



# NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2016

## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

### *Dear Fellow Rotarians*

My time since the September Newsletter has been very much taken up with a house move. I never realised how stressful a move could be. But not as stressful as the tragic event of the 30th December 2015 for the people of Ballater in Scotland, when the river Dee burst its banks and flooded the area. That in itself was bad enough, but later a torrent of water off the hillside swept through the village at 70 miles an hour flooding over 400 homes and businesses. When we visited in late November many of

the homes were still unoccupied and work was still going on to repair buildings and roads.

How then do people in less developed countries cope after some of the disasters we hear about and see on the television and the news media. We are presented with the results of the disaster but very rarely do we see the results of our efforts to help and how long it takes for these people to recover from the disaster

We were privileged at Rotary District 1060 Conference to hear from Luke Simon who tragically lost his brother Piers whilst they

were both on the Thai island of Koh Phi Phi when the Indian Ocean Tsunami hit. In honour and as a memorial to his brother Piers, Luke launched the Piers Simon Appeal (PSA) to help disaster



victims around the world. So far victims in 17 countries have been financially supported by the charity including funding 131 Shelter boxes. To see the results of the charity's efforts was very impressive. But not stopping there the charity in 2009 created School in a Bag (SIAB), distributing rucksacks filled with stationary, learning resources and eating utensils to disadvantaged children around the world. Luke said so far up until October 2016 SIAB had

# FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

(continued)

delivered over 70,000 school bags to children in 33 countries.

To put one's life into perspective and appreciate what we have we heard at the conference from Steve Brown, Paralympics GB Rugby Captain. The story of his journey after tripping over and falling off a balcony resulting in a broken neck was incredible and inspiring. What he went through and how he coped was very moving, I don't think there was a dry eye in the audience by the time he finished his talk. But his story is best told by himself we will have to see if we can book him for a talk.

Christmas is fast approaching and Rotary is again ready to roll out Santa's Sleigh not forgetting our Festival of Christmas Trees in Holy Trinity Church. The trees go on on the 6th of December and we have our grand opening on the 7th followed by a concert by the City of Coventry Male Voice Choir. This year promises to be bigger than last year's and hopefully if we all spread the word about it we will have even more visitors.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all and all your families a happy and peaceful Christmas and of course a very happy new year.

*President Kevin*



## WARWICKSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

A reminder to all members that this club is a corporate member of the above Trust which gives two tickets valid until the end of the Rotary year June 2017. This gives free entry to Brandon Marsh Nature Centre and the Parkeridge Centre, Brueton Park, Solihull, B91 3HW.

The trip around Brandon Marsh, in part, is suitable for disabled in wheelchairs otherwise it is a maze of footpaths where you can see wildlife of all kinds. Visits in March onwards are quite rewarding for bird life. The marsh is open all year round.



## SEA CADETS TS COVENTRY

Members may wish to know that the club via the community service committee provided funding support to send 12 cadets on a sea going training voyage aboard TS Jack Petchey. The photograph was taken in the morning of Wednesday, 23rd November. Fortunately the waters in the Solent were somewhat calmer on this day and without a doubt the experience gained in the week long voyage will have included some fairly rough weather.



In support of Past President Geoffrey Jackson CBE a number of club members accepted an invitation by Trustee Alan Durham to visit this historic monastery which is tucked away out of sight off the London Road and is an important building which is part of the heritage of Coventry.

The title of the building is the Priory of St Anne and its founding dates back to 1385. It provided accommodation for Carthusian monks; virtually a silent order of well educated monks who spend most of their time isolated in cell-like accommodation probably engaged in hand writing scriptures. They would receive their food via a hole in the wall of their individual cells. Apparently the Charterhouse was one of six establishments in Britain. Seemingly the Coventry site was one of the most Spartan. A cell and its occupant may well have been sponsored by a local merchant. However until his death the monastic house had been supported by Richard II.

To be a monk of this silent order one imagines that individuals would accept this form of life to escape purgatory in the hope of a safe passage to heaven. Perhaps it is surprising that part of the site was given to a school for apprentice monks.

There was a church in the complex which of course was demolished by order of King Henry VIII in his reformation. Archaeology has discovered some 50 graves within the building.

The most prestigious room in the building has been 'modernised' by various incumbents since 16th century but previously was the Prior's lodging

room with access to the upper floor (now sealed). A significant feature is a wall painting of St Anne said to date from 1410. In one of the upper rooms there is another wall painting which dates to the 16th century. Both were said to have been the work of travelling continental artists – names unknown.

