



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2017

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Rotarians

Well, here we are a quarter of the way through my presidency and unlike a President that came to his seat around the same time, I have not sacked anyone or gone head to head with anyone; it's been a far stiller pond over here.

Seriously though, these first few months have flown by. It doesn't seem like five minutes since I was being presented with the chain of office from outgoing President Kevin. We rolled almost immediately into the Garden Party held at Charterhouse. I was very pleased with the day and delighted to see so many Rotarians present. The weather held (just) and we were able to go outside to view the grounds. Alan Durham from the trust provided excellent tours, showing us all that Charterhouse has to offer – a great venue for our Centenary to be based around.

I, along with Jacky, have been present at three coffee mornings and depending on which way

you look at it they were all a big success. The upside is the money raised and hats off to all those people who organised the events and provided the hospitality. The down side is of course the damage to the waistline!! I apologise for not attending all events due to work commitments. Thank you to Brian and Pam, Roma and friends, Kim Rees and to Hammon's Solicitors.

We have had many interesting speakers through the weeks and I thank Dhiran who continues to field a speaker most weeks.

Membership has seen us try out evening meetings; the first was a visit to Aqua, a Lebanese restaurant in Spon End. Although the numbers were low, the food and fellowship was very pleasant. Our second evening outing was a visit to the Belgrade Theatre, again numbers were low and having spoken to those who went, we may need to organise the event a little differently next time.



I challenged myself to ride in the Birmingham Velo, the 100 mile cycle ride around Birmingham, Staffordshire and Worcestershire. I was riding to raise money for my Rotary Charities – The Hummingbird Centre, Grapevine and CAFAG. I managed the ride with not too many problems, yes aches and pains but also a sense of achievement. Training hadn't been the best as I had only managed seven rides with the

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

(continued)

longest being sixty three miles. I thank all those who sponsored me on the way to raising almost £600.00, with money still coming in.

Looking to the next few weeks and months we have:

Conference coming up in Llandudno; 20th -22nd October. Don't forget all those attending; there is the option to join us at a local restaurant on the Friday night.

Our first evening meeting is planned for Monday 30th October at The Manor Hotel Meriden. Numbers are looking healthy and we are welcoming visitors. Our speaker is Alan Taylor

who will be sharing details of his charity work in Sierra Leone.

Our club will be represented by myself on 12th November at the Remembrance Sunday Parade at the Memorial Park where I will lay a Rotary wreath.

The Festival of Trees at Holy Trinity Church with events taking place at the church from 6th December. The opening night sees a choir concert and on the Saturday afternoon we are holding a "soup kitchen".

Also in December, together with my chosen charities, I am organising a quiz evening at the Coventry and North Warwick Cricket Club. The evening will



hopefully be fun and also provide the opportunity to raise awareness of each charity.

Until next time!
President Robert



THE WILDLIFE TRUSTS

This Club has regularly paid the Warwickshire Wildlife Trusts an annual subscription of £60 which covers free entry to their nature reserves for two people over a one year period. Our last contribution expired at the end of June 2017.

Your Editor who holds the tickets for entry has not experienced any club member who requested the use of tickets in the year July 2016 to June 2017.

Have we forgotten that we are collective members?

Or do we show no interest in for example Brandon Marsh. This healthy spot is full of interest and may be the exercise involved is somewhat daunting?

Be that as it may should we continue our subscription and failing our physical support treat the money involved as a donation?

Your comments to John Hartley please.

CHRISTOPHER HAWTHORNE

20/12/1932 - 20/06/2017

Born of parents with notable talents. His father Fred was an engineer and mother Evelyn a musician and a stalwart at Green Lane Methodist Church where she was the organist.

Chris started his education at Green Lane School followed by the Coventry Preparatory School. It was at this school where he was moved to North Wales by the Headmaster, the Revd Kenelm Swallow, to avoid the bombing of Coventry. However Chris did not find the school a happy place and ran away. He was about to board a train back to Coventry when he was caught and sent back to his school! Following education was at the prestigious school at Bromsgrove which was founded in 1476. On leaving he joined his father's business, F Hawthorne (Coventry) Ltd. He served his National Service in the RAF being posted to Germany.

