

Rotary

FEBRUARY | MARCH 2023

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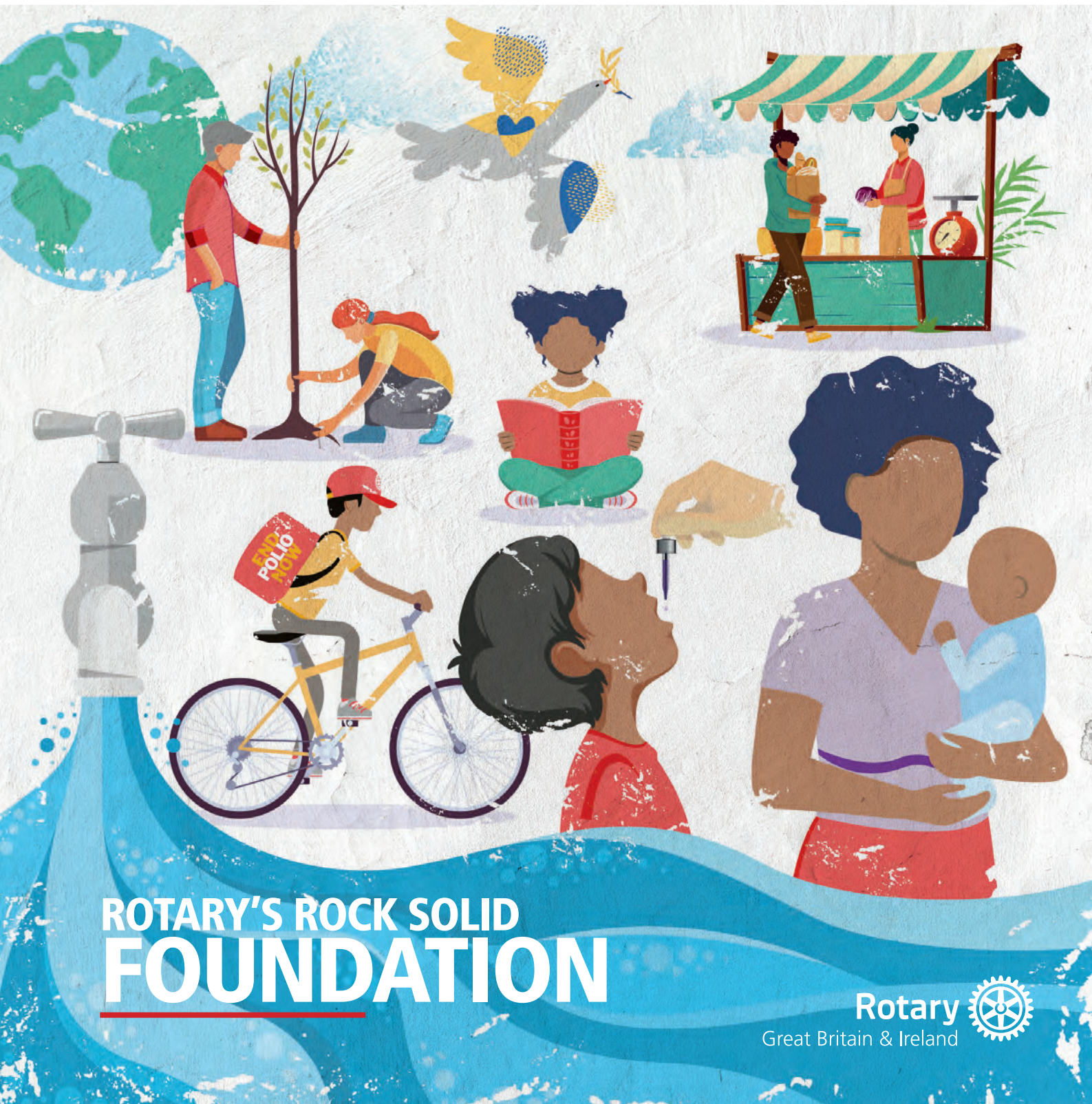
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Welcome



THE Rotary Foundation is a body with many arms and immense strength. It also carries considerable impact towards the global reach of Rotary.

The unprecedented decision to devote virtually an entire issue of the magazine to The Rotary Foundation was prompted by a belief that Rotarians would benefit from diving deep into its work and impact.

This structure and style of this magazine is very different from others. It is a one-stop shop explaining everything about an aspect of Rotary which most Rotarians know something about, but few fully understand all of its work.

Here is an opportunity to explain Rotary's charity in full; from the starting point of someone unconnected with the organisation wanting to know more. In future, this issue of *Rotary* magazine could serve as an important reference point for new members - and even existing ones!

Thanks to the help of The Rotary Foundation team for Great Britain & Ireland - John Dehnel, Mike Hodge, Tom Hunt and Adrian Faiers - it reflects the charity's work both within these isles and globally.

This month's issue explains how the Foundation operates, detailing exactly what it does, and why.

The Global Grants system is often misunderstood, so here it is outlined with a frequently asked questions section.

Several pages have been allocated to a 'People of Action' special illustrating how that money has been spent.

We look at community projects in Great Britain & Ireland, along with initiatives which have created fundamental change to disadvantaged communities overseas thanks to partnership working.

Further, we have explained how it has had such a vital impact in war-torn areas

such as the Ukraine.

Coincidentally, April's issue of *Rotary* magazine will be looking more in depth at the work of Rotary GB&I in providing humanitarian aid to the Ukraine, as well as supporting refugees in these isles.

Finally, this month, we have addressed how, and why, Rotarians should think of the Foundation as their charity of choice. With so much call on our time and money, it is easy to ignore Rotary's own charity; a cause right on our doorstep. With that in mind, we discuss how you can make a difference by donating regularly, and also why you should consider legacy-giving.

Hopefully this issue will answer many previously unanswered questions and inspire you to get involved.

So, by the time you reach the 'And Finally' column, which has been penned by John Dehnel, you will understand why The Rotary Foundation is the beating heart of all that we do within Rotary.

Ironically, the one area of Foundation work not covered is the End Polio Now campaign, since that has been widely reported in previous magazines - and will continue to be in future issues.

At this point, I should note the sad news in the New Year of the death of Rotarian and polio ambassador, Colin Powell at the age of 73.

Last year, he was presented with an MBE by King Charles.

Colin was featured in last October's *Rotary* magazine when he said: "I have enormous pride and respect for all that Rotary has done to achieve such a phenomenal reduction in the number of children getting polio."

Colin was an inspiring man, who will be a big loss to Rotary and to the End Polio Now campaign.

Dave King
Editor, *Rotary Magazine*



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Please visit: rotarygbi.org/magazine



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Cover story



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Rotary International President, Jennifer Jones, focuses on empowering girls. There are also editorial columns from Amanda Watkin, Garth Arnold, Ian Riseley and Rotary International Vice-President, Nicki Scott.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR 46

Four pages of views, including one suggestion of having a song for Rotary, and another correspondent questioning branding and the Rotary Wheel.

AND FINALLY 66

John Dehnel, Rotary's regional Foundation co-ordinator, is the guest columnist, who explains why Rotary needs The Rotary Foundation more than ever.



WHAT IS THE ROTARY FOUNDATION?

| STORY BY JOHN DEHNEL, REGIONAL FOUNDATION COORDINATOR, REGION 20/21, GB&I |

AS Rotary's one and only charity, The Rotary Foundation (TRF) taps into a global network of Rotarians who invest their time, money and expertise into priorities that align with our seven areas of focus.

Foundation grants empower Rotarians to approach problems such as disease, poverty, illiteracy, and malnutrition with sustainable solutions that leave a lasting impact.

The Rotary Foundation is known throughout the world for its exceptional financial management and for the efficient use of its donations.

Every year since 2008, TRF has received the top four-star rating from Charity Navigator, the world's largest and most trusted charity evaluator.

This rating is a standard achieved by only one percent of charities for judicious care of donors' money.

WHAT IS THE ROTARY FOUNDATION?

The Foundation was created in 1917 by Rotary International's (RI) sixth president, Arch Klumph. It was established as an endowment fund to provide an ongoing and sustainable income for Rotary to allow us to 'do good in the world'.

It has grown from an initial contribution of US\$26.50 from the Rotary Club of Kansas City to more than US\$1 billion. It provides grants of over \$1 million per day to support projects led by Rotarians.

Today, TRF has one of the largest and most prestigious international fellowship programmes in the world.

Since it was founded, it has spent more than US\$4 billion on life-changing,

sustainable projects. TRF's mission is to enable Rotarians 'to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty'.

Our Foundation has special qualities because it is an enabling Foundation.

It is a not-for-profit organisation that is supported solely by donations from its members and friends.

TRF asks us to donate, just like other charities, but it also asks us to get involved and utilise the funds. Our Foundation is able to achieve its mission through the generous contributions and the active participation of its members.

A major recipient of donations to TRF is the Annual Fund. When we donate, half our contributions are directed to the District Fund and the other half to the World Fund. Both help support and enable Rotary projects to become a reality through global and district grants.

LEADERSHIP

The Board of Trustees manages the business of the Foundation, led by the Trustee Chair, who is currently RI Past President, Ian Riseley, from Australia.

The Rotary International President Elect nominates the Trustees, who are elected by the Rotary International Board of Directors. The Trustee Chair serves for one year and the Trustees serve for four years.

FOUNDATION ACHIEVEMENTS

The Foundation leads the way on worldwide Rotary campaigns such as eradicating polio and promoting peace.

In 1930, the Foundation made its first grant of US\$500 to the International

Society for Crippled Children.

In 1947, following the death of Rotary's founder Paul Harris, scholarships were the first large programme to be set up. These scholarships were established predominately as a tribute to Paul.

To date, more than 350,000 scholarships have been awarded, allowing recipients to study overseas.

Polio eradication is Rotary's top philanthropic priority. Rotary launched the PolioPlus programme in 1985.

In 1988, when Rotary began working with its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, there were more than 350,000 polio cases in over 125 countries. Since then, nearly 3 billion children have been immunised against polio, and the incidence of polio has decreased by 99.9 percent.

As of 2021, Rotary's contributions to the global polio eradication effort, including matching funds from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, exceeded US\$2 billion.

In 2002, TRF established the Peace Fellow Programme. Since then, the Rotary Peace Centres have trained more than 1400 Fellows who now work in more than 115 countries.

Many serve as leaders in governments, NGOs, the military, education, law enforcement, and international organisations like the United Nations and the World Bank.

Hundreds of thousands of people now enjoy access to clean water, health care and education, thanks to TRF's humanitarian projects. ●

• *With thanks to the original author, Rotarian Anne Matthews, from the District 9560 Passport Club, Australia.*

**THE ROTARY
FOUNDATION
WAS ESTABLISHED AS
AN ENDOWMENT FUND
TO PROVIDE AN ONGOING
AND SUSTAINABLE
INCOME FOR ROTARY
TO ALLOW US TO 'DO
GOOD IN THE WORLD'.**





ROTARY FOUNDATION FAQs

WHAT IS THE ROTARY FOUNDATION?

- The Rotary Foundation is Rotary's own charity. It exists to support Rotarians and their clubs in the charitable activities that clubs choose and undertake themselves.
- The mission of The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty.
- The Rotary Foundation is governed by a Board of Trustees.
- The headquarters of The Rotary Foundation is in Evanston, Illinois, USA, but it also has associate foundations in other countries, including Rotary Foundation of the United Kingdom.
- All contributions to either The Rotary Foundation directly or any of its associate foundations are essential to securing and growing Rotary programmes throughout the world.
- Since it was founded over 100 years ago, The Rotary Foundation has spent \$4 billion on life-changing, sustainable projects around the world. It currently awards grants averaging about \$1 million per day.

WHERE CAN I GET CURRENT INFORMATION ON MY FOUNDATION GIVING?

- Log in to My Rotary and open "My Account" by clicking on your name in the top corner. The drop down box has a tab for "My Donations".

HOW DIFFICULT IS IT FOR A CLUB TO WITHDRAW FUNDS FROM THE FOUNDATION?

- Clubs do not "withdraw funds" as such, but apply for grants.
- Funds are made available to districts on an annual basis for the purpose of supporting club projects. These are known as District Grants. The process is managed by individual districts.
- Global Grants can be applied for projects in excess of \$30,000. An international partner is required. Districts have access to The Rotary Foundation funds DDF (District Designated

Funds) which are available to support projects. This also can attract matched funding from the World Fund of The Rotary Foundation.

HOW DO I GIVE TO THE ROTARY FOUNDATION?

- If you are a UK tax payer contributions should be made to The Rotary Foundation (to gain the benefit of Gift Aid). Use this link www.rotarygbi.org/donate to see how to donate and the variety of funds that the gift can be directed towards.



HOW DO THE INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE AND INVESTMENT COSTS AND CHARGES OF THE FOUNDATION COMPARE WITH OTHER SIMILAR SIZED FUNDS?

- Programme awards and operations amount to 92% of expenditure of The Rotary Foundation (leaving 8% for administration and fund development).
- Most international charities have administration expenses ranging between 20% and 40%

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A PHF AND A PHS?

- PHF (Paul Harris Fellow) recognises a gift, or accumulation of a gift, of \$1,000 (or the donor can award a PHF to a third party in recognition of service, having given \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation themselves).
- PHS (Paul Harris Society) recognises an individual's commitment to contribute \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation (any of the programmes) every year that they are able to.

WHY DO DISTRICTS GET ONLY 50% BACK FROM THE FOUNDATION, OF THE DONATIONS THEY MAKE ?

- A small amount helps cover costs but the majority is held in the World Fund which clubs and districts can access for additional financial support for Global Grant projects. ●



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A GUIDE TO GLOBAL GRANTS

GLOBAL Grants support large international activities with sustainable, measurable outcomes in Rotary's areas of focus. By working together to respond to real community needs, clubs and districts strengthen their global partnerships.

