Dear Fellow Rotarians

A lot has happened since our last newsletter in early March! First of all, John Hartley and I attended the Peace and Reconciliation Prize Dinner in St. Mary’s Hall, also attended by the Lord Mayor Councillor Gary Crookes and The Dean of Coventry Cathedral Reverend John Witcombe. The Prize is being re-launched this year, being the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War One, and will be awarded on November 14th in the Cathedral. Your President made a small financial pledge towards this. See http://coventrypeaceprize.org.uk

On March 15th & 16th, we hosted a team of Norwegian cyclists, who were on a world tour for Peace and Reconciliation, surely a unique event known as “Bikes for Peace”. They were accompanied by the mayors of some Norwegian towns and also by a recent Premier of Norway, Kjell Magne Bondevik, all of whom we were privileged to meet. Firstly, we took them to the Coventry Peace House, which houses overseas people with genuine difficulties - one of whom described to me how his life was in danger in his home country, and the great difficulty he was having gaining asylum here; I confess that I could think of no simple way to help him.

Next day, we all attended a special service in Holy Trinity church conducted by the Rev David Mayhew. This was followed by a splendid lunch, given by the Lord Mayor of Coventry in St. Mary's Hall, at which speeches were made by and gifts exchanged between various members of the City, Rotary and our new Norwegian friends. Finally, we gave them a rousing send-off on their journey to London. As I described in March’s newsletter, during the first week in April, the first major event took place involving our new twinned club from Volgograd when we took the Volgograd Rotarians to Stratford, Warwick Castle and Lord Leycester’s Hospital, all of which were greatly enjoyed despite the fact that, at the castle, the famous trebuchet was out of action and Henry VIII and his six wives were away for refurbishment!

The Blue Coat School Choir and its whole music department under the leadership of Norman Owen gave an excellent concert in aid of polio eradication (this was very well received despite your President’s uncomplimentary story about viola players). The retiring collection was generously supported by parents and families.

The following evening (April 19th) I was accompanied by PP Jeff and June Rowe to Birmingham Rotary Club’s grand Centenary Gala, which was a magnificent affair, with a splendid meal, cabaret and a top show band. If we are to match this in eight years’ time, we’d better start organizing and saving soon!

The second major event involving Volgograd was the visit to this city by myself, accompanied by PPs Terry Bond and Brian Winstanley and their wives Carole and Patricia. This was in return for Volgograd Rotarians’ visit last year for the twinning ceremony and for their later visit with the Volgograd Children’s Symphony Orchestra. A full report written by Terry Bond, that I could not possibly improve, can be seen later in this newsletter. Suffice it to say, our visit was a complete success, given how well we were looked after, the friendliness of our hosts and the quality of the features we saw. The only downside was having to pay £7 for a half litre of beer in our Moscow hotel! I’d also like to thank Patricia for making the arrangements so ably, and to Carole for taking us to the Bolshoi in Moscow.

We have had the chain of office upgraded, with new bars for recent presidents, a new ribbon, and much tidier appearance! Please observe it’s worth a look!

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As this will be my last report, may I say how much I’ve enjoyed the exalted position of your President the more time has passed, so that I shall miss it very much? If only one were allowed to do another year!? I must thank Brian Winstanley and, to a lesser extent John Hartley, wholeheartedly for looking after me so well. I commend my successor Trevor Webb to you, who, though some 20 years older than me, is, I believe, much more highly qualified. I look forward to my Past President’s status

President Phil
Blue Coat School - Wednesday, 9th April 2014

Once again the Blue Coat of E School and Music College promoted a charity concert for this club to support the fund raising to Eradicate Polio Worldwide.

In a varied programme put together by Norman Owen, Director of Music, the audience of supportive parents were treated to the music skills of the scholars. In a dramatic entrance the Blue Coat School Choir sang what is surely their signature piece of “Si Ajay Njay Njay” which is a South African traditional song and is a powerful piece of music needing no accompaniment.

