



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2015

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Rotarians

There is a flurry in the air, not the white stuff that is falling on the mountain tops of Scotland, but a flurry of activity as the season moves into one of frenetic activity leading up to Christmas. Whilst Black Friday has passed Rotary is not immune from moving up a gear to cope with the demands of Service above Self.

District Conference at Cardiff was well represented by this Club with 15 representatives and there was much to be enjoyed from inspirational speakers including broadcaster John Humphrys, Anna Turney, Double Winter Paralympian, Jane Walker, Philippines Community Fund, to good food and fellowship within Rotary. The current RI motto of 'Be a Gift to the World' featured strongly as Rotarians were called to make a difference.

For a moment I wish to back track and to record appreciation for the planning and participation in the Rotary Disabled Sports Championships at the Xcel Centre over the weekend of 7th-8th November. To see the effort and determined achievement of

the players was greatly inspiring and our stewarding and financial contribution was worthy of this excellent event, now in its 34th year. Our own sponsorship of the Outward Bound challenge for young people and the dedication of wheelchair athletes such as Kate Adenegan all illustrate the magnificent achievements are attainable when opportunities arise and supported by our Rotary Club. Coming up soon will be a request for our Rotary Club's support of the National championships of the British Blind Sport, here in Coventry.

We truly are a Club that makes a difference to many lives.

I was privileged, on behalf of Rotary, to receive an invitation by the Lord Mayor, Cnl. Michael Hammon to join the Civic Service to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Coventry Blitz in Coventry Cathedral, led by the Dean, the Rev John Witcombe, on 15th November.

The Lord Mayor hosted representatives of Rotary International to luncheon at the Council House on 19th November, Senarath



Bogahalanda, David Kershaw and myself represented the Club and were able to meet a number of Directors of The Rotary Foundation from around the World. They were in Conference of the Rotary Institute meeting at the Chesford Grange Hotel.

More recently International Committee arranged a Social evening with Irish and Indian Dancers, and a Barber Shop Group so ably led by Phil Hodgson. Tables were themed and food was provided appropriate to the chosen

FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

(CONTINUED)

Country. The event was expertly arranged by 2nd VP Robert Villette.

As I write these words we are in the middle of The Festival of Christmas Trees at Holy Trinity Church. It is our first year of organizing this festival and the feedback from visitors and the Church is most encouraging. The official opening was conducted by the Lord Mayor, Michael Hammon, and Rev David Mayhew, the Choir of Holy Trinity shared carols and Hot Roasted Chestnuts were shared, The setting for the beautifully decorated Christmas Trees could not have been bettered and Charities, Organizations and Businesses have all donated trees to make it very special. Particular thanks to all volunteers including past member Nigel Lee, who provided all the supporting electrical services. What a great start. Donations received will go to the Lord Mayor's Appeal, for which we are one of his recipients. The trees will remain in place until after Christmas.

Both CWR Radio and Coventry Radio+ covered the event

Santa's Sleigh is already into its third night of going around the City with an average collection of £750 per night. As a Club we are involved as the lead Club on this coming Sunday and Monday, and then followed by Saturday 12th, Friday 18th and Thursday 24th December. All I can say is one huge thank you if you have been able to take part and we are also pleased to welcome young people from the Coventry and Warwickshire YMCA to swell our numbers on Monday 7th

Not everyone will have a joyful time this Christmas and we remember especially the families and loved ones of Daman Lal-Sarin, Bob Osborn, and David Rees.

May I wish all members' families and friends every blessing this Christmas and into the New Year.

President Ken



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



QATA SPORTS CLUB

SUHAIM BIN HAMED STADIUM, DOHAR, 22-31 OCTOBER

The photograph below says it all. 14 year old Kare Adenegan from Allesley, Coventry earned a bronze medal in the IPC Athletics World Championships. Hannah Cockcroft aged 23 took the gold medal, followed by Mel Nicholls with silver. Both Kare and Mel are members of the Godiva Harriers and receive coaching from Job King at the University track in the Wheelchair Racing Academy in Kirby Corner, Coventry. Before the IPC Championships closed Kare added a second bronze medal to her tally having raced to a fourth position in the 100 metres.