Since the reformation the building has had a chequered history of ownership and been subject to a variety of physical alterations. During the early 18th century the site was a nursery which included an orangery. In 1880's it was the home of the pharmacist Alderman Colonel Sir W F Wyley DI JP who had been Mayor of Coventry. One imagines during his period of occupation that all the gardens were in good order of restoration and internally Charterhouse would have seen additional rooms created to further disguise the original use as a monastery.

After the Wyley family the history of this ancient building has become even more complex. In its life it was used as a youth hostel, a refuge for disabled servicemen and latterly an extension of the Tile Hill College which was absorbed into the new City College.

The Charterhouse Trust, which owns the building, has applied with some success to obtain financial grants to support the restoration and has used the services of many volunteers to do essential work in the extensive grounds. There are plans to be able in three to five years' time to hold ceremonial events albeit that a licence is already held to hold civil weddings for up to around 50 guests. Also other rooms could be used for educational purposes or meeting rooms for community groups. There is much to do!!



## KARE ADENEGAN – PARALYMPIAN 2016

Kare, together with her mother Karen, came to our club meeting on Monday, 31st October to receive the congratulations of our members upon her achievements in Brazil. Kare was able to secure a silver medal in the 100 metres and bronze medals in the 400 and 800 metres wheelchair racing events. In each of the three distances she performed to her personal best speeds. At the age of 15 it would seem that in keeping up with her regular training schedule we can expect to see Kare in the Tokyo Paralympics and who knows what her results may then be at that time?

Kare thoroughly soaked up the Rio atmosphere and enjoyed meeting fellow para-athletes from different parts of the world. There can be no doubt that at her age of 15 she herself was a person to attract attention of the media. The journey home was celebrated with British Airways coating the nose of the aircraft with a gold colour to mark the splendid achievements of the whole team.

As if anyone was still flying with their feet off the ground Kare was involved and seen on TV at the Manchester and London bus-stop parades around the cities, both topped with meeting the Royal Family in Buckingham Palace. Now life is getting back to normal school and GCSE's are taking priority of her time although she still has to fit in her training schedule.

Her performance levels indicate that in 2020 her place in the Tokyo Paralympic team is virtually guaranteed. By this time her body strength will have increased and who knows how well she will do?

Currently Kare is waiting for a new racing machine because she is growing in height and upper body and, when the wheelchair arrives, it will provide a more comfortable position for racing.

In her address to the club she thanked members for giving her a cheque for £1000 being part of a larger bequest to the club from former Lord Mayor Michael Hammon who had raised a large amount from public donations. Kare went on to explain her arduous training schedule which would be her routine of keeping fit and healthy for the World Paralympic Championships in 2017. Kare is a modest well mannered young lady and in her address expressed herself in a way which is beyond her years. Her thanks to the club and Mrs Kim Rees were expressed for the support given to her. Her answers to many questions from the floor were crisp and clear. All credit to her and best wishes given by the club since 2017 is a challenging year when her GCSEs have to be faced at Bablake School who have been supportive throughout her athletic career commitments.

# DISTRICT 1060 CONFERENCE

## CARDEN PARK, CHESTER 4<sup>TH</sup> – 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2016



District Governor Peter Roberts and his lady wife Pam can look back on this conference as a definite success. The apparent splendid isolation in the countryside

was not the disadvantage that it at first appeared. The men especially did not find the absence of shopping at arms length from the hotel other than an advantage. The compensation for some was to visit the Cheshire Oaks complex which did not appear to be an attraction to the Coventry group. Our accommodation was comfortable and the conference facilities well up to the mark created by earlier venues.

During the evening of the 4th we almost completely fitted in the main hall for dinner with a few having to dine in the main restaurant. Messages of welcome were given by the Deputy Lord Mayor of Chester Councillor Razia Daniels and a presentation given by David D Morgan, the Rotary International President's representative. We also listened to a few words of welcome by the District Governor Elect of District 1180 which embraced the Chester and North Wales District. To lighten up the evening we were entertained by sisters Emily and Charlotte who performed as the "Sisters of Swing" and were able to remind their audience of hits from the 20s through to modern day classics. "Who would not sit under the apple tree with these girls?"



