



# NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2015

# FROM THE DESK OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

## *Dear Fellow Rotarians*

In a matter of days yet another Rotary Year draws to a close and we look back with thankfulness for the Fellowship we have shared, the help and hope that we have been able to give to others, to the friendships we have made, to the memories of tasks well done.

Rotary could not fulfill its intentions without you and so it is a pleasure to thank you for all your efforts, going the extra mile, giving more time than you thought you could, inspiring others to join our endeavors.

What have we actual done and what could we do better.? What provides the satisfaction of being a Rotarian?

I think we should be thankful of enabling young people who are differently abled to go and enjoy a challenging outdoor activity course; for assisting in the provision of a motorised wheelchair to a very needy student from King Henry VIII School; to providing hundreds of pairs of shoes to school children in South Sudan; to providing much needed resources to disaster zones of Nepal and to Vanuatu; to promoting healthy competition

to Students in 'Youth Speaks; to fostering good relations with the Rotary Club of Volgograd, Russia; giving substantial financial support to a local 14 year old girl who is a para-athlete and will wear a GB vest a the World Championships for wheelchair sprinting; to supporting children in poverty through the International Children's Trust; to provide resources to local charity, Life Path Trust; to organizing young primary school students in a debating competition culminating in finals in Coventry Council Chamber; to assisting in the promotion of the Schools Technology & Design Awards; and bring hope and pleasure to our local communities through Santa's Sleigh and Live Carol Singing at Canon Park; to receiving and hosting Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars and others.

I express the thanks of us all for the development of the new web site and for the arrangements for such a wide and diversified speakers week by week.

The list goes on and on and it is only possible because you have made it happen.

Yes we have had fun on the way enjoying our fund raising, the



times of sharing together for meals and fellowship, attending endless meetings, welcoming new members to share in the work.

What could we do better?  
Know doubt you will tell me.

I will do my best to enthuse and encourage in all we do in the name of Rotary,

***Ken, President Elect***



***Presentation of cheque to Father Moses for shoes for the South Sudan.***

# COVENTRY SCHOOLS YOUNG ENTERTAINER 2015



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Some members will have received a hard copy of this club newsletter recently. The idea is that you read it and pass it on to relatives/ friends and onwards into the community. Others will have accessed it electronically via our website. Encourage your friends to view this copy. The editorial content is clearly geared to the attention of the general public otherwise the entire newsletter is the ongoing history of the club.

**John Hartley, Editor**

# THE MERRY WIDOW

## Rotary of Today links with Rotary of Yesterday

Margaret and I supported Past President Phil Hodgson who recently performed on stage with 'Opera Warwick' at the University of Warwick Arts Centre. The company was most energetic in their rendition of Franz Lehar's "Merry Widow". At times too boisterous for PP Phil who was to some degree lame which seemingly did not affect his singing in the supporting ensemble. A most enjoyable show with an outstanding performance of Natasha Agerwal as the much desired widow Hannah Glawari

I now ask you to turn your attention to the Rotary International Convention in Vienna 1931 when the renowned Franz Lehar and composer of the "Merry Widow" personally conducted a performance of his operetta in the Theater an der Wien to mark the 25th anniversary of the production. After the performance the visiting Rotarians presented Franz Lehar with a bust of himself which was unveiled in the foyer to join the busts of other masters who had brought musical fame to Vienna.

*John Hartley*



## SHELTERBOX EMERGENCY AID

### *Syria and bordering countries*

**Overview:** It has been four years since conflict broke out in Syria. More than 10 million people, almost half of Syria's population, have been displaced. Around four million people have sought refuge in other countries.

ShelterBox has ensured distribution of aid through implementing partners including Hand in Hand for Syria (HIHS). Shelter kits, more tents, mosquito nets, water filters, water carriers, blankets, groundsheets, SchoolBoxes and solar lamps have all been sent to assist families in the region. HIHS are continuing to distribute aid throughout the country including to areas in the Aleppo governorate and the Syrian/Turkish border. Rotary Shelterboxes are much in evidence on the ground.

### *Vanuatu – Cyclone Pam*

**Overview:** Early on Saturday 14th March, category five Cyclone Pam hit the South Pacific country of Vanuatu, which is made up of more than 80 islands. Reports suggest that more than a quarter of a million people could now

be homeless as a result of the cyclone and that up to 90% of structures have been destroyed or damaged.

ShelterBox has agreed to work with fellow aid organisation CARE International to distribute 1,000 shelter kits. A ShelterBox response team, made up of volunteers Peter Pearce (AUS) and Ross MacKenzie (NZ) were sent to Vanuatu to be involved in the ShelterBox aid distributions.

