

# Rotary District 1240 Bulletin

## January 2024—District Governor David Willis

“CREATE HOPE in the WORLD”

From District Governor David Willis



Dear Rotary Colleagues,

I hope you have all had a chance to recover from the holiday season and are now prepared for a new year of Rotary events and making a positive impact in the world. Our efforts in December have undoubtedly created special memories for families in our communities and raised significant funds for the causes we support.

Last year, Jed encouraged you to share the amount of volunteer hours and money raised during the Christmas period, and I would like to request the same this year. It would be beneficial for us to promote the achievements of District 1240.

Now is an opportune time to leverage the goodwill and recognition we have received in December to promote membership of Rotary in our communities. I encourage you to consider organizing an information event to showcase your clubs while the public still remembers the special moments we created for them. Investing time and resources into this could yield positive results over the next six months, leading to an increase in club membership.

Several clubs have arranged for PDG Jed Brooks, our District Club Development Officer, to conduct membership sessions. Additionally, our Membership team leader, Steve Gale, and his team are developing initiatives to attract Corporate members.



Although our membership figures are still positive, we did experience a loss of twenty members at the end of December, some of whom have moved on to higher service. My thoughts are with those who have lost loved ones and valued members of their club during this time. One of the remarkable aspects of Rotary membership is the support we provide to each other during difficult times.

I would like to express my gratitude to all who supported and assisted with the Joint Rotary and Inner Wheel Seasonal Concert. The event was a wonderful evening of readings and music, and I was thrilled to see members of the Ukrainian community in Colchester join us and participate in this special occasion.

My term as your District Governor is progressing rapidly, and by the time this bulletin is circulated, DGE Anne Moriaty will have returned from the International Assembly with the theme for the next Rotary Year.

I eagerly anticipate visiting the clubs I have not yet had the opportunity to meet and learning more about the incredible work you are doing.

Yours in Rotary,

*David Willis*

District Governor

Rotary District 1240



Margaret Webb

## BISHOPS STORTFORD

### Christmas Activities

The main focus of our Club's work in December is always our Christmas collections, to provide vouchers for those families in our community for whom Christmas brings an additional financial struggle. This year, we were not able to secure as many slots at local supermarkets as usual, but made the best possible use of those we did have, with the final sum collected from generous members of the public being £6,710.71. This will fund next year's vouchers.

As well as our collections by Club members, we are grateful that Waitrose allows our Interact Clubs to spend a day each to pack customers' bags, if they so wish, for a donation. This year, some sterling work was done by the Interact Clubs of The Bishop's Stortford High School and Hockerill Anglo European College.



Additionally, Hockerill Anglo European College Interact Club filled around 50 shoeboxes, as part of the Rotary shoeboxes national appeal, - split 2/3 male and 1/3 female - with toiletries and warm hats and gloves - a Christmas gift for Bishop's Stortford homeless.

The photos show a Santa and Elf collecting at Tesco, Bishop's Park and students from The Bishop's Stortford High School packing bags at Waitrose.



Aside from our community work, the Club also held a fun Christmas party for members and partners on 25th December, with a festive meal followed by the obligatory mince pies, a couple of table quizzes, a game, ending with the singing of carols, including 12 Days of Christmas and ending with Auld Lang Syne. A good time was had by all.

## CHELMER BRIDGE

Like many Rotary Clubs Chelmer Bridge had a very busy November and December leading up to Christmas allowing time for a Festive break before launching in to a quick start to 2024 with our New Year Concert.

It started earlier with our 2023 Rotary Remembers Poppy Pin campaign. This project has been running now for seven years with Poppy Pins being sold every year across the UK. Each year we produce a different design and in 2023 it was to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Empire Windrush and the hundreds of serving and former armed forces personnel from the Caribbean. Next year 2024 we will be producing a special Poppy Pin to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day.



Our 2023 Rotary Remembers Poppy Pin campaign has raised a net total of £7,000 to be distributed to Royal British Legion and Poppy Scotland bringing our total distributed over the seven years to £85,000.