WHAT CAN GLOBAL GRANTS SUPPORT?

Global Grants can fund:

- Humanitarian projects
- Scholarships for graduate-level academic studies
- Vocational training teams, which are groups of professionals who travel abroad either to teach local professionals about their field or to learn more about it themselves

DO THESE HAVE TO BE BIG PROJECTS?

Projects supported with a Global Grant must have a minimum budget of US\$30,000 (about £27,000). This is to ensure that we are working on larger projects with more impact, meeting the needs of the community. It is important to include sufficient funds to ensure the sustainability of the project including such matters as training.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

The funds can come from cash that you and your club raise; from your district's "DDF" (District Designated Fund) – a block grant of money your district has each year to support The Rotary Foundation's work with clubs in your district; and The Rotary Foundation World Fund – which itself matches 80% of the DDF contributions included in the funding plans.

DO WE HAVE TO WORK WITH ANY PARTNERS ON THE PROJECT?

Global Grants are designed for two or more clubs in different countries to work together, cementing the wider community within which Rotary works, and bringing a variety of knowledge and skills to our projects.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

There's a wealth of information on the Rotary website. Start with my.rotary.org/en/take-action/apply-grants/global-grants For more details see the Resources and Reference documents on that page.

But first talk to your District Rotary Foundation Committee.

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT FOR HELP?

The first point of call, early in thinking about any project, should be to contact your own district Rotary Foundation team. They will evaluate ideas, ensuring the project meets the guidelines for a sustainable project of lasting community value.

That help is available from The Rotary Foundation regardless of the current availability of funds for a grant.

If there are funds in the District Grant or the DDF, the team would advise on how to apply for financial support from these funds.

Others able to help would be the regional team of Rotary Foundation Coordinators. Currently John Dehnel - john@jdehnel.net - leads that team and he will put you in touch with the most appropriate contact.

The Rotary Foundation in Evanston has a team of grant officers, with Elizabeth Davis - elizabeth.davis@rotary.org being the main support for Rotary in GB&I.

The Rotary Foundation has a team called The Rotary Foundation Cadre of technical advisers, Rotarians who are professional specialists in various fields related to our areas of focus. They are ready to advise on project design and implementation anywhere in the world.

Search for Rotary Cadre on the Rotary International website for full information. ●

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FUNDING THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

THE amount of money The Rotary Foundation has awarded annually in Global Grants has more than doubled since the grants were introduced; from \$47.3 million in 2013/14 to \$130 million in 2021/22. Yet demand for Global Grants is so high that it has outpaced Annual Fund contributions, which means not all eligible Global Grant requests can receive funding.

To ensure that The Rotary Foundation can fund as many Global Grants as possible in the future, the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation approved policy changes effective July 2021. These changes will improve the Foundation's ability to support more large-scale, sustainable projects for years to come.

OUR FUNDS:

Annual Fund, sometimes known as SHARE, is the primary source of funding for a broad range of local and international Rotary Foundation activities.

Every Rotarian, Every Year (EREY) is an initiative to encourage every Rotarian to invest in the Annual Fund every year, no matter how large or small may be the amount.

Contributions to the Annual Fund from Rotary members and other donors are directed into two sub-funds: the World Fund and District Designated Funds. Through the SHARE system, contributions are transformed into grants.

The World Fund provides funding for our highest-priority activities around the globe. 47.5% of Annual Fund-designated contributions are applied to the World Fund.

The Foundation uses the World Fund to pay for grant and programme opportunities available to all Rotary districts including PolioPlus, Rotary Peace Centres, Programmes of Scale grants, Global Grants, and more.

District Designated Funds (DDF) can be used by districts to pay for Foundation, club, and district projects that a club and others in the district choose.

Districts may use up to half their DDF to fund District Grants. The remainder may be used for Global Grants or donated to PolioPlus, the peace centres, or another district.

The Endowment Fund, financed by cash gifts and bequests left by Rotary members and their families, ensures the long-term viability of the Foundation and its grants and programmes.

Spendable earnings from the Endowment enable the Foundation to expand existing activities and underwrite new ones.

Contributions are invested in perpetuity. A percentage of the total value of the fund is directed annually to Foundation grants and programmes.

DISASTER RESPONSE FUND

The Rotary Foundation supports disaster relief and recovery efforts through grants from the Rotary Disaster Response Fund.

Districts that have been affected by natural disasters can use Rotary Disaster response grants to launch their own projects or work with established relief organisations to help their communities recover. Grant funds can be used to provide basic items such as water, food, medicine, and clothing.

Districts work closely with local officials and groups to ensure that the funding will meet a specific community need.

HOW TO DONATE

Donating to The Rotary Foundation is making an investment in the future of our society. Doing so is simple, particularly by card and on-line. Rotarians in Great Britain and Ireland should go to the Rotary GB&I website, where there is a 'DONATE' button in the top right of the home page. Clicking that takes the donor to the Donate page with some initial information. The 'DONATE' button towards the bottom of that page opens up the following:



ANNUAL FUND



END POLIO NOW



DISASTER RESPONSE



ENDOWMENT FUND

This page also includes icons facilitating donations direct to projects in any one of our seven areas of focus.

Each of these icons opens a screen allowing single or regular donations and of set amounts or an amount of the donor's choice. The money is collected by a credit or debit card payment. Other means of paying to RFUK are detailed in the same pages.

RECOGNITION

All our donors receive thanks and recognition for their donation from us. Further detail of recognitions is on the RI website.

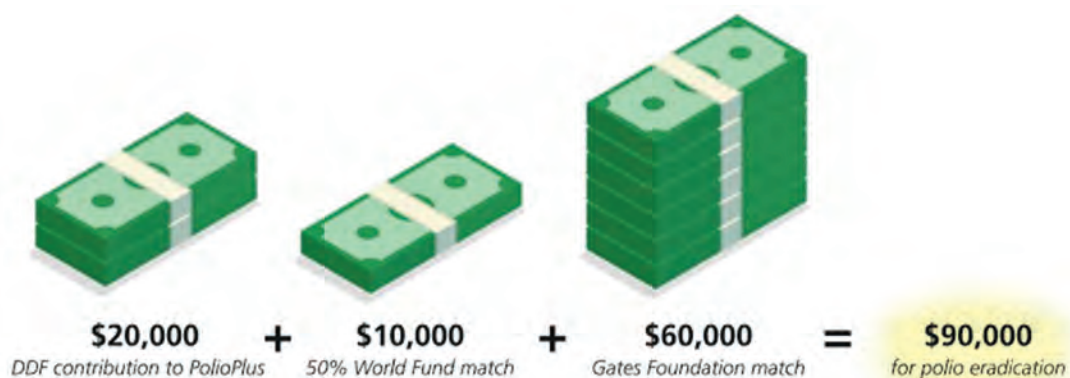
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Donations made by UK taxpayers can benefit from Gift Aid. The Rotary Foundation UK can claim a significant additional 25% from HMRC, provided the donor pays sufficient UK tax to cover that amount and completes the appropriate gift aid form. Those are available on the Rotary GB&I website.

HOW ARE THE FUNDS DISBURSED?

50% MATCH ON DDF CONTRIBUTIONS TO POLIOPLUS

DDF contributions to PolioPlus are matched by the World Fund at 50%. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation continues to match 2-to-1 every dollar that Rotary commits to polio eradication, up to \$50 million per year. That underlines why it is vital we continue to make fundraising for polio eradication a top priority.



80% MATCH ON DDF APPLIED TO GLOBAL GRANTS

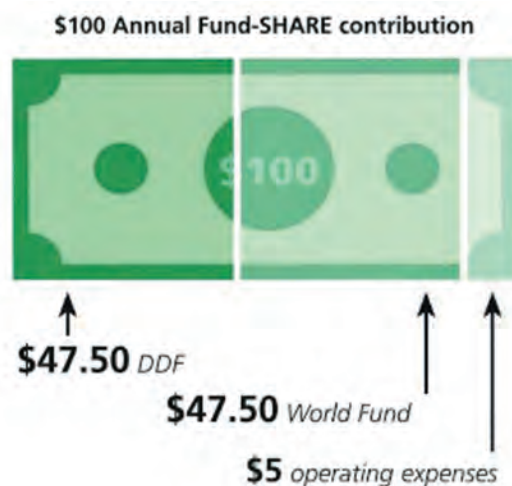
In past years, the World Fund has been depleted before the Rotary year ends. To ensure the Foundation can fund more of the eligible Global Grant requests received, DDF applied to Global Grants is matched at 80% (rather than 100% as in earlier years).

Note that there is there is no match from the World Fund on cash contributions to grants.



SHARED FUNDING OF OPERATING EXPENSES

5% of Annual Fund contributions are used to cover Rotary Foundation operating expenses.
95% of donations to the Annual Fund are split equally between DDF and the World Fund.
Five per cent of Disaster Response Fund contributions are retained towards operating expenses.



FIVE-YEAR LIMIT ON DDF CARRY-OVER

Donors contribute to the Annual Fund with the expectation that these donations will be used to help communities in the near future. However, the amount of DDF carried over from year to year remains high. For example, in the year 2021-22 in Rotary GB&I alone over \$1.2 million of DDF was unused. This was carried forward to the current year.

Starting on 1st July 2026, and at the end of each Rotary year thereafter, DDF amounts that have been held for five years or more must be used. DDF that is not used can be applied to the Disaster Response Fund, the Endowment Fund, PolioPlus, the Rotary Peace Centres, or the World Fund, at the district's discretion. If no fund is selected by the district the carry-over will be allocated to the World Fund.

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
DDF new	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
DDF rollover	\$20,000	\$30,000	\$35,000	\$30,000	\$20,000
DDF spent	-\$40,000	-\$45,000	-\$55,000	-\$60,000	-\$65,000
Rollover remaining	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$5,000	\$0
	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
		\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
			\$0	\$0	\$0
				\$0	\$0
					\$0
<i>Rollover amount remaining after</i>	<i>1 year</i>	<i>2 years</i>	<i>3 years</i>	<i>4 years</i>	<i>5 years</i>

FURTHER INFORMATION

There is a wealth of information on the grants provided by The Rotary Foundation to support projects and programmes which Rotarians wish to support, and on the funding programmes. Just search 'Rotary Foundation Grants'. The financial reports of The Rotary Foundation and of Rotary International are published annually on the RI website (search for 'Rotary financials').



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EAST MIDLANDS

Monday 1st May

Leighton Buzzard, Milton Keynes, Towcester, Nothampton

Thursday 11th May

Norwich (Central), Norwich (Costessey), East Dereham, Swaffham, Kings Lynn, Gedney

Sunday 28th May

Lowestoft, Gorleston (James Paget Hospital), Gorleston (Central) Great Yarmouth, Acle, Norwich (Central), Norwich (Costessey), Gedney

WEST MIDLANDS

Wednesday 24th May

Abergavenny, Monmouth, Ross-On-Wye, Ledbury, Malvern, Worcester, Kidderminster

WALES

Wednesday 24th May

Abergavenny, Monmouth, Ross-On-Wye, Ledbury, Malvern, Worcester, Kidderminster

EAST ENGLAND

Monday 1st May

Deal, Dover, Folkestone, Ashford, Maidstone, Birchanger Services

Monday 1st May

Felixstowe, Ipswich, Claydon, Stowmarket, Bury St Edmunds, Newmarket, Cambridge Services

Monday 1st May

Leighton Buzzard, Milton Keynes, Towcester, Nothampton

Thursday 11th May

Clacton-On-Sea, Elmstead Market, Colchester, Marks Tey, Braintree, Great Dunmow, Birchanger Services

Thursday 11th May

Norwich (Central), Norwich (Costessey), East Dereham, Swaffham, Kings Lynn, Gedney

Saturday 20th May

Ramsgate, Broadstairs, Margate, Birchington, Herne Bay, Whitstable, Canterbury, Birchanger Services

Saturday 20th May

Woodbridge, Ipswich, Hadleigh Suffolk, Boxford, Newton Green, Sudbury, Long Melford, Bury St Edmunds, Newmarket, Cambridge Services

Sunday 28th May

Shoeburyness, Southend-On-Sea, Westcliff-On-Sea, Chalkwell Park, Leigh-on-Sea, Hadleigh Essex, South Benfleet, Basildon, Stanford-Le-Hope, Grays, Birchanger Services

Sunday 28th May

Lowestoft, Gorleston (James Paget Hospital), Gorleston (Central) Great Yarmouth, Acle, Norwich (Central), Norwich (Costessey), Gedney

SOUTH EAST

Monday 1st May

Leighton Buzzard, Milton Keynes, Towcester, Nothampton

Monday 1st May

Deal, Dover, Folkestone, Ashford, Maidstone, Birchanger Services

Saturday 20th May

Ramsgate, Broadstairs, Margate, Birchington, Herne Bay, Whitstable, Canterbury, Birchanger Services

Saturday 20th May

Farnham, Aldershot, Farnborough, Bracknell, Wokingham

SOUTH WEST

Thursday 11th May

Weston-Super-Mare, Worle, Clevedon, Gordano, Bristol (Central), Bristol (Filton)

