



# NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2018

## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

### *The halfway point*

Since my last comments back in October I have encountered both quiet and busy periods.

The end of October saw the first evening meeting of my Presidency, although not the first for our club. The event was held at The Manor Hotel in Meriden; wives, husbands, partners and guests were all welcomed. Judging by many of the comments, the majority of people enjoyed the evening. There were some teething problems but I am sure these can be ironed out before our next event at the end of January. The speaker for the evening was Alan Taylor from Coventry Phoenix. Alan's talk on his exploits in Africa helping run eye clinics was most interesting.

The run up to Christmas was busy for both the club and me personally. We engaged in the annual Santa Sleigh where as a whole (all five Coventry clubs) collected something in the order of £19,000. The donations to be distributed to the good causes of Air Ambulance, Myton Hospice and the five clubs' chosen

charities. Well done to all who took part and thank you.

It was our third Festival of Trees held at Holy Trinity Church. We were honoured to have Tony Skipper, Lord Mayor of Coventry, open the Festival for us with The Holy Trinity Choir singing festive carols throughout the evening. The Friday evening saw the introduction of a concert which was very well supported and again a great success. It was good to see District Governor Elect Gary Dancer present and enjoying himself. Without the help and involvement of Holy Trinity Church this event would not be able to take place so thanks must go to them for making it possible. As I understand it we are pencilled in again for this year.

Our Christmas lunch at The Coventry and North Warwick Cricket Club was a very enjoyable event. It was good to see new faces amongst the more familiar ones. I was very pleased to greet David Mayhew and his wife to lunch; David read the Christmas message which was most thought provoking.



I would also like to thank Clare and Kellie who attended lunch as my visitors. Clare and Kellie are both instrumental in driving forward Grapevine and CAFAG. It was unfortunate that Helen from The Hummingbird Centre was not able to attend due to a short period of hospitalisation.

We have had many interesting speakers through the weeks and I thank Dhiran who continues to arrange a variety of speakers.

# FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

(continued)

Membership is not as buoyant as I would have liked with new members not evident. However, we must not give up and must always look for different ways to attract new members. We are encouraged by DG Charan Bunger and Assistant DG Gary Dancer to look outside the box; this is something I intend to do for the next six months and beyond.

Looking ahead, we have:

Our second evening meeting, planned for Monday 29th

January at The Manor Hotel Meriden. Numbers are looking healthy and we are welcoming visitors. Our speaker is Ian Harrabin MBE who will be sharing details of his work for Historic Coventry. Please let me know if you have a guest who would like to attend.

The 24th February sees the Presidential Peace Building Conference at the Ricoh in Coventry. It is the first time that the conference has come to England and we should feel



honoured to be the chosen City to host such an event.

*Until next time!*  
**President Robert**



## COFFEE MORNING FRIDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017

There was sufficient support from members and wives of the Club to count as a full attendance (I counted 16) and all supported Joe Homan's Charity helping children in South India and Thailand.

Refreshment was plentiful and the buzz of conversation throughout endorsed the fellowship that prevailed within No 10.

The raffle seems to have endless prizes and certainly Margaret and I returned home with a bottle of wine which will accompany our Sunday roast.

All should note that a total of £415 was raised during this successful event. Thanks go to Jeff and June Rowe for all their efforts and hospitality.

## ZOË'S PLACE

One of the charities that benefited from the Santa Sleigh collections was Zoë's Place. Few of us know about the work of this Hospice located at Exhall, Coventry.



The year 2017 which has just ended was rated as a huge success. The hospice through exceptional donations has offered animal therapy (which is special with the children) and music

therapy. Also the gardens have been rejuvenated which provide safe areas for the children, those who are able, can play and enjoy themselves.

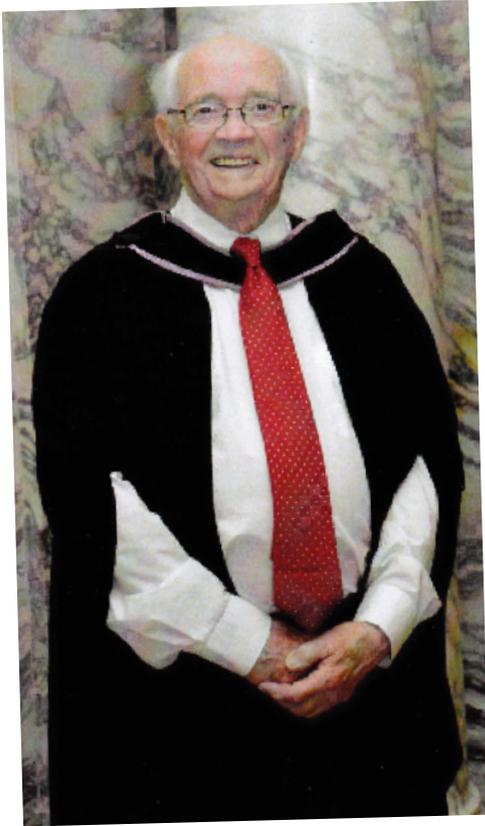
Much effort has gone into fundraising with skydives, cycling across Ireland and these are only a few events. Already in 2018 there are 15 events to make and will contribute to fundraising.

