

# NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2014

# A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

## *Dear Fellow Rotarians*

What a marvellous start to one's year of office – our own handover followed by those of other clubs and then that unforgettable luncheon at Blind Hall. This was only possible by the kindness of Patricia and Brian in letting us use their lovely house and gardens. What fun it was to witness the erecting of the gazebos and my thanks go out to members for the transportation and erection.

Rain was expected on the morning of 6th July, but the sun did shine on those fortunate to attend. The catering was superb thanks to 'Sauce' who were aided and abetted by my son and daughter-in-law in providing drinks etc. The final touch was the music provided by the Salvation Army Fellowship Band, with my thanks to Charles King.

Another highlight has been the annual bowls tournament with Nuneaton RC – forecasted last year by IPP Phil to be the 60th anniversary and accepted by Nuneaton as such (who

presented each player with a trophy to prove it!). This is hotly disputed by our Club Historian John who states: 'the trophy was presented by a PP of this Club in 1965 the first match in 1966 was won by Coventry. The 2014 match would have been the 48th'. By the way we won this year and on the advice of PP Bob Hall hope to hold it for another 19 years which represents the time in which the trophy was "lost"!

As a fund raiser, the International Service Committee held a Sunday luncheon on 27th July at "Merton House, the home of Ken and Heather Pearson, making over £1000 due to their generosity.

And now to the other side of Rotary 'Service Above Self', at 8.15am on Saturday 5th July – Anne, myself and John, accompanied by the Lord Mayor and Christopher her Consort, went to Hereward College to give students with disabilities a send-off to Cumbria on their Outward Bound course. Thanks to John



for organising this.

Members have also been involved with the Mablethorpe holiday and with the week's visit of young people on RYLA. Thank you to all involved.

Through the efforts of Ray Thompson we have received £4550 lottery funds for English Disabled Sports to be held at the Xcel Sports & Leisure Centre.

Thank you and best wishes to you all, and remember this year's slogan 'Light up Rotary'!

**President Trevor**

# CLUB BEGINNINGS

New members may wish to be reminded of the beginnings of this club in June 1921 together with a profile of our founder.

Rotary in Coventry was founded by Victor Dodd of Courtaulds and President of the Chamber of Commerce in June 1921 and chartered in September 1922 to join with businessmen, industrial management and professionals within a wider world sphere in the Paul Harris ethic of 'service above self' founded in the US in 1905.

The days of Empire in 1921 provided industrial employment and careers for the numerous varied enterprise opportunities with Coventry at the leading edge of transportation and communication but, as we approach our 95th anniversary, employment opportunity, population and culture of our city is much different. The list of past presidents has reflected those changes whilst our active role in Rotary expanded within the post war Leverton arrangements into formulating clubs in our surrounding district and extending to our five Coventry clubs.

So we have much to celebrate from 1921 and our community service committee may wish to initiate a suitable club event. Our city now includes educational research with the expanding Coventry University city centre and University of Warwick campus student populations as attractive centres of excellence. Rotary plays its role of membership and community support within its modified industrial transportation and communication technology industries whilst our central location and network provides us opportunities within advanced distribution and services.

As we prepare to celebrate ninety five years of service and enter a second century within Rotary, we may reflect on the wider economic field availability to attract members as we engage with our community and civic authority to widen and encourage the international, education exchange and opportunities that are available to encourage our service above self ethic and honour our final toast of each meeting. "Rotary and Peace the World Over".

*With thanks to PP Geoffrey Jackson CBE JP*

## WHICHFORD VILLAGE AND AFTERNOON TEA

At the bottom end of Warwickshire remote and well hidden lays the village of Whichford. A sunny warm afternoon of Sunday, 8th June the three best gardens of this community were open to the Shipston Rotary Club for the opportunity to raise money for Rotary Charities. Field parking opposite Whichford House, once the home of the village rectors for several hundred years, was well organised and controlled by Rotarians.

Whichford House was surrounded by extensive gardens on many levels containing a swimming pool, a large terrace and tennis courts and which these days is a private residence. From this garden we followed a downhill track to the "old rectory" which had a large open garden with two ornamental ponds fed by small brook which eventually runs into the River Stour and is known as Brailedon Brook. The presence of a selection of laying hens given free roam of this garden added much to its charm.

The stream, or should we call it a brook, discreetly left this garden in a culvert under the road and reappeared in the beautiful landscaped garden of Brook Hollow

cottage owned by President John Round of the Rotary Club of Shipston on Stour. A full range of seating and gazebos was available to take a glass of champagne together with cucumber sandwiches et al. This was followed by an array of home made cakes.

We discovered that the Shipston Club registered with 30 members does have 8 ladies in the membership who, together with other wives of members, are extremely active and self motivated in events like this.

President John's garden has to be a labour of love over a period of 36 years. Together with extensions in keeping with the design of the original cottage and the exceptional planted garden on a hillside this was the perfect setting for sitting back and to appreciate one's life of hard work.