By Kare's standards of time in 100/400/800/1500 metres events, even at the age of 14, she is second fastest in the world. Her target to be in Brazil next year is becoming a certainty rather than a possibility.

On Saturday, 7th November at the Rotary Disabled Games at the Xcel Centre Kare addressed the competitors at the opening giving some words of encouragement to those taking part.

SURPRISE VISITORS

Surprise visitors from Kenya and Uganda were guests of Lord Mayor Councillor and Rotarian Michael Hammon to our meeting on Monday, 28th September.

A presentation of a club banner was made to Rotarian Charles Booguma from the Rotary Club of Kabarole in Kenya. This region borders both Kenya and Uganda where tours are arranged to see the variety of wild life including bird watching, gorillas and mobile safaris.

Nathan Makuregye from Uganda was well aware of Alan Dixon's name connected with the Umbarara Hospice and all the good work it does.



DAVID HYWEL REES

2nd March 1931 – 23rd October 2015

We may have accepted that David was a quiet man in our membership, despite his place on our “naughty” table at club meetings but there was more about him than met our eyes.

Sadly he left us on 23rd October passing away at home in a dignified and brave fashion. Having enjoyed many chats with David and Kim over coffee and scones he only touched the surface of his long and distinguished life.

David, a man of the valleys in South Wales, came from Mountain Ash in the Rhondda and attended the local grammar school. He left school to join the civil service in London and served his national service in the Royal Signals Regiment enjoying a London War Office posting. He used his time in the Department of Education to engage with the Borough Road College where after two years he attained a diploma in teaching and a reputation as a fearless scrum half.

About this time in 1954 he met and married Kim in London who was to prove a major guiding part in his life.

David's life as a village headmaster was fulfilling and he moved the teaching style into the modern era when he joined Bull Farm Middle School in Mansfield which was a challenging move but with the help of a cooperative staff he enriched the life experiences of the children attending the school.

Taking a sabbatical he attended and graduated from Nottingham University with a B.Ed in 1977.

His final headship, and probably his most enjoyable, was at the Sconce Hill High School in Windsor Road, Newark where he took over a school regarded as needing improvement. David set about establishing standards of behaviour and respect among the pupils and reinvigorated the teaching staff. He encouraged music in the school and was proud of the school orchestra as it developed into one of the best school orchestras in the county of Nottinghamshire. He was head of Sconce Hills for 12 years from where he retired in 1991.

Both David and Kim served the local community well during their lives in Nottinghamshire. David was part of the County Education Committee and a governor

of Brackenhurst Agricultural College, Trent Polytechnic and Southwell Minster Grammar School. While Kim was a prominent member of the local magistracy.

In among all of these appointments David was an active arable farmer being the proud owner of two Coventry made Ferguson tractors. David also became a District and a County Councillor.

In 1987 he became a founder member of the Rotary Club of Newark Castle and became an active Rotarian leading to his appointment to District Governor of District 1220. Both David and Kim had been host councillors of Japanese student Iroko who was studying at Nottingham University with whom they still have contact.

At this stage should be added that David bred and kept budgerigars at home. He was never one to sit down and view television or read a newspaper. He was a DIY enthusiast with a fully functioning workshop which included skills in welding.

In 1999 David, a member of a Rotary committee, was awarded an engraved metal plaque by the King of Nepal where he had been part of a project to fund and build a cancer care clinic in that country.

Following heart surgery David and Kim decided, after living in the village of Hockerton for 40 years, that they should live in Coventry near to daughter Jane. This decision was taken in 1999.

On arrival in Coventry David chose to join the Rotary Club of Kenilworth and his membership lasted some eight years. Deciding that a luncheon club was more appropriate he joined the Rotary Club of Coventry North for one year then taking membership of the Rotary Club of Coventry for some seven years where he enjoyed much fellowship being a respected member of the renowned naughty table which admirably suited his mischievous sense of humour.

David was a warm, kind, generous and good humoured man, loyal and supportive to both his friends and colleagues, but above all he was a devoted family man. He and Kim were married for over 61 years and he doted on his five grandchildren. He will be greatly missed by all.

