All I ask is that you embrace these changes, get on board and enjoy the ride as our communities need Rotary more than they ever have. ●



David Ellis
Chairman of the Executive for Rotary GB&I

Talk from the top...



John Germ
Foundation Trustee Chair

IN August, we focus on membership — exploring ways we can expand Rotary's ranks and reach. As we form new clubs and answer RI President Shekhar Mehta's call of Each One, Bring One, let's consider how these efforts will have a positive impact at every level of our organisation.

Rotary's two greatest assets are its members and The Rotary Foundation, and they are linked.

Our organisation is made up of more than 48,000 Rotary and Rotaract clubs, and without our dedicated club members, we can't perform service.

Our members also carry out the Foundation's mission of doing good in the world, by working on grassroots projects and making contributions that support countless Foundation programmes and grants.

With more members in Rotary, the Foundation could do even more good in the world. We would have more hands to set up water, sanitation, and hygiene projects, so that more people could access clean water.

We would have more minds to plan global grants projects that support prenatal services, so that more babies could live. We could fund more district grants that support literacy, so that more people could learn to read.

Today, roughly a third of our members actively support the Foundation through annual giving or other means. Imagine how we could extend Rotary's reach if we were to increase that engagement, even by just a little.

More Rotarian contributions would mean additional funding for Rotary Peace Centres, and more matched contributions to help eradicate polio, thanks to our partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The Rotary Foundation is a powerful force that efficiently carries out impactful and sustainable projects around the world.

I have a simple request this month. Please take 10 minutes during your next club meeting to discuss ways to get more involved in the Foundation this year.

It could be planning an online fundraiser to benefit the Foundation or partnering with other clubs for a global grant project.

Whatever you do, remember that our members, all of us drive Rotary's efforts and sustain our Foundation. ●



Amanda Watkin
General Secretary
Rotary in Great Britain & Ireland

As we flow through the summer months of 2021 there remains a continuing level of uncertainty in how our service to society will include the much-valued human connection experienced by Rotary members in previous times. Although the mantra of 'hands, face, space' will undoubtedly be part of our ongoing routine it is apparent that confidence is building, and face-to-face reconnections are being made. But Rotary has changed.

The pandemic provided the catalyst that exposed us to technology in our Rotary world. We have sharpened up our practices, maintaining online meetings for our 'business' whilst reintroducing service and social activity in a safe, face-to-face format.

The summer months have seen many members out and about, focussing on projects such as river and beach cleans, litter picking and of course, the ongoing service to society from Rotary volunteer teams, giving their time to support COVID vaccination and test centres.

In a recent Rotary survey, it was heartening to see that around 75% of clubs are planning for their 'business as usual' activities and projects that have previously benefitted communities up and down the countries of Great Britain and Ireland.

I am equally proud that the Rotary Support Centre team continues to provide valuable resources that help promote these many projects and maintain the infrastructure that keeps members and the public safe; compliance and insurance are important!

We know that volunteering through the network of Rotary creates lasting friendships built on the shared experience of giving time for community benefit.

The creativity and innovation of our members in finding solutions to some of the toughest challenges is amazing and I am so very thankful that the opportunity to join Rotary was given to me back in 2002.

Like for so many, Rotary has provided me a strong, trustworthy network of like-minded people from which genuine friendships have developed over these almost 20 years. So now, let's all share Rotary and invite our family, friends and colleagues to join with us as members of the most amazing global network where you really can make a difference. ●

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Rotary is at a tipping point

Former Rotary International President, Barry Rassin, is spearheading a taskforce which is looking at the future shape of the organisation globally



BARRY Rassin has spent a lifetime working in the health service, initially in America and, more latterly, at home in the Bahamas. So the former President of Rotary International is well positioned to take the temperature of Rotary as the world fights back against COVID-19.

"We are doing very well as an organisation," he assesses. "We are almost at stability with our number of members, but that is dropping only because of COVID-19."

"Basically we are stable at 1.2 million members, but I don't think that is healthy. We need to grow, even though Rotary's numbers are better than most other organisations like ours."

"On the other hand, our service around the world is extraordinary. I see us as the best humanitarian organisation in the world."

"We are still doing the work of Rotary. But, with the challenges of membership, my thinking is that we could do a lot more service if we could solve that challenge of engaging our members and meeting their expectations about what we do today."

"One of our biggest downfalls is that we have lost 1.4 million people from Rotary in the last 10 years. We are bringing in

"CUE BARRY'S LATEST ROLE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE 'SHAPING ROTARY'S FUTURE' COMMITTEE, BRINGING TOGETHER MANY LEADING LIGHTS IN THE ORGANISATION, AS WELL AS THE ROTARY INTERNATIONAL TEAM IN EVANSTON, USA."

members, but the losses are something we have to fix."

Cue Barry's latest role as chairman of the 'Shaping Rotary's Future' committee, bringing together many leading lights in the organisation, as well as the Rotary International team in Evanston, USA.

Their brief is simple. To look at Rotary in light of today's world, answering the question: if Rotary started now as an organisation, what would it look like?

One hundred and sixteen years on from when Paul Harris

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“HIS TEAM IS WORKING ON AN ACTION PLAN WHICH NURTURES LEADERSHIP QUALITIES AMONG ROTARIANS.”



founded Rotary as a business networking club in Chicago, so the nature and shape of Rotary, as well as the world, has changed.

It is fair to say, too, there has been a seismic change in both since Barry was President of this global movement between 2018/2019.

Paul Harris's 1905 model was a networking model. Today, Rotary is a member organisation which does service. The challenge is to provide the support and relevance to Rotarians so they can appreciate being part of the movement.

Rotary's core values will always remain the same. "But we will create a structure that will enable us do even more than we have done so far, in a much better manner," he explained.

The roadmap is to create a Rotary structure which is more regionalised, by definition, rather than Rotary's 34 zones which are defined by number of members. His team is working on an action plan which nurtures leadership qualities among Rotarians.

With each zone having an average membership of 35,000 Rotarians, there is a need to differentiate, said Barry, on the basis of culture, demography and other unique features, without compromising on Rotary's values.

"The idea is that the structure should be closer to the Rotary clubs so that we are able to enhance our Rotary clubs," he explained.

"There are weak clubs around the world and we are not addressing that issue.

"District Governors are overwhelmed with all the duties of administration. We want to create a structure which will be able to help every single club, giving them a degree of priority.

"Less than 6% of our District Governors are under 60, so we are not getting our younger people to take on leadership roles because it is extremely time-consuming. So let's break it down."

What is being hatched are regional pilots, with Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific islands likely to develop the plan for development and communication during this Rotary year, with a start in 2022-23.

Districts would be brought together under a regional board defined by language, culture, and geography. There would also be an international global cadre - a pool of experts in various facets of Rotary working closely with clubs.

The cadre would have no administrative responsibility, but would focus instead on bringing their expertise to the clubs.

At the local level there would be sections of clubs, with maybe 10 to 25 clubs, led by a Section Leader who would only be responsible for guidance and motivation.

"The key is getting to all the clubs to make better clubs," added Barry. The administrative responsibilities move to the Regional Board and the club motivation goes to the Section Leader.

In this post-Covid era, the London-born Rotarian stressed that every Rotary and Rotaract club needs to re-think about what they are doing, and how they are doing it. "We are asking clubs to think if they are relevant to today's world.

"We want them to step back and ask themselves: are we meeting the needs of our community, are we representing our community by having members from all aspects and are we engaging every member of our club to be engaged in everything that we do?"

Asked what Paul Harris might say to the current generation of Rotarians, Barry Rassin laughed, and replied: "Paul Harris would say, remember what I said: 'Sometimes we are evolutionary and sometimes we need to be revolutionary'.

"I am one of those who believes we need a revolution.

"I believe this is a tipping point for us. COVID-19 has created this opportunity for us.

"If we don't protect our membership, everything else is going to decline. We have got to fix that, because if we don't we stop doing the level of service, then we stop donating to the Foundation, and so on.

"Membership is key, but the bigger picture of Rotary has got to be dealt with." ●



"When it comes to writing a Will, family and friends always come first. But more people like me are choosing to include a gift to ShelterBox to make sure their global family is safe in the years and decades to come."

Mary

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Climate change is a humanitarian crisis

The environment has become Rotary's seventh area of focus at a time when the world's infrastructure is crumbling. We see the images of horrendous disasters, such as flooding and drought, but what is the reality? Lucy Carr from the Rotary charity ShelterBox describes life on the front line.

| LUCY CARR |

CLIMATE change is creating an unprecedented need for emergency shelter around the world.

Right now, the climate crisis is causing irreversible damage, robbing families of their homes, livelihoods and loved ones and changing lives forever.

Climate change is a humanitarian crisis. At ShelterBox, we see this when we work with communities who have lost everything to tropical storms, flooding and drought – disasters all intensified by our heating climate.