The Church of St Michael began in the middle of the 12th century so in part is over 865 years old. Sadly it suffered during the Civil War in the 1340s when much of its medieval glass was destroyed. A former Rector John Merton 1507-1537 was interred in the church and his tomb was enclosed with an inscribed alabaster slab. This reveals the earliest knowledge of a person who wore spectacles.

Greetings to and from respective Presidents were expressed in the hope that we may meet in fellowship at the Halford Bridge Hotel.



# VOYAGE ACROSS THE AIRWAVES



It was 17 years ago, as Vice President of the Club, I was inducted, some might say “shanghaied” into a seagoing experience apparently considered mandatory for an incoming President!!? There had been a strong tradition among certain members to charter a sea going yacht on an annual basis to enjoy a few days along the coast of Devon and Cornwall. Names to mention – Mike Pittaway, Harold Smart, Bob Osborn, Gerald Osborne, Mike Atkins and Robert Pargetter. I came to realise that the persuasion to enlist me on the nine man crew was not connected with any duties to perform but to assist in making the excursion a paying proposition. My only other experience of the sea was on a 15000 ton troopship out of Liverpool for Japan and back!

Navigation and weather conditions are clearly important issues. Harold Smart and Bob Osborn I believed had all the qualifications and so I sat quietly in the stern of the boat. Little did I know that the plan of sailing was to cross the Channel in the area known as “Portland”. We were heading out of Dartmouth to Guernsey but this is another story. What interested me then and since is the shipping forecast on the BBC Radio and listening late at night to the gentle sounds of the melody “Sailing by” which sends me to sleep.

So where are these 31 areas of sea round the British, Irish, Icelandic and Western European coastal waters? Some names are obvious but Fitzroy out into the Atlantic had me puzzled. Admiral Robert Fitzroy (1805-1865) was the captain of HMS Beagle which took Charles Darwin on his famous expedition. During his time at sea he became concerned at the number of ships and sailors which were lost due to bad weather. In the 1850s the British Government decided to invest money into weather research and forecasting. Fitzroy was put in charge of the new Meteorological Office and issued instruments to captains and installed coastal weather stations to collect a variety of information. By 1861 a telegraphic warning system was in existence to advise of approaching bad weather. Warning cones were flown at all major ports when a storm was expected. The concept developed over the years and the now familiar shipping forecast made its debut on the BBC airwaves in 1924. Originally there were only 13 sea areas but these gradually increased to 31. It was in 1984 that Finisterre was renamed Fitzroy as a tribute to the father of forecasting.

**John Hartley**



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**

## WORDS FROM THE PAST

Rotarian Reverend Leslie Cooke when President of this club in March 1945 said he recalled a letter from a Rotarian in the USA who quoted a passage from a bulletin of a Rotary Club in Sioux City. It is entitled "Read Religion".

"If you can get religion like a Baptist,  
Experience it like a Methodist,  
Know it like a Christian,  
Pay for it like a Presbyterian,  
Stick to it like a Lutheran,  
Conciliate it like a Quaker,  
Be as sure of it as a Disciple,  
Work at it like the Salvation Army,  
Practice it like a Christian Scientist,  
Be proud of it as an Episcopalian,  
As devout as a Catholic,  
As conscientious as a Jew,  
And enjoy it like a Negro,  
Then you will have real religion!"

"The man who is always waiting for something to turn up might start with his own sleeves."

## PAST PRESIDENT AMRIK BHABRA MBE (2004/5)



It was not surprising that the staff of ADECS would wish to celebrate the award of an MBE to their boss Amrik. Clearly he is held in high regard to the point that they invited friends from family, business associates, customers and Rotary to share their pride in him receiving the decoration. Actually on the 4th July he had not received the medallion but by the time this newsletter is published both Amrik and Pritti will have met the Queen at Buckingham Palace. What a day that will be.

The surprise buffet breakfast at the Institute in Parkside was well attended and Amrik's response to the congratulations did not omit a generous mention of his connection with and experience of the work done by Rotary.



## INVESTURE OF NEW LORD MAYOR

Margaret and I counted at least 12 Rotarians from our club at the ceremonial

proceedings in Coventry Cathedral on 5th June when our new Rotarian friend Councillor Gary Crookes relinquished his role of Lord Mayor into the hands of Councillor Hazel Noonan (who is our ward representative). This was the first time that we had attended such an event which clearly will not be the last since May 2015 will see the chain of office and robe of Lord Mayor pass from Hazel to our own colleague Michael Hammond. This will call for an even greater representation from club members in 2015.

Michael is of course our current Deputy Lord Mayor and will be finding his feet with attendance at various public events gradually getting in tune for the full responsibility of the office of Lord Mayor of the City of Coventry.

