



Coventry Rotary Club

www.coventryrotary.org

newsletter

MARCH 2014



a word from our president

Dear Fellow Rotarians

As before, much has happened since the last newsletter!

First up, I and our team attended a quiz between all five Coventry clubs plus Nuneaton, in which, despite performing well, we could only manage a good sixth! At least your captain was the only one in the room who knew that it was John Le Mesurier who announced, via his will, that he had 'conked out'!

Recently, we did much better in the Rotary Skittles Championship, ably assisted by some of our members' wives!

Inner Wheel kindly invited me to their excellent Christmas Dinner at the Clarendon, Kenilworth – many thanks to them!

Myself and others attended Jubilee's and Breakfast's splendid Christmas Dinners.

The Rev. David Mayhew of Holy Trinity spoke most movingly at our own Christmas Dinner.



Meanwhile, the 'Santa's Sleigh' event was in full swing, ably and principally organised by Warren Offer of Jubilee. The grand total raised was over £14,000! I was honoured to be Santa a couple of times, though not 'on the road'. Putting broad smiles on the faces of little children simply by waving to them is something I shall never tire of!

The Lord Mayor of Coventry, Councillor Gary Crooks, accompanied by his wife Shirley, spoke at our meeting on January 6th. Clearly they are both enjoying their term of office.

Lord Battacharaya spoke to the club on April 7th. As always he is an inspiring orator.

'Youth Speaks' has again been a very successful enterprise, organised by both ourselves and Coventry Jubilee. The winners of the intermediate final on March 8th were 1) Woodrush High School from Wythall, 2) King Edward 6th Boys' School, Stratford upon Avon and 3) President Kennedy School & Community College, Coventry.

The Sponsored Swim at the Bablake pool successfully raised over £1,500 when all is gathered in.

Regarding our twin City and club Volgograd, the Volgograd Youth Orchestra visited Coventry during the first week in April, giving concerts in the city, including the Cathedral, and in Birmingham.



This tour was organised by Carol Brown. In May, five of us (the Winstanleys, the Bonds and I) are to visit Volgograd and its Rotary Club in return for the visit they paid us at our handover meeting last June. We sincerely hope that the present troubles in Ukraine do not jeopardise these two important international events!

Recently we have said very sad farewells to Henry Hopfinger and Judith Keene. Henry's life was deeply affected by his escape from the Nazis during WW2 – if you would like to know more about this I recommend you read the tribute contained in this newsletter. Earlsdon Methodist Church was filled at least twice over for Judith's funeral. We give our deepest sympathies to relatives and friends of both.

On a much happier note, we recently welcomed David Kershaw back after a near-fatal illness. He looked and sounded much the same as before, though somewhat slimmer. One up for the NHS!

Happy St George' Day to you all!

President Phil



Six Club Skittles

This competition, now 20 years old, was held at the Highway Club on Saturday 15th February. The organising club Coventry North had compensated the shortage of numbers by inviting the Rotary Club of Bedworth so that five teams of around 16 players could each occupy the five separate lanes.

The competition was well managed and the outcome was in favour of the Rotary Club of Coventry Jubilee who retained the trophy. To top their success they also achieved the winning lady and gent who had booked highest individual scores. Remarkably they seemed to extend their good fortune by

winning most of the raffle prizes. The raffle was well supported by generous sponsors Asda and Lidl and a figure in the region of £350 was raised for good charitable causes.

Our club was not disgraced by any means and scored enough points to come third. Certainly enough to deserve a bronze medal were they to be available.

The fish and chip supper was presented on time and our President Philip was introduced to a good Lancashire real ale entitled "Wainwright's" brewed in Blackburn appropriately. This beer had travelled well!!!