In a well controlled evening of entertainment it was noticeable to see how the musicians enjoyed both the jazz session and the concert band which concluded the evening.

Rotarian Martin Cooper opened the evening with a short address to explain the Polio Eradication campaign to date and President Philip expressed our thanks to the school, its musicians, choir and to the supportive parents.

The retiring collection raised £266.36 to which is added a share of the ticket sales in the sum of £174.00 making a total of £430.36. This represents the value of over 1400 vaccinations.

International Activity in our daughter Club Nuneaton

The lives of expectant mothers have been transformed in a remote village in Nepal. They can now give birth in the comfort of a maternity unit on the roof of the world in a village known as Lama Guan. President Gary Dancer with Rotarians Om Gurung and Ernie Smedley made the 4500 mile journey to formally open the unit which was already in operation by delivering four births.

The village is the home of Om Gurung who had an illustrious career in the Gurkha Regiment and is the owner of the restaurant in Nuneaton known as the “Crossed Khurkris”.

Before the unit opened pregnant women had to travel many miles on foot to the nearest town to give birth.

President Gary and Ernie Smedley have visited this village four times situated in the foothills of the rugged mountains of the Himalayas. The club adopted this village some twelve years ago and donations from individual Rotarians providing easy access for young children going to their school. Other donations helped to provide equipment for a medical laboratory and school furniture. There has been a most friendly relationship with the villagers who live in one of the poorest places on earth. Before the maternity clinic the Nuneaton club helped to fund a medical centre and provided furniture and books for schoolchildren.

The club is investigating the cost and prospect of installing a solar powered water pump to carry fresh water up the mountain to the village school and medical centre in particular but also for the village people and possibly to two neighbouring villages. This project in consort with the Rotary Club of Handsworth has already raised £13,000. This will be the subject of a matching grant application to the Rotary Foundation.

Rotarian Om Gurung has been awarded an MBE for services to charity and from personal experience I can recommend the food he serves in his restaurant in 115 Abbey Street, Nuneaton.
The Godiva Trust

Although set up in 2001 the Trust did not achieve charitable status until 2013. This will support Pru Porretta in her work with schools and community groups bringing the story of Lady Godiva to life for the people of Coventry and visitors to our city but particularly for our children – the following generation.

**Aims and objectives for the Trust have been established as follows:**

- Work with schools and community groups, providing an experience of heritage and culture for all ages, social levels and ethnic groups within Coventry
- Work with women’s groups, exploring and celebrating the heritage of Coventry in imaginative and creative ways and affirming the role of women in making a difference
- Promote the city of Coventry nationally and internationally through the character of the present-day Lady Godiva
- Liaise with civic statutory bodies and voluntary agencies to build awareness and provide experience of culture and heritage in Coventry today.

The Godiva Trust uses the talents, learning and experience of anyone ready to be associated with its aims. It works to support teachers, writers, artists, musicians, dance choreographers and technicians in bringing imagination, reflection and challenge to all participating groups and individuals. Through workshops and extended projects the Godiva Trust mounts public events and performances to raise awareness of heritage and of diverse cultures within Coventry.

A DVD of the Godiva Experience shows the variety of activities of both Pru and her associate John Brassington, who often represents “Peeping Tom”, has been produced and is available to anyone wishing to purchase. Contact Pru who will advise details.

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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
Young Drivers’ Day

Visiting an annual event in the calendar of the Rotary Club of Coventry Breakfast took me to Cardinal Wiseman School in Potters Green, Coventry to observe 18 students of both genders who were 17 years old receiving instruction and sound advice as they consider their future as drivers.

Dividing the students into groups of three and rotating them through a programme commenced at 9.30 am and concluded at 3 pm on Saturday, 29th March.