More and more communities are experiencing the consequences of these extreme weather events. 1.7 billion people around the world have been affected by climate and weather-related disasters during the past decade.

The effects of climate change disproportionately affect the poorest communities around the world, as well as increasing the numbers of people living in poverty.

Vulnerable families are on the front line, often forced to leave their homes to survive – either because disasters are becoming more severe, or to find food, water or to make a living. It is estimated that a staggering 1.2 billion people could be displaced by the climate crisis by 2050.

Our changing climate is intensifying extreme weather and worsening already complex situations in conflicts and war zones.

Since the 1960s, the Lake Chad Basin has shrunk by about 90%, turning the area to desert.

People living in the region previously relied on the lake for their livelihoods. In

one of the hottest places on earth, it is now almost impossible to make a living from the land or the lake, increasing displacement and strengthening the influence in the region of terrorist organisation Boko Haram.

ShelterBox has supported over 11,000 families, mostly in Cameroon, but also in Chad, Nigeria and Niger, who were forced to flee. Sadly, there still remains a huge shortage of emergency shelter for displaced people.

The climate crisis is having a huge impact on people who depend on predictable weather for their livelihoods: those who farm or live a nomadic life are now struggling to feed their families.

ShelterBox has supported these communities, like families in Somaliland who couldn't grow crops or feed their cattle and sheep. Rural Somali communities rely



Families collect ShelterBox aid in response to persistent drought in Somaliland, 2018

"SHELTERBOX PROVIDES AID TO FAMILIES REELING FROM THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND, WHERE FAMILIES ARE AT RISK OF BEING DISPLACED SEVERAL TIMES, WE DESIGN OUR AID PACKAGES TO BE MOBILE AND FLEXIBLE."

on livestock for their income and survival but a three-year drought in the country has now killed up to 80% of the region's livestock. For these communities, extreme weather is the biggest threat.

"We used to sell our goats in Hargeisa for a good price," says Nimo from Somaliland. "We were living happily and could buy basic necessities and even meat. It was a very good life. But over time, things have changed.

"The livestock died, even the ones that are left cannot be sold to the market because they are in poor health. We are struggling with life now."

ShelterBox also supports families living in vulnerable locations, who are increasingly affected by extreme weather events, and are often ill equipped to withstand their increasing severity.

Climate change is leading to an increasing number of category 4 and 5 storms. The 2020 Atlantic hurricane season broke a series of unwelcome firsts, as the most active on record with 30 named storms and 14 hurricanes.

"We had never seen a cyclone like that on Pentecost before," shared John, whose Vanuatu home was destroyed by Cyclone Harold in April 2020.

Like many others caught in the direct pathway of the storm, John was not prepared for its power or severity. "Because we've never had a cyclone like that, it meant that we were not ready enough," he explained.

Adjusting building techniques to cyclone-proof shelters is vital to ensuring safety in the future.

John worked hard to repair his family home, supported with tarpaulins, accompanying aid items and training provided by ShelterBox in partnership with CARE Vanuatu.

He added: "I must make a house, a good house, that if there is a strong wind it can't blow it out.

"So that in the future if another cyclone comes we will be safe there."

People continue to live in places that they know are at higher risk of hurricanes and floods for a variety of reasons.

For many, it's their social and cultural ties to an area, homes where their communities have lived for generations.

For others, the opportunities outweigh the risks, and they have no choice but to stay where they can make a living.

Fishing communities want to be close to the sea, but these low-lying coastal areas

may be at risk of storm surges. Properties at higher risk are often cheaper.

Those who can't afford to live in safer areas create homes where they can, even if they will be more vulnerable to disaster.

In 2019 severe flooding in Asunción, Paraguay, forced Mirta and her family from their home.

"I'm tired of always having to move each time there are floods, but we don't have another option. We simply can't afford to buy a home out of the flood-affected areas," she said.

Most of ShelterBox's responses have been in areas of the world where communities are already vulnerable and have limited resources to endure the effects of extreme weather events.

ShelterBox provides aid to families reeling from the effects of climate change and, where families are at risk of being displaced several times, we design our aid packages to be mobile and flexible.

Combine that with training – on everything from drainage ditches to divert floods, to bracing and strapping techniques for stronger shelters – and families can better protect themselves for the future.

Climate change is not a tomorrow issue. Together, we can take action to support families on its frontline today. ●

| Information |

www.shelterbox.org
rotaryrequest@shelterbox.org

Reap the rewards of Toastmasters' alliance

In January 2020, Rotary International forged a strategic alliance with Toastmasters International. But what does that mean in practice?

| PAUL STERMAN |

ABOUT a year ago, Angelie Bharwaney and several members of her Rotary club started a new community project. The group teamed up to tackle trash.

Taking over the maintenance and improvement of a large pathway in Canons Park, in north-west London, the Edgware and Stanmore Rotarians spent the first Wednesday morning of every month collecting pieces of rubbish.

When passers-by asked, Angelie explained what the group was doing, and they expressed appreciation. "It just took a few hours of my time and it made me feel better," she says of the beautification effort.

Angelie is not only a Rotarian, but she is also a member of Toastmasters, where helping others is also a central tenet, with members helping each other to gain confidence, while improving communication and leadership skills.

She said her fellow Toastmasters would find it gratifying to collaborate on Rotary service efforts, which range from local projects to humanitarian service around the world.

The alliance between Toastmasters

International and Rotary International makes it easier to do that. Though members can't participate in Rotary service projects as an official Toastmasters activity, they can join in as individuals.

"I think for Toastmasters to join in our service projects would be amazing," says Angelie, Club President of the Harrobian Toastmasters Speakers in London and a Past President of Edgware and Stanmore Rotary.

The potential of that shared energy to help others is why Toastmasters and Rotary forged the alliance.

Officially announced at the beginning of 2020, it is aimed at capitalising on the strengths of each organisation, helping to further personal and professional growth for members of both groups.

Scott Brown, a Toastmaster in Roanoke, Indiana, says teaming up can help Toastmasters use their skills to positively impact people around the world.

To advocate for their service projects, leaders must communicate why such efforts are vital and inspire volunteers to work together.

"Rotary being such a great service organisation, they can help us take what

we've learned here and do something better out there," said Scott, who does leadership consulting for companies in the retail, service, and hospitality industries.

The parallels between Toastmasters International and Rotary are uncanny.

The roots of Rotary were founded in Chicago, Illinois, in February 1905, when Paul Harris, Gustavus Loehr, Silvester Schiele, and Hiram E. Shorey gathered in Loehr's office for what would become known as the first Rotary club meeting.

Toastmasters began as a series of speaking clubs organised by Ralph C. Smedley during his time working for the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). The first unofficial meeting was held in Bloomington, Indiana, in March 1905 – just 134 miles south of Chicago.

As director of education at the YMCA, Smedley saw a need for the men in the community to learn how to speak, conduct meetings, plan programmes and work on committees, and he wanted to help them.

He named the group the Toastmasters Club since 'toastmaster' was a popular term which referred to a person who gave toasts at banquets and other occasions.

Today, Toastmasters is a global, non-



"THE AIM OF THE ALLIANCE IS FOR TOASTMASTERS AND ROTARIANS TO ENHANCE THEIR SKILLS, BROADEN THEIR NETWORKS AND INCREASE THEIR POSITIVE IMPACT IN COMMUNITIES THROUGH A NEW COLLABORATION."

profit organisation with more than 16,800 clubs in 143 countries. Its members attend club meetings where they learn how to be more confident speakers, communicators and leaders.

Toastmasters' vision for the ongoing collaboration with Rotary is to change more lives for the better, and positively impact communities around the world.

"Collaborating with Toastmasters will provide our members with even more opportunities to develop and improve their leadership and communication skills," said John Hewko, General Secretary and CEO of Rotary International.

"In turn, members of Toastmasters can connect with more people, take advantage of new speaking and learning opportunities, and make a difference in their communities through Rotary."

For Toastmasters, they can benefit by gaining experience of speaking outside of the organisation, strengthening mentoring and evaluation skills, expanding professional and personal networks, as well as broadening perspectives on the world.

Rotary clubs can link with their Toastmasters counterparts at a local level, possibly by hosting a joint meeting to

allow both groups to learn more about the other.

For their part, Toastmasters are being encouraged to invite Rotarians to their clubs to give a speech and to be provided, in true Toastmasters' style, feedback and tips to improve their delivery.

In turn, Toastmasters are being encouraged to speak at Rotary club meetings and events, offering a potentially larger audience.

Such experiences can help members stretch their skills, said Canadian, Deborah Richards, who belongs to both organisations. "I think that would be an interesting challenge for a Toastmaster," said Deborah from British Columbia.

Mentoring is a core Toastmasters principle, and Scott Brown from Roanoke, believes strongly in the value of mentoring those outside of Toastmasters, which he calls "real-world experience."