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



Judith Ann Watson Keene 1937 - 2014

For the past two years or so Past President Victor Keene MBE has attended our luncheon meetings and has quietly announced that his wife Judith was gravely ill but fighting her problems with great determination. Victor described that she was on a roller coaster and hope for her was in our hearts. Sadly the ride concluded in the evening of Saturday, 8th February. Judith had remained both brave and bright despite her knowledge of what the outcome would be.

Judith was an American and married Victor in New York USA in 1961. The couple then returned to England in 1962 and started their family life together. Their son William and daughter Mary were born in Nuneaton.

Judith began her long life of service joining an operatic society and became a Sunday school teacher at the local Methodist Church.

When the family moved to Coventry Judith joined the Coventry Operatic Society and joined the Inner Wheel Club of Coventry where she held the office of President on three occasions and became the Chairman of District No 6 of Inner Wheel and also served as the District Overseas Service Chairman. Each of these roles engaged

Judith with much commitment and dedicated service to the ideals of Inner Wheel. Previously Judith had been a member of Tangent which was part of the Round Table family.

Finding time to play golf Judith played off 18 at her best. She was recognised as Ladies' Captain and held the position of House Committee Chairman for three years.

Membership of the Methodist Church had transferred to Earlsdon, Coventry and where Judith was a Sunday school teacher for many years.

Judith supported Victor in his Rotary activities especially when he was President in 1981/82 and in many other social or fund raising events.

Rotarians will realise that one way or another Judith gave much of her time to the community. She was an active Trustee of Crossroads Care providing relief for family carers. This involvement was over a period of 30 years. In addition Judith was a Beaver Leader for a period of 8 years and became a Marriage Guidance counsellor for 14 years.

It would be difficult for anyone to surpass her record of community service which we also must not forget was in addition to her role as wife, mother and grandmother all receiving her support as needed.

So many who came into contact with Judith will miss her greatly.



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

For Real Ale Supporters!

We know that a number of members show a preference for drinking real ale from the bar because there are frequent orders for "a pint from the pump around the corner". This is delivered under the title of Wells Bombardier which weighs in at 4.1% ABV and is fully accredited by a panel of trained CAMRA judges. What is it that is attractive? A heavy aroma of malt and raspberry jam (Hartley's of course), traces of hops and bitterness are quickly submerged under a smooth malty sweetness. Typically it has a solid rich finish. Such words are quickly drowned out of existence by our two course lunch!

Our discerning members should know of a sad story that hit the headlines in 1814. This was known as the London Beer Flood. At the corner of Tottenham Court Road and Oxford Street was the site of Meux's brewery. On the 17th October a 22 foot high porter vat containing 113,000 gallons ruptured which caused a chain reaction with the surrounding vats. This created a beer tsunami which destroyed two nearby houses, knocked down the wall of the Tavistock Arms pub trapping a 14 year old female employee under a table. Of course this was a terrible tragedy but impoverished locals saw it as an opportunity to obtain some free beer so they ran to the scene carrying pots, pans and kettles to scoop up as much as they could.

However as the tide receded the true damage was discovered. Nine people had died; some had drowned; others were washed away and were severely injured. One apparent survivor died several days later from alcohol poisoning. In his efforts to stem the tide of beer he drank as much as he could.



Typhoon Haiyan Philippines

Resulting from an offer made by Namvir Kaila of Barclays Bank, Westwood Heath we accepted her challenge to raise a cake sale at short notice. Our objective would be to fund one Shelterbox providing accommodation for one family of up to 8 persons.

The ladies of our members were asked to make 30 cakes of their choice. Remarkably the response was 41 cakes and 24 mince pies. These were collected or delivered to Margaret by Sunday, 24th and delivered in two cars to Westwood offices by 08.20 am on Monday, 25th November.

Namvir had organised two trolleys and two more helpers to proceed selling the cakes slice by slice right up to 5 pm in the same day.