*J Hartley*

## BIRD SPOTTING

Past President, as we all know, shows a great interest in bird life. So it came to pass on Saturday, 31st May that PP Terry Bond with Carole and PP John Hartley with Margaret were escorted around the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Brandon Marsh Nature Centre in Brandon Lane, Coventry. President Philip proved that he has both an eye for and an ear for locating otherwise unseen species. Despite unfortunate weather conditions we were able to record some 37 different species in a period of two and a half hours. Perhaps the highlight, discounting the soup and bread roll in the café, was the easy spotting of a Great Spotted Woodpecker at the feeding station. We had previously heard him banging his head against a tree – so hearing did not count as a sighting. As we were leaving we then saw a Green Woodpecker so that nicely rounded off the day. So our 37 birds times 2 equalled a minimum donation of £7.40 to Past President's Charity to support the education of young children in Zambia where he was born and enjoyed his boyhood. The membership of the Wildlife Trust by this club has been renewed. We have free admission for two people right through to June 2015. Contact PP John to borrow the ticket



## OBITUARY: FORMER ROTARIAN MAJOR NEVILLE DENT

There is an awareness that many current club members will not have known Neville Dent because he left the club more than 20 years ago after having been an active Rotarian, mostly on the International Committee. Neville died on 1st August aged 95.

He had served in the South Staffordshire Regiment during the Second World War. In his younger days his father had encouraged him to join the medical profession but the family love of the cinema took over and post war he progressively became the owner of the Rivoli, Lyric, Godiva and Paris cinemas in Coventry. Sadly these have passed into history. He became a Rotarian in 1969.

He would be remembered for his social/charity midnight matinees especially at the Paris cinema in Gosford Street when Rotarians, families and friends would attend. The original idea of midnight matinees was born out of a proposed event at the Odeon needing to sell 1900 seats. This was seen as a risk too far. Neville Dent came to the rescue in April 1968 in fact before he became a Rotarian. The showing was "South Pacific" to a full house. A sum of £230 was raised for the India Relief Fund. A second event to see "Camelot" was organised in 1968 when the Lord Mayor Councillor Leonard Lamb JP attended and raised £195. A further event at the Paris in May 1970 to see "My Fair Lady" was arranged.

In October 1970 the Queen's Theatre Company entertained club members on the stage of the Lyric Theatre in Holbrooks. This, of course, by courtesy of Neville Dent and raised £440.

One of Neville's attributes was his skill in bringing so many international speakers to our club meetings. These came from USA, Russia, Jamaica, etc. These contributions were well appreciated by members. His funeral was held at St James the Great, Old Milverton, Nr Warwick on Wednesday, 13th August. This club was represented and condolences expressed to his widow Patricia and son Adam.

# LEVERTON DAY

## HOW NEW ROTARY CLUBS WERE ESTABLISHED IN GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND

This day in the District 1060 calendar may be a mystery to some club members and, of course, unknown to our new members. Past District Governor Tom Cryer in 2003/4 presented some facts to bring history into the light. In 1953 it was agreed by Rotary International that Rotary clubs could not "own" territory. This particularly applied to large cities such as London and Birmingham. The prime mover in this was Stanley Leverton who was District Governor of the London District. In effect he proposed that a principal club should "lease" territory in their area while reserving the right to recruit from it. For example, this club has the right to recruit members from anywhere in the Coventry district without cause for friction with other clubs and vice versa. Clearly the intent is to create more clubs and increase the overall membership. This release of "energy" began in this district through the influence of the Birmingham club forming eight new clubs, namely Erdington (1953), Kings Norton (1955), Handsworth (1957), Yardley & Sheldon (1959), Edgbaston (1962), Aston (1965), Hall Green (1971) and Sparkbrook, which became Moseley and Sparkbrook, (1974). From all these clubs other clubs have been created. In 1953 there was only one club in London and now there are over 100. As mentioned above, this proposal was accepted on a worldwide basis. At least two cities celebrate Leverton Day, namely London and Birmingham, both of whom have a memorial lunch in November annually. This is done by inviting all clubs in the District and their daughter clubs to a venue in Birmingham. The President of RIBI is always present. Stanley Leverton was an undertaker and the family is still in that business. Former RI Director Keith Barnard-Jones is married to a member of the Leverton family. It should be mentioned that in the beginning of Rotary in Britain and Ireland that Birmingham was the eighth to be formed in 1914. In the 1920s nine more clubs were born, of which Coventry was the second in the Midlands in 1921, followed by Rugby, Kidderminster and Stourbridge in 1922. Growth continued and presently we number some 63 clubs in the current year.

***It should be known that this club was responsible for the birth of the Rotary Clubs of:***

<b><i>Nuneaton</i></b>	<b><i>1925</i></b>
<b><i>Kenilworth</i></b>	<b><i>1960</i></b>
<b><i>Coventry North</i></b>	<b><i>1961</i></b>
<b><i>Coventry Jubilee</i></b>	<b><i>1977</i></b>
<b><i>Coventry Breakfast</i></b>	<b><i>1992</i></b>



## PRESIDENT'S CELEBRATORY GARDEN PARTY

On Sunday 6th July members and friends of the club collected at Blind Hall, Berkswell to share with President Trevor and Anne their wonderful hospitality made possible by Past President Brian Winstanley and Patricia. They had placed their home and garden fully available for at least 60 guests.

The entertainment was provided by the Coventry Salvation Army Brass Band who performed a

variety of popular tunes from times past and well known shows.

