



# NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2019

## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Firstly, Janet joins with me in wishing you and yours a happy and successful 2019. We also hope you all had an excellent Christmas.

It seems a long time ago since 1060 District Conference in Southport at the end of October. Our Club was one of the best attenders and the two Evening Receptions seemed to have been enjoyed by many including District Governor Gary Dancer and Ian Riseley immediate Past President of Rotary International with his Wife Juliet. The Riseley's were a long way from home in Victoria Australia but seem to thrive on travelling.

One Project from the Conference that intrigues me is the Rotary Shelter Bus for the homeless. A wonderful idea but it will need mammoth organisation. I hope it gets off the ground and we as a Club must watch this for Coventry. This year's Conference is at Nottingham, so quite local.

The Queen's Award Application and Centenary Sub-Committees have had their inaugural meetings and are off the ground – we just need success and funds for the Centenary.

The Christmas Sleigh is an enormous undertaking with so much planning, involvement and

dedication. I did enjoy my stint as Father Christmas. I had a good dresser in Jack Russell's Great-Niece and an excellent driver in our Treasurer - he does not like backing the sleigh! Congratulations to our Chairman this year PP Phil Hodson, photographer Kevin Vaughan and the ephemeral Martin Cooper who all put in so much work and effort.

A Rotary Club is only as good as its membership and we do have some extremely dedicated persons. My determination for my year is still to get our membership to 50 – two members inducted recently and one more I hope in the pipeline – do keep searching for suitable persons.

Lastly, and on a sad note we have this year lost some very valuable and long-serving members culminating in the death of Past President Dennis Coombe on the 26th November last. It was wonderful that his son Christopher could join us for the Christmas Lunch. He and Dennis have brought enrichment and endearment to the entertainers on the "Naughty" Table. They are now properly and justly recognised!

***Keep up the fine work in 2019.***

***Michael Hammon.  
President.***



# AUTOMATA

The proceeds of the donations given to our Automata were shared with the Lord Mayor's Charity and our club funds, these were presented to our Lord Mayor Councillor John Blundell on Wednesday, 12th December in the Coventry Retail Market. The presentation was made by President Michael Hammon in the presence of VP Judy Ryan, Past Presidents John Hartley, Kevin Vaughan, David Joyce and Robert Villette and Rotarians Martin Cooper, Bill Parkinson, Pru Porretta and Tim Sawdon.

The Lord May announced that he was supporting both the Enterprise Club of Coventry and The Haemochromatosis Society.



## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Once again the club has co-operated with Holy Trinity Church and produced a magnificent array of colours in the display of Christmas trees. This month-long tribute to Christmas was a success and well received by the public who have made charitable donations to the various charities that have placed their trees around the church.





# COVENTRY SEA CADETS

Recently we welcomed a speaker, Lynne Crosbie. Few of us would know that Lynne was a cadet with this company and her son is now enrolled as a cadet. A strong and knowledgeable family in the subject of Sea Cadets.

However there was a strong connection with this Rotary Club in that some thirty years ago Rotarian Dr Bob Rudland led the Cadets on formal parade as he held the rank of Surgeon Commander RN and was in my mind a guiding influence on this Unit. Incidentally he was my GP and he also followed his father as a doctor. In those early days he completed his rounds in Foleshill and Longford by horse and trap! His influence on the cadets manifested itself by the smart turnout of the Unit which has prevailed to this day.

The Unit was formed 76 years ago and became known as Training Ship Coventry in 1978 which followed the launch of HMS Coventry which sadly was lost in the Falklands War. The current HQ in Stoke is the third home and is held on a long lease. The Unit is 125 of which 85 are cadets. It is a successful unit where it supports public events including the Armed Forces Day, The Poppy Appeal and the Memorial Parade on or around 11th November annually.

All in all it is a very active unit with a heritage with close links to Rotary. PP Harold Smart has been extremely supportive over the years. Both PP David Joyce and PP John Hartley attend management meetings.

# GREAT NEWS REGARDS KARE ADENEGAN!

This message was received from Family Adenegan following the awards for our local heroine Kare Adenegan:

*Dear Mr & Mrs Hartley*

Just some good news to say Kare was given the Coventry Good Citizen Award on Tuesday for her sporting achievements and is also the recipient of the BBC 2018 Young Sports Personality.

It's been a good year and we wanted to say a big THANK YOU for all your support and that of the Coventry Rotary Club.

Regards

*Bunmi, Karen and Kare*



## ONE LINERS FOR A CHUCKLE FROM THE CHURCH NOTICE BOARD

*Weight Watchers will meet at 7 pm at the First Presbyterian Church.  
Please use large double door at the side entrance.*

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*The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.*

.....

*Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.*

.....

*For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.*

.....

*At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?"  
Come early and listen to our choir practice.*

.....

*Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled.  
Proceeds will be used to cripple children.*

.....

*Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.*

# PAST PRESIDENT DENNIS COOMBE MBE



Long service to the Rotary Club of Coventry amounted to 40 years and undoubtedly he will be missed by all members of the club. Dennis had served the club in a number of positions and as such was a mine of information based on this experience.