One cake was held back because Namvir's sister Kulvir wanted to see what response she would get from her colleagues in the Council Benefit Investigators' office. Remarkably this one cake raised £30. We received over £100 in donations for the Shelterbox campaign and the result was £840.91. This figure will be matched by Barclays up to a maximum of £750.00 and we are delighted to know that we more than doubled our objective with a total figure of £1590.91.

Our congratulations to Namvir, Margaret, Ian Scott, Zubair Ahmed and Rick Mak for their dedicated service around this suite of offices.



Cheque presentations 2014

Santa Sleigh

The Rotary Club of Coventry Phoenix claimed a record attendance at their meeting on Wednesday, 22nd January when they hosted the presentation evening of the proceeds from the 2013 Santa Sleigh collections. The Lord Mayor Councillor Gary Crookes and Lady Mayoress Shirley Crookes were in attendance. With modest expenses to deduct a record £13303.04 was available to distribute.

Claire McDonnell representing Myton Hospices and Jo Dyke

representing the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance Service each received a cheque for £4435 – a substantial increase on previous years. Each participating Rotary/Rotaract Club received cheques in the sum of £739.

A Gift Aid claim has been made against the collections which, if successful, would raise another £985 which would add £330 each to the main charities.

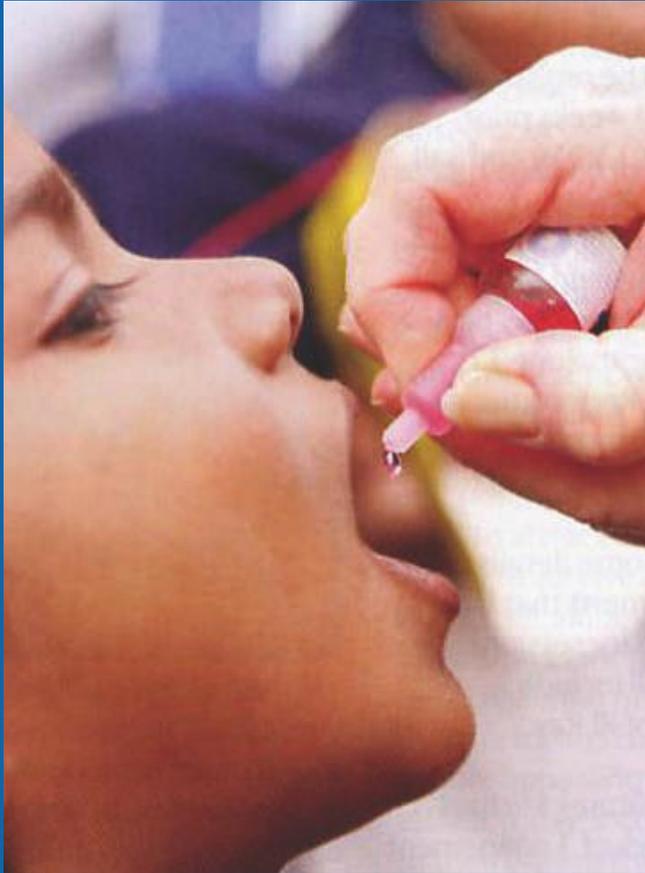
A tribute by President Clive Raymont was directed to PP Warren Offer of the Jubilee

Club who had contributed so much of his time and effort to organise the event. In response Warren gave a full report of the collections and commented on the electronic feedback received during the collections from the public. Clearly this indicated a need to embrace some new areas of Coventry within the collection programme. Should these be arranged then more corporate support will be needed. Thanks were expressed to British Telecom and Severn Trent for their help in the 2013 campaign.