Leading up to Remembrance Day we were also heavily involved in organisation of our New Year Concert at Chelmsford Cathedral, which was to be held on Saturday 6th January. This year we had both the Essex Youth Orchestra and the Essex Brass Ensemble performing. Tickets sales got off to a slow start but leading up to Christmas bookings started flooding in. On the night, the Cathedral was full with over 400 people in attendance and we were joined by our Honorary Member Jennifer Tolhurst, The Lord Lieutenant of Essex, and the 1240 DG Dave Willis as special guests. The programme was varied, we had the Essex Brass Ensemble performing before the interval a range of music including classical pieces, music from the movies and culminating in the foot tapping Madness number Baggy Trousers. After refreshments were served in the interval the full 70 piece Essex Youth Orchestra performed conducted by Robin Browning. The music was wonderful and the quality produced by the young musicians was outstanding. They started with Sinfonia Sacra by Panufnik, which was outstanding, building up to a great crescendo that resonated around the Cathedral leaving everyone wanting more. This was followed by Ravel's Balero, which everyone knows and loves. Finally was the Great Gates of Kiev by Ravel, a very fitting end to a wonderful event. The Charities benefiting from the £2,000 raised from the concert are Grapevine Essex and Home Start Essex, two local charities we have worked with previously. It is truly refreshing and exciting to hear young musicians playing together to such a high standard. Roll on Saturday 4th January 2025 for our next New Year Concert.



As a light relief, we held our Christmas meeting in mid-December, which was open to guests at our usual meeting place of Channels in Chelmsford. The meeting was followed by a quiz with Valerie Whitehead walking away with the annual prize of the musical Raindeer's Head, a greatly sought after trophy. We held a blind auction which raised money for the Christmas Dinner project run by Chelmsford Phoenix Rotary Club.

# CHELMSFORD MILDMAV

## Chelmsford Mildmay's Santa Sleigh Success

Chelmsford Mildmay Rotarians were delighted with the success of their Santa Sleigh project.

This year's Santa Sleigh made its first appearance on Sunday 3rd December at Beaulieu Community Centre Christmas Fayre, where Santa himself was ensconced in his grotto. This was followed by a wave-off on tour for him and his elves by Chelmsford Mayor, Cllr Linda Mascot, accompanied by Deputy Mayor, Cllr Jude Deakin, on December 5th.



North Springfield, Beaulieu and Channels, Boreham, Ford End, Little Waltham and Great Waltham were all included, as well as day-long visits to Sainsbury's Springfield and Morrisons Regiment Way stores.

We raised over £3700 for local charities, including The Children's Society East, a total which was nearly £1000 up on last year.

All the hard work was rewarded not only by the charity collection but also by seeing the pleasure given to children who came to watch and, in many cases, to have their photograph taken with Santa.

## Christmas Hampers

This was Chelmsford Mildmay's first year jointly supporting the Beaulieu Christmas Hamper appeal.

Members showed a fantastic response to a request for donations. Three boot loads of gifts and money were delivered by Chelmsford Mildmay Rotary prior to the big 'packing day.'



Club members joined the new manager of the Beaulieu Community Centre, Noleen Andrews, and Club President, Jean Harper. Over the course of three hours they managed to wrap presents and pack food for almost 50 hampers to be distributed to needy families in the local area.

Saturday, December 23, they again helped at the Centre as this was the day that the hampers were finally checked and prepared for collection or delivery.

Chelmsford Mildmay Rotary members played a key role in helping with this fantastic community-based initiative, receiving sincere thanks from the Beaulieu Community Centre Manager.



## CHELMSFORD PHOENIX

In the run-up to Christmas, we were pleased to be invited to the mulled wine and mince pies event organised by Shenfield and District. Four of our members attended and were made very welcome. The sausage rolls and mince pies were excellent, as was the mulled wine. There was also a grand raffle.

Pam Watson-Jones gave an interesting talk on Kids Out Toy Box which was the charity for the evening.

On 16 December, we had our usual spot in the High Chelmer shopping centre where we entertained the shoppers with carols. We raised £375.88 for the Phoenix Ward at Broomfield Hospital. As usual, Olaf was the star of the show!



After weeks of fundraising and planning, on 22 December, we gathered at the Scout Hut in Chelmsford to pack our boxes for Donate A Dinner. We provided 55 turkeys to Little Edi Foundation and 18 complete boxes of everything needed for a Christmas Dinner to Homestart.



## CLACTON-ON-SEA

### **Rotary help Santa to bring cheer to the children of Jaywick**

On Friday 8 December, Santa was busy at the Christmas market in the recently opened Sunspot Business Centre at Jaywick Sands. Club President Brian Henesy was delighted to help by gifting presents for Santa to give to local children visiting him in his grotto.

The Sunspot is a landmark, purpose-built business centre offering 24 affordable units, suitable for retail, office, studio and workshop tenants, as well as a range of other facilities including a café, covered market space and meeting rooms.