Other than his Rotary experience we must acknowledge his services to local cricket and to his position as a judge on the local Allotment Association which in the earlier days he performed with Rotarian Peter Harris.

Some of us will recall his stories about the Battle of Rorke's Drift in the Anglo-Zulu War on 22nd January 1879 which was closely connected with the Battle of Isandlwara. Despite being outnumbered the South Wales Borderers managed to win the two battles. Some seven Victoria Crosses were awarded for distinguished service in these engagements. Dennis could tell a good tale about the Charge of the Light Brigade 25th October 1854 which resulted in a Russian victory. Our losses were up to 40 per cent. Dennis was a good story teller and we trust that his pupils at Spon Gate School will have appreciated his leadership.

I have no doubt that his partnership with Rotarian Peter Harris in the allotment association will have been missed. I am sure they would have given useful tips to the gardeners when they, as judges, had finished their duties.

His friendship with Margaret Smith prevailed throughout his illness and our thoughts go out to her and we give our thanks to her for her selflessness toward Dennis in his final days.



# ROTARY CONFERENCE SOUTHPORT 20/21 OCTOBER 2018

Travelling to Southport from the Midlands via the M6 was indeed a nightmare! Some of us would have said was our journey really necessary!

We all, of course, arrived and settled in to our comfortable hotel on the main promenade. The sea front location was set so far back from the sea you would be easily convinced that the sea was not in existence. We set out to walk along the pier only to discover that it was blocked off due to renovations and still we did not see the evidence that caused the building of an exceptionally long pier. So we resorted to a stroll along the Lord Street shops – not so interesting a walk except for our ladies who clearly enjoyed the shopping experience.

The conference opened with our Headmaster Gary Dancer giving a welcome to delegates and introduced our Head Prefect John Scott who was to maintain order throughout the proceedings. A surprise representative was Immediate Past President of Rotary International Ian Riseley and his wife Juliet from Australia who addressed his audience with a few well chosen words. Our last meeting with Ian was in the Peace Conference at the Ricoh conference centre which was followed by a commemorative planting of a Tree of Peace in our Memorial Park.

The theme of cricket was embellished by the charity “Chance to Shine” and much supported by our District Governor Gary Dancer. This charity gives hundreds of young people the chance to play cricket and to learn about teamwork and gives the younger generation the meaning of discipline and respect in playing cricket.

Jane Walker MBE related her story about the plight of young people in the Philippines where she has established schools. A locally formed charity has now taken over while Jane and her team have formed a new charity to promote the creation of employment opportunities especially with young people and disadvantaged parents.

The Birmingham Breakfast Rotary Club has engaged in a major project to provide a Shelterbus. This will prove to be a most ambitious task and require much attention from the club.

We heard from Blind Cricketer Miles Northwood who took the stage with his well behaved guide dog. He lost his sight at 4.1/2 years old and has followed cricket throughout his life. He captained his school team and was part of the England team for ten years winning three world cups and two ashes series. He has been involved in the administration side of cricket and remain dedicated to the game to this day.

The evening dinner in the Floral Hall was followed by the Midland Youth Jazz Orchestra who gave their audience a polished performances.

The entrance to the Floral Hall contained the usual obstacle course of charity stalls. Some of these appeared to be doing a fair amount of business for the good of the charities they supported.

The return journey home was much more relaxed. Journey time for most us was half that of the upward trail to Southport.

Next year’s conference will take place in Nottingham and delegates will surely appreciate the shorter journey.

# PADDY OSBORNE

31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 1932 - 18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2018



A significant lady in her own right beside the fact that Paddy was the wife of the late Gerald Osborne, who was President of this club in 1980/81, and who indeed had succeeded his father as President in 1959/60.

My earliest memory of Paddy was when Margaret and I attended the Priory Theatre in my early days as a Rotarian when we saw her in a leading role in the play "On Golden Pond".

Paddy had served the Kenilworth Talking News which was one of her public services. Her membership of the Greyfriars Luncheon Club was a feature of her life in the last year or so and was able to continue attending when Margaret was able to get her to the lunch and take her home. Her attendance at Rotary functions with her husband Gerald was another feature of Paddy's loyalty to Rotary.

Remembrance of the accumulation in their garage of documents relating to club history seemed to take weeks of my time to examine the papers one by one. The evidence discovered is included in the 100 year record which is to be published in 21/22. I know that Paddy was pleased to see this examination completed.

Few members will know that Paddy was the daughter of Harry Weston – a well known machine tool manufacturer, politician and philanthropist – indeed a Mayor of this city.