Door Duties APRIL 14.03.14 – 30.06.14

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	Visitor's Book
April 14	David Cule	David Davies	Ken Holmes
April 21		NO MEETING	
April 28	Rod Drew	Bob Osborn	Victor Keene
May 5		NO MEETING	
May 12	Brian Hammond	Dennis Coombe	Sydney Creed
May 19	Brian Kelsey	Geoffrey Jackson	David Joyce
May 26		NO MEETING	
June 2	Nigel Lee	David Kershaw	Bob Kimber
June 9	Michael Pittaway	John Hartley	Robert Pargetter
June 16	Jeffrey Rowe	Pru Porretta	David Rees
June 23	Dhiran Vagdia	Ian Talbot	Ray Thompson
June 30		HANDOVER MEETING	



Sponsored Swim

Friday 28th February 2014 – Bablake Pool

In the heyday of our sponsored swim, probably 1996, club members will note how fashions have changed in this event!

On this year's sponsored swim we had support from six organisations that contributed some 56 young children of primary school ages and had committed a minimum of £1389 toward the overall fund raising. Because a number of participants had forgotten their sponsor forms (yes – they do this!) it is believed that a figure in excess of £1500 will be raised to be divided between the participating organisations and this club. Our record for this event is £3697.

Club members present were President Philip, Trevor Webb, Jeff Rowe, Jon Wilby, John and Margaret Hartley. Thanks are due to them and our two lifeguards provided by Bablake School, Sandeep and Abu.

In addition to this event we have to praise and thank Past President Geoffrey Jackson who swam no less than 2 furlongs! He was supporting the Rotary District Flood Appeal. If ever there was a flood in Kenilworth Road you can be sure that Geoffrey would be a survivor!



Polio Eradication

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 (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.

Henry Hopfinger (1924 – 2014)



Henry had been a Rotarian for 43 years and appointed a Paul Harris Fellow for 16 years in recognition of his "Service above Self" for his participation in a wide variety of Rotary activities. For well over 30 years Henry was supported in club activities by his wife Kay. A memorable

sight was at bucket collections at supermarkets to support our various charities they would stand only a few yards apart for up to two hours or more and achieving commendable results from the public. Club members will recall many of Henry's Rotary achievements.

He was the lead Rotarian in raising funds to support a VSO volunteer midwife Trudy Mills who was to spend up to four years in Nepal. After language learning in capital Kathmandu she was posted to the remote city of Pokhara. Over time in 1989/1993 he raised some £3,000. This figure included two outstanding raffle prizes of sculptures of an otter and the head of a lioness made by Trudy's father. He promoted additional support for Trudy when on her return she studied for an MSc at a Scottish University.

Henry was a collector of used postage stamps, foreign coins, old tools (for refurbishment to be sent to Africa), old spectacles to be recalibrated for use in India and old hand operated sewing machines to be used in the third world countries. Some of these activities produced returns for the club charity account. None were as lucrative as his used book stall on our club meeting days which he organised for many years. An abiding memory of Henry was his involvement at our book and bric-a-brac stall at the annual Donkey Derby event held in the Memorial Park, Coventry where he was the cashier – fully equipped with a strong leather cash bag around his shoulders. Kay was never far away. What many club members will not recall is the sight of Henry with his brazier selling roasted chestnuts for charities at Christmas time.

There were many aspects of Henry's life that we did not know and these did not come out into the open until a number of club members attended his funeral on Friday, 14th February and listened to the eulogies.

Everyone was pleased to meet Lynn, his daughter, and son-in-law Alan, together with grandchildren Eloise, Tom and Tali, also Henry's nephew Peter Hopfinger who

lives in Germany and Henry's niece Caroline Landey. Sadly grandson Ben was unable to be with the family as he is living in Buenos Aires.

Eulogies at the funeral were presented by Peter Hopfinger and Rotarian and Past President Geoffrey Jackson CBE JP of the Rotary Club of Coventry.

Henry was born on 10th January 1924 in a small town in the Polish province of Galizia called Drohobicz which over the years had been territory occupied by forces from West Ukraine/2nd Polish Republic/Soviet Ukraine/ Nazi Germany and finally back to Poland. Noticeably in this province and particularly the town of Drohobicz there was a significant Jewish population which during the occupation by Nazi Germany had become a large ghetto. The town had a population upwards of 40,000 in the 1930s with an oil refinery (still operational) and contained numerous beautiful wooden Greek Catholic churches dating from 15th and 17th centuries.