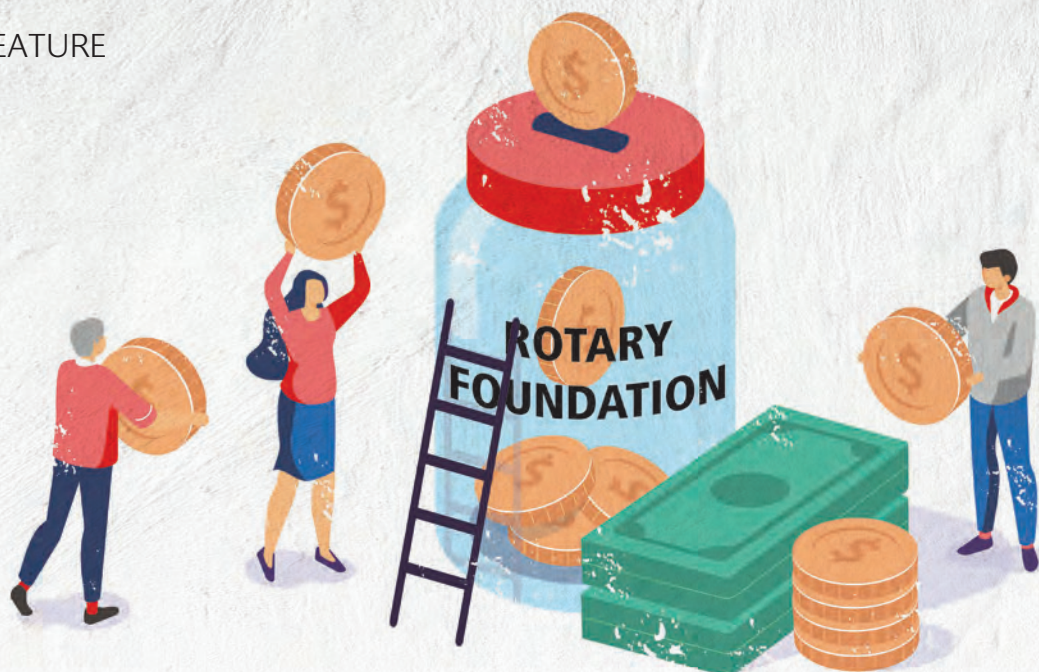
Wednesday 24th May

Weymouth, Dorchester, Sherborne, Yeovil, Somerton, Street

Sunday 28th May

Chippenham, Corsham, Bath, Chipping Sodbury, Yate, Nailsworth, Stroud





WHY GIVE TO THE ROTARY FOUNDATION?

STORY BY **TOM HUNT, ENDOWMENT & MAJOR GIFTS ADVISOR**

WHEN it comes to personal giving, there are three questions to ask:

- Do you give personally to The Rotary Foundation?
- Do you give via your club?
- Do you not donate at all?

If you are in the first category, then on behalf of The Rotary Foundation thank you for helping us to continue to do good in the world.

If you are in the second, then ensure your treasurer completes the reverse of the donation form so that we are able to append the donation against your Rotary record.

It is really important to record an individual's donations so that when certain levels are met you can be recognised.

A perfect example of this is the \$100 Sustaining Member level.

There could be thousands of Rotarians in the UK who have reached this level, but we don't know about it.

If you are in the third category, then give me a call at **07860 525831** or email me at: tomhunt@littlebarnca.co.uk

I would welcome a conversation to understand why you do not wish to support our charity. I just want an open

and frank discussion, and will respect your views.

I truly believe that our Foundation should be every Rotarian's charity of choice and that everyone should appreciate that our Foundation is at the core of everything we do as Rotarians.

Here are testimonials from two Rotarians who contribute, explaining why:

"I make personal contributions to The Rotary Foundation because it is my 'go to' charity. Too many charities are now businesses whose expenses and running costs are disproportionate to their income.

The Rotary Foundation has clearly defined areas of focus, it's effective, it's ethical, it's sustainable and it's transparent.

The Foundation is run at all levels by Rotarians who have the same values as I do so I trust them implicitly to use my contributions to implement the humanitarian projects which improve the lives of those less fortunate than myself irrespective of their race, gender, age or religion.

Here are the ways I give:

As a sustaining member I make contributions to Rotary's Annual

Programmes Fund on a monthly basis.

These contributions go towards projects which address the immediate need of those we help. I also make regular contributions to PolioPlus.

This is to help fulfil Rotary's goal and the promise to the children of the World to eradicate this terrible disease once and for all.

My wife and I have also made a gift in our wills to Rotary's Endowment Fund which means our gift will live on in perpetuity for the benefit of mankind long after we are both gone."

Ashley Gray

Walsall Saddlers Rotary Club,
West Midlands.

"I give personally to our Rotary Foundation because it gives me choices - I can place it in any of the 7 Areas of Focus and End Polio Now, and I know that it will be used by people like me - Rotarians - to do good in the world, without using up lots of my gifting on overheads."

Cheryl Law

Wendover & District Rotary Club,
Buckinghamshire.

THE VALUE OF SCHOLARSHIP

THE Rotary Foundation (TRF) and clubs invest in our future leaders and philanthropists by funding scholarships for undergraduate and graduate study.

In 1947, following the death of Rotary's founder Paul Harris, scholarships were the first large programme funded by The Rotary Foundation to be set up. To date, more than 350,000 scholarships have been awarded.

TYPES OF SCHOLARSHIP

Rotary clubs offer scholarships for secondary, undergraduate, or graduate study.

District grants can be used to sponsor secondary school, undergraduate, or graduate students studying any subject, either locally or abroad. The scholarship may cover any length of time, from a six-week language training programme to a year or more of university study.

Global Grants are for graduate students studying abroad in one of Rotary's seven areas of focus, and planning on a career allied to that area. Scholarships last from one to four years and can include an entire degree programme. Global Grant scholarships are funded using cash or District Designated Funds matched by the World Fund.

THE VALUE OF ROTARY SCHOLARSHIPS VERSUS HUMANITARIAN AID

To answer this question, consider the impact of education. Humanitarian aid and development is relatively easy to measure and for some is the best solution to helping people. For others, they see that investment in people and education can have a bigger return over a longer period of time. In the end there is no right or wrong answer.

Both perspectives can co-exist and Rotary offers Rotarians a menu of programmes from which to choose. Rotarians do have a strong historical commitment to supporting education

through scholarships and this is likely to continue as long as Rotarians choose to support Global Grant scholars and the Rotary Peace Centres.

This is the beauty of our Rotary Foundation. We have seven areas of focus, we offer opportunities to support humanitarian projects, graduate scholarships and adult skills building through our Vocational Training Teams. Rotary, supported by its own charity The Rotary Foundation gives members the opportunity to get involved with an area that they are passionate about.

Last year TRF approved 1,197 Global Grants. Of these grants, 1,027 (86%) were for humanitarian projects, 145 (12%) for scholarships and 26 (2%) were Vocational Training Teams. This distribution of activities is relatively consistent year to year.

So, we can see that the majority of Rotarians' and TRF's investment is in humanitarian projects. However, a small percentage of our membership see value in helping young people to gain a graduate degree in one of our areas of focus. They believe that this will have a larger positive impact on our society.

In a survey of our scholars between 2014 and 2018, respondents told us:

- 90% of Global Grant scholars are using their Area of Focus expertise in their paid work;
- 91% stated that Global Grant scholarships are helping scholars achieve their career goals and make a positive impact in their chosen Area of Focus;
- Most Global Grant scholars hold positions in organisations that are making a difference in society;
- 10% of respondents are currently club members. Most of those who were not club members are still in contact with members;
- 68% of respondents are interested in increasing their engagement with Rotary through membership, service programmes, or alumni networks.

Our scholarship programmes will have a large positive impact on our society, supporting Rotary's aims of 'Service Above Self'. ●



INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

STORY BY **ADRIAN FAIERS, ROTARY CLUB OF DULWICH, PECKHAM AND CRYSTAL PALACE**



DO you ever get that feeling when Global Scholars are introduced that somewhere in your mind you think ‘over privileged, over funded and over here’? Well, it’s time to get over it!

Talk with and listen to these young people and you will find such diversity of background both financially and culturally - you will find bright searching minds, wanting to make a difference in the world - wanting to help humanity!

There are between 200 to 300 scholars each year across the world, the largest group – approximately 50%, arrive in the UK, and of those, half come to London because of the fantastic reputation of the capital’s universities, as well as to experience life in London.

Interestingly, the United States accounts for 40% of scholarships, but only 20% choose to go to the US to study. There’s no doubting the scholars’ academic abilities studying at prestigious establishments such as the London

School of Economics, University College London, King’s College London, the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, but what of their knowledge of Rotary and where do the students see their involvement in the future?

Last October, 28 Global Scholars in District 1130 (London) and three Global Scholars hosted by District 1260 (Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire) had an orientation day in London. This was an opportunity to ask those questions which we all want answers to.

Frank questions often get frank answers! Such as: does this opportunity make any difference to their careers, and could they have got this elsewhere? What are their aspirations career-wise, and where do they see their connection with Rotary developing? Does Rotary have a place in the future, both in the community and in their lives?

Their answers were surprisingly personal. Financially, some students

could not have accessed further education in their chosen field without Rotary’s help, for some this was a fantastic opportunity to gain knowledge and connections that would help them further their passion in areas of healthcare, conflict resolution and international relations – the list is long.

All were passionately committed to gaining and using skills to help others.

What of Rotary? As you would expect, all were complimentary of what Rotary is doing, but reassuringly, most said they would become Rotarians, and that their sponsoring clubs and districts were already encouraging them to do so.

A few students hoped that they would be invited to join – so there is a message to sponsoring clubs and to ourselves, once these amazing young people finish their courses, ask.

The Rotary Foundation – it is all about investing in the future! ●

GRADUATING OVER THE POND

ROTARY scholars don't only arrive in Great Britain and Ireland from abroad to study in these isles with the benefit of a Global Grant – the relationship is two-way. Students are also able to take advantage of the scheme to study abroad.

One of those is James E. Brown from Denton in Greater Manchester who arrived at the University of Michigan in August 2021 as a Global Grant Scholar.

James was sponsored by the Tameside Rotary Club and funded by District Designated Fund from District 1285 (north-west England).

James was hosted by the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor where he thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity to pursue his Master of Law (LLM) degree at the University of Michigan Law School. He had already completed his Bachelor of Law in this country.

The prestigious Law School graduation was last May at Hill Auditorium, Michigan.

James is interested in human rights and refugee affairs. He was impressed with the many international scholars that taught classes at the University of Michigan Law School. James has been offered an internship with the United Nations in Geneva this summer. In Autumn of 2022, he began studying on a post graduate programme at the London School of Economics.

Tameside Rotarians Peter Holden, who was club secretary, and Foundation chairman, Cliff Hall, had the pleasure to spend time with James before he headed to Michigan. They were impressed to hear first-hand the excellent opportunities provided by the Rotary International Global Grant programme.

Cliff Hall said: "James is a fine young man with a bright future ahead of him."

"It was our privilege to sponsor such a worthy and talented young man, and Tameside Rotary wishes James all the best for the future." ●



"JAMES IS A FINE YOUNG MAN WITH A BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD OF HIM. IT WAS OUR PRIVILEGE TO SPONSOR SUCH A WORTHY AND TALENTED YOUNG MAN."

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HOW ROTARY SUPPORTS UKRAINE

STORY BY HOWARD CASKIE, ROTARY FOUNDATION TEAM LEADER, IRELAND



RUSSIA's invasion of Ukraine on February 24th last year brought death and destruction, provoking Europe's largest refugee crisis since World War Two with nearly eight million Ukrainians fleeing the country.

As a result, Rotary Foundation trustees reacted amazingly quickly.

The war in Ukraine was classified a disaster and within a matter of days, the World Fund made Disaster Response Grants of \$25,000, available to any Rotary district directly affected by the conflict.

The Republic of Ireland was one of the first countries to open its doors to the refugees and in District 1160 (which is Rotary in Ireland) we were exposed to their plight right from the start.

Last April, Rotary in Ireland was one of the first districts within Great Britain and Ireland to be allocated a Disaster Response Grant. Even before that, virtually every club in the district – both north and south of the border – had started to fund-raise, in a show of determined support for Ukraine.

Only a handful of those clubs were engaged in hands-on, face-to-face

support projects with refugees, however the \$25,000 grant was divided amongst five of them.

Rotary in Ireland forwarded a spending report to The Rotary Foundation in early August and, within three days of the grant being signed off, we submitted a second request which was agreed almost immediately.

That second tranche of \$25,000 was divided amongst a further five Rotary clubs to support their projects. It is our intention to apply for a third grant.

Rotary clubs worked in tandem with other service organisations and government agencies who were confronted by a seemingly endless stream of families who arrived on these shores from Ukraine. They were exhausted from travel, hungry, in shock, with many lacking language skills. Most had little or no personal possessions.

The idea of preparing 'welcome packs' was simply inspired.

These included essential clothing, fresh underwear, snacks, basic medical support, footwear, pet food, pyjamas, slippers. We also consider items you might not immediately think of: phone

chargers; toys to keep the children amused; and books.

Accommodation had to be secured, kitchen equipment bought or leased, bedding sought along with cooking and eating utensils, crockery, washing machines and dryers, food supplies, toiletries, warm clothing – the list of phase one essentials was mind-boggling!

Once the families settled, phase two requirements quickly came into play. Here we focused on English classes, swimming lessons, on-location childcare and counselling services, children's play areas, bicycles for mobility, and training for employment.

For the past six months, Rotarians have never stopped rising to the challenge and Rotary is now recognised as the go-to organisation by those refugees arriving in Ireland who are in desperate need.

Rotary Disaster Response Grants may be just a small part of the total amount of money spent – but they are a very welcome and important part of the support Rotary was able to give and which became available just when they were needed. ●



ROTARY UNITES FOR GOOD

A Rotary Foundation Global Grant is helping to support vulnerable children in one of Europe's poorest countries.

| STORY BY **MARTIN WILCOX** |

MOLDOVA is one of Europe's poorest nations, where families with children living with disabilities often face insurmountable obstacles in caring and achieving full integration of their children into society.