*John Hartley*

# LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS 2019

**LAST NIGHT OF THE ROTARY PROMS 2019**  
ANOTHER GREAT EVENING OF CLASSICAL FAVOURITES

featuring  
**CBSO City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra**  
Conductor Anthony Inglis  
and  
**The Treorchy Male Choir**  
Conductor Jeffrey Howard

**Programme including**

|               |                           |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| <b>SUPPE</b>  | Poet and Peasant Overture |
| <b>COATES</b> | Dambusters March          |
| <b>RAVEL</b>  | Bolero                    |
| <b>WAGNER</b> | Prelude Act 3 Lohengrin   |
| <b>ELGAR</b>  | Nimrod                    |

*With the world famous Treorchy voices raised in choral splendour*  
And all the Prom's Favourites; - Concluding with a Spectacular Finale

**SEA SONGS**  
**RULE BRITANNIA**  
**JERUSALEM**  
**LAND OF HOPE AND GLORY**

**TCHAIKOVSKY'S 1812 OVERTURE**  
WITH CANNON AND INDOOR FIREWORKS

**SH** SATURDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 7.30 PM  
SYMPHONY HALL BIRMINGHAM  
Box Office 0121 780 3333 [www.thsh.co.uk](http://www.thsh.co.uk)  
See reverse for ticket prices and Rotary discounts

There has been interest in Rotary organizing "The Last Night of the Proms" concerts as a regular event in the Rotary District 1060 calendar. This is based on the response to the event in 2014 when the RIBI conference was entertained by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and the Treorchy Male Voice Choir, the whole performance was a "sell out" in that year. By popular demand this year on Saturday, 14th September at 7.30 pm there will be a full 2.1/2 hour programme in the Symphony Hall and advance ticket sales with Rotary discounts will be made available up to 31st March after which the tickets will go on sale to the public.

The attached flyer gives you the opportunity to reserve your tickets. You may call 0121 780 3333 for individual sales or 0800 358 7070 for group bookings. You can visit the Box Office in person.

The ticket prices are £39.50 £35.00, £30.50, £25.50, £18.50 and £15.00. The discount embraces £8 for a pair of tickets or 10% off a group of 20 or more on the top three price levels. In each case quote promo code – **ROTARY19.**



# 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**

# ROTARY PRINCIPLES

## **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

# ATTENDANCE

Although our membership book has given attendance guidelines which are printed on the penultimate page of the handbook there remains a mystery to some degree on how the obligation to maintain attendance can be fulfilled.

Rotarians should realise that they must not assume and therefore treat our weekly meetings as a “luncheon club”. With that in mind each Rotarian should review the object of Rotary printed on the first page of the book. Reference also should be made to the General Information pages for further guidance on attendance matters.

For the benefit of all a full detail of attendance rules is printed below.

## COVENTRY ROTARY CLUB

The more important provisions governing attendance are summarised as follows:

### Attendance

- 1 A member shall attend the Club’s regular meetings but attendance only counts if the member is present for at least 60% of the meeting
- 2 Absence from a meeting can be made up if, within 14 days before or after a regular meeting of the Club, the member attends:
  - 2.1 At least 60% of the regular meeting of another Rotary Club
  - 2.2 A regular meeting of a Rotaract or Interact Club
  - 2.3 A RI convention or a RIBI assembly
  - 2.4 A District conference, assembly, meeting, committee
  - 2.5 And participates in a club service project, club sponsored community event or council-authorized meeting
  - 2.6 A council meeting,
  - 2.7 A service committee meeting
  - 2.8 Participates through the Club’s website in an interactive activity for 30 minutes on average
- 3 Absence from a regular meeting of the Club can also be made up if:
  - 3.1 A member attends a regular club meeting at any time during a period of more than 14 days’ travel abroad
  - 3.2 A member is engaged in council-authorized Rotary business which precludes attendance

### Excused attendance

A member’s absence is excused if:

- 1 Council has approved
- 2 The aggregate of a member’s years of age and years of membership is 85 or more and the council has approved the member’s written application

### Leave of absence

Leave of absence may be granted by council on a member’s written application so as to prevent forfeiture of membership

### Termination

A member must attend:

- 1 Or make up at least 60% of the regular meetings of the Club in each half year
- 2 At least 30% of the Club’s regular meetings in each half year

Failing such attendance, membership is subject to termination by council

Unless excused by council, a member who fails to attend or make-up four consecutive regular meetings may find that such non-attendance is treated as a request for council to terminate membership

**Note:** It is emphasized that this summary omits other provisions that are thought to apply only in circumstances that are exceptional. It also does not repeat in full the wording of the provisions summarised. For further information please refer to the Club Secretary.

When signing in each member should note two side columns – “S” for Service and “F” for Fellowship.

In the event that another club is visited then a mark under column “F” is appropriate. For all other qualifying attendances the “S” column should bear your mark.

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

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

# CLUB PROGRAMME

Monday 7th January Vocational Service Meeting 11.00am  
New Members - Mr Geoff Lea and Dr Kipnyango Seroney

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Monday 14th January Council ,11.30am  
Emma Johnson, Raise and Giving Society, East African Playgrounds, TBC

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Monday 21st January International, 11.30am  
Rosie Hart-Karios, WWT (Women Working Together), TBC  
Community Service, 2pm

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Monday 28th January David Yates, TBC

Tuesday 29th January Burns Supper - Coventry and Jubilee Rotary Clubs 7pm



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***