



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2018

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

It has been an eventful past three months or so.

We held our second evening meeting, 29th January at The Manor Hotel Meriden. Numbers were very healthy and it was good to welcome visitors for the evening. Our speaker was Ian Harrabin MBE who shared details of his work for Historic Coventry. Although the evening ran over all who were there were captivated by Ian's talk.

The 12th February we had the Intermediate Youth Speaks competition held at Bablake School and won by Bablake School with runners up Barrs Hill. The best speaker was won by a student from Whitley Abbey. Well done to all.

The 24th February saw the Presidential Peace Building Conference at the Ricoh Arena in Coventry. The conference was a great success thanks and appreciation should be extended to the team that put the event together and special note locally to Peter L Offer as without his drive this may not have happened. There was a whole host of speakers and the breakout sessions gave an opportunity to engage within the discussions.

I had the privilege to host Professor Mike Hardy CMG OBE FRSA who was one of the speakers at the Conference.

There were two dinners The Foundation dinner on the eve of the Conference and the Presidents Dinner on the 24th.

It was an honour to meet and speak with RI President Ian Riseley on more than one occasion.

On the Sunday, 25th the Tree Planting ceremony took place at The Memorial Park. RI President Ian Riseley, RI Director Brian Stoyel, Vice Chair of the Rotary Foundation, RIBI President Denis Spiller and other honoured guests were all present to watch RI President Ian Riseley plant the tree. Special thanks should go to our PP John Hartley and VP Michael Hammon for supplying the tree and arranging the planting spot. (See full details on the website and later in this newsletter).

We had a successful Foundation Dinner toward the end of February, this was held at Coventry Golf Club. Judy Ryan and her team put on a very enjoyable event and one that we should support more in the coming years.



Moving into March and the Santa Sleigh presentation evening was held at Coventry and North Warwick Cricket Club. Organised by Phoenix and hosted by Jubilee it was an occasion to share the experience of the month of December through the video recordings taken. A welcome reminder of Rotary in action on the streets.

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

(continued)

The total collected was £19,213.90, this was then divided and distributed to the following:

Myton Hospice £6,400.00

Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance £6,400.00

(Jubilee received the Gift Aid)

Each Rotary club received £1,150.00. Grapevine was the beneficiary of a cheque for £230.00 as one of my charities.

Once again Ray and Nellie organised and hosted a great evening at Barnacle where

a skittles evening was hotly contested. Fun and games was had all round with an excellent intermission filled with fish and chips. Numbers were up which enabled the centre to open the bar so all round a good result.

Looking forward Monday 29th is the third of the evening events again held at the Manor. Speaking this time is the West Midlands Police Commissioner David Jamieson. Watch this space to see how it went.

Until next time, Robert.



PEACE TREE PLANTING 2018 SUNDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2018

On Sunday, 25th February a particularly cold but sunny day some 30 Rotarians assembled at the Memorial Park, Coventry to commemorate the Presidential Peacebuilding Conference held at the Ricoh stadium. This involved the Rotary International President Ian Risley planting a tree which was presented to the Lord Mayor of Coventry some 10 years ago as a "Seed of Peace". This slow growing specimen less than 1 foot tall may eventually reach 20-30 feet high over many years.

The tree is affectionately known as "The Chinese Parasol Tree" and is a direct descendent of the only surviving tree from the Atomic Bomb destruction of Hiroshima, Japan on August 6th 1945. The parent was transplanted into the Peace Park in Hiroshima and its seeds have been sent to various parts of the world as messengers of Peace by the Mayors of that city.

This event has been reported to the Coventry/Hiroshima Club in Japan and details will be given to its members and the local press.

ROTARY PEACE BUILDING CONFERENCE AT THE RICOH ARENA SATURDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2018

The following report was put together by 4 Year 7 student reporters from Whitley Academy. Notably Ava, Lola and Eve represented their school at the Intermediate Youth Speaks competition on Friday, 26th January. Eve (11 years old) was acknowledged as the best speaker at that event. These young reporters made this report to their school. The four girls are to the left of the photo.



Written by Diakite, Ava, Lola and Eve

On Saturday 24th February 2018, six eager Whitley Academy students went to the Coventry Ricoh Arena to watch and take part in the Peace-building Conference run by the Great Britain & Ireland Rotary Club. We were very excited to learn about the day.