Henry's father Bernard would certainly have spoken in Yiddish as his first language which is based upon medieval German and Hebrew languages with elements of the Slavonic language. It was this language Henry would have heard in his pre-school years and afterwards even though the family moved to Vienna in 1927 (the birthplace of mother Bertha) mainly to start Henry's older brother Kurt into full time education. At this time the family became an assimilated Jewish family who from 1927 spoke German and outwardly in manner and dress would follow general behaviour, habits and customs of the time in Vienna.

The Hopfinger family had a secure and loving home in the form of an apartment in a "better" area near the centre of Vienna. Clearly the family was economically successful and well able to live a comfortable and protected life giving their sons the benefits of a good education despite the background of financial turmoil of the inter war years. His father was a consulting engineer. By 1929 Henry attended school in Vienna and later he was a student at the Waldorf School in Vienna where his artistic and musical strengths were developed.

Club members and friends will remember the accent with which Henry spoke English. This was typical for people who had lived and heard this spoken in his family life.

Initially the annexation of Austria by the Nationalist Socialist Germany in April 1938 did not immediately have any detrimental effect on family life despite political instability. However on 7th November 1938 the Third Secretary of the German Embassy in Paris Ernst vom Rath was murdered by a 17 year old Jewish youth named Hershel Grynszpan. This gave rise to a series of coordinated attacks against Jews throughout Germany and part of Austria. 95 synagogues burned in Vienna. Homes were requisitioned or ransacked as attackers demolished buildings. Businesses were

Henry Hopfinger (1924 – 2014) CONTINUED

destroyed or damaged. This gave rise to the Nazi term Kristallnacht which described the shards of broken glass that littered the streets. This reaction resulted in the full control of Austria by Heinrich Himmler charged by Adolph Hitler to deal with the question of the Jews (Judenfrage). Adolph Eichmann was charged with the logistics of transporting the internees to death camps. Bernard Hopfinger, his son Kurt and Bernard's brother with other "stateless Jews" were interned following the events of a razzia during the aftermath of the Reichspogromnacht. They were taken into custody and imprisoned in the velodrome in Vienna. Mother Bertha, by some means, secured the release of son Kurt on condition he left Austria. She was equally persuasive in organising places for Kurt and Henry to be included on the last Kindertransport which left Vienna in January 1939. She apparently lived in her home until some time in 1942 when she was deported. Letters were received from her up to this time. Bernard Hopfinger was never released and taken to Buchenwald.

In 1942 Henry's father was murdered in Buckenwald concentration camp. The mother Bertha was transported to the Maly Trostinec death camp and murdered among 6 million Jews in National Socialist occupied Europe. This unconceivable genocide became known as the Holocaust.

In early 1939 Henry and Kurt arrived in Coventry and were placed under the ward of the Coventry Cathedral congregation. During Bishop Mervyn George Haigh's term of office they were placed in separate homes. Henry was lodged with the Hardy family and Kurt with the White family. This separation of the brothers was not ideal considering what they had been through. However it seems that the brothers did have some contact with each of the families in later life. Henry remained with the Hardys until 1952 when he was 28 years of age. He had attended the Junior Technical College for only two terms; and he was almost 14 years old. Language was still quite a problem such that his host family were unable to obtain continuing education. He was placed in employment with the Nuneaton Co-op as a milk delivery roundsman which meant he had to be at work by 5 am each day. He was contributing toward his upkeep and also managed to attend a local language learning class.

Henry was now 16 years old faced with language difficulties and the trauma of the blitz in November 1940. He wanted to contribute to the war effort and eventually he volunteered for the Free Polish Army. He was demobilized in 1945 and trained as an industrial photographer with Massey Harris, later to be known as Massey Ferguson.