The Sunspot is part of a wider regeneration plan for Jaywick and Brian was proudly given a tour of the facility by Deputy Leader of Tendring District Council, Ivan Henderson, and Centre Manager Mick Lister. The Sunspot is proving to be a big success with almost all the units having been taken up since it opened in September of this year. Brian was impressed with the diversity of the businesses to have moved in and the enthusiasm of everyone he met.



In the picture from left to right is Mick Lister (dressed as Santa), Club President Brian Henesy and Ivan Henderson of Tendring District Council

## COLCHESTER CAMULOS

### Christmas collections 2023

We had a very successful Christmas period this year. With thanks to Tesco Highwoods and Asda Turner Rise, together with contributions from Colchester Children's Charity, Palmer & Partners, Ellisons Solicitors and our Just Giving page we have raised around £2,700. Thank you to all concerned – especially to our colleagues at RC Manningtree Stour Valley for the loan of their sleigh. This brings our total raised in the Rotary year to date from all sources to over £9,000. (about £780 per capita).



### Donate-A-Dinner



We continue to support Home-Start Colchester in distributing Christmas dinner parcels to local families in need. Once again we supplied 50 full dinners and cooking instructions for the turkeys and all the trimmings. Our colleagues at Home-Start ensured that each family had enough fuel credit to allow them to cook everything. A team of volunteers assembled on 21st December to pack everything up into 100 bags.

### Volya Ukrainina

We were delighted when the local Ukrainian Evacuee group which we support was invited to perform at the District seasonal concert at St. Botolph's on 15th December. Despite many absences due to ill health, the Ukrainian Evacuees provided an excellent rendition of two traditional Ukrainian hymns. It was a thought provoking reminder of how difficult it is to be so far away from home at this time of celebration. We will continue to work with the group for as long as our support is needed.





## COLCHESTER CAMULOS (Cont'd)

### Clean Water in Mongolia

With the help of a District Grant we have been able to complete our International project. €2430 was sent to our Mongolian contacts to buy appropriate water containers for families living in the suburb area of Ulan Bator. Over a 170,000 live on the hills surrounding the capital in Gers and occupy small dwellings with no sanitation or running water. All water is collected from wells or stand pipes usually in wheeled water carriers. Water is then stored in their Ger and used for cooking, washing and drinking purposes. Historically these containers are made of either very cheap plastic or old oil drums. Not surprisingly this leads to disease, stomach upsets, E. coli, Hepatitis etc. We purchased and supplied 153 proper storage containers to 73 family groups. All families had been surveyed and educated about the importance of the correct containers for their water. If the family could afford it, they were asked to give a contribution for the container thus giving them more ownership and responsibility to the project. Data will be collected to monitor health improvements.



### Yarra Farm re-wilding project

Although the weather has been very wet and cold, the schools are now back in action. In early January, Shorefields School Clacton visited the farm to set about planting their sensory beds and a further batch of hedgerow saplings. They also attached a wonderful plaque to their insect hotel. Despite the arctic conditions (including snow) the children had a great time. Thanks to a District Grant we can now focus on the next stage of the project which is to source and erect a covered shelter so the children have somewhere to sit and enjoy the sounds of nature.



## COLCHESTER FORUM

### Forum Rotary & Colchester businessman supporting a Langa Township, South Africa.

Colchester businessman and Forum Rotarian Jonathan Neill and his family visited Cape Town and following a visit to Langa, a South African township, he met tour guide and resident of Langa, Abongile Gwabeni. After being told, for security reasons, to take no valuables or money to the township Jon was unable to put in the collection box at the Langa community centre. Feeling bad at this he asked Abongile what was important to the township and how



could he help. Abongile replied sport is very important and creates a great atmosphere - great news for Jon as he just happened to own the largest sports repair company in the UK. Promising Abongile he would sponsor the Langa football team with new kit and strip, that's exactly what he did. Within weeks of returning home two new strips with equipment was shipped to Langa.



A bit later when we were hit by COVID, Forum discovered Langa needed further support and so Jon arranged for food vouchers to be sent to the local store and enabled food to be provided at this desperate time.

During Jon's Presidential year (last year) Forum presented over £20,000 to good causes - many of these were local including the Colchester homeless charities, foodbank and youth cancer as well as responding quickly with help to Turkey and Ukrainians with support and equipment for refugees.

But Langa hadn't been forgotten. The largest international project during Jon's year was to equip the crèche in Langa with new equipment. Of course Forum members quickly responded with support by organising a dance with the funds raised - £1250 - being used to equip the project with a range of appliances and goods to run the crèche.