Each group was given direct advice and discussion opportunities with the following instruction areas:

1. The perception of driving.
2. The law and offenders given by two city magistrates.
3. First Aid. Promoted by St John’s Ambulance Service.
4. Basic driving maintenance.
5. Short experience of driving in the school grounds by a driving school instructor.
6. The use of speed cameras using a fully equipped police speed control vehicle and the use of hand held speed cameras.

Each session lasted 45 minutes and a buffet lunch was served at 1.00 pm.

The reaction of all students was positive and much was learned about the costs of motoring, the implications of distraction, the “joy” of being behind a wheel and the process of changing a wheel.

This event may well be unique and was well attended by club members providing an exceptional insight into the art of driving.
Poliomyelitis

This medical condition largely confined to children and also known as infantile paralysis was first recognised by Jakeb Heine in 1840. The polio virus was identified in 1908 by Karl Landstein. Of course the illness had existed for thousands of years in certain areas of the world; however it appeared in Europe during the 19th century and soon after in the USA. It is likely that mass migration was a factor that caused the illness to become pandemic as well as poor sanitation.

By 1910 the growth of this disease was dramatic and did affect adults to a lesser degree. There was a great race by scientists to develop a vaccine. In New York 1916 the epidemic was blamed on to Italian immigrants who were living in poor conditions. There was no certainty that the disease was imported and in the panic there was a mass slaughter of cats and dogs. Franklin D Roosevelt contracted polio in August 1921 and was permanently paralyzed from the waist downwards. He fought the illness with great willpower and, following a full political career, finally died aged 63 in April 1945.

In the 1930’s Dr John Kolmer decided to immunise a virtually untested vaccine into schoolchildren with what was a live virus.

In the UK in 1938 Lord Nuffield made huge donations toward research and converted one of his factories to the production of iron lungs which did much to sustain the breathing problems of those that suffered.

In 1948 Hilary Koprowski tested his vaccine on feeble minded children in a residential home in upstate New York. This proved to be reckless competition compared to other scientific work. Later in the research programme rival scientists Jonas Salk and Albert Sabin seemed to succeed by using both their vaccines in concert which proved to be a major step towards a solution. So enthusiastic was Jonas Salk that he injected himself and all his family with his vaccine.

From 1950 polio vaccines were beginning to reduce the number of cases.

In 1952 some 58,000 cases were diagnosed with half either losing their lives or permanently maimed.

An oral vaccine went into production on 12th August 1955 and, subject to one laboratory that caused a temporary problem, has continued ever since in tandem with the immunisation by injection.

Much caution was displayed in the UK until a well known footballer, Jeff Hall of Birmingham Football Club, died from polio only 12 days from being diagnosed in April 1959. He inspired mass immunisation in this country. People recognised that Jeff was super fit and in short time became bedridden and unable to speak.

The Rotary involvement in the eradication campaign began in 1988 when it partnered the World Health Organisation following pressure from two Rotarian Doctors from Tokyo, Japan who had visited India and witnessed the ravages of the disease.

A polio update appears elsewhere in this newsletter.
Coventry to Volgograd: A Tale of Two Cities

Twins have similarities, but unless they are identical, the differences are often more interesting than the similarities. This was definitely the case when President Phil, two other members of the RC of Coventry and their wives visited and met with Rotarians and partners of the RC of Volgograd.

The twinning of the two Rotary Clubs has been successfully sealed by the visit. There are many similarities in fellowship, generosity and the wish for peace and greater international understanding. But the differences, occasioned by distance, history and culture make our links particularly interesting and potentially valuable to both clubs and communities.

Following the recent and very successful visit to Coventry by members of the RC of Volgograd, and the Youth Orchestra of Volgograd, the Coventry visitors had an enjoyable and very full return visit.

The generosity of President Egor and his fellow Rotarians was beyond reasonable expectations! Our first day was planned in detail. A morning’s walk in the city first, with a leading expert on the Battle of Stalingrad, and three excellent interpreters, was followed by lunch at the Bamberg Pub – a German infiltration into the city but one which the RC of Volgograd is happy to have as their regular meeting place.