Henry met Kay at a wedding where he was the photographer and Kay a bridesmaid. They married in 1952. This devoted couple began to build a life together. Kay was the inspiration behind the setting up of a business for Henry to become a commercial

photographer. In 1959 Lynn arrived in the family to complete their dreams.

In 1971 Henry joined the Rotary Club of Coventry and clearly from that date both he and Kay with her connections in Inner Wheel were closely involved in all activities of both clubs. In any activity that involved refugee children in need of support Henry and Kay were always there to help.

In all those years since arriving in England in 1940 Henry had to adapt to the new and austere environment as it was when he arrived and then to adapt himself to new ways in order to survive. His marriage to Kay was crucial to these aims which gave him stability, purpose and pleasure.

When Holocaust Memorial Day was held in the United Kingdom on 27th January 2001 and the Nicholas Winton children's secret was revealed it was then that Henry confidentially told Geoffrey Jackson of his own Kindertransport drama connection and rescue. Henry wished to be included, but privately, in the memorial service. Both he and Kay would attend the city service each year taking a back seat when he would commemorate his parents and family members who had perished in the Holocaust. On these occasions Henry was introduced into the family of survivors. In order for Henry to remember his parents in prayer, his friend Geoffrey provided the Hebrew prayer phonetically so that he could repeat this in the service. It is well to note that Sir Nicholas Winton, as he now is, was a Past President of the Rotary Club of Maidenhead. He is often referred to as the British Schindler. He saved 669 Jewish children from the Holocaust which included Kurt and Henry.

Following Kay's death in September 2008 Henry withdrew into himself with minimal contact from neighbours and people who knew him from Rotary. The club members had hoped he would find continued interest in our activities and in particular fellowship. Life for Henry was not the same and he was unable to respond to comforting words by his friends. Henry passed away on 21st January 2014 following a sudden catastrophic heart attack.

The inability of Henry and his generation to express and transmit their life experience coupled with survivor guilt from The Holocaust (or the Shoah as he may have known it) may now be understood but has not made his loss to the family an easy experience. His survivor guilt was reinforced by Kay pre-deceasing him. The formative years in Henry's life made him a very human person equipped with both strengths and weaknesses. He would have had a pragmatic view of life in general and prone perhaps to crack a funny joke in the face of the vagaries of life as he saw it. But the memories were his and, as we know especially in the last reclusive years, remained locked away to be shared with no one.

We all now wish him peace and in the hope that he will be reunited with Kay.



Senior Competition – 7th February 2014

This round of the competition held at the Bablake School Drama Theatre was hosted by the Rotary Club of Coventry Jubilee. Initially there were to be 10 teams in the competition but two were withdrawn. There were five schools, three of whom had two teams each.

Selection of subjects over a wide range of topics clearly required a great deal of research before the teams could put together, with conviction, their points of view within a constricted time scale and add to this the associated ordeal of facing a panel of judges and an audience.

In prospect was the selection of the first three teams to go forward to the District Area Heats on 8th March being held at Bablake School.

Winners were Team 1 from King Henry VIII with a controversial proposal about Europe. Despite this all three team members presented their points in a very professional manner and deserved their position. Second was President Kennedy School and third Team 2 from King Henry VIII School.

The summing up by Head Judge Rex Satchwell gave all contestants good advice and guidance which should serve them well in future competitions.

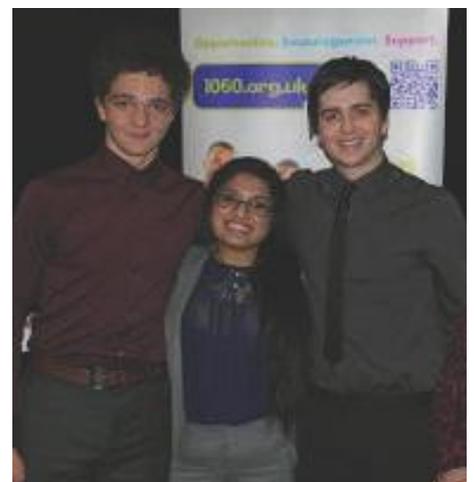
The evening was enthusiastically compered by Rotarian Brody Swain with questions to each team being put by Vic Minnet of BBC Coventry & Warwickshire. Prizes and certificates were presented by Jubilee Vice President Mary Cantillon.