At 9:30am, as soon as we sat down, the Lord Mayor of Coventry (Councillor Tony Skipper) made an introduction that interested many minds. He talked about Coventry as a City of Peace and Reconciliation, and most recently, UK City of Culture 2021. Secondly, Mr Ian Riseley, the Rotary International President 2017/18, who came all the way from Victoria Australia, spoke about the 'rotarians' present in the room. We felt privileged and humble to be in the room full of 'rotarians', who have helped the World Health Organisation (WHO) to eradicate polio globally.

Then Reverend Sarah Hills made us aware of the religious side of wars and conflicts. She talked about her trip to Iraq, with people from the Community of the Cross of Nails, in Easter 2017. It was a very risky journey, but moving and inspiring, as the Muslim soldiers helped the group light up the small candles to form a cross on the floor of a church damaged by bombs.

Mark Krawczynski, President of the Warsaw Rotarian Club, took us back to the years Warsaw and Poland were rebuilt after the Second World War. We were astonished to realise Poland's long history of conflict, especially in the 1980s, when it changed from a communist Poland, to the Poland of today. He also talked about the importance of changing mindsets with a positive vision, for example, the 'rotarians' have demonstrated how to build peace together without bloodshed.

After that momentous speech, Professor Joe Valadez made a speech about health care in conflict areas in the world. He

talked about the child mortality rate in the countries of sub-Saharan Africa (which was 100 out of 1000 births).

Magnus Riley (a Rotarian Youth Speaks Winner) was talking about "lad culture" and how suicide is the most common death for young boys due to this.

Later that afternoon, Nobel Peace Prize Winner Dr Shirin Ebadi, talked to us (whilst her words were translated) about her life in Iran, and her job as a lawyer. Her story was very heart-warming because she was arrested due to defending a boy's (who has been shot by the police) family. During her time in jail, she stayed positive and did not feel any need to hate anyone despite her conditions.

Dr Shirin Ebadi also came to see us in a session called 'PeaceJam'. She allowed us to ask her questions whether they were personal, political or controversial.

When we went to the hall, Dr Ranieri Guerra was talking about polio disease and how 99% of the world has been eradicated of polio for good. This made us remember the conversation from Dr Natalia Gutierrez earlier in the day.

At the end of the day, Director Brian Stoyel said his farewells and asked if we enjoyed this momentous occasion [which of course we did] and we left the Ricoh Arena. We left with the resonance of a poem read out by the Revd Canon for Reconciliation at Coventry Cathedral:

***"Yesterday, yesterday, yesterday
Sorrow, sorrow, sorrow
Today, today, today
Hope, hope, hope
Tomorrow, tomorrow, tomorrow
Love, love, love."***

We also completely agreed with the thoughts shared by a Head Teacher from an academy in Scotland: "Peace within yourself is of the upmost importance. It's your mental well-being".





Registered charity number 1148481

WOMEN'S ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2018



Lens Art Ltd

Rotarians frequently are noted for their work outside of their organisation. It has not escaped the notice of your Editor that Rotarian Pru Porretta has led the Coventry Women's Achievement Award from her position as President of the Godiva Trust to celebrate this day during the International Women's Festival and this was held in the theatre at the Earlsdon Village in Albany Road on March 8th.

There are many local ladies that have associated themselves with this festival but Rotarian Pru is a driving force. Of course the United Nations began celebrating the International Women's Festival in 1975 although the inspiration goes back to 1917 when women chose to protest and strike for "Bread and Peace". Since 1975 many leading women have supported the movement which promotes Peace and helps to relieve starvation and health issues worldwide.

Through Pru women in Coventry are recognised each year for the good work they do in our community.



THE WOODLAND TRUST

There is a mountain of work that this organisation is required to undertake. Only very recently we have heard that they are to undertake the development of the 'Northern Forest' which connects the Mersey Forest, Manchester City of trees, South Yorkshire community forest, the Leeds White Rose Forest and the Heywoods Project which has created woodlands around major urban centres such as Chester. This scheme involves planting 50 million trees. March 2018 will see the beginning of this project.