Thought of appreciation were given to the team which erected the gazebos which in the past had proved to be problematical to assemble. In a more controlled and calm atmosphere all hurdles in the form of indistinct directions, poor eyesight in failing daylight were overcome.

## AUCTION OF PROMISES

This club was in support of St Elizabeth's RC Church in Foleshill to raise funds in aid of the South Sudan Shoe project which has drawn the attention of our International Committee.

The auction was held in the JK Indian Restaurant and Pub on the Foleshill Road on Friday, 6th June.

Our International Committee had been busy ensuring that members of the club, together with their ladies, had made a number of pledges to ensure a successful evening. The

auctioneer had over 40 items to clear and proved himself to be adept at easing the bids upwards.

The proceedings were interspersed with the consumption of Indian food and provided a convivial atmosphere in a crowded room. Among the 10 Rotary bidders it was noticed that the Chairman of our International Committee proved himself to be a discreet bidder – a slight nod of the head, the blink of an eye or a touch of his ear. With all those actions he secured some worthwhile

items. Your Editor decided to go for the dinner and wine for eight people and secured the item. This will be arranged from mid to the end of July. Some of the Rotary donations revealed evidence of our now famous cake makers and it was noticeable that absent bidders had been at work, such that Judy Ryan successfully secured a lemon drizzle cake (one of the favourites at Barclays Bank). Father Moses, who most of us know, was thankful for the success of the evening having raised £1250 for the worthy cause.

# 21st ANNIVERSARY - EARLSDON FESTIVAL 2014

Normally the club would not report on this event although we do have residents and supporters of Earlsdon in our membership.

On a fine day some 10,000 people showed up to enjoy the atmosphere which is organised by a team of volunteers who should be recognised for the work they put in before, during and after the main part of the festival Monday, 5th May. It is necessary to highlight the work of Rotarian Nigel Lee and the help he receives from Councillor Michael Hammon. During the afternoon observation of the stallholders revealed PP Terry Bond and Carole extolling the virtues of a new pathway along the wooded Kenilworth Road; PP Ray Thompson and Nelly were espied

dressing up in tabards to perform some voluntary duty. Showing a pedestrian interest was PP David Kershaw CBE and his wife Viv who later was found behind the coffee bar in Earlsdon Methodist Church.

Based on long experience with Rotary managing the traffic around the notorious Earlsdon Clock Island, PP John Hartley and Margaret were allocated a simpler and more straightforward task of manning a closure barrier at the end of Berkeley Road as it meets Earlsdon Avenue South. Well simple it was for those manning this position up to 2.30 pm. The whole atmosphere changed after 3.30 pm when previously trapped residents decided to take to the streets in their cars to explore the

great wide world beyond Earlsdon. Useful experience and lessons to be learned for 2015.

From what we saw the crowds were entertained with a variety of street dancers, musicians, magicians and others. There were food stalls galore and much else to keep the people of Earlsdon happy. Margaret and John however completely missed out on the Coventry Godcakes – we will not miss these next year!

The appearance of the Earlsdon Morris men and the local Banghra dance group Infiniti received an enthusiastic audience outside the Royal Oak Pub. Judging by the crowds both the Royal Oak and the City Arms were enjoying a record day for liquid refreshments.

## THE BALKAN FLOOD APPEAL

Some tens of thousands of people have been affected by extremely heavy rainfall. Floods clearly the worst in a hundred years have affected one third of Bosnia, Herzegovina and Serbia and a state of emergency was declared in 14 municipalities. Red Cross teams and thousands of volunteers are helping with the distribution of blankets, drinking water, food and hygiene kits to people affected. There is a special focus on toilet goods for young children. It has been reported that over 40 people were drowned and thousands are homeless. There have been 3000 landslides which in turn have dislodged landmines. Reports have declared the area as a social disaster.

The city of Belgrade has become a centre of operations. Since this city is twinned with Coventry and our theatre is named after the



stricken city in this area local organisations have responded to an appeal by the gift of goods and financial donations at the Belgrade Theatre on the 29th/30th and 31st May. This club was connected to the appeal and our collecting buckets were prominent. Lady Godiva, "Baby" Godiva and Slavica from Serbia were on duty over the three day appeal. The Breakfast Club made a cash donation and the donations by members of this club to Rotarian Professor Ian Talbot sponsoring his Two Castles Charity Run were dedicated to the appeal.

Monies and goods collected are being coordinated by the Serbian Embassy in London who transfers everything to the Red Cross on the ground.

The estimated total donation was £1250.00 plus an estimated 1.1/2 tons of consumables.

# TREASURE HUNT

FRIDAY 4TH JULY 2014

An early arrival at St Peter's Church hall in Balsall Common seemed to offer an alternative activity to keep Rotary participants dry in the form of a two hour session of martial arts!! However, our 15 supporters were determined, with waterproof clothing and a variety of umbrellas, to venture out into the streets of Balsall Common and follow directions and dubious clues to become familiar with this rural Warwickshire village.