We were then taken, still with our three excellent interpreters, to the memorial to the fallen at the Battle of Stalingrad. This magnificent edifice stands on a mass cemetery for the fallen, reached by 200 steps to mark the 200 days of the battle. They bring you into a memorial hall with the names of thousands of dead, to which names continue to be added, and proceeding upwards through this hall visitors emerge to find the statue of Mother Russia urging all Russians to come forward to meet and defeat the enemy. The statue is 85 metres high: a worthy tribute to those
who ensured that the Battle of Stalingrad “was the turning point of the Great Patriotic War”.

A Rotary evening was spent with the Lord Mayor of Coventry Councillor Gary Crookes and his wife Lady Mayoress Shirley Crookes who were visiting to mark the 70th anniversary of the twinning of the two cities. President Egor and Rotarians provided an excellent buffet and bar before Rotary business, which included the induction into the Club of Yuri, the conductor of the Volgograd Youth Orchestra. President Phil then gave a well crafted speech delivered at a pace suitable for the interpreter.

Throughout our stay it was clear that the link with Coventry is valued in the city. A number of people with as little English as we had Russian, responded warmly on hearing “Coventry”. The links between the two cities is permanently recorded on a hoarding erected and paid for by the members of the RC of Volgograd.

There was just time to squeeze in the Victory Day concert. The “1812” played to a backdrop of Russian military victories from Borodino to Moscow to Stalingrad to Berlin. And then a treat: Russian patriotic songs accompanied by a balalaika orchestra.

Our day had been full, but not sufficiently for President Egor and a few Rotarians who hosted an exceptional dinner, prior to Victory Day fireworks by the river.

For some of our party the philosophical highlight was an on-going discussion on nationalism and patriotism; for others it was trying to explain that the UK did not have a Victory Day, but did have a Remembrance Day for all who had fallen in the two wars of the 20th century and other conflicts. A different concept altogether!

And so to bed and Moscow! The pace barely slackened with “The Golden Cockerel” at the New Bolshoi Theatre, the Kremlin and Red Square, a city tour on an open top red bus, plus an exploration of the price of beer in Moscow.

The link between the two Rotary Clubs is strong. Our Club should certainly seek to maintain and develop them.

Finally Rotary thanks must go the Patricia Winstanley for making the smoothest of travel arrangements, and Carole Bond for ensuring we had a cultural experience at the Bolshoi.
Once again our team of homemade cake makers rose to the occasion to support a deserving local charity. At short notice, our good friend Namvir Kaila of Barclays, Westwood Heath asked if we could help in a site wide appeal which was in support of Zoé’s Place in Exhall, Coventry.

Twenty two cakes were delivered to our club meeting on Monday, 19th May and in turn these were delivered to Barclays at 08.30 am on Tuesday morning. Our cakes were a core part of the products available for sale; I understand samosas were another food item. Everything was consumed and the resulting donation to Zoé’s Place will be £1100.00.

The charitable aims of Barclays are largely promoted by their employees and our link through Namvir has always supported charities suggested by this club. Namvir does not seek attention and always remains focused on needy situations. We tried to include a photograph but this was denied. The nearest we could achieve was a photograph of her back!

We look forward to a future connection to support Rotary charities

Polio Eradication UPDATE

The number of worldwide polio cases has fallen from approximately 350,000 in 1988 to only 407 in 2013. This is a decline of more than 99 per cent in reported cases. However the campaign is far from over. Four major regions in the world are certified polio free by the World Health organisation – The Americas, Europe, South East Asia and the Western Pacific. Only three polio endemic countries, ie countries that have never interrupted the transmission of wild polio virus, remain – Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan. India was declared polio free on 27 March 2014 and this confirms that 80% of the world’s people now live in polio free areas.