Chris on demob developed into a talented engineer and with his father built the business in Parkside, Coventry.

Chris had a passion for MG cars and was clearly a man about town in his red MGA sports car which was followed by MGBs.

He joined the Young Conservatives who met and drank at the Old Mill. As Chairman of the Earlsdon Ward he assisted in organising two General Elections in one year.

Chris married Roma in 1974 and they lived in Beechwood Court followed by Cannon Park and later in 1987 to Heycroft.

Parties at Beechwood Court were memorable; perhaps not to the elderly ladies who lived close by. Chris brought one evening to a close by changing into his pyjamas although I am told it did not have an immediate effect!

His life was busy being a member of the Junior Chamber of Commerce. He was involved in entertainment by singing and acting in addition to being a young Conservative. He initially met Roma in 1967 and the relationship proceeded discreetly for 7 years, finally getting married in 1974 in a private family ceremony at Christmas. When later discovered by his friends we are told that he did buy them a belated ceremonial drink.

Chris was blessed with a good appetite and relished fish and chips on Fridays. This was evident when he joined Rotary in 1982 and found himself among fellow trenchermen!

Roma had joined the company and together they saw the business through the difficult period of the 80s and 90s. Chris invested in computerised technology and this prepared the business for better times to come. The business was sold in 1998.

Early retirement provided time for Chris to be more involved with his passion for painting, sculpture, photography and walking. He even wrote novels in the years of retirement before his health began to fail. The early signs were to show in 2005/6 when he became less energetic and was unable to follow his hobbies.

However in those years from 2005 to 2017 Roma has organised his life to be as comfortable as possible with a caring team around him giving her some relief and more importantly (of which Chris would approve) she became a Rotarian in 2012.

One abiding memory among many is the fact that in those many years of being voiceless Chris always had an eye for the attention of the ladies. Of those memories was a beaming smile for Lady Godiva – our Pru – which was in the Cathedral when we celebrated the appointment of Michael Hammon to be the Lord Mayor of Coventry.





COFFEE MORNING

This event at the home of Kim Rees may well be the last that she hosts. At the age of 91 Kim has held many such events in aid of Rotary inspired good causes and now may be a good time to call it a day. Kim has shown a great personal interest in Kare Adenegan, the 16 years old Bablake schoolgirl, who is disabled by cerebral palsy but displays great sportsmanship in representing Great Britain in both the recent Rio Paralympics and the London World Championships. Kare has begun to collect medals and trophies revealing the success she has enjoyed. A significant future is ahead of her.

The coffee morning raised £324.50 which will go towards the modification of her racing wheelchair.

In addition to her prowess on the track it is good to report that her GCSE results at school were very satisfactory.

POLO ERADICATION

In the UK polio was eradicated in the 1980s. There are 100,000 survivors living here today. The problem in the world today is confined to Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria. Some 10 new cases have been reported in 2017. Having said that it is most likely that the last new case of polio will be diagnosed this year. This could mean that certification of a polio free world could be declared in 2020.

The UK government will provide funds to immunise up to 45 million children each of the four years up to 2020. This calculates to 80 children every minute and in doing so will save 65,000 from paralysis every year. The result will help 15,000 polio workers to reach every last child with life saving vaccines and other health interventions.

By 2035 some 2 billion pounds will be saved as the healthcare systems have worked in the children's community.

Although Rotary has made a significant contribution the UK's contribution has been channelled through the World Health organisation that is part of the global eradication campaign.

So far Great Britain and Ireland have contributed £30 million and over the next three years will make a substantial contribution to the overall goal of \$50 million for each year; that is £37.5 each year.