Notable around the Treasure Trail were many houses up for sale. Why do people want to leave this pleasant place to live elsewhere? However an interesting set of house names were brought to the attention of Quizmaster Rotarian PP Ray Thompson who absorbed these into cryptic questions. We thought his observation "where call girls made a connection" in this respectable neighbourhood somewhat lowered the good impressions we all shared about Balsall Common. Definitely no physical evidence however on a rain soaked evening.

On completing the course with all 30 questions answered or at least attempted we returned to base at 8.30 pm to enjoy a fish and chips supper and to listen to the results. With 87 per cent of questions answered correctly the result was a draw between the Kembles with grandchildren Oscar and Kitty and the trio of IPP Philip, PP John and Margaret.

Bobby Harris was present to handover the Peter Harris memorial silver plate which Oscar was proud to receive, while Kitty was surely reflecting on the snail she lost at the "Never on Sunday" bus stop in the village centre.

A modest £70 was added to the charity funds when all expenses were taken into account. So much from so few!



*Somalia boy receiving polio vaccination.*

## POLIO ERADICATION - UPDATE

Yet another target has been set covering 2013 – 2018.

Pakistan is the most troublesome nation and could do more. Last year its cases increased by 59% over earlier years. This year so far: in one month there were five cases reported.

Sadly three polio vaccination volunteers were shot and killed by Taleban terrorists in January.

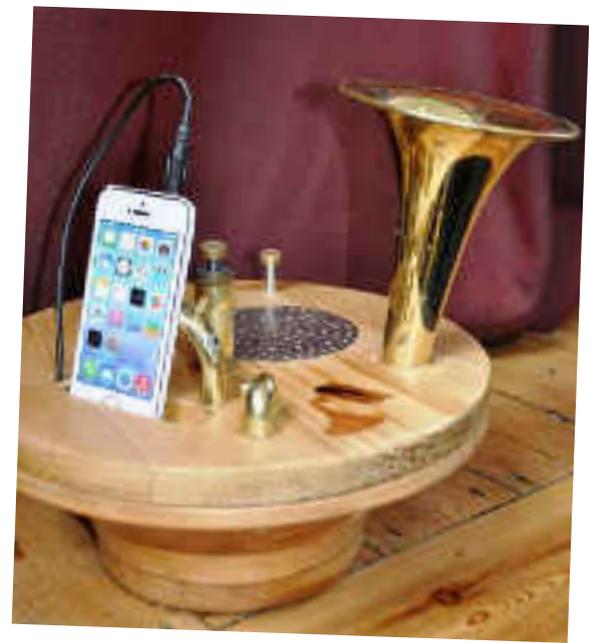
Nigeria. 53 cases reported in 2013 which has a reduction of 57%.

Afghanistan reported 14 cases giving a 62% reduction.

Still problems in Somalia with 190 cases reported and Kenya with 9 cases.

Most disappointingly after 14 years free of polio Syria has an outbreak of 23 cases.

Over 20 years the cost of eradication has reached 50 billion dollars. Fundraising inspired by "Wrigley the Bear" will continue also a 2 for 1 grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.



# DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS FROM COVENTRY SECONDARY SCHOOLS

This annual event revealed 166 projects from 19 Coventry schools and academies, one special school and Bablake and King Henry VIII schools. With such support the exhibition and prize giving events all round success has been reported.

The event this year proceeded without the support of Sue Wheeler's organisational skills and indeed in the new venue of Queen's Road Baptist Church. Financial sponsorship was provided by the five Coventry Rotary Clubs, Coventry Church Charities and Queen's Road Baptist Church. There were additional contributions from the Broadweavers and Clothiers Company, the Institute of Engineering and Technology, Denso Sales (UK) Ltd, Sandvik Hard Materials and Jaguar Land Rover. The lead club this year was the Jubilee Club of Coventry under the control of Past President David Owen.

The purpose of the exhibition is to celebrate and display the achievements of the students and the support given by their teachers. The content of the exhibits have to meet the requirements of their examination courses.

Each Rotary Club provides judges who examined the proposed exhibits from their nominated schools. This club was allocated to Cardinal Newman, Foxford, Lyng Hall, Woodfield Special School and shared the judging with the four other Rotary Clubs to view the work presented by King Henry VIII and Bablake Schools. Our club members appointed as judges were Past Presidents Bob Hall MBE, Keith Chapman and Jeff Rowe.

The exhibition revealed everything from food to

tables, lighting to designer wear but technology was the key. The standard of work was very high and full credit is due to the students and the encouragement of their teachers. Each contributing student received a certificate. For the first time this year King Henry VIII and Bablake were competing. Stefan Hill from King Henry VIII was recognised as the overall winner receiving a cheque for £200 for his musical MP3 amplifier. Other winners on the day included students from Blue Coat C of E, Woodlands, two from Finham Park, Cardinal Newman and Coundon Court. Six of the winners progressed to the Area Finals held at Bromsgrove on 6th July.

The presentation evening in the Baptist Church was well attended by parents, Rotarians, VIPs and indeed students from all participating schools. Prizes were presented by the Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor and Rotarian Michael Hammon with special awards presented by Councillor and Rotarian David Kershaw (Cabinet member for Education), David Haley (Head of Children's Services and Inclusion). Special guest David Thomas (Lecturer in Enterprise & Entrepreneurship at Coventry University) gave a speech to the assembly.