That's one reason why he embraces the Toastmasters/Rotary link.

Last year, the long-time Toastmaster led a large public speaking workshop for Rotary leaders, and since then he and other Toastmasters have spoken at Rotary clubs in Indiana and, in turn, Rotarians

have spoken at their clubs.

Plus, sometimes you might not find a great fit for a mentoring relationship in your Toastmasters club, added Scott.


"Sometimes the perfect person to help is sitting in another organisation ... like a Rotary club."

Helping Rotarians improve their speaking skills, he added, is rewarding, because it enables them to more effectively advocate for humanitarian service, including fighting disease, promoting peace, and supporting education and health efforts.

"Toastmasters can teach Rotarians to be better at what they're already doing," he pointed out.

The Rotary alliance will provide plenty of networking opportunities to build personal and professional connections.

Networking has always been a valuable part of Rotary meetings, noted Deborah Richards, the Canadian Toastmaster and Rotarian.

Rotary collects data on members' professions, and the clubs' members represent a variety of businesses and industries. Toastmasters could seek new 



Rotary colleagues in a specific industry, such as engineering, teaching, or marketing.

"I could see where a Toastmaster might be interested in that networking, especially if they own a small business, for example," said Deborah, a member of Cloverdale Rotary.

Deborah is programme director in the Health Sciences Division at the Justice Institute of British Columbia.

She has participated in such service projects with her Rotary club, such as cleaning local streets and creating scholarships for students.

The aim of the alliance is for Toastmasters and Rotarians to enhance their skills, broaden their networks and increase their positive impact in communities through a new collaboration.

The advent of the global COVID-19 pandemic a year ago has stunted development of the initiative.

However, it is intended that the ongoing relationship between the two organisations will begin at grassroots level with local club members learning and working together.

Additionally, Toastmasters will create a set of eight structured communication

and leadership development courses for Rotary.

"The strategic alliance with Rotary is exciting and allows both organisations to leverage our unique and similar strengths," says Deepak Menon, Toastmasters' International President for 2019-20.

"We look forward to providing our current and prospective members with ongoing additional offerings that meet their evolving needs."

Back in England, Angelie Bharwaney, an airline administration and customer services manager, said that being in Toastmasters has boosted her confidence as a speaker.

And from Rotary, she has reaped the emotional satisfaction of volunteer service. She is happy about the alliance.

"I think it's a good thing for both organisations, to be honest," says Angelie, whose husband, Suresh, is also a Toastmaster and Rotarian.

"It will help both of them." ●

| Information |

Article was first published in Toastmaster magazine, with additional reporting.

| Fact file |

TOASTMASTERS

- Toastmasters International is a non-profit educational organisation that teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of clubs.
- Headquartered in Englewood, Colorado, the organisation's membership exceeds 364,000 in more than 16,200 clubs in 145 countries.
- Since 1924, Toastmasters International has helped people from diverse backgrounds become more confident speakers, communicators, and leaders.
- The Pathways learning experience is Toastmasters' education programme. This multi-language online learning tool allows you to leverage over 300 practical workplace skills, including: interview preparation; online meeting management; leadership development; project management; and conflict resolution.
- www.toastmasters.org

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Allium Moly x 55 bulbs Bright yellow heads of tiny flowers. Great for beginners. **Flowers: May-Jun. Height: 25cm.**

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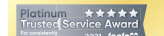
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Letters to the editor

Every issue, we invite Rotarians to discuss topics featured in the magazine, or wider Rotary concerns.

Don't panic Captain Mainwaring!

I GREATLY enjoyed reading about 'celebrity Rotarians' (Rotary, June, 2021). It would be interesting to add a list of fictional Rotarians, for which Captain Mainwaring of Dad's Army would surely be a leading contender.

Gerald Blake

Barnard Castle Rotary, County Durham



An Olympic champion

I READ with much interest the June edition of Rotary magazine, in particular the feature about celebrity Rotarians.

I suggest that the next edition might include an addition to your list. Godfrey Brown was a member and President of Worcester Rotary Club and in the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, he won a gold medal in the 4x400 metres relay and a silver medal in the individual 400 metres (pictured right).

Godfrey studied English and History at Peterhouse College, Cambridge. After graduation, he started a career in education at Bedford School.

He then moved to Cheltenham College before becoming Head of the Royal Grammar School in Worcester from 1950 to 1978.

After he retired, Godfrey went to



live in Sussex where he died in 1995. A blue plaque was placed at the Royal Grammar School in 2013 as a tribute to him.

Godfrey joined Worcester Rotary Club and was President in 1974 and 1975. He was, indeed, an illustrious member of Worcester Rotary Club.

Murray Mylechreest

Worcester Rotary

© International Olympic Committee, Switzerland



Rotarians flying high

THE recent article about 'Celebrity Rotarians' (Rotary, June 2021) was fascinating. However, there are many more, and some, worthy of mention were, in fact, active and regular members.

Rotary International has a list of over 150 famous Rotarians, many of whom were practising Rotarians.

Among them were Orville Wright, the early aviator, from Dayton Rotary, Nigel Gresley, designer of the locomotive the 'Flying Scotsman' and Vice President of Doncaster Rotary,

Clarence Birdseye, the frozen food inventor from Gloucester Rotary in Massachusetts, and Franz Lehár, the composer, from Vienna Rotary. Lehár is particularly interesting because he conducted a performance of his operetta 'The Merry Widow' at the 1931 Rotary International Convention held in Vienna.

Basil Lewis

Humberside Rotary

What about Nobel laureates?

I HAVE been reading the most recent edition of your magazine and, as always, it is full of interesting and stimulating articles. I was particularly interested in the list of famous Rotarians (*Rotary*, June 2021).

I have a Hungarian daughter-in-law and during the summer of 2016 was visiting her and my son at their home in Budapest.

Like a good Rotarian, I looked to see if there were any clubs meeting in the city during my stay.

I eventually went to one which contained the largest number of expats. What I do recall is that one of the club members was a Nobel prize winner, I think for literature.

Your excellent list of famous Rotarians did not include any Nobel laureates so, when you have time and if the idea appeals, perhaps you could publish another listing. There must surely be some.

Michael Rooze

Comber Rotary, County Down

Books warn children of dangers

I ENJOYED the feature on reading in the recent edition of *Rotary* (June 2021).

Members may be interested to hear of an initiative which I started involving the production of a series of children's books highlighting the dangers that children face in their young lives.

The Purple Pup Stories develop the everyday dangers that are featured in the booklet 'Watch Out', which was supported by Rotary in the Thames Valley.

The organisation OK Our Kids, already involving a number of Rotary clubs, aims to get these books into every school and to every child in the UK.

At a cost of only £2 each, Rotary clubs may wish to support their local schools by buying and distributing the books.

This will give teachers and parents the opportunity to talk to children about every day dangers in an informal and interesting way, while enjoying Toni Goffe's wonderful illustrations.

Further details from Tony Churchill on 07854 444775 or okourkids.org.uk

David Brodie

Jordans and District Rotary,
Buckinghamshire



Challenging climate change opinion

THE letter written by Don Heys, in response to the article about climate change, cannot go unchallenged (*Rotary*, April 2021).

There is no dispute that CO₂ is essential for photosynthesis, but too much CO₂ will lead to plant damage.

Don Heys refers to the views of Joseph S. D'Aleo, a US meteorologist and climate change sceptic.

D'Aleo is part of a group of US meteorologists who base their scepticism on weather pattern modelling and not climate modelling.

There is no dispute that CO₂ levels are rising, which leads to the trapping of heat in the earth's atmosphere resulting in an increase in global temperatures and increasing acidification of our oceans.

Even a casual observer would not dismiss evidence of melting ice caps and glaciers, leading to rising sea levels due directly to global temperature increase. Unfortunately, rising CO₂ levels are the culprit.

Rotary is to be applauded for highlighting a serious threat to the planet's future health. Climate change directly affects our ability to undertake altruistic works throughout the world.

Frank Williams

Crickhowell Rotary, Powys

Give youth a voice

I AM exceedingly proud of my Rotary club and the creative ways we have supported our community, and each other, during these difficult times, despite having a mature membership.

We are anxious the essential work of Rotary must continue and have worked hard to gain new members over the years - but with limited success.

In the past, we have endeavoured to form a Rotaract group at our local university but sustaining this has been problematic.

We have a wonderful RotaKids club which we run face-to-face weekly, when restrictions allow, or by Zoom.

This is part of our service programme, working closely with the school to support

their events. This partnership in its fifth, highly successful year has raised Rotary's image with parents significantly.

However, I believe all clubs now need younger members from the range of new clubs - eclubs, passport clubs, satellites - telling us why they joined Rotary, how it came about and what works for them, and what doesn't.