It's an Eastern European country few knew about until war broke out in neighbouring Ukraine where there are nearly 100,000 refugees seeking sanctuary in a small and very poor country.

In 2019, Rotary clubs in three Great Britain & Ireland districts, spearheaded by Wednesfield (D1210) in the West Midlands and Chislehurst (D1120) in South-East London, supported by German and Dutch clubs, united with the Rotary Club of Chisinau Cosmopolitan in Moldova to secure a Global Grant with Rotary International.

The Rotary Foundation Global Grant will support a Vocational Training Team working in Moldova to improve occupational disciplines. The project was launched three years ago with a conference focused on the initial training module based on the Canadian Occupational Performance Measure.

However, the project has been held back, first through Covid which meant that occupational therapist trainers could not travel to Moldova, and then the war in Ukraine both restricted travel and also required many therapists in Moldova to dedicate their time caring for refugees.

Rotary's multi-year Vocational

Training Team (VTT) project is looking to improve the standards of occupational therapy in Moldova by drafting in qualified occupational therapists from the UK, Europe, and North America to train paediatric practitioners and medical university teams.

The project will lay down the foundations for the sustainable development of occupational therapy into Moldova.

For the children, training professional paediatric therapists will improve physical and mental healthcare. This will enable those with physical and neuro disabilities to develop motor skills, cognitive behaviour, and planning capacities, and becoming adept at performing otherwise unachievable tasks.

The bottom line is that this care will enable the children and their families to achieve far greater potential than they would otherwise expect to achieve. With the help of Rotary's VTT programme and the training of the professionals, it is hoped Moldova will become an accredited country for occupational therapy.

The programme is being coordinated by UK charity, ChildAid to Eastern Europe, and Moldova's foremost paediatric rehabilitation centre, the Tony

Hawks Centre.

These, together with the participating Rotary clubs, are now keen to go full steam ahead with the training programme over the next couple of years. However, they are seeking your help.

Qualified paediatric occupational therapists are needed to deliver one or more of the specialist modules relating to occupational therapy, such as sensory integration, visual perception, emotional development, feeding, self-care, play, handwriting and mobility.

The training will be delivered over two to three days to paediatric therapists in Moldova. Flights, accommodation and per diem are covered by the Global Grant.

Do you know of any occupational therapists, or contacts within the profession, who may be keen to help improve young lives in Moldova?

If so, please contact Martin Wilcox (RC Chislehurst and ChildAid) at: charitymanager@childaidee.org.uk

This is a wonderful opportunity for therapists to travel to a truly welcoming, and for many, culturally different country whilst working to improve the lives of children. ●

"THE PROJECT WILL LAY DOWN THE FOUNDATIONS FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY INTO MOLDOVA."



Celebrity support for Moldova

| STORY BY **TONY HAWKS, AUTHOR AND COMEDIAN** |

I have been strongly connected to the children's rehabilitation centre in Moldova that I'm humbled to say bears my name since I helped set it up with the proceeds of my book "Playing the Moldovans at Tennis".

I have seen with my own eyes the quite incredible work that the

dedicated therapists perform and the even more wonderful results. This is the country's foremost such centre and the additional of occupational therapy skills will be vital in ensuring that the children receive the fullest care that they deserve."

I have been visiting Moldova

since the late 1990s and have seen much change, largely good. There is still much needed to be done for this wonderful, yet very poor country.

Rotary has done a huge amount over the years to improve the lives, from shoeboxes, to the country's most effective sensory room at the Tony Hawks Centre, to an outdoor theatre at a children's centre, and most recently enormous support to Ukrainians who have sought refuge in Moldova.

I hope that Rotary's amazing commitment to Moldova will continue for many years to come. ●



*Humera, 10 years old
India*

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Rotary



PEOPLE OF ACTION

ROTARY FOUNDATION PROJECTS FROM AROUND GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND

GREEN-FINGERED ROTARIANS

WALSALL Saddlers Rotary was delighted when one of its projects landed a major investment of £25,000 as part of a District Grant.

Green Rivers Community Association, situated in a deprived area of north Walsall, has been running for many years providing a safe haven for local children after school and in the holidays.

Several years ago, Walsall Saddlers adopted the project which is run entirely by volunteer effort with no council support.

Rotarians volunteered their time to help with the ground maintenance and funded the purchase of a sit-on lawnmower to keep the large expanses of grass in order.

Rotarian Ian Johnstone, a keen environmentalist, proposed the creation of an allotment to teach the youngsters and their families the value of growing their own produce and the enjoyment to be derived from this outdoor activity.

With the help of a Rotary Foundation District Grant, equipment, plants, seeds and tubers were purchased and the task of constructing raised beds and compost bins began.

All waste vegetation is put into three large compost bins with large quantities of shredded cardboard sourced from local retail outlets and donations.

Cardboard is added because it breaks down into carbon to improve the carbon to nitrogen nutrient balance in the compost and it helps maintain a proper moisture level.

Once the compost is ready it is added to the soil in the raised beds. The compost represents around three to four tonnes a year of materials saved from landfill.

In addition to the vegetable crops a variety of flowers are planted alongside

to attract insects and increase pollination.

As well as attracting bees during the daytime hours there are also flowers which attract night-time pollinators.

Vegetables grown include carrots, leeks, lettuce, potatoes (two crops), green beans, pak choi, beef tomatoes and spring onions. The produce is given to local families through a food bank run by one of the volunteers.

The project has already caused a stir both inside and outside Rotary.

A group of keen horticulturalists from Shropshire visited the site to learn about the methods of cardboard composting.

Already links are being forged with a national delivery company who are interested in using this project as part of their community service for their

managers.

Discussions are ongoing with two organisations whose aims are to attract more young people into a farming career and to use spare land in urban areas to grow food.

The £25,000 investment has secured the project for a generation of young children and their families for their local community.

The project and the investment are due to the hard work and diligence of members of Walsall Saddlers and, in particular, Rotarians Ian Johnstone, Martin Whitehouse and Paul Daniels.

Without their efforts this project and the funding would never have got off the ground. ●



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MATERNITY UNIT IS BORN

ROTARIANS from Rutland, Leicestershire and Lincolnshire joined forces with Rotarians from Kenya and the USA to establish a maternity unit in Kenya.

Working with non-governmental organisations from Holland, Germany and Kenya, the \$52,435 project involved taking over a derelict building in Bomani in Kilifi County to establish the Bomani-Malde Health Centre.

Kilifi County had been experiencing extremely high levels of neo-natal deaths. It was considered that early intervention with a modern maternity unit would improve the situation.

The derelict building was completely refurbished, and a four-bed maternity unit was furnished. It opened for patients in July 2021 and 200 deliveries were handled within the first few months of operation. The maternity unit is now contributing to a full range of maternity services in the area.

As a follow-on project, a solar power system was installed to provide round-the-clock reliable power. ●



SUPPORTING DISABLED IN ZIMBABWE



THE Rotary Club of St. Helens on Merseyside used a global grant to the tune of \$99,500 to fund a wheelchair project in Zimbabwe.

Working with the Rotary Club of Harare West in the African country, the global grant provided for 470 unassembled wheelchairs which were purchased from the Wheelchair Foundation and assembled on site.

The finance supported a vocational training team of four physiotherapists who flew to Zimbabwe to train staff in the case of the disabled, and to focus on the suitability and fitting of disabled children with personally-adapted wheelchairs.

The Rotarians were also able to fund the refurbishment of an orthopaedic workshop which provided services to the Jairos Jiri Association and their homes for disabled children.

The Jairos Jiri Association is the largest service provider in Zimbabwe for people with disabilities, operating 16 centres across the country.

They were one of a number of partners, who included St John Ambulance Association Zimbabwe, RESCU Solutions, PhysioNet - who provided a

container full of disability aids free of charge - as well as a number of unpaid volunteers who supported the project, including a consultant paediatric surgeon and a consultant anaesthetist.

Colin Ince, Foundation Chairman at St. Helens Rotary explained that once the clinical centre staff were trained, they repeated the training in the rural areas outside Harare.

This was managed by St John Ambulance Association Zimbabwe.

He added: "A member of the Vocational Training Team was trained in brain training following a stroke or a neurological disease.

Two adults who lived at the centre were treated for neurological dysfunction following a stroke and Parkinson's disease. Both came in on crutches and walked out without walking aids.

"The wheelchairs have now all been reconstructed and the VTT has completed the training. We are still awaiting a final report from the Rotary Club of Harare West regarding completion of the refurbishment of the orthopaedic workshop." ●

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MAKING PLAY REALLY FUN



GEORGE Hastwell Special Needs School in Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, has 79 pupils, aged 3-19 who have severe learning difficulties, as well as some having physical disabilities and autistic conditions.

Some pupils find it hard to engage in constructive activities, physical play and opportunities for social interaction at less structured times in the school day without access to specialist equipment. To support them with this the school has been developing its outdoor play area.

Rotary Furness Peninsula has been developing our relationship with the school and through a District Grant of £1,200, managed to fund the creation of a playground, including an accessible swing. Both Barrow and Furness Rotary clubs were also involved with the project, and work was completed last summer.

Previously, Rotary Furness Peninsula has provided the school with a targeting game for the outdoor play area from their own funds.

And in 2020, using another District Grant, they funded a clatter bridge, which helps the youngsters improve their balance, encourages co-operation and builds communication. ●

IMPROVING FOOD SECURITY



FIVE hundred special needs children living in rural parts of Kenya have benefited from a Rotary global grant initiative to create a school farm project.

Rotarians from the East Midlands and Canada came together to fund the \$82,212 project with the charity, Friends of Kianjai, to improve food security and nutrition for the youngsters who are living in 17 educational units across rural Kenya.

This has been achieved by installing water harvesting and irrigation systems at each unit, enabling farmers to grow food to feed these disabled youngsters.

The project in Meru County also offers these special needs youngsters vocational training in agriculture, equipping them with life skills so that they can feed themselves when they leave the school unit.

Also included is the provision of a similar irrigated farm at Mituntu Polytechnic to train staff from the special needs units and demonstrate technology to the wider community.

The polytechnic has 80 boarders and no regular water supply. The project has provided two water tanks to distribute water for sanitation and irrigation.

"ROTARIANS FROM THE EAST MIDLANDS AND CANADA CAME TOGETHER TO FUND THE \$82,212 PROJECT."

An extensive training programme has been included covering the farm calendar, drought resistant crops, storage of crops, plus maximizing return from sale.

The Mituntu Polytechnic farm contributes by spreading the skills and knowledge to the wider community who can benefit from the water harvesting technology.

As a result, 500 special needs children now have more secure food and nutrition despite the effects of the East African drought, while Mituntu Polytechnic has an improved water supply.

Mituntu Community has gained knowledge about the benefits of water harvesting and drip irrigation. ●



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REJUVENATING MILLENNIUM GREEN

THE Millennium Green at Lumb in Rossendale in Lancashire was created in 2000. Twenty years later many of the footpaths were overgrown and the pond which used to be a central attractive feature of the Green was choked with mud and rough vegetation.

Grass on the small football field and the picnic area has been cut regularly by two of the Trustees who have done their best to maintain the Green for the benefit of the villagers.

Using a Rotary Foundation District Grant from District 1190 (Cumbria and Lancashire), the aim of the Rossendale Rotary project has been to work with the villagers to restore the pond and clear the footpaths.

Villagers were invited to a Zoom meeting and a renovation committee consisting largely of local people was formed. Through committee chairman, Tracy Cuthbertson, arrangements were made to clear the pond. This was achieved in May 2022 by Kenton Ritson, a local contractor and farmer, with the help of colleagues.

Throughout the project, Rotarians and friends of Rotary have volunteered to cut grass and clear footpaths and these volunteer days are still continuing.

Rotary is now working in conjunction with the WaterWell Foundation, a local charity, in support of the Trustees of the Green. Help has come from local people, a ramblers' club, Civic Pride and the local council. ●



TOILETS FOR SCHOOLS



DURING a visit to the village of Ankoma located in a remote area of Northern Ghana, two Rotarians from Upper Eden in Cumbria identified a need for school toilet blocks.

The existing toilets comprised of rudimentary tin sheeting sited in the bush adjacent to the schools and absenteeism due to diarrhoea and sickness was upwards of 25% of school time.

The project meets four of Rotary's Areas of Focus; water and sanitation, basic education and literacy, disease prevention and treatment, plus maternal and child health.

Three schools were identified as villagers agreed to undertake the construction work. They were provided with £1500 per unit materials cost. The typical local salary is a mere £5 a month.

Appleby and Upper Eden Rotary

Clubs from Cumbria agreed to fund two of the units with the third being covered by a District 1190 (Rotary in Cumbria and Lancashire) Grant.

Villagers dug the underground chambers and foundations whilst cement was delivered from the capital Accra, some five hours away.

Block production got underway using locally sourced sand and a steel mould with the underground tanks rendered to make them watertight. Sheet material was purchased for the roofs and guttering and a water storage tank provided for hand washing.

The schools and villagers were delighted with the toilets with the pupils taught the importance of hygiene. An Eden Valley soap manufacturer provided 2,500 bars of soap. ●

FLUSHED WITH SUCCESS

BRAMPTON & Longtown Rotary Club in North Cumbria has been at the forefront of a Global Grant project to build public toilets in public places in the West African country of Mali.

The concept followed the model of the World Toilet Organization's 'Rainbow School Toilets Project' to provide proper hygiene in public places.

The project's focus was to provide a public toilet unit in a public transport motor park. The project was led by Past District Governor Sunny Akoupha, who wants to provide 1,000 public toilets throughout his Rotary district covering West Africa.

Brampton & Longtown Rotary was invited to participate in this project.