## ***The award categories were:***

GCSE Food Technology; GCSE Catering, GCSE Textile Technology (X2), GCSE Graphic Products (X3), GCSE Product Design and Electronics (X2) and GCSE Construction. Seven of the projects were chosen that demonstrated exceptional innovation and design which had the potential for commercial production

# OUTWARD BOUND (NO 36) 5<sup>TH</sup> – 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2014



Assembling our group of 12 young people of which 10 have various forms of impairments is a task spread over 12 months. Firstly is the commitment needed to raise funds to make the course possible. This club needs £5500 per annum, including transport. Letters are sent to local charitable trusts that are likely to be sympathetic to our objectives. Our own club fundraising can raise £1200 as an optimistic target through sponsored swims at Bablake and King Henry VIII pools. Clearly the club has a daunting target to find £4300 from external sources. In January invitations are sent out to Hereward and Exhall Grange colleges to identify students who would benefit from such a course which is intended to be free to all who take part. In addition to the 10 impaired students we also send two able bodied students 17 years of age who by participating in this course and helping would qualify for a Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award. We have been fortunate to be able to have the services of Adrian Lamb and Kate Ockenden who are concerned with the welfare needs of the group and are residents within the OB centre.

Following the invitation procedure we have group interviews at the colleges with a view to selecting the final 10 students. Usually we have a panel of three Rotarians, one of whom is a doctor who will relate to the medical needs of the applicants. We cannot select those who may be non-ambulant. Usually the college interviews are over by the end of February followed in March and April by home interviews to fully inform parents/guardians about the course and to secure an approving signature on the formal Outward Bound application forms and medical statements. The completed documentation must be sent to Outward Bound Ullswater before the end of April. A deposit for the course will have been paid in the prior October and completion of the invoice is paid in May. During the period from interview stage to departure in first week of July we are always on guard for applicants dropping out and a replacement will be needed.

Provisional booking of a bus with A-Line Coaches will be made in January and full payment is made one week before the group departs. A follow up reminder is advisable. One week before departure all parents are telephoned to ensure readiness for departure.

Following the home interview procedure a full confirming statement (two A4 pages) is sent to each participant at their college which repeats all advice and instructions given. It must not be assumed that all applicants are suitable to participate in this type of course.

The purpose of this course is to unlock the potential in young people through discovery and adventure in the wild. It means to develop opportunities for the participants providing a spirit of respect and compassion achieving a better result through teamwork. It is not a holiday! At best it is an education.

Now we talk about the centre at Ullswater positioned on the A592 off the A66 west of Penrith, Cumbria at a place called Watermillock. The centre was a large house known as Halsteads built in 1813 by John Marshall, a flax baron from

Leeds, for his son Arthur. Outward Bound purchased it in 1955 which for the prior ten years had been a hotel and before, that during the Second World War, it was used as a school for French students who had been evacuated from Paris.

Moving on to 2014. Margaret and John Hartley arrived at the centre on 9th July to share a "culture" day with our group under the leadership of Director Steve Pittock and instructor Rosie. We discovered our group had been bussed to Pooley Bridge at the head of Ullswater to take a steamer trip to the landing stage at Howtown on the opposite side of the water. In order to meet up with them (complete with packed lunch) we were ferried across the water from the centre to the Outward Bound landing stage opposite and at Howtown. Now linked up we proceeded to climb Hallin Fell some 1300 ft high and stopped not only to take in the view but to consume packed lunches. This proved to be an exhausting walk and the party proceeded upwards while Margaret and John retraced our steps to the Outward Bound Centre at Howtown to enjoy cups of tea and to watch a variety of birds attracted into its grounds (including a lesser spotted woodpecker!). This was a hot day and we met up later in the afternoon with our group who had successfully reached the summit and had returned to the water side and quite ready to return over to Halstead House to enjoy a cool shower. Following dinner that day the group reassembled in the lecture room where they prepared for a presentation to all the centre residents to take place at assembly next morning. They each had a short script to follow and apparently they performed very well before an audience. Later on Thursday morning they were to prepare Canadian aluminium canoes for an Ullswater safari. Our group were taught (in silence) by Rosie to make close band lashings to each pair of canoes to secure them together and in which four students were to learn how to paddle in unison. Following a 30 minute trial in shallow water the group set off and Margaret and I were left on the landing stage seeing them paddling purposely along the shoreline of Ullswater.

The return journey to Coventry was completed without problems and they arrived on time at Hereward College to waiting parents.

In conclusion it has to be said that success of this and previous courses has to be down to the participation of Adrian Lamb and Kate Ockenden both of whom have been recognised by our club as Paul Harris Fellows.





# PRESIDENTIAL HANDOVER



This special occasion in the club calendar brought club members, our ladies and representatives from our sister clubs in Coventry and District Governor Elect Paul Jaspal together to witness the exchange of our restored Presidential chain of office from Philip Hodgson to Alderman Trevor Webb OBE. Congratulations were received

by President Trevor from many guests and flowers were presented to his consort Anne Hall MBE.

