

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2015

A WORD FROM OUR VICE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Rotarians

As I pen these lines, I marvel at the strength and breadth of work undertaken by members in support of so many worthy causes.

The commitment, along with our sister clubs, to raise in excess of £20,000 with Santa Sleigh is most admirable.

Committees are a rich resource in furthering Rotary work, whether through Foundation, Community or International, and the Club is indebted to the active participation in getting things done. We are a club with a big heart and generous in nature.

I have deliberately avoided mentioning individuals, but we all know who are active or very active. I reflect also what might be possible if we were able to increase in membership and involvement.

Well done to all who have contributed in any way to our success in meeting some of the needs of disadvantaged children in Sudan - our gift of footwear to the tune of £3,500 will make a huge impact. Our gift of £500 in memory of Past President Trevor to Life Path Trust will be well used to further their work. Money raised towards wheelchairs for two severely disabled young people. Funding for the Disabled Outward Bound Scheme is so very rewarding and life changing for the beneficiaries. We look forward to Monday, 13th April when Kare Adenegan of Team GB (at 14 years old!) will be presented with a substantial cheque toward her training and competition expenses.

Rotary has evolved to suit the times and the people and my hope is that we can encourage each other to evolve further and



yet remain true to our calling 'Service above Self'.

Let us look forward through 2015 with thankfulness for the past and hopefulness for the future.

**Ken
President Elect**

COVENTRY SCHOOLS YOUNG ENTERTAINER 2015



In the Rotary activities in Coventry which do much good for our image are those which involve schools. On 7th March at the Belgrade Theatre with a well packed audience we were entertained by the various school acts to find the "Young Entertainer".

This inter-school talent competition drew 15 schools to the stage all of varying content. It is true that not all are easy on the ear but there we

were among the modern youth wishing to show its audience the best it can do.

The winners were Coundon Court School (of which much approval by Past President David Kershaw!). The troop of fourteen students of mixed gender put on a performance of "Baggy Trousers". The cast was from the KS4 and KS5 BTEC Performing Arts Department. This acclaimed act will form part of a larger production at the school called "Our House".

Caludon Castle was declared second followed by Bablake. The latter performance was unique. Jeeves and Aron played the tabla and piano with great skills together with elements of humour.

Host for the evening was local radio presenter Brody Swain. The judges led by Lee House (Organiser

of Corporate Events in Coventry), Karl Loxley (a product of Guildford School of Acting and who has performed as a singer across opera classics and popular songs from the shows) and bubbly Sandra Godley (an accomplished singer and song writer as well as a well known radio presenter and who was an award winning artiste in 2013). Finally Dutch Van Spall who is Head of Artist Development with a proven record of achievement over a 25 year career to date. The judges followed every act with appropriate praise and helpful advice before ultimately retiring to declare their verdict on the night's entertainment.

It cannot go without giving praise to Past President Warren Offer who representing the Rotary Club of Coventry Jubilee was the architect of the event.



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

MY JOB - ROMA HAWTHORNE



One of the most memorable "My Job" talks addressed to club members was presented by Roma Hawthorne on Monday, 23rd February.

Beginning with a schoolgirl day job on Saturdays at Woolworths on Ball Hill where she received a day rate of 12 shillings and 10 pence. Through a series of appointments she became a partner in Hawthorne & Co, Parkside, Coventry with her husband Chris who had followed his father in a family business. Over the years the business had a unique line of products allied to the engineering trade.

Roma from her school days at Lyng Hall and the development of secretarial skills at Coventry Technical College she gained in 1968 top honours in gaining London Chamber of Commerce Private Secretary's certification. Such was the recognition of her achievements that in 1971 she became the youngest President of Coventry Business and Professional Women's Club. At this time she was the private secretary to the Chairman and Managing Director of Lexor Electronics of Coventry.

Roma was credited with sweeping away the "old maid" image of the business woman's world. In fact she was dubbed "Madam Hot Pants President" to the Coventry Women's Club comprising 100 members. She thought that Women's Lib action of the time was not the answer and said "In my opinion their mass hysteria tactics only serve to make them seem a little ridiculous. We work in a less sensational and more reasonable manner".

