Dear Fellow Rotarians

I am amazed at the resourcefulness of people and their ingenuity especially that of Women. I love the story of Ada Lovelace although Charles Babbage invented the Difference Engine, it was Ada Lovelace that could see the possibilities of the Engine and became the world’s first computer programmer. I was privileged to attend the Godiva Trust’s Women of Achievement Awards this month. To meet and hear the stories of these Women was inspiring. Rotarians are constantly looking at the ways and means of helping people in need. I am sure you will agree with me that the people in need both at home and abroad has increased in recent times. Our services and our time are in constant demand and the stories of what Rotary Clubs do around the world is inspiring. I would like to share with you the following story that I read.

10 grains of rice

In November 2000 during a visit to CAFOD partners in Bangladesh as a Millennium Awardee, I met a most astonishing woman who has lived in my memory since. She was physically unprepossessing. Well short of five foot tall, with the teeth and hair of an Asian Ken Dodd, she beamed as she was introduced to us as the owner of a scraggy brown cow.

She was the marvel of her village. Several years previously she had been the stereotypical meek Bangladeshi woman. Married, subordinate, submissive, confined to the house and not consulted on the fate of her children, she had decided to ask CAFOD’s partner, Caritas Bangladesh, for a loan. To qualify for a loan she needed a deposit but she had no money and no hope of ever having any.

Her response was to save ten grains of rice every time she cooked. When she had a kilo of rice, she took it to Caritas Bangladesh and borrowed an amount of money equal to twice the value of the rice. With this small amount she bought a few chickens which she looked after until they laid eggs. Some of the eggs she sold and some she allowed to hatch out so as to increase her flock. By the time our group met her, she had paid off her debt, made enough money to buy a cow and had become a respected person in the village. She had even been consulted by her husband on the future of her son.

One of the first things I did on returning home to England was to meticulously work out, ten
FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT (continued)

SEA CADETS

There are 10 Sea Cadet units in the Warwickshire District all of which are at some distance from the sea. The Sea Cadet Corps have an annual District Flotilla Trophy which covers at least 15 different disciplines.

In 2016 Coventry won the trophy with 276 points, second was Sutton Coldfield with 209 points and then was Shirley with 201 points.

This result highlights the effectiveness of Coventry and proves the educational value of those cadets who meet regularly on Tuesday evenings to receive their instruction.

Well done Coventry!

KARE ADENEGAN – PARALYMPIAN 2016

There will be more to report in the next edition. However it can be announced that Kare has been awarded a Rotary Young Citizen Award by RIBI. This will be formally announced at the RIBI Conference in Manchester on April 7th – 9th 2017.
The Club as we know is developing its thoughts and planning what form the celebrations will take in 2021 when we mark our centenary.

What seems clear is that we will create a close connection with the Carthusian Priory of St Anne which was the home of the Carthusian monks in what we have come to know as the Charterhouse, London Road, Coventry. This building is in constant process of restoration following a variety of uses since the Reformation in the reign of King Henry VIII when it was being wrested from the Roman Catholic Church.

The Carthusian Order dates back to 1084 when a German monk St Bruno (what did he know about tobacco?) established a closed silent order on a desolate rocky plateau called Chartreuse in South Eastern France. In the Latin language this became Cartusia and in English it was Charterhouse. The monks devoted themselves to a life of isolation, austerity and scholarship. A chain of such Charterhouses grew across Europe and by 1200 AD these were 37. In London the Charterhouse was built on the Smithfield plague pit and was consecrated in 1371 with a prior and six monks. The Londoners and the meat sellers were not best pleased by this building.

However the Order developed and by the 16th century there were 24 cells for the monks in Coventry. We have a Grade 1 listed building which laid its foundations in 1385; originally there were 11 cells for monks but accommodation grew to 20 for lay brothers. There were 12 school boys and servants also involved in the work of the building. The life of a Carthusian monk was very hard and represents medieval monastic life at its most vigorous. They wore black and white cloaks and a hair shirt beneath next to their skin. Straw was their bed; they were forbidden to eat meat and ate only bread and water, occasionally vegetables and perhaps cheese on Thursdays and fish on Sundays. Most of their time they were shut away in their cells for prayer, meditations or to work in the upper floor of their cells. The cells were surrounded by a walled garden where flowers, vegetables and herbs were grown.

The Carthusian monks were a silent order and could only speak to the Prior. They only saw other monks during church services or in the refectory on certain days of the week. Generally food was passed to the monk by a lay brother through a hole in the cell door. A monk who died was buried without a coffin.

Whatever this club decides to do in celebration of its centenary you can be sure that it will not take place with only bread and water on the table nor will members be wearing black and white cloaks but this potted history should encourage you to reflect on times gone by while enjoying the riches of today.
COLLECTION AT MORRIONS SUPERSTORE, HOLYHEAD ROAD, SATURDAY 11TH MARCH

This was the third bucket collection of the year by our club. On this occasion we found the weather to be kind and the customers generous. We were collecting for general charities with a particular emphasis on local needs which operate in the shadow of the larger charities which of course receive all the publicity.