If they use their voices to give us positive workable models in detail, surely this would spark ideas for increasing membership in our different communities, and benefit all.

Pauline Kenyon

Bangor Gwynedd Rotary, Gwynedd



What climate change?

IN reply to the letter from Stephen Kirkman in *Rotary* magazine (June 2021), I offer the attached link Where is the Climate Emergency? wattsupwiththat.com

Among other things it shows that sea levels are rising at the same rate as for the last 150 years or so with no acceleration.

Droughts are fewer, floods are not increasing, wild fires have decreased dramatically over the last 100 years, crops are doing better every year partly due to the increase in CO2 in the atmosphere and there is no increase in the number of refugees due to climate change.

In fact, according to the data, there is no 'climate emergency'. Even the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change expresses doubt regarding possible anthropogenic causes for changes in the climate.

Gordon Daly

Falkirk Rotary, Stirlingshire

Why not honour Greta Thunberg?

GIVEN our mutual interest in the environment and climate change I suggest we make Greta Thunberg an honorary member of Rotary International. It would be wonderful publicity with the younger generation the world over.

Robert Wadd

Chesterfield Rotary, Derbyshire



The value of corporate membership

DURING my presidential year at Tonbridge Rotary in 2010/2011, I was extremely pleased and proud to induct the first female member into our club, since it was originally chartered in 1924.

Surprisingly, this event was seen as more than revolutionary by a few senior members, but we have now grown to a position where we have inducted five women, including one who became President in 2018 and one who will become President in 2022.

Individually and collectively, all five continue to make notable contributions to the overall workings and activities of the club.

However, I must mention our very first female member, Janet Sergison, whose contribution is particularly noticeable through her role as social media and public relations officer.

Whilst her professional approach to this position has been effective in

promoting the club overall, it has been especially productive within our new Business Partners Scheme which was launched in 2020.

Despite the problems caused by the pandemic, we have succeeded in enrolling 18 business partners, four of whom are corporate business partners.

Following on from this, Janet has worked hard to ensure that we very effectively meet our commitment to enhance their individual and varied profiles within the community, whilst they, in turn, help the club meet its various financial commitments through annual subscriptions.

Rotary is, and must be seen to be, inherently inclusive in all it does, and the Tonbridge club fully supports and benefits from this ideal.

Eddie Prescott

Tonbridge Rotary, Kent

Don't need a spare magazine

I AGREE with John Holden's comment re 'Why print a magazine at all?' (*Rotary*, April 2021).

Only six of our members do not have a computer and would benefit from the printed word.

My husband and I are members of the same Rotary club and would be quite happy to share a copy. I am sure that, in this day and age of advanced technology, one copy sent to an address where there are two members living together could be organised in the 'dispatch office'.

Chris Webb

Bakewell Rotary, Derbyshire

Editor's note: *If you have a spare copy of the magazine, why not give it to a prospective member? Or with your club's details attached to the front cover, why not leave it at a local library, community centre, doctor's or dentist surgery, coffee shop, or in the reception area of your business? If you still don't want the spare copy, then email: pr@rotarygbi.org with your name, address and club details.*

Every issue, Rotary magazine publishes a series of letters from Rotarians featuring a number of topical issues. We welcome your letters on any subject to do with Rotary. Submissions should be no more than 250 words long. If you would like to contribute please write including your name and address and then emailing: editor@rotarygbi.org or post to: Rotary magazine, Rotary in Great Britain & Ireland, Kinwarton Road, Alcester, Warwickshire B49 6PB. The comments made on this page do not necessarily represent the views of Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland, and Rotarians.



You've got a Freund indeed!

IT is now two years since I returned to Rutland after living for well over 20 years in Germany, much of it in the charming spa town of Bad Salzungen.

The town's Rotary club is partnered with Ipswich East, so I became acquainted with Rotary when helping a friend arrange annual visits and, later, became a member myself.

There are not many positives coming out of the pandemic, but online Rotary meetings is one, so I sometimes attend both Uppingham's and Bad Salzungen's each week.

There are just over 1,000 German Rotary clubs compared to around 1,700 in Great Britain & Ireland. However, Germany's clubs have a larger membership numbering close to 55,000 compared to some 47,000 Rotarians in these isles.

There are also over 130 German clubs with British partner clubs, so over the years many hundreds, if not thousands, of British Rotarians will have enjoyed German hospitality, and vice versa.

Many others will no doubt have attended Rotary meetings whilst on business trips or holidays or the 2019 Rotary International Convention in Hamburg.

As you would expect, club life is similar, although any guest attending a German Rotary meeting might be struck

by two differences: hand shaking and the expression "Freund".

I continue to receive the German Rotary magazine each month so benefit from both British and German Rotary news.

A very popular feature of the German magazine is Freund Alexander Hoffmann's humorous stories about the fictitious Rotary Club of Bröckedde, one of which is always on the final page.

On return to the UK, I started translating them and passing them on to my new club, Bad Salzungen's partners in Ipswich, and a friend in the far north of Scotland.

Since then, their distribution has spread to all the partner clubs and Freund Hoffmann and I have developed the project of offering a collection of Bröckedde stories in English, for the benefit of our respective clubs and in time for Christmas 2021.

To give readers a taste, you can find the translation here: rotary-ribi.org/clubs

We, Freund Alexander Hoffmann, the cartoonist Marcus Schäfer and I hope you enjoy them.

They also puncture that old cliché, that Germans have no sense of humour!

Colin Gordon

Uppingham Rotary, Rutland

Make joining Rotary easier

I WAS intrigued by Graham Taylor's article in April's edition, so I wanted to share a very different perspective from my club on the outskirts of Cardiff.

During my working life, I was approached by a number of Rotary clubs, but I had no intention of joining as I felt Rotary was an exclusive and formal organisation.

Later, I was invited to join meetings of Garth Rotary, which was then a satellite club of Chelwood Bridge Rotary.

The meeting was lively, and it was very clear the club had a strong working bond with a clear vision of working closely with the local community.

There was a good mix of people who had experience of a wide range of qualities and skills. So three years ago I was welcomed as a new member.

In 2019, Garth became a fully-fledged chartered club. We have 25 members with just under a quarter female. Although this is a relatively small proportion, this does not reflect the huge contribution they make.

Graham suggests becoming a member of Rotary is an arduous and painstaking experience. Nothing could be further from the truth about our membership process. We welcome anyone who can make a contribution.

Garth provides a refreshing insight into how becoming a member of Rotary can enrich your social life, as well as supporting those in genuine need.

The most significant bonus of being part of Garth Rotary is the entertaining, pleasurable and leisurely way in which functions and meetings are held for the benefit of all, even in times of Zoom!

David Williams

Garth Rotary, South Glamorgan





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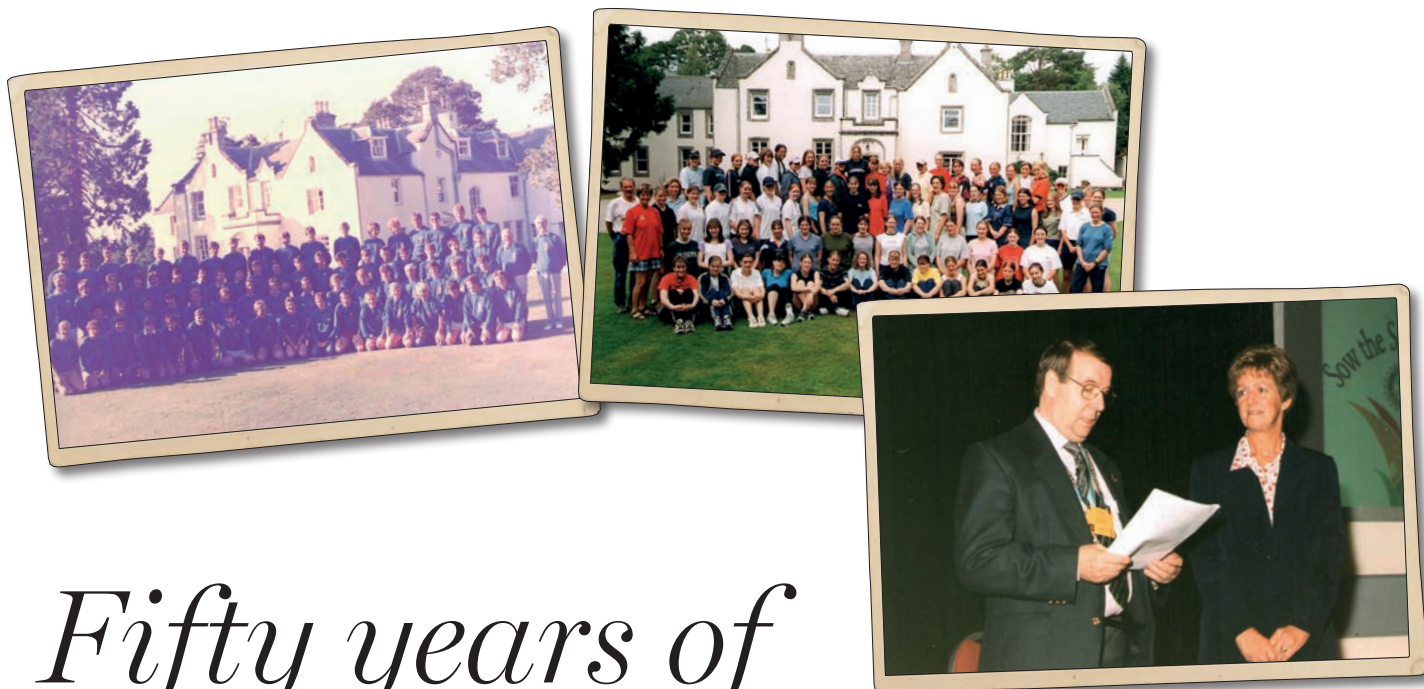
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Fifty years of building future leaders