Roma was noted for her up to date image and sought to inspire, together with her living proof, that it is still possible to reach the top while still young.

Rotary club members would note that Roma's views have not changed having joined the club and become active as Secretary of the International and the Membership Committees.

COLLECTION FOR ROTARY SUPPORTED CHARITIES

Saturday 10th January saw a fifteen strong band of Rotarians and Hannah Wilby brave the elements of a cold day at the Arena Shopping Park, Rowley's Green to try to extract donations from shoppers who were equally brave to face up to the weather and do business with Tesco. Loose change seemed hard to come by with our potential donors not being able to find much to give in their pockets; or that is how it seemed. In the final run down to our finishing time Pru Porretta, presenting herself as Lady Godiva, and in her own inimitable way found the route to the bottom of pockets. So

the day concluded with a total of £351.14 and this represented a donation rate of 69 pence per minute. Yes, I know we have had better results and, as Hannah Wilby suggested, we may get an improved total if we focus more on those with children. Simple lollipops as give away items or even sweets could do the trick. Perhaps we should try this at a future collection. Nothing ventured....! We will be able to claim another £87 as a Gift Aid contribution to our efforts.

Well done to everyone involved.

YOUTH SPEAKS

COVENTRY AREA

INTERMEDIATE FINAL

BABLAKE SCHOOL - FRIDAY 30TH JANUARY 2015

Nine teams assembled with a full house of supporters in the Bablake Performing Arts Theatre. In a tense atmosphere each team of three members pitched their knowledge and wit over some three hours of pure entertainment for the audience.

Collectively we had seven schools represented with two schools submitting two teams. All were represented by the age group 11-13 years. While members of the audience (and me) had other ideas about who won as always the judges' opinions prevailed. Thank you to David Kershaw, Carle Bond and Becky Davidson. Both Secretary Brian and Vice President Ken held the floor for

announcements and presentations. I feel sure that their tasks were quite enjoyable.

The winning team was Heart of England School, Balsall Common who proposed that video games depicting violence were no bad experience for young people. The all male team made convincing points and indeed were well rehearsed.

The runners up were President Kennedy Blue Team.

We look forward to the District 1060 Final on Saturday, 7th March which will be held at this most suitable venue.

YOUTH SPEAKS

DISTRICT 1060 FINAL SENIOR COMPETITION

SATURDAY 7TH MARCH 2015

A morning of pure excellence. However there was in my opinion a running link which discussed gender issues. Rugby High School broke this theme by extracting a full discussion on the subject of the humble coconut. Alcester Grammar School for Girls decided it is a woman's world and had assembled enough facts and figures to persuade the judging panel to give them third place.

A very thought provoking subject "If not me, Who? If not now, When?" presented by King Edward VI Handsworth School and was awarded second place in a competition embracing 11 teams from many parts of the Midlands.

The first place and to take the trophy was King Edward VI School from Stratford who chose to discuss "Is sugar the new tobacco?" Joshua Boddult was a notable chairperson. He had a most informative speaker in Thomas Woodland backed up by Pascal Vogiadidis who gave him a vote of thanks.

Presentations were made by District 1060 Governor Rotarian John Crawford.

My own contribution to the proceedings was as a co-

timekeeper with David Lines of Coventry Jubilee Club. Our job involved the illumination of a coloured light display which at times seemed more like a feature rather than giving warnings to the speaker.

PP Terry Bond was the MC for this session who was able to exercise control and patience when the judges were deliberating - the inevitable delay of the judges who as ever found that producing a result needed time.

YOUTH SPEAKS DISTRICT FINAL, INTERMEDIATE COMPETITION SATURDAY 7TH MARCH, 2015.

Nine schools, 27 speakers, 9 subjects all of which provoked serious thought amongst the audience. The speeches ranged through technology and media in its various forms and uses, (cyber bullying and encouraging violence through games)..... Language its use and abuse and Is Present Day Music Art?

THEN, what sounded like the stuff of sci - fi 'Are we ready for the Zombie Apocalypse scared us half to death whilst we contemplated death from mad cow disease and



other more horrifying diseases thus rendering us ZOMBIFIED.