### *Key ShelterBox statistics:*

Total disaster zones responded to over time:

**270**

Total families helped ever:

**more than 160,000**

To follow these disasters we now have the earthquake disaster in Nepal. Our own cash contribution will be handled by the Rotary Club of Nuneaton who has direct connections in this country.

# AGM CATHEDRAL MAYOR INVESTITURE



Many club members were invited to attend the annual meeting of the Council of the City of Coventry held at the Cathedral with a great deal of ceremony with

principal aim to elect a new Lord Mayor. Much to the delight of us and, of course, the audience in the packed Cathedral we were privileged to support our own Rotarian Michael Hammon in becoming Coventry's No 1 citizen.

Having been proposed as Lord Mayor by Councillor Ken Taylor OBE seconded by our own Rotarian Councillor David Kershaw CBE the next part of the ceremony was the dressing of the official robe and mayoral chain of office.

In making his mayoral speech Michael reminded the guests that he was a "Coventry Kid" born in Stoke and that the whole of his life had been centred on the city together with his profession as a practising solicitor. He will dedicate his mayoral charity to local needs. Indeed one third will be given to the Rotary Club of Coventry for its own distribution to local good causes.

The ceremony was supported by Professor David Watkins, harpist, and the fanfares were given by the Jaguar Land Rover Band.

Among the many Rotarians present members were so pleased to see Chris Hawthorne, our honorary member, who is so incapacitated and wheelchair bound. As is usual he is full of smiles for his lady admirers and has much to thank Roma for being able to be part of the celebration.



# WELL DONE KARE!



Chance knowledge that came our way about the level of success and recognition of Kare Adenegan has led this club to giving its support to what we have discovered to be incredibly high expenses of a leading para-athlete.

Starting only 2 years ago when Kare was only 12 years old she has taken to wheelchair racing which has proved to be her forte. Within those two years Kare, who is affected by cerebral palsy in her legs, she has attained recognition in the Great Britain team and achieves sprint times above and beyond her age of 14 years competing as a senior.

Kare is Coventry born and attends Bablake School where she is a dedicated student with an eye on science subjects which may be a foundation for her future career. However sport is more than a hobby in that she trains six days a week using her membership of the Coventry Godiva Harriers and meeting like condition athletes from all over the Midlands. Other than spare parts (mostly tyres) for her tricycle and associated training expenses Kare has to find her travelling and accommodation expenses.

This year for example she will have two expensive trips – one will be to the European Championships and the other in the PPC Athletics World Championships in Doha, Qatar in the Gulf of Arabia. Such trips are not subsidised for athletes under the age of 18 and Kare's expenses are doubled because travel and accommodation has to cover the additional cost of a parent because her mobility entirely depends upon a wheelchair.

The Rotary Club has decided to help Kare financially and has been able, with the help of anonymous donors, club charity resources and an excellent coffee morning held by Kim and David Rees at their home, to raise in total £2,800 which will go a long way to her 2015 campaigns.

In the recent London Marathon event there was a special Mini Marathon section. In Kare's classification members should know that she won her section in record time. This news was followed by receiving an official notification that she has been selected to represent Great Britain team going to the World Championships in Doha Qatar during October.

Looking to the future Kare's sights are set on 2016 Paralympics in Brazil when hopefully she will be selected to perform for Team GB.

Kare will be present at the forthcoming Disabled Games event at the Excel Centre. She has promised to say a few words of encouragement to the participants as well as being present on both days of this weekend event on 7th/8th November.



# I NEVER KNEW THAT ABOUT ENGLAND



In a book under the above title there is a story about a lady in the city of Nottingham, Mary Ann Brailsford, who lived in a house at Southwell in the year 1801. Apparently she sowed an apple pip from which Bramley apple trees are descended.

Another entry refers to the National



Trust West Sussex which became the home of Sir Harry Featherstonehaugh in 1774. This describes how he brought down from London a beautiful young "escort" who originated from Cheshire named Emma Hart who apparently would often dance naked on the table to entertain the guests. This display must have been a good preparation for her becoming the most famous mistress in Europe – Nelson's Emma Hamilton.

On a more sober note there is the story about the Wyken Pippin apple. Wyken years ago was a civil parish which goes back to the 11th century. By 1730 it had only 13 houses with a manor house and a

parsonage. Expansion took place and a coal mine was established in the 18th century. Admiral Thomas Craven who died in 1772 had some 50 years earlier brought a young apple tree from Holland which hitherto was not a species known in England. The planting was successful and the tree bore delicious fruit. The tree is now widely grown and in doing so has spread the good name of Wyken.