Jim and Jenny Banks from Stonehaven Rotary in Aberdeenshire have been involved in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards scheme for more than 30 years. Here they reflect on a golden age of developing youngsters' thinking and physical skills.

| JIM & JENNY BANKS |

THE Rotary Youth Leadership Awards were started by Rotarians in Australia in 1959. It was officially adopted by Rotary International 50 years ago in 1971.

Scotland North Rotary (District 1010) was the first area in Great Britain and Ireland to get involved. The first RYLA camp was held in the Highlands 37 years ago in July 1984.

We have been involved from the start and ran the first girls' camp in July 1988.

The RYLA journey began in 1983 when John Tyler, an American, joined Aberdeen St. Fittick Rotary Club.

He had been involved with a RYLA camp in America and persuaded the St. Fittick club and the district that this was a project which would benefit the young people in the area.

The objectives of RYLA can be expressed in the six Cs: commitment,

communication, character, charisma, confidence and courage - all of which are essential to strong, imaginative, involved leadership.

A district RYLA committee was formed and the first RYLA camp was held in July 1984 at a cost of £140 per candidate at Abernethy Outdoor Centre, Nethy Bridge in the Scottish Highlands. It was for boys only.

Following four very successful camps for boys, it was proposed to offer girls the same opportunity. Jim along with Jenny Banks were asked to run the girls' camp at Ardeonaig Outdoor Centre, part of the Abernethy Trust, near Killin in Stirling in July 1988.

Five counsellors and 37 girls attended the first RYLA girls' camp. As there were no women in Rotary, the counsellors were selected from various walks of life.

Both boys' and girls' camps were held during the same week. A joint day of

activities at Nethy Bridge saw mixed teams compete in swimming, athletics and various challenges around the centre.

Two very successful camps at Ardeonaig saw a huge demand for places for girls and it was decided to hold both camps at Nethy Bridge from 1990.

There have been many eminent speakers at both camps, however the most distinguished visitor to date, at the girls' camp, was the visit of HRH The Princess Royal.

She addressed the girls, answered questions and watched various groups of girls tackle the mental and physical challenges around the centre. It was a great privilege for Jim to introduce her and show her round.

Scotland North Rotary has a great partnership with the Abernethy Trust, whose staff are dedicated to providing safe, enjoyable and exciting activities.

Through these activities, candidates



"THERE IS ONE SPEAKER A DAY, FOLLOWED BY A DAY'S OUTDOOR ACTIVITY INCLUDING HILL WALKING, WATER SPORTS, MOUNTAIN BIKING AND GORGE WALKING."

find out more about themselves, others and how important it is to work as a team.

The programme has evolved and been fine-tuned over the years and gives the candidates an experience they will never forget.

There is one speaker a day followed by a day's outdoor activity including hill walking, water sports, mountain biking and gorge walking.

In the evening, activities include quizzes, discussions and sports. All activities are done in groups of eight.

Counsellors, now called mentors, who give up their week do so because they also gain so much, through friendship, meeting new people, enjoying fresh air and hopefully having a positive effect on the young people of today.

They are the future. Stonehaven Rotary continues to sponsor two places on the RYLA week-long, full-time residential leadership development course.

Last year, like so many other events, it was cancelled but the 2021 RYLA camp took place in July, with the club funding an additional place.

This is a rare opportunity for youngsters to experience and learn things about themselves, working in a team and about leading and supervising other people. •

| Information |

rotarygbi.org/join/youth-programmes

WHAT IS RYLA?

ROTARY Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is an intensive leadership experience organised by Rotary clubs where you develop your skills as a leader while having fun and making connections.

What are the benefits?

Connect with leaders in your community and around the world:

- Build communication and problem solving skills
- Discover strategies for becoming a dynamic leader
- Learn from community leaders, inspirational speakers, and peer mentors
- Unlock your potential to turn motivation into action
- Have fun and form lasting friendships

What's involved?

RYLA events are organised locally by Rotary clubs and districts for participants ages 14-30. Depending on community needs, RYLA may take the form of a one-day seminar, a three-day retreat, or a weeklong camp. Typically, events last from three to 10 days and include presentations, activities, and workshops covering a variety of topics.

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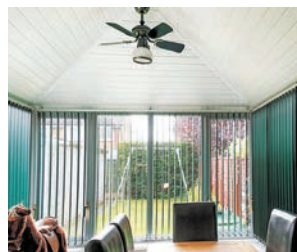
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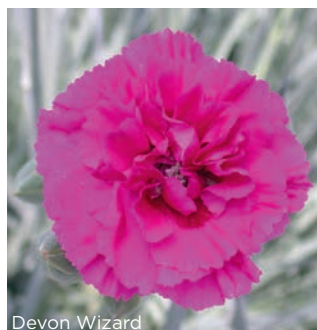
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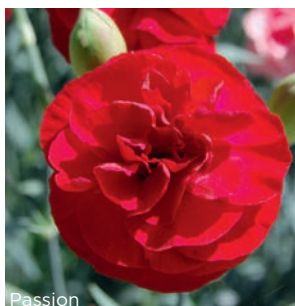
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RY0621



Out of disaster comes hope

From the devastation of an horrific explosion in Beirut a year ago, Rotarians from across Great Britain & Ireland have helped fund the rebuilding of part of a hospital destroyed by the blast.

| DAVE KING |

A SMALL explosion, black smoke, fireworks and then the absolute terror of being caught in arguably the largest non-nuclear explosions in history.

It was August 4th, 2020 when 2,750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate stored in Hangar 12 of Beirut Port in Lebanon exploded with the force of a 3.5 magnitude earthquake.

Over 200 people died, more than 6,000 people were injured when buildings and ceilings collapsed, lethal shards of glass became daggers, windows shattered and doors were blown off their hinges.

Ten fire fighters burnt to death - three from one family, and 300,000 people were displaced from their homes. Damage was estimated at up to £10.6 billion.

The disaster prompted worldwide aid, including from the Rotary family. Within days, Putney Rotary from London had set up a donations page and were in contact with Habib Saba, President of Beirut Cosmopolitan Rotary.

The focal point of Rotary efforts was Karantina Public Hospital, the only public hospital in Beirut, which lay 900 metres from the epicentre of the port explosion and was severely damaged.

The plan was to fund a new Mother and Child wing of the hospital.

At the time, Beirut Cosmopolitan Rotary was liaising with RC Whitby Sunrise from Canada, who would become the Global Grant international sponsor, along with other clubs and districts globally.

Putney Rotary, led by President Louise McCance-Price, became the cornerstone

of the UK/Beirut fund-raising campaign, talking to Rotarians across the UK about the project. They established an avenue to donate funds, amalgamate donations from collaborating clubs and districts, and minimise transfer fees.

The target was to raise \$140,000 (£99,000) from Great Britain and Ireland.

The cogs of the Rotary network were turning in these isles, and across the world, as a sense of unity and collaborative spirit began to build momentum.

Fund-raising was wide and varied, including a classic car drive from John O'Groats to Land's End organised by Hedge End Rotary from Hampshire, a Lebanese picnic and a street collection, as clubs and districts donated considerable money towards rebuilding Karantina Hospital, notably Districts 1040 (Yorkshire and



"THE FOCAL POINT OF ROTARY EFFORTS WAS KARANTINA PUBLIC HOSPITAL, THE ONLY PUBLIC HOSPITAL IN BEIRUT, WHICH LAY 900 METRES FROM THE EPICENTRE OF THE PORT EXPLOSION AND WAS SEVERELY DAMAGED."

North Lincolnshire) and 1130 (London), along with financial contributions from the Rotary clubs of London, Purley and Putney.

By St Valentine's weekend this year, thanks to participating clubs and districts in Great Britain and Ireland, and around the world, Beirut Cosmopolitan's initial target of approximately \$400,000 was reached. The Global Grant application was locked on St Valentine's Day.