The animal therapy is carried out by Critterish Allsorts and is carefully controlled. Live animals such as rabbits, snakes and dogs to name only a few. All of these provide living contact with the youngsters which clearly are beneficial.

This is an important centre for children with severe medical problems in our area. Rotary in Coventry gives help to Zoë's Place from time to time and will continue to do so as funds allow.

# ERIC MICHAEL PITTAWAY

## 10<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 1927 - 17<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017



Members of this Club were deeply saddened by the passing of Michael Pittaway on 17th November. He was an active member of our noisy luncheon table and no doubt a source of humour which was attributed to this band of stalwarts.

After 53 years service to Rotary his life held many facets of achievement. He was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship in 2004 and was President

of the Club in 1996 and in between was actively involved in many events organised by the Club and its committees.

Many members may not know of the great professional service he gave as veterinary surgeon to the City of Coventry and Warwickshire and as an active magistrate on the Coventry Bench.

Many people would mention his cheerful character both in his private and professional life where he was able to encourage others to reach their full potential in life. This permeated into his practice and those he came across in the many charitable fields in which he was involved.

His wide knowledge had been developed from his love of the countryside, of music, sailing, farming and shooting. In his time he had written poems and had exhibited his paintings in the Royal Show at Stoneleigh. In later life, with Heather his wife, he had an interest in old maps and had collected enough to open a gallery in Eastgate, Warwick.

Above all, of course, he was better known as a veterinary surgeon and a former President of the Royal College described Michael as "a man ahead of his time". He

was above all a great innovator and showed the way in developing veterinary practice for a generation of veterinary surgeons in the 1960s.

Locally he joined his practice in 1951 when his main clients were British Rail and the Co-op. They had over 1,000 horses which had to be inspected regularly. However they were soon replaced by mechanical vehicles. Work with small animals was at that time limited so he transferred his attention to a large number of small mixed farms surrounding Coventry. His senior partner, Colonel Dale, whose successor, Rupert Knight, quite soon emigrated to Canada which left Michael as sole partner. He had to rethink the future of the practice which faced a changing world. The standards he wrote at that time formed the basis of the first standards of the British Veterinary Hospitals Association. He became closely involved at national level with the BVA in London which involved the setting up of the BSAVA. He created one of the first practice laboratories for the analysis of samples which extended into a service to neighbouring practices and then widened to a national service. He developed a series of satellite surgeries from Nuneaton to Kenilworth and across Coventry which at one time numbered eight surgeries. His aim was to have neighbourhood surgeries within walking distance of his clients. Michael started one of the earliest 24 hour on call services with veterinary ambulance drivers. He became well known locally as the Radio Vet when on Thursday mornings for some 20 years he had a session on Mercia Sound.

Michael had great belief in the city in which he was born and where he was baptised in the old cathedral. His father was a sidesman in the cathedral.

He was a protégée of Sir Sidney Nicholson, founder of the Royal School of Music, with whom he would stay during holidays. He regularly sang in the Three Choirs Festival at Gloucester, Hereford and Worcester. His profound love of classical music was nurtured from his childhood. He played the organ at St Michaels in the village of Warmington for over 20 years and enjoyed the community there, regularly attending the church with his family. The service at St Nicholas, Kenilworth on Friday, 8th December was taken by Canon Richard Cooke in fond remembrance of Warmington.

Mike will be remembered for his ready smile sense of humour and his generosity throughout his life.



# COVENTRY REMEMBRANCE SERVICE SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017



This service in the War Memorial Park organised by the Royal British Legion was attended by more people and organisations than hitherto. Fortunately for The Right Reverend Dr Christopher Cocksworth, the Lord Bishop of Coventry, it was able to take place on a sunny, if very cold, day.

Many local organisations presented appropriate wreaths during the service to the display at the foot of the Cenotaph. Among the many tributes was a Rotary wreath laid by our President Robert Villette. This Rotary wreath is laid in rotation with the other four clubs in Coventry. Our next commitment will be in 2022.