## REFLECTIONS

Reflecting on the past, in fact to 1933, some 82 years ago the Community Service Committee in the full Rotary year was able to make 23 donations to local charities totally £81 seven shillings and five pence. A notable recipient was the "Crippled Children's Guild" who received £31 thirteen shillings and four pence. The next largest donation was to the Foleshill Nursing Association.

These observations indicate the need for benevolence in times when the National Health Service did not exist.

In November 1955 the speaker to our club weekly meeting was John B Shelton who at 80 years of age was recognised as City Chamberlain and local historian.

He recounted the events surrounding the area of Cheylesmore Manor House, Greyfriars Lane and the Ford's Hospital. Greyfriars Lane was the original route by which royalty found its way into Broadgate. As we know even today this is not a straightforward route especially when in olden days our monarch would stay overnight in Cheylesmore Manor house. On one occasion the lane blocked the royal access in Georgian times and this caused much annoyance. Our City Council was advised "to consider improving access to the city centre as Greyfriars Lane was not a suitable route" so said King George IV. The result was that in 1814 Hertford Street came into existence which was a direct result of Royal Command brought about by inconvenience!



# BIANCA REIS

Of all the former Ambassadorial scholars sponsored by the Rotary Foundation that have been hosted by this club few have kept in touch to inform the club of their career progress.

Bianca from São Paulo in Brazil was hosted by David and Judith Cule I believe some 10 years ago. During that time she has progressed in her career and indeed visited Coventry and been welcomed into the Cule household again.

Her recent news announces her wedding in March of this year at the "cottage" owned by the Reis family. Some 350 guests were invited most of them were Rotarians. The honeymoon was spent in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic which was in idyllic surroundings.

Oh by the way the name of the lucky man is Carlos.

## COVENTRY PRIMARY SCHOOLS DEBATING COMPETITION - FINAL

### THURSDAY 12<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2015

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

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

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

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

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

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

The event ran remarkably true to time including

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

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

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

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

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





## LORD MAYOR WITH EMIKO & STUDENTS 2014

Not directly connected with Rotary, although an input by your Editor, was a visit by a teacher and two students to Whitley Academy over two weeks in March. They came from Kamokita High School in Hiroshima to improve their English speaking skills and to share the respective cultures of England and Japan.

Teacher Emiko Urata and students Kirika (17) and Reika (16) were hosted by Margaret and me. We arranged a visit to see and speak with our then Lord Mayor Councillor Hazel Noonan who generously gave them interview time and a viewing of the Council Chamber and St Mary's Guildhall.

While at Whitley Academy one of the sessions was to demonstrate the art of origami which inevitably led to the skill of folding paper cranes which are symbolic of Japan and Hiroshima in particular.

During their visit they met Coventry war poet Antony Owen who has since spent one week in Hiroshima. They met again in the Peace Park when Kirika and Reika read a selection of Antony's poems in English to quite a large audience.

# HOSPICE AFRICA

Members may remember that this club was successful in securing a £160,000 3H Grant which set up Hospice Africa at Mbarara, Uganda in 1999.

Much of this success was down to the hard work done by the late Past President Allan Dixon. His wife Julia and son Richard keep in touch with the Hospice and recently attended the Anglican Cathedral in Liverpool to meet Prof K Holden who is concerned with the ongoing support for this project which has been a resounding success.

Last year Hospice Africa was awarded a grant of £250,000 over the period June 2014 – May 2017 from the UK Department for International Development (funded by UK tax payers). This grant is to expand their mobile clinic service in Mbarara as a specialist base for treating children who have cancer. This is a region with poor roads and very limited medical services. Since 1998 they have treated mainly adult cancer patients there. Every four weeks one their vehicles stops by the roadside in isolated villages and a nurse sees patients. The grant will fund the treatment of 450 children suffering from cancer. This will have an immediate impact on the children and their families. They will also teach palliative care to 350 undergraduate doctors and nurses at Mbarara Medical School so that when they qualify and work in the Ugandan Health Service they will be familiar with the use of oral morphine to control pain in patients. The grant will also fund the training of 40 Community Volunteers in basic care to provide nursing support to isolated patients in their homes, especially in areas where there are no nurses. The result is that the grant will have both an immediate and also a long-lasting effect on the lives of poor cancer patients in Uganda.