A month later, The Rotary Foundation has approved the \$391,000 Global Grant for Beirut's Karantina Public Hospital.

The paediatric ward which was destroyed in the explosion has been rebuilt with the help of the Swiss Government.

This will act as an interim ward until the final location for the paediatric ward in the new wing of the hospital is completed this month.

The Global Grant for medical equipment for this project was planned to be installed in time for the anniversary of the blast.

Once the new paediatric ward is up and running, an interim ward will be converted into the only Governmental dialysis centre for children, in addition to being a day hospital for children with cancer in Lebanon.

Dr Robert Sacy, founder of the NGO Assameh, thanked clubs writing: "After the blast of August 4th, we were devastated and without any hope concerning the future of our children in Lebanon.

"Thanks to the international friendship, solidarity and support we were

able to commence rebuilding the hospital and on 4 August 2021, exactly one year after the Beirut Port Explosion, the Mother and Child wing of the hospital will be launched."

Speaking to clubs in Rotary GB&I, Habib Saba said: "Despite the dire circumstances in Lebanon - with a political, economic and financial meltdown, capital control, a severe devaluation of the Lebanese pound, spiralling inflation, more than half the population living below the poverty line, and to add insult to injury the August 4th Beirut Port Explosion which shook the nation - the silver lining has been the outpouring of support and comfort from around the world and specifically the

global Rotary family.

"With the benefit of technology and, in particular Zoom, we have entered each other's homes and hearts, breaking down barriers and misperceptions and drawing ever closer to each other all in the midst of a rampant Covid pandemic, and all the while with grace, humour and good spirit.

"It is indeed a testament to the values, power and unity of the Rotary family worldwide." ●



Read the extended story online:
Rotarygbi.org/news

| Information |

Putney Rotary:
**[putneyrotary.org.ukproject/
international-project-beirut-campaign](https://putneyrotary.org.ukproject/international-project-beirut-campaign)**

Beirut Cosmopolitan Rotary:
www.rcbclebanon.org/

| Fact file |

KARANTINA PUBLIC HOSPITAL

- The Global Grant for \$391,000 was submitted on February 20th, 2021 for paediatric & neonatal operating theatre and paediatric ward equipment.
- It was approved on March 30th, 2021.
- Globally, over 150 Rotary clubs & districts participated.
- From Great Britain & Ireland, 116 Rotary clubs, 2 Inner Wheel clubs and 4 districts contributed.
- Great Britain contributed \$141,000 towards the Global Grant.
- Internationally, contributions came from seven countries: Canada, Great Britain & Ireland, USA, Netherlands, Germany, Italy & Lebanon.



Champions Awards

Every year, Rotary salutes its Champions of Change recognising Rotarians for their valuable work in the community. Theirs is a snapshot of the amazing work which Rotarians and Rotary clubs perform on a daily basis. In addition, Rotary also honours volunteers with close links to clubs whose community projects are making a huge impact.



Sylvia Keris
Eccleshall Mercia Rotary,
Staffordshire

THE Buddy Bag Foundation is a national charity founded in 2015 to help make a difference to children entering emergency care after domestic violence, which has increased during the Covid pandemic.

Sylvia's work for the Foundation over the past couple of years is the most recent example of her willingness to work for others.

There are around 48,000 children who require emergency care every year in the UK. The Buddy Bag Foundation supplies these children with a Buddy Bag containing essential items to help restore a sense of comfort and love.

Sylvia has been heavily involved recently with The Buddy Bag Foundation, by initiating a nationwide knitted teddy bears appeal and has enlisted the help of other Rotarians and keen knitters from across the country to take part.

With the help of Stafford Castle Rotary, Sylvia is able to transport the teddy bears to The Buddy Bag Foundation's depot at Sutton Coldfield and assist with packaging the buddy bags, which are sent to refuges around the country.

She has collected in many thousands of teddies so far, with that figure rising weekly. And she is now also a collecting point for the fabric toiletry bags, pencil cases and Lego which the charity needs.

This is one aspect of an impressive



record of volunteering which Sylvia holds. For the past 10 years she has helped at the Walton Hall Special Needs School in Eccleshall. She has supported overseas development projects in Asia, Africa, South America and in Kosovo.

Through her Buddy Bag volunteering, Sylvia has demonstrated what can be done to make a significant contribution to a valuable national charity in the UK, without necessarily raising cash, and even during Covid restrictions.

By doing so, she has managed to motivate an impressive array of Rotary clubs as far afield as London, voluntary organisations and members of the public to work for The Buddy Bag Foundation on a significant scale.

During the recent COVID-19 lockdown, this project work has provided opportunities for people to carry out valuable work - such as knitting teddies

or sewing toiletry bags - for a worthwhile cause and, at the same time, this has helped participants to remain valued and stay connected during the pandemic.

Separately, Sylvia carried out a novel costumed activity last December, with the support of The Buddy Bag Foundation, which raised £552.

She also carried out a 145-mile walk along the Grand Union Canal from Birmingham to London in 2019, pre-pandemic, raising over £3,000, which was shared between The Buddy Bag Foundation and End Polio Now.

Rotary club contacts along this route, and previous charity canal walks, were the starting point of her Teddy appeal for The Buddy Bag Foundation. ●

Information

buddybagfoundation.co.uk

Champions of Change Winners



Greg Singleton
Westbourne Rotary,
Dorset

“WITH THE SUPPORT OF WESTBOURNE ROTARY, GREG TEAMED UP WITH THE MULTI-ETHNIC CHARITY, UNITY IN VISION, TO SUPPORT THE BLACK, ASIAN AND MINORITY ETHNIC COMMUNITY WHO WERE STRUGGLING TO PUT FOOD ON THE TABLE.”

WHEN lockdown started in March 2020, Westbourne Rotary in Bournemouth decided to focus on supporting the homeless who were being brought off the streets and put into temporary accommodation.

At the heart of this was Greg Singleton, who recognised there were vulnerable sections of the community who were being left without Government support during COVID-19.

So Greg, who has a registered kitchen at his home in Southbourne, started cooking hot meals which could be prepared cheaply and delivered to a hotel which was housing the homeless.

Greg began his working life as a management accountant, but then did a complete about-change by running a patisserie.

The Rotary club had access to supplies of food and initially the project began with 15 meals a day being prepared.

As the pandemic's grip took hold, Greg recognised there were other sections of the community that needed help with feeding their families.

With the support of Westbourne Rotary, Greg teamed up with the multi-ethnic charity, Unity in Vision, to support the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) community who were struggling to put food on the table.

This was quickly followed with referrals from other agencies highlighting other families in the Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch areas who were in need of hot meals and weekend food parcels.

As the operation grew, Greg's home became too small to cope with the demand and new, larger kitchens were found to prepare and cook the food.

In the first year of the project, Greg and the team of volunteers had provided a staggering 17,000 meals to families in the area. Westbourne Rotary Club had gone from a small cooking operation in Greg's kitchen to providing more than 60 two-

course meals a day from a commercial kitchen, all distributed free of charge.

Greg is supported by a dedicated team of volunteers, including many BAME chefs who have brought flare, cultural colour and flavours to the menus.

Greg said: “Despite these numbers being nothing short of a miracle, making it happen has not been easy, and would not have been possible without the infinite love, support and solidarity from our community since day one. ●





Douglas Kerr
e-Club South West Peninsula

IN his nomination, the then District Governor (1175, which is Rotary in the South West Peninsula) William Wills writes: "We cannot think of anyone more worthy for this award. Douglas would not expect to be nominated due to his humble nature."

And yet the Rotarian from Ham, near Plymouth, is a whirlwind within his community, engaged with a number of projects and he campaigns for those with life-limiting conditions.

In 2018, supported by his wife Annemarie, Douglas led the team to set up the Plymouth Group of the Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Association.

His efforts ensured that Plymouth City Council adopted the MND Charter in October 2018, to help 'influence positively the quality of life for people with MND and their carers in the community'.

Douglas overcame his own health issues to organise events and activities to fund-raise for the charity - from cake sales to a dinner dance.

He also gained the support of Plymouth Argyle Football Club through the Argyle Community Trust.

This initiative has gained considerable political support, notably a campaign to widen the message of 'scrap6months' - a pledge to ensure that people who are terminally ill can access welfare benefits quickly and sensitively.

Douglas set up the MND group, along with the help of Annemarie and the association's area co-ordinator, because he felt an affinity since he has been living with a life-limiting condition.

One of Douglas's achievements through campaigning was to assist a young patient getting moved to suitable ground floor accommodation after a gruelling two-hour meeting with the local housing authority.

Douglas has been on kidney dialysis for nine hours each night for a considerable period of time and was in need of a kidney

transplant. He never complains and, on March 24th this year, he received a kidney transplant.

