



Club No. 52 RIBI District 1060
Rotary International No. 1222

Coventry Rotary Club

www.coventryrotary.org

newsletter

APRIL 2012



a word from our president



Dear Fellow Rotarians

As I write this in mid-March the promised warmer weather does not seem to have materialised. Unpredictability of weather is something that we are used to in this country - and it is supposed to form part of our national character! However, there is plenty of other evidence that Spring is on its way and it is encouraging think of the long summer days ahead.

This Spring also means that we are entering a major dining season in Rotary! We have the annual Foundation dinner coming up in April, followed by part two of our 90th birthday celebrations in May, followed by our handover meal in June. It is interesting that so much of Rotary work involves eating! Sometimes we are parodied, by those that know no better, as a "dining people". But I guess that this is as it should be - good fellowship and friendship often surround meal times and in many societies offering food is the first display of hospitality. The very earliest meeting of Rotary in 1905 was held in a restaurant in downtown Chicago and the

inaugural meeting of our own Club in 1922 started with a lunch at the then Kings Head Hotel (you will note that in our 90th birthday year your president is entering a period of historical retrospection!).

In reflecting on the events of the past few weeks one is struck by the range of activities in which we are engaged: from the "yohohos" of the Santa Sleigh to the elegance of the celebrations we held for the Chinese new year; from the drama of Youth Speaks and the Primary Debating competitions to more mundane activities such as bucket collections and raffles; from the fun and fellowship we have together to the sadness we feel as old friends pass on. Such is the breadth of our Rotary work - and this is inevitable because the Club is composed of members with a wide range of interests. In this respect nothing has changed since the earliest days. You will recall that the very first Rotary Club was composed of a lawyer (Paul Harris) a mines engineer, a tailor and a coal merchant, who eventually was the first actual president. We are a similarly diverse group of people today.

So let us celebrate the diversity we have in the Club and let us beware of forcing our own expectations on anyone. Membership of Rotary means different things to different people. For some it is a consuming interest, for others it is a very worthwhile additional aspect of their activities. What is important is that we all recognise the need to channel whatever energies we have into our general ideal of "service above self" in whatever form that takes. We are open to all who have this aim in mind and, in particular, we welcome our two newest members, Martin Cooper and Dan Howells. We hope that they will continue to make substantial contributions to the life of the Club as the months go by.

One of the many charities we have supported during the past few months is the National Autistic Society and they have a motto - "accept difference, not indifference" I believe we do, and that is why I am proud to be a Rotarian and a member of our particular Club.

Have a great Spring season

Keith



Cash bucket collection proves a great success

The first ever cash bucket collection by this club took place on 11th December 1993 at the North & South sides of the M6 service station at Corley with the kind permission of Trust House Forte of London. The amount collected on that day was £1075.

The second collection at Corley on Saturday, 5th December 1994 raised £1142.40 which was dedicated to the Acorns Children's Hospice in Birmingham.



Asami Graduates

Margaret and I had the privilege to attend the graduation ceremony at the University of Warwick on 19th January held in Butterworth Hall. Our Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar Asami Nakayama, together with her friend, Yu Tomiwa, returned from Japan to receive their degrees in the formal atmosphere among several hundred other students.

Both Asami and Yu assisted at the West Midlands Special Schools Sports Day in 2011 held at the Xcel sports centre.

Asami is already teaching students the English language at Kyoto University and plans to progress her qualifications to PhD level by a distance learning process having been encouraged to do so by her tutor at Warwick.

John Hartley



As part of Myton Hospice's 30 years celebration there is a "Tea Dance" being held at Guy Nelson Hall, Warwick on Sunday, 29th April. Promised is an enjoyable afternoon of music and entertainment set in the 40's era.

Commencing at 2 pm and finishing at 5 pm; the entrance fee is £10.00 per person which includes a cream tea.

Guy Nelson Hall is situated in the grounds of Warwick School.