The confident and clearly well researched deliveries went from truly hilarious to the very earnest and one very simple but extremely well constructed message actually brought me to tears.

Some of the techie language was strange and new to us and I for one was unsure of the meanings but I was left in no doubt that the opportunity provided for this activity is well used by thoughtful and sincere young people who are growing in moral consciousness.

The Winners were.....Is it Art? Proposed by Trinity Catholic School, Leamington Spa.

Patricia Winstanley

ROTARY SKITTLES COMPETITION 2015



This activity evening was shared between Coventry, Coventry Jubilee, Coventry Phoenix, Bedworth Rotary Clubs – all being organised by the Rotary Club of Coventry North. While most present would see this as a purely social event of which the main attraction would be the nine o'clock serving of fish and chips, there was a serious interclub rivalry at stake. We were competing for the honour and privilege of holding the trophy in the form of a ewer – here to be noticed by readers.

The Highway Club is a most prestigious venue for playing skittles and should really bring out the best performance in all competitors. The winners, again, were Coventry Jubilee

with a noticeable mix of maturity and youth which clearly is a successful formula.

All remaining teams, like ours, are formed of elderly and sedate individuals who have to overcome problems of certain physical disabilities (well not all of us!).

To our notable distinction we did have a champion in Jill Joyce who was the highest scoring lady of the evening who received a medallion in recognition.

The fact that Jubilee retained the trophy after a shaky start does not require any further reporting on the skittles match.

Words of appreciation are due to John Green of Coventry North who managed the evening very well. He was assisted in the distribution of raffle prizes by Roger Woodward who made sure that those with hearing difficulties were in no doubt of the winning ticket numbers.

An excellent evening with additional thanks to the four young people who did a great job resetting the skittles, also to

the club management.

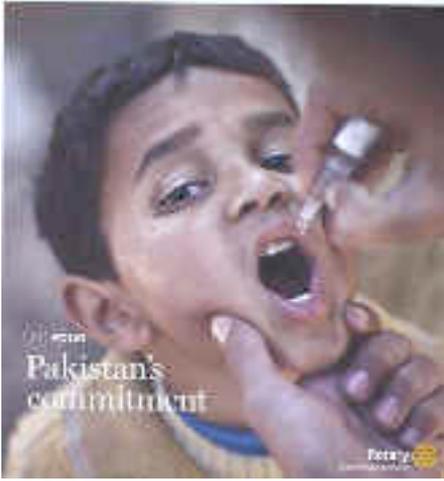
Rotarian Brian Sharp should be thanked for his photographic record of the event and, as a final touch of class from Coventry North we noted the distribution of red roses to the ladies to mark Valentine's Day. Could not help but notice that Past District Governor David Robinson and Roger Woodward took full advantage of the presentation process as the ladies were leaving for home!

Some £500 was raised for Rotary Supported good causes.

Those of us who know Ron Taylor should be aware that after his two falls he spent one night in hospital but was able to return home next day after a check up.

John Hartley





POLIO PLUS UPDATE

A positive report overall in the campaign to eradicate polio. Comparison has been made with the position of 2014 when the number of reported cases was 358 or the average of one case per day. This year, admittedly still quite young, there has been only one case per week – hopefully to be sustained.

Sadly the evidence of cases reported in Pakistan leaves much to be desired in that cases increased to 305 in 2014 followed by Afghanistan with 28 cases twice the previous year. Nigeria reported only 6 cases in 2014 – a major improvement.

In the classified non endemic countries there were only 19 cases in 2014 and no cases reported so far in 2015.

So there is progress. However the obstacles toward total eradication are management, politics and conflict. Bill Gates and his wife Melinda continue to help by giving grants in the proportion of 2 to 1 raised by Rotary Foundation.

COVENTRY PRIMARY SCHOOLS DEBATING COMPETITION - FINAL

THURSDAY 12th MARCH 2015

This conclusion of the event had been scaled down to 10 school teams which were:

Grange Farm, Stivichall, Holy Family, Little Heath, Hollyfast, All Souls, Wyken Croft, Walsgrave, John Gulson and Longford Park

The five propositions caused lively debate between the team pairings and it has to be said that three judges have a most difficult task to choose any of the placings.