A FRIDAY NIGHT IN ALLESLEY

At the Rainbow Inn in Allesley Rotarians did meet.
We came there for a purpose – our annual walking treat.
The Treasure Hunt, devised by Ray, commenced from this location,
requiring skill and knowledge too, with careful observation.
As we set off along the path the rain was light but steady,
though some remained in dry surrounds with liquid comforts ready.
But as we walked the rain grew fierce, and clues were hard to find,
with KBO we pressed right on, though some grew faint of mind

At last some golden words appeared within the instructions neat:
“Now cross the road and make return” – a dignified retreat!
And so we did – the second lap more tricky than the first.
The rain it eased, but not the clues – some of them got worse!
At last, in drizzle faint, the welcome Rainbow came in sight.
There was a choice to carry on – but that would take all night.
So welcome food and drink were there, along with friends and fun.
The fish and chips are wholesome - when eventually they come!

The Peter Harris trophy shield was well and truly won.
The soggy sheets were analysed to find what we had done.
The usual gang of spritely youths had carried off the prize,
alongside those more senior, whose role was to advise.

And so we thank Nelly and Ray for such a jolly night
of fun and fellowship and guile, which turned out quite all right.
But next year, just a little ask, and please don't get upset -
for easier clues, and earnest prayers - that it will not be WET!

ROTARY CLUB OF COVENTRY 25TH ANNIVERSARY BREAKFAST

This being our daughter club it was a welcome experience to join in their 25th anniversary of its birth. Voices heard from 1992 were Past Presidents Dennis Coombe MBE and Brian Hammond together with the 'stand in' entertainer Ken Cooper who, as a past member, had travelled from his home in Cornwall.

The attendance at the Cricket Club had been 46 made up of members, ex members, partners and friends. Mick on the carvery had produced a good spread to be consumed.

Special thanks were expressed to President Christine Hirons who had covered most of the arrangements and also to Jo Cross who had looked after the attendees and their payments.

A good show and grateful thanks to Ken Cooper who had stepped into the breach caused by the non attendance of the planned entertainment.

GODIVA DAY 10TH SEPT 2017

This day orchestrated by our own Rotarian Pru Porretta who fulfilled her role as Lady Godiva assisted by her granddaughter now outgrowing her role as "Baby Godiva" and John Brassington proposing to be Earl Leofric. This day commemorates the passing of the original Lady Godiva 950 years ago.

As usual Lady Godiva was accompanied by a variety of international Sisters dressed in national costumes and with a banner/carrier revealing the heroine of the nations they represent.

The proceedings started in Broadgate under the shadow of the Godiva statue and this included VIPs of which our Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor John Blundell took the lead and the group with supporting young pupils from various schools processed around to Priory Gardens to the sound of African drumming and entertainment.

Among the Sisters was your Editor's nominee, Minami, from Japan and her banner carrier Mindaugas from Lithuanian – both were students at the University of Coventry.

Entertainment provided was in the form of contributors from China, Africa and Poland plus a sketch of the relationship of Lady Godiva and Earl Leofric.

It was good to see so many spectators at this event and who obviously enjoyed the display.

HOW TO LIVE TO 100

The Japanese people seem to know. At least in the Village of Longevity known as Ogimi on the island of Okinawa. Live there and you may become part of the highest life expectancy in the world. You will be among the many centenarians.

Belief prevails that the key is "Ikigai" which translates as 'the happiness of always being busy'. This indicates a sense of purpose or a reason to live. Many people on Ogimi found their "ikigai" in gardening. Actually I have found that there is no word in the Japanese that means "retire" or leaving the workforce for good as we do in England. They will always follow through with some form of work as Margaret and I found where we saw elderly volunteers gardening in the Imperial Palace Gardens in Tokyo and keeping the public parks tidy in Hiroshima.

Despite their age they never stop day after day. This gives meaning to each day. At the same time they have a strong sense of 'yuimaaru' which means working together – working in the fields or even helping to build houses. They believe in being pleasant to everyone and give thanks for things which make their days brighter. They do not worry about things they cannot change and live in the moment. They do not regret the past or fear the future. Their positive attitude helps them to cope with setbacks.

Their diet comprises five servings of fruit and vegetables each day. Fish is eaten three times each week. Sugar intake is less than 50% of the rest of Japan and only half as much salt. They have the habit of stopping eating when they are 80 per cent full!