King Henry VIII Team 1



President Kennedy School



King Henry VIII Team 2

Reflection

In 1925 the second club "Bulletin" was published for members of this club (there is no trace of the first issue).

Sir Edward Iliffe CBE MP was an honorary member and wrote an extended commentary entitled "The Industrial Development of Coventry". An extraction from his paper may well be of interest to club members, particularly as it reveals the situation that existed before, during and following the Great War 1914-1919.

"Many cycle and motor accessories are made in the city, and the manufacture of magnetos – which before the war were entirely produced in Germany – is rapidly becoming an important industry.

Although the pedal cycle is apt to be overshadowed by motor production, a much larger number of these machines are made locally every year than is generally imagined, and the output of cycles is possibly greater now than at any period in the history of the trade.

The city possesses also the largest machine tool factory in the country. It is the home of drop forgings, and chains of all kinds are made in great quantities and, although the

watch trade does not assume its old time proportions, it still provides work for a large number of people.

Coventry's youngest industries concern the manufacture of aeroplanes and wireless apparatus, so that its inhabitants can justly pride themselves on being thoroughly abreast of the times.

A list of local enterprises would not be complete without reference to the textile industry, upon which it is estimated no fewer than 8,000 persons are employed, including those engaged upon the manufacture of artificial silk. This is a comparatively recent industry and one which has shown remarkable development.

The resource shown by Coventry manufacturers during the war years was remarkable and the factories previously concerned with making textiles, watches, cycles and motors were converted into a huge arsenal, from which vast quantities of shells, bombs, guns and aeroplanes emerged. The first tanks, too, were practically a product of Coventry and the celebrated 15-inch naval gun was made here.

Trench mortars, machine tools, small arms, ammunition, gun carriages, ambulances, tractors and other requirements were also manufactured on a large scale during the war, in addition to an enormous number of pedal cycles, motor cycles and motor cars supplied for use by the Allied armies. The Buckingham tracer bullet too was a Coventry manufacturer's invention.

Over two hundred factories were engaged on the manufacture of war requirements and every village and town near Coventry daily poured forth its workers into the city. At one time during that period Coventry had a population of probably 160,000. A large proportion of the war workers were women and girls, who thus not only demonstrated their devotion to their country but their ability to serve it by their labour hardly less usefully than the men.

Such is the commercial history of Coventry, and if the present generation is able to show the same courage, adaptability and enterprise as those who have gone before, the continued commercial success of the city is assured.



2013/2014 MEMBERSHIP BOOK

Will members please note the amended email address for our President:-

Phil.hodgson@coventrysavoy.org.uk

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 which 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***

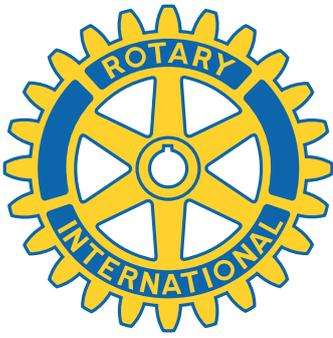
PLEASE NOTE. There are over 40 Rotarians in the club who are eligible for duties. With 3 duties to fulfil each week your turn will come up once every 13 weeks. If we increase club membership this period will be less so IT'S UP TO YOU TO DO THIS BY RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS!!



2013/2014 MEMBERSHIP BOOK

Will members please note the amended email address for our President:-

Phil.hodgson@coventrysavoy.org.uk



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

***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