During the morning of the 5th we began to see much of our Sergeant at Arms Steve Cartwright who could be compared to Will-o-the-Wisp? He was here there and everywhere.

A well received presentation was given by Kay-Jay Simmons who had been in care and attended special schools but

eventually became an actor expressing himself in dance and music. His career developed and has reached involvement with TV/film, The Old Vic Theatre, Shakespeare's Globe and The National Youth Theatre. Kay-Jay is involved with the political arena and helps to change legislation and speaks at Westminster for the Care Leavers' Association and other organisations.

Two very impressive and enthusiastic speakers were Jamie Proctor and Saalim Koomar who explained the Mlambe Project.

Many present will have known Chris Goodman from Kings Hill Nurseries who conducted a Gardeners' Question Time with the audience.

Professor Gareth Williams is an ambassador for the British Polio Fellowship and enlightened his audience with the latest facts and figures about this terrible disease.

Luke Simon was the instigator of the "School in a Bag" appeal which to its credit has already delivered over 70,000 school bags to children in 33 countries. A most innovative project.



The dinner on the 5th gave opportunity for each Rotary Club to present donations to DG Peter Roberts. However the highlight of the evening was Liverpool born Natasha Agarwal, soprano and choral scholar at the University of Warwick. Having won District 1060 Young Musician in 2014, she progressed to be third in the Rotary National Final.

Continuing with the Sergeant at Arms on our heels, we arrived on the morning of Sunday, 6th November to hear our own Pauline Smart, Chair

# DISTRICT 1060 CONFERENCE (CONTINUED)



of Inner Wheel District 6, to explain about the work of the Macular Society in the age related macular degeneration which had affected her husband Harold, a Past President of the Rotary Club of Coventry. Her display in the

Wendy House where you could try on some glasses which gave a good impression of what it is like to have the condition.

We were advised that Conference 2017 would take place in Llandudno under the leadership of DG Elect Charan Bunger.

From Birmingham University we were introduced to Rotary Peace Scholar Yuuri Hanakura who in Japan is a qualified social worker. She has travelled into four or five countries and hopes the master's degree from Birmingham will allow her to expand her career and contribute to peace building in the world. Her talk was complemented by Rotarian Paul Beedham.

Steve Brown, the GB Paralympic Rugby Captain, was a most confident and enthusiastic speaker. His spinal injury has led him beyond participation in sports to becoming a BBC personality in Springwatch and a wheelchair sports pundit on ITV. This has made him to be one of the most influential persons in Britain about disability or impairment.

The Reverend Kevin Jones was an Army Chaplain and a qualified Chartered Accountant who, as Chaplain to 11 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Regiment had a most varied career path to explain.

On Sunday, 6th the morning began with a lady who had sought refuge from family abuse, together with her three children. Initially in her address she lost her composure but made a recovery to complete her story as an inmate for some three years or more to escape abuse from her partner. The audience gave her a standing ovation.

The penultimate speaker was Margaret Bullock from the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas, Staffordshire. In developing her life she explained that rowing was her sport. However she has been piloting a glider, sponsored trekking on the Great Wall of China, zip wiring and ballooning. Now at the Arboretum as a guide to visiting groups she has developed an interest in history. Margaret has a most varied life history with stories to tell.

Finally in the conference tradition, there was the opportunity to meet Derek Poulson who was tasked to send everyone home with a smile. Derek is an actor, lecturer, critic and a presentation consultant. As a Yorkshire man he has studied the dialects of Britain and in an amusing way displayed his wide variety of local knowledge.

All in all a successful conference which ran to time in a fully booked venue. Satisfaction all round.

# CAKE RECIPE

As a reminder to all club cake makers there will be a call to your kitchens in the near future to support a worthy cause. To ring the changes from Victoria sponges you may wish to use the following instructions.

## INGREDIENTS

1 cup of water  
1 tsp baking powder  
1 cup of sugar  
2 tsp of salt  
1 cup of brown sugar  
Lemon juice  
4 large eggs  
Nuts  
1 bottle of vodka  
2 cups of dried fruit

## METHOD

Sample the vodka to check quality. Take a large bowl, check vodka again. To be sure it is the highest quality, pour one level cup and drink. Repeat. Turn on the electric mixer. Beat one cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl. Add one teaspoon of sugar, beat again. At this point it's best to make sure the vodka is still ok. Try another cup....just in case. Turn off the mixer we.

Break two legs and add to bowl and chuck in the dried fruit. Pick fruit off floor.