Sunny sought over \$40,000 for the first pilot phase of the toilet project, which helped to provide the first 12 public toilets in Bamako.

However, this project does not end here. There is the vision to build public toilets in many public places, allowing proper hygiene practices which can be used by all.

Now these are in place, over the next few years with further assistance from Rotarians across the world and funding from the World Toilet Forum, the plan is to provide more blocks of public toilets in Mali and nine other countries including Senegal, Sierra Leone, Liberia and the Ivory Coast. ●

MAKING THE MOST OF NATURE



EACH year Rotary District 1030 (north-east England) claims the maximum that we can as a District Grant (50% of our available District Designated Fund).

All clubs around the district are then invited to submit proposals to the Foundation committee to use this money.

We are usually over-subscribed and so, over the last few years we have given priority to proposals involving the environment or young people. Following are two examples of local projects.

The first project was to install monitoring cameras in East Cramlington Wildlife Park in Northumberland to assess the numbers of endangered red squirrels that were present and whether they were healthy.

The project involved 30 members of a wildlife group, six of whom were Rotarians, who planned and fitted the

cameras in the park. The project was delayed by the unpredictable British weather, but eventually was completed.

The group were delighted when the majority of the visiting squirrels were identified as 'reds', and seemingly in good health. This is very encouraging to the group and their work continues.

The second featured project involves three Middlesbrough clubs working together to create an avenue of trees alongside the River Tees at the upper end of its navigable length.

Some 150 larger trees and 400 saplings have been planted so far by Rotarians and young people from local primary and secondary schools.

A further 4,000 'Purple4Polio' crocus corms have been planted between the trees. There are plans to extend this project along the Teesdale Way. ●

ANGLO-SCOTS CO-OPERATION

WITH the assistance of Rotary Edinburgh as its International Partner, Rotary Leeds was able to obtain a Global Grant for a project at Leeds Mencap.

The Global Grant helped provide funding for a project to support very young children in Yorkshire with severe mental and often physical disabilities.

There is presently no other funding available for 0-3 year-olds at the time when most learning occurs.

With the Global Grant it was possible to set up a programme for 18 children to benefit from a number of sessions provided by three specialist service providers for one year.

The project finishes in 2023 and Leeds Mencap is working on raising the funding for continuation as the success for some of the children has been phenomenal. ●

COMING TOGETHER IN WOLVERHAMPTON

LIKE many Rotary clubs over the past year, supporting Ukraine and Ukrainian refugees has been a high priority.

Wolverhampton's four Rotary clubs used a £4,000 Disaster Response Grant as part of the \$25,000 Disaster Response Grant made available to District 1210 (Rotary in Shropshire, Staffordshire and the North West Midlands) to support Ukrainian families who have arrived in Wolverhampton.

Chris Kraushar from Tettenhall Rotary has been at the heart of the initiative. He explained: "There is a vibrant branch of the Association of Ukrainians in the UK which meets at the Razom Centre in Wolverhampton. In Ukrainian, razom means together.

"I knew this organisation well so I was able to make speedy contact with Ukrainian families through the association."

The four Wolverhampton clubs worked together not only to supply clothing and footwear to the families, along with school uniforms, baby and children's requirements, food, hygiene products and toiletries, but also educational and cultural items.

"This was all about making life easier for the new members of the Wolverhampton community, and giving them the idea that the Ukrainian families are supported and welcomed." ●



LIFE-SAVING EQUIPMENT

ALNWICK Rotary in Northumberland has been the driving force behind a global grant project in Sri Lanka.

The initiative involved providing specialist equipment and surgical training for treating of cranio-facial deformities at Peradeniya Hospital in Kandy.

Deformities commonly arise from benign and malignant neoplasms, trauma and congenital deformities, leading to functional problems, for example with breathing, eating, swallowing and speech.

Reconstruction and rehabilitation of patients is essential at the earliest opportunity, otherwise severe disfigurement and death may occur.

The complexity of many deformities is such that cranio-facial reconstruction is only possible with highly specialist equipment which, prior to the global grant, was not available in Sri Lanka.

Donations enabled the setting up of a digital laboratory for complex surgeries lasting anything from 8 to 18 hours to be conducted in Peradeniya with much more accurate and predictable results.

The equipment provided has enabled the use of digital planning, simulations and design techniques to improve the quality of reconstructions and construction of patient-specific implants and prostheses in order to manage severe facial deformities.

One of the senior surgeons at Peradeniya Hospital said: "If it was not for this donation, the surgery would not be a dream for these patients. Now they will live not die with the abnormalities in their jaws.

"Cancer patients would definitely die if it was not for the surgeries we now can do. If not for your donation, post-graduates who are our future specialists would have zero exposure to these life-saving ultra-modern technologies." ●

A LONG-TERM HIMALAYAN INVESTMENT



IT TOOK 11 years to complete, but thanks to a global grant project involving Harrogate Brigantes Rotary Club in North Yorkshire, and The Himalayan Gurkhas Rotary Club from Kathmandu, Nepal, schoolchildren have been equipped with the latest IT equipment.

The project began as a simple initiative to equip two remote schools in Nepal with an IT suite. This soon developed into a literacy project because for students to learn IT, they needed to be competent in maths and English.

The third element was providing internet access to a cluster of seven schools in the Panchamul Valley, part of the Annapurna foothills.

By the end 10 state secondary schools had been fitted with IT suites thanks to four matching global grants at a total cost of £75,000.

Barry Pollard from Harrogate Brigantes said: "This was initially a pilot project, but it has since been established as a fully commissioned product, with all the schools connected for educational purposes, plus commercial licences available for private and business use.

"The goal was to educate students to a higher level, enhancing their prospects of progressing further up the education

"BY THE END 10 STATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS HAD BEEN FITTED WITH IT SUITES THANKS TO FOUR MATCHING GLOBAL GRANTS AT A TOTAL COST OF £75,000."

chain and on to university. If this were to occur, we were enhancing their employment prospects."

Economic regeneration was a final element for the initiative.

With poverty levels in the region so high, the Rotarians had to address the challenge of self-sustainability and how could each school look after the maintenance of its IT suite in the long term with significant ongoing costs?

The solution was to introduce the Rotary district Micro Loan Scheme as a way of increasing the affordability for the parents to financially support their school.

Some £3,200 was loaned to families in amounts ranging from £50 to £100, with repayment terms of between 12 and 18 months. ●

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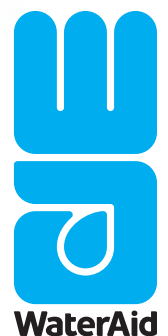


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TRAINING THE TRAINERS

Karen Eveleigh from Faringdon Rotary Club in Oxfordshire describes her recent Vocational Training Team visit to Uganda.

WHEN The Rotary Foundation introduced its new Vocational Training Team (VTT) grant model in 2013, Rotarians in District 1090 in the Thames Valley took advantage of it immediately.

At the time, none of us realised that it would lead to ten visits to rural mission hospitals in Uganda visiting Kamuli Mission Hospital and then Ngora Freda Carr Hospital, training hundreds of nursing students, hospital staff and health centre staff in emergency birth skills and neonatal care.

I have supported the administration for the VTT since the start, and was lucky enough to visit Uganda in November to see the team in action and visit three hospitals.

Visits have been mostly funded by

three Rotary Foundation Global Grants, plus a few Foundation District Grants, with support from clubs and friends of Rotary, within and beyond our district.

Our first emergency birth skills team went to Kamuli Mission Hospital, north-east of Kampala in 2014. Building work was completed in November 2014.

The first visit was in March 2014 and the second in September 2014. Following the success of these visits, we were able to fund three more visits, partly from Foundation district grants.

Two Rotarians in particular have been completely dedicated to the projects in Uganda: Gillian Pearce of Maidenhead Bridge Rotary has led the training teams since the start, and Jim McWhirter of Reading Matins Rotary has led on the global grant applications, identifying mission hospitals in need of support.

On this latest visit, the training team

– Rotarian and midwife Gillian Pearce, with three senior nurses from the Royal Berkshire Hospital: Claire Carter; Sam Fleming and Lydia Franklin – spent their time at the Freda Carr Hospital.

They were training nursing students, hospital staff and those from local health centres with a focus on birth skills and neonatal care.

Jim and I, along with Mark and Sarah Barrett from Reading Matins Rotary spent most of our time with Rogers Kabuye, a Ugandan doctor who Jim has worked with for many years on hospital projects.

We visited three hospitals: Freda Carr, where we met the team and attended the hospital's centenary celebrations; Kumi, where we heard about the plans of the new medical director; and Kyengera, a hospital in Kampala where Jim and Mark are planning a new global grant project.

"IT WAS A PRIVILEGE TO BE THERE, HEARING HOW EVERYONE HAD SO MUCH TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CONVERSATIONS, THE PLANNING AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HOSPITALS AND THE HEALTHCARE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES. AND ALL THANKS TO THE ROTARY FOUNDATION."

The training visits have been a fantastic way to build relationships with staff at the Freda Carr Hospital and nursing school.

The focus for the original visits was on training the trainers to develop a sustainable improvement in care on the maternity wards. Hence when deciding on which hospitals to work with, Jim and his Ugandan colleagues looked for a hospital with a nursing school attached.

The team members have trained lots of nursing staff and non-clinical staff in addition to the tutors and nursing students.

Claire was on her third visit to Freda Carr Hospital. She explained that if a maternity ward was short-staffed, anyone could be called in to help, having received basic training to assist in an emergency.

These projects are not about Rotarians identifying a need, and showing Ugandans how they might do things as we do them in Great Britain and Ireland.

The nursing staff, medical directors and administrators knew what they needed to do to improve their hospitals.

Partner club, Kampala Central Rotary, is key to the projects, providing that link with the hospitals and completing community needs assessments.

Our host, guide and driver for the week was Dr Rogers Kabuye, who was previously a surgeon and a medical director of a rural hospital. As a medical director, he developed a computer system to manage hospital finances, which was copied in other rural hospitals.

Rogers met Jim McWhirter in 2011 at Kamuli Mission Hospital while Jim was on a six-week clinical visit, and Rogers

was meeting the medical director to discuss the computer system installation. The two have worked together since then.

At the three hospitals we visited, it was clear to see that Rogers had developed long term relationships with hospital staff and an in-depth understanding of the operation, issues and opportunities at each hospital.

This was my first visit to Uganda. I expected to see the poverty as we travelled across the country. However, I hadn't expected to see so much activity on the roadside – so many bedframes and doors being made and sold on the highways.

I was expecting to see the litter and

the potholes in the unsurfaced roads, but I was still shocked by the amount of plastic waste on the ground, and particularly when it spread into streams.

However, my overriding memory will be of the meetings which Jim, Rogers, Mark and I had with the hospital directors, administrators, the sisters running the mission hospital and the Rotarians.

It was a privilege to be there, hearing how everyone had so much to contribute to the conversations, the planning and the development of the hospitals and the healthcare in their communities. And all thanks to The Rotary Foundation. ●





EMPOWERING GIRLS IS ABOUT MORE THAN CREATING EQUITY

RECENTLY, I spent time in the Nakivale refugee settlement in Uganda. As the “settlement” in its name suggests, the people living there are free to move around and integrate as best they can — one thing that makes the place unique.

I had a chance to play soccer with boys and girls from about a dozen nations and talk with women who had fled areas of conflict.

It was a tapestry of human experience shared through both laughter and tears.

As I walked across a school campus at the settlement with a teacher, she shared with me the dire statistics on girls’ education. Most don’t get through grade school. Many are sold into child marriage to pay for food for their families. As I looked around at these young girls, I was gutted.

Our work with empowering girls and women is much more than creating equity — sometimes, it’s about health or education.

Other times it’s about providing safety. Regardless of the path, it’s always about basic human rights.

We can do more to empower girls and women, and we can expand how we share the progress Rotary members and our partners have made toward this goal.

There is no shortage of inspiring examples of our work, from interest-free microcredit loans for women in Nigeria, to projects in India that provide girls menstrual hygiene products.

Hundreds of projects are taking place across all Rotary areas of focus and are making a meaningful and often lifesaving difference.

Together, we can address the needs and inequities that girls throughout the world face daily.

But we must also monitor the impact of these projects and create awareness of Rotary resources and subject matter experts, including Rotary Action Groups, The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers, Rotary Peace Fellows, and others.

It is especially important that we tell the stories of our initiatives that have a positive impact on the lives of women and girls. This last point is near and dear to my heart. This means sharing our stories on social media, through local news outlets, in this magazine, and wherever we can inspire others.

As you do so, it’s important to provide information that helps our Rotary family connect with others who are implementing activities in their regions, as well as across the world.

Let’s share our successes and learn from one another — then proudly tell our stories to a larger audience.

These are exciting times in Rotary, and the world is taking notice.

As we work to empower women and girls to step into their full potential, we create new pathways for membership growth and greater collaboration with partners to create positive, lasting change.

Thank you for your continued action in this vital effort. ●

WOMEN
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT 2022/23



NICKI SCOTT
RI DIRECTOR
2021-23

CREATING HOPE IN THE WORLD

WHAT an amazing week at the International Assembly in Orlando, Florida, for more than 500 incoming District leaders across the globe.

Rotary International President-Elect, Gordon McInally, one of our own, has given us all a wonderful new theme to prepare for in the Rotary year 2023/24 – ‘Create Hope in the World’.

It is of course what Rotary does best – creating hope for mankind and for our planet now too thanks to our new Area of Focus, sustaining the environment. But in the wake of the pandemic, and recent turmoils the world over, we are now more united in our shared sense of purpose than ever.

We are **#bettertogether**.

All Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors, are being asked to put a renewed emphasis on our core mission of peace, “the soil in which hope takes root” as Gordon said. We have done great work to support humanitarian relief efforts for Ukrainians and many others in the wake of war and conflict, but more is needed as peace starts from within. Mental health issues are ever more prevalent and yet there is still so much stigma associated with this topic worldwide.

President-Elect Gordon shared a very personal message in Orlando about losing someone close to him to suicide. No one saw this coming. His depression was kept totally hidden. Gordon and his wider family have lived with this for many years and understand first-hand how important it is to destigmatise mental illness so it is easier for sufferers to ask for help. I can also relate. My own mother was diagnosed as a manic depressive which is now known as bipolar. She died at the age of 45 – way too young.

Last year Gordon became an Ambassador for Bipolar UK and Rotary GB&I has entered into a partnership with them, pledging to give support to earlier diagnosis and specialised treatment.

I was delighted to attend the parliamentary reception in November 2022 at the launch of the Bipolar Commission Report, along with several other Rotary leaders, to learn about the ways we can help and take action.

See bipolaruk.org/rotary-partnership for more information.

There was a huge groundswell at the International Assembly that Rotary should be brave enough to address this important issue of mental health.

As a network of 1.4 million members globally we have the purpose and passion to drive action towards a more hopeful future across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves. ●



IAN RISELEY
ROTARY FOUNDATION
TRUSTEE CHAIR

A GLOBAL FORCE FOR PEACE

ONE of the fascinating things about Rotary is that we are many things at once. We are a service organisation based on action. We are also a professional and community networking group, not to mention a place to find friendship and fun.

And, when you stop to think about it, you and I are also part of a peace organisation. I saw this in 2013, when I represented Rotary at an international symposium on advancing a peaceful democratic transition for Myanmar.

Despite recent setbacks, the fact that Rotary was at the table demonstrates that the world sees us as peacebuilders who are not deterred by the most difficult issues.

How did we earn this reputation? Through literacy projects that help people expand their minds and viewpoints.

And through water, sanitation, and hygiene projects that create common ground for communities in conflict.

The Rotary Action Group for Peace promotes hands-on service projects, and our annual international conventions unite thousands in a celebration of global harmony.

Perhaps the most visible face of this cause is the Rotary Peace Centres programme, now in its 21st year.

Today, more than 1,600 Rotary Peace Fellows are advancing the cause of peace in more than 140 countries. On February 1st, we open applications for the next generation of peace fellows.

Encourage your local peacebuilders to learn about Rotary and apply for this unique fellowship.

And soon, we'll be recruiting fellows for a new peace centre in the Middle East and North Africa region as we begin working this year with a recently selected partner university.

Made possible by a generous gift of \$15.5 million to The Rotary Foundation from the Otto and Fran Walter Foundation, the addition of this centre furthers Rotary's vision of peacemaking in action.

As we celebrate Rotary's 118th anniversary and Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month, we can be proud of the many ways Rotary promotes peace.

Without The Rotary Foundation, and your support of it, none of that would be possible.

You can directly support this work through the Foundation by visiting rotary.org/donate and selecting the peacebuilding and conflict prevention area of focus.

I also encourage you to contribute to the Ian and Juliet Riseley Endowed Fund in The Rotary Foundation to support peace projects.

If Paul Harris could see us now, he would be amazed by the astonishing growth of the club he founded in 1905 and the global force for good and peace that Rotary is today. ●



AMANDA WATKIN
GENERAL SECRETARY
FOR ROTARY GB&I

ROTARY IS A GIFT

WE are now rolling forward in this new year but are any of the thoughts that we had in December and January about doing things differently in 2023 just a distant memory or are they now becoming new habits? My 'resolution' is to tell more people about the great work of The Rotary Foundation and why being a member gives such value to my own life.

In this edition of the Rotary magazine you will find many inspirational stories that will add to your own experience.

For me, The Rotary Foundation is most definitely my charity of choice and in giving I know that my personal contribution is making a sustainable difference to the wellbeing of others.

No one is judging the size of my contribution; be it small or large I know it is making a difference.

Knowing this, in turn, makes me feel good which is maybe a selfish response, however I know I can't affect the lives of so many by myself, but The Rotary Foundation leverages my gift as Rotarians around the world deliver projects in all areas of focus, impacting countless lives and this makes me feel great!

Locally, my own Rotary club contributes to The Rotary Foundation and in return we feel able to request Foundation grants to support our work across the Redditch community.

There is excellent governance supporting our grant applications and we know that to use Rotary funding we are held accountable.

Personally, this is another reason I choose to contribute as I know that whenever and wherever a grant from The Rotary Foundation is applied, Rotary members, just like me, are held to account.

This positions our charity in the top slot on the global stage and I am very proud to be able to tell this story.

Often members talk about sharing their experience of being in Rotary, being a part of something bigger than themselves, and the impact this has on them.

In 2023 could we all commit to telling the positive story of Rotary and its Foundation's impact?

I will certainly be keeping my own commitment and look forward to hearing your stories too. ●

Link to Charity Navigator for The Rotary Foundation:
charitynavigator.org/cin/368245072



GARTH ARNOLD
CHAIR OF THE BOARD
FOR ROTARY GB&I

OUR FUTURE – DOING GOOD IN THE WORLD!

IT has been five years since I was district governor, then the centenary of The Rotary Foundation, and I was the 100th district governor in Ireland.

I remember being so passionate and proud about promoting our charity The Rotary Foundation and asking local well-known businesses to sponsor a conference gift to promote the 100 years of The Rotary Foundation. It is hard to believe that one idea and an initial contribution of \$26.50, set in motion a powerful force that has transformed millions of lives around the globe.

What makes our charity appealing to me, and why I have been a sustaining member for many years, is the high percentage of funds which are spent on programme awards and operations and the four-star charity award given by Charity Navigator. That's notwithstanding the massive work the Foundation does around the world.

It is the sheer impact of what we can do on a world stage through our Global Grants that can make us stand out as an organisation. The component we need to ensure we always do is to tell our own stories. It is through telling Rotary stories that we will increase our profile and attract potential new members. By increasing our membership, it increases the potential for more funding for our Foundation, therefore we can help more people.

We are now seven months into our new governance structure and starting to find our footing. Our two strategic goals are growing membership and Foundation. The past couple of years with the pandemic have played havoc with many things, and membership organisations are no different. We have to be prepared to make changes to remain relevant in today's world and be attractive for new people to want to join us.

As part of our One Region, One Rotary, One Team, is critical growing Rotary Great Britain & Ireland and clusters are a key component. A Global Grant by a cluster would be an ideal way of working together. At the other end of the scale, clubs forget that our Foundation can help locally too and the use of District Grants is a perfect way to support and put monies back into the local community.

I know we see ourselves as working in the community and trying to support worthy causes, but we can do so much more if we direct our monies through our own charity The Rotary Foundation. ●

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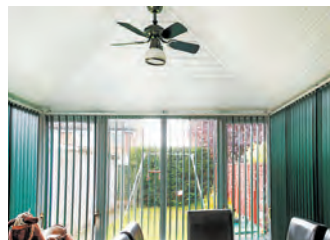
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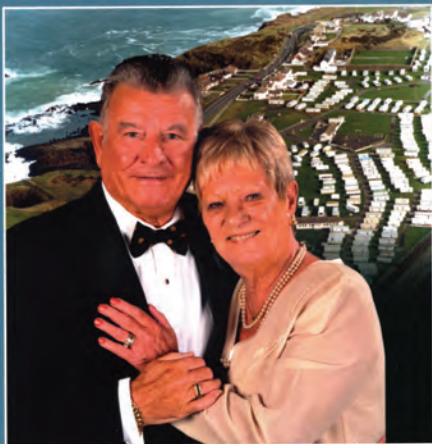
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The Billy & Lily O'Neill Story

by IVAN LITTLE

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Letters to the editor

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

A song for Rotary

SOME years ago, a member of Taunton Rotary Club, Nigel Moyle, composed a Rotary anthem to be sung on appropriate occasions such as conferences, special club meetings, etc.

In my view, his anthem embodies all that Rotary stands for, and is supported by a melody which is both a strong tune yet eminently singable, even by non-musical Rotarians.

Being a modest sort of chap, Nigel has not actively propagated his anthem so as a fellow member of the Taunton club I thought I would ask whether, via the magazine, you might give it wider publicity. I attach both the words and music of the anthem in the hope that perhaps you could find room for them in the Rotary magazine.

In the Taunton club, we have now sung this on several occasions and feel very strongly that it deserves a wider audience throughout Rotary in the UK.

Other countries, such as India where I have joined in a similar anthem, have their own musical tributes to Rotary, so why not Rotary in Great Britain & Ireland?

Alan Reeve

Rotary Club of Taunton, Somerset

ROTARY AROUND THE WORLD

for my friends in Rotary

(Unison voices with piano)

Sing, "Rotary Around the World";
The toast we always drink to
When gathered here, in common cause,
To greet the friends we link to.
And yet, we hold this mantra dear,
To think beyond oneself:
A fellowship across the World,
In 'Service Above Self'.

Each day we bring our skills to bear
At work and recreation;
And so we bring to Rotary
The fruits of our vocation.
And in like form, we take to work
The Rotary creed itself,
Of fairness, goodwill, honesty
And 'Service Above Self'.





Climate Action: Rotary needs to act

ROTARY Great Britain & Ireland and Rotary International need to address Climate Change.

Reading through the December issue of Rotary magazine, there was not one mention of climate change or global warming, except David Powell's letter to the editor.

As severe floods, drought and wildfires take their toll across the globe, Rotary needs to be proactive to climate change. We can no longer stand on the side-lines as an international organisation.

No-one pretends that the issue(s) are not complex and have political undertones, as to how and why global warming is taking place, but we cannot deny it is taking place.

The impact on world population ranges from drought to floods and forest fires, and an increase in sea levels.

I am not an expert in climate change but feel Rotary must discuss its impacts more fully.

Roy Tebbutt

Amphill Rotary Club, Bedfordshire.

Nature's lessons

IN his reasoned response to an August article, David Powell finishes by asking "What is the world going to be like in 10 years? Or five years or even two years?" (*Rotary*, December).

I suggest that none of us can know, but that the sun's effects on our climate will dominate.

Mankind's arrogant, but pathetic attempts to change anything will prove to be a complete waste of time and money. Nature will teach us that we are not as important as we think we are.

Grahame Wigin

Rotary Club of Wednesbury, Staffordshire

Environment remains low-key with Rotary

IN response to the letter from David Powell (*Rotary*, December), I share his concern that even though the environment has been adopted as a new key cause by Rotary International, climate change and what individuals might be able to do to help seemingly remains a low-key issue in Rotary magazine, and at national and international level.

At Rugby Dunsmore we kicked off a new initiative earlier this year called Rotary World Savers; do encourage readers to visit rotaryworldsavers.org

We would love to see clubs adopting the site and encouraging members and the broader public to use it to learn (and do) more. Everyone should feel free to use this incredibly wide-ranging resource, there is no charge.

In joining, individuals and clubs gain access to a library of over 350 environmental 'actions' that individuals and organisations can take, in addition to a published weekly tip and discussion point.

We have also tried to engage more broadly with Rotary via social media, ESRAG, nearby clubs, in presenting to our local congress, and an earlier Rotary article, so far to little avail.

Perhaps those further up the line in Rotary who are in a position to make more of the site and resource, or secure broader Rotary adoption of its principles, should get in touch with us?

David Head

Rotary Club of Rugby Dunsmore, Warwickshire

Keep it simple

YOUR correspondent Derek Phoenix's letter suggesting that Rotary should reinstate a former, much more complicated badge surely misses the point (*Rotary*, December).

The sole function of the badge is to show that the wearer is a member of Rotary - and this the current badge does

quite adequately.

Why make it more complicated and expensive to produce which will serve its purpose no better?

Godfrey Eland

Rotary Club of Lichfield, Staffordshire.



Anaemic Rotary wheel

NO, Derek Phoenix you are not in the minority - far from it (*Rotary*, December).

My club has been making personalised fine bone china for Rotary and Inner Wheel clubs for decades, and our experience is that since the 'new' anaemic version came out, 98% preferred the roundel as most of us know it - it looks so much better. The yellow badge is just wrong.

Frank Drewett

Rotary Club of Rugby, Warwickshire

Our brand is bland

IN response to Derek Phoenix's letter: 'Inspid Looking Wheel' (*Rotary* December/January 2023) I suspect he may not be in the minority!

Responsible for club publicity I reluctantly complied with the revised Rotary Wheel, even though I considered it to be a mistake.

Was this change meant to help increase public awareness and raise the profile of Rotary? If so, did anyone measure its effectiveness?

What we now have is a bland logo which melts into the background: the previous blue and gold wheel was far more striking and instantly recognisable.

Rod Brocklehurst

Rotary Club of Rhyl,
Denbighshire, N. Wales.

What is the purpose of Rotary?

MANY years ago, when I had a 'useful occupation', I was sent on a course about mission statements and slogans adopted by successful businesses with the intention of compiling one for the organisation for which I was 'usefully employed'. We were shown one adopted by Ritz Carlton Hotels, which I have never forgotten: **"We are ladies and gentlemen serving ladies and gentlemen"**

This was held up as an exemplar because it was short, to the point and everyone working in the hotel group knew and understood it.

Thus, I am fully in support of David Telford of Saffron Walden Rotary (*Rotary*, October) and his suggestion of a new Object of Rotary.

The Object of Rotary is read out every week at my club and has over the years, become a subject of mild amusement because of its somewhat

obscure language and length.

David's suggestion could be further edited, I believe, because 'Make Friends and Enjoy Fellowship' are closely linked, as are 'Assist Others and Improve Communities', together with 'Promote Peace and Understanding Worldwide' - one being a natural consequence of the other.