The day’s total donations amounted to £376.88 which equated to 8 pence per minute. This figure will be enhanced by gift aid tax rebate and the day's effort would gross £471.22.

Club members may wish to note that in 2017 to date our collections have raised £1567.04 including gift aid and the coffee morning for Zoe’s Place raised £700.00.

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

One of two first time initiatives for the Rotary Club of Coventry occurred in January 2017.

In January we formally introduced YMCA Coventry into our club membership. President Keith presented a framed certificate of incorporation to Andrew Winter, the senior executive of the local branch.

In fact the YMCA had already been assisting the club in the Christmas tree display which decorated Holy Trinity Church prior to Christmas as well as making a significant presence in the Santa Sleigh collections which concluded on 23rd December.

We welcome the YMCA to our fellowship of Rotary and look forward to working together in the weeks and months ahead.

In addition, we welcome ADECS Limited to our new fold of corporate membership under their leadership of Past President Amrik Bhabra MBE.

The link to ADECS is personified in the development and maintenance of the club website and the quarterly publication of the Club newsletter which provides the basis of our club history.
TS ROYALIST is the Sea Cadets flagship, a training brig that takes twenty-four cadets to sea for six day voyages. The vessel was designed by Acubens, built during 2014 / 2015 at the Spanish shipyard of Astilleros Gondán. The Princess Royal officially named the Marine Society and Sea Cadets’ flagship, TS ROYALIST and attended a Reception afterwards at West India Docks.

It is worthy to report notable achievements of the Unit reported by the Commanding Officer Lt Steve Warwick.

The Unit Offshore week in November 2017 took 12 cadets on TS Jack Petchey and 3 on Royalist (the new ship). All cadets received certificates of their achievements in their sea going experience and 3 with recognition of being crew on Royalist.

- 2 cadets passed Advanced Peer Educator course
- 4 cadets passed Intermediate First Aid course
- 1 cadet passed the Intermediate Seamanship course
- 1 cadet passed the Advanced National Catering qualification at HMS Raleigh
- 6 cadets attended a Piping course in Weymouth

This list of achievements endorses our support of this most active unit who have a total of 126 people of which some 90 are cadets and their instructors.

The weekly meetings in Crescent Avenue are syllabus based and together with high degrees of discipline and general smartness of cadet dress.

Our current fundraising is to apply for help to secure a Yole boat which is a specialised rowing boat.

The Annual General Meeting is 11th May 2017.

WARWICKSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

Our membership of the above has resulted in a newsletter issued periodically. In the December issue it is noted that some 6830 trees will be planted in Bubbenhall Meadows which will effectively join up three local woods, namely Bubbenhall, Wappenbury and Ryton. This will become a wildlife-rich space on clearly a larger scale. Oddly enough, your editor when a boy of only 8 or 9 used to play in Wappenbury Woods and on rare occasions at night-time would hear nightingales singing. Seemed special to him because he has heard nothing since!
This annual event organised by Rotary Club of Coventry North was well supported and included the Rotary Club of Bedworth to join with our smallest Club Coventry Breakfast to engage with the other four clubs from Coventry.

The trophy in the form of a ewer was won by Coventry Jubilee and presented to President Jaz Dhaliwal who led a fairly youthful team.

Our own President gave a stylish performance to encourage our retention of the trophy; however we counted among our team a number of physically impaired members who did their best to support our team effort.

As in the past the raffle had a generous collection of prizes with many in the room being called by their lucky numbers.

A supper of fish/chicken and chips was well received accompanied by the essential salt and vinegar.

Thank you to Kevin and Janet for providing photographic support.

This proved to be successful and provided for a donation of £700.00 to Zoë’s Place, the baby hospice, a charity chosen by Kim.

On a cold day there was a valiant few who were distinctly generous to arrive at this significant sum of money. Kim and her friends provided a variety of raffle prizes which guaranteed a high level of success in the assembled company who had dug deep into their purses and pockets to add substantially to the monetary total.

Kim had risen early to make 50 scones and wives of Rotarians had contributed six full size home made cakes, all of which had been sold.

Few of us noticed that Kim had laid on her paid helper to support the volunteers who served the coffee/tea and biscuits throughout the morning. By around 12.30 pm this excursion into the experience of a successful fund raising event was over and thanks all round to those who attended and those who did not but made cakes, provided raffle prizes or indeed had purchased raffle tickets and could not attend.

Last of all did anyone notice and appreciate the presence of Victor Keene MBE who braved the elements to ensure the parking of cars was kind and considerate to Kim’s neighbours.
Club Secretary Brian and myself were present at the Radford & Holbrook Methodist Church to be part of a service to celebrate the life of Pam Barnes who passed away on 27th December aged 82.

Pam was a great supporter of this club. For many years she had arranged with groups of elderly people to come to the Bonham Tea Parties and the entertainment afterwards in the Central Hall. At another time she selected elderly ladies to have our trips around Draycote Water with morning coffee and biscuits.