The President confirmed the appointment of his Vice President Ken Holmes and his wife Jenny.

President Trevor encouraged his members to believe in his conviction that he was leading a club which was the best in District 1060.

During the proceedings four Paul Harris Fellowships were awarded to PP Jeffrey Rowe, PP Keith Chapman and PP Bob Hall MBE.

The fourth award was made to Namvir Kaila who notably as a non-rotarian had contributed much to the charitable work of the club particularly through her connection with Barclays Bank.

Entertainment was provided by Rosa Hartley aged 19 a solo violinist from the Royal College of Music.





# ROTARY CLUB OF VOLGOGRAD

During a seven day visit commencing on Thursday, 1st April our twin Rotary Club from Russia was variously hosted by club members. The delegates were led by Club President Egor Kogan, together with Dr Firudin, Assistant District Governor D Abdullaer, Mrs Svetlana Kazachenok and her friend Tatiana Goronkina.

Realising that there was only one English speaking member of the group we were able to call upon Natalia Atkins (widow of Mike Atkins) who being Russian gave great assistance during the planned visit to Warwick Castle on Wednesday, 3rd April. This was the opening of the "cultural" element of their visit.

Later in this day from their hotel they were given a history tour of our city ending at the Canal Basin to enjoy a social evening with the Volgograd Children's Symphony Orchestra in the cave like "Tin Music and Arts Centre". Members of the orchestra were in a party mood giving various impromptu solos and enjoying themselves and in the process met our Lord Mayor Councillor Gary Crookes, Lady Mayoress Mrs Shirley Crookes, Lady Godiva Rotarian Pru Porretta and Peeping Tom John Brassington. All this and a buffet too!

Thanks have to be extended to Carol Brown (a freelance cultural planner) who tirelessly has put together the visit and programme of the orchestral concerts, meeting in the Lord Mayor's Parlour,

visits to schools, and visits to both The Herbert Art Gallery and Transport Museum kept the members of the orchestra busy.

Meanwhile continuing on our cultural theme Past President Terry Bond conducted a tour around Stratford upon Avon soaking up William Shakespeare et al.

The highlight of the week without a doubt was on Friday, 4th April in the Coventry Cathedral when the children's orchestra revealed how rich their talent was. In a varied programme they were joined by The Blue Coat School choir and the Coventry Youth Wind Orchestra. An evening bursting with talent was attended by 15 members of the club accompanied by their partners.

Rotarian Olga Lawson (who was the prime mover in our twinning with the Rotary Club of Volgograd) was noticeably present

Four club members were on duty to take a retiring collection from the audience who had enjoyed such performances by the youth of both cities. The collection raised £1100 in support of the costs of the orchestra and the attendant expenses.

The orchestra moved on to Birmingham where they were being hosted by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra; they would perform a concert in the CBSO centre on Saturday, 5th April.



## CHARITY GARDEN PARTY

The 2014 summer has been a success for BBQs and garden parties. None was more notable for the party held at the home of Ken and Heather Pearson at Merton House, Cryfield Grange Road. This home developed around an old quarry – known as “The Dell” - in 1939 is the epitome of a labour of love to develop an outstanding landscaped garden. Our invitation from Ken and Heather was to provide what proved to be a substantial buffet lunch and a generous supply of wine, beer and soft drinks. Much to the fore was Rotarian Kevin Vaughan and his wife, Janet where they mixed photographic skills with organising a five star raffle. The proceeds from this charity luncheon were in support of the Children of South Sudan. The full amount raised from the ticket sales and raffle was approximately £1100.

The event was supported by 28 Rotarians and their wives and friends which inevitably led to various conversations over a wide area of topics. These ranged from unsolicited phone calls, hairdressing in the Lower Precinct, the Coventry ring road, Friargate, Park & Ride bus service which now can give bus pass holders a panoramic trip not only to the city centre but more widely around the city. There is no doubt that our new but experienced Rotarian Councillor Michael Hammon will not be short of bullets to fire at his City Council meetings.

Following our lunch a number of guests undertook to take a tour of the extensive garden and were in awe of the work needed to keep it in good order.

A most enjoyable event and we learned that Ken and Heather were in the process of moving to a smaller property – downsizing as we know it. May they be both pleased and happy with the decision after so many years in Merton House.

## OSCAR GRUNAU BOWLS CHALLENGE TROPHY 2014

The annual match against the Rotary Club of Nuneaton was an unbelievable and therefore a memorable evening at the Ambleside Sports Club, Nuneaton. **WE WON!**

A rare achievement for our team led by President Trevor and assembled by Past President Philip. The score 32-28 while not an overwhelming victory was enough for us to carry the trophy back to Coventry.

The significance of the two dates on the trophy is explained by:

“1925” – the date of the Nuneaton Club’s Charter.

“1965” - is the date of the presentation of the trophy to the two clubs by Oscar Grunau.