Therefore, I would like to suggest a new Object of Rotary: **"The purpose of Rotary is to make friends, assist others and promote global peace"**

Short, to the point, memorable and using a suitable font, would fit neatly on the back of a tabard or any other item of Rotary clothing!

Steve Wood

Sittingbourne Invicta Rotary Club, Kent,
and CEO Rotary Radio UK

Call them out!

WE thought we ought to congratulate you on having the courage to ask everyone to 'show a bit of respect' in the editor's 'And Finally' column (*Rotary*, December).

After many years in Rotary, we have probably seen and heard all the good and bad that you mention and both of us are in complete 100% agreement with you.

We have both experienced the usual club officer positions and then some district positions. Both of us are now Assistant Rotary Coordinators.

You have made very clear, and we totally agree, that these abusive, cruel and thoughtless people are very much in the minority.

Neither of us has ever had an issue with an 'ordinary' member of any club although we are aware this 'minority' spans across the full membership.

In fact, we continue to be amazed and humbled by just how much club members, who are at the coalface, and who are in fact doing ALL the work, are managing to achieve.

Our problem with some of the minority is that after sometimes

volunteering for club/district leadership positions in Rotary, they then think that Rotary has given them the authority to say and do anything they like, whenever they like, to whoever they like. In our clashes with these people there is unfortunately a common denominator in every case.

They all, without exception, completely ignore the Four Way test and nobody calls them out.

Can you please continue to shout about this problem in every issue?

We cannot let people continue to abuse and discourage people (who then sometimes leave) who are trying to help Rotary survive.

In short, we think this becomes a retention issue, with little patience shown to members with new ideas.

Julian Pratt

Rotary in Cardigan Bay,
Ceredigion

Tony Sharma

Tower Hamlets Rotary, London

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 B496PB. The comments made on this page do not necessarily represent the views of Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland, and Rotarians.

Dealing with a stammer

I WAS interested to read how Craig Thomas conquered his stammer by public speaking. I have trod a similar path! (*Rotary*, December).

I developed my stammer in my early teens. I left school with four "O" Levels, plus my stammer. When the local Magistrates' Court needed an office-boy, I applied, without hope of success.

However, the Chairman of the Magistrates knew of me because of my before-school job, at a large house lighting fires, filling coal scuttles etc.

His wife had a stammer – and I was in. In time,

I qualified as a barrister and ended my career as the Justices' Clerk in a large Division. Along the way, I realised that I had to do something about my stammer.

A speech therapist told me that she taught stammerers to "slide over words" but she likened me to a horse in the Grand National who could see a fence and went for it; and either succeeded or fell.

My wife was a great help. The real break-through came when I decided to master my stammer by public speaking. I now have a repertoire of over 100 talks, mainly because I gave six talks a year to my local U3A, for 15 years. I also give talks to whoever asks!

I always tell my audience that I have a stammer (I still do over the occasional word) and that I give my talks, not for their benefit, but for mine!

People think that I must have been mad to try to cure a stammer by taking up public speaking – but it works – as the two of us have proven.

It is good to read of another who has made a similar journey as I and by the same route.

I just hope that Craig and I can encourage others.

Philip Brough

Rotary Club of Cheadle, Staffordshire

The Rotaract marriage bureau!

I HAVE just received December's copy of *Rotary* magazine, which was an excellent issue with the topics covered.

I am all for promoting Rotaract. Please note the correct term – it isn't 'Rotoract', as some Rotarians and others still persist in spelling it!

I was a founder member of Twickenham Rotaract Club in 1974 and I met my wife, who is also a Rotarian, through Rotaract, which was an unofficial marriage bureau!

I know many couples who met through Rotaract and am still in contact with many of them, including those who have subsequently joined Rotary. It was a great way of making new friends and helping in the local community.

Regarding tabards, I would agree to some extent with both views on the letters page. Tabards should be smart, clean and tidy, and have the name of the Rotary club on them when being used, particularly in a safety-critical or night-time situation.

But Rotary club-branded wear can do the same thing. It makes it clear who we are and what we are doing. It depends on what is being done and where.

I rather agree with Derek Phoenix of Crewkerne Rotary that the current all-gold/yellow logo looks insipid compared to the previous one with the blue bands.

It's okay when it is on a dark background, but almost disappears on a light or white background.

I feel that Rotary clubs should be permitted to use both versions depending where and how it is being used. Many of us have Rotary sweatshirts, t-shirts, badges, etc. with the 'blue arc' sections, and cannot afford to replace them with the current style.

Perhaps Rotary GB&I should mount a revolution against 'prescriptive' branding, so long as it gets the message across of who we are.

Paul Raven-Hill

Kew Gardens Rotary, Middlesex

The power of networking

I HAVE always believed that one of the greatest benefits of being a Rotarian is networks and networking.

An excellent example of that was when I had been unable to find a Rotary classic car fellowship online and Editor Dave King kindly printed my query in the October edition of *Rotary* magazine.

Literally, within days, I was contacted through my club's DMS by both the international and the British fellowships, and put in touch with them.

Shortly after that, I was called by an old chum in a neighbouring Rotary club who informed me of several of his club members who also had classic cars and we'll be arranging to meet up in the Spring.

Networking at work!

Hugh McCrea

Bridge of Allan & Dunblane
Rotary Club, Perthshire



SIR FRANCIS DRAKE'S LEGACY

| STORY BY **BY GEORGE BICKNELL** |

AN HISTORICAL project driven by a Tavistock Rotarian has finally come to fruition to provide the town with a more detailed history of local icon, Sir Francis Drake.

At the height of the Black Lives Matter controversy three years ago, the renowned English explorer was among a number of historical figures whose reputations and legacies were questioned because of their links to Britain's colonial past.

Sir Francis is renowned for circumnavigating the world in a single expedition on his ship the Golden Hind from 1577 to 1580 and for defeating the Spanish Armada in 1588. But he also has links to the slave trade.

Now, in a spirit of understanding, an information panel has been set up near the statue of explorer Sir Francis Drake in Tavistock, Devon, thanks to the work of Rotarian Geri Parlbly.

A grant from Historic England allowed this project to preserve the legacy of Sir Francis whilst providing a more

comprehensive look at his history, namely his work in the slave trade.

As well as the information panel, an educational programme has also been developed for schools in consultation with Tavistock College which covers the history of Francis Drake, the development of the transatlantic slave trade and issues surrounding modern day slavery.

The programme is set to be made available to all Rotarians via the newly-formed Rotary for Slave Free Communities Group.

The project had faced delays in getting off the ground due to COVID-19 and a series of protests by militant groups outside of the town, a reminder of just how contentious the debate was surrounding tributes to British icons with problematic pasts.

It was in the wake of the 2020 Black Lives Matter protests and the toppling of Edward Colston's statue in Bristol, discussions started surrounding the statue of Francis Drake which had originally been erected in 1883 to commemorate his Tavistock origins.

There were rival petitions started by local residents, with one calling for the removal of Drake's statue and the other campaigning for its preservation.



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Gordon McInally *invites you to* The Royal Edinburgh Rotary Foundation Million-Dollar Weekend in Scotland



R. Gordon R. McInally, the 2023-24 RI president, plans to thank 10 couples or pairs who make gifts to The Rotary Foundation. For making outright donations of \$100,000 or more, or bequest commitments of \$250,000 or more, they'll be invited to a specially curated experience centered around the legendary Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo performance in Gordon's home country, Scotland, 18-20 August.

The Royal Edinburgh Rotary Foundation Million-Dollar Weekend in Scotland will include:

- Private dinner in Edinburgh Castle
- VIP reserved seating at the world-renowned Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo
- Breakfast aboard the Royal Yacht Britannia and a private tour of this yacht that once belonged to the royal family
- Access to a room block at the Waldorf Astoria hotel in Edinburgh
- A tour of the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the official residence of King Charles III in Scotland
- A choice of optional side trips, such as a round of golf with senior Rotary leaders at St. Andrews Old Course, lunch at the world-famous Gleneagles Hotel, or a trip by air to Islay, the home of island malt whisky, for a tour of Ardbeg distillery



For more information, write to Past District Governor Alasdair Seale, a member of The Rotary Foundation's Fund Development Committee, at aseale@trinityfactors.co.uk, or go to rotary.com/scotlandweekend.



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Saving the heart of the community

Rotary North East has been active with supporting its communities by supplying defibrillators. Their need is real. Sue Campbell reports.

ANTONY Ryan was swimming with two friends off Roker Beach in Sunderland. He was wearing a wet suit and had a tow float with him. About 100 metres offshore the trio rested, but his friends saw him floating on his back and realised something was wrong....

Antony had experienced a cardiac arrest. His friends got him back to the beach, shouting for help, and two bystanders came to their aid and started CPR. Two off duty nurses then joined them.

They called 999 and one nurse ran to retrieve a nearby public access defibrillator. CPR and two shocks from the defibrillator and Antony started breathing again.

On arrival of the ambulance service staff and the Great North East Air Ambulance, Antony received two further shocks and was stabilised.

He was ultimately taken to the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle where he had a pacemaker/defibrillator implanted. And fortunately, it's never been needed.

This story was told by Antony, who is 52, to Phil Hopps while they were on a Defibrillator Awareness walk in Washington, Tyne and Wear.

It was an event attended by Rotary North East's 'One Life Initiative', which enables communities to site life saving community defibrillators across the patch, and which Phil helps lead.

Phil said: "On discussing his

experience he said to me that it was a miracle. And if it hadn't been for the help everyone gave him and the availability of a defibrillator his kids wouldn't have a dad.

"It brought it home to me again just how valuable community defibrillators are. If just one life is saved, it makes it all worthwhile."

Phil runs the initiative with the small team of North East Rotarians – himself, Tom Sharples and Barbara Broadbelt from Durham Elvet and Tony Jackson from Newton Aycliffe.

It was started in 2020/21, when Barbara was Rotary North East District Governor. It's now in its third year and has seen the siting of more

than 75 defibrillators in places such as Middlesbrough, Sunderland, Saltburn, Washington, Peterlee, Seaham, Consett, Durham and Bishop Auckland, with more in the pipeline.

One of the first to be commissioned was in a disused phone box on Palace Green near the Durham Cathedral World Heritage Site.

Phil explained the history: "It was originally going to be a one year project, but two things happened. One was the pandemic, which stopped everything, and the other was the enthusiasm with which people wanted to get involved."

Rotary doesn't fund the defibrillators, but offers advice and help with





community fundraising. The initiative has a partnership with WEL Medical Ltd, who supply defibrillators and cabinets. And they are often installed by local electricians cut price or free.

'One Life' also delivers familiarisation sessions to show people how they work and how to do CPR.

The equipment can be sited in all sorts of places – outside shops, pubs, community centres – as long as they are accessible to the community.

Phil tells a story of how a local cricket club had a defibrillator sited inside the pavilion, obviously only useable when the premises were open.

"They heard about our project and we worked with them to resite it outside the club. It was funded by a community effort and installed free by a local electrician.

"And the very next day it was used to save someone's life."

The initiative has had a secondary, unexpected benefit. At one site – a local village community hall of which Tom is the Chairman – the defibrillator was vandalised by a number of youths, who were identified.

Instead of rapping them over the knuckles, in partnership with the local

"ON ARRIVAL OF THE AMBULANCE SERVICE STAFF AND THE GREAT NORTH EAST AIR AMBULANCE, ANTONY RECEIVED TWO FURTHER SHOCKS AND WAS STABILISED."

police, the initiative brought them in and taught them about defibrillators and CPR. So far nearly 80 young people have been through the process and received much prized certificates of achievement from the local MP.

The team continues to promote the initiative across the region. To help, Tom came up with the idea of using two mascot costumes – dubbed Sparky and Casey – which go along to village fetes, community events, schools and the like.

"Children love them and they make people smile and spark interest in the adults," said Phil.

Phil and his colleagues spend a lot of time on the road, helping communities start their own fund-raising activities and providing help and advice to interested parties, from the early considerations through to the ongoing requirements once

a defibrillator has been installed.

The team maintains a close liaison with the North East Ambulance Service, who have publicly acknowledged the work Rotary has done to increase the number of defibrillators across the north-east and by raising awareness through community engagement.

Phil acknowledges the project has taken over a slice of his life – meeting communities, checking defibrillators, talking to fundraisers.

"When my wife and I go out for a drive she'll often say – I don't know where we're going, but I know there'll be a defibrillator at the end of it." ●



PETROLHEADS GOING FULL THROTTLE

Peter J Griffiths, Chairman of the Rotary Retro Automobile Fellowship, describes why they are a fast-growing community.

SOME Rotarians are stimulated by the smell of freshly-roast coffee. For others, it's the unmistakable whiff of hot Castrol racing oil that gets them going.

A huge number of our colleagues throughout the UK are 'petrolheads' – men and women who cherish their classic car, rare roadster or retro pride and joy.

Many want to enjoy them more, particularly in the company of like-minded enthusiasts.

The Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs (FBHVC) recently reported there are nearly 1.6 million historic vehicles registered on the DVLA database – up 50% from 2016. Britain has 684,000 classic car owners – up 38% from 2016. So, we are a fast-growing community.

Classic car loving Rotarians are particularly well catered for by the Rotary Retro Automobile Fellowship (RRAF).

The RRAF was formally launched at the 1995 Rotary GB&I conference. It currently boasts around 100 members.

The first RRAF tour was the Centenary Rally in 2007 and, except for a Covid hiatus, there has been at least one RRAF-organised tour every year since.

RRAF is probably the most active chapter in the global Rotary classic car fellowship, ACHAFR (Antique, Classic and Historic Automobile World Fellowship of Rotarians). ACHAFR currently embraces national chapters in Europe, North America, Australia, New Zealand, Austria, Finland, Sweden, Switzerland and Latin America.