For the energetic there is the 30th anniversary Butterfly Walk on Sunday, 20th May. This walk is variable in length – 10 km, 15 km or 30 km. All routes embrace canal pathways and field walking. Registration fee is £5.00. Children under 12 are free. This is an opportunity to be sponsored for your effort.

Contact Rachael.stevens@mytonhospice.org or phone 01926 838831 for more details.

The Chinese New Year – “The Year of the Dragon”

Monday, 23rd January 2012

The club celebrated this occasion as a Chinese luncheon buffet with an exceptional attendance of wives and friends. The initial display was given by Shah who performed a traditional fan dance followed by a parade of the Dragon. A generous buffet was provided for the attendance of around 60 persons.

An interesting talk was given by Eric Kent who represented the National Autistic Society. There is no doubt that a good number of his listeners secured knowledge of autism which was hitherto unknown to them. All were encouraged to bring this disability into open conversation and spread the knowledge of this condition.

The meeting concluded with another Chinese fan dance and a spirited circuit around the cricket pitch by John Brassington displaying a typical long tailed Chinese kite.

Chinese sweets and fortune cookies were passed around. A sale of Chinese tapestry work in various forms was on sale. The proceeds amounting to £200 were donated to the Rotary Club for onward transmission as part of the President's charity – the National Autistic Society.

None of these celebrations could have taken place without the organisation of Rotarian Pru Porretta, her family and friends.



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

The Coventry Telegraph Walkathon 2012

Sunday 13th May 2012

This event is now in its 17th year and is organised by the Coventry Leofric Lions. Over the years the Walkathon has raised over £180,000 using the safe circuit of 1.75 miles around the perimeter of the Coventry Memorial Park.

This is a family event and provides the opportunity to use fancy dress for which the best would receive a prize. However, dress is an optional feature of the event. The idea is for participants to be sponsored for each lap completed. Those who are interested may complete as many laps of the park up to 3.15 pm. The start time is 11 am which will be in the capable hands of the Lord Mayor.

This is not a competitive event. You can start at any time having registered your entry form with the organisers. The walk is push chair and wheelchair friendly around the full circuit.

There is an entry fee of £5.00 for adults and £2.50 for children. The Lions will donate their takings to the British Heart Foundation but participants can donate their sponsored takings to charities of their own choice.

Full details and sponsor sheets can be obtained by logging on to www.LeofricLions.org.uk or contact Reg Brown on 07766 667349



Santa Sleigh Collections 2012

The continued effort of the five Coventry Rotary Clubs and Rotaract was well tested to turn out on no less than 12 occasions in the run up to and including Christmas Eve. For those that became involved they would be pleased that the final total of monies collected was £8068.

The two main charities Myton Hospice and the Warwickshire/Northamptonshire Air Ambulance were each presented with

a cheque for £1975 and the participating clubs shared the balance. It was noted that the formula for sharing had been revised from previous years. Considering the economic circumstances it must be said that the general public dug deep into their pockets and purses to arrive at this commendable total.

In contrast to 2010 the collectors this year were favoured with much better weather and the

conditions provided a better degree of safety.

Looking forward to 2012 collection there will be a refurbishment of the sleigh and its music centre to which hopefully we can be provided with a better Santa outfit.

The presentation of cheques took place at the Coventry & North Warwickshire Cricket Club on Monday, 6th February.



St. George's Day

Monday 23rd April

I have no doubt that members of this club disbelieve the story that St George was born in or, indeed, had any connection with the City of Coventry. That said we should be sure that he was a man of flesh and blood and there may be no reason to deny his adoption by England as its patron saint. By the way I cannot account for the slaying of a dragon except it would seem to help to popularise his image. This element of the story certainly helps to build up the interest with children.