International Chairman Stephen Penrose said: "Having been set the challenge the International committee of Forum Rotary went on to find out the list of requirements. To get the items to Langa, by chance, one of Forum's members, on holiday near Cape Town, discovered the amazing Rotary Club of Somerset West who not only agreed to help us but were able to secure the items the crèche wanted and at a good price. "We were able to obtain all the items the creche wanted plus a few additional ones."

A big handover day was arranged with all the items gratefully received and lots of pictures taken – As Abongile said "Your gift means so much to the crèche: laptop, printer, fridge, washing machine, dishwasher, hoover and TV. and on behalf of the Langa community the warmest thanks to you all in Forum who opened your hearts to do amazing things to transform the lives of this little Langa crèche." It would seem that, as a result of this project, a new and happy relationship has been struck up between the Somerset West club and the Langa community which will flourish into possibly greater things in the future. Perhaps it was a good thing that Jon left his wallet behind all those years ago!"

## RAYLEIGH MILL

### The Rotary Club of Rayleigh Mill brings the joy of Christmas to the children of Rayleigh, Hockley and Hullbridge

The members of the Rotary Club of Rayleigh Mill are on very good terms with the real Santa and, because they get on with him so well, they were out helping him to meet lots of the children from Rayleigh and the surrounding area in the run-up to Christmas.

This year the members persuaded Santa to do more runs to meet even more children to spread the excitement of Christmas.



Santa ready to meet his many admirers

Santa visited many parts of Rayleigh, Hockley and Hullbridge during December including where he was met by crowds of excited children who were eager to have their photographs taken with Santa by their parents. Santa also included visits to Rayleigh High Street where he was greeted, not only by the children but, parents and grandparents who were pleased to see him and regale him with tales of Christmases past. Housing in Rayleigh and Hullbridge is expanding quickly. More and more young families are moving into the district and, to meet the demand of the young parents Santa, for the first time, visited the new housing estates at Wolsey Park and High Elms, Hullbridge, where, to the delight of the children, he was joined by his friend the Christmas Tree.



Santa also ventured out on his own to some of his traditional haunts. He visited the Bull pub in Hockley where he met, not only many children for “Breakfast with Santa”, but also helped to impart the spirit of Christmas to the staff. Santa also visited Timber Lodge, Elizabeth Fitzroy Home, where he was, again enthusiastically welcomed by the residents who were all overjoyed to meet him and receive a present. Santa also ventured further afield to Orsett where he has now become an established feature of the Christmas celebrations of the Prophetic Voice Tabernacle where Santa joined in their celebrations and, again, distributed more presents to the children.



## **RAYLEIGH MILL (Cont'd)**

Santa was not the only person to brighten up Christmas this year. Since 2005, each year, at Christmas time Ian Reading has set up an amazing array of Christmas lights in his garden on Main Road, Hockley to bring the joy and excitement of Christmas to all the people who pass along this busy road.

It not only brightens up the day of the citizens of Hockley, but Ian also welcomes any donations from the grateful community which, over the years, he has dedicated to many charities.

This year, since becoming a Rotarian, he has decided to donate any donations to the Rotary Club of Rayleigh Mill.

The Rotary Club of Rayleigh Mill was again successful in, not only bringing the joy of Christmas to Santa's many admirers, but thanks to the donations made to Santa and by the donations made by the people of Hockley who are grateful to Ian Reading for brightening up their journeys, the club has received in excess of £6000 which will replenish the club's Charity fund which is used to help many local charities, deserving causes in the local area, and both national and international appeals for help throughout the year.



**The staff at the Bull  
get into the  
Christmas Spirit**



**A happy resident gets  
a present from Santa  
at Timber Lodge**



**and the congregation at the Prophetic Voice Tabernacle  
are happy to see Santa again.**



## RAYLEIGH MILL (Cont'd)

### Jackie Wellman keeps up the good work.

Between doing stints in decorating the club's Christmas Tree for the Holy Trinity Church's Tree Festival, manning the stall at Hockley Christmas Lights ceremony and organising the Cuddly Toy Tombola stall at the Rayleigh Christmas Lights event, Rotarian Jackie Wellman has been, quietly and unobtrusively, collecting more un-used, un-wanted bicycles to send to Africa.

Jackie has been inundated with offers of bikes from around Rayleigh, Southend, and the surrounding area and, when she feels that her garage won't hold any more, Jackie takes to the road with her trusty helper, Bob Taylor in one of Steve Gale's vans to collect even more bikes.