Unlike so much of what we do in Rotary, the fellowship is not about raising funds. There is no tin-shaking or self-flagellation for the greater good. Its friendly focus is fun with classic cars.

Levity underlined when a founding member on the Conference Tour parked his Sunbeam Alpine outside the Bournemouth Pavilion.

He reported that a passer-by came up to him and said: "Let me shake you by the hand, I lost my virginity in a Sunbeam Alpine". I took his hand, he said, and replied: "Let me shake you by the hand, how the hell did you manage it?"

Our tours are 'cloverleaf' events with two or three formal driving days based at one hotel.

Each car is given a roadbook

with easily understood tulip diagrams indicating the route. Distances are moderate in consideration for more elderly vehicles and coffee and lunch stops are at interesting sites or places of interest.

At final night banquets, prizes are awarded to winners of various categories – perhaps a photo-recognition competition, a regularity test, oldest car and nearest mileage to the roadbook total.

There is always a booby prize of a tow rope or jump leads for the inevitable team which breaks down and has to be rescued. Often, we take over an entire hotel and places are always limited by the number of rooms available. Recent events have seen as many as 40 cars participating.

Apart from UK tours, the latest 2022 event being in West Cornwall, the Fellowship also organises tours across the Channel. There have been RRAF rallies in Brittany, the Loire and Normandy. Another major Normandy event is planned for September 2024.

Our events always attract a handful of overseas Rotarians, mainly from the Netherlands, Germany and Italy.

A benefit of RRAF membership is that we in turn are invited to participate in European ACHAFR tours. We have recently enjoyed brilliant events in Italy and Bavaria organised by the RRAF equivalents of those countries.

The RRAF is not stuffy or elitist, nor are we anal about what constitutes a classic. Our members turn up in just about anything from 1930's beauties, to home-built replicas and interesting cars

from recent decades.

We always invite the mayor of the town where we are based to flag off the competitors on the first morning of the tour.

On our Brittany event the mayor kindly invited us to a champagne reception at the historic Hotel de Ville. He gathered the local media and had bollards removed from the sandstone forecourt so the cars could be arranged for viewing.

Sadly, one of our members was so keen to get at the champers and canapes he forgot to put the cardboard he always carried under his incontinent Austin 7.

A week later a French friend sent me a copy of the local paper. There was good coverage of our Rotary event but one picture was of a black oil splodge on a flagstone with the caption: "British retro car enthusiasts leave their mark on Tréguier – quite literally". I'm sure they've forgiven us by now.

Of course, there are companies which organise excellent classic car tours, but they are commercial profit-making enterprises. RRAF tours are such good value because our officials are volunteers and we only aim to break even. Any surplus subsidises subsequent tours.

So, for fun, fellowship and fine cuisine, join the friendly Rotary Retro Automobile Fellowship. ●

Information

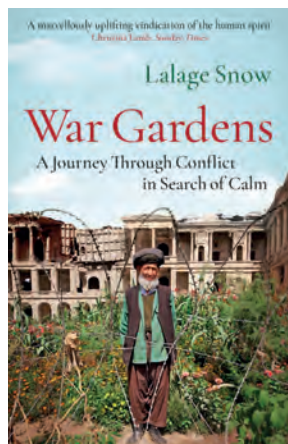
Application forms can be downloaded from our website: www.rraf.co.uk



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| BY CATHERINE THORNHILL, HEAD BOOKWORM AT THE SHELTERBOX BOOK CLUB |

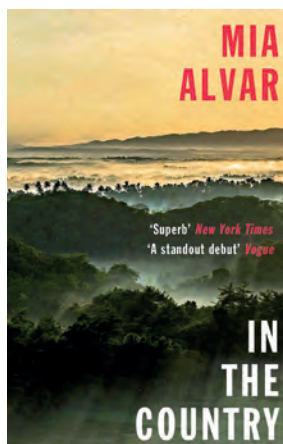
If you love books and love making a difference around the world, then the ShelterBox Book Club is perfect for you. Our current list was chosen from a selection of books we felt epitomised the joy of 'new beginnings'. Our 2,500 members voted on our next read based on these blurbs, which one would you pick?



WAR GARDENS BY LALAGE SNOW

What signals new beginnings more than the bud of a fresh plant? Doused in rain and energised by the sun, bursting through soil to announce itself.

War Gardens is a beautiful and fascinating journalistic account of the new life brought into the world by patient gardeners living through the worst circumstances war can create. Lalage Snow is a wartime correspondent. In this book she takes us from Afghanistan to Iraq, Ukraine to South Sudan and Syria, Kashmir to the West Bank. There we see how people create space for themselves and nature in some of the world's harshest environments.



IN THE COUNTRY BY MIA ALVAR

In The Country by Mia Alvar. Stories from the Philippines published in English are rare but in her debut book, Mia Alvar brings nine beautiful tales to the page.

Flipping stereotypes of the Filipino diaspora on their head, and drawing vivid pictures of her home-country, In The Country is a deeply compassionate and gratifying book. New beginnings come in many forms: a New York pharmacist smuggling drugs to his ailing father in Manila, a budding writer leaning on her brother – a labourer in Saudi Arabia, and in the title story (a novella) a journalist and nurse grapple with political turmoil in the Philippines of the 70s and 80s.



THE SKY OVER LIMA BY JUAN GÓMEZ BÁRCENA

In the early 1900s a fantastical true story took place: two young men in Peru seduced Spanish Nobel Laureate Juan Ramón Jiménez with the words of an imaginary woman and inspired one of his greatest love poems.

In this retelling of that story, Bárcena brings to life the bohemian lives of Lima's elite amid political turbulence, and draws out the joy and power of words.

The Sky Over Lima is a creation about a creation. A blossoming story about how new beginnings can be imagined into reality. And a fascinating journey into the minds of writers, poets, and mischievous young men who unexpectedly "catfish" their idol.



After our popular vote our runaway winner was War Gardens by Lalage Snow which you can receive a free copy of if you sign up today using the reference code ROTARY-FEBRUARY. www.shelterbox.org/book-club

To buy copies of the other two books and support ShelterBox in the process go to www.uk.bookshop.org/shop/ShelterBoxBooks

Now's the time to tackle your smartphone

At last, using your smartphone can be easy, simple and stress-free. Find out how...

Modern mobile phones - smartphones as they're called - can do so much more than just make phone calls.

From browsing the web wherever you are, checking train times, acting as a sat nav... And best of all they can make it so easy to keep in touch with family and friends - in so many ways, from sharing photos to making video calls

But using them isn't always as easy as you'd want - and that's putting it mildly!

Do the manufacturers do it on purpose?

Sometimes it can seem like the manufacturers deliberately make them complicated. It can drive you absolutely bonkers.

Whether you have problems with the basics or you're trying to do something slightly more advanced, it *can* be easy to use them... once you know how. But until you've been shown, it can be like talking a different language.

That's why we've published these books: *iPhones One Step at a Time*, *Android Phones One Step at a Time* and *Doro Smartphones One Step at a Time*.

Plain English... and that's not all

They explain how to use the phone, in plain simple language with pictures of the screen showing you exactly where to tap or slide your fingers. No jargon!

What's covered?

We can't list it all here. But amongst other things, you'll discover:

- The basics of controlling it - swiping, tapping, opening apps & so on.
- How to use it as a sat-nav... in the car or even on foot.
- Send emails from your phone.
- Most phones have a good camera so you can take photos: here's how to use it properly (and for videos)... & share the photos with friends.
- See updates, photos and video clips from friends & family, as soon as they "post" them.
- Make it easier to read the screen.
- Browse the web at home or out and about.
- Choosing and downloading apps.



These helpful books mean there's nothing to fear about using smartphones - from sending a quick email to video calling your family and friends.

- Video phone calls - a great way to keep up with family who live a long way away
- And obviously, you can make phone calls and send and receive text messages. ("Voicemail" is covered, too)

All explained nice and simply. (Find out more in the free information pack - read on...)

What one reader had to say:

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Smart phones are quite complex, and your books speak in plain English."

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Rotary profile

Find out why our volunteers give up their time to help transform communities.



Profile:

Name: Mike Parry

Rotary Club: Cardiff Bay Rotary

Occupation: Chartered Quality Practitioner

Q | YOU HAVE LONG BEEN INVOLVED WITH THE ROTARY FOUNDATION, WHY DOES IT MEAN THAT MUCH TO YOU?

As I learnt about The Rotary Foundation's (TRF) vast range of humanitarian and educational projects, a frequent question was 'where does the money come from?' It was this simple question which led me to realise Rotarians' generosity to the Foundation.

I wanted to be involved. Vocationally, the subset of auditing fitted nicely into TRF's cadres. At the time, this was constrained to sample audits of projects but now includes offering advice on preparing grant applications.

My first TRF audit was to a village

in Transylvania where an orphanage was managing the adverse consequences of communism.

Further audits have taken me across Europe, and to Remba, a remote island in the middle of Lake Victoria.

The audit involvement led me to a heart-searching experience when I was RI's representative for a World Health Organization's and a post-polio outbreak surveillance team to Ethiopia.

There, I experienced the moment a young boy and his family, who had been ostracized from their village, were told that the boy did not have polio, so they could return to the village and restart their lives in a desolate area where community support was essential.

Q | YOU ARE INVOLVED WITH THE ROTARY FOUNDATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, WHAT IS THAT ALL ABOUT?

The link with Foundation and how funds are raised has underpinned my Rotary experience. The question of how to maximize contributions is never far from

my mind, the UK Government provided one answer through a scheme for charity donations to benefit tax payers through Gift Aid.

RFUK is a dynamic organisation and benefits from new initiatives such as Polio Plus Society which joins other recognition schemes from Sustaining Members right through the spectrum to Arch Klumph Society members to fit all pockets of those living and those passed on as legacy agreements benefit RFUK as well as Inheritance Taxation.

Q | YOU ARE PART OF THE DISASTER RECOVERY GRANT SCHEME FOR THE UKRAINE, HOW SUCCESSFUL HAS THAT BEEN?

Rotary GB&I was fast to establish a taskforce of Rotarians with specialised skills when the Ukraine conflict started.

The taskforce quickly established a protocol on the lines of TRF's Community assessment model. TRF's Disaster Response Grants were maximized consuming all the donated funds.

Q | OUTSIDE OF ROTARY, YOU HAVE A PASSION FOR CROQUET - IS IT REALLY A BRUTAL GAME?

The game looks so simple yet frustration levels quickly build up when one realises the playing surface is constantly changing and the balls are only very slightly smaller than the hoops.

My competitive streak has been rewarded with a place in the Welsh team for the Home Internationals and a place in the World Team Championships where we achieved a place in the finals against the host nation Spain.

Rotary gets a mention at each game as the 'old' Rotary logo on my white fleece is still in use. ●

If you have a story to tell and would like to be featured in *Rotary in Profile*, email: editor@rotarygbi.org

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and finally...

BY JOHN DEHNEL, REGIONAL FOUNDATION
COORDINATOR, REGION 20/21, GB&I

THE WORLD NEEDS THE ROTARY FOUNDATION MORE THAN EVER

A WHILE ago, I was discussing the consequences of the local hospital being closed with the manager of the health board at a Rotary club lunch. I asked what would happen to all the equipment? This led to large quantities of equipment, from hospital beds to seemingly mundane items such as drip stands, being collected by Rotarians, packed in containers, and shipped to the Philippines.

The storage and shipping were funded by my Rotary club in Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, jointly with a grant from The Rotary Foundation.

Fast forward a few months and a visit to the Philippines.

We are driving along the valley floor in sub-tropical heat of a post-rainstorm Philippines' day, surrounded by lush rice paddies, mango plantations and farmers working in the fields. Beyond the fields on either side the hills rose steeply, generally covered in trees.

Worryingly, in the distance, we could see a vivid brown scar through the trees.

A landslide had been triggered by recent heavy rains. Thousands of tons of rock, soil and debris had swept down the hillside to completely bury the village of Guinsaugon under several feet of mud.

The village school had been buried,

along with every one of the children. It was estimated that over 1,200 people died.

We had come to visit the health care centres and clinics in the region around Guinsaugon, knowing that much of the medical equipment from the Leicestershire hospital had been sent to the area.

The Rotary moment came when a woman in one of the clinics came towards me. She was cradling a very young baby in her arms, smiled at me and indicated the maternity bed and other equipment around us. She said: "Thank you for the equipment, with that, you saved my baby."

It was at that moment in the remote valley in the Philippines that I truly felt the power of Rotary and the value of our own charity, The Rotary Foundation, in helping us all to make the world a better place.

Millions of dollars pour into projects created by Rotarians and clubs.

These figures from the past year show that contributing to The Rotary Foundation really makes a difference to people's lives both at home and overseas.

- Clubs in Great Britain and Ireland received approval for 295 projects worth \$6.5 million.

- 138 of these projects were large projects receiving Global Grants. The remainder were funded with District Grants.
- The largest project was funded to the tune of \$146,000.
- The projects were all over the world including about 200 taking place in GB&I.

I am proud of being a Rotarian and of donating to our own charity, The Rotary Foundation.

Why? I have seen the value of the work of Rotarians supported by Rotary Foundation grants. I know how much care is taken to ensure our funds are spent wisely.

I am reassured to know that well over 90% of the funds we donate go direct to the beneficiaries of our projects.

Are you equally proud? Do you donate personally or as a club? Is The Rotary Foundation your own charity of choice?

I ask you to become a Sustaining Member, join the Paul Harris Society, include The Rotary Foundation in your will.

In these difficult times, the world needs The Rotary Foundation more than ever. •

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