To be correct we must look to his place of birth around 270 AD. In fact there are two possibilities. One is Cappadocia in present day Turkey; the other is Lydda in the Vale of Sharon in Palestine. He was certainly a Christian and became a serving soldier in the Roman Army under the Emperor Diocletian. He became an officer in the Imperial Guard. The Emperor's second in command was Galerius who was

a supporter of the pagan religion. He had heard that Christians were plotting his death and decided that he would issue an edict to cause the destruction of Christian churches and the burning of scriptures, coupled with the decree that everyone must recognise the divinity of the Emperor by throwing incense on a lamp beside his statue. St George refused and went to the city of Nicomedia where he tore down the notice of the edict, publicly denounced the persecution and gave all his property to the poor. He was arrested and tortured refusing to denounce his faith and was beheaded on 23rd April 303 AD aged 33 years. He was buried at Lydda and a rose bush was planted on his grave which became known as the tomb of "The Great Martyr".

A Church Council was held in Lydda in 415 AD and it is certain that clerics from Britain would have learned about St George

and brought the story back to these shores. A church dedicated to St George was built during the reign of Alfred the Great (871-899) at Fordington in Dorset.

Many miracles have been attached to the soldier saint particularly associated to the Crusades. It was King Richard 1st, the Lionheart (1189-99) who saw a vision of St George with a red cross banner and opted for him to be his own personal patron, placing himself and his army under the protection of the Christian martyr. This adoption by successive monarchs was tremendously important to the gradual evolution of St George as patron saint of England.

It was Edward III (1327-1377) who promoted St George most publicly and passionately such that in 1348 he founded the Order of the Garter – a brotherhood of chivalric knights dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Edward the Confessor and St George.

Rotary Youth Speaks

Coventry Area Intermediate Final- 11-13 Age Group

This event hosted by our club and organised by the Vocational Committee was held at Bablake School Theatre, Coundon Road. Judges June Rowe, Rotarian Professor Ian Talbot and Lucy May of Inner Wheel were seriously engaged in considering the virtues of four subjects and the way in which they were presented by the students:



“Cover up Their Eyes” – Teenagers

“Sporting Heroes – Do they always have to win?”

“Should Shark Cage Diving be allowed?”

“Drink Driving”



The winning team from Bablake School was well versed to tell us about the Great White Sharks of the Cape in South Africa. Speaker Maddy Baskerville had first hand local knowledge and, coupled with seemingly natural confidence, put across her point of view very professionally and her team took the first prize and best speaker. Whitley Abbey

Business & Enterprise College entered two teams and revealed much potential and clearly came to the competition well practised without using notes. They are good prospects for future competitions. President Kennedy School and Humanities College spoke about sporting heroes and gave us food for thought about the super stars of all sports.



President Kennedy (runners up)



Whitley Abbey – Blue Team



Whitley Abbey – Red Team

The presentation of prizes and certificates were made by 2nd Vice President Philip Hodgson and he thanked those who helped to make the evening a success. Those were Bablake School, Inner Wheel and his fellow Rotarians and their ladies.

The Bablake team performed a reprise of their presentation to club members at their luncheon meeting on Monday, 20th February. They gave a performance well up to their competition standard and justified their onward position to participate in the District 1060 Intermediate Final on Friday, 9th March at the Arden School, Knowle, Solihull. The evening presentations were from six schools

with six quite different, thought-provoking subjects. Our five club supporters, of course, believed that Bablake had the best subject and had every chance of winning. However, this was not to be. They were placed third with their “Sharks” behind Rugby High School for Girls who considered “The Olympic Spirit” were second. First place went again to Shipston High School who convinced the judges and the audience that “21st December 2012 would see the end of the world”; this was a well researched and presented subject. Congratulations to them who will go forward to the next round. Certificates and trophies were presented to all participants by District Governor Rotarian Brian Kimberley.



Obituary

David Kidner, OBE LLM 1931-2012, joined Coventry Rotary 1974. He was appointed Clerk to the City Justices in 1973 when he moved from Cambridge with his wife, Alison and three young sons, an office he held with much distinction, introducing formal staff and magisterial training, IT services and inspired the case for a new separate magistrates courts building which opened in 1988, he was awarded an OBE in the new year honours in 1984 after serving as President of The Justices Clerks Society. He was active in Rotary in community and vocational spheres, his expertise and advice was always thoughtfully freely given, being appointed a club trustee before his move in retirement to Cornwall in June 2011. He touched numerous spheres and devout in his religious commitment. In his wide and varied activities he leaves Allison and sons Paul, Brian and Alan and their families with a rich legacy of commitment, service and achievement.