Perhaps we could learn from these people. Have something that keeps you busy doing what you love while being surrounded by people who love you.

I additionally discovered that in Japan at present there are 65,000 centenarians. However 90% are women. They would be dominant wouldn't they?

PICTURES FROM GODIVA DAY 2017



▲ Lady Godiva Statue in Priory Gardens



▲ Lady Godiva - "Baby Godiva" - International Sisters



▲ 'Baby' Godiva – Lad Godiva – Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor John Blundell - Ursula Russell MBE, Deputy Lieutenant West Midlands



▲ Lady Godiva (Rotarian Pru Porretta MBE)



▲ Godiva Taunts her husband Leofric



▲ Minami (Japanese Sister) and Mindaugas from Lithuania



▲ Young African Dancers

▼ Senza Nome – Polish Choir



▲ Chinese Fan Dancers





RUSLAN THE GUARD DOG

As part of "Membership Committee Event" some of our club members joined Dhiran Vagdia socially at the Belgrade Theatre on Monday, 4th September to enjoy (or rather study) the play by Russian Georgi Vladimov" entitled "Faithful Ruslan". This was the story of a guard dog employed in the Russian prison camps but released to its freedom following the death of Josef Stalin. The depth of understanding this play required the audience to become used to seeing most of the cast on their all fours representing dogs complete with dog-like expressions, panting, barking and displaying stage agility which diverted attention from the meaning of the play. The lead was played exceptionally well by the faithful Ruslan. Together with the remainder of the cast, Ruslan displays the disorientation of post revolution Russia contrasting its effects on guard dogs bred and trained to be loyal to their masters.

The confusion of the play is manifested when the cast become chickens and sometimes humans. These are the elements which throw the audience into disarray and wonders "What is it all about?"

Quiet contemplation will deal with lack of understanding while at the same time giving appreciation to the cast for such an energetic performance which the audience certainly endorsed.

Now what this achieved for growth of human membership of the Rotary Club of Coventry perhaps adds to the confusion created by the Russian playwright.



A VISIT TO HERBERT MEDIA

On Friday 7th July members of the Vocational Service Committee, their wives and other club members visited the Herbert Museum by invitation and were treated to an excellent introduction to the work of Herbert Media by Kerrie Suteu, Creative Media Officer and Simon Wellman, Film-maker & Trainer, both highly qualified in their respective fields of education and training.

Herbert Media is an established body within the Museum, with a specialised media team which enjoys the use of a professional digital recording studio, broadcast-standard video production equipment and the necessary incidental facilities to enable the full use of the array of equipment. It has an outreach of fundamental importance for schoolchildren and students in Coventry; primarily from the special schools and colleges in the City such as Hereward College and Baginton Fields.

The experience afforded by Herbert Media to these young people can be life-changing, turning any one of them from an introvert, uncertain and socially-unresponsive individual into an outgoing, confident person with an awareness of personal capabilities. The great majority of those who have passed through Herbert Media have gone on to lead successful, independent, lives in their chosen careers in art and architecture, design, film-making and theatre. All this comes from a dedicated team of just four people.

We had the pleasure of being guided by Kerrie and Simon through the different media components and who spoke with evident enthusiasm of their roles in the work of Herbert Media. It was quite a revelation for all of us, visiting club members, who had known little or nothing of that work which was so clearly explained to us.



PETER HARRIS MEMORIAL TREASURE HUNT FRIDAY 28TH JULY 2017

Some 30 Rotarians, families and friends blazed a trail through Allesley Village despite initially having to face rain which attempted to distort our written list of clues and throw us off course. With due regard to organiser Ray who considered the advancing years of our membership he prepared a short course for our engagement.

We were always under threat of the Bond Family which usefully employed Philip to be the "company runner" to review past clues and ensure that the correct answers were presented. Bonds beware President Robert and his team of Rotaractors who will be serious contenders for 2018.