One of the conditions of the grant is the fund raisers achieve £50,000 independently and this is what is ongoing now in the UK.

I am aware that Julia Dixon is a regular contributor to Hospice Africa.

*John Hartley*



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

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

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

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

## **Are you the Speaker's Host?**

This latest list is now on the club notice board so please check which date your name appears. If you cannot make the particular day swap with another but please tell the Club Secretary, Brian Winstanley, to keep his records straight or even write in the change on the list itself!

The only duty of the Speaker's Host is to entertain the speaker and give the vote of thanks after his talk. Before he arrives collect a card with the club's grace from the Stewards Box ready for him and hover near the entrance to introduce yourself as soon as he appears. Whilst talking to him you can find out anecdotes about him which can be useful during your vote of thanks. It is also desirable to introduce him to the President at this time before leading him to the Top Table just before the President rings the bell.

## **Are you on the Visitors' Book?**

The latest list is now on the club notice board so please check what date your name appears. If you cannot make the particular day swap with

another but please tell the Club Secretary, Brian Winstanley, to keep his records straight or even write in the change on the list itself! Your duties are to ensure that visitors fill in the Visitors' Book (with intelligible writing please!) with their name and club (if a visiting Rotarian), or the name of the Club member who is introducing them (if not). Give them a Grace Card – these are found in the Steward's Box - and after lunch introduce them when called upon by the President. If the visitor is from far field then welcome him with a visitors leaflet. These contain information about the club on one side and a brief history of the City on the other. They can be found in the Steward's Box.

**Thank you all for your efforts.**

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

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



## **2015-16 MEMBERSHIP BOOK**

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

# ATTENDANCE & ROTARY PRINCIPLES

Members of this club will, of course, be familiar with the object of Rotary since it is stated on page 1 of our club handbook. However, there is another set of principles created by Rotarian Herbert J Taylor in 1932. This was called the Four-Way Test which was devised to serve Rotarians worldwide in their business and professional lives. This has been translated into 100 different languages and is often seen in club newsletters around the entire Rotary community. Some clubs, and RC Scottburgh in Kwa-Zulu, South Africa (our twin club) is one, actually repeat this after grace at their weekly meetings.

## *Of the things we say or do:*

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?"

## *Having trouble in keeping up your attendance?*

We have four local Rotary Clubs as alternative options for you to consider.

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



## DOOR DUTIES 1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE - 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Door Steward</b>	<b>Speaker's Host</b>	<b>Visitors' Book</b>
July 6	David Cule	Robert Vilette	Philip Hodgson
July 13	Keith Chapman	Robert Townsend	David Kershaw
July 20	Martin Cooper	John Hartley	Roma Hawthorne
July 27	Rod Drew	Dennis Coombe	David Rees
Aug 3	<b>BANK HOLIDAY</b>		
Aug 10	Bob Hall	Geoffrey Jackson	Senarath Bogahalanda
Aug 17	Brian Hammond	David Joyce	Victor Keene
Aug 24		Ian Talbot	Ray Thompson
Aug 31	<b>BANK HOLIDAY</b>		
Sept 7	Michael Pittaway	Bob Osborn	Robert Pargetter
Sept 14	Jeffrey Rowe	Pru Porretta	David Davies
Sept 21	Dhiran Vagdia	Kevin Vaughan	Judith Ryan
Sept 28	<b>BANK HOLIDAY</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 mail: [secretary@coventryrotary.org](mailto:secretary@coventryrotary.org)***

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

23 JUNE Exhibition of work submitted for the Design & Technology Competition, WMG Academy, Mitchell Avenue, Coventry

24 JUNE Design & Technology Award Evening, Westwood Academy, Mitchell Avenue - 7pm

29 JUNE Handover Meeting

6 JULY Councillor Rachel Lancaster, Cabinet Minister for Waste

10 JULY Vocational Committee – Treasure Hunt

13 JULY Jane McGaffney, Zoé's Place

20 JULY Joe Elliot MBE

27 JULY Anya Borteneva, student from Volgograd attending the RYLA Camp

3 AUG BANK HOLIDAY

10 AUG Mr A Atwal - Langar Seva

17 AUG Helen Sandagire - Action on Hearing Loss

24 AUG FREE

31 AUG BANK HOLIDAY

7 SEPT Professor Nicholas James, Director, Warwick Medical School – Cancer Research

14 SEPT Bethany Gaunt – British Exploring

21 SEPT Visit of District Governor Paul Jaspal

28 SEPT Neil Gordon, Warwick University