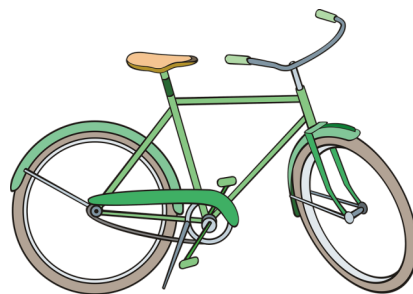
Rayleigh Mill  
Rotary's Christmas  
Tree supporting the  
Purple 4 Polio  
campaign.



The bikes that are dismantled at ReCycle in Colchester and shipped to a number of communities in Africa where they transform those communities by providing work they assemble and service the bikes, they effectively reduce the time that children, mainly young girls, spend in collecting water from remote sources and allows them to spend more time in education, they allow adults to travel

further to find work and, generally, provide those communities with a mode of transport where there are no other forms of transport.

Jackie and her helpers' efforts over the time she has been collecting bikes have now reaped over 1200 bikes which will have made life-changing changes to the communities that are fortunate enough to receive them.





Glyn Jarvis

## ROCHFORD

### **Another Great Result for the 2023 Christmas Collections by Rochford Rotary Club**

Despite the financial difficulties facing many families, the 2023 traditional Christmas collections for local good causes by the Rotary Club of Rochford provided a major boost to the funds available for distribution. Over £10,000 was raised from the very generous donations by the local community, the fourth consecutive year that over £10,000 has been given within the local area.

Collections were carried out in the streets of Ashingdon, Canewdon, Hawkwell, Hockley and Rochford and at static collections at Lidl, Progress Road/Rayleigh Road, Morrisons, Western Approaches, Sainsbury's, Rayleigh Weir, The Factory Shop on Purdeys Industrial Estate and Waitrose, Eastern Avenue.

The Club will now use the money raised to help a number of voluntary groups and good causes in the Rochford area.

Rotary President, Rotarian Craig Reynolds said, "It was another amazing response from the people in our area, especially considering the difficult circumstances so many people face at the moment. Our street collections proved very popular, with Santa on his sleigh with his Snowmen giving youngsters and the not-so-young, an early taste of Christmas. We are also very grateful to Lidl, Morrisons, Sainsbury's, The Factory Shop and Waitrose for allowing us to collect at their premises. The money collected will now enable the Rotary Club to help so many who are less fortunate than us in our local community".



The photo shows Santa and his Snowmen preparing to start their street collections in Rochford.

## SHENFIELD AND DISTRICT

### Working Together

On Saturday, 16th December, Shenfield and District members spent the morning collecting for local charities with Brentwood a Becket Rotary who had obtained the licence for the event. We agreed to share the proceeds of the collection between the two Clubs. A jolly morning was had together and thank you to the members of the public who donated that morning.



*This photograph shows members of both Clubs dressed for the occasion. Who do you think the Snowman is?  
(Answers on a postcard!)*



The following Saturday, 23rd December, the two Clubs were out again collecting for local charities. This time, Father Christmas was joined by Rudolf.



### Planting Crocus bulbs at The Saddlery

After many Saturdays of rain, wind and generally bad weather, we have been able to plant crocuses for Polio at The Ingatestone Saddlery in Margaretting, where we hold our meetings at The Paddocks Café once a month. Look out for them in the Spring around the 'black horse' at the entrance when visiting this very pleasant venue. You can also drop in to one of our meetings on the second Saturday in the month at 9.15 a.m. We would love to see you and you would be very welcome. [gloriabn@live.co.uk](mailto:gloriabn@live.co.uk)



Hope I don't get  
trampled on!

## SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS

### Trees of Joy

South Woodham Ferrers Rotary Club are delighted to announce an amazing response to our November 2023 Trees of Joy appeal advertised, with our thanks, in earlier editions of Focus. Notwithstanding the current economic climate, the residents of SWF and surrounding districts contributed no less than 374 toys, books and games. This was up an incredible 87% on 2022. The Club's thanks go to all who contributed. To Asda and the Holy Trinity Church for their continued cooperation in allowing us to display the trees again this year and to our Inner Wheel who raised money through their stall at the Town Fayre and went shopping.

Gifts will now be sorted, wrapped and distributed to disadvantaged children in good time for Christmas, by the Charities The Rainbow Trust and Connecting and Uniting Families. No small task.



Pictured left are Sarah Raven-Lloyd (on right) and Jodi Wilkin of Rainbow Trust  
and next Zoe Palmer (on left), Megan Harley and David Oyenuga of Connecting and Uniting Families.