COVENTRY FUN RUN

The Club provided marshalling assistance to the Coventry Round Table who organised this popular event which has a 31 year heritage for raising generous amounts of money for charities. Over this time some £1.35 million has been raised for good causes many of which are of local origin.

The Tablers work hard to make this event a success and encourage local clubs and associations to take part. This will include people of all ages and those who will have physical impairments who may be confined to a wheelchair

Another feature of the "Fun Run" is those participants who dress up in any form of fancy dress from tigers, supermen and even ballet dancers. Notably the local Wheatsheaf Players turned out in some period costumes from their wardrobe.



Within the Memorial Park which is the assembly point for the event are a host of charity stalls, a fairground ride and a giant bouncy castle which helped to confine otherwise "lost children".

Although competitors are responsible for selecting and collecting names for their choice of charity the Round Table would expect to raise approximately £10,000 which they will distribute to local deserving causes.

Thanks to the six Rotarians and their wives who commanded the heights of the Earlsdon clock island with composure and efficiency.



ROTARY CLUB OF NUNEATON CELEBRATES

In support of our first daughter club – Nuneaton – a party of four club members and their wives attended the 90th birthday celebration held at the Chase Hotel, Nuneaton on Monday, 2nd November. The host club had chosen to adopt a “twenties” theme and we were welcomed by a dubious look-a-like gangster holding a machine gun. However, the mood of the evening was jolly and VIP attendance was RIBI President Peter Davey and District Governor 1060 Paul Jaspal. The host for the evening was Rotary Club of Nuneaton President Victor Kenyon.

It was interesting to note that in the long list of Past Presidents was mentioned the late Geoff Dison (1973/74) who in his time afterwards became District Governor and all told had served the Rotary movement for many years.

In current times through members PPs Gary Dancer and Om Gerung (ex Ghurkha Regiment) they had established close and regular contact with Nepal where they had done good work following a recent earthquake. Indeed our own club had given its contribution to the Nuneaton Club as a safe use of funds.

During the evening I was handed a copy of the first 50 years’ history of the club and the role of the Rotary Club of Coventry has been adequately reported. The initial inspiration appeared to be down to the proprietor and editor of the “Nuneaton Chronicle” and input from the Rotary Club of Loughborough in January 1925 was also acknowledged.

John Hartley



2015-16 MEMBERSHIP BOOK

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

kenneth_holmes@tiscali.co.uk

ROTARY CONFERENCE DISTRICT 1060 CARDIFF 23-25 OCTOBER



Eight club members led by President Ken represented our club and enjoyed the less involved format and programme which more or less ran to time. We were among some 350 delegates and their wives and families who faced a varied group of speakers. Friday afternoon and evening were, we have to say, not impressive gatherings. The programme started in earnest on Saturday. Before coffee we listened to a descriptive talk by Jane Walker MBE who represented the Philippines Community Fund which is concerned about the suffering of child workers on open dump sites and living in squatter areas of that country. Jane is a Rotarian and a Paul Harris Fellow and clearly dedicated to this cause.

Standing in for the Inner Wheel District 6 Chairman we listened "intently" to Pauline Smart's address. Pauline knows a thing or two about Rotarians' attentiveness to speakers and clearly used her opportunity to amuse the audience and coast them into a well timed coffee break.

Following speakers representing the Acorns Hospice, Birmingham and Rotaract/Interact preceded John Humphrys who chose to answer and develop questions put to him from the floor on any chosen subject. He was brilliant and concluded by telling his audience about his own charity – "The Kitchen Table Charities Trust" which works mostly with people in need in Africa.

Saturday evening was a set dinner followed by a speaker in the form of Farokh Engineer, a well known cricketer and wicket keeper/batsman who represented India many years ago. Other than relating some cricket anecdotes he introduced his audience to his charitable foundation which supports education for children in India. He raffled a signed cricket bat which raised £1000 for this good cause.