Pam worked tirelessly for the Coundon Day Care centre and in doing so kept a book of reference of people she knew who were likely to help her raise money for the centre. I know my name, address and telephone number was listed as a member of this club. We always contributed where we could. She must have had dozens of names in her precious book.

In 1993 Pam was awarded with a Jubilee Award in the form of a silver medallion by this club.

Pam’s life was a kaleidoscope of vocations. A Shropshire girl, known at school as the “Ketley Killer” suggested that she was akin to a tomboy approaching a bully. This description was her own and somewhat harsh. No doubt she displayed her determination which manifested itself throughout her life. Leaving school she became a typist with show business ambitions. She spent winter months in pantomime and in the summer she became a Butlin’s Red Coat. She met many well known stars in her career on the stage.

Pam came to Coventry when she was 38 and found a job in a private kindergarten but progressed to the National Hospital Service Reserve where she began to make contact with community work. She liked working with children. In 1975 Pam changed her job and worked at Broad Park School for children with severe learning difficulties. Here she sensed the need for fund raising and as ever she was up to the task. The school life was transformed and so began her huge list of contacts.

From 1985 onwards her life was interwoven with Coundon Care Centre and Coundon Age Concern. This was a government sponsored scheme but the funding ended. Four people who supported the centre decided to carry on with Pam as the essential fundraiser.

Pam entertained her elderly friends by singing at their parties (apparently she had a good voice). Her reputation grew and P-A-M came to mean the “Perpetual Asking Machine”.

Pam would always contribute her ideas to highlight an event. On Easter she arranged for 2 donkeys to attend the service. She had a good relationship with the Fire Service who was called to recover the proceeds of a collection which dropped through a grating. Apparently more money was recovered than originally lost. There is much, much more to tell in her life at the Coundon Care Centre.

Sadly the Care Centre had to close in 2016 and Pam became ill with norovirus which then led to a heart attack from which she never recovered. Coventry is a poorer place because Pam is no longer with us.

John Hartley
Thanks to the late PDG Rotarian David Rees I have inherited some of his Rotary memorabilia.

In an RIBI book written by Past President Norman Proctor he described events in RIBI during the years 1975 – 2005. It was in the concluding Rotary year 2004/5 during the presidential year of Gordon McInally (South Queensferry) that a great Tsunami struck on December 26th 2004 which shook the ground violently and unleashed a series of killer waves that sped over the Indian Ocean at the speed of a jet airliner. By the end of that day 160,000 people were dead or missing and millions made homeless in 11 countries. It has been estimated that this release of energy was as if 23,000 Hiroshima type atomic bombs had been dropped. Within hours of the news breaking Rotarians were in contact with their fellows in or near to the areas of disaster. The effect on RIBI was such that in a few days stocks of Aquaboxes, Emergency boxes and Shelter boxes were on route from the UK by land, sea and air to be received by local Rotarians.

Rotarians in the UK would be seen in their tabards in shopping centres, football grounds and on street corners collecting cash into buckets for the relief of victims. Within two days over one million pounds had been donated. The packing of relief boxes was a non stop activity which did not escape the notice of the media. The first week of January 2005 gave evidence of the Rotary involvement showing the display of materials showing the Rotary logo. The collections and donations grew to eight million pounds. In the first ten weeks the organisers had doubled the number of boxes that they had previously handled in their existence.

The Indian Ocean Tsunami caused waves as high as 50 feet and travelled some 3,000 miles towards Africa killing people and destroying property. During the disaster the operation of the RIBI Relief Fund was deployed in a number of different directions to describe how the money was used. Some are listed below:-

1. A total of £10 million had been donated by the British public
2. 10,000 Aquaboxes had been despatched with sufficient water purification for 40,000 people for 3 months
3. 12,000 Shelter boxes provided temporary shelter for 120,000 people
4. Sri Lanka Village Project. 125,000 pounds donation to build 50 houses and infrastructure at Pandura region – some 12 miles from Colombo
5. Thailand Village Project. 150,000 pounds to build 50 low cost shelters in four different districts
6. Sri Lanka Schools Project at Randomebe and Batticaloa to build or repair 25 schools. This scheme was supported by District 3220 in cooperation with Rotary Clubs in Devon, Yorkshire and Essex. These provided computer suites and solar panelled water filtration plants. Also better toilets and libraries
7. Indonesia Fishing Project. Provision of funds to provide and build fishing boats reconstruction of fish markets and boat landing facilities.
8. Fishing Project in Sri Lanka. In cooperation with the Rotary Club of Falmouth and other local organisations 20 fishing boats were supplied complete with 15hp engines and nets. These will provide five families and others with employment. Also in fish selling and processing

The above commentary provides evidence to new members of the effectiveness of Rotary when giving response to disasters. Of course the above relief only refers to RIBI but imagine the whole picture as it reflects Rotary International
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 Kemble 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 Villette,
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-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 12.45 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

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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