We all will have brought some joy to children who, otherwise, would have little to look forward to at Xmas. The Rotary Club send best seasons wishes to a caring community and to all Rotarians.



## **SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS (Cont'd)**

### **The lead up to Christmas for the Club.**



A very busy but rewarding time for the Rotary Club started at the Town Fayre, to which we took Rudolf; Dasher and the Sleigh. Adults took photos of the young ones (and some not so young) on the Sleigh. Santa was already meeting the children in his Grotto.

And he met staff from Sainsbury's when he and some of our and Inner Wheel snowmen and women spent many hours collecting for Charity, as we did at Asda.

In addition to our days at the supermarkets we took Santa to see the children of South Woodham, covering five routes and starting mainly at schools. Although it is no longer practical to cover all the streets of our Town and busy streets are difficult for the Sleigh to travel, the excitement and the faces of the children we met was heartwarming.

This was a team event and the Club's thanks go to Inner Wheel members; Scouts and Elmwood PTA members who helped us and to the local organisations sponsoring each one of our routes. Particularly thanks go to those in the Community and environs who so generously donated. This generosity enables us "to make a difference".



### **Xmas Party 2023**

Always high on the Club's Calendar, is Fun and Fellowship. And we managed to fit in a great Christmas Party at Little Channels Golf Centre, in-between taking the Sleigh nightly on a total of five routes around South Woodham and siting it for eight days between our two Supermarkets- Asda and Sainsbury's.



We took over the restaurant and were entertained by our Rotary grown Elderly Brothers. Excellent food and helpful staff enabled us to have terrific evening- supplemented by a jar or two.



## STORT VALLEY

### Helping Herts standing up for sustainable fashion

Helping Herts\*, the official charity for the Stort Valley Rotary Club, has had a fantastic year working with independent boutiques, stylists and charities across the county promoting sustainable fashion, whilst raising money for its partner charities, who are all dedicated to improving child welfare in Hertfordshire.



Last year Helping Herts has organised a series of sustainable fashion shows in Hertford, Hitchin, Bishops Stortford, Cheshunt and Harpenden, in collaboration with local businesses including: Mint of Hertford; Hitchin's Brick Lane; Lou's Pre-Loved Boutique, Dobson's Home and the Friends Dress Agency.

Sustainable fashion is all about making choices that are better for the environment and creating fashion that lasts and can be worn for years to come. It can be hard to know where to start when it comes to sustainable fashion, which is why we decided to bring together local fashion experts to offer advice, and show people just how stylish and beautiful pre-loved clothes can be.

All the fashion shows were sell-out successes, helping spread the word about sustainable fashion and raising money for children's charities in Hertfordshire. An impressive £16,000 has been raised through the events this year, and we were able to match fund a number of these events. Helping Herts has smashed its fund-raising target for 2023, having raised over £300,000. All of the money raised will go to the partner charities to help them continue the invaluable work they do to support children in Hertfordshire (See impact statements at the end).

If you're reading this and thinking, how can I get involved, please come and talk to us. From organising fashion shows, corporate fundraisers, sponsorship of our events, or branding on our website, we really welcome support from local businesses to help us in our efforts to improve child welfare in Herts and influence where Helping Herts is going. For more information, please visit [www.helpingherts.co.uk](http://www.helpingherts.co.uk) or contact Helping Herts Manager, Clare Burgess: [clare@helpingherts.com](mailto:clare@helpingherts.com)

## **STORT VALLEY (Cont'd)**

### **Q and A with Personal stylist Karen Peters-Amphlett, Style by KPA**

Karen shared her knowledge on sustainable fashion at the Helping Herts Fashion show in Harpenden. Karen has recently completed a 'fashion sustainability certificate' which really opened up her eyes to shopping more sustainably.

Karen said: "Sustainable fashion is fashion that doesn't cost the earth, from pre-loved and vintage, up-cycling and repairing to buying from sustainable brands, it's about making sure your choices don't impact the planet.

#### **Why is it important to shop sustainably?**

"The fashion industry is the second largest polluter of the planet and that's second only to the oil industry. As consumers we need to make more considered choices when it comes to fashion."

#### **How to make sustainable fashion choices?**

"Pre-loved or vintage is always the easiest choice when it comes to shopping sustainably. There are lots of brands out there that are green washing so shopping on the high street can be a minefield. Look out for brands that are a registered B Corp or you can check the credentials of all fashion brands on a website called 'Good On You'."