The Woodland Trust has not only the task of generating new woodlands around the UK but also they are faced with fighting disease. While trees can expect a long life there are thousands which are subject to a shorter life due to disease and such problems are spread all over the countryside. Some of the causes relate to insects which appear to be encroaching Europe from the East to West path. Dealing only with our native species of ash there are problems concerning the importation of 5.2 million ash trees over a period of seven years but this has to stop and now the Woodland Trust is following a scheme which 56 million saplings are certified as being sourced and grown in the UK.

Every year hundreds of tons of plants are shipped to our shores from Holland which brings pests and diseases which our native trees have no defence against.

One disease which arrived on rhododendrons for the nursery trade jumped on to larch trees. It was discovered that British seedlings were being shipped abroad to develop growth and re-imported for sale in our own country – but sadly had become infected.

It is the Woodland Trust with its own UK Sourced and Grown Scheme costing £100,000 to ensure that saplings are British born and bred. 21 major growers are engaged in this project.

We are suffering from insects which originate from distant countries which have brought about a partnership project with some 200 amateur tree disease detectives. They provide feedback of their observations and send samples from ailing trees for expert analysis. Volunteers have spotted over 1,000 cases including the diseases which were unknown in the UK within the last three years.

To develop the plan in the next 2 years the Woodland Trust needs to plant 10.2 million trees to refresh our landscape much of which will replace lost ash trees..





BIANCA'S NEWS!

For those Rotarians who remember Bianca Reis, International Student from Brazil, here is her latest news!!

Dear all,

Again I'll start my e-mail apologizing myself for sending an email after such a long time.

I've received the Xmas cards...and this last 4 months were busy, and I didn't get to reply you all!

Life in Brazil is the same as 2 years ago when I sent my last email. Actually this is why I also haven't sent any email, once I didn't have any news to tell you. In fact last year we bought a dog called Spike!! He's a frenchie bulldog. Now he is 1 year old...and he is amazing!! Terrible...but lovely...

And now I have a great news: A baby boy is coming!!!! In July I'm going to be the mother of a little boy called MURILO (I think it's a brazilian name..rsrsrs). I was very sick during the first three months, what it's normal, but now everything is great. My belly is growing and the baby is full of health!!So, I think that's all!! =)

Hope you all are doing fine...looking forward receiving some news from your part!

Miss you..

With all my love

Bianca



CHRISTMAS DISPLAY OF DECORATED TREES HOLY TRINITY COVENTRY

The students of years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 presented the display in the church with five trees which were part of a charity fund raising project.

Year 7 designed its tree with dog treats and they will be giving a donation to a dog charity.

The overall good news, however, is that the school's five trees were announced as winners of the Rotary

Festival of Trees for which they were awarded £150. The presentation was made on 29th January at the Manor Hotel, Meriden.

The money will be donated to President Kennedy students who are fundraising for a trip to Peru.

Well done!



SANTA SLEIGH PRESENTATIONS TUESDAY 6TH MARCH

The evening commenced with a buffet style meal and was followed by announcements from Leanne Beverley of Coventry Jubilee.

We were told that the total collected and donated was £19,213.90. Each of the five Rotary clubs received £1,150 and the two main charities were Myton Hospice and the Air Ambulance Service who each received £6,400.

The total collected was affected by weather conditions but this did not deter the drivers and collectors on each night or at the static collections.

The publicity gained from the Santa Tracker worked well and brought many families out on the street corners. The initial reception of the public to the Santa Sleigh team was in every case a revelation which inevitably delayed the excursion around the streets.

Over the many years since the commencement of the project there have been many charities that have received financial support from Rotary Santa Sleigh collections.

Each of the main charities gave

short updates on the contribution they make to the local communities.

The assembled company at the Coventry North Warwickshire Cricket Club received a short address from District Governor Dr Charan Bunger MBE and the cheques were presented by the Lord Mayor Councillor Tony Skipper.

Thanks were expressed to sponsors Hyundai, Coventry Signs and to Barry Fitzgerald who helped with the Santa Tract updates.



SKITTLES EVENING

MARCH 23RD 2018

The six teams battled with the three disciplines of which we were able to welcome our daughter Club of Nuneaton and the Rotaract Club of Coventry. The evening was enhanced by the open bar with three attractive maidens available to give a first class service. The sporting element was, as usual, controlled by Carol who seemed to regulate the timing of the entire evening.