A clear proposal to keep Coventry City libraries was a topical subject which seemed to generate overwhelming support especially at question time. On the other hand I detected opposition to Coventry City Football Club having a new stadium.

Looking at all 10 teams it would be fair to comment on the fact that girls outnumbered boys by 2 to 1. Can this have been the recipe for so much liveliness?

The proceedings took place in the Council Chamber at the Council House. Lord Mayor Councillor Hazel Noonan welcomed the teams and participated in the warm up sessions compered by Sandi McKinnan.

The event ran remarkably true to time including

the question and answer session given by JD of Free Radio Breakfast show fame. The judges prevailed and returned to the Chamber to declare Grange Farm School as winners who believed that the 50metre swimming pool in Coventry should stay.

Second team was All Souls who opposed the idea that the Godiva Festival should be a free event.

Third placement to Hollyfast Primary School who definitely decided against a new stadium for Coventry City Football Club.

President Mary Cantillon of the Rotary Club of Coventry Jubilee presented all competitors with a certificate and medal and to the winners Grange Farm the silver trophies and the Challenge Cup for display at the School.

Interesting to note that "JD" of Free Radio stayed behind to autograph programmes and to give presents to everyone.





SANTA SLEIGH 2014

These collections as detailed were a daunting proposition for the five Rotary Clubs to fulfil, however, thanks to Warren Offer, he had organised help from a number of local groups who made all the difference to the extended programme. One of the supporting features was enhanced by not only Santa himself but also the Ice Maidens Anna and Elsa. Their minimalistic attire was subjected to severe temperatures during the tours. They contributed much to the success of each collection. Children obviously were the seat of the attracted public support – none more so than those who resided in Willenhall who were quick to criticise Santa for not having a beard! This was put to right about halfway round the tour. With so much to do it was becoming increasingly obvious that an all time best result as the collections around the districts progressed.

The clubs were encouraged by the reception of Santa and his sleigh to ASDA stores at Whitley and Walsgrave. We were aided by choristers from the Guides and Brownies, sweets, etc were given by the store for Santa to give away as well as hot cups of tea and coffee to keep the collectors happy.

Once again we were blessed by the generosity of Listers Toyota who provided the 4 x 4 car to pull the trailer and other donors who helped to cover petrol, insurance and related costs.

In all £20,800 was collected after covering some 60 miles of local streets. Appearances had been made at the Coventry "Lights Switch On" as well as at supermarkets and Fargo Village. The Air Ambulance Service and Myton Hospices each received a cheque value at approximately £7,000 and the Rotary Clubs each received a cheque for £1295.00.

The presentations were made at the Coventry North Warwickshire Sports & Leisure Club on 5th February.



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

The new Duties list can now be viewed on the club notice board. Please make a note when it is your turn if you cannot make the particular day swap with another but please tell the Club Secretary, Brian Winstanley, to keep his records straight and even write in the change on the list itself.

For new members we are listing the duties of the Steward which are not very onerous. The first job is to take the money off members for the lunch and then make sure they sign the attendance sheet, copies of will be found in the steward's box. If there are only a couple of copies left ask the club secretary for more: he should have some in his brief case. After everyone has signed, this list should be given to the Club Treasurer who will later give this to the Club Secretary.

As soon as the lunch has commenced ensure that the numbers of members having signed in agrees with those sitting at the tables plus any late arrivals. Check that the number equates correctly to the cash and cheques received. Pass the list and payments to Treasurer Bob Kemble who will complete the appropriate payment to the Steward.

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 Stewards 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.

Are you on the Visitors' Book?

The latest list is now on the club notice board so please check what 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! Your duties are to ensure that visitors fill in the Visitors' Book (with intelligible writing please!) with their name and club (if a visiting Rotarian), or the name of the Club member who is introducing them (if not). Give them a Grace Card – these are found in the Steward's Box - and after lunch introduce them when called upon by the President. If the visitor is from far field then welcome him with a visitors leaflet. These contain information about the club on one side and a brief history of the City on the other. They can be found in the Steward's Box.

Thank you all for your efforts.

**2nd Vice President
Kevin Vaughan
Chief Steward**

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!!