The first date of the competition was 1966, incidentally Coventry took the honours. The match is therefore in its 48th year except that due to oversight and the mislaying of the trophy there was a lapse of 19 years! So this year’s match was actually the 28th occasion we came together. We thank Nuneaton for providing memento shields to this year’s teams albeit they thought this was the 60th anniversary of the event.

# 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.***

***PP Harold Smart  
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!!

# 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.

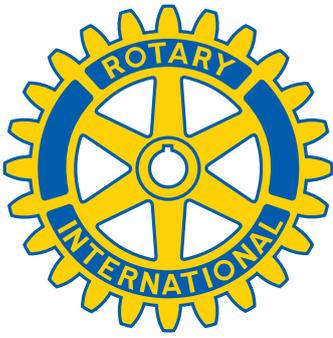
1. **Coventry North**  
Tuesday 12.45 pm  
Coventry North Warwicks Cricket Club  
Tel: 024 7631 8945
2. **Coventry Jubilee**  
Tuesday 7.30 pm  
Coventry North Warwicks Cricket Club  
Tel: 01676 542255
3. **Coventry Phoenix**  
Wednesday 7.30 pm  
Hearsall Golf Club Ltd  
33 Beechwood Avenue  
Tel: 024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



## DOOR DUTIES 22<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER - 29<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2014

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.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Door Steward</b>	<b>Speaker's Host</b>	<b>Visitors' Book</b>
Sept 22	Dhiran Vagdia	Kevin Vaughan	Ray Thompson
Sept 29	Jon Wilby	Amrik Bhabra	Senarath Bogahalanda
Oct 6	Bob Hall	Terry Bond	Dennis Coombe
Oct 13	Keith Chapman	Trevor Sharman	Roma Hawthorne
Oct 20	Martin Cooper	David Cule	David Davies
Oct 27	Ken Holmes	Rod Drew	John Hartley
Nov 3	Sid Creed	Brian Hammond	Victor Keene
Nov 10	David Joyce	Brian Kelsey	David Davies
Nov 17	Bob Kimber	Nigel Lee	John Hartley
Nov 24	Robert Pargetter	Michael Pittaway	Dennis Coombe
Dec 1	David Rees	Jeffrey Rowe	Geoffrey Jackson
Dec 8	Ray Thompson	Dhiran Vagdia	Bob Osborn
Dec 15	Philip Hodgson	Jon Wilby	Pru Porretta
Dec 22	Senarath Bogahalanda	Bob Hall	Ian Talbot
Dec 29		<b>NO MEETING</b>	



# 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.

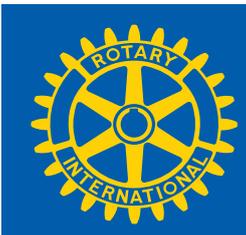
It meets for lunch every Monday (except bank holidays) at 12.45pm at Coventry & North Warwickshire Cricket Club, Binley Road, Coventry CV3 1HB. Rotarians and other business and professional men and women are very welcome to come along to one of our meetings.

**Please contact the Secretary, Brian Winstanley via email: [secretary@coventryrotary.org](mailto:secretary@coventryrotary.org)**

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

## CLUB PROGRAMME

- 12 SEPT GODIVA DAY
- 15 SEPT PHILIP BRADBOURNE MEP
- 17 SEPT DISTRICT COUNCIL AT KNOWLE 18.30 FOR 19.00 HOURS
- 22 SEPT MR HUNT, DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE, WCC – CITY DEAL
- 29 SEPT A PRESENTATION BY MANDY SPRAGGET – MCMILLAN
- .....
- 6 OCT JOHN HOWARD, LOWLAND SEARCH AND RESCUE IN COVENTRY & WARWICKSHIRE
- 10 OCT SKITTLES AT BULKINGTON (FRIDAY)
- 13 OCT THE LAURA CENTRE, COVENTRY AND WARWICKSHIRE APPEAL
- 20 OCT CORINNE SPENCER, GOSFORD PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
- 27 OCT COUNCILLOR ANN LUCAS
- .....
- 3 NOV GARY BYE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND STEVE MORRIS, WORK PLACEMENT OFFICE, LIFE PATH TRUST
- 8-9 NOV DISTRICT CONFERENCE AT BRISTOL
- 10 NOV LAUREN MCGRATH – VOLUNTEER GIRL GUIDE IN SOUTH AFRICA
- 13 NOV DISTRICT QUIZ
- 17 NOV SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING. NO SPEAKER
- 24 NOV ANDY RANSBERRY, LACES, LIFE AND CHANGE EXPERIENCE THROUGH SPORT
- .....
- 1 DEC DARREN JONES – CLINICAL COMMISSIONING SERVICE (TBC)
- 8 DEC SARAH HINDLEY – MYASTHENIA GRAVIS ASSOCIATION
- 15 DEC TIM COLEMAN – COVENTRY SPIRIT RADIO
- 22 DEC CHRISTMAS LUNCH – PRESIDENT'S SPEAKER



## 2014-15 MEMBERSHIP BOOK

Will members please note the amended email address for our President:- [trevorwebb254@gmail.com](mailto:trevorwebb254@gmail.com)