David's service to Rotary was exemplified by his continuous membership of the Community Services Committee. He had served for a time as Secretary and in earlier years participated in our bucket collections, tea parties for the elderly and other community activities over his long service with the club.

David was laid to rest at the 13th century parish church of St Mawgan-in-Pydar, Cornwall.

TS Coventry Sea Cadets

Tuesday, 6th March was a special parade night for the Unit who is celebrating the 70th anniversary from their formation in 1942. The Lord Mayor Councillor Kieran Mulhall was invited to inspect and meet all members of the Unit and to present a number of certificates of achievement and to welcome some new members having been introduced by the Commanding Officer Lt (SCC) Steve Warwick RNR.

The formal presentation was in the form of an armed drill called by a right marker.

Past President Harold Smart presented a club cheque in the sum of £500 to support ongoing activities including two berths on Training Ship Royalist. Rotary was represented by PP Harold Smart, Pauline Smart, Martin Cooper and PP John Hartley.



Rotary Events

Following the demise of a number of Antique Fayres organised by the late Past President Ron Cooper which were held in the main hall of King Henry VIII School up to 1983 the club had to look for an alternative way to raise funds for the Outward Bound Project for students with disabilities. This gave rise to the promotion of the annual sponsored swim held by the kind permission of Bablake School in their leisure centre. Next year (2013) this event will have run for 30 years. It is estimated that during this time over £75,000 will have been raised.

We participated in the Lions' Donkey Derby held in the Memorial Park for 18 years until 2009 selling books, bric-a-brac, plants and face painting. This event extraordinaire in its intensive labour requirements probably raised over time approximately £10,000.

So these days are behind us and new activities do not appear to be as fruitful today. Having said all that we must be grateful in the extreme for a generous string of benefactions from individuals and charitable trusts who have given this club exceptional support, especially for the Outward Bound Project which is in its 34th year. Interviews for this year's course are in progress and the final selected group of students with disabilities will leave for Ullswater, Cumbria on Saturday 7th July.

Long Service

As all members will know our 90th anniversary of the club's charter in 1922 will be formally recognised by a celebratory dinner on Friday, 25th May here at the Coventry North Warwickshire Cricket Club.

Part of the evening's programme will be the presentation of no less than 22 long service awards ranging from 25 years up to 45 years.

Coincidentally this number of Rotarians comprises sufficient number to field two cricket teams. Perhaps the 30 years and under could play the 35 years and over. No doubt Past President Dennis Coombe MBE could appoint a colleague who with him could umpire the match. No under arm bowling allowed!

Door Duties 2012

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 name on the list on the Notice Board

		2011 Door Steward	Speaker's Host	Visitors' Book
April	13	Foundation Dinner To be arranged	Evening Meeting President if required	To be arranged
	16	AGM Daman Lal-Sarin	Not required	David Rees
	23	Pro Porretta	Richard Perry	Tarsem Rupra
	30	Trevor Sharman	Ian Talbot	Bob Townsend
May	7	BANK HOLIDAY		
	14	Ray Thompson	Dhiran Vagdia	Brian Hammond
	21	Club Assembly Trevor Webb	Not required	Jon Wilby
	25	Charter Night To be arranged	President	To be arranged
	28	Brian Winstanley	Amrik Bhabra	Senarath Bogahalanda
June	4	BANK HOLIDAY		
	11	Terry Bond	Jerry Cook	To be arranged
	18	Dennis Coombe	Jo Molloy	Syd Creed
	25	Handover Rod Drew	Bob Hall	David Cule
	July	2	John Hartley	Bob Kimber
	9	David Joyce	Geoffrey Jackson	Ken Holmes
	16	Victor Keene	Gerald Osborne	Richard Perry
	23	Mike Pittaway	Pru Porretta	Tarsem Rupra
	30	David Rees	Trevor Sharman	Ian Talbot

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, Bob Osborn, 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, Bob Osborn, 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, Bob Osborn, 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!!