After joining Rotary, Douglas became a Community Ambassador for Kidney Research UK. He is a volunteer raising the profile of the organisation across the south-west.

Throughout the pandemic, Douglas has used his social media skills to create an online following which has brought kidney disease to the forefront of people's thinking.

Douglas has used his experience to help others, creating resources which were not there before.

During March, and before the transplant, Douglas overcame his limitations by walking at least 8,500 steps a day for a full month in aid of Kidney Research UK.

While waiting for the transplant, Douglas had to overcome lethargy,

weakness, shortness of breath, congestive heart failure and many other associated factors in order to help raise funds to help other people who are living with the same condition.

"Kidney disease ruins and destroys lives," he said.

Douglas joined the e-Club on the day it chartered and plays an integral part in the club where he is the lead for the Twitter social media. On a daily basis, he interacts with organisations, volunteers and the public to promote the work of the club.

As a Rotarian, he has contributed ideas of how the club can get involved with activities locally. ●

| Information |

mndassociation.org
www.kidneyresearchuk.org



Champions of Change Winners



Michael Gray
Fleetwood Rotary,
Lancashire

“LIVING ON THE PROMENADE IN FLEETWOOD, MICHAEL NOTICED HOW FAMILIES SOMETIMES HAD TO LEAVE DISABLED MEMBERS ON THE PAVEMENT OVERLOOKING THE BEACH, WHILE THE REMAINDER WERE ABLE TO ENJOY THE SAND AND SEA WITH EASY ACCESS.”

THE Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs charity was three years in the making – and its driving force was Rotarian, Michael Gray.

The charity provides the unique ability for families with someone who is disabled, to enjoy the beach experience in an easily accessible way.

The beach wheelchairs allow users to paddle in the water, sampling the sort of seaside activities which many of us take for granted.

Now they can experience the thrill of enjoying the beach and feeling the sea lapping at their feet – some, for the first time ever.

Living on the promenade in Fleetwood, Michael noticed how families sometimes had to leave disabled members on the pavement overlooking the beach, while the remainder were able to enjoy the sand and sea with easy access.

Normal wheelchairs are impossible to push on soft sand, so Michael searched for a way of overcoming this barrier.

After considerable research, he came across a group in Scotland which was using specially-built chairs with bulbous wheels which prevented them from sinking in the sand.

The former police chief superintendent brought the idea to Fleetwood Rotary who, together with District 1190 (Cumbria and Lancashire), provided initial funds to buy one chair.

Michael then sought premises to operate from along the beach.

Now, through his hard work and with the help of a willing team of around 40 volunteers, Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs has seven special chairs, along with a hoist, and specialised equipment, which is housed at the beachside property.

There is free disabled parking alongside the premises, together with a ramp providing access to Fleetwood beach, even at high tide.

The project has not been easy to set up. There has been red tape and various obstructions to overcome during the planning process.

A couple of false starts would have beaten some people, but with Mick's tenacity and belief, the idea has come to fruition.

The project has been a huge success. Michael has brought joy and pleasure to so many people. It has only been because of the Covid restrictions that progress has

been held back.

Beforehand, many disabled people would travel several hours from north-west England to find a beach that was disabled-friendly.

But Michael believes there are hundreds of disabled people desperate to take advantage of this life-changing facility making memories which they thought they would never be able to do.

The evidence for a nationwide roll-out is mounting every day. ●





John Griffith
Cleaton & District Rotary,
South Tyneside

IT was back in 2008 when John Griffith was asked to use his engineering skills to help support the Rotary North East's floundering 'Aquafilter' project.

At the time, John was running a design and development consultancy in Washington, Tyne & Wear developing textile machinery.

The business was sold, so John and his wife Gill decided to use money from the sale initially to help a district project supplying water filters to developing countries.

But when that project folded, John and Gill decided to start again, supported by the Cleaton & District Rotary Club.

John re-designed and developed the filter, and then set up the manufacturing and distribution of innovative water filters to areas of the world most in need.

As a result, John established Grifaid, a charity supporting the distribution of water filters worldwide.

Using robust monitoring and feedback on the filters from a number of developing countries, he systematically improved water filter designs.

John also set up The Safe Water Trust Limited, a not-for-profit company, to develop and manufacture the water filters in a 5000 square foot research, development and manufacturing facility in north-east England.

Now, water filters, under the Grifaid brands are recognised as market leaders in terms of design, longevity and cost effectiveness.

Since 2009, 45,000 filters have been deployed in more than 50 countries, providing safe drinking water to more than a million people.

John and Gill have visited Grifaid filters in use in Cambodia, The Gambia, Ghana, Haiti, India, Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda, often with repeated visits.

They work closely with the Derbyshire-based Rotary charity Aquabox, which assembles the filters for its own use. They

also supply filters to Water Survival Box, and have recently signed an agreement to supply filters to ShelterBox.

The Safe Water Trust has assisted humanitarian crisis worldwide by supplying water filters via Humanitarian NGOs, to Malawi, Bangladesh (to Rohingya refugees), and Palestine.

These water filters save lives by providing clean drinking water and offer significant social economic benefits in developing countries and emergencies.

By providing clean drinking water, infant mortality is drastically reduced; children no longer get sick and miss out on education, while educational achievement is greatly increased.

There are also significant economic benefits through reduced parental care and increased capacity to work.

The water filter project also offers many environmental benefits with the

reduction in plastic waste and the burning of wood to boil water.

This is a venture which attracts both Rotarian volunteers to help build the filters, so reducing costs, while many Rotary clubs and charities have helped support the venture through raising donations.

Addressing growing community needs, John has designed two types of filter. There is the family filter, which filters up to 90 litres of clean water per hour and is designed for extended families.

To further address community needs, a second filter was developed by John, the community filter which filters up to 300 litres of clean water per hour and is designed for use in villages, clinics and schools. ●

Information

grifaid.org



Champions of Change Winners



Christianah Hayter
Milton Keynes
Grand Union Rotary,
Buckinghamshire

FOLLOWING a holiday to The Gambia back in 2006, Chris developed strong bonds with the West African country.

In particular, she connected with the Bakau community, a village on Gambia's Atlantic coastline to the west of the capital, Banjul.

After seven trips in seven years to The Gambia, it became evident there was a need to improve the education, health and environment of Bakau, and Chris needed to galvanise the community to work towards a solution.

So the seeds were sown for the 'Oasis Project', a charity which began in 2007. Chris founded the Starlight School which is responsible for the education of 200 children in Bakau.

Alongside that, she worked with community leaders to start health screening programmes, including eye testing.

In 2013 Chris, who was then not a Rotarian, worked with the Milton Keynes Grand Union Rotary Club on a drainage project in Bakau, a village subject to terrible floods during the rainy season.

The project aimed to reduce the number of cases of malaria by addressing the long-standing issue of poor storm water management.

The key was to reconstruct village drains, starting with the outfall to the river, reducing the amount of waste accumulating which blocked the drains.

This project required working closely with the local planning authority, the cleaning and environment agencies, as well as the National Roads Authority.

Existing drains were repaired, cleared of rubbish and silt which was blocking them, and then covered to prevent further debris build-up, clearing the water course. The idea was to provide a safe sanitation system which could be easily maintained.

The project started in 2017 thanks to initial seed money from Milton Keynes

"MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE INCIDENCE OF MALARIA HAS BEEN REDUCED BY OVER 70%. THEY ARE AWAITING MALARIA FIGURES FOR THE SECOND YEAR WHICH THE COMMUNITY IN THE GAMBIA EXPECTS TO BE EVEN BETTER."

Grand Union Rotary and supported by a Global Grant from The Rotary Foundation. In The Gambia, they were supported by Fajara Rotary and the total project cost was in excess of \$46,000.

The result has been immense.

Work on the outfall started in 2019 and, although not completed, it has proved effective in taking the water away from the village, reducing the amount of standing water which mosquitoes breed on.

Bakau no longer suffers from devastating flooding of homes and the amount of standing water has been reduced.

More importantly, the incidence of malaria has been reduced by over 70%. They are awaiting malaria figures for the second year which the community in The

Gambia expects to be even better.

The drainage project has heightened community awareness, and changed behaviour towards maintaining safe sanitation. Training has been provided in environmental sanitation including anti-littering and waste management.

By 2019, Chris decided to join the Milton Keynes Rotarians and further the work of Rotary.

Chris's enthusiasm, dedication and determination in supporting change in the Bakau community has proved profound. ●

| *Information* |

theoasisproject.org



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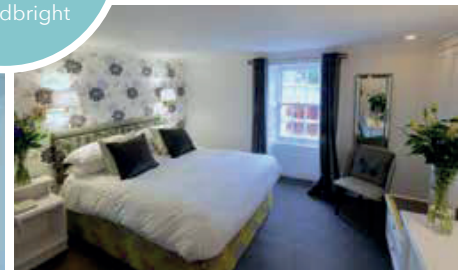




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Simply making a difference

Each year, six non-Rotarians are chosen as Community Champions as a mark of their work with Rotary and the impact their projects have made to communities in this country, and around the world.