2014-15 MEMBERSHIP BOOK

Will members please note the amended email address for our President:-
trevorwebb254@gmail.com

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.

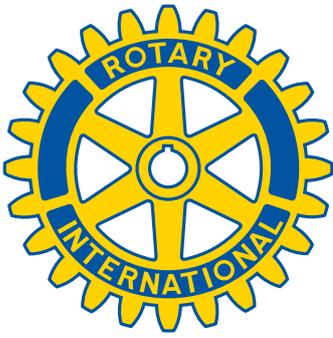
1. **Coventry North**
Tuesday 12.45 pm
Coventry North Warwicks Cricket Club
Tel: 024 7631 8945
2. **Coventry Jubilee**
Tuesday 7.30 pm
Coventry North Warwicks Cricket Club
Tel: 01676 542255
3. **Coventry Phoenix**
Wednesday 7.30 pm
Hearsall Golf Club Ltd
33 Beechwood Avenue
Tel: 024 7667 5809
4. **Coventry Breakfast**
Friday 7.00 am
Coventry University, Riley Restaurant,
Tel: Jordan Well 024 7641 2520



DOOR DUTIES 5TH JANUARY - 30TH MARCH 2015

Members are reminded that it rests with them as individuals to arrange for a substitute and then notify the Secretary. The change should be recorded by deleting the printed name and writing name on the list on the notice board.

Date	Door Steward	Speaker's Host	Visitors' Book
Mar 30	David Kershaw	No Speaker	Keith Chapman
April 6	EASTER MONDAY		
April 13	Dennis Coombe	Roma Hawthorne	Martin Cooper
April 20	Geoffrey Jackson	AGM No Speaker	Rod Drew
April 27	David Joyce	Senerath Bogahalanda	Bob Hall
May 4	BANK HOLIDAY		
May 11	Ian Talbot	Victor Keene	Brian Hammond
May 18	Bob Osborn	Ray Thompson	
May 25	BANK HOLIDAY		
June 1	Pru Porretta	Robert Pargetter	Michael Pittaway
June 8	Kevin Vaughan	David Davies	Jeffrey Rowe
June 15	Amrik Bhabra	Judith Ryan	Dhiran Vagdia
June 22	Terry Bond	Obi Ugwu	Serena Calder
June 29	Trevor Sharman	HANDOVER	Michael Hammon



NEWS FROM INNER WHEEL

Within the proceedings of their Annual General Meeting held from 2-4 April in Bournemouth was a statement of achievement of the Association of Inner Wheel Clubs in Great Britain and Ireland. Members had raised £1,251,332 for charities at home and £400,300 for 454 charities overseas. Adding to these fine achievements they provided 58 shelter boxes, 4,888 blankets, 5,000 cardigans, 6,500 hats and gloves, 1,700 baby bags, 4,782 Troop shoe boxes and 300 kg of used stamps (almost 1/3rd of a ton). These are impressive figures.

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 12.45pm 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

- 30 MAR Richard Hoare, The History of Sydney Stringer and Coundon Court Schools.
- 30 MAR 4pm Sponsored Swim King Henry VIII School
-
- 6 APR EASTER MONDAY – NO MEETING
- 13 APR Kare Adenegan, Para-Athlete, Bablake School
- 16 APR Coffee morning @ Kim & David Rees in aid of Kare Adenegan
- 20 APR AGM – NO SPEAKER
- 27 APR Helen Sandagire – Action on Hearing Loss
-
- 4 MAY BANK HOLIDAY – "Roll-a-Dice" stall, Earlsdon Festival
- 9 MAY Collection – Morrisons, Holyhead Road
- 11 MAY Debbie King – Coventry Carers
- 18 MAY Charlotte Mayturn, University of Warwick, Cancer Research Unit.
Finance meeting after Club meeting
- 25 MAY BANK HOLIDAY
-
- 1 JUNE MICHELLE MARR, EXECUTIVE HEAD – CALUDON CASTLE SCHOOL.
- 5 JUNE VOCATIONAL COMMITTEE – QUIZ NIGHT.
- 8 JUNE JANE HALL – DUNWOOD TRAVEL
- 29 JUNE HANDOVER MEETING.