Sunday morning began with an inspiring talk by Anna Turney, a Double Winter Paralympian in snow boarding arising from an accident in 2006. Her presentation by power point proved to be both entertaining and motivational. I am afraid that the following speaker, Isabel Natrins, despite conveying a professional talk with advice on nutritional foods proved to deliver a fairly technical talk on food wisdom but it was somewhat involved and Isabel exceeded her time.

After listening to the virtues of the Buxton Conference in 2016 the closure of the conference by Tony Hawkes, comedian, TV/radio panellist, journalist and author entertained his audience, apparently in need of relief, as well as telling everyone about his work in Moldova where he has been involved in setting up the Hippocrates Medical Centre for disabled children.

President Paul Jaspal will be pleased to reflect on the event into which he gave so much of his time and with the conference management team made the proceedings operate smoothly.



ROTARY AUTOMATA PRESENTATION

Friday, 2nd October in the Coventry Retail Market saw a collection of Rotarians (six in fact) claiming an additional attendance in supporting a presentation of proceeds extracted from the Automata in favour of 50% to the Lord Mayor's Charity with the Rotary Club of Coventry receiving the other half.

The group embraced Lord Mayor of the City of Coventry Councillor and Rotarian Michael Hammon, President Rotarian Ken Holmes, Past Presidents Harold Smart and John Hartley, Vice President Kevin Vaughan and Rotarian Lady Godiva Pru Porretta.

The presentation by our President Ken was in the form of a cheque value at £170. Thus was further enhanced by the £150 donated by the Market Traders which was raised from their second hand book stall.

The Automata, thankfully, is settled in its market location adjacent to the Heritage Display stall. The Automata manufactured by the late Jerry Elford was first installed in West Orchards shopping centre on 1st December 1995 and then transferred to the Retail Market in July 2002. During this period it has contributed approximately £4,000 to local charities which is a commendable achievement in replacing the original wishing well in Broadgate.





34TH ANNUAL ENGLISH DISABLED SPORTS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

7TH & 8TH NOVEMBER

XCEL SPORTS CENTRE, MITCHELL AVENUE, COVENTRY

Seven teams of athletes with physical and learning difficulties competed in 13 disciplines over the weekend. Heralded by a fanfare of trumpets the Games were opened by Ron Gibbs of the Rotary Club of Coventry Phoenix. Some words of encouragement were given to the competitors by Great Britain's racing wheelchair representative, Kare Adenegan, who had recently returned from the World Championships in Dohar having been awarded two bronze medals.

The Lord Mayor of Coventry Councillor (and Rotarian) Michael Hammon formally opened the proceedings at 11.30 am.

The competitors were to enjoy a carvery and a disco on the Saturday evening prior to the recommencement of

sports competition on Sunday morning.

The event closed at 3.30 pm with presentations including the winning team from Leicestershire who had retained the trophy from the previous year.



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!!

ATTENDANCE

Although our membership book has given attendance guidelines which are printed on the penultimate page of the handbook there remains a mystery to some degree on how the obligation to maintain attendance can be fulfilled.

Rotarians should realise that they must not assume and therefore treat our weekly meetings as a “luncheon club”. With that in mind each Rotarian should review the object of Rotary printed on the first page of the book. Reference also should be made to the General Information pages for further guidance on attendance matters. For the benefit of all a full detail of attendance rules is printed below.

COVENTRY ROTARY CLUB

The more important provisions governing attendance are summarised as follows:

Attendance

1. A member shall attend the Club’s regular meetings but attendance only counts if the member is present for at least 60% of the meeting
2. Absence from a meeting can be made up if, within 14 days before or after a regular meeting of the Club, the member attends:
 - 2.1 at least 60% of the regular meeting of another Rotary Club
 - 2.2 a regular meeting of a Rotaract or Interact Club
 - 2.3 a RI convention or a RIBI assembly
 - 2.4 a District conference, assembly, meeting, committee
 - 2.5 and participates in a club service project, club-sponsored community event or council-authorised meeting
 - 2.6 a council meeting,
 - 2.7 a service committee meeting
 - 2.8 participates through the Club’s website in an interactive activity for 30 minutes on average
- 3 Absence from a regular meeting of the Club can also be made up if:
 - 3.1 a member attends a regular club meeting at any time during a period of more than 14 days’ travel abroad
 - 3.2 a member is engaged in council-authorised Rotary business which precludes attendance