The Rainbow Inn was an ideal starting point at one end of the village so with much enthusiasm and umbrellas raised we set off with much hope. But, as usual, Ray Thompson had us deep in thought to resolve his anagrams and conundrums.

We passed Councillor David Kershaw's cosy café where he performs surgery for his constituents. This

is where we encountered the anagram derived from Gardenia Drive. Not so difficult this time!

We returned hopeful to our base at the Rainbow to partake of good ale and food of our individual choice. Steak and ale pie, chips and peas suited me perfectly. However such was the popularity of the event we were in number an excess to the room provided.

The outcome of our evening's endeavours was, as predicted, with the Bonds declared the winners of the trophy followed by President Robert and Jackie. The proceeds of the evening raised £128.50 in aid of Vocational Committee charities.

A good evening and for those who remember Peter and Bobbie Harris a time for reflection on our friends of years gone by.

Rotaractors having tasted the method applying to treasure hunting may well be with us in 2018 in greater numbers and be a serious threat to our local knowledge.

QUEEN'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE (EQUIVALENT TO MBE)

FRIDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER

The Deputy District Governor Gary Dancer (Yardley & Sheldon Club), together with Presidents and Vice Presidents of Coventry Rotary Clubs, were invited by the Lord Mayor Councillor Tony Skipper to a presentation of this award by Ms Ursula Russell MBE GL, Deputy Lieutenant for the West Midlands to the Coventry and Warwickshire to the Coventry & Warwickshire Savers chaired by Rotarian and Assistant district Governor Gabrielle Back (Breakfast Club of Coventry).

The award highlighted a montage of Teddy Bears produced by Coventry schoolchildren to promote environmental issues. The montage is displayed in Holy Trinity Church, Coventry and had been preceded by a Butterfly montage in the previous year.

The Lord Mayor hosted a buffet lunch in St Mary's Guildhall where the award took place.



INFORMATION FOR NEW ROTARIANS (and for old ones if they have forgotten)

The latest 'Duties' list can be viewed weekly on the club notice board. A list will also appear on our club website 'coventryrotary.org' and follow the link. Please make a note when it is your turn if you are unable to make a particular day, swap with another member but please tell the Club Secretary Brian Winstanley, to keep his records straight, having already written in the alteration on the notice board list.

For new members the listings of the duties of the Door Steward are not very onerous. The first part of the job is to take the money off members for the lunch and make sure they sign the attendance sheet, copies of which will be found in the Steward's box. When there are only two blank sheets left request more from the Club Secretary. He usually carries those in his briefcase. After everyone has signed (President and speakers do not pay) make sure your list of attendances agrees with those sitting at the tables. Balance the cash and cheques received and pass the list and payments to Treasurer Bob

Kemble who completes the payment to the steward of the club.

In tandem with the above duties you must ensure that visitors to the luncheon meeting and the speaker should record their names in the Visitors' Book. At a later point in the meeting the President will invite you to introduce the visitors to the meeting. It is appropriate to include the rank or position held if this is apparent, eg Past or President of a club or Past or Present Chairperson of an organisation.

Are you the Speaker's Host?

This latest list is now on the club notice board so please check which date your name appears. If you cannot make the particular day swap with another but please tell the Club Secretary, Brian Winstanley, to keep his records straight or even write in the change on the list itself!

The only duty of the Speaker's Host is to entertain the speaker and give the vote of thanks after his talk. Before he

arrives collect a card with the club's grace from the Steward's Box ready for him and hover near the entrance to introduce yourself as soon as he appears. Whilst talking to him you can find out anecdotes about him which can be useful during your vote of thanks. It is also desirable to introduce him to the President at this time before leading him to the Top Table just before the President rings the bell.

Thank you all for your efforts.

PLEASE NOTE. There are over 40 Rotarians in the club who are eligible for duties. With 3 duties to fulfil each week your turn will come up once every 13 weeks. If we increase club membership this period will be less so

IT'S UP TO YOU TO DO THIS BY RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS!!

***President Elect
Robert Vilette,
Chief Steward***



SEA CADETS ON PARADE

Continuing our connection with the Coventry Sea Cadets I attended the annual Lord Mayor's inspection of the Unit.