#### **Best places to shop for sustainable fashion?**

"Local pre-loved boutiques are great as you can try the clothes on unlike second-hand shopping sites like vinted or eBay. Online there are many small independent fashion brands who are doing amazing things like making dresses or bags from materials that would otherwise end up in landfill. My favourite brand for new sustainable items is Baukjen, a registered B Corp."

#### **Your best preloved purchase?**

"A Pucci dress that I bought in a pre-loved boutique for £85. By shopping pre-loved you can get amazing quality high end pieces for a fraction of the price."

## **STORT VALLEY (Cont'd)**

### **About Helping Herts**

Helping Herts is a countywide campaign, with the backing of Stort Valley Rotary Club, set up to support good causes after the Covid-19 pandemic, when many charities were struggling to survive.

Helping Herts improves the lives of children across Hertfordshire, from when they are still in the womb through to young adulthood. The 2023 beneficiary charities are: Chexs, Coram Life Education, Herts Young Homeless, For Baby's Sake, Herts Mind Network, Grove Cottage, Home-Start Herts, Keech Hospice Care, Phoenix Group for Deaf Children & Adults, PlaySkill, the Ollie Foundation and the NSPCC.

### **Impact Statement from partner charities**

"We will use some of the funding to provide face to face one-to-one support to children and young people in the community with a wide range of mental health needs"

#### **Mind Hertfordshire Network**

"We have recruited an experienced educator now dedicated to Hertfordshire for one day a week to support all our schools and to make the most of one line teaching resources that support children's mental and physical wellbeing"

#### **Coram Life Education**

"Helping Herts' generous contribution enable us to continue our work providing life-saving training and support to communities in need"

#### **The Ollie Foundation**

Helping Herts' generous contributions enable us to continue our work, providing life-saving training and support to the communities in need.



## A Busy Time

We have had a very busy December in Takeley as I suppose most clubs do. We collected items of food on a cold Saturday morning for Uttlesford Food Bank, mostly from front doors (we had posted leaflets through doors asking people to leave out). A few people left gifts and financial donations at our banner at the front of Prior's Green car park.



We held a typical meeting on 6th where we met one of our parish councillors for a chat about how we could help each other. Our meetings are generally informal with just a drink and nibbles.

We also had our Youth Speaks debate competition jointly with Dunmow, at Helena Romanes School, resulting in 2 teams to enter the District Competition.



For six evenings from 13th-20th December, we joined forces with Dunmow again to support Santa's visits to the streets of Takeley and the new houses west of Dunmow.

At our meeting on 20th December, we inducted 2 new members, one of whom is a corporate member. So a big welcome to them at our Christmas 'party' at a members' house.



## ROTARY MATCHSTIX CLUB

### CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST MEETING

The Matchstix Club has been in existence for well over 25 years and meets four times a year at Marygreen Manor in Brentwood for breakfast. Members from a number of Clubs in District 1240 join together to enjoy each others company in a relaxed environment. The Club is open to anyone who wishes to come along. Please contact Carol Bannister, Brentwood a Becket, if you would like to attend the next meeting. [carolbannister238@gmail.com](mailto:carolbannister238@gmail.com)



### MARY'S MEALS UPDATE

The cost of feeding one child in a place of education for a whole year remains at £19.15. However, giving until 31 January 2024 will see your donation doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £1.1 million – meaning even more hungry children can be reached with life-changing school meals. During the Double The Love appeal, a donation of £19.15 will feed two children. The charity is now feeding 2.4 million children across the World. Currently, the World is facing a hunger crisis of unprecedented proportions. With the cost of living soaring worldwide the situation has become critical.



For further information or to book a talk to update your Club on Mary's Meals, please contact [gloriabn@live.co.uk](mailto:gloriabn@live.co.uk)

## ENVIRONMENT BULLETIN

### Liaison with the Wilderness Foundation

The Wilderness Foundation is a corporate member of D1240 and by working with them we can help protect our wild environment. The wilderness opportunities they provide enhance positive mental health for visitors, including school children and therapy groups. So, it ticks many Rotary boxes.