Denise Campbell
Nominated by:
Billingshurst & District
Rotary, West Sussex

COVID-19 caused sudden and immediate hardship to a significant number of families. Many were unable to feed their families adequately due to loss of earnings, being furloughed, or because families needed to isolate

because of the virus. For the past 18 years Denise has always responded when she has seen a need in the community in West Sussex, and is Chair of the Billingshurst Community Partnership.

In the immediate wake of Covid, Denise worked with Rotary, two churches and the parish council to provide shopping services and prescription collections for the vulnerable.

Then, Denise (pictured above), approached a local cafe and asked whether they would be willing to help by providing home cooked ready meals at cost.

The Community Partnership arranged the collection and delivery of these meals. Funding was provided by the Horsham District Council Covid Support Fund and funding has recently been secured to pay for meals until March 2022. ●



Christine Boatwright
Sudbury Rotary, Suffolk

Christine is the founder and Director of Counselling at the Kernos Centre, based in Sudbury, Suffolk.

After working in private practice and voluntarily as a counsellor for 14 years, Christine became aware of the number of people who needed on-going counselling

and support, especially those who had been abused emotionally or sexually.

However, many could not afford the kind of fees which private practice required or access on-going therapy.

This was her inspiration for setting up the Kernos Centre in 2002. Christine had a vision when she set up Kernos that anyone needing counselling and support should be able to access this, without charge, if they could not afford to contribute towards the

cost, and for as long as was needed.

She works tirelessly to raise the funding needed each year and Sudbury Rotary has regularly supported the Kernos Centre which has received 4,308 referrals since 2003 - the oldest was 93-years-old and the youngest, just five. ●

Information
kernos.org.com



Community Champion Winners



Hugh Scudder
Dawlish Water Rotary,
Devon

In 1990, Hugh Scudder was motivated by the images of children trapped in orphanages in Romania. He joined several humanitarian aid missions before being instrumental with setting up a new charity to embrace Moldova in Eastern Europe.

Hugh developed the charity Christian Response to Eastern Europe. Moldova is the poorest country in Europe with many needs. Several times a year, the charity takes a 40-tonne articulated truck laden with humanitarian aid and a Christmas truck with over 5,000 Christmas shoeboxes, which have been collected in association with Dawlish Water Rotary for over 20 years. Soup kitchens have been established to supplement food aid, but these also play an important role in providing an outlet for children to have fun and discuss issues troubling them. In 2020, £100,000 was spent supporting families and soup kitchens.

These efforts have been supported by regular collections of bedding, clothing, useful equipment including school items such as books, pencils and pens, children's toys and bicycles and badly-needed every day medical equipment such as walking frames and crutches. ●

| Information |

cr2ee.org.uk



Gerry Watkins
Cirencester Rotary,
Wiltshire

Gerry Watkins is just an 'ordinary working bloke' with an extraordinary vision, energy and desire to make a difference.

He has been the driving force behind a community project called 'The Big Yellow Bus Project'.

In February 2017, Gerry read about a rough sleeper whose tent was set alight behind Cirencester Church.

After raising significant funds mainly through organising a classic car event and music concerts, Gerry bought an old double decker bus. Over an 18-month period, he worked hard, on top of his day job, transforming it into temporary overnight accommodation.

The doors to the bus were opened for business on Christmas Eve 2018.

Since then, despite many hurdles and challenges, Gerry has developed the service provided to include a converted business premises offering refuge for up to 17 homeless persons overnight.

Many volunteers have been inspired to join Gerry in delivering the service, not least his wife of many years, Mandy. ●

| Information |

bigyellowbusproject.co.uk



Kate Oakley
Kinver Rotary,
Staffordshire

For more than 28 years, Kate Oakley was a teacher. She first volunteered in Uganda in 2007, two years after losing her husband. And in 2012, Kate set up Planting For Hope Uganda, a registered charity working in Kititi, a bush village in south-west Uganda.

The charity has improved many lives through education, improving health facilities, safe water and sanitation, job creation, sustainable agriculture, solar electricity and improved accommodation.

Through the charity's work, women have set up their own businesses, sustainable agriculture provides employment, produce for both commercial and home consumption.

The school in Kititi has grown from 286 pupils in 2014 to 620, of whom 435 cannot pay anything. However, food, education materials and, for some, dormitory accommodation, are all provided.

The charity's work has been supported by Kinver and Bewdley Rotary clubs in South Staffordshire and Worcestershire, plus a Rotary District 1060 Foundation grant. ●

| Information |

plantingforhopeuganda.com



Dame Helen Hyde
Watford Rotary,
Hertfordshire

During COVID-19 Helen Hyde added to her charity activities by joining a project to feed vulnerable adults and children during lockdown.

As the patron and trustee of the inter-faith group One Vision, Helen has helped to organise a daily delivery of approximately 2,000 meals a week to vulnerable people in south-west Hertfordshire. The project also provided groceries and toiletries.

This was a partnership which also

involved a church, synagogue, a Sikh Gurdwara, Hertfordshire County Council and Rotary.

Helen assisted the project in co-ordinating a large network of supporting charities and local donors.

Watford Rotary paid for food ingredients through £3,000 of their own funds and £1,000 from a district grant, so local restaurants could prepare meals during the pandemic.

Many of the children and families were identified through the Hertfordshire free school meals advisor.

From the original idea, the project has grown into a daily food delivery

to communities across south-west Hertfordshire with volunteer drivers.

For the past year a large proportion of the daily organisation is down to Helen, a former headmistress. She runs the HUB three days a week supporting the team of volunteers.

Her work includes work supporting deprived families in Africa, and One Vision is part of this work helping to provide much needed items. ●

| Information |

onevisionproject.org



and finally...

From Managing Editor Dave King
editor@rotarygbi.org

Butterflies flying in formation!

HERE'S a challenge. Pick a topic you know something about – maybe Rotary. Then, stand in front of a mirror and, with minimal preparation, speak about that subject for a minute.

It's not easy. Shades of the BBC quiz show *'Just A Minute'* with no deviation, hesitation or repetition for just 60 seconds.

The ice breaker for every club meeting of Toastmasters International is called 'table topics'. Sixty seconds to stand up and speak on a random topic thrown at you.

As a fresh-faced whipper-snapper 30 years ago, I joined a Toastmasters club at the American air base at RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk. At that first meeting, in front of 20 US servicemen and women, plus a few locals, the table topic was to talk about me.

I was jelly-legged. You have roughly 20 seconds, from the time you are given the topic, leave your chair and walk to the lectern, to think of something pithy to say.

I rambled, I was incoherent, I was rubbish. I lasted barely 30 seconds before a round of applause diplomatically concluded my pathetic effort.

But, very quickly, I got better.

The strategy for table topics is to have a punchline. What's the bottom line of your story? Then, working backwards, use an anecdote to support the punchline.

Think of a smart opening. If you're desperate, repeat the question for added thinking time. That's classic politician media training, by the way!

Toastmasters taught me a valuable life skill; how to communicate effectively.

You do so by reaching into a toolkit of communication skills; eye-contact, correct stance, vocal variety, appropriate gestures, speech structure, using props, and audience engagement.

At Toastmasters, I once asked my mentor how to overcome the nagging fear before speaking in public. She said: "You'll never get rid of the butterflies. The trick is to get those butterflies flying in formation."

And she was so right.

Fear keeps you constantly on your toes. It nestles alongside a quiet confidence as you carry a toolkit of communication strategies to dip into, while looking out at an audience.

It's why I am so pleased that Rotary International has forged an alliance with Toastmasters International, since the two organisations share close similarities, and whose members can clearly benefit from the different environments.

Some may say they are too long in the tooth to learn new tricks. Really?

Surely, one of the reasons we join Rotary is for personal development. What could be a greater skill than improving our communication?

We have all had to adapt our communication over the past 18 months

through Zoom. Effective communication lies at the heart of everything we do.

Think about those times when folk recognise you as a Rotarian, and ask what Rotary is all about. It's not easy to answer in a few sentences, is it? But we should learn to marshal those skills.

Rotarians do great things. We're project people whose actions tend to speak louder than words.

But, for the sake of Rotary's relevance and the future of our organisation, if we're not communicating effectively, then how can we ever hope to grow?

@ I am planning to publish a series of articles in *Rotary* magazine in 2022 about homelessness, mental health, and helping with employment. Is your club involved with projects along these lines in your community? I am keen to find out more. Please email me at: editor@rotarygbi.org

f For the latest updates on what's happening in Rotary in Great Britain & Ireland follow me on Facebook, and share those posts on your club pages. You will find me: [@rotaryeditor](https://www.facebook.com/rotaryeditor)

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