Sayings from Rotary Club Birmingham

Leading up to our 90th anniversary celebration which takes us back in time to our unacknowledged "Mother" club we should learn a little about what was happening in the Rotary Club of Birmingham in 1921/22. A couple of items from their newsletter are quoted below:-

"Vice President engaged the club in discussion about the kind of talks and procedures the club may need as a variation on past experiences. One issue raised by a member questioned the principle of fellow members addressing each other by their Christian names. He claimed there were men in the club to whom he would scarcely go to and call by their Christian names. He would deem this to be a presumption! (Is this the problem of a large club or the stigma of the 1920's

society?) The same party was not in favour of singing the Rotary grace at luncheon meetings."

"Among many things that a bowler might say, having hit the stump, is "That one would have beaten W G Grace". A batsman on the other hand might say "Why can't that ****policeman keep his fat carcass from the sight screen?" The fielder would likely say "Ninety nine times out of a hundred I could have caught that ball in my mouth."

In May 1921 the Rotary Club of Birmingham had 240 members and this despite 39 resignations and "dismissals". This loss was counterbalanced by 54 new members. An average attendance at the luncheon meetings was 69%.

Secretary's Notes

What is Rotary?

Rotary is short for Rotay International. Service above Self is Rotary's motto. It is a world-wide association of local clubs for business and professional men and women who: provide humanitarian service to the community at local, national and international level 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 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 12.45 p.m. 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, Bob Osborn via email:

secretary@coventryrotary.org

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

Club Programme

April	2	Africa Inspires (DK)
	9	EASTER MONDAY
	13	Annual President's Foundation Dinner 7pm for 7.30pm @ C&NWCC
	13 – 15	RIBI Conference, Bournemouth
	16	Annual General Meeting (No Speaker)
	23	DV trying to secure a St George speaker
	30	Mark Bailie, Finham Park School (DV)
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May	7	BANK HOLIDAY
	10	Provisional Visit to historic Newark – President dealing
	14	David Jane, Belgrade Theatre (DV)
	18	Skittles Night, Barnacle Village Hall 7pm for 7.30pm
	21	Club Assembly – District Governor's visit
	25	CHARTER NIGHT 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROTARY CLUB OF COVENTRY @ Coventry North Warwick CC 3 course meal
	26	Collection, Morrison's Holyhead Road (Community Service arranging)
	28	Pauline Dye "Support for Family Carers in Coventry" – to ask her to move to another date
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June	4	BANK HOLIDAY
	9	President's strawberry and cream afternoon in Hampton Lucy
	11	Propose VP David Kershaw on "Charter Schools in the USA" and lessons we could learn (DV)
	18	Propose Jazz Ladv (Rtn David Rees)
	25	CLUB HANDOVER EVENING MEETING AT C&NWCC
	27	District Handover, Park Inn, West Bromwich
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July	2	Propose Maggie O'Kane "Family Action Project"
	7	Departure of Outward Bound students
	9	Nick Howes (My Job "The Total Leader")
	14	Return of Outward Bound students
	16	Andrea Newman DEBRA
	23	Propose "My Job Talk" by Rtn Joe Malloy, JG Contractors
	30	Sackie Somal, Warwickshire Investment Partnership
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Aug	6	Propose Joel of Elite Therapy (DV)
	13	Propose Dave Boden, Chair, Grace Academy (TBC)
	20	Propose Dave Boden, Chair, Grace Academy (TCB)
	27	BANK HOLIDAY
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Sept	3	Propose Dave Boden, Chair, Grace Academy (TBC)
	3	Barclays Cake Sale
	4	Proposed Outing "Calendar Girls" @ Priory Theatre (International)
	10	Muna Chauhan "Zoé's Place Baby Hospice (DV)