Of the 62 polio cases reported in Pakistan 48 were found in North West Pakistan. Much effort is being put in to this hot spot and aggressive campaigns are trying to surmount the population movement in these tribal areas. So with only three endemic countries left it is well to report that to date 2.5 billion children have been immunised against polio.

Progress is being made to deal with outbreaks in The Horn of Africa (Ethiopia/Somalia, Syria and Cameroon. There is no doubt that most of these countries suffer from conflict which deter the programme of elimination.

So far over 20 years the eradication programme has cost 50 billion dollars. Fund raising continues with much support from the Bill and Melinda Foundation matching a 2 for 1 grant of money raised by Rotary International.
Coventry Primary Schools Debating Competition 2014
Final – Thursday 3rd April
Council Chamber, Coventry Council House

Organisers Sandi McKinnon (Head of Speech & Language Support Service) and Trudi Harries (a colleague from the Support Service) must be commended for being the good shepherds to oversee 40 school entries to a final competition of 10 teams to meet in the Council Chamber and be judged by a panel of three judges who were Rotarian Tony Pedley, Jane Killingbeck and Trudi Harries (both of the Local Authority).

Schools:
- Stoke vs John Gulson
- Pearl Hyde vs Allesley Hall
- Stanton Bridge vs Little Heath
- Manor Park vs Hollyfast
- Ernesford Grange vs Walsgrave

The choice of subjects by these finalists was as follows:
- “The House believes every child should have a laptop”
- “This House regrets the rise of the internet”
- “This House believes playing video games is good for you”
- “This House believes television is better than books”
- “This House believes technology is doing more harm than good”

The subjects were all well researched by the teams to develop the pros and cons. There is a disciplined procedure to follow which is firmly based on historic values. Clearly tribute must be paid to the staff at each school that have carefully coached and prepared the teams of three pupils.

The session of debates was opened by Lord Mayor Councillor Gary Crookes and following a traditional warm up session the debates got under way at 9.30 am. By 11.30 am the competition was over and the judges retired to consider the winner to receive the Rotary cup. All contestants received a medallion and a certificate.

Also present was John Dalziel from Mercia Radio who held a question and answer session for the team members.

Significantly the winners were Little Heath Primary School which I attended from 1937/1944. It was a good school then and, despite last year’s upset, it would seem to be giving the young scholars a belief that video games are not good for your education.
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!

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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!!

We cannot let this issue go by without mention to the special fund raising to support a long established charity known as Combat Stress. Once again Kim Rees inspired an event on Thursday, 27th March at her home when a full house of guests were treated to a fine "brunch" and supported a raffle and sales table. On this day a total of £600.00 was raised. The cheque sent by this club was well received and resulted in a special thank you to Kim. Indeed the President and members of this club are indebted to Kim for arranging this event.
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

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Door Duties 30th June - 13th October 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.

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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

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.

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

Club Programme

28th Apr  Jason Slack. Headmaster King Henry VIII School.
5th May  Bank Holiday. No meeting. Earlsdon Festival
6th May  Trip to Volgograd.
12th May  Dr Alex Kazamias, Senior Lecturer in Politics, Coventry University
19th May  Roseann Boyce, Children’s Society, Finance Meeting after the Club meeting.
23rd May  Foundation Dinner
26th May  Bank Holiday. No meeting.
2nd June  Councillor Alison Gingell, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Services. (TBC)
9th June  Sue Ogle, Voluntary Action Coventry. (TBC)
16th June  Sarah Perry, The Coventry & Warwickshire Story.
19th June  Collection – Morrisons, Holyhead Road
23rd June  Antony Collins, International Service in Nicaragua.
30th June  Hand-over meeting.
4th July  Treasure Hunt
5th July  Outward Bound Departure for Ullswater

2014 MEMBERSHIP BOOK
Will members please note the amended email address for our President:-
Phil.hodgson@coventrysavoy.org.uk