Mix on the turner.

If the dried druit gets shtuck in the beaters pry it loose with a schdrewsdriver.

Sample the vodka to check tonsistcity.

Next sift two cups of salt. Or something, who cares?

Check the vodka.

Now shift the lemon juice and strain the nuts.

Add on table....

Add a spoon of sugar. Or somefink, whatever you can find.

Grease the oven.

Turn the cake tin 360 degrees and try not to fall over.

Don't forget to beat off the turner.

Finally, throw the bowl through the window, finish the vodka and kick the cat.

Fall into bed.

# *Merry Christmas!*

***The Editor is grateful to the Inner Wheel Club of Atherstone for this suggestion!***

# ***A smile to end your reading!***

## **THE WINTER BOOTS**

*(Anyone who has ever dressed a child will love this)*

Did you hear about the teacher  
Who was helping one of her pupils put on his boots?  
He asked for help and she could see why.

Even with her pulling and him  
Pushing the little boots still didn't  
Want to go on.

By the time they got the second boot on,  
She had worked up a sweat.

She almost cried when the little boy said,  
"Miss, they're on the wrong feet".  
She looked, and sure enough, they were.  
Unfortunately, it wasn't easier pulling the boots off  
Than it was putting them on.

She managed to keep her cool as, together,  
They worked to get the boots back on, this time on the correct feet.  
He then announced, "These aren't my boots".

She bit her tongue, rather than get right in his face and scream,  
"Why didn't you say so?" like she wanted to.

Once again, she struggled to help him pull the ill-fitting boots off his little feet.  
No sooner had they got the boots off when he said, "They're my brother's boots  
But my Mummy made me wear 'em today". Now she didn't know if she should laugh or cry. But  
she mustered up what grace and courage she had left  
To wrestle the boots BACK on to his feet again.

Helping him into his coat, she asked, "Now, where are your mittens?"  
He said, "I stuffed 'em in the toes of my boots".

She'll be eligible for parole in three years.

# INFORMATION FOR NEW ROTARIANS

## *(and for old ones if they have forgotten)*

The latest 'Duties' list can be viewed weekly on the club notice board. A list will also appear on our club website 'coventryrotary.org' and follow the link. Please make a note when it is your turn if you are unable to make a particular day, swap with another member but please tell the Club Secretary Brian Winstanley, to keep his records straight, having already written in the alteration on the notice board list.

For new members the listings of the duties of the Door Steward are not very onerous. The first part of the job is to take the money off members for the lunch and make sure they sign the attendance sheet, copies of which will be found in the Steward's box. When there are only two blank sheets left request more from the Club Secretary. He usually carries those in his briefcase. After everyone has signed (President and speakers do not pay) make sure your list of attendances agrees with those sitting at the tables. Balance the cash and cheques received and pass the list and payments to Treasurer Bob Kem-

ble who completes the payment to the steward of the club.

In tandem with the above duties you must ensure that visitors to the luncheon meeting and the speaker should record their names in the Visitors' Book. At a later point in the meeting the President will invite you to introduce the visitors to the meeting. It is appropriate to include the rank or position held if this is apparent, eg Past or President of a club or Past or Present Chairperson of an organisation.

### ***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 Steward's 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.

***Thank you all for your efforts.***

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!!

***2nd Vice President  
Robert Vilette  
Chief Steward***

# 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-authorized 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-authorized 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 12.45 pm 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](http://www.coventryrotary.org)***

7th Dec	Opening of The Festival of Christmas Trees by the Lord Mayor of Coventry at Holy Trinity Church
12th Dec	Helen Ure. The Humming Bird Centre (TBC)
19th Dec	CHRISTMAS LUNCH
.....	
7th Jan	Charity Collection Arena Shopping Park
9th Jan	Jane Walker, Phillipine Comunity Trust (TBC)
16th Jan	Nicola Vaughan, Talking About Twitter (TBC)
23rd Jan	RTN Robin Kenward. REMAP.
27th Jan	Youth Speaks at Bablake School
30th Jan	Laura Moore, Sales Manager – Ramada Hotel and Suites (TBC)
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23rd Feb	Rotary Day
.....	
4th Mar	Youth Speaks - Area Final at Bablake Final
15th Mar	District Council
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1st Apr	Youth Speaks - Regional Final
3rd Apr	Finance Meeting
7th – 9th Apr	Rotary GBI Conference



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***