Table six were the declared winners and the skittles concluded by long alley bowling for 50p a throw at a single skittles followed by a miniature skittle. The winner, Keith Chapman, was to take home a bottle of brandy to mark his success.

The fish and chip supper arrived on time and was approved by all. The shop in Bulkington was due to much praise by its consumers.

Thanks were due to Ray and Nelly Thompson for efficient organisation and the success of the evening which amounted to around £300.



YOUTH SPEAKS

INTERMEDIATE YOUTH SPEAKS COMPETITION 2018



Bablake School Red Team

Any adult doubting the commitment, passion and determination of young people to grapple with major issues confronting our society, would have been reassured had they attended this annual event organised by our Rotary Club.

Seven schools entered ten teams in all, and all speakers presented lucid, and knowledgeable arguments on a range of topics, including gender equality, lowering the voting age, mental health, astronomy, technology and its impact on our social skills, animals in zoos, technology and education, and air ambulance.

The standard of the presentations was, as usual, extremely high. All present will undoubtedly have left the evening marvelling at the confidence and determination of the contestants (age range 11 to 13), and with expanded horizons.

As usual, no one envied the judges their task. However their role was to determine a winner. The result was a win for Bablake School Red Team (who will progress to the District Final); Barr's Hill School, arguing whether Pluto was a planet - or not, were runners up.

The Best Speaker was Eve Bannon from Whitley Academy, for her presentation on mental health.

Whilst the judges discussed their findings, all present were encouraged to sign a petition urging central government to take responsibility for the funding of Air Ambulance services. Bablake School Red Team was determined to make sure their argument was reinforced!

Thanks must go to Bablake School for the use of their excellent venue. To our friends in Coventry Inner Wheel for the refreshments. Methodist Central Hall for loan of equipment, ADECS Ltd for the programmes, to the judges especially, and to all the many Club members who assisted on the night. Most importantly we must not forget the students and their teachers without whom there would have been no competition."



Barr's Hill School



Eve Bannon from Whitley Academy

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 Rosalind Thomas, to keep her 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. She usually carries those in her 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, Rosalind Thomas, to keep her 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!!

**2nd Vice President Judith Ryan
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, Rosalind Thomas via mail: secretary@coventryrotary.org

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

- 2 Apr **NO MEETING - EASTER MONDAY**
- 6-8 Apr RIBI Conference at Torquay
- 9 Apr Michael Fetherstone-Dilke "The Perils and pleasures of living in a home like mine"
- 16 Apr Beth Lewis – Research and Community project, Research expedition to Java, Indonesia.
Council meeting 11.30am. Remind Club Chair's of Club Assembly
- 18 Apr Rotary "GO" meeting – Pype Hayes Golf Club
- 23 Apr AGM. No speaker
- 25 Apr Inner Wheel coffee morning at the home of Beryl Sarram, 10.30am
- 30 Apr Gurdev Singh – Newlife – Charity for disabled children
-
- 7 May **NO MEETING - BANK HOLIDAY**
- 12 May Collection at Morrisons Binley
International evening at West Orchard Church Hall
- 14th May Club Assembly. No Speaker
- 21st May Elly Pittaway – Friends of the Memorial Park
Council meeting 11.30am
- 28 May **NO MEETING - BANK HOLIDAY**
-
- 9 Jun Collection at Morrisons Binley
- 11 Jun Council meeting 11.30am
- 14 Jun Inner Wheel president's tea at the home of Mary Maginness, 2.30pm.
- 16 Jun Coffee morning at the home of Dr Serena Calder, 10am – 12noon
- 25 Jun Handover Meal - PM. **NO LUNCH TIME MEETING**
-
- 1 Jul District Handover, Warwickshire Cricket Club, Edgbaston, Birmingham
- 2 Jul Inner Wheel Handover meeting at the Royal Court, 11.00am for 11.30am
- 6 Jul Treasure Hunt
- 9 Jul Council meeting 11.30am
- 14 Jul Party in the Park, Baginton Tickets, Ken Holmes to sell tickets, £10 each
-
- 13 Aug Council meeting 11.30am



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