There is no doubt that the cadets on parade are a credit to the city. During the inspection by Lord Mayor Lindsley Harvard he was able to present the Divisional Shield to Petty Officer Cadet Chloe Mundy. This award is given to the best Unit in the divisional area based on attendance records, smartness and behaviour. This confirms our decision to support the Unit and the young people who convey such enthusiasm in all that they do.

J Hartley

ATTENDANCE & ROTARY PRINCIPLES

Members of this club will, of course, be familiar with the object of Rotary since it is stated on page 1 of our club handbook. However, there is another set of principles created by Rotarian Herbert J Taylor in 1932. This was called the Four-Way Test which was devised to serve Rotarians worldwide in their business and professional lives. This has been translated into 100 different languages and is often seen in club newsletters around the entire Rotary community. Some clubs, and RC Scottburgh in Kwa-Zulu, South Africa (our twin club) is one, actually repeat this after grace at their weekly meetings.

Of the things we say or do:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?"

HAVING TROUBLE IN KEEPING UP YOUR ATTENDANCE?

We have four local Rotary Clubs as alternative options for you to consider.

1. **Coventry North**
Tuesday 12.45 pm
Coventry North Warwicks Cricket Club
Tel: 024 7631 8945
2. **Coventry Jubilee**
Tuesday 7.30 pm
Coventry North Warwicks Cricket Club
Tel: 01676 542255
3. **Coventry Phoenix**
Wednesday 7.30 pm
Hearsall Golf Club Ltd
33 Beechwood Avenue
Tel: 024 7667 5809
4. **Coventry Breakfast**
Friday 7.00 am
Chapters Café, Frederick Lancaster Building,
Coventry University, Gosford Street,
Coventry, CV1 5DD

SECRETARY'S NOTES

What is Rotary?

Rotary is short for Rotary International. Service above Self is Rotary's motto. It is a worldwide association of local clubs for business and professional men and women who provide humanitarian services to the community at local, national and international level to encourage high ethical standards in all vocations work for goodwill and peace in the world.

And what is Coventry Rotary Club?

The Club is one of the five in Coventry. It was founded in 1921. The club has a full range of Rotary activities; community service, vocational training and job development, practical international help and support, young peoples' exchanges between countries.

It meets for lunch every Monday (except bank holidays) at 12.45 pm at Coventry & North Warwickshire Cricket Club, Binley Road, Coventry CV3 1HB. Rotarians and other business and professional men and women are very welcome to come along to one of our meetings.

Please contact the Secretary, Brian Winstanley via mail:

secretary@coventryrotary.org

We're on the web! www.coventryrotary.org

- Oct 16 Councillor Robert Stephens, Warwickshire County Council
- Oct 20-22 District Conference, Llandudno
- Oct 23 Mr Godfrey Armitage – Diocese Environment Office, Coventry
- Oct 30 Ian Harrabin, CDP – Evening meeting at The Manor Hotel, Meriden – 19.00 hrs for a 19.30 hrs start

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- Nov 6 Tim Rees, United Reform Church
 - Nov 13 Council to approve accounts
 - Nov 20 SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING
 - Nov 23 Inner Wheel Christmas Table coffee morning at Mary Maginniss's home 10.30 am
 - Nov 27 District Governor Charan Bunger MBE
 - Nov 29 DISTRICT COUNCIL

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- Dec 1 SANTA SLEIGH COLLECTIONS BEGIN
 - Dec 6–9 Festival of Trees
 - Dec 13 Inner Wheel Christmas Meal, Stoneleigh Deer Park, 12.00 hrs for a 12.30 start
 - Dec 18 CHRISTMAS LUNCH



Some members will have received a hard copy of this club newsletter recently. The idea is that you read it and pass it on to relatives/friends and onwards into the community. Others will have accessed it electronically via our website. Encourage your friends to view this copy.

The editorial content is clearly geared to the attention of the general public otherwise the entire newsletter is the ongoing history of the club.

John Hartley, Editor