March	June	September
Remove tree guards from plantation field Planting up Medicinal Garden Helping build the new invertebrate habitats to replace current raised beds. Remake bug hotels	Hedge trimming/ path clearing Clean outer fabric of safari tent Tending to Chelsea Medicinal Garden Painting ed centre (outside) Painting inside ed centre	Tending to Chelsea bed Wood chipping paths Tending to Chelsea Medicinal Garden

Graham Everard has been planning with them to give Rotarians opportunities to help out with important jobs (see chart below); and we hope you will be able to support Rotarian help days during March, June and September. Initially we are focussing on the March events which will be Friday 8th and 15th March, for Rotarians (and guests) to volunteer to help for one (or more) of these tasks. Paul Satti will be coordinating the timetable, offering 2hr slots throughout the day- or you can stay the whole day if you like. In the first instance, we would ask you show an interest through cognito using the link: <https://www.cognitoforms.com/rotarydistrict1240andthewildernessfoundationworkpartydates/entries>. If you require assistance contact Paul Satti [paul\\_satti@hotmail.com](mailto:paul_satti@hotmail.com)

The Wilderness Foundation has us to join them for a series of talks at Chatham Green in 2024. Arrival: 7.30pm, talk starts 8pm. Approximate finish time: 10pm. Location: Essex Young Farmers Barn.

**Tuesday 13th February** – ‘The (un)natural History of Rivers’ with Darren Tansley from Essex Wildlife Trust.

**Friday 13th September** – ‘Hatfield Forest: Tales of Wildlife and History’ with David Simmons from the National Trust.

Please see here for the link to book <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/CXOC> and other wilderness events here <https://wildernessfoundation.org.uk/wilderness-activities-and-events/> if you are interested.

Jenny Versey- [verseyjennifer@gmail.com](mailto:verseyjennifer@gmail.com)

## **2024/25 Joint District Conference**

**11-13 October 2024**

### **Happy New Year!**

It is January and the hustle and bustle of Christmas is over. When you are planning your holidays and short breaks for 2024 please don't forget about to book for our annual conference.

This year we will be at Whittlebury Park, near Towcester with Rotarians from Norfolk, Suffolk and part of Cambridgeshire. Whittlebury Park is a delightful venue and for Formula One fans there is the added attraction of the Silverstone Bar which has a unique collection of motor racing memorabilia to enjoy.

District 1080 DGE Ian Graham and I invite you to join us to be entertained, inspired and to party. There will also be an opportunity to explore the delights of South Northamptonshire including the Silverstone Museum, the Stoke Bruerne Canal Museum, National Trust properties of Canons Ashby and Stowe, or the shopping centre and concrete cows of Milton Keynes.

We are organising a Golf Day on the Friday and details will be on the website shortly. We have a mix of interesting speakers including Lucy Lewis, Britain's first female bomb disposal expert and there will be musical entertainment from some of our talented Young Musicians.

The Saturday evening gala dinner will be followed by dancing to The Zoots. They entertained us fabulously at last year's conference in Stratford-upon-Avon and we are delighted that they are available again this year.

Early booking is advised to ensure a place and to benefit from the early discounted booking fee.

Booking will be on a first come first served basis. For more information and to book your place please go to [www.rotaryeastconference2024.co.uk](http://www.rotaryeastconference2024.co.uk). Details of speakers and entertainment will be added as they are confirmed so, please check back from time to time.

*Anne Moriarty*

District 1240 DGE



**2024/25 Joint District Conference**

**11-13 October (Cont'd)2024**



# **District 1240/1080 Conference 2024**

**FRIDAY 11 TO SUNDAY 13 OCTOBER**

Whittlebury Park, Whittlebury,  
Near Towcester  
Northamptonshire NN12 8QH

District Governors 2024/25  
Anne Moriaty (D1240) and  
Ian Graham (D1080)  
invite you to the  
District Conference 2024

**Rotary** 

**Registration fee: £35pp for bookings up to 29 February 2024, £50pp thereafter**



***Book your attendance at: [rotaryeastconference2024.co.uk](http://rotaryeastconference2024.co.uk)***



## Publication criteria for submissions to the 1240 District Bulletin—2024

1. Please send your articles as a Word document, NOT as a pdf, or a PowerPoint presentation, or a jpeg. Do not embed photos in your written article.
2. Please include a title for the article.
3. Include separate good quality photographs, (jpegs please), with captions and/or full names.
4. If you're submitting for the first time, please include a head shot of the author to accompany the article (or a photo that could be cropped).
5. Please include the name of your club in your email.
6. Links might not work, so please, copy and paste links into your browser.
7. Please be aware of date-sensitive items. The DB will normally be sent out in the middle of each month (15th/16th).
8. Make sure you provide a full name for everyone who is mentioned in the article (not just a first name).
9. The deadline (not the target!) for submissions is the 12th of each month, although "as soon as possible" is always preferred.

Many thanks - Editor (gloriabn@live.co.uk)