The Bishop of Coventry introduced the Dean of Coventry, the Very Reverend John Witcombe and the Reverend Thomas Lienau-Becker Dean of Kiel who read the Litany of Reconciliation, partly in German and in the English language. Prayers were led by Reverend Andrew Janew, Deacon at the Roman Catholic Parish of Christ the King.

An additional reading was given by Pastor Eniwaju Etomi, Senior Pastor of the Redeemed Christian Church of God in Coventry.

Noticeable in the placing of the wreaths was the presence of Rotarian Pru Porretta in her role of Lady Godiva.

The main parade was smartly led by the Coventry Corps of Drums who were followed by army, air and sea cadets with many other organisations, notable was a small contingent of Gurkhas.

This assembly seeks to remind the public what the park and its memorial cenotaph is for despite within a short distance we have a children's play area and tennis courts providing leisure activities.





# KIM REES PRESENTATION

Before Kim Rees came to live in Coventry she was living near to Newark in Nottinghamshire. David, her late husband, was a Rotarian in the Newark Rotary Club and also Head of Sconce Hills High School when he also became Rotary District Governor of District 1220 in 1996/97. Together they regularly supported local charities with garden parties and coffee mornings, a practice that continued in their new residence in Coventry. They moved to Coventry about 17 years ago when David resumed his membership in Coventry. Team Rees continued their support of many charities and in particular our local Paralympic athlete, Kare Adenegan, in the successful quest to become part of the Olympic team in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil when she became a medallist in three events.

Sadly David, a member of this club, passed away in 2016 and Kim decided to continue their good work helping to raise money for various charities. This dedication was behind the proposal to make a Paul Harris Fellowship award to Kim which to her surprise she accepted on Monday 18th December last.





# ROTARY FESTIVAL OF TREES

In excess of 40 Christmas trees illuminated and decorated Holy Trinity Church in Coventry from the beginning of December and were available for all visitors to see. Donations were, of course, voluntary but the main feature of fundraising was the admission to the concert held on Friday, 8th December.

This event was compèred by President Robert Villette, who introduced the choirs that were the main feature of the evening. A good attendance was made who came to listen to the variety of songs and carols and contributed £1200 for charitable distribution.

WorldSong Coventry, a capella community choir now 20 years old since formation, sang seven songs of which two were performed in the languages of the original country where they were written. Spires Chorus, now in its 12th year, is part of Coventry Spires Music. They sang nine carols, the earliest of which dated from the early 17th century. Senza Nome is a young choir, now nine years old, containing twenty

voices. It has a Polish membership who come from many parts of the Midlands even as far as Essex. In their national costumes they sang nine songs. Their interest in Coventry is revealed by their membership of the Coventry Association for International Friendship. The evening concluded with the City of Coventry Male Voice Choir which is 70 years old. They performed seven carols and can be heard in many locations in Coventry and Warwickshire.

The programme highlighted the Festival of Trees throughout December and this was thanks to Past President of the Rotary Club of Coventry Ken Holmes and also highlighted was the work and support of Rotary around the world. The shoe boxes on display were provided by King Henry VIII School and were to support young children overseas.

The event was closed by Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor John Blundell who took his opportunity to give his good wishes to the audience.



# 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 Robert Vilette,  
Chief Steward**

# 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](mailto:secretary@coventryrotary.org)*

***We're on the web! [www.coventryrotary.org](http://www.coventryrotary.org)***

- 15th Jan Sarah Stallard, Slimming World
- 22nd Jan Michael Fetherstone-Dilke, Maxstoke Castle, TBC
- 26th Jan Youth Speaks, Intermediate Round at Bablake School
- 29th Jan Evening meeting at the Manor Hotel, Meriden, 6.30pm–7.00pm
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- 2nd Feb Youth Speaks, Senior Round at Sidney Stringer School
- 5th Feb Robert & Catherine Carr, Mary's Meals
- 24th Feb Presidential Peace Building Conference, Ricoh Arena
- 28th Feb Foundation Dinner at Coventry Golf Club
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- 3rd Mar Youth Speaks – District Final – Arden Hotel, Coventry Road, B92 0EH
- 10th Mar Collection at Morrisons, Holyhead Road
- 14th Mar District Council
- 19th Mar Finance meeting after the club meeting
- 26th Mar Evening meeting at the Manor Hotel, Meriden, 7.00pm–7.30pm
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- 6-8 Apr RIBI Conference in Torquay



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***