Excused attendance

A member’s absence is excused if:

1. council has approved
2. the aggregate of a member’s years of age and years of membership is 85 or more and the council has approved the member’s written application

Leave of absence

Leave of absence may be granted by council on a member’s written application so as to prevent forfeiture of membership

Termination

A member must attend:

1. or make up at least 60% of the regular meetings of the Club in each half year
2. at least 30% of the Club’s regular meetings in each half year

Failing such attendance, membership is subject to termination by council

Unless excused by council, a member who fails to attend or make-up four consecutive regular meetings may find that such non-attendance is treated as a request for council to terminate membership

Note: It is emphasized that this summary omits other provisions that are thought to apply only in circumstances that are exceptional. It also does not repeat in full the wording of the provisions summarised. For further information please refer to the Club Secretary.

When signing in each member should note two side columns – “S” for Service and “F” for Fellowship.

In the event that another club is visited then a mark under column “F” is appropriate. For all other qualifying attendances the “S” column should bear your mark.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

What is Rotary?

Rotary is short for Rotary International. Service above Self is Rotary's motto. It is a worldwide association of local clubs for business and professional men and women who provide humanitarian services to the community at local, national and international level to encourage high ethical standards in all vocations work for goodwill and peace in the world.

And what is Coventry Rotary Club?

The Club is one of the five in Coventry. It was founded in 1921. The club has a full range of Rotary activities; community service, vocational training and job development, practical international help and support, young peoples' exchanges between countries.

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

Please contact the Secretary, Brian Winstanley via mail: secretary@coventryrotary.org

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

2 DEC	DISTRICT COUNCIL, ARDEN SCHOOL, KNOWLE. 18.30 / 19.00 CLUB DISPLAYS CHRISTMAS TREES – HOLY TRINITY CHURCH (3 DAYS)
7 DEC	DAVID BURBIDGE- CHAIRMAN COVENTRY 2021 STEERING GROUP SANTA SLEIGH COLLECTIONS BEGINS AT ALLESLEY PARK
14 DEC	SGM- Send Christmas and New Year's Greetings to Scottsboro and Volgograd
21 DEC	CHRISTMAS MEETING. REV MARK ROWLAND
5 JAN	CLUB COLLECTION – ARENA SHOPPING PARK
29 JAN	YOUTH SPEAKS - INTERMEDIATE. BABLAKE SCHOOL. 18.30.
12 FEB	YOUTH SPEAKS - SENIOR. BABLAKE SCHOOL. 18.30
20 FEB	5 CLUBS SKITTLE EVENING AT HIGHWAY CLUB, FLETCHAMPSTEAD HIGHWAY. 19.00 – 19.30
12 MAR	YOUTH SPEAKS. REGIONAL FINAL. BABLAKE SCHOOL
28 MAR	EASTER MONDAY
4 APR	FINANCE MEETING

DOOR DUTIES 11TH JANUARY - 4TH APRIL 2016

Henceforth it has been decided that the duties of both the steward and the visitors' book will be combined. Members are reminded that it rests with them as individuals to arrange for a substitute and then to notify the Secretary. The change should be recorded by deleting the printed name and writing the amended name on the list on the notice board

Date	Door Steward & Visitors Book	Speaker's Host
11 JAN	David Cule	Keith Chapman
18 JAN	Martin Cooper	Rod Drew
25 JAN	Bob Hall	Brian Hammond
1 FEB	Michael Pittaway	Jeffery Rowe
8 FEB	Dhiran Vagdia	Philip Hodgson
15 FEB	David Kershaw	Roma Hawthorne
22 FEB	Senerath Bogahalanda	John Hartley
29 FEB	Victor Keene	Bill Parkinson
7 MAR	Ray Thompson	Bob Townsend
14 MAR	Robert Pargetter	Robert Villette
21 MAR	Obi Ugwu	Judy Ryan
28 MAR	EASTER MONDAY	
4 APR